

**Client Letter** | 3Q 2022 Recap & 4Q 2022 Outlook

**Market Searches for Direction During Third Quarter**

At the risk of being repetitive, financial markets were unsettled and volatile during the third quarter. In a continuation of the year-to-date trend, the stock market's trend changed multiple times intra-quarter as investors reacted to data and repositioned portfolios. The S&P 500 finished the third quarter down -4.9%, while the 2-year Treasury yield reached levels not seen since 2007. This letter recaps the third quarter and provides an update on the key questions markets faced at the start of the third quarter.

**Inflation Dynamics & Direction of Fed Policy**

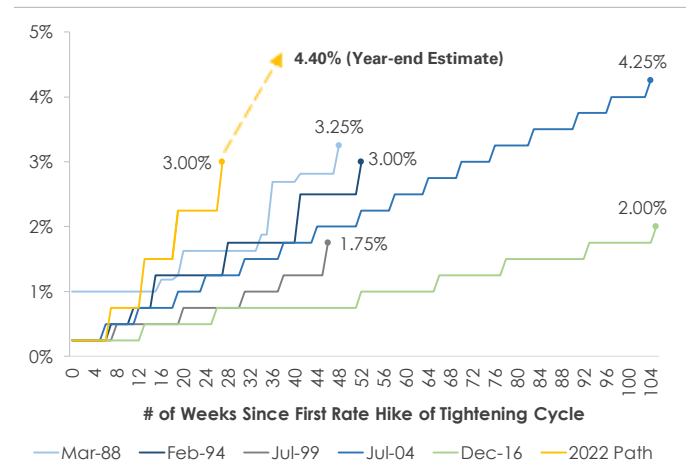
Markets received fresh inflation data and updated commentary from the Federal Reserve during the third quarter. Data showed inflation pressures, as measured by the year-over-year (y/y) growth rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased for a second consecutive month during August. The decline in inflation occurred against a backdrop of falling energy prices, with AAA reporting the average price of a gallon of gasoline down -27% since peaking at \$5.01 in early June. Markets cheered the two consecutive monthly inflation declines, hoping June's +9% y/y inflation growth rate will mark inflation's peak.

Easing inflation pressures are a welcome development, but underlying data indicates inflation remains persistent across a broad range of categories. Unlike the headline CPI reading, the core CPI reading, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories, was higher during August: June +5.9% y/y; July +5.9% y/y; and August +6.3% y/y. The divergence, with core CPI rising and headline CPI falling, grabbed the market's attention and led the Fed to step up its tightening efforts to prevent inflation from becoming entrenched.

Figure 1 updates last quarter's chart comparing the current round of interest rate increases against prior tightening cycles. Entering the third quarter, the Fed had just raised interest rates +0.75% during June. It was the first +0.75% increase since 1994. Keeping its foot on the pedal, the Fed followed up June's extra-large interest rate increase with +0.75% increases at both the July and September meetings. The Fed also updated its Summary

of Economic Projections at the September meeting for the first time since June. The Fed now projects the benchmark federal funds rate will end 2022 at 4.40%, which implies another +1.25% of interest rate increases by year-end. Back in June, the Fed's year-end projection was 3.40%. If there was any doubt before, the Fed takes inflation's threat extremely seriously.

**FIGURE 1 – Interest Rate Increases Across Tightening Cycles**



Source: MarketDesk, Federal Reserve. Data as of 9/30/2022. Change in federal funds rates is indexed to zero the week of the first interest rate hike for each tightening cycle.

**Economic Activity Normalizes After Robust Growth**

The path of economic growth and the strength of the U.S. economy were another open question entering the third quarter. Data showed the U.S. economy shrank -0.6% on an annualized basis during the second quarter. The negative reading followed the first quarter's -1.6% annualized decline and meets the technical definition of a recession, which is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. It's an indication the U.S. economy is slowing after a period of robust growth during the pandemic recovery.

While the prospect of slower growth and a recession are concerning, there are a few important points to remember. First, recessions come in all shapes and sizes. All recessions are different, and there is no predefined path. In our view, the current environment is even more unique due to the nature of the global pandemic, impact of multiple rounds of fiscal and monetary stimulus, and inflation readings at a 40-year high. Second, it is still too

early to determine the degree of the current slowdown or how long it will last. Our team will be monitoring labor market data, industrial activity, and housing data in the coming months to gain a better understanding of the U.S. economy's trajectory.

### Corporate Commentary Ahead of Earnings Season

Corporate earnings were another open question entering the third quarter. Companies benefitted from robust demand during the pandemic recovery thanks to low interest rates and pent-up demand. Pricing power allowed companies to pass through their increased costs, which led to higher profit margins. S&P 500 earnings per share grew +6.3% y/y during the second quarter, a slowdown from the first quarter's +9.3% y/y growth rate. The slowdown raises an important question: Can companies continue to grow earnings as higher interest rates slow economic activity and employees demand higher wages? FactSet's S&P 500 Earnings Scorecard indicates analysts expect earnings growth to remain positive, but slow to +2.6% y/y during the third quarter.

Third quarter earnings season won't officially kickoff until mid-October, but companies are already providing updates. FedEx, which provides transportation, logistics, and freight services, released a downbeat business update ahead of its September 22<sup>nd</sup> earnings release. The company disclosed its quarterly results were negatively impacted by soft global package volumes and withdrew its previous fiscal year 2023 guidance. FedEx plans to cut costs by reducing its flight schedule, closing 90 FedEx Office locations and 5 corporate office facilities, and deferring hiring. Olin Corporation, which manufactures chemical products, also reported a noticeable decline in global economic conditions and lowered its guidance.

