

☐First Trust

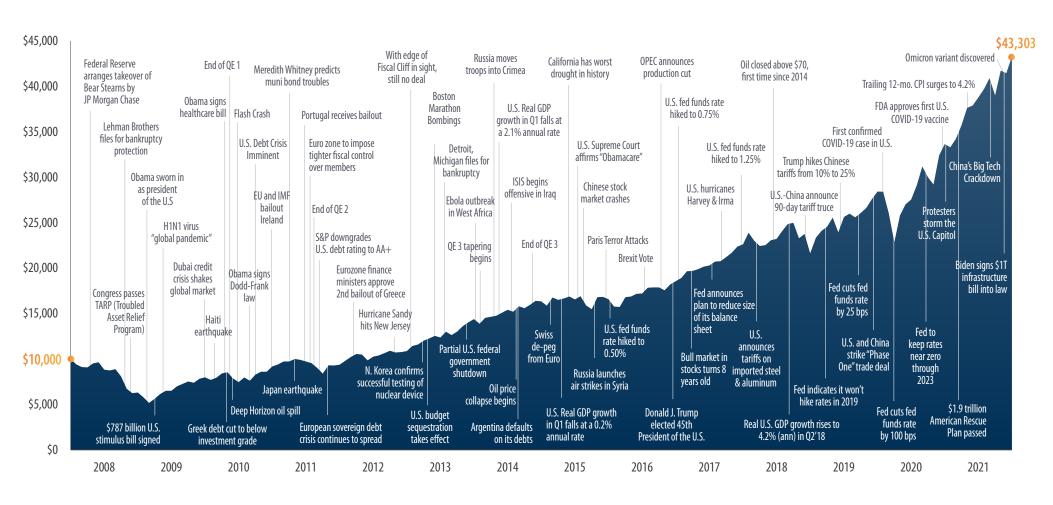
Crisis and Events

S&P 500 Index: 2008 – 2021



This chart shows the growth of \$10,000 based on S&P 500 Index performance over the last several years. We believe looking at the market's overall resiliency through several major crises and events helps to gain a fresh perspective on the benefits of investing for the long-term.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN OF THE S&P 500 INDEX FOR THE PERIOD SHOWN BELOW WAS 11.04%.



Source: Bloomberg, First Trust Advisors L.P., 1/1/2008 - 12/31/2021. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. Stocks are not guaranteed and have been more volatile than the other asset classes. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future.

Staying the Course



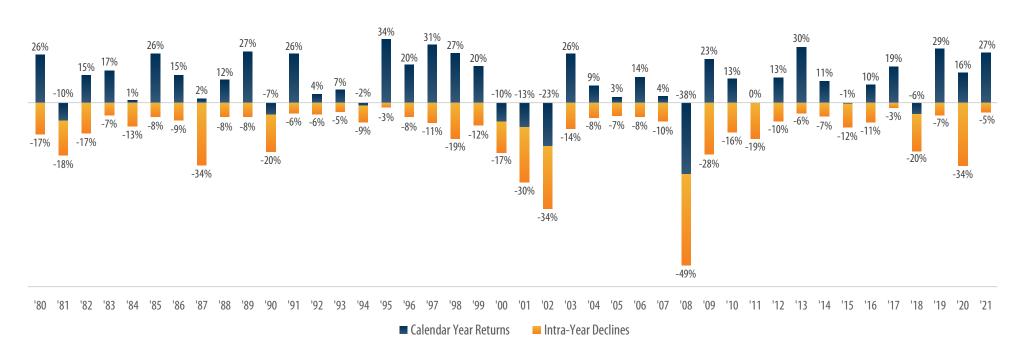
Investors tend to see short-term volatility as the enemy. Volatility may lead many investors to move money out of the market and "sit on the sidelines" until things "calm down." Although this approach may appear to solve one problem, it creates several others:

- 1. When do you get back in? You must make two correct decisions back-to-back; when to get out and when to get back in.
- 2. By going to the sidelines you may be missing a potential rebound. This is not historically unprecedented; see chart below.
- 3. By going to the sidelines you could be not only missing a potential rebound, but all the potential growth on that money going forward.

