

RAYMOND JAMES®



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A Closer Look



MARKET SUMMARY

Trading in the early part of October saw equities respond negatively to rumors of a pull-back on stimulus measures by the European Central Bank, which ultimately proved to be unfounded. Stocks rebounded during the third week of the month, posting week-over-week gains by the October 21 market close. Nevertheless, equities fell on the last day of October, closing the month in the red. The Dow fell for the third consecutive month in October, losing almost 1.0%. The S&P 500 lost nearly 2.0% compared to September. But the biggest downturn was posted by the Russell 2000, which fell about 5.0%. Ultimately, investors may be cautious entering November's presidential election.

U.S. government bond prices fell during October, as the yield on 10-year Treasuries closed up 23 basis points month-over-month. Gold lost value, closing October at \$1,277.80, down \$41 from its September closing value.

MARKET OUTLOOK

November should be an interesting month for the economy in general and the stock market in particular. Of course, the big news focuses on the results of the November 8 presidential election. In addition, the FOMC meets in November. While interest rates may be raised by the end of the year, it is not expected to occur until December.

MAKE THIS YEAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT



For both the 2016 and 2017 tax years, individual investors can contribute up to \$5,500 to either a traditional or Roth IRA. If you're over 50, you can contribute an extra \$1,000. Be aware so that you can take full advantage of your ability to save toward retirement. Contributing as much as you can as early as possible allows those assets more time to grow and compound.

You may also contribute up to \$18,000 to applicable 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans; SAR-SEP plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan. The catch-up contribution limit for individuals age 50 or older remains \$6,000.

Keep in mind that contributions generally must be made before you file your tax return in April.

If you have any questions about these limits or your retirement planning in general, please give us a call.

SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES BENEFITS BY 0.3% FOR 2017



More than 65 million Americans will see the 0.3% increase in their payments beginning in January of 2017.

The Social Security Administration has announced a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to recipients' monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. More than 65 million Americans will see the 0.3% increase in their payments beginning in January of 2017. The increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers and was put in place to ensure the purchasing power of these benefits isn't eroded by inflation.

This figure is a slight increase from 2016 since there was no increase for retirees last year. According to the Social Security Administration, retired workers on average collect \$1,355 a month in Social Security payments, or roughly \$16,260 a year. Raising the COLA 0.3% will add about \$5 a month to those payments, or \$60 for the year.

Keep in mind, all federal benefits must be direct deposited. So if you haven't already started receiving benefits, you need to establish electronic transfers to your bank or financial institution. Contact us for more information.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!

Five Wise Ways to Spend Your Extra Hour

As the sun sets on daylight saving time, don't lose sleep over your financial future.

It has been said that time is life's most precious gift. And on Sunday, November 6, most of us turned our clocks back and gain the gift of an extra hour – time we can use to do whatever we'd like. And while some may choose to indulge in some extra sleep or check off a task on their weekly to-do list, there may be a better option out there. Instead, consider revisiting and refining one part of your financial plan so that your investment of an hour can pay you and your family long-range dividends.

Should you choose not to “fall back” on the option of extra sleep, here are a few ways to take a closer look at your financial future – all in an hour or less.



Get Your Balance Sheet in Order

To get where you want to go, it can be important to know where you're coming from. Your financial future is no exception. Before the sunlight fades, update your personal balance sheet (assets versus liabilities, broadly speaking). Use your hour to bring some of those numbers up to date, or, if you're already well-organized, the hour can be spent refining it.

Review Your Budget and Spending Habits

Try taking some time to review the past few months to see how close you came to what you had planned to spend, where you went off track and what you can do about it in the future. Has something fundamental changed in your life that affected your expenses, and is that a one-time item or an ongoing cost? Where can you trim expenses? Although some budget items are fixed, a sharp pencil can produce significant savings on other costs.

Revisit Your Asset Allocation

It's important to revisit both your current and ideal asset allocation at least annually and to rebalance as needed, especially since the ups and downs of the market can affect your asset allocation over time. Appreciation in one asset class or underperformance in another can leave your portfolio with an asset allocation and risk profile that differs from what you originally intended. Using your additional hour to tend to your portfolio will also give you an opportunity to determine if you are comfortable with your current level of risk.

Asset allocation does not guarantee a profit nor protect against loss. The process of rebalancing may result in tax consequences.

Check to See if Your Retirement Plan is on Track

Whether the clock is winding down on your time in the workplace or not, it's important to monitor and manage the various moving parts of your retirement plan on an ongoing basis. Your bonus hour can give you the time you need to determine what types of assets you have, what your cash flow situation is and is going to be, what your contingency plans are, what rate of return you're assuming, what inflation rate you're assuming, how long you're planning for, and all the other important details that go into achieving a successful retirement.

WHY WORK WITH A CFP®

In life, it's important to find a financial planner you trust to provide sound, unbiased advice and professional services. Being CFP® certified means someone has voluntarily taken the extra steps needed to provide the highest possible standard of financial planning to those they serve.

How does working with a CFP® certified advisor benefit you? Certified Financial Planner™ professionals are held to the utmost standards of ethics and professional responsibility, which prepares them for a career-long commitment to provide truly personalized services to meet your needs; all while maintaining high levels of financial planning and professionalism. CFP® professionals maintain their professional edge through ongoing education and training in addition to the rigorous requirements to represent a high level of integrity, objectivity, competence, fairness, confidentiality, professionalism and diligence when working with you.



RAYMOND JAMES SPONSORS MISTLETOE MARKET!



"Mistletoe Market is an annual event that began three years ago."

– *Scottsboro Woman's League*

SCOTTSBORO WOMAN'S LEAGUE

RAYMOND JAMES is proud to be sponsoring once again this year MISTLETOE MARKET, an annual event brought to us by Scottsboro Woman's League. Scottsboro Woman's League is a service organization that was founded in 1968. The members of this organization raise funds for local programs and organizations that provide services to the people of Jackson County that are vital to the community. The funds raised by Mistletoe Market and other fundraisers held by Scottsboro Woman's League are donated to the Scottsboro Education Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, The ARC of Jackson County, Mountain Lakes Behavioral Center, Jackson County Christmas Charities to name just a few.

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SCOTTSBORO WOMAN'S LEAGUE
MISTLETOE
Market

Jewelry
Fine Art
Home Decor
Christmas Decor
Children's Toys
Children's Clothing
Men's Clothing
Women's Clothing
Gourmet Candy
Personalized Ornaments
Monogrammed Gifts
Christmas Pictures with Santa



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 5PM - 9PM *Pre-Sale Event
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 10AM - 6PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 1PM - 5PM
Goosepond Civic Center

thank you to our title sponsors
RAYMOND JAMES 

Lunch by the Veranda • Entertainment • Raffle Items • Door Prizes • Santa Pictures
WWW.SCOTTSBOROWOMANSLEAGUE.COM #MISTLETOEMARKET

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COFFEE CLUB!

Do you know about Thursday Morning Community Coffee Club? We meet every first Thursday of the month at Impact Learning Center from 9:30am to 10:30am. We always have a topic of discussion; usually related to the financial world, and current events. Coffee Club is an opportunity for us to gather with members of the community, whether they are current clients or not, to learn, discuss, to share ideas, and to fellowship. It's a very laid back atmosphere, we serve coffee and refreshments, and just enjoy being together. We welcome each of you to join us, and we would love for you to bring along a friend!



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