

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

The stock market had a tumultuous August, reacting to the sudden devaluation of the Chinese yuan and the escalation of the trade dispute between the U.S. and China. Ultimately, investors seemed more interested in risk aversion: the S&P 500 lost 1.58% for the month. Demand for bonds helped to send Treasury yields lower; prices of precious metals climbed. Away from the markets, monthly personal spending and retail sales gains were strong.

IM&R [8/30/19]



FACT OF THE MONTH

About 58% of the S&P 500 stocks now have yields higher than 10-year Treasuries. Over the past three decades, that percentage averaged 17%.

-Barron's, August 9, 2019

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.



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INVESTMENT 990 N. Main Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067 SERVICES Est. 1996 Tel: (248) 543-3400 | www.M3Advisor.com