

THE COMMUNIQUE

July 2019

MAJOR INDICES	CLOSE	MTD	QTD	YTD
S&P 500	2995.82	1.84%	1.84%	19.51%
Dow Jones Industrials	26966.00	1.38%	1.38%	15.60%
NASDAQ Composite	8170.23	2.05%	2.05%	23.13%

U.S. TREASURIES	YIELD
5-yr Treasury Note	1.74%
10-yr Treasury Bond	1.95%
30-yr Treasury Bond	2.47%

Information as of July 3, 2019

Source: Thomson Reuter's Thomson One

MARKET COMMENT

All Eyes on the Fed

Investors' eyes and ears will be laser-focused on the Federal Reserve's July 31st Policy Statement with anticipation of a potential interest rate cut. The market appears confident that a .25% cut is coming imminently, and perhaps a .50% cut could be in the crystal ball as well. A potential .50% cut could lead the stock market up strongly. Conversely, if the Fed holds rates steady with a "wait and see" approach, the market could see a stiff sell-off, repricing the current expectation of a rate cut.

Also, we are coming into the 2nd quarter earnings season for 2019, and many analyst think companies will report weaker earnings due to slowing across the global economy. If correct, the earnings slowdown could be temporal, eventually bouncing back due to accommodating central banks around the world. It seems that every central bank is ready to quickly encourage growth with lower interest rates – a likely result of low global inflation. When coupled with strong employment in the United States, this 10-year economic growth cycle could continue on an upward path. The Fed's willingness to adjust interest rates and apply growth-oriented monetary policies could be the catalyst to produce a continuation in the rising stock market. So, yes, the glass does seem half full, but it will be wise to temper the optimism due to the many existing uncertainties. For instance, trade barriers & protectionism, slowing global economic growth, Iran's aggression, and the nasty U.S. political climate, just to name a few! Even if the Fed won't adopt a "wait and see" approach, we will.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence – it is highly valued.

PLANNING STRATEGY

Raymond James "Point of View" article. M18-2205051

Who Gets What, When?

Ready to decide who will receive what from your estate, and when? It can be an uncomfortable process, even under the best of circumstances.

Should you base your decisions on who wants what? Who deserves what? Or, what each family member is actually prepared to handle? With a few practical tips and a bit of prep, you can confidently address the main issues, while defusing any potential problems.

Here are a few tactics you may want to deploy, with help from your family and professional advisors:

Consider the preparedness of your potential heirs.

Does each one have the financial know-how, education, or experience to support their role as a steward of your wealth? What is their relationship like with you and other family members? Have they expressed interest in upholding your financial legacy? An heir readiness checklist, which covers everything from your heirs' competencies to their roles as part of your legacy, can help you define an effective strategy for distributing your wealth. If you find your heirs are ready now, consider sharing part of their inheritance with them while you're still alive to guide them and enjoy how they mature as financial stewards.

Determine how to handle a wayward beneficiary.

Options range from leaving your black sheep with nothing, allocating a smaller share than other family members outright, or establishing a well-structured trust that abides by your wishes or incentivizes behavior you'd like to see in your loved one. This last option may be a particularly smart solution if you're concerned the child in question may quickly burn through an inheritance. The key with all of these options is thoughtful communication beforehand to help maintain family harmony.

Talk to your kids individually.

Make sure each understands the details of your intentions. Or, you might want to leave a family love letter or ethical will explaining your desires. What you share and when depends largely upon the beneficiary's age and financial competency.

Set up a family meeting.

Once you've established your plan, hold a family meeting or series of meetings to share the details. Prepare what you hope to communicate ahead of time to ensure you accomplish all your goals.

While it may be a challenge, making these decisions is an important step to passing on your financial legacy. Your financial advisor can help provide additional resources to help guide the process.

Sources: *Raymondjames.com; Nuveen Investments Wealth Management Services; forbes.com*

LIFE & LEISURE

Raymond James "Point of View" article. M19-2599188

Before Natural Disaster Strikes

Preparing for an unexpected storm or fire can help protect both your personal and financial well-being. Consider these recommendations for protecting important documents and making a swift, safe evacuation.

Saving Your Documents

If a fire, hurricane or other natural disaster occurs, the documents needed to rebuild your life should either be with you or stored somewhere safely out of harm's way. Waterproof, fireproof safes offer protection for your most important items, offering a level of security in the event of a last-minute evacuation. For disasters that can be forecasted further in advance (think weather-related events like hurricanes), consider taking important papers with you. When choosing which documents to bring, consider:

- **Identification:** passports, immigration papers, military discharge papers, immunization records, Social Security cards
- **Family records and certificates:** birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, death
- **Home and vehicle:** deeds, titles, registration, loan papers
- **Planning documents:** wills, trusts, powers of attorney, healthcare directives
- **Insurance information:** health, life, home, vehicle

While many of these documents can be replaced, keeping them safe will make insurance claims and other recovery activities easier. Consider placing them in a three-ring binder with pockets for easy portability, and store within a water resistant bag. Waterproof and fireproof boxes are usually quite heavy, but a heavy-duty waterproof bag from a sporting goods store or large, re-sealable plastic bag can serve as a lighter alternative.

