FOURTH QUARTER 2017

Beyond the Benchmark

Aldrich℠ WEALTH LP

QUARTERLY MARKET SNAPSHOT

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH
Large	5.33%	6.64%	7.86%
Medium	5.50%	6.07%	6.81%
Small	2.05%	3.34%	4.59%

This matrix illustrates U.S. equity benchmarks provided by Russell with the exception of Large Core, which is the S&P 500 Index.

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH
Global	4.84%	5.73%	6.59%
Non US	3.24%	4.23%	5.24%
EM	6.84%	7.44%	7.92%

This matrix illustrates international equity benchmarks provided by MSCI.

	SHORT	INTER	LONG
Gov	-0.27%	0.05%	2.34%
Corp	-0.04%	1.17%	3.34%
Hi-Yield	0.37%	0.41%	-0.59%

This matrix illustrates the fixed income benchmarks provided by Barclays and B of A Merrill Lynch.

Executive Summary

The fourth quarter marked the end to a very stable and impressive year for stocks. U.S. stock indices posted strong gains in the fourth quarter, driven by better-than-expected earnings and lower corporate tax rates starting in 2018. Investors exhibited a preference for growth stocks based on strong economic and earnings growth, and they outperformed value stocks across asset classes. Large cap stocks slightly outperformed small- and mid-cap stocks as the U.S. dollar's weakness helped enhance foreign sales and earnings. International developed market stocks took a breather after a great first nine months of 2017 and underperformed domestic stocks by about 2.0% in the quarter. Emerging market equities continued to dominate in 2017 and outperformed domestic stocks in every quarter this year. Attractive valuations and improving earnings growth fueled the rally. The Federal Reserve continued its rate hike campaign with a 0.25% bump in the Federal Funds rate in December. Although shorter-term interest rates rose, longer-term rates declined slightly as demand for the bonds remained robust. Bonds provided only modest returns in the quarter as rates in general rose.

Domestic Equities

All three major U.S. stock indices posted positive gains in the fourth quarter, capping off the highest calendar year returns since 2013. The Nasdaq Composite index rose 6.7% in the quarter, the S&P 500 index rose 6.6% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 11.0%. The Dow's strong performance was primarily driven by substantial exposure to technology, which was one of the top performing sectors in the quarter, and a bias toward the largest publicly traded companies, which performed particularly well. Stock indices posted positive gains in every quarter of the year, and returns were the highest in the fourth quarter. Stock prices responded positively to strong earnings growth in the third quarter and passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced the maximum corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% starting in 2018. The economy continued to grow solidly, and revised third-quarter GDP growth of 3.2% was the fastest growth in nearly three years. Economic growth accelerated above expectations in the third quarter after business spending increased solidly, providing support for continued growth in the coming quarters.

Large-cap stocks outperformed small- and mid-cap stocks in the quarter, which has been the trend this year. Large-cap companies receive a considerable percentage of their revenues from international sales, and the U.S. dollar depreciated 1.7% against the euro this quarter and 14% in 2017. The dollar's depreciation boosted earnings from international sales and contributed to strong earnings growth by large cap companies. Additionally, a weaker dollar means dollar denominated exports are more attractively priced for foreign buyers and traditionally helps produce higher sales.

Growth stocks outperformed value stocks in every quarter of the year. Growth stocks tend to perform better during periods of low market volatility and when investors are less risk-averse. Equity market volatility was very low in 2017 – it was the lowest over the last 30 years, in fact – as equity prices moved higher each quarter and didn't sustain more than a 3% decline at any point during the year. Consumer confidence increased during 2017 and finished the year at a 17-year high. High consumer confidence is generally associated with strong consumer spending and more interest in riskier assets, particularly growth-oriented stocks.

