April 2023 | Global Equity Markets Review



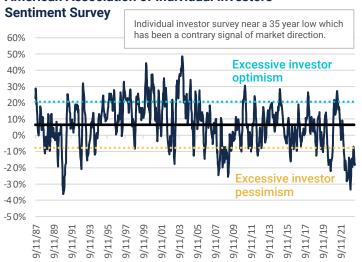


Executive Summary

The disparity in market returns witnessed last month continued in April. Uncertainty in the banking sector was the focus, with the collapse of the First Republic causing another leg down at month's end. The knee-jerk reaction by investors was a flight to the largest stocks and avoidance of cyclical stocks in general and financial stocks specifically. The S&P 500 total return in April was +1.56%, while the S&P 400 Mid Cap and S&P 600 Small Cap losses were -.78% and -2.78%, respectively. Weakness in the broad market was displayed by more than half of the stocks represented in the S&P 1500 Composite Index falling in price during April with a median decline of -5.11%. Value stocks were the beneficiary of downside volatility during the month, a pattern often seen when return disparity is pronounced. The Russell 1000 Index Value total return was 1.51% compared to .99% for the comparable Growth Index.

Many negative data points pushing the market lower have been evident for some months. The conflict in Ukraine, which caused significant disruptions in the global supply chain, is now 14 months long, with no peaceful resolution in sight. The peak in inflation occurred ten months prior, with the focus on the slow descent toward improvement. In response to the inflation data, the Federal Reserve has embarked on one of the most aggressive rate-hiking campaigns in decades. As a result of the higher rates and margin pressures from inflation, analysts have lowered forecasts for company earnings — a key driver of market returns. The persistency and duration of downbeat data have understandably lowered expectations meaningfully. Investor sentiment across several well-regarded surveys has now reached extreme pessimism. One such survey is the American Association of Individual Investors (AAII), which tracked member opinions on the stock market since mid-1987. The left-below chart measures the percentage of bullish respondents minus those who are bearish over rolling 8-week periods. Month-end sentiment readings were in the 94th percentile of extreme pessimism over the past 35 years. The chart on the right measures the change in the S&P 500 Index after pessimism declines to the 90th percentile or higher. It is a compelling argument based on one of Warren Buffet's most mentioned quotes; "Be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful." While heightened levels of uncertainty remain, the lowered bar of expectations is encouraging for future returns.

American Association of Individual Investors

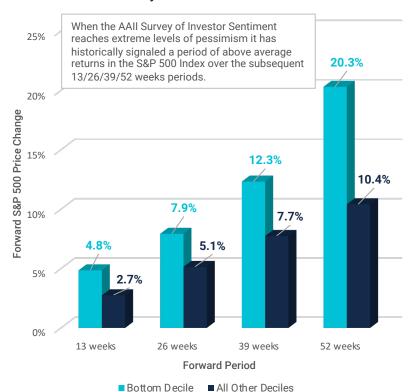


Source: AAII. Bull - Bear survey data 8 week rolling average from 7/24/87 - 4/27/87.

Comparative Index Total Returns (%)	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	1 Yr.	3 Yr.
S&P 500 Index	1.6	2.7	2.7	14.5
S&P 500 Equal-Weight Index	0.3	-3.8	0.4	16.8
S&P 500 Growth Index	1.4	5.3	-1.9	12.2
S&P 500 Value Index	1.7	0.0	6.7	15.8
S&P Mid Cap 400 Index	-0.8	-5.7	1.3	16.5
S&P Small Cap 600 Index	-2.8	-8.9	-3.8	15.9
MSCI EAFE Index	2.9	3.4	9.0	12.2
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	-1.1	-4.7	-6.1	4.7
MSCI All Country World Index	1.5	1.7	2.6	12.6
MSCI ACWI ex-US Index	1.8	0.8	3.6	10.3
BBg Barc US Aggregate Bond Index	0.6	0.5	-0.4	-3.1
BBg Barc US Corporate High Yield Index	1.0	0.8	1.2	4.7
60% MSCI ACWI/ 40% BBg Barc US Agg Bond	1.1	1.2	1.6	6.2

Source: FactSet for all index and market data, with all index total returns shown in US dollars in table as of April 30, 2023. Please see notes & disclosures.

S&P 500 Forward Price Returns During Extreme Pessimism in AAII Survey



Source: AAII data from 7/24/87 - 4/27/23.

