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***Trendlines* – Jim Butler, CFP®, AIF®**
Videre Wealth Management, Inc.
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1. [This infographic](#) is made available from @LoriLewis and @OfficiallyChad and shows what happens in 2019 in an Internet Minute with billions of people globally. The question that came to me was, “what did we do before the internet?”
2. We recently passed the 10-year mark of the most recent low for the S&P 500 Index. Take a moment and see if you can recall what it was like leading up to March 2009. The stock market was down over 50% in the previous 18-months, unemployment was ramping up to 10%, GDP was slowing at a 6.2% annual rate at the end of 2008, the Fed has started QE, Congress passed TARP, we saw major bankruptcies in Lehman Brothers, Bear Sterns and Wachovia, and many thought ***the-end*** was near. What happened next was nothing less than astounding as the US Congress leaned on the Financial Accounting Standards Board to reverse the onerous rules of mark-to-market rules. (You can read more on [this here](#).)
3. What happened next? I thought you would never ask. From the market lows on March 9, 2009, the S&P 500 Index has gone up more than 4-times, the dividend on the Index went from \$27.25 to \$53.75 currently (almost 2-times), unemployment has remained at or below 4% for the past year, GDP is running close to 3%, and CPI is running at an annual rate of 2.1%.
4. What is getting all the attention in the headlines? Do any of these sound familiar - “this bull market is getting old”, “the US debt is out of control”, “the country is turning socialist”, “this White House is an embarrassment”? My questions to friends, family, and clients are simply – Are you a glass **half-full** or **half-empty** kind of person? Do you have faith in the future? Do you believe people want to leave the world a better place for their children? I sleep like a baby at night because I believe our better days are ahead of us even with all the warts and bumps and hiccups along the way.