

“Stocks climb a wall of worry,” goes the Wall Street maxim.

And so far this October, there are plenty of things to worry about.

Here’s a quick summary.

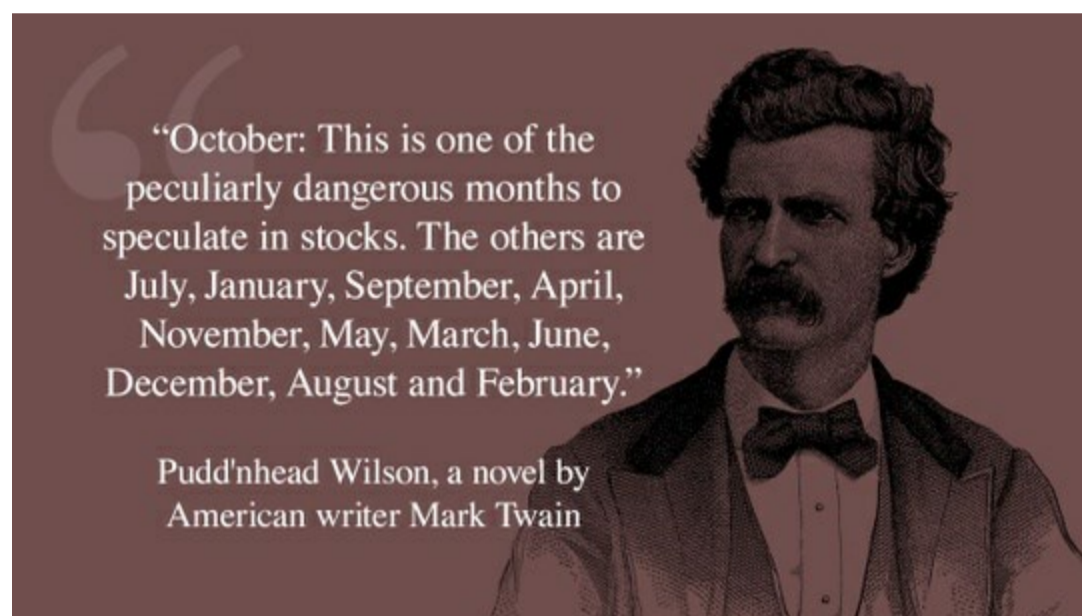
**Middle East:** When tensions escalate in the Middle East, the financial markets tend to get unsettled. Attention quickly moves to economic issues, including oil prices and other potential disruptions.

**October itself:** While October historically has been a strong month for stocks, it’s also known for its volatility. Think of market troubles in 1987 and 2008.

**Fed’s next move:** Without a Fed meeting this month, expect much discussion about whether the Fed will adjust rates again at its next scheduled two-day meeting in November.

**Election:** The 2024 election has entered its final weeks. While most attention is given to the presidency, many other issues are on ballots across the nation.

(Fortunately, we can remove the East Coast port strike from the list of things to worry about. But be prepared to see news on “how long it will take to resume normal operations” after the brief strike.)



With so much undecided—and so many open issues—it can be easy to get distracted. But remember, Wall Street sayings come from investors' experiences over the years, which means worrying is part of the investing process from time to time.

If one of the things mentioned above is turning you into a worrywart, call me, and let’s talk about it.

CNBC.com, October 4, 2024. “Oil prices climb as Middle East conflict counters ample supply outlook.”

Barrons.com, October 1, 2024. “Welcome to Shocktober for Stocks. Here’s Why Investors Are Spooked.”

Reuters.com, October 4, 2024. “US port strike ends, leaving cargo backlog.”



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