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December 16, 2019

“Investing should be more like watching paint dry or watching grass grow. If you want excitement, take \$800 and go to Las Vegas. “

- Paul Samuelson

Update -

Despite positive political news, it looks like the second week of the month was a “sleeper”. Friday saw the DJIA rise 3 points Friday for a total 0.49% gain for the week. The S&P 500 rose 0.7% to 3168 and the NASDAQ Composite advanced 0.9% to 8734. Last week, we witnessed a presidential impeachment; a landslide victory by Boris Johnson’s Conservative Party in the United Kingdom; an approval by Congress to pass a new United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA); and it seems the phase-one deal with China may be signed. Most significantly, the U.S. - Chinese agreement froze the imposition of new tariffs by the U.S. and by China. With the likely exit of Great Britain leaving the European Union in January, both the STOXX Europe and the FTSE 250 jumped – 1.1% and 3.4% respectively.

Reminders –

- Have you fully funded your 401K? For 2019, you can defer the maximum of \$19,000 into your 401k, 403b, 457b, or Thrift Savings Plan.
- Have you fully funded your IRA? The deadline is April 2020, but timing is usually a money loser so why wait?
- Have you fully funded your SIMPLE? You may be eligible for a non-forfeitable employer funded contribution.
- Did you intend to convert to a Roth IRA in 2019? The deadline is December 31st.
- Did you plan to adopt and execute retirement plan amendments for plan changes and/or establish new plans for 2019? Deadline is also December 31st!
- Lastly, there are only a few days left to take your required mandatory distribution (RMD) or earmark it to a charity for taking a deduction and not realizing a tax liability for the withdrawal.

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukah.

Yours,

George Gumbiner

P.S. Reminder! Please access the Marathon website for monthly commentaries, tools and timely statements on the markets! Input www.MarathonInvestments.com .



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