We believe the wiser course of action is to review your plan with your financial professional and from there, decide if any action is indeed necessary. This placates the natural desire to "do something," but helps keep emotions in check.

INTRA-YEAR DECLINES VS. CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

Volatility is not a recent phenomenon. Each year, one can expect the market to experience a significant correction, which for the S&P 500 has averaged approximately 14% since 1980. History has shown that those who chose to stay the course were rewarded for their patience more often than not.



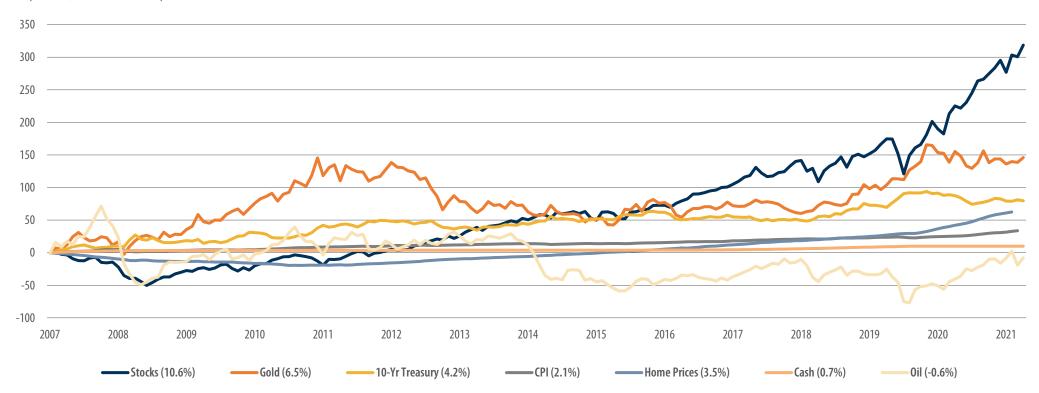
Source: Bloomberg, First Trust Advisors L.P. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** The benchmark used for the above chart is the S&P 500 Index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. Returns are based on price only and do not include dividends. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future.



This chart shows the cumulative return of different asset classes following the S&P 500 Index market peak before the Financial Panic of 2008. We believe a comparison of asset class performance through the financial panic and subsequent recovery helps to show the benefits of investing for the long-term.

CUMULATIVE RETURN (%)

Sep '07 = 0 (annualized returns in parenthesis)



Source: Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg, Federal Housing and Finance Agency (FHFA), Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS), U.S. Treasury, New York Mercantile Exchange (NYM). Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Monthly data September 2007 — December 2021. Housing data through October 2021 and CPI data through November 2021 (latest data available). Stocks represented by the S&P 500 Total Return Index. Gold represented by gold spot price per Troy ounce. 10-Year Treasury represented by the 10-year Treasury note constant maturity total return index. CPI represented by the BLS Consumer Price Index. Home Price Index. Cash represented by the 3-month Treasury bill constant maturity total return index. Oil prices represented by the NYM Generic 1st Crude Futures Index. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The asset classes shown here offer different characteristics in terms of income, tax treatment, capital appreciation and risk. Common stocks are subject to risks, such as an economic recession and the possible deterioration of either the financial condition of the issuers of the equity securities or the general condition of the stock market. An investment in commodities involves specific risks including but not limited to: global supply and demand, depletion of natural resources, excess capacity, production costs, economic recession, domestic and international politics, currency exchange rates, government regulations, volatile interest rates, consumer spending levels. Fixed income securities are generally subject to credit risk, income risk, and interest rate risk is the risk that an issuer may default on its obligation to make principal and/or interest payments when due. Income risk is the risk that income could decline during periods of falling interest rates. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of fixed income securities will decline because of rising interest rates. Homebuilding companies can be significantly affected by the national, regional and local real estate markets.