Technology was the second-best performing sector in the quarter and was the clear leader in 2017. Technology companies are among the most exposed to the global economy and generate a majority of their sales overseas. As the global economy improved overseas, sales increased considerably and helped drive rapid earnings growth. Technology had the highest percentage of companies outperform their earnings estimates in the third quarter. The Financials sector rebounded nicely in the fourth quarter and logged strong gains as rising short-term interest rates and the prospects of less regulation boosted the sector's outlook. President Trump's nomination of Jerome Powell as the new Fed Chairman also boosted performance, as Powell is expected to reduce banking regulations, which should increase earnings.

The Federal Reserve raised the overnight lending rate by 0.25% in December, its third 0.25% hike in 2017. Although the move was largely anticipated, sectors that are sensitive to rising rates, including utilities, telecom and real estate, struggled in the quarter. Utilities was the poorest performing sector, rising a modest 0.21% in the fourth quarter, while real estate and telecom were up less than 4.0%. These sectors offer higher dividends than most sectors and tend to perform well when interest rates are falling and dividend income is more attractive. The opposite occurs as interest rates rise. As the probability of higher interest rates increased, investors sold off these sectors.

Small- and mid-cap stocks slightly underperformed large-cap stocks in the quarter. The U.S. dollar fell against most currencies during the year, which boosted large company earnings but didn't provide as substantial a benefit, as many small- and mid-cap companies are more domestically focused. Small- and mid-cap earnings disappointed a little in the third quarter and helped curb investor enthusiasm for the asset classes. However, the corporate tax cuts passed in December are projected to provide a more substantial benefit to small- and mid-cap companies, given their domestic bias.

International Equities

International developed market stocks, as measured by the EAFE index, underperformed domestic stocks in the quarter. The EAFE index increased 4.2%, its weakest quarterly return of 2017. In fact, this was the only quarter of the year when U.S. stocks outperformed. International stocks underperformed primarily due to slower earnings growth in the third quarter and stability in the value of the U.S. dollar after a massive decline in the first three quarters. International equities modestly outperformed domestic stocks in 2017, but roughly 10% of the 25% gain for international stocks was due to currency appreciation. European companies are heavily reliant on exports, and the dramatic increase in the value of the Euro relative to most currencies negatively impacted earnings for many companies as price concessions were warranted to sustain sales growth. Consequently, sales grew faster than earnings for Eurozone companies in the third quarter. The MSCI Europe index increased a very modest 2.2% in the fourth quarter but still logged a gain of 25.5% for the year.

Despite modest gains for European stocks, the Eurozone economy continued to improve during the fourth quarter. Eurozone consumer confidence hit the highest level in 17 years in December. The region's unemployment rate declined to the lowest level in nearly a decade. Third quarter GDP growth surged by 2.5% compared to the same quarter the previous year. This year the region is projected to record the fastest annual GDP growth since the recession.

Japanese stocks outperformed domestic stocks during the quarter, rising 8.5%. The Japanese economy expanded for seven consecutive quarters, its longest growth streak in nearly 20 years. Japanese companies are benefiting from rising global demand and fiscal and monetary stimulus. The reelection of Prime Minister Abe in October helped boost stock prices, as his pro-growth and inflationary policies are helping lift earnings.

Equity returns in emerging markets continued to impress in the fourth quarter after topping all equity indices during the first nine months of the year. The MSCI EM index, a measure of emerging market equity performance, rose 7.4% during the quarter. Asia was the primary driver of positive performance, with the index up 8.4%. Chinese stocks were up 7.6% in the quarter and 54% for the year. India's equity index jumped 11.8% and finished the year up 38.8%. The strong growth in emerging market equity prices has primarily been driven by improved earnings growth. The combination of improving earnings growth and relatively low valuations attracted investor capital and provided the momentum to drive the index to the top spot.

Fixed Income

On December 14, the Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds rate by 0.25%, its third and final rate hike in 2017. Although inflation remains below the Fed's 2.0% target rate, a low unemployment rate of 4.1% is raising concerns about rising wages and gave Fed officials enough reason to hike the overnight lending rate to potentially head off a jump in inflation. Ironically, while the Federal Funds rate has increased, longer-term interest rates have remained much more stable. The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield moved from 2.33% to 2.4% during the quarter. The yield on the 30-year treasury actually dropped from 2.86% to 2.74%. The Fed indicated that they expect to raise rates by 0.25% three times in 2018. This would push the Federal Funds rate to 2.25% by the end of the year.

