

Spectrem's Investor Confidence Indices Decline in April; Millionaires Pull Back in Wake of an Uncertain Economic Outlook

CHICAGO, USA, May 1, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- From the middle of March until late in April, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) failed to reach 25,000, and on almost half of those days. it closed below 24,000. After six months of patterned increases into February. U.S. investors have noticed the downward trend and are registering concern about the direction of the economy, Spectrem Group reported today in its High Net Worth Insights newsletter. The Spectrem Millionaire Investor Confidence Index (SMICI®) dropped six points in April to 8, while the Spectrem Affluent Investor Confidence Index (SAICI®) declined four points to 7. Both indices are now in neutral territory.

The monthly Spectrem Investor Confidence indices track changes in investment sentiment among the 17 MM households in America with more than \$500,000 of investable assets (SAICI), and those with \$1 MM or more (SMICI). This month's survey was fielded between April 19-23, 2018, when the DJIA opened at 24,711 and closed at 24,448.

	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018
Spectrem Affluent Investor Confidence Index®	12	9	12	11	7
Spectrem Millionaire Investor Confidence Index®	18	15	18	14	8

Index range: -31 to -51, Bearish; -11 to -30, Mildly Bearish; 10 to -10, Neutral; 11 to 30, Mildly Bullish; 31 to 51, Bullish.



Driving the decline in confidence among both Millionaire and Affluent investors are concerns over the long-term outlook for the U.S. economy, and uncertainty surrounding issues related to trade and foreign policy. These investors are acting upon these concerns by pulling away from the market.

Among Millionaires, interest in stock and stock mutual fund investing reached its lowest level since May 2017, while the number of Millionaires not planning to increase their investment levels in the coming month climbed to 31 percent. This marks the third consecutive month of higher percentages among those not adding to their investment amounts. While 34.7 percent of non-Millionaires indicated they would not increase investing in May, interest in stock mutual funds did rise slightly in April, displaying a bit more optimism than their Millionaire counterparts.

The Spectrem Household Outlook, which is a monthly measure of the long-term confidence among

investors across four financial factors impacting a household, reflected the difference in confidence and optimism between Millionaires and non-Millionaires. While the overall Outlook dropped to 23.50, that was due to a 10-point drop among Millionaires to 22.48, a 10-month low, while non-Millionaires increased their outlook to 24.59, marking the first time since November the non-Millionaires had a rosier feeling about the economy than the Millionaires.

"Following six months of solid market gains, stock indices are in a holding pattern, as investors await greater clarity about the future direction of the U.S. economy," said Spectrem President George H. Walper, Jr. "Millionaires and non-Millionaires often view current conditions differently, but it is unusual for the wealthier investors to be less optimistic. They appear to be cautious while the markets display an uncertain direction."

Charts, including a deeper analysis of the Index and its methodology, are available upon request. Additional insights include:

•Index Falls as Stock Market Bounces

About Spectrem Group: Spectrem Group (<u>www.spectrem.com</u>) strategically analyzes its ongoing primary research with investors to assist financial providers and advisors in understanding the Voice of the Investor.

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