

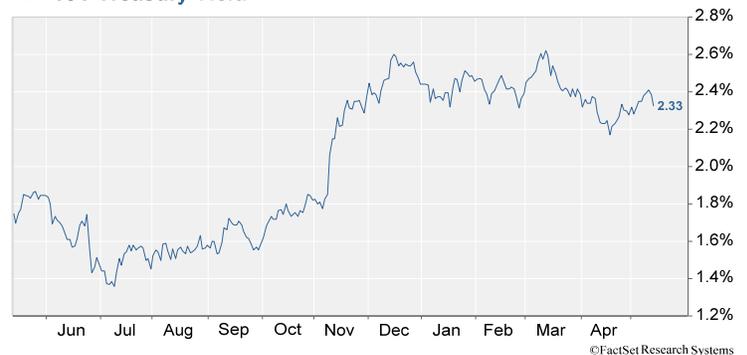
**HEADLINE NEWS**
**Stocks Shrug Off D.C. Noise; Oil Rebounds**

- Equity markets got off to a strong start this week, as investors largely shook off a weekend full of headlines regarding the firing of FBI Director Comey last Tuesday afternoon. Some feared that Dir. Comey's firing could be a distraction and potentially delay any progress of the administration's pro-growth agenda. We believe that the market's lack of a response is more a product of investors' reduced expectations of meaningful policy changes in the near-term. As we have previously discussed, global economic growth and a recovery in corporate earnings, both which pre-date the election, have been the largest tailwinds for stocks.
- After dropping roughly 15% over several weeks, the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil rebounded 3.5% last week. The rally continued to start this week, as WTI rose over 2% in Monday's session. Oil got a lift from news that Saudi Arabia and Russia both agreed to back a nine month extension to the production cut agreement originally struck in late-2016. We find it hardly surprising that Saudi Arabia will do whatever it takes to support the price of oil ahead of the anticipated IPO of Aramco, the country's national oil company. The duration of the proposed production cut extension is also opportune given most expect the Aramco IPO to occur in early 2018. OPEC and non-OPEC members meet next Thursday, 5/25, to decide on policy.
- Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party defeated their rival Social Democrats in a state election over the weekend. The result gives a needed bump to Merkel, who had been losing ground in recent polls, and helps to calm political risk in Europe.

**S&P 500**

**WTI Crude Oil Spot Price (\$/barrel)**

Max: 54.48 (23-FEB-17), Min: 39.50 (02-AUG-16), Last: 47.83 (12-MAY-17)


**US 10Y Treasury Yield**

**NOTABLE EARNINGS DUE THIS WEEK**

DATE	TIME	TICKER	COMPANY NAME
5/16	Unspecified	SPLS-US	Staples, Inc.
5/16	06:00 AM	HD-US	The Home Depot, Inc.
5/16	09:30 AM	TJX-US	The TJX Cos., Inc.
5/17	Unspecified	TGT-US	Target Corp.
5/17	After Market	CSCO-US	Cisco Systems, Inc.
5/18	07:00 AM	WMT-US	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
5/18	After Market	CRM-US	salesforce.com, inc.
5/19	Before Market	DE-US	Deere & Co.

Source: FactSet and API

**KEY MACROECONOMIC DATA DUE THIS WEEK**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PERIOD	CONSENSUS	PRIOR
5/16	08:30 AM	Housing Starts M/M	APR	3.7%	-6.8%
5/16	09:15 AM	Industrial Production SA M/M	APR	0.40%	0.55%
5/17	10:30 AM	EIA Crude Oil Stocks	05/12		-5.2M
5/18	08:30 AM	Initial Claims SA	05/13	240K	236.0K
5/19	01:00 PM	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	05/19		712.0

Source: FactSet and API

**INDEX RETURNS (AS OF 5/12/2017)**

	MTD	YTD
S&P 500	0.40	7.58
Dow Jones Ind. Avg.	-0.02	6.69
Barclays MM Short 1-5 Yr.	0.26	2.01
Barclays MM 1-10 Yr.	0.41	2.91
ML US Gov/Corp 1-10 Yr.	-0.03	1.14

Source: Interactive Data

**APPLETON PARTNERS, INC ONE POST OFFICE SQ. BOSTON, MA 02109 TEL. 617.338.0700 WWW.APPLETONPARTNERS.COM**

This commentary reflects the opinions of Appleton Partners based on information that we believe to be reliable. It is intended for informational purposes only, and not to suggest any specific performance or results, nor should it be considered investment, financial, tax or other professional advice. It is not an offer or solicitation. Views regarding the economy, securities markets or other specialized areas, like all predictors of future events, cannot be guaranteed to be accurate and may result in economic loss to the investor. While the Adviser believes the outside data sources cited to be credible, it has not independently verified the correctness of any of their inputs or calculations and, therefore, does not warrant the accuracy of any third-party sources or information. Specific securities identified and described may or may not be held in portfolios managed by the Adviser and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for advisory clients. The reader should not assume that investments in the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable. Any securities identified were selected for illustrative purposes only, as a vehicle for demonstrating investment analysis and decision making.