

Weekly Update – August 12, 2024

Market Returns Ending 8/9/2024			
Category	1 Week	MTD	YTD
US			
Large Cap	0.0%	-3.2%	13.0%
Mid Cap	-0.7%	-6.0%	3.3%
Small Cap	-1.3%	-7.7%	3.5%
International			
Developed	-1.2%	-4.9%	3.6%
Emerging	-1.3%	-3.5%	4.3%
Bonds			
Aggregate	-1.1%	0.4%	2.0%
High Yield	0.2%	-0.1%	4.5%

US Equity Style Returns			
	Weekly		
	Value	Core	Growth
Large	-0.3	0.0	0.4
Mid	-0.3	0.2	1.6
Small	-2.0	-1.3	-0.6
	YTD		
	Value	Core	Growth
Large	8.7	12.1	14.4
Mid	7.0	6.3	3.7
Small	2.1	3.5	4.9

Source: Bloomberg

Key Events: The consequences of instability

Markets saw significant volatility as the Bank of Japan raised rates and the US jobs report increased recession worries, leading to the unwinding of leveraged trading strategies.

High valuations and market concentration made markets susceptible to this volatility spike. Geopolitical Instability also lies just below the surface as the middle east conflict risks breaking out into full-scale war.

Market review: Volatility churns markets

This week the S&P 500 saw its largest YTD loss (Monday - 3%) and gain (Thursday +2.3%) but ended the week flat.

The market spent the week caught between a growth scare, volatility shock, unwinding of leveraged trades and a mixed earnings season - the market needs strong earnings and an accommodative Fed to progress to the upside.

This uncertainty left small caps, international stocks and bonds all in the negative for the week.

Outlook: Coping with instability

The broad losses across stocks and bonds serve as a reminder that things are, indeed, uncertain:

- The markets have avoided the recession narrative for some time, but now appear overly concerned.
- The AI narrative is waning as earnings season has caused a closer critique of some companies' value propositions.
- Many factors have contributed to increased instability: An overly accommodative "post GFC" Fed, growth of passive investing, increased use of options strategies, and a reduction of security dealer inventories among others.

Not surprisingly, our advice is to do the thing that we have been doing all along – allocate to a diverse set of strategies,

without placing too big of a bet on one outcome. We are in an environment that is very difficult to predict, so build a portfolio that won't get hurt too much if the market goes against your view. We also advise investors to hold to our philosophy: values-aligned, long-term and globally diversified.

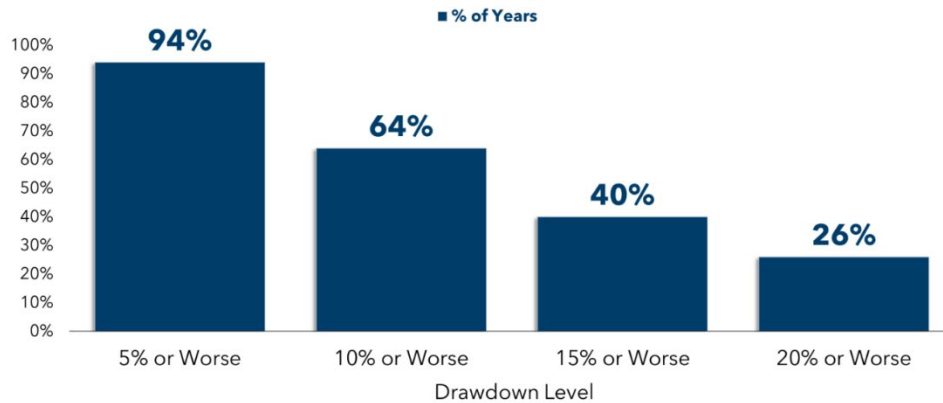


Short-term losses are normalⁱ

94% of Years Have a Drawdown of 5% or Worse



% of Years in the S&P 500 with x% Drawdown
1928 - 2023



Source: Ritholtz Wealth Management, NYU Data Library



OneAscent Navigator Outlook: August 2024

<p>VALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and small stocks are a more attractive dividend source than the S&P 500. Despite higher rates, small and International stocks are attractive relative to free cash flow. Bonds are becoming attractive again on a "real", or after-inflation basis. 		<p>ECONOMY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June's CPI decline highlighted the continuing, important, disinflationary trend of 2024. Global manufacturing PMIs slowed in July, illustrating stagnation across economies. The unemployment rose more than expected in July, while the economy produced fewer jobs than in recent months.
<p>SENTIMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investor sentiment remains more bullish than average, highlighting the potential of a decline. High interest rates are keeping small businesses optimism down at pandemic levels. Consumer confidence declined in July; the low level of confidence may become a self-fulfilling prophecy, leading to a slowdown or recession. 		<p>TECHNICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity volatility spiked and bond yields dropped as the market processed recent economic and earnings data. Expectations for rate cuts continue to accelerate beyond the Fed's guidance. The violent rotation in July was accompanied by a significant – and healthy – increase in stock market breadth.

NEGATIVE SLIGHTLY NEGATIVE NEUTRAL SLIGHTLY POSITIVE POSITIVE

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approach on their own. Before participating in any investment program or making any investment, clients as well as all other readers are encouraged to consult with their own professional advisers, including investment advisers and tax advisors. OneAscent can assist in determining a suitable investment approach for a given individual, which may or may not closely resemble the strategies outlined herein.

ⁱ Source: Ritholtz Wealth Management [This is Normal - A Wealth of Common Sense](#)

ⁱⁱ Market Returns reference the following indices: Large Cap – S&P 500, Mid Cap Growth – Russell Midcap growth, Mid Cap Value – Russell Midcap Value, Small Cap – Russell 2000, Developed – MSCI EAFE, Emerging – MSCI Emerging Markets, Aggregate – Bloomberg US Aggregate, High Yield – Bloomberg High Yield