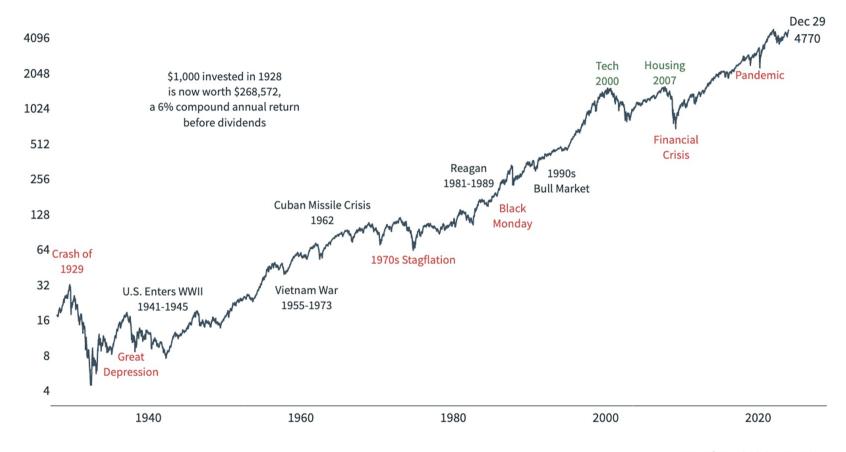


Stocks Since the Great Depression



S&P 500 Index since 1928 (Log Scale)



Latest data point is Dec 29, 2023

- The stock market has performed extremely well since the Great Depression a nearly century-long period.
- This occurred despite problems along the way throughout the 20th and early 21st century.
- Investors should focus on the long run in order to benefit from growth.

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's

Asset Allocation Performance



Total returns of hypothetical stock/bond portfolios since 2007 pre-financial crisis peak using the S&P 500 and iShares Core U.S. Bond indices, before expenses and fees

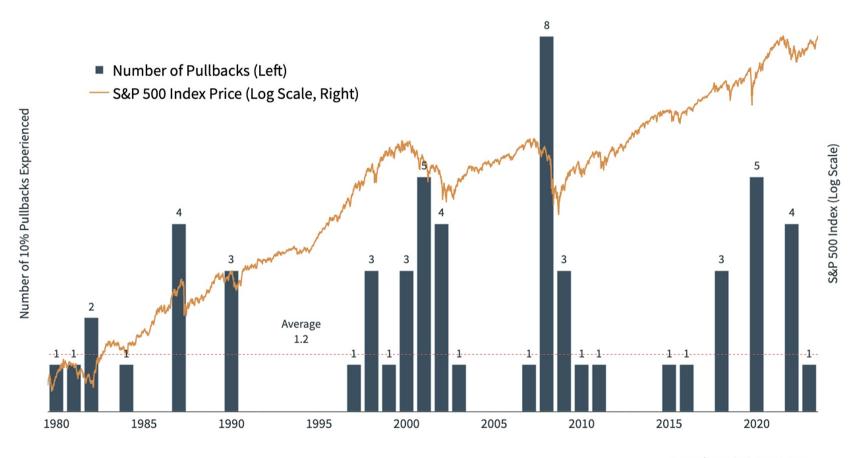


- This chart shows the performance of various asset allocations during bear markets.
- Holding an appropriately diversified portfolio creates a much smoother ride.
- In fact, these portfolios have done well even against a 100% stock portfolio.