Daily Returns Since 1942



This chart shows daily historical performance of the S&P 500 Index throughout the U.S. Bull and Bear Markets since 1942. We believe looking at the history of the market's expansions and recessions helps to gain a fresh perspective on the benefits of investing for the long-term.

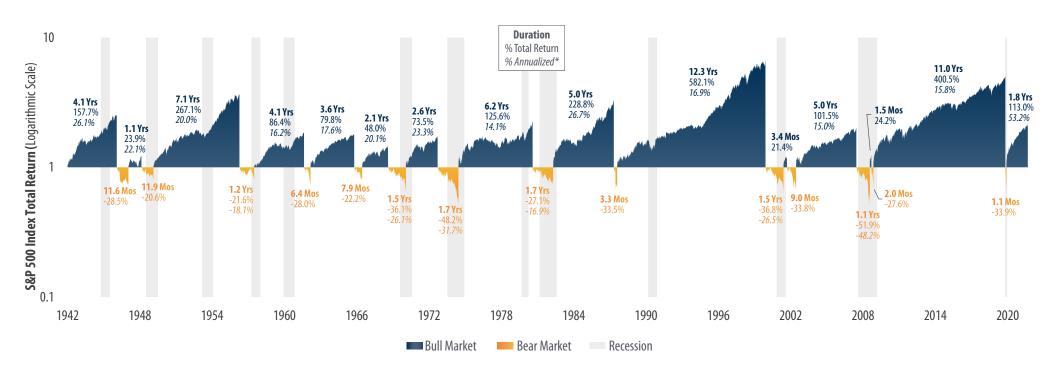
- The average **Bull Market** period lasted 4.4 years with an average cumulative total return of 155.6%.
- The average **Bear Market** period lasted 11.3 months with an average cumulative loss of -32.1%.

BULL

From the lowest close reached after the market has fallen 20% or more, to the next market high.

BEAR

When the index closes at least 20% down from its previous high close, through the lowest close reached after it has fallen 20% or more.



Source: First Trust Advisors L.P., Bloomberg. Daily returns from 4/29/1942 - 12/31/2021. *No annualized return shown if duration is less than one year. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** These results are based on daily returns—returns using different periods would produce different results. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future.

S&P 500 Index: Positive and Negative Years

Since 1926



28.48%

31.49% 32.39% 28.68% 28.58% 33.36% 37.43% 30.55%

31.49% 32.16% 32.42%

37.20% 43.36%

31.56% 52.62% 31.71%

36.44% 31.12% 33.92% 47.67% 53.99% 43.61% 37.49%

Up 28% +

2021 2019

1991 1989

1975

1958

Below we look at the S&P 500 Index since 1926 and compare the average annual total returns of the last 96 years. Although stock market returns fluctuate significantly, since 1926, the S&P 500 Index produced positive returns 74% of the time, with an average of 21.3%. In 26% of those years the return was negative, with an average of -13.2%.

1926-2021: **10.5**%

96-Year Average Annual Return



		2020 18.40%	
2015 1.38%		2012 16.00%	
2011 2.11%		2010 15.06%	2017 21.83%
2007 5.49%		2006 15.79%	2009 26.46%
2005 4.91%		1988 16.81%	1999 21.04%
1994 1.31%	2016 11.96%	1986 18.47%	1996 23.07%
1987 5.23%	2014 13.69%	1979 18.44%	1983 22.51%
1984 6.27%	2004 10.88%	1972 18.98%	1982 21.41%
1978 6.56%	1993 10.08%	1971 14.31%	1976 23.84%
1970 4.01%	1992 7.67%	1964 16.48%	1967 23.98%
1960 0.47%	1968 11.06%	1952 18.37%	1963 22.80%
1956 6.56%	1965 12.45%	1949 18.79%	1961 26.89%
1948 5.50%	1959 11.96%	1944 19.75%	1951 24.02%
1947 5.71%	1926 11.62%	1942 20.34%	1943 25.90%
Up 0-7%	Up 7-14%	Up 14-21%	Up 21-28%