Despite rising short-term bond yields, long-term bond yields have remained fairly stable. Longer-term rates tend to be more influenced by demand than Fed action, and extremely low interest rates globally seem to be keeping a lid on longer-term interest rates in the U.S. Modestly higher interest rates pushed down prices of traditional bonds, and the declines nearly offset interest income from the bonds. The Barclays Universal Bond index returned 0.41% in the fourth quarter. Shorter duration bonds underperformed and posted modest losses as interest rates rose faster for bonds whose maturities were more impacted by the Fed's actions. Floating rate bank loans were among the top performing domestic bond categories, rising 0.92%. The bonds performed relatively well because their interest is closely tied to short-term interest rates, and bondholders receive additional interest income when rates rise. Overall, fixed income returns were fairly anemic as interest rates, particularly on bonds maturing in less than five years, moved slightly higher.

Economy

Growth in the U.S. economy, as measured by changes in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), improved to 3.2% during the third quarter after recording 3.1% in the second quarter. This was the fastest sequential GDP growth since the third quarter of 2014. Recent performance was an improvement compared to sub-2.0% growth in the prior two quarters. The unemployment rate remains at a 17-year low of 4.1%, and the employment situation looks robust heading into 2018. Job growth was strong in November and the number of open jobs remains at a multi-decade high. Employers continue to indicate they are having a difficult time filling open positions. Consumer confidence is also very high, primarily driven by the strong job market, a rising stock market and low inflation. Consequently, consumer spending has been strong, and the last reading of the year indicated that consumers spent freely over the holidays. The Conference Board's Leading Economic Index rose in November and points toward solid economic growth for at least the first half of 2018. The U.S. economy is supported by positive economic data, and the corporate tax cuts approved in late December will likely add to the already strong growth projections.

Global growth hasn't been this robust since 2011, and economists are projecting global GDP will accelerate slightly and hit 4.0% in 2018. Growth in the Euro area, Japan and emerging Asia has been particularly robust and contributed to the improving global growth and an optimistic outlook. Interest rates remain very low globally, which has contributed to increased business and consumer spending, but thus far hasn't notably increased inflationary pressures. Therefore, governments across the globe are maintaining low interest rates and are more focused on generating growth than taming inflation. The pro-growth posture of so many countries and regions has contributed to the global rebound in growth and is projected to provide additional fuel in 2018.

Market Outlook

Equity markets across the globe provided above-average returns in 2017. Given this strong performance, it is unlikely that stocks, particularly in the U.S., will provide similar returns in 2018. The U.S. economy is stronger than it has been in decades, marked by low unemployment, modest inflation, low interest rates, high consumer and business confidence, and strength in the manufacturing and services sectors. U.S. equity prices increased faster than earnings in 2017, and equity index valuations finished the year elevated compared to longer-term averages. Investors have likely incorporated the strong economic data into their equity valuations, and stocks would likely need positive earnings surprises in order to provide double-digit returns in 2018. If economic growth surprises to the upside, it is likely the Federal Reserve will be forced to increase interest rates more aggressively to dampen growth and the prospect of rising inflation. A more aggressive Fed would likely weaken investor enthusiasm for equities and negatively impact returns.

While we anticipate lower returns for U.S. stocks in 2018 compared to 2017, there is reason to remain optimistic with regard to international equities. Although domestic and international developed market equity returns were similar in 2017, nearly half of the performance for international stocks was attributable to currency appreciation, particularly the Euro. European earnings growth exceeded equity index appreciation before adjusting for currency movement. Therefore, valuation metrics for equity indices in the Eurozone cheapened. Despite strong returns for international equities, the valuation gap between U.S. and international stocks widened as U.S. equity valuations increased while international valuations essentially remained stable.