Stock Market Pullbacks



The number of 10% S&P 500 pullbacks experienced by investors each year



Latest data point is Dec 29, 2023

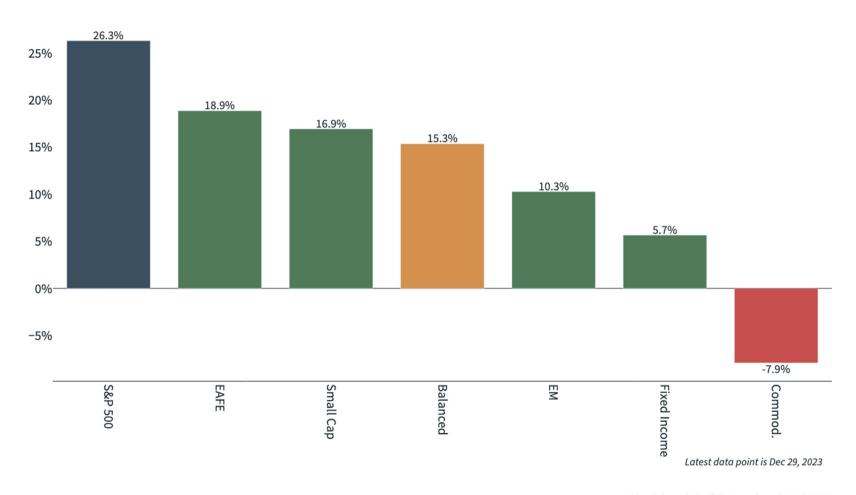
- Many years with both positive and negative total returns experience multiple market pullbacks of 10% or more.
- It's important for investors to stay focused during these periods in order to achieve their financial goals.

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's

Asset Class Performance Year-to-Date

Bluff City ADVISORY GROUP LLC accumulate · protect · transfer

Total Returns

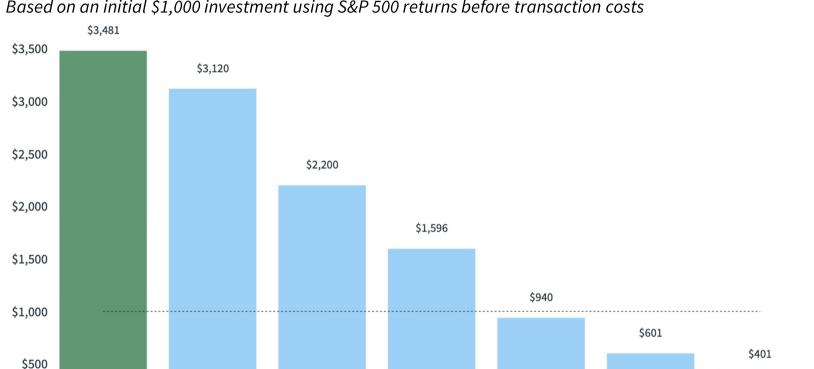


The Balanced Portfolio is a hypothetical 60/40 portfolio consisting of 40% U.S. Large Cap, 5% Small Cap, 10% International Developed Equities, 5% Emerging Market Equities, 35% U.S. Bonds, and 5% Commodities.

VS

Staying Invested: Missing the Best Days

The impact of missing the best market days over the past 25 years Based on an initial \$1,000 investment using S&P 500 returns before transaction costs



Miss 10

Best Days

Miss 20

Best Days

Latest data point is Dec 29, 2023

Miss 40

Best Days

Staying invested is a key principle of long-term financial success.

Miss Best Day

\$0

Fully Invested

- This chart shows the impact of missing the best market days over the past 25 years.
- Staying invested through ups and downs can make a significant difference in final investment outcomes.