Down 28% +	
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Down 28% +	Down 21-28%
2008 -37.00%	2002 -22.10%
1937 -35.03%	1974 -26.47%
1931 -43.34%	1930 -24.90%

Down	14-21	1%

1973	-14 66%
	11.00/0

Dowl	n /-14%
2001	-11.89%
2000	-9.10%
1977	-7.18%
1969	-8.50%
1966	-10.06%
1962	-8.73%
1957	-10.78%
1946	-8.07%
1941	-11.59%
1940	-9.78%
1932	-8.19%
1929	-8.42%

2018	-4.38%
1990	-3.17%
1981	-4.91%
1953	-0.99%
1939	-0.41%
1934	-1.44%

Down 0-7%



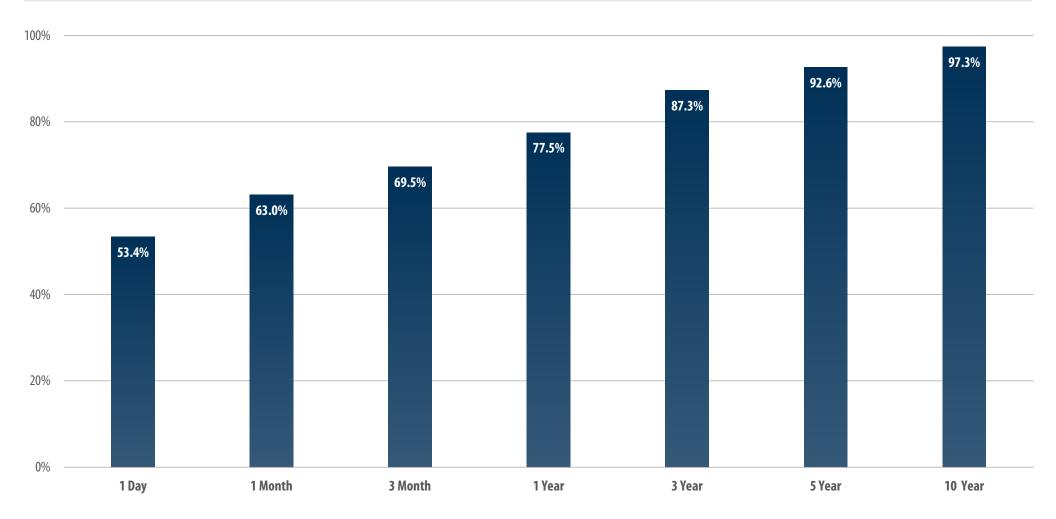
Source: Ibbotson Associates. Past performance is no quarantee of future results. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future.

Probability of Positive Returns





Investing in the stock market can be volatile. For this reason, we believe it is important to keep proper perspective when stocks rise or fall over short periods of time. History has shown that the odds of achieving a positive return are dramatically increased the longer the investment horizon.

