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CEO Economic Outlook Survey: Optimism Jumps on Sales, Hiring and Capital Investment

Business Roundtable released its [first quarter 2017 CEO Economic Outlook Survey](#) on Tuesday, reporting sharply increased CEO plans for hiring and capital investment and a significant jump in expectations for sales. The CEO Economic Outlook Index — a composite of CEO projections for sales and plans for capital spending and hiring over the next six months — also made its largest increase since the fourth quarter of 2009 and indicated continued economic expansion. "I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to enact a meaningful pro-growth agenda that will benefit all Americans. As these results confirm, business confidence and optimism have increased dramatically," said Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Chairman of Business Roundtable. The CEOs also projected GDP growth of 2.2 percent for 2017, a 0.2 percent increase over the projection made last December. (See [transcript](#) of media briefing, [selection of news coverage](#).)

Bloomberg Interview Reports Dimon, Bolten's Priorities for Business Roundtable

In [a Bloomberg interview](#) with BRT Chairman Jamie Dimon and President & CEO Joshua Bolten, the two outlined their vision for the Business Roundtable, "I'm a patriot, I want to make this country better off," Dimon said. "Public policy is an area where we haven't been doing a great job. Instead of Republicans and Democrats finger-pointing, let's get involved, let's talk about solutions." See also [Bloomberg TV report](#).

News Report Highlights BRT Meeting, Interaction with Administration, New Roundtable CEOs

Business Roundtable drew top White House officials to its quarterly meeting, the online political news site *Axios AM* reported, listing Administration officials who spoke with CEOs. The report, "[Business paying more attention to D.C. \(and vice versa\)](#)," also named the new CEOs recruited by Chairman Jamie Dimon to Business Roundtable: Tim Cook of Apple, Bob Dudley of BP, Ed Breen of DuPont, Phebe Novakovic of General Dynamics, Craig Menear of The Home Depot, Steve Fisher of Novelis, Mauricio Gutierrez of NRG Energy, Oscar Munoz of United Airlines and Hikmet Ersek of Western Union.

Business Roundtable to SEC: Conflict Minerals Disclosures are Not Material to Investors

Responding to a [Jan. 31 request for comments](#) from the Securities and Exchange Commission, Business Roundtable today provided the SEC with a detailed critique of the Dodd-Frank Act's required disclosures of a company's use of conflict minerals in its supply chain. BRT supports the underlying objective of addressing atrocities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, wrote John Hayes of Ball Corporation, Chair of BRT's Corporate Governance Committee. However, the conflict minerals rule requires disclosure of information not material to investors, and securities law is the wrong avenue to address the rule's objectives. Hayes wrote that the SEC should eliminate the rule or, if the courts or Congress allows portions to stand, tailor it narrowly. See comment letter [here](#).

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