







## Business Data

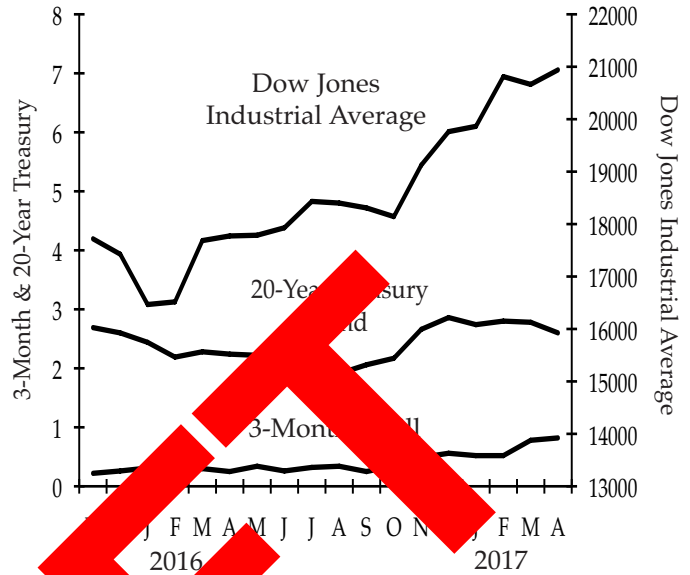


Indicator	Month-end				
	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	Dec-16	Apr-16
Prime rate	3.75	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.50
3-month T-bill yield	0.52	0.78	0.82	0.56	0.25
10-year T-note yield	2.46	2.42	2.23	2.55	1.84
20-year T-bond yield	2.80	2.78	2.60	2.86	2.24
Dow Jones Corp.	3.17	3.22	3.09	3.17	2.80
GDP (adj. annual rate)#	+3.50	+2.10	+0.70	+2.10	+0.80

Indicator	Month-end			% Change	
	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	YTD	12-Mon.
Dow Jones Industrials	20812.24	20663.22	20940.51	6.0%	17.8%
Standard & Poor's 500	2363.64	2362.72	2384.20	6.5%	15.4%
Nasdaq Composite	5825.44	5911.74	6047.61	12.3%	26.6%
Gold	1255.60	1244.85	1266.45	9.3%	-1.5%
Unemployment rate@	4.80	4.70	4.50	-2.2%	-10.0%
Consumer price index@	242.80	243.60	243.80	1.0%	2.4%
Index of leading ind.@	125.50	126.20	126.70	2.2%	2.7%

# — 3rd, 4th, 1st quarter @ — Jan, Feb, Mar Sources: *Barron's*, *Wall Street Journal*  
 Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

## 18-Month Summary of Dow Jones Industrial Average, 3-Month T-Bill & 20-Year Treasury Bond Yield November 2015 to April 2017



## News and Announcements

### A Tax-Planning Perspective

There are basically three strategies that can help you reduce your income tax bill:

**1. Reduce or eliminate taxes.** The objective is to receive income in a nontaxable form or to find additional tax deductions, exemptions, or credits. For instance, you might want to consider municipal bonds whose interest income is generally exempt from federal and sometimes state and local income taxes. Consider investments that generate capital gains from stocks. Gains are not taxed until sold, and if held for over one year, capital gains are subject to the 15% capital gains tax rate (20% for individuals in the 10% or 15% tax bracket and 28% for taxpayers in the 39.6% tax bracket). If you have realized capital gains, you might want to offset those gains by selling investments with losses.

**2. Postpone payment of income taxes until sometime in the future.** By postponing tax payment,

your earnings will compound on the entire balance, including the portion that will eventually be paid in taxes. You may also be in a lower tax bracket when the taxes are paid. For example, you can contribute as much as possible to retirement accounts, including employer plans and individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

**3. Shift the tax burden to another individual.** The objective of this technique is to transfer assets to other individuals so any income on those assets becomes taxable to those individuals. Typically, however, you have to give up control of the asset. For example, you can give annual tax-free gifts up to \$14,000 in 2017 (\$28,000 if the gift is split with your spouse) to any number of individuals. Any future income generated on those gifts then becomes taxable to those individuals. You may also want to use your lifetime gift-tax exclusion of up to \$5,490,000 to make larger gifts.

Please call if you'd like to discuss tax strategies in more detail. FR2017-0118-0074

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