U.S. shorter-term interest rates increased in the fourth quarter as relatively strong economic growth prompted the Fed to raise the overnight rate in December for the third time in 2017. The Fed is projecting three additional rate hikes of 0.25% in 2018 based on solid economic growth forecasts, and the recently passed tax cuts are projected to further strengthen an already strong economy. We believe strong global growth will help push interest rates higher as inflation increases. Given this outlook, we continue to emphasize shorter duration bonds and floating rate bonds, which generally perform relatively well when interest rates rise.

We continue to overweigh growth stocks relative to value stocks due to the strength of earnings within the growth sectors. The prospect of higher interest rates also makes value-oriented stocks less attractive. We have lower return expectations for domestic stocks relative to 2017 and international developed and emerging market stocks. We will likely increase exposure to international stocks in 2018 if U.S. interest rates move higher or if international earnings growth strengthens relative to domestic growth.

The Road to a Billion Dollars

By Scott Barchus, CPA, PFS

When I arrived at Aldrich (formerly AKT) in the fall of 1994, I was only two years removed from school and still searching for my future within the CPA industry. I pursued a position with the firm after graduation but was originally turned away due to a lack of experience. But the people I met during my initial round of interviews, paired with Aldrich's reputation, created such a powerful impression that I developed a great desire to have a career here. So, through pure persistence, I eventually convinced them to give me a chance.

While I had some experience in my first job doing taxes and retirement plan administration, at Aldrich I was gaining necessary experience towards my license by working on audits and reviews of businesses. Despite it being interesting work with many great people, it wasn't providing the passion that I yearned for in my professional services career.

Fortunately, Aldrich was very entrepreneurial and had a history of taking calculated risks on young people with a passion to create. My passion, as it turned out, was in wealth management. My initial interest for this was generated from some early opportunities I was given to work with retirement plans, mostly on the administration side. After getting a taste of the markets and beginning to see how money management worked, I was hooked.

There were a few things happening at Aldrich back in the late 90s that caused us to take a look at getting into the business of wealth management. The first was a strong desire to diversify our lines of business away from the traditional compliance work that drove our practice. Secondly, we had a number of larger clients transitioning their businesses and coming to us for help with the proceeds. These factors, along with the strong passion that one of my colleagues, Doug Davison, and I had for wealth management, led to the beginning of Aldrich Wealth (formerly AKT Wealth Advisors) in May of 1998.

Since we were beginning the business with not much besides a strong passion for what we were doing and many great relationships we had established over the years, it was tough sledding out of the gates. We had many items to address in the early years, including gaining experience, understanding the regulatory environment, creating infrastructure and traversing volatile markets. We also had to convince our clients to put their faith in a wealth management firm that had nothing under management and no prior experience.

With a great love for what we were doing and foundation created by the guiding principles and people of Aldrich, we began the construction of what exists today. Some of the principles we established early on that still exist today were driven by shortcomings of the industry at the time. They included:

- Maintaining an advocacy for our clients by creating independence.
- Delivering services that our clients needed instead of selling them something.
- Creating a strong value proposition with many facets.
- Building strong relationships with our clients by listening and understanding them.