Preparing Your Emergency Bag

Proponents of preparedness recommend keeping a small bag packed with essentials for a quick escape. Your emergency bag should remain ready to go at all times, perfect for an unanticipated evacuation. Your water resistant duffel bag or knapsack can include items such as:

- Your documents binder
- Photos or video of your property for later insurance claims
- Safe deposit box key, if applicable
- Notepad and pen
- Flashlight
- Small first-aid kit
- Bottled water and nonperishable snacks
- Extra resealable bags

An additional “quick grab” list will ensure you won’t forget items that would be inconvenient to keep in your emergency bag at all times. Examples include:

- Backup of your computer, especially if it stores personal information
- Cash for food and gas, as ATMs may not be in service
- Required medications
- Phone or tablet and chargers

Planning for Pets

If conditions are unsafe for you, they’re unsafe for your pets as well. Research in advance which public shelters, lodging facilities or kennels can take care of your pets if you’re unable to bring them with you during an evacuation. If you have an exotic pet, try contacting local pet stores or zoological gardens located in a safe area. Your local SPCA or other pet-oriented organization can also likely provide information.

Additional steps to prepare your pets include:

- Making copies of your pets’ updated immunization records
- Filling out a pet ID card with a recent picture, description, contact information, medical details and care instructions
- Compiling a kit with items like collars, leashes, medications, food, water, treats, toys, litter/pans, first aid supplies, and carriers

Depending on the type of natural hazards your area is prone to, additional provisions might be needed. But regardless of the particular peril, undertaking these precautions can provide a greater sense of security and preparedness in the face of an unexpected disaster.

Quote of the Month: "Games are won by player who focus on the playing field – not by those whose eyes are glued to the scoreboard." - Warren Buffett

For questions or additional information please contact:

Raymond James & Associates

9900 Clayton Road, Saint Louis, Missouri 63124



Jim Pohlman, CFP®
Senior Vice President, Investments
James.Pohlman@raymondjames.com
T 314-214-2122



Hunter Martiniere, J.D.
Financial Advisor
Hunter.Martiniere@raymondjames.com
T 314-214-2152



Vickie Bollinger
Senior Registered Sales Assistant
vickie.bollinger@raymondjames.com
T 314-214-2175

Planning - <https://www.raymondjames.com/pointofview/who-gets-what-when>

Life & Leisure - <https://www.raymondjames.com/pointofview/before-natural-disaster-strikes>

Disclaimers & Disclosures

Raymond James is not affiliated with and does not endorse the opinions or services of independent third parties named. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets, or developments referred to in this material. Any information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation.

Views expressed in this newsletter are the current opinion of the author, but not necessarily those of Raymond James & Associates. The author's opinions are subject to change without notice. There is no assurance that the statements, opinions, or forecasts included in this material will prove to be correct. Information contained in this report was received from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy is not guaranteed. Investing always involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss. No investment strategy can guarantee success. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index of 30 widely held securities. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged index of all stocks traded on the NASDAQ over-the-counter market. U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the U.S. government and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and guaranteed principal value.

Keep in mind that indexes are unmanaged and individuals cannot invest directly in any index. Index performance does not include transaction costs or other fees, which will affect the actual investment performance. Individual investor results will vary. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the annual market value of all goods and services produced domestically by the US. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in consumer prices over time of goods and services purchased by households; it is determined monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and federally registered CFP (with flame logo) in the U.S., which it awards to individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.

Changes in tax laws may occur at any time and could have a substantial impact upon each person's situation. While we are familiar with the tax provisions of the issues presented herein, as Financial Advisors of Raymond James & Associates we are not qualified to render advice on tax or legal matters.

Past performance may not be indicative of future results.

Some material was prepared by Raymond James for use by James Pohlman, Senior Vice President, Investments, of Raymond James & Associates, Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC.

Links are being provided for information purposes only. Raymond James is not affiliated with and does not endorse, authorize or sponsor any of the listed websites or their respective sponsors. Raymond James is not responsible for the content of any website or the collection or use of information regarding any website's users and / or members.

Investing in commodities is generally considered speculative because of the significant potential for investment loss. Their markets are likely to be volatile and there may be sharp price fluctuations even during periods when prices overall are rising.