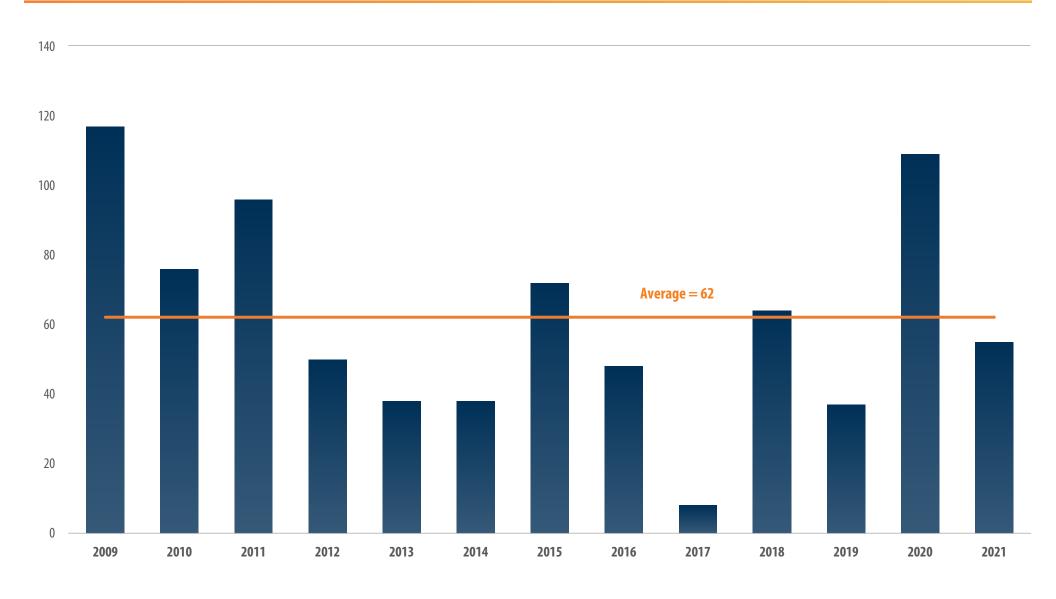


Source: Bloomberg. Data from 12/31/1936 - 12/31/2021. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions or other expenses incurred when investing. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. This chart is based on the total returns of the S&P 500 Index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The index cannot be purchased directly by investors.

S&P 500 Daily Volatility

of Days With > 1% Moves





Source: Bloomberg, First Trust Advisors L.P. Data from 2009 - 12/31/2021. This chart is based on the price returns of the S&P 500 Index. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The index cannot be purchased directly by investors.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.

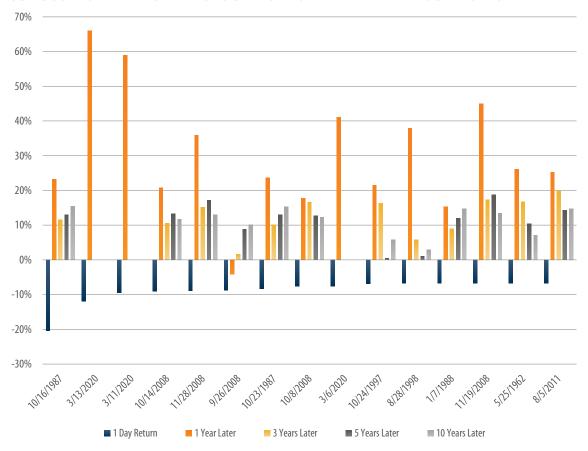
S&P 500 Index

Performance After Its Worst Days



The chart and table below list the 15 largest single day percentage losses in the S&P 500 Index since 1960 and the subsequent price performance of the index for the 1-, 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods that followed. Looking back, the S&P 500 Index produced positive price appreciation, on average, in each of the periods. While stocks have sometimes experienced extreme volatility over short periods of time, we believe investors who remain committed to their long-term investment plan will continue to be rewarded over longer periods.

S&P 500 INDEX PERFORMANCE DURING AND AFTER EXTREME DOWN DAYS



Date	1 Day Return	1 Year Later	3 Years Later	5 Years Later	10 Years Later
10/16/1987	-20.47%	+23.19%	+11.60%	+13.04%	+15.43%
3/13/2020	-11.98%	+66.07%	N/A	N/A	N/A
3/11/2020	-9.51%	+58.96%	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/14/2008	-9.03%	+20.79%	+10.49%	+13.34%	+11.72%
11/28/2008	-8.93%	+35.85%	+15.10%	+17.21%	+12.96%
9/26/2008	-8.79%	-4.14%	+1.60%	+8.86%	+10.17%
10/23/1987	-8.28%	+23.59%	+10.20%	+12.93%	+15.25%
10/8/2008	-7.62%	+17.76%	+16.57%	+12.73%	+12.21%
3/6/2020	-7.60%	+41.10%	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/24/1997	-6.87%	+21.48%	+16.30%	+0.47%	+5.76%
8/28/1998	-6.80%	+37.93%	+5.80%	+1.04%	+2.97%
1/7/1988	-6.77%	+15.31%	+8.96%	+12.01%	+14.66%
11/19/2008	-6.71%	+45.05%	+17.34%	+18.81%	+13.38%
5/25/1962	-6.68%	+26.14%	+16.79%	+10.39%	+7.14%
8/5/2011	-6.66%	+25.26%	+19.94%	+14.27%	+14.74%
Average:	-8.85%	+30.29%	+12.56%	+11.26%	+11.37%