International equity markets exceeded the U.S. market in April. The S&P Global BMI ex-U.S. total return was 1.70%, exceeding the S&P U.S. Total Market Index return of 1.00%. Strength was in the developed market bourses, with the S&P Developed BMI Index ex-U.S. total return was 2.45%, while the S&P Emerging Markets fell 0.50%. The dollar declined by 0.83%, the third month this year when the U.S. currency moved lower — aiding U.S. investors in overseas markets. It is widely perceived that the Federal Reserve is closer to the end of the interest rate cycle than other major central banks. Movement in short-term interest rate differentials across countries also impacts the near-term direction of the currencies. The current turmoil in the U.S. banking industry and the debt ceiling showdown in Washington, D.C., buttresses the argument that near-term dollar weakness will not be surprising.

Notes & Disclosures

Index Returns - all shown in US dollars

All returns shown trailing 4/30/2023 for the period indicated. "YTD" refers to the total return as of prior-year end, while the other returns are annualized. 3-month and annualized returns are shown for:

- The S&P 500 index is comprised of large capitalized companies across many sectors and is generally regarded as representative of US stock market and is provided in this presentation in that regard only.
- The S&P 500® Equal Weight Index (EWI) is the equal-weight version of the widely-used S&P 500. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance. The S&P 500 equal-weight index (S&P 500 EWI) series imposes equal weights on the index constituents included in the S&P 500 that are classified in the respective GICS® sector.
- . The S&P 500 Growth Index is comprised of equities from the S&P 500 that exhibit strong growth characteristics and is weighted by market-capitalization.
- The S&P 500 Value Index is a market-capitalization weighted index comprising of equities from the S&P 500 that exhibit strong value characteristics such as book value to price ratio, cash flow to price ratio, sales to price ratio, and dividend yield.
- The Russell 3000 Index tracks the performance of 3000 U.S. corporations, determined by market-capitalization, and represents 98% of the investable equity market in the United States.
- The Russell Mid Cap Index measures the mid-cap segment performance of the U.S. equity market and is comprised of approximately 800 of the smallest securities based on current index membership and their market capitalization.
- The Russell 2000 Index is a market-capitalization weighted index that measures the performance of 2000 small-cap and mid-cap securities. The index was formulated to give investors an unbiased collection of the smallest tradable equities still meeting exchange listing requirements.
- The MSCI All Country World Index provides a measure of performance for the equity market throughout the world and is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index.
- The MSCI EAFE Index is a market-capitalization weighted index and tracks the performance of small to large-cap equities in developed markets of Europe, Australasia, and the Far East.
- The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a float-adjusted market-capitalization index that measures equity market performance in global emerging markets and cannot be purchased directly by investors.
- The S&P Global BMI sector indices are into sectors as defined by the widely used Global Industry Classification Standards (GICS) classifications. Each sector index comprises those companies included in the S&P Global BMI that are classified as members of respective GICS® sector. The S&P Global BMI Indices were introduced to provide a comprehensive benchmarking system for global equity investors. The S&P Global BMI is comprised of the S&P Emerging BMI and the S&P Developed BMI. It covers approximately 10,000 companies in 46 countries. To be considered for inclusion in the index, all listed stocks within the constituent country must have a float market capitalization of at least \$100 million. For a country to be admitted, it must be politically stable and have legal property rights and procedures, among other criteria.
- The Barclay's US Aggregate Index, a broad-based unmanaged bond index that is generally considered to be representative of the performance of the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market.
- · The Bloomberg Barclay's US Corporate High Yield Index, which covers the USD-denominated, non-investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market.

An index is a portfolio of specific securities, the performance of which is often used as a benchmark in judging the relative performance to certain asset classes. Index performance used throughout is intended to illustrate historical market trends and performance. Indexes are managed and do not incur investment management fees. An investor is unable to invest in an index. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. No strategy assures success or protects against loss. There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification does not protect against market risk. All investing involves risk including loss of principal. Investing in stock includes numerous specific risks including: the fluctuation of dividend, loss of principal, and potential liquidity of the investment in a falling market. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Indicators

Key Indicators correspond to various macro-economic and rate-related data points that we consider impactful to equity markets.

- . The US 10-Year Treasury Yield (%)/bps, is the return on investment for the U.S. government's 10-year debt obligation and serves as a signal for investor confidence.
- SPDR Gold Trust Price (\$), is an investment fund that reflects the performance on the price of a gold bullion, less the Trust's expenses.
- West Texas Intermediate, which is an oil benchmark and the underlying asset in the New York Mercantile Exchange's oil futures contract.
- CBOE Volatility Index (Level)/% Change, which uses price options on the S&P 500 to estimate the market's expectation of 30-day volatility.

General Disclosure

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