Miss 5

Best Days

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's

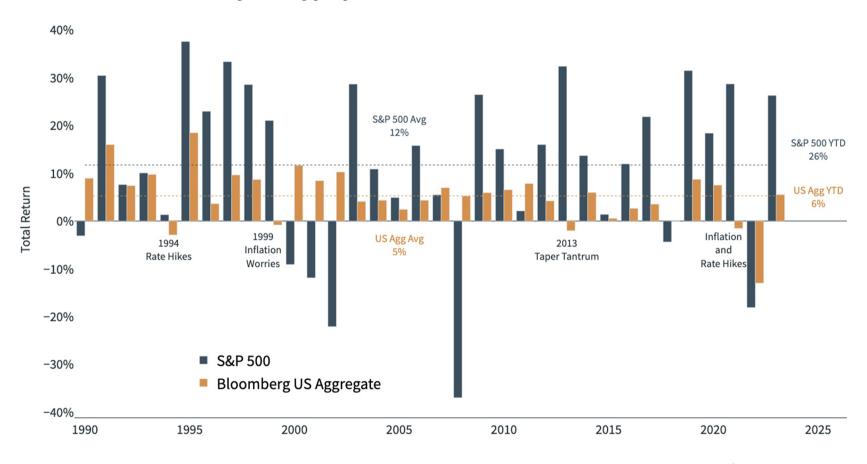
Miss 30

Best Days

Stock and Bond Annual Returns



S&P 500 and Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Total Returns



Latest data point is Dec 29, 2023

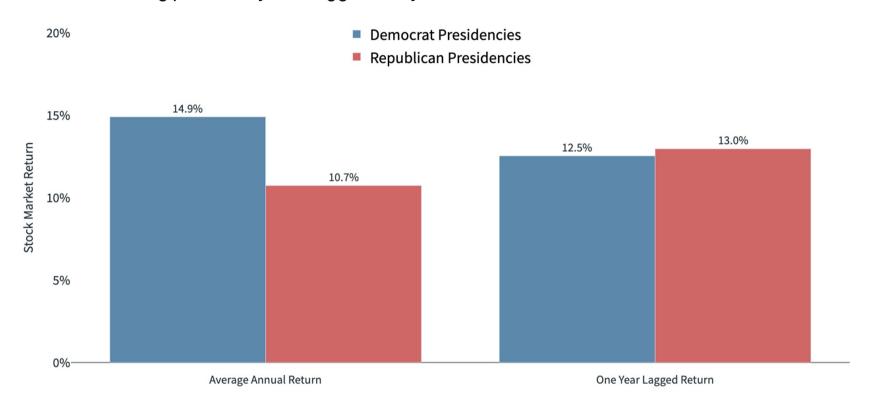
- Stocks and bonds have both struggled recently due to rising inflation and interest rates.
- This breaks the historical pattern driven by falling bond yields which supported bond prices.
- Despite this challenging period, investors should continue to focus on diversification as interest rates stabilize.

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg

Presidential Elections and Stocks



S&P 500 total returns by presidential party Returns during presidency and lagged one year since 1933



- Presidential elections are important politically but can distract investors financially.
- Simple statistics of stock performance by political party overlook the economic cycle, resulting in skewed results.
- Policies take time to implement. Lagging the results shows that there is little difference over time from a market perspective.

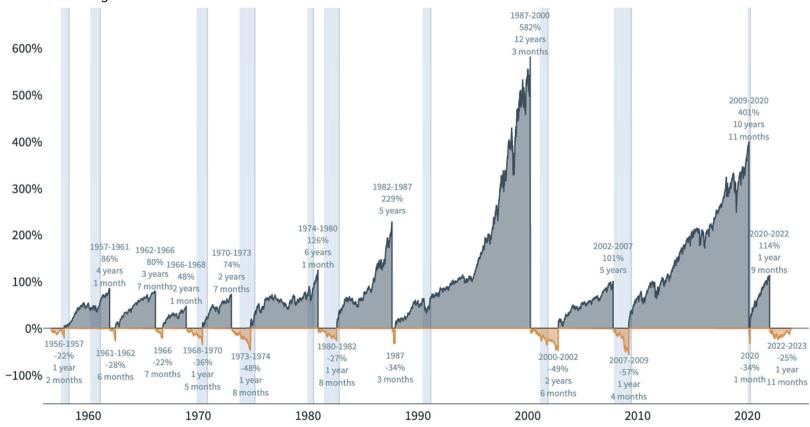
Latest data point is Dec 2021

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's

Stock Market Bull and Bear Cycles



S&P 500 price index since 1956 bear market with recessions shaded. For the purposes of this chart, bear markets are 20% declines in price from prior peaks. Bull markets begin at each market bottom.