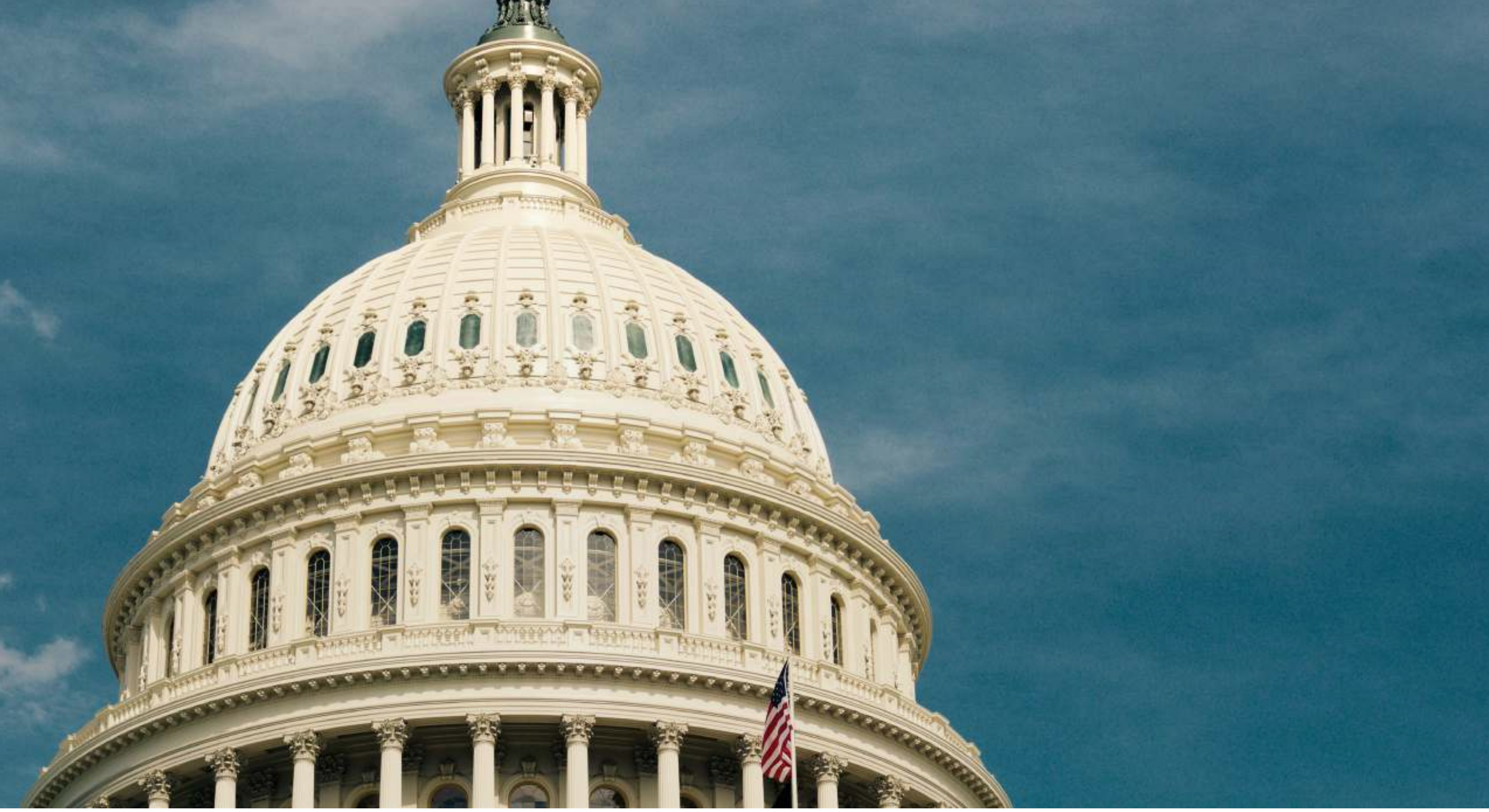
We set an initial vision to manage a billion dollars. This, to us, would define the successful execution of the guiding principles. This goal turned out to be very visionary as, 20 years later, we sit here with $1 billion of assets under management.

While this brief story merely depicts the start of our journey, there have been many notable contributions to our growth over the years. Many great people have improved what we do and how we do it, and hundreds of amazing clients have placed their trust in us. But the passions and principles that ignited our beginning still burn brightly within Aldrich Wealth and are a reminder of our story. The entrepreneurial spirit and love for serving our clients that exist in our people today will drive us to provide more success for our clients and a stronger business in the years to come.

