

February takes a slow – yet promising – pace

While factors including the partial government shutdown and trade policy uncertainty brought us into the New Year with increased downside risks, February seemed more promising, points out Raymond James Chief Economist Scott Brown: a potential U.S.-China trade agreement appeared on the horizon and the United Kingdom is considering a revote on Brexit. The government shutdown is also behind us; however, the national emergency declaration could inject new uncertainty. According to Brown, the economic outlook is less clouded, but the pace of growth is still expected to be slower in 2019, largely reflecting the fading impact of fiscal stimulus.

For the month of February, the S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average, NASDAQ and Russell 2000 Index ended up in positive territory.

	12/31/18 Close	2/28/19 Close	Change Year to Date	% Gain/Loss Year to Date
DJIA	23,327.46	25,916.00	+2,588.54	+11.09%
NASDAQ	6,635.28	7,532.53	+897.25	+13.52%
S&P 500	2,506.85	2,792.38	+285.53	+11.39%
MSCI EAFE	1,719.94	1,879.13	+159.19	+9.26%
Russell 2000	1,348.56	1,575.51	+226.95	+16.83%
Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond	2,046.60	2,068.47	+21.87	+1.07%

Performance reflects price returns as of 4:30 ET on Feb. 28, 2019

Should anything change, I'll be sure to keep you updated on anything that could affect your long-term financial plan. Thank you for your trust in me.

Sincerely,

Amy Smith, CFP®
Financial Advisor, RJFS