

## “Move to Canada?”

By Tommy Williams, CFP®

If there were a beauty contest among nations, Canada would probably be crowned Miss Congeniality. As the second largest country in the world, Canada has captured the interest of both Brits and Americans during 2016.



Tommy Williams

Canada was the top theoretical relocation choice among Brits following the Brexit vote. According to Citylab.com, ‘move to Canada’ was one of the two most popular ‘move to...’ searches in British cities. The second was Scotland.

It’s interesting to note the top search among residents of Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland was ‘move to

Gibraltar.’ CityLab.com opined:

*“It seems unlikely that these major cities are genuinely thinking about squeezing onto a tiny rock, but Gibraltar has been on people’s minds, I suspect, because it was first to declare a referendum result (for Remain)...and is now finding itself under high-profile pressure for power-sharing from Spain.”*

U.S. Internet searches for the phrase ‘how to move to Canada’ were quite popular this year, too, according to The Economist. The search reached its 2016 crescendo to-date after the Super Tuesday primaries in March. Donald Trump won seven states and Hillary Clinton won seven states and American Samoa.

It wasn’t the first time American presidential election choices inspired such angst among its citizens. ‘Move to Canada’ was a popular search phrase in 2004 after George W. Bush defeated John Kerry.

Regardless of the popularity of the search phrase, the number of American and British people who have migrated to Canada remains quite low. During each of the last 10 years, just 15,000 people from both nations together have become Canadian citizens.

While there may be numerous reasons for why an American may consider a move to the Great White North, stock market performance probably isn’t one of them. Both, the Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 have reached record highs recently. According to the CNN Money,

*“The U.S. stock market has gone from near free-fall over Brexit to breaking out to all-time highs. All in the span of less than three weeks. The swing has been stunning. The surprisingly strong July jobs report seems to have erased all memories of Brexit fears*

*contaminating the global economy. Research firm Investors Intelligence said on Wednesday that bullish sentiment among investing newsletter writers has climbed above 50% for the first time since early 2015. And the percentage of investors calling for a 10% decline or more has dropped to the lowest level in two years. [Peter Boockvar, chief market analyst at The Lindsay Group] said the sentiment indicators should 'give people pause' because the recent gains have made 'stocks more and more expensive – and dangerous.' While some believe the market is due for a pause, Peter Kenny, an independent market strategist, thinks stocks have more room to run, despite the recent rally. He pointed to four key drivers: Brexit didn't spark a global financial crisis, the U.S. added way more jobs in July than expected, the earnings recession could soon be ending and extremely low bond yields make stocks look less expensive."*

No one can predict the future with certainty. So, as investors we must be

sure to have the proper plans in place no matter which direction the markets take. In the assuring words of Warren Buffet, "A market downturn doesn't bother us. It is an opportunity to increase our ownership of great companies with great management at good prices."

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