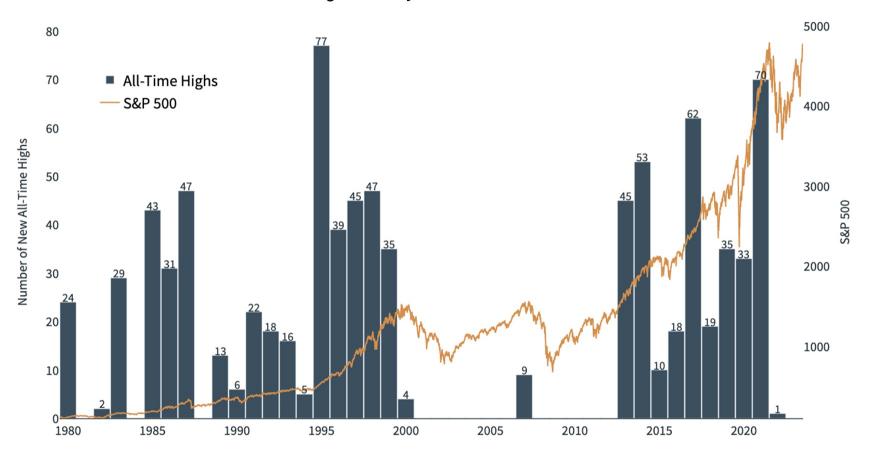


- While bear markets are unavoidable, bull markets are much longer with larger returns.
- Since 1956, the average bear market has lasted one year, two months with a decline of 36%.
- In contrast, the average bull market lasts 5 years 9 months and returns 192%.

Stock Market All-Time Highs



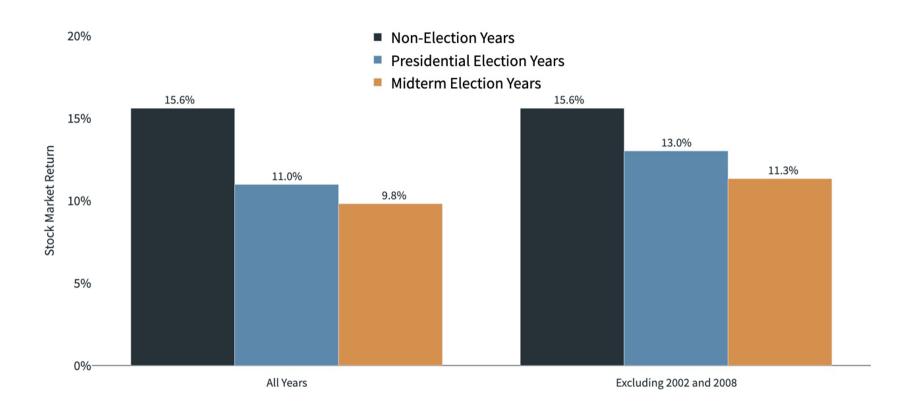
The number of S&P 500 all-time highs each year



Stock Markets in Election Years



S&P 500 total return in election and non-election years since 1933



- Investors often are concerned by how the stock market may perform in election years.
- While there is some difference between election and non-election years, this is small and all years show positive average returns.
- Once we exclude 2002 and 2008, which had little to do with elections, there is little difference between
 years.