Source: Bloomberg. Performance is price return only (no dividends). As of 12/31/2021. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Returns are average annualized returns, except those for periods of less than one year, which are cumulative. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. Stocks are not guaranteed and have been more volatile than the other asset classes. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

A History of Market Corrections



Investors like to avoid stock market declines at all costs, but declines are an inevitable part of investing. A little historical background can help put stock market declines in perspective.

S&P 500 INDEX 1942-2021

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE® 1942-2021

Type of Decline	Average Frequency*	Average Length**	Last Occurrence		Type of Decline	Average Frequency*	Average Length**	Last Occurrence	
-5% or more	About 3 times a year	40 days	October 2021		-5% or more	About 3 times a year	41 days	December 2021	
-10% or more	About every 16 months	132 days	March 2020		-10% or more	About every 17 months	131 days	March 2020	
-15% or more	About every 3.25 years	240 days	March 2020		-15% or more	About every 2.75 years	225 days	March 2020	
-20% or more	About every 5.5 years	339 days	March 2020		-20% or more	About every 6 years	407 days	March 2020	

Source: Bloomberg, 4/29/1942 - 12/31/2021. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

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The Dow Jones Industrial Average® (The Dow®), is a price-weighted measure of 30 U.S. blue-chip companies. The index covers all industries except transportation and utilities.

^{*}Assumes a 100% recovery rate of lost value.

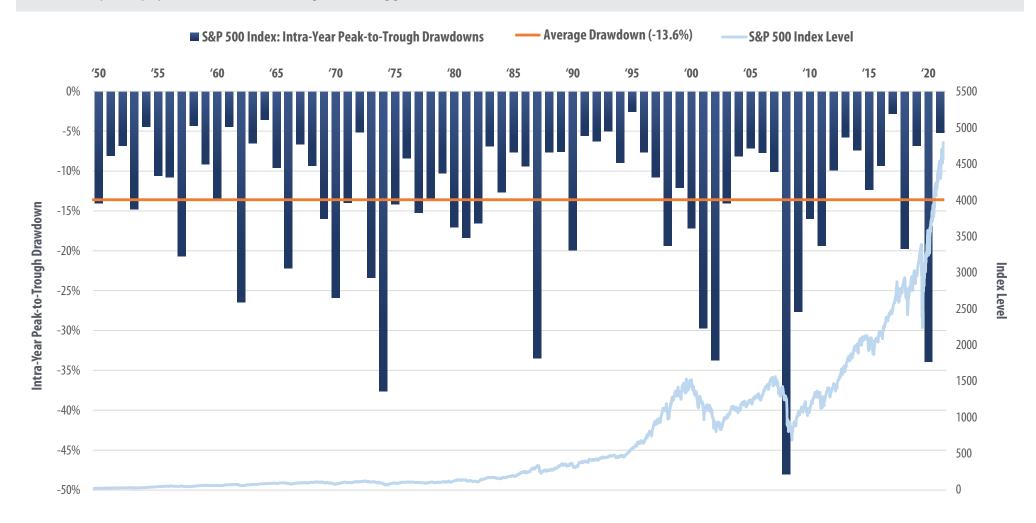
^{**}Measures from the date of the market high to the date of the market low.