SCOTT BARCHUS, CPA, PFS

Founding Partner + President, Aldrich Wealth

Scott Barchus joined Aldrich in 1994. His primary responsibilities include firm management in his role as President of Aldrich Wealth. Scott has a broad array of expertise in both the corporate retirement plan industry and in areas related to working with high-net worth individuals. He specializes in the design and administration of qualified plans, fiduciary responsibility, investment management and financial planning. He holds a Certified Public Accountant license, as well as a Personal Financial Specialist credential. He has also completed the Series 7 and Series 65 exams.



How Might the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Affect You?

By Elizabeth Hutchison, CPA, CDFA™

On December 20, President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law. This is the most sweeping tax reform legislation in our nation in more than 30 years.

Following is an in-depth look at the provisions of tax reform affecting individuals. Further interpretations and clarification are expected, which could alter parts of this summary. This is not an all-encompassing review of tax reform, but it covers the key items that could impact your personal tax situation.

Note that many of these provisions only apply for tax years between 2018 and 2025.

Lower Income Tax Brackets

Overall, the highest individual income tax bracket has been reduced from 39.6% to 37%. This rate reduction can have a significant impact on individuals. We carefully consider the tax brackets to smooth out the high tax peaks and take advantage of filling up lower brackets.

Historically, the married filing separately status would be subject to higher tax brackets than the single filing status — this was sometimes referred to as "marriage penalty." However, under the new law, the marriage penalty only remains for those in the top tax brackets.

The long-term capital gains and qualified dividend tax brackets, meanwhile, remain the same. These brackets are to be set based on income levels that differ from the income tax brackets used under prior law.

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) Retained

While the alternative minimum tax (AMT) for individuals remains, the exemption levels and phase-out thresholds have been temporarily increased. Therefore, the AMT will apply to fewer individuals. The limitations on itemized deductions and removal of other miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the two-percent floor will also lessen the number of individuals who are expected to pay the AMT.

The AMT exemption has been increased to $109,400 for married taxpayers filing jointly (half that amount for married taxpayers filing separately) and $70,300 for single taxpayers. The phase-out thresholds have been increased to $1 million for married taxpayers filing jointly and $500,000 for single taxpayers. These amounts will be indexed for inflation in the future. These provisions are effective for tax years 2018 through 2025.

Net Investment Income Tax Retained

Tax reform did not alter or adjust the additional 3.8% net investment income tax that applies to investment income if certain income thresholds have been reached.

Alimony Deduction Repealed

The deduction for alimony payments is repealed alongside the treatment of alimony as part of gross income for divorce or separation agreements executed after December 31, 2018. This treatment also applies to any modification to current divorce or separation agreements executed after December 31, 2018. There is no expiration date for this provision, which is intended to add parity between the treatment of spousal and child support while also simplifying the tax code.

Home Sale Gain Exclusion Retained

While there were early discussions about modifying the home sale gain exclusion of up to $250,000 for individuals and $500,000 for married couples filing jointly, the final legislation left this provision intact.

IRA Re-Characterizations Changed

For tax years after December 31, 2017, amounts that have been converted from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA cannot be re-characterized to remove the Roth conversion. The conversion of funds within a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is a taxable transaction. Previously, amounts that were converted during a taxable year could be re-characterized by the due date of the tax return (including extensions). This would allow a taxpayer whose Roth IRA lost money — or if the tax from the conversion was higher than anticipated — to effectively change his or her mind before paying the tax due on the conversion.

Note that this does not alter the ability to re-characterize IRA contributions from a traditional to a Roth IRA or vice versa before the deadline for the applicable tax return. This is helpful when it is determined that a Roth IRA contribution can't be made due to income or other limitations. It can also be helpful if eligibility is determined later and making a Roth IRA contribution is preferable.

Itemized Deductions Changed

There was concern that some popular itemized deductions would be eliminated by tax reform. Many of these have been retained but altered, including the following:

Medical expense deductions: For tax years 2017 and 2018, the medical expense deduction threshold will be 7.5%, reduced from 10%. This same threshold applies to the AMT calculation. After tax year 2018, the threshold reverts back to 10%.

