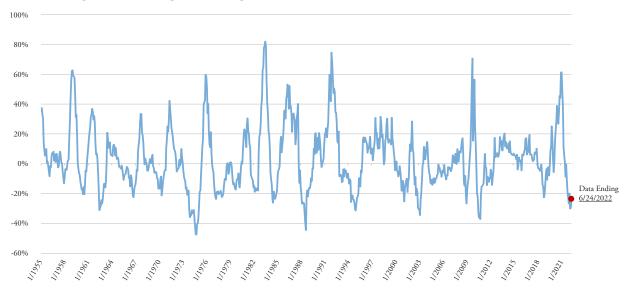
June 24, 2022

he S&P 500 has dropped more than 20% from its all-time high of roughly 6 months ago, and all of the market decline can be attributed to P/E contraction. While trailing earnings for the S&P 500 have increased 21.4% from the levels of last June, the P/E ratio (based on trailing actual earnings) of the S&P has dropped from 26.1x on 6/30/2021 to 19.6x as of 6/24/2022. This 25% decline in P/E over a brief period is extremely unusual, ranking in the lowest 5% of monthly observations since 1955.

S&P 500 Trailing P/E Change, Rolling 12-Months



Data from 1/1/1955–6/24/2022 Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet

We reviewed the performance history of the S&P 500 since 1955, breaking down 12-month periods on the basis of the change in the market P/E over the preceding 12 months. Historically, declines in the market P/E of 20% or more were followed by slightly better-than-average returns over the following 12 months, and a higher percentage of positive returns were posted over the same period, as shown in the table below.

S&P 500 Returns vs Trailing P/E Change

	P/E Change of% Over Previous 12 Months			
	< -20%	-20% – 0%	0% – +20%	> +20%
Average Price Change, Next 12-Months	16.7%	7.1%	7.7%	7.8%
Percentage of Positive Returns	84%	70%	73%	72%

All Periods	
Average Price Change, 12-Months	8.5%
Percentage of Positive Returns	73%

Data from 12/31/1954–6/24/2022 Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet

As noted, the S&P has dropped more than 20% thus far this year in only a six-month period. We reviewed the price performance of the S&P 500 in the post-World War Two era (since 1946), looking at every six-month percentage change in S&P 500 price. When the S&P 500 dropped 15% or more over a six-month period, the average returns over the following 6, 12, 24, and 36 months were well above average.



S&P 500 Price Changes After a 6-Month Decline of 15% or More

	1946 to Present			
	Next 6 Months	Next 12 Months	Next 24 Months	Next 36 Months
Average Price Change	8.5%	17.9%	31.8%	34.8%
Rate of Positive Returns	72%	87%	90%	95%

Averages for All Periods, 1946 to Present					
6 Months	12 Months	24 Months	36 Months		
4.2%	8.8%	18.4%	28.4%		
69%	73%	82%	84%		

Data from 12/31/1946–6/24/2022 Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet

History is an imperfect guide for the future and, clearly, high inflation and rising interest rates present a challenge for the financial markets. However, an objective review of historical market returns can present a disciplined framework for analyzing the risks and opportunities presented in the current investment environment.

DISCLOSURES

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REFERENCED INDEX

(Indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment.)

S&P 500 Index—The S&P 500 Stock Index is a market capitalization weighted index and consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation.

S&P DATA

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