S&P 500 Index: Intra-Year Peak-to-Trough Drawdowns



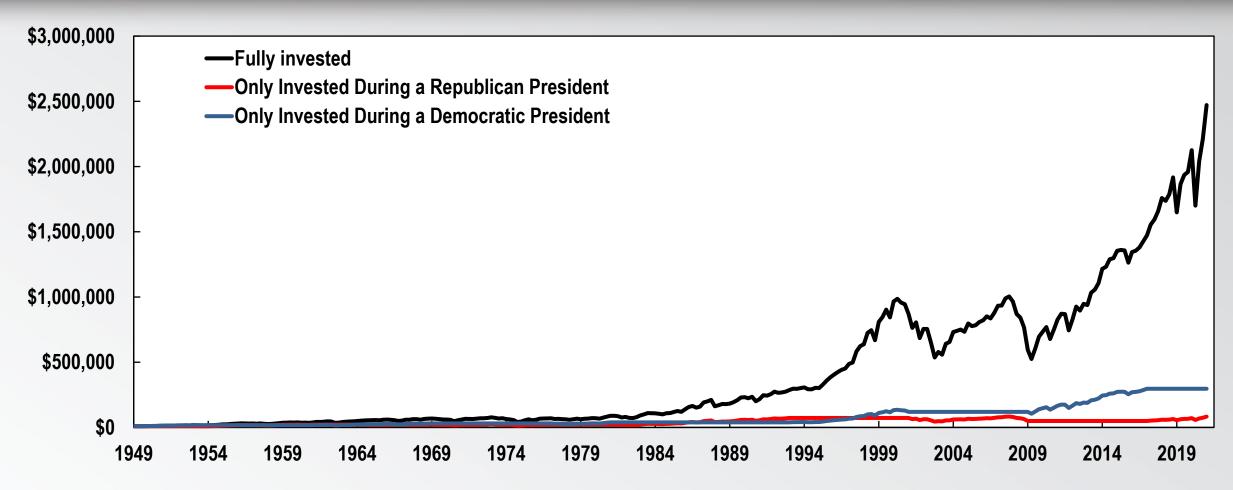


It is understandable investors may be concerned over sharp declines in the stock market, but looking at historical data can be a helpful way to gain perspective on what is "normal." Below we look at the intra-year peak-to-trough drawdowns of the S&P 500 Index since 1950. This chart shows declines are not unusual and even an expected part of investing. We believe looking at the market's durability throughout these drawdowns helps to keep a positive outlook and focus on long-term investing goals.



Source: Bloomberg. Data from 1/2/1950 - 12/31/2021. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

GROWTH OF \$10,000 IN THE S&P 500 SINCE 1949



Source: Standard & Poor's, FT Advisors. Quarterly data from 1949 - 2020.

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STOCK MARKET PERFORMANCE BEFORE AND AFTER INTEREST RATE HIKE CYCLES

S&P 500 Index

Russell 2000 Index

Initial Interest Rate Hike		Month	s Prior		Months After			Months Prior				Months After				
Start Date	12	6	3	1	1	3	6	12	12	6	3	1	1	3	6	12
3/27/1984	3.0%	-6.6%	-4.5%	-1.3%	1.6%	-3.6%	6.1%	14.1%	-0.4%	-13.0%	- 7.4 %	-1.0%	0.1%	-3.7%	2.1%	10.7%
12/16/1986	17.9%	1.6%	7.9%	2.3%	6.5%	15.3%	21.9%	-0.8%	6.0%	-11.4%	3.5%	-2.5%	10.0%	21.5%	20.7%	-14.0%
3/29/1988	-12.2%	-19.2%	6.3%	-2.9%	0.5%	4.2%	4.8%	12.4%	-16.1%	-16.5%	19.0%	3.2%	3.5%	6.2%	5.1%	11.5%
2/4/1994	4.5%	4.7%	2.7%	0.6%	-1.1%	-3.9%	-2.4%	1.9%	12.7%	9.7%	3.3%	1.8%	1.2%	-2.8%	-6.5%	-4.1%
6/30/1999	21.1%	11.4%	5.5%	5.4%	-3.2%	-6.6%	6.7%	6.0%	0.1%	11.2%	14.8%	4.4%	-2.8%	-6.6%	8.4%	12.8%
6/30/2004	17.1%	2.8%	1.2%	1.8%	-3.4%	-2.3%	6.4%	4.4%	31.9%	4.6%	0.4%	4.1%	-6.8%	-3.1%	10.4%	8.1%
12/16/2015	5.1%	-1.1%	3.9%	1.0%	-9.3%	-2.2%	0.2%	8.9%	0.8%	-9.5%	-2.2%	-0.6%	-12.3%	-6.5%	-0.1%	18.7%
1/31/2022*	21.6%	2.7%	-2.0%	-5.3%	-	-	-	-	-2.2%	-8.9%	-11.7%	-9.7%	-	-	-	-
Average	8.1%	-0.9%	3.3%	1.0%	-1.2%	0.1%	6.2%	6.7%	5.0%	-3.5%	4.5%	1.3%	-1.0%	0.7%	5.7%	6.2%
Percent Positive	86%	57%	86%	71%	43%	29%	86%	86%	71%	43%	71%	57%	57%	29%	71%	71%