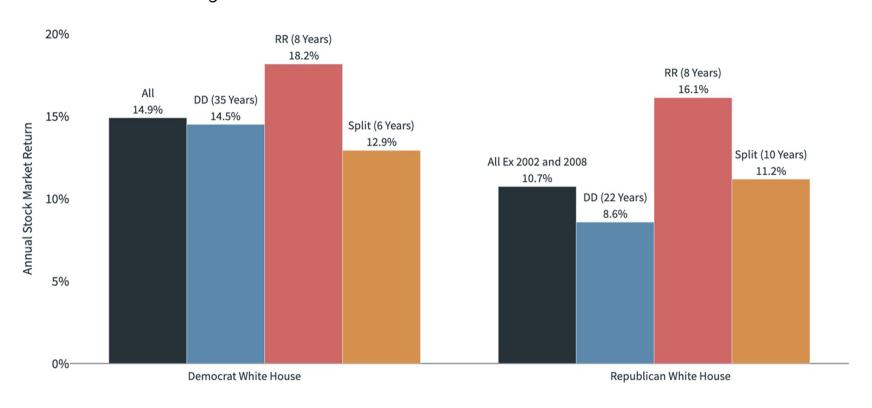
Latest data point is Dec 2021

Sources: Clearnomics, Standard & Poor's

Political Parties and Stocks



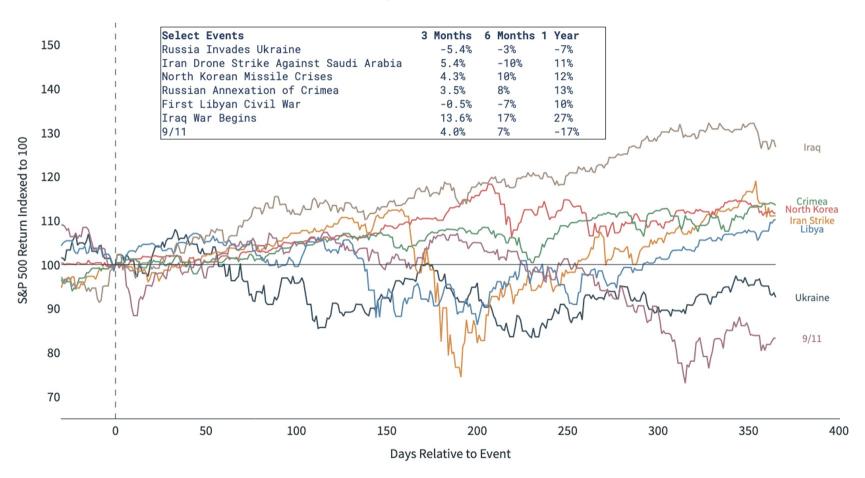
S&P 500 average annual total returns by government control Since 1933 excluding 2002 and 2008



Stocks and Geopolitical Events



Select events and S&P 500 total returns 3, 6 and 12 months after



Asset Class Performance

Bluff City ADVISORY GROUP LLC accumulate · protect · transfer

Total Returns

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EM	EM	Fixed Inc.	EM	Small Cap	Fixed Inc.	EM	Small Cap	S&P 500	S&P 500	Small Cap	EM	Fixed Inc.	S&P 500	Small Cap	S&P 500	Commod.	S&P 500
32.6%	39.8%	7.9%	79.0%	26.9%	7.7%	18.6%	38.8%	13.7%	1.4%	21.3%	37.8%	0.1%	31.5%	20.0%	28.7%	16.1%	26.3%
EAFE	Commod.	Balanced	EAFE	EM	S&P 500	EAFE	S&P 500	Balanced	Fixed Inc.	S&P 500	EAFE	S&P 500	Small Cap	EM	Commod.	Fixed Inc.	EAFE
26.9%	16.2%	-22.5%	32.5%	19.2%	2.1%	17.9%	32.4%	6.4%	0.5%	12.0%	25.6%	-4.4%	25.5%	18.7%	27.1%	-13.0%	18.9%
Small Cap	EAFE	Small Cap	Small Cap	Commod.	Balanced	Small Cap	EAFE	Fixed Inc.\ 6.0%	EAFE	Commod.	S&P 500	Balanced	EAFE	S&P 500	Small Cap	EAFE	Small Cap
18.4%	11.6%	-33.8%	27.2%	16.8%	0.6%	16.3%	23.3%		-0.4%	11.8%	21.8%	-4.9%	22.7%	18.4%	14.8%	-14.0%	16.9%
S&P 500	Balanced	Commod.	S&P 500	S&P 500	Small Cap	S&P 500	Balanced	Small Cap	Balanced	EM	Balanced	Small Cap	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced	Balanced
15.8%	8.4%	-35.6%	26.5%	15.1%	-4.2%	16.0%	15.9%	4.9%	-1.5%	11.6%	15.2%	-11.0%	20.4%	12.6%	14.0%	-14.4%	15.3%
Balanced	Fixed Inc.	S&P 500	Balanced	Balanced	EAFE	Balanced	Fixed Inc.	EM	Small Cap	Balanced	Small Cap	Commod.	EM	EAFE	EAFE	S&P 500	EM
13.0%	6.6%	-37.0%	21.1%	12.2%	-11.7%	11.2%	-2.0%	-1.8%	-4.4%	8.0%	14.6%	-11.2%	18.9%	8.3%	11.8%	-18.1%	10.3%
Fixed Inc.	S&P 500	EAFE	Commod.	EAFE	Commod.	Fixed Inc.	EM	EAFE	EM	Fixed Inc.	Fixed Inc.	EAFE	Fixed Inc.	Fixed Inc.	Fixed Inc.	EM	Fixed Inc.
3.9%	5.5%	-43.1%	18.9%	8.2%	-13.3%	3.8%	-2.3%	-4.5%	-14.6%	2.4%	3.6%	-13.4%	8.5%	7.5%	-1.8%	-19.7%	5.7%
Commod.	Small Cap	EM	Fixed Inc.	Fixed Inc.	EM	Commod.	Commod.	Commod.	Commod.	EAFE	Commod.	EM	Commod.	Commod.	EM	Small Cap	Commod.
2.1%	-1.6%	-53.2%	3.0%	6.4%	-18.2%	-1.1%	-9.5%	-17.0%	-24.7%	1.5%	1.7%	-14.2%	7.7%	-3.1%	-2.2%	-20.4%	-7.9%

