



By the Numbers

1. **STILL MADE MONEY** - The S&P 500 peaked on 10/09/07 before beginning a 17-month bear market that saw the raw index fall 57% before bottoming on 3/09/09. An investment in the S&P 500 on 10/09/07 (i.e., at the market's top and before its fall) is up +137% (total return) as of the close of trading on Friday 9/21/18 (i.e., nearly 11 years after the 10/09/07 market peak), an annualized return of +8.2% per year. The S&P 500 consists of stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation.* It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value (source: BTN Research).
2. **SOME DIPS DURING BULL** - The current bull market is more than 9 ½ years old as of the close of trading last Friday 9/21/18. The S&P 500 has gained +429% (total return) since the bull began on 3/10/09 but has also suffered 11 separate tumbles of at least 5% but less than 20%. The most recent drop of at least 5% was a 10% loss that occurred over the 13 calendar days through 2/08/18 (source: BTN Research).
3. **HAVE YOU NOT BEEN WATCHING?** - 48% of 2,000 American adults surveyed in August 2018 thought the US stock market had been flat over the last 10 years. Another 18% of the 2,000 folks surveyed thought the US stock market had declined over the last 10 years (source: Betterment).
4. **HURRICANES** - Hurricane Harvey hit Texas on 8/25/17 and caused \$125 billion in damages, the 2nd costliest weather disaster (inflation adjusted) in US history. Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina on 9/14/18, killing 42 people and causing an estimated \$38-50 billion in damages (source: Nat'l Hurricane Center, Moody's Analytics).
5. **ONLY ONE MONTH TO GO** - With just the month of September remaining in fiscal year (FY) 2018, the budget deficit to date is \$898 billion. The last 6 Septembers have each reported a budget surplus (2012-2017) that has averaged \$65 billion. The deficit from FY 2017 was \$666 billion (source: Treasury Department).
6. **THIS YEAR** - Last Wednesday (9/19/18), the national debt reached \$21.494 trillion, an increase of \$1 trillion from our nation's outstanding debt of \$20.493 trillion as of 12/31/17 (source: Treasury Department).
7. **CALM BEFORE A STORM** - Between 6/25/04 and 2/02/07, a period of more than 2 ½ years, no bank failed in the US requiring a bailout from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Between 2/02/07 and 12/15/17 (almost 11 years) 531 banks failed and required a bailout, equal to 49 per year or just short of 1 per week (source: FDIC).
8. **WE ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM** - 19% of Chinese exports are purchased by American consumers, making the US the # 1 trading partner of China (source: WTEEx).
9. **BEST EVER** - If the current US business expansion lasts through July 2019, it will be the longest expansion in the history of the United States at 121 months in length (source: National Bureau of Economic Research).
10. **MORE THAN JUST WAGES** - For every \$1 spent for wages and salaries in the private sector, employers spend an additional 44 cents on benefits. Average compensation is \$23.78 per hour while the cost of benefits averages an additional \$10.41 per hour (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics).
11. **LITTLE BUMP** - The "cost of living adjustment" (COLA) made to Social Security benefits is calculated based upon the year-over-year increase in prices during the 3rd quarter of subsequent years. E.g., the COLA that will be applied to benefits paid in January 2019 will be based on the change of prices from the 3rd quarter 2017 to the 3rd quarter 2018. The COLA increase has been less than 2% in 7 of the last 9 years (source: Social Security).
12. **PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE** - 45% of 3,000 full-time workers from 8 different countries worldwide believe they could complete their workload each day in less than 5 hours if they were allowed to function uninterrupted throughout the day (source: Kronos Incorporated).
13. **JUST IN CASE** - 27% of 2,000 adults surveyed own group life insurance through a policy made available by their employer but paid for by the employee. 70% of those purchasing the group insurance have death benefits of no more than \$100,000 (source: OneAmerica/The Harris Poll).
14. **SOFTENING MARKET** - 20% of the single-family homes for sale in San Diego dropped their asking price in June 2018, the highest percentage to do so in any major US city. 14% of single-family homes nationwide lowered their asking price in June 2018 (source: Freddie Mac).
15. **SPORTS FAMINE** - The Seattle Mariners are 7 ½ games out of the American League wildcard spot as of games played through Thursday night 9/20/18. The Mariners' post season drought is the longest in baseball today, having last made the playoffs in 2001 (source: Major League Baseball).

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