State and local taxes: The itemized deduction for state income, sales and property taxes is now capped at $10,000 in the aggregate. This is a significant change for individuals living in high-tax states. Also, prepayment of 2018 taxes in 2017 cannot be deducted until tax year 2018.

There was a big push at year-end by many people to prepay their 2018 property taxes. However, many counties would not allow prepayment of property taxes that had not yet been billed. Further, the IRS clarified during the last week in December that prepayments for real estate taxes that had not been billed would not be deductible for tax year 2017.

Mortgage interest: For mortgage debt incurred after December 15, 2017, the deductible portion of interest is now limited to $750,000 (or $375,000 for married taxpayers filing separately). For debt incurred prior to this date, the deductible portion of interest will remain $1 million. If debt that was grandfathered in is later refinanced, the $1 million cap will still apply as long as the principal balance is not increased.

In addition, the deduction for home equity debt is repealed under tax reform. Previously, up to $100,000 of home equity debt (with certain limitations) could be deducted.

Charitable contributions: The limitation on annual deductions for cash contributions to charity is increasing from 50% to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). This will allow for a higher amount of deductible charitable contributions before taxpayers are forced to carry forward a deduction into a subsequent tax year. Deductions limited in a current tax year may be carried forward into a subsequent year for up to five additional years.

For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, payments made to collegiate institutions for seating rights or preferences to athletic events will no longer be deductible. Under the prior law, such payments were deductible up to 80% as a charitable contribution. This repeal is permanent.

Gambling losses: The deduction for gambling losses has been expanded to include gambling expenses. This deduction is still limited to the amount of gambling winnings.

Overall deduction limitation: The overall cap on itemized deductions, also known as the Pease limitation, has been repealed. Previously, if AGI was above a certain threshold, a portion of itemized deductions would be reduced.

Two-percent floor for itemized deductions: Miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the two-percent floor have been removed. This category of deductions includes tax preparation fees, investment management fees, unreimbursed employee expenses and certain other expenses.

Note that most of these changes to itemized deductions are temporary. Unless noted otherwise, they only apply to tax years 2018 through 2025.

Standard Deduction Increased

Tax reform temporarily increases the standard deduction to $24,000 for married couples filing jointly, $18,000 for heads of household and $12,000 for single filers. For tax years beginning after 2025, the standard deduction will revert to the previous levels. This was a highly anticipated change intended to simplify tax filing for most taxpayers. Almost doubling the standard deduction will make itemizing less beneficial for many taxpayers. It's estimated that about 120 million tax returns will be impacted by this change

Personal Exemption Suspended

The personal exemption has been suspended for tax years 2018 through 2025. Previously, the exemption for each qualifying individual was $4,050. For high-income earners, the personal exemption was phased out. The impact of this change will primarily be on single taxpayers earning less than $261,500, or married taxpayers filing jointly earning less than $313,800.

Child Tax Credit Increased

The child tax credit will be temporarily increased for tax years 2018 through 2025 from $1,000 to $2,000 per qualifying child, while the maximum refundable credit for a qualifying child is $1,400. Refundable credits allow individuals who do not owe income tax (or owe very little income tax) to receive a tax refund. The income phase-outs for the child tax credit have been increased substantially to $400,000 for married couples filing jointly and $200,000 for all taxpayers. In addition, a new temporary $500 nonrefundable credit for qualifying dependents other than children has been added. These dependents may include aging family members and grown children.

FEDERAL ESTATE AND TRUST INCOME TAX BRACKETS

DECEMBER 31, 2017 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

BRACKET	TAXABLE INCOME
10%	$0 - $2,550
24%	$2,550 - $9,150
35%	$9,150 - $12,500
37%	Over $12,500

ELIZABETH HUTCHISON, CPA, CDFA™

Senior Tax Manager

Elizabeth goes beyond compliance and is a problem solver and strategic tax planner. Her expertise allows her to help clients navigate the complex nature of tax laws. With her most recent designation as a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, she has the ability to help her clients understand their financial picture during significant life changes.

