

M3 FINANCIAL PULSE NOVEMBER 2019

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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Investors and traders found much to like in October. The S&P 500 gained 2.04% during the month, topping 3,000 again. The Federal Reserve made its third interest rate cut of the year. Word came that the U.S. and China could be headed toward the first phase of a new, bilateral trade agreement. The United Kingdom failed to meet its extended Brexit deadline, but the European Union granted it more time. While some fundamental U.S. economic indicators were underwhelming, Wall Street got a lift from the latest earnings season.

[bloomberg.com/markets/stocks](https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks) [10/31/19]



FACT OF THE MONTH

Social Security COLA for 2020 is 1.6%, the *smallest annual increase* in Social Security benefits and payroll taxes since 2017. A 1.6% COLA in 2020 would boost the average Social Security retirement benefit by about **\$32 to \$1,503 in 2020**.

Source: Social Security COLA for 2020 will be 1.6 percent

S&P 500 Index is an index of 500 of the largest exchange-traded stocks in the US from a broad range of industries whose collective performance mirrors the overall stock market. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The Federal Reserve System is the central banking system of the United States and controls the Federal Funds Rate, an important benchmark in financial markets used to influence the supply of money in the U.S. economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of output from U.S. factories and related consumption in the United States. It does not include products made by U.S. companies in foreign markets. Inflation is the rise in the prices of goods and services, as happens when spending increases relative to the supply of goods on the market. Moderate inflation is a common result of economic growth.

DID YOU KNOW?



IRA contribution limit lifted for the first time in six years

The Internal Revenue Service on Thursday unveiled the cost-of-living adjustments for pension plans and other retirement items for the 2019 tax year, including the first increase to the contribution limit for the Individual Retirement Arrangement in six years.

The limit on annual contributions to an *IRA* has **INCREASED TO \$6,000** from \$5,500 for the 2019 tax year, while the limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's *Thrift Savings Plan* is **INCREASED TO \$19,000** from \$18,500.

The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 and over who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan remains unchanged at \$6,000.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/ira-contribution-limit-lifted-for-the-first-time-in-six-years-2018-11-01>



M3 INVESTMENT
SERVICES Est. 1996

990 N. Main Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067
Tel: (248) 543-3400 | www.M3Advisor.com

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