Latest data point is Dec 29, 2023

- Diversifying properly across a variety of asset classes is the most important way for investors to weather market volatility.
- The balanced portfolio approximates a 60/40 stock/bond allocation. By design, it performs steadily through both good and bad markets.
- It is difficult if not impossible to predict which asset classes will outperform from year to year.

The Balanced Portfolio is a hypothetical 60/40 portfolio consisting of 40% U.S. Large Cap, 5% Small Cap, 10% International Developed Equities, 5% Emerging Market Equities, 35% U.S. Bonds, and 5% Commodities.

Sources: Clearnomics, LSEG

Fixed Income Performance

Bluff City ADVISORY GROUP LLC

Annual bond sector total returns

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Treasurys	High Yield	EMD Local	TIPS	EMD Local	High Yield	Munis	Munis	High Yield	EMD Local	Munis	EMD USD	TIPS	TIPS	Munis	High Yield
13.7%	58.2%	15.4%	13.6%	17.5%	7.4%	9.1%	3.3%	17.1%	14.7%	1.3%	15.0%	11.0%	6.0%	-8.5%	13.4%
MBS	EMD USD	High Yield	Munis	EMD USD	MBS	Corp	MBS	EMD USD	EMD USD	MBS	Corp	Corp	High Yield	EMD Local	EMD USD
8.3%	29.8%	15.1%	10.7%	17.4%	-1.4%	7.5%	1.5%	10.2%	10.3%	1.0%	14.5%	9.9%	5.3%	-10.2%	11.1%
Agg	EMD Local	EMD USD	Treasurys	High Yield	Corp	EMD USD	EMD USD	EMD Local	High Yield	Treasurys	High Yield	Treasurys	Munis	High Yield	EMD Local
5.2%	21.7%	12.2%	9.8%	15.8%	-1.5%	7.4%	1.2%	10.0%	7.5%	0.9%	14.3%	8.0%	1.5%	-11.2%	10.9%
TIPS	Corp	Corp	Corp	Corp	Agg	MBS	Treasurys	Corp	Corp	Agg	EMD Local	Agg	Corp	MBS	Corp
-2.4%	18.7%	9.0%	8.1%	9.8%	-2.0%	6.1%	0.8%	6.1%	6.4%	0.0%	10.1%	7.5%	-1.0%	-11.8%	8.5%
Munis	Munis	Agg	Agg	TIPS	Munis	Agg	Agg	TIPS	Munis	TIPS	Agg	High Yield	MBS	TIPS	Munis
-2.5%	12.9%	6.5%	7.8%	7.0%	-2.6%	6.0%	0.5%	4.7%	5.4%	-1.3%	8.7%	7.1%	-1.0%	-11.8%	6.4%
Corp	TIPS	TIPS	EMD USD	Munis	Treasurys	Treasurys	Corp	Agg	Agg	High Yield	TIPS	EMD USD	Agg	Treasurys	Agg
-4.9%	11.4%	6.3%	7.3%	6.8%	-2.7%	5.1%	-0.7%	2.6%	3.5%	-2.1%	8.4%	5.3%	-1.5%	-12.5%	5.5%
EMD Local	Agg	Treasurys	MBS	Agg	EMD USD	TIPS	TIPS	MBS	TIPS	Corp	Munis	Munis	EMD USD	Agg	MBS
-5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	6.2%	4.2%	-5.3%	3.6%	-1.4%	1.7%	3.0%	-2.5%	7.5%	5.2%	-1.8%	-13.0%	5.0%
EMD USD	MBS	MBS	High Yield	MBS	EMD Local	High Yield	High Yield	Treasurys	MBS	EMD USD	Treasurys	MBS	Treasurys	Corp	Treasurys
-12.0%	5.9%	5.4%	5.0%	2.6%	-8.3%	2.5%	-4.5%	1.0%	2.5%	-4.3%	6.9%	3.9%	-2.3%	-15.8%	4.1%
High Yield	Treasurys	Munis	EMD Local	Treasurys	TIPS	EMD Local	EMD Local	Munis	Treasurys	EMD Local	MBS	EMD Local	EMD Local	EMD USD	TIPS
-26.2%	-3.6%	2.4%	-2.0%	2.0%	-8.6%	-5.2%	-14.3%	0.2%	2.3%	-6.9%	6.4%	3.5%	-9.2%	-17.8%	3.9%