Shared Responsibility Payment Suspended

Beginning after December 31, 2018, the shared responsibility payment — or the penalty under the Affordable Care Act for not purchasing essential healthcare coverage — is being repealed. The tax credits or subsidies for premiums paid by qualifying taxpayers purchasing their healthcare coverage on the ACA insurance exchanges were not changed by tax reform.

Estate and Gift Tax Retained

The federal gift and estate tax was retained by tax reform, but the exclusion has been temporarily increased from $5.6 to $11.2 million per individual in 2018, with indexing for inflation in future years. This temporary increase applies to the estates of decedents who die and gifts that are made after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2026. It's unclear what will happen when the legislation sunsets after 2026. Some consider the increase in the exemption to be a use it or lose it benefit, while others are concerned with "clawback," or the loss of the benefit upon a change in the rules.

The estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax rate remains, at highest, 40%, while the annual gift tax exclusion has increased to $15,000 for 2018 and beyond. A donor can give $15,000 to each recipient annually without the gift creeping into the lifetime exclusion.

Also, the rules relating to the step-up in basis at the decedent's date of death remain the same. Balancing the income and estate tax benefits of gifting along with the potential basis adjustments is a key consideration in estate planning. You should seek out your tax advisor to discuss the potential benefits of estate planning in more detail.

The income tax rates for estates and trusts have been updated to incorporate the new brackets.

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About Aldrich Wealth

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Recognized as Financial Times Top 300 Financial Advisors

The 2015 Financial Times Top 300 Registered Investment Advisors is an independent listing produced by the Financial Times (June, 2015). The FT 300 is based on data gathered from RIA firms, regulatory disclosures, and the FT's research. Applications were solicited from more than 2,000 independent RIA firms that had $300 million or more in assets. The 630 RIA firms that applied were then graded on six criteria: AUM; AUM growth rate; years in existence; advanced industry credentials; online accessibility; and compliance records. To make sure the list was relevant to Financial Times readers, the paper required that no more than 75% of a practice's assets be institutional. Only those who completed an application were considered. Neither the RIA firms nor their employees pay a fee to The Financial Times in exchange for inclusion in the FT 300. This is the second annual FT 300 list, produced independently by the FT in collaboration with Ignites Research, a subsidiary of the FT that provides business intelligence on the investment management industry.

Recognized Five Star Professional's "Five Star Wealth Managers"

Five Star Professional, as a third-party research firm, identified pre-qualified award candidates based on industry data and contacted all identified broker dealers, Registered Investment Advisor firms and FINRA-registered representatives in the Portland area to gather wealth manager nominations. Award candidates were then evaluated against 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria: 1) Credentialed as an investment advisory representative (IAR), a FINRA-registered representative, a CPA or a licensed attorney; 2) Actively employed as a credentialed professional in the financial services industry for a minimum of five years; 3) Favorable regulatory and complaint history review; 4) Fulfilled their firm review based on internal firm standards; 5) Accepting new clients; 6) One year client retention rate; 7) Five-year client retention rate; 8) Non-institutionalized discretionary and/or nondiscretionary client assets administered; 9) Number of client households served; 10) Educational and professional designations. 1,107 wealth managers in the Portland area were considered for the award. 224 were named 2015 Five Star Wealth Managers which represents approximately 21 percent of the total award candidates of the area. Wealth managers do not pay a fee to be considered or placed on the final list of 2015 Five Star Wealth Managers. The Five Star award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. For more information on the Five Star Wealth Manager program and the research/selection methodology, go to www.fivestarprofessional.com/wmsummaryandresearch.pdf. To view AKT Wealth Advisors, LP award document, go to http://www.pageturnpro.com/Five-Star-Professional/64888-PORWM15-Heather-Wonderly/puredefault.html.

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