

**Monthly Market Commentary**

After a year and a half of solid performance across global equity markets and subdued volatility, we are starting to see volatility come back. In anticipation of prolonged volatility, we have reduced equity exposure last month to manage risk. We believe the main reason for this is the end of a synchronized recovery in both global economies and company earnings. Going forward, we see a slowdown in growth in certain developed and emerging economies, which will impact their respective equity markets. Expectations for earnings are also extended as companies compare against strong numbers posted in 2017 and the first quarter year to date. Given this backdrop, we remain cautious and are comfortable holding cash to take advantage of any opportunity that may arise.

Not FDIC Insured

No Bank Guarantee

May Lose Value