Definitions and Methodology



The **S&P 500** is a market capitalization-weighted index of large cap U.S. stocks. U.S. **mid cap** and **small cap** are the S&P 400 and S&P 600, respectively. **Value** and **growth** are the corresponding Standard & Poor's value and growth indices.

MSCI EM is an index of emerging market stocks. **MSCI EAFE** is an index of developed market stocks. **MSCI ACWI** is an index of global stocks.

The **forward P/E** is a ratio of the current market price of an index divided by an estimate of earnings over the next twelve months. The **Shiller P/E** is based on Robert Shiller's cyclically adjusted price-to-earnings ratio.

The **AAII Investor Sentiment** index is based on a weekly survey conducted by AAII.

Unless stated otherwise, **earnings** and **valuations** data are from LSEG indices.

The **LEI**, or Leading Economic Index, is produced monthly by the Conference Board.

Consumer sentiment indices are based on surveys conducted by the University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers.

Asset Class Performance and Asset Classes Relative to U.S. Stocks charts: The EM, EAFE, Small Cap, Fixed Income and Commodities are these indices, respectively: MSCI EM, MSCI EAFE, Russell 2000, iShares Core U.S. Bond Aggregate, Bloomberg Commodity Index.

Fixed Income Performance: All sectors are represented by the Bloomberg Barclays bond indices except for EMD USD and Local which are the JPMorgan EMBIG Diversified Index and JPMorgan GBI-EM Core Index, respectively.

The Balanced Portfolio is a hypothetical 60/40 portfolio consisting of 40% U.S. Large Cap, 5% Small Cap, 10% International Developed Equities, 5% Emerging Market Equities, 35% U.S. Bonds, and 5% Commodities.

The **Bloomberg Commodity Index** is a broadly diversified basket of physical commodities futures contracts.

The **DXY** is a U.S. dollar index based on a basket of currencies, including the Euro, Yen, Pound, Canadian Dollar, Swedish Krona and Swiss Franc.

Portfolio Risk/Reward and Portfolio Drift Since 2009 charts: stocks and bonds are the S&P 500 and iShares Core U.S. Bond Aggregate, respectively. Each portfolio represents a hypothetical stock/bond asset allocation.

The MSCI Factor indices are created and maintained by MSCI to capture factor returns. They cover various factors including Quality, Size, Momentum, Volatility, Value and Yield. The Multi-Factor index tracks the performance of Value, Momentum, Quality and Size.

The MSCI USA index tracks large and mid cap U.S. stocks.

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