

## Clouds on the Horizon : Range Chart Update

# Clouds On The Horizon

## Updating The Trump Range Chart



On March 10, 2017, 720Global introduced the *Trump Range Chart*. Developed to see several different markets on one page, this unique chart provides a composite perspective of many instruments at once. Given the large post-election market gyrations across many asset classes, our concern was, and still remains, that those moves are transitory, reflective of extreme and possibly unwarranted optimism regarding the ability of the new administration to pass bold economic initiatives. For a broad discussion of the harsh economic landscape Trump faces, our cause for doubt, please read [The Lowest Common Denominator: Debt](#).

### Unbridled Enthusiasm

On May 17, 2017, the S&P 500 fell 1.82% on rumors that President Trump had tried to persuade former FBI Director James Comey to influence the FBI investigation into potential Russian interactions with the Trump campaign. This resulted in the largest equity market decline since March 21<sup>st</sup>, when healthcare legislation was being challenged and produced a surge in volatility as well. Outside of these two days, optimism has run rampant as witnessed by the daily gains and recurring all-time highs in many major equity indexes. As a result, equity volatility as discussed in

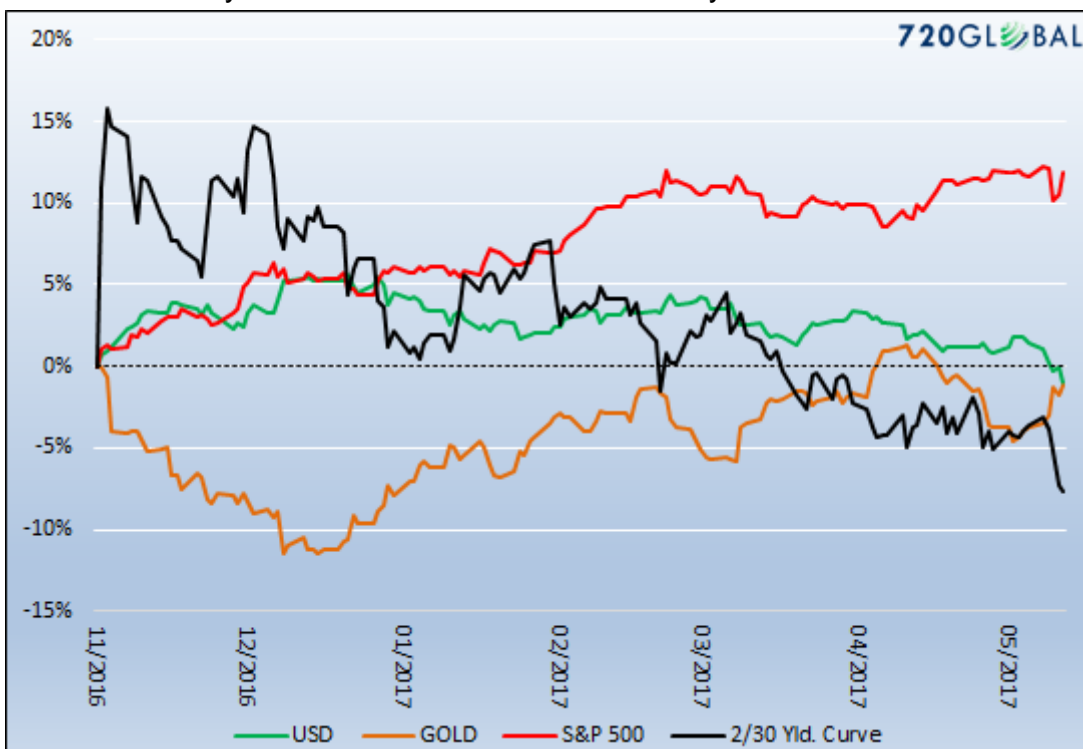
[Volatility: A Misleading Measure of Risk](#), has reached lows only seen on four other days since 1990. Two important points: First, valuations are reaching levels akin with those preceding memorable market crashes and are concurrent with still weaker economic growth and a Federal Reserve (Fed) that is hiking interest rates. Secondly, at current valuations, prudence demands a defensive posture but watching the markets move higher when hunkered down in a conservative position is both frustrating and humbling. This counter-intuitive dynamic is always present in markets at points of extremes. Most move comfortably with the herd while only a few have the fortitude to break away from the misguided pack.

