

# By the Numbers



1. **NOT THIS YEAR** - The S&P 500 stock index has gained +0.3% YTD (total return) through Friday 12/07/18. The S&P 500 has gained at least +20% (total return) in 17 of the last 50 calendar years (34% of the time), including a record setting 5 years in-a-row from 1995-1999. The S&P 500 consists of 500 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. **MARKET DURING RISING RATES** - The Federal Reserve began a rate hike cycle on 12/16/15, raising short-term interest rates 8 times over the last 3 years. In the 749 trading days since the initial rate hike, the S&P 500 has gained +10.6% per year (total return). The Fed next meets on December 18-19 (source: BTN Research).
3. **FIND A WAY TO START** - A November 2018 survey of 1,161 employed adults determined that the average age at which this group began saving for retirement was 31 years old. The most common reason given for not starting sooner was "not making enough money" (source: Nationwide Retirement Institute).
4. **IS THE END NEAR?** - 65% of 500 global money managers surveyed in October and November 2018 predict that the US bull market will end in 2019. The current bull run is 3 months short of 10 years in length as of today. The survey included investors in 28 countries worldwide (source: Natixis Investment Managers).
5. **BEST RESULT IN YEARS** - 195,559 homes have been repossessed by lenders in the United States YTD through 10/31/18. 291,579 homes were repossessed in 2017, the lowest nationwide since 2006. Repossessions peaked at 1,050,500 in 2010 (source: Attom Data Solutions).
6. **ONE DAY I'LL BE RICH** - 37% of US households (45 million out of 121 million total households) will transfer assets estimated to be worth \$68 trillion to family heirs and charities over the next 25 years. The \$68 trillion represents 64% of the nation's total household net worth of \$107 trillion (source: Cerulli Associates).
7. **STRONG** - Through 3 quarters of 2018, the US economy has grown +2.4% YTD, a pace that is equal to +3.2% annual growth. That would be the best expansion for our economy in 13 years (source: Commerce Department).
8. **HEARING FOOTSTEPS** - 30 years ago (1988), the Chinese economy was just 6% of the size of the US economy, i.e., \$312 billion to \$5.306 trillion. 10 years ago (2008), the Chinese economy was just 31% of the size of the US economy, i.e., \$4.598 trillion to \$14.715 trillion. Today (2018), the Chinese economy is 63% of the size of the US economy, i.e., \$13.1 trillion to \$20.66 trillion (source: Trading Economics).
9. **TRADE WAR** - Before the G-20 summit between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, China was imposing a 40% tariff on American-made cars coming into China, and the US was imposing a 27.5% tariff on Chinese-made cars coming into the United States (source: Bloomberg Business).
10. **LOWEST EVER** - The October 2018 jobless rates reported for the states of Texas (3.7%) and Washington (4.3%) were the lowest ever recorded for those 2 states based upon unemployment data tracked at the state level for the last 42 years (source: Department of Labor).
11. **KICK THE CAN** - In order to avoid the 3rd shutdown of the government during the 2-year Trump administration and 15th shutdown since 1980, Congress passed a short-term spending bill last Thursday 12/06/18. Without the passage of the 2-week spending bill (to 12/21/18), 7 government agencies that have yet to pass a fiscal year 2019 spending bill would have shut down as of midnight on Friday 12/07/18 (source: Congress).
12. **OPEC'S WORST NIGHTMARE** - The US field production of crude oil reached 11.5 million barrels a day in September 2018, an all-time monthly record volume (based upon records maintained since January 1920) and a +21% increase in production in just the last 12 months (source: Department of Energy).
13. **WE QUIT** - OPEC member Qatar announced on 12/03/18 that it is vacating its membership, the first country to leave OPEC since the cartel began in 1960. Qatar wants to increase its daily crude oil production by +1.7 million barrels a day (to 6.5 million barrels) at a time that OPEC is reviewing production cuts (source: Qatar Oil Minister).
14. **GETTING OLDER** - Between 1952 and 2017 (a period of 65 years), the average life expectancy of a newborn American baby has increased by 10 years, i.e., a life expectancy of 68.6 years increasing to 78.6 years. Thus, US life expectancy has increased by 1 year every 6 ½ years (source: Center for Disease Control).
15. **ACE VENTURA** - Tiger Woods has hit 20 hole-in-ones in his golfing career, including his first ace at the age of 8 (source: Golfworld).

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