

# What Happened in 2018?

A brief look back at some of the economic, natural, political, and societal events that shaped 2018.

## JANUARY

- U.S. stock indexes hit all-time highs
- A rare “super blue blood moon” appears for the first time in 150 years when a total lunar eclipse coincided with the moon also being a super moon and a blue moon

## MARCH

- President Trump enacts tariffs on imported steel and aluminum from all nations
- Congress passes a mammoth \$1.3 trillion spending bill, averting a shutdown

## MAY

- AAA reports average gallon of gas is \$2.91, the highest level since November 2014
- Inflation rate hits a six-year high

## JULY

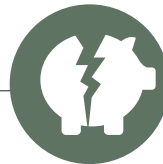
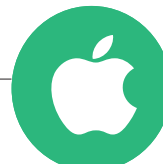
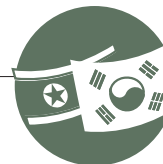
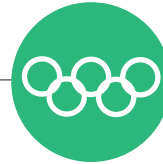
- Facebook stock falls almost 20%, a \$109 billion loss of market value, and is the largest single-day loss in corporate history
- U.S. economy grows at 4.1% annualized rate in 2nd quarter GDP

## SEPTEMBER

- Federal Reserve increases interest rates by 0.25% to a range of 2.00-2.25%
- U.S. consumer confidence hits 18-year high
- China-U.S. trade surplus hits new record

## NOVEMBER

- U.S. midterm elections result in split congress again
- Markets rally the day after the election
- “Camp Fire” is the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history



## FEBRUARY

- The Winter Olympics are held in S. Korea
- Following a school shooting in Parkland, FL, survivors and protestors across the nation rally for stricter gun control measures

## APRIL

- 1st quarter GDP rises 2.3%
- Unemployment rate hits 3.9%, the lowest level in 17 years
- N. Korea Leader Kim Jong-Un meets with S. Korea President Jae-In, a first since 1953

## JUNE

- Trump meets with N. Korea Leader Kim Jong-Un, a first time summit
- A record 6.7 million job openings go unfilled

## AUGUST

- Apple becomes first U.S. publicly traded company to reach \$1 trillion market capitalization
- Greece’s bailouts finally end but its prospects still look grim

## OCTOBER

- U.S. trade deficit widens to \$55.5 billion
- Sears, one of the largest U.S. retailers, files for bankruptcy
- *Washington Post* journalist Jamal Khashoggi is murdered at Saudi consulate in Istanbul

## DECEMBER

- Front-end of the U.S. Treasury yield curve inverts slightly
- “Yellow Vest” protests occur in France
- Fed raises rates to a new range of 2.25-2.50%