## Clouds on the Horizon

It is growing more obvious by the day that the administration lacks the ability to enact much of the economic legislation that generated the surge of optimism reflected in post-election stock indexes. As market participants who like to support assertions with data, we also prefer to talk about events in terms of their probabilities. We think about the current situation this way: since the election, the S&P 500 has gained 13% at its highs on May 16. Corporate earnings have improved, but economic growth has proven weaker than expected and the Fed has been more aggressive in raising rates than most thought last November. Therefore, we believe a large majority of the gain stems from non-domestic forms of liquidity emanating from Europe and Japan and a belief that Trump will be able to pass much of his economic agenda. Given the hostile political climate in Washington, the probability of Trump executing his plans is certainly lower than the market suggests. On what logical basis should the probabilities of passing aggressive, pro-growth legislation remain unchanged?

## Markets/Range Chart

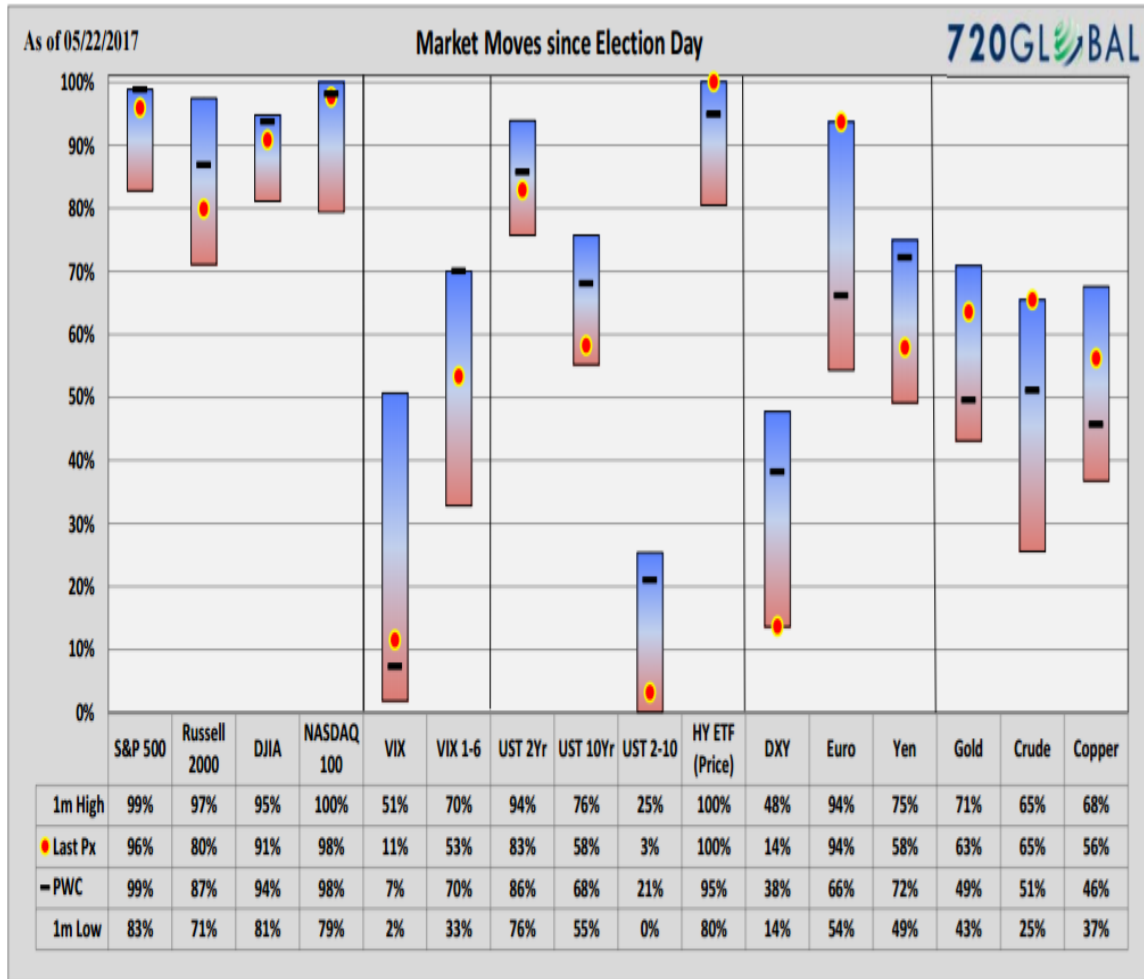
Despite these important considerations, the stock market exhibits little fear. The performance of other asset classes contradict the stock market. The graph below charts the percentage moves since the election of the S&P 500, Gold, U.S. Dollar and the 2year/30year Treasury yield curve. Despite widening significantly in the days following Trump's victory, note that the yield curve is now flatter today than where it was on election-day. **This is not a vote of confidence in the**