In contrast, other companies continue to report strong demand. General Mills, which manufactures a variety of consumer foods, recently raised its full-year sales forecast due to higher food prices and strong demand for cereal, snacks, and pet food. Coty, which sells beauty products, raised its revenue guidance due to stronger beauty demand. The CFO of MGM Resorts, which operates casinos, reported the company set all-time records at its Las Vegas properties during the second quarter. There are obvious differences in the companies' end markets and cyclicalities, but the guidance updates and management commentary are another conflicting signal for markets to decipher.

### Equity Market Recap – A Boom-and-Bust Quarter

The third quarter was an up-and-down quarter in the equity market, literally. Figure 2 tracks the S&P 500's price during the quarter. The S&P 500 Index of large cap

stocks returned -4.9% during the third quarter, underperforming the Russell 2000 Index's -2.1% return. However, the slight loss hides the market's two extremes. The quarter started with the S&P 500 gaining approximately +14% through August 16<sup>th</sup> as expectations for a shorter tightening cycle and potential 2023 interest rate cut propelled stocks higher.

FIGURE 2 – S&P 500 Return Path During Third Quarter 2022



Source: MarketDesk. Data as of 9/30/2022.

However, the trend swiftly reversed around mid-August, and the S&P 500 gave back all its gains since July 1<sup>st</sup>, plus more. The late third quarter sell-off was driven by an unwind of investors' hopes for a shorter tightening cycle and 2023 interest rate cut. The August inflation report, which highlighted inflation's persistence, and updated Fed commentary threw cold water on the market's early quarter enthusiasm. Following the roller-coaster ride, the S&P 500 ended the third quarter slightly below where it started the quarter.

After a challenging first half of 2022, Growth stocks started to find their footing during the third quarter. The Russell 1000 Growth Index traded down -3.5%, outperforming the Russell 1000 Value Index's -5.6% return despite rising Treasury yields. Even the Nasdaq 100 Index, which represents a concentrated Growth index due to its Technology sector overweight, outperformed the S&P 500, trading down only -4.5%. Growth's outperformance may signal the start of a new investment regime. Why? The first half 2022 sell-off was primarily driven by declining valuation multiples as interest rates moved higher. Growth's third quarter outperformance suggests investors are less concerned about the risk of lower valuation multiples and more concerned about slowing economic growth. The Growth factor's sector exposure is less cyclical than Value.

U.S. sector returns were varied with no clear performance trend during the third quarter. Despite soaring inflation and pressure on household budgets, Consumer Discretionary was the top performing S&P 500 sector, with the gains primarily driven by Tesla. Energy was the only other sector to produce a positive return.

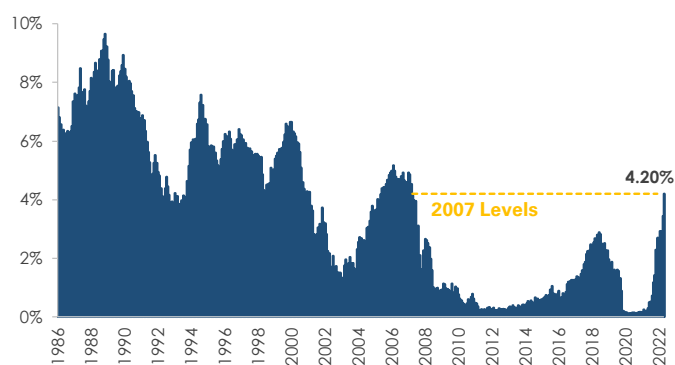
The remaining sectors were mixed with no clear defensive or cyclical trend. Communication Services and Real Estate both traded down more than -11.0%. The middle of the pack sectors included three defensive sectors (Utilities, Health Care, and Consumer Staples), three cyclical sectors (Materials, Industrials, and Financials), and one Growth-style sector (Technology).

International markets underperformed the S&P 500 during the third quarter. The MSCI EAFE Index of developed market stocks returned -10.4% during the quarter, while the MSCI EM Index of emerging market stocks returned -13.0%. International markets faced a variety of headwinds during the quarter, including Europe’s energy crisis and China’s struggle to reopen and return to growth after its Covid-zero policy. In addition, a strong U.S. dollar, which produces currency translation losses when investments are translated back into USD, weighed on international stocks.

### Bond Market Recap – Treasury Yields Rise as Market Anticipates More Interest Rate Increases

Bonds continued to trade lower during the third quarter as Treasury yields rose to decade-plus highs in anticipation of tighter Fed policy. Figure 3 graphs the 2-year Treasury note’s yield since May 1986. It shows the 2-year yield sits at the highest level since August 2007. To put this year’s spike in bond yields into perspective, the 2-year yield was just 0.73% on 12/31/2021 but now sits at 4.20%. The parabolic move higher in Treasury yields this year provides a visual depiction of the Fed’s aggressive interest rate increases.

FIGURE 3 – 2-Year Treasury Note Yield



Source: MarketDesk, U.S. Treasury. Data as of 9/30/2022.

Like the equity market, the bond market experienced two extremes during the third quarter. Investors initially purchased bonds on expectations of fewer interest rate hikes but then sold bonds after data pointed to persistent inflation and the Fed stepped up its rate hike forecast. Corporate investment grade bonds produced a -6.1% total return, underperforming the -1.7% total return