Source: Bloomberg, Federal Reserve. *1/31/2022 is not the start of an interest rate hike cycle, it is only shown for reference. Average & Percent Positive exclude 1/31/2022. We considered at least two consecutive rate increases an interest rate hike cycle. Hikes based on the Federal Funds Target Rate - Upper Bound.

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Rising Rates and Stock Returns

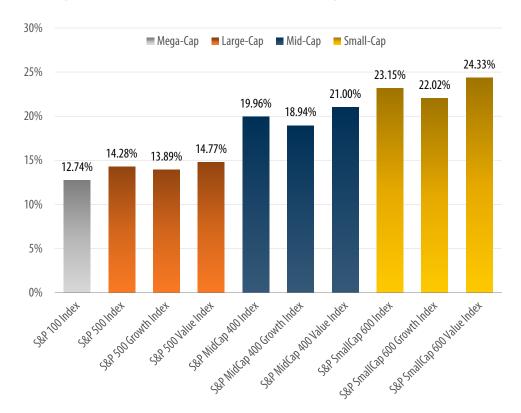
Daily Data Since 1997



Many investors are wondering how a rise in interest rates might impact U.S. stock returns. Since 1997 there have been 10 periods where the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury Note rose by 1% or more. The charts below provide some historical perspective on how stocks performed during those periods.

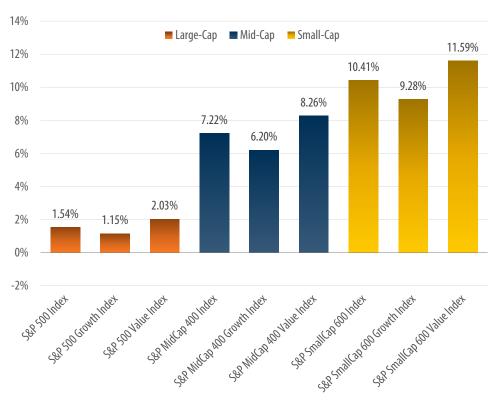
AVERAGE CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURNS DURING RISING RATE PERIODS

- Each index averaged over 12% cumulative total return.
- Small-cap value stocks performed best overall with an average cumulative total return of 24.33%.
- Mega-cap stocks were the worst performer but still returned an average cumulative total return of 12.74%.



AVERAGE RETURN DIFFERENCE VS. MEGA-CAP STOCKS (S&P 100 INDEX)

- Greater excess returns were consistently generated by small- and mid-cap stocks than by large-cap stocks.
- · Value stocks generally outperformed growth stocks.



Source: Bloomberg. Data is daily from 4/1/1997 - 9/30/2021. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions or other expenses incurred when investing. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. The S&P Indexes are unmanaged, capitalization-weighted indices of stocks used to measure U.S. stock market performance and cannot be purchased directly by investors. The S&P 500 Index comprises 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The S&P 500 and comprises 100 major blue chip stocks from a variety of industries. The S&P MidCap 400 Index tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The S&P SmallCap 600 Index tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. Value indices measure stocks using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price, and momentum.