It has also reversed period. While most analysis highlights other

Data Courtesy:

Bloomberg The chart above uses 4 pm closing prices for each day. The Range Chart, below, uses intraday prices including the extremely volatile night of the election. Below the summary is a user guide for the Range Chart.



	S&P 500		Russell 2000		DJIA		NASDAQ 100		VIX		VIX 1-6		UST 2Yr		UST 10Yr	
	SPX Index	RTY Index	INDU Index	NDX Index	vix index	.vix1 6 index	usgg2yr index	usgg10yr index								
	S&P 500	Russell 2000	DJIA	NASDAQ 100	VIX	VIX 1-6	UST 2Yr	UST 10Yr								
Since 11/8/16 Max	2,405.77	1,425.70	21,169.11	5,724.71	21.48	6.88	1.40	2.64								
1 Month Max	2,402.32	1,419.43	21,012.28	5,724.44	15.59	4.90	1.35	2.41								
Close	2,394.02	1,377.14	20,894.83	5,699.40	10.92	3.80	1.28	2.25								
PWC	2,402.32	1,393.92	20,981.94	5,704.48	10.42	4.90	1.30	2.34								
1 Month Min	2,357.03	1,355.89	20,606.93	5,508.03	9.77	2.45	1.23	2.22								
Since 11/8/16 Min	2,123.56	1,184.85	18,200.75	4,677.41	9.56	0.30	0.71	1.71								

