STOCKS FINISH OCTOBER STRONG

Dow, S&P shatter records as Japan beefs up stimulus

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U.S. stocks soared into record territory Friday, erasing big losses from the early-October swoon, as investors cheered huge and surprising moves by Japan to add more stimulus to its ailing economy.

Japan's Nikkei 225 took a super-sized 4.8% leap, and Wall Street followed.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 195.10 points, or 1.1%, to a record 17,390.52. The Standard & Poor's 500 jumped 1.2% higher, and the Nasdaq composite leaped 1.4%.

The Dow is now 110.78 points above its previous all-time closing high of 17,279.74, set Sept. 19. The S&P 500 also is at an all-time high, and has set a record high each month since June 2013. The tech-packed Nasdaq is at its highest point in more than 14 years, but still below its 2000 high-water mark.

November is usually sweet
The month is the Dow's 2nd-best performer the past 20 years. 6B

Japan markets were catapulted higher on a double dose of good news. The Japanese central bank upped the amount of bonds and other assets it will buy to stimulate the economy.

Also, Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund pleased markets by announcing plans to substantially boost its investments in higher-risk assets, such as stocks. "The Bank of Japan surprised markets," Barclays told clients in a report.

The rally rolled around the world. European benchmarks, which had plunged earlier in the month on signs of economic weakness, also ended up. France's CAC 40 added 2.2%; Germany's DAX 30 index rose 2.1%; and Britain's FTSE 100 gained 1%. The price of gold fell to $1,171.50 as the value of the dollar soared higher on currency markets.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note ended at 2.34%, up from 2.31% Thursday. And the price of crude oil keeps falling. On Friday, it lost another 58 cents to $80.54 a barrel.

In the U.S., energy stocks led the way: ExxonMobil jumped 2.4%. Tech soared, too: LinkedIn jumped 13%, and GoPro snapped a 13% gain.