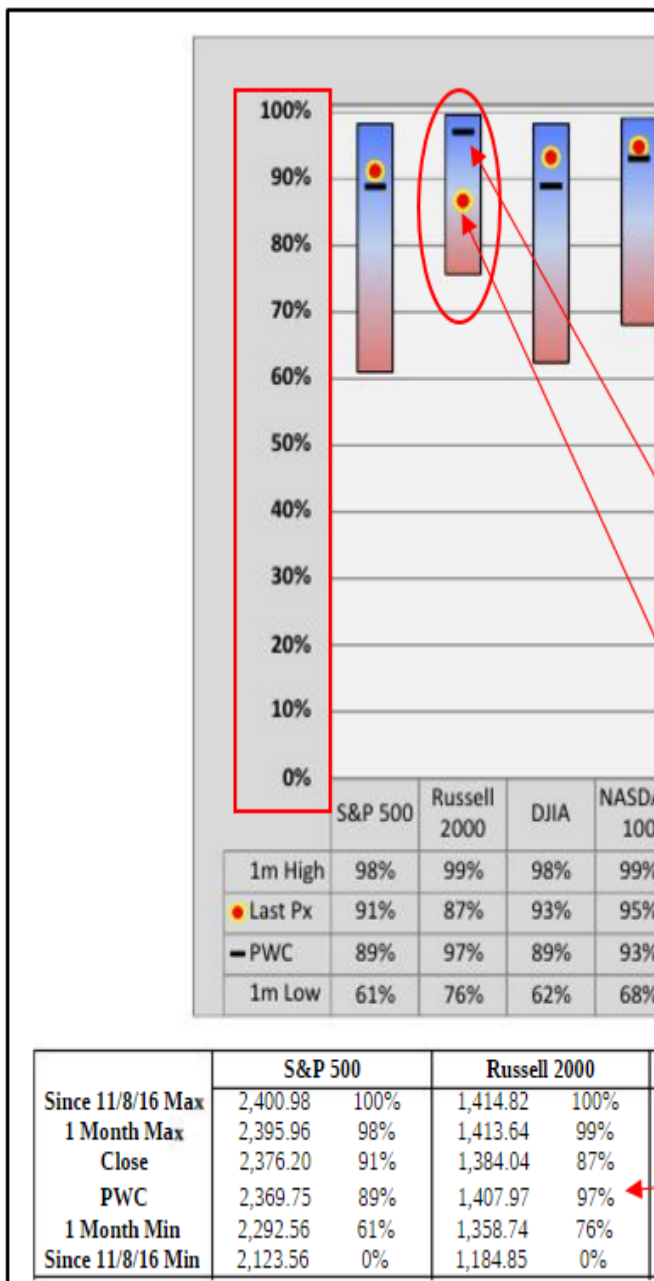
	UST 2-10		HY ETF (Price)		DXY		Euro		Yen		Gold		Crude		Copper	
	.2v10y index	HYG equity	dxy curncy	eur curncy	jpy curncy	gcl comdty	cll comdty	hg1 comdty								
	UST 2-10	HY ETF (Price)	DXY	Euro	Yen	Gold	Crude	Copper								
Since 11/8/16 Max	1.36	88.45	103.82	1.13	118.66	1,338.30	55.24	282.30								
1 Month Max	1.06	88.45	99.67	1.12	114.28	1,275.80	50.73	265.00								
Close	0.97	88.45	96.96	1.12	111.30	1,260.00	50.73	258.90								
PWC	1.04	88.18	98.91	1.10	113.79	1,230.00	48.85	253.30								
1 Month Min	0.96	87.43	96.96	1.09	109.77	1,216.10	45.52	248.55								
Since 11/8/16 Min	0.96	83.24	95.89	1.03	101.20	1,123.90	42.20	229.00								

Data Courtesy: Bloomberg

## Summary

Many mistakenly compare Trump's proposals to those of Ronald Reagan. They correctly identify similarities but few mention the stark differences between the economic landscapes of the two periods. **With the probability of successful and full implementation of Trump's economic agenda declining, investors should question whether equity prices will be able to meet the lofty expectations currently set forth by current valuations.** *How to read the range chart*

The data in the Trump range chart above is shown in a format that is quite different from what is commonly used to illustrate market changes. This format provides an easy way to view relative performance across a broad number of indexes and securities. It is intended to be a meaningful supplement and not a replacement to the traditional charts most investors review on a routine basis. The base time frame captured by the graph reflects the market move for each index or security since Election Day, November 8, 2016. This change is represented by the 0% to 100% on the left hand axis. The 0% level reflects the intra-day low of the security since November 8 and the 100% level the intra-day high. For more clarity on the prices associated with the range, see the table below the chart for each respective index. The (red/blue) bar reflects the price range of the past month relative to the base time frame. The black dash within the 1-month bar reflects the previous week's closing level (PWC) and the red dot highlights the closing level on the as-of date in the top left corner. The diagram below isolates the chart and data for the Russell 2000 to further illustrate these concepts.



The data below the graph shows the Russell 2000 has traded in a range of 1414.82 to 1184.85 since the election. The 0-100% range (boxed in red) on the y-axis represents this range.

Over the course of the previous month the index traded in the upper end of this range (76%-99%). This range is circled in red.

A week ago the index closed at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile of the range (PWC).

The most recent closing price, based on the date on the top left of the graph, was lower than the PWC at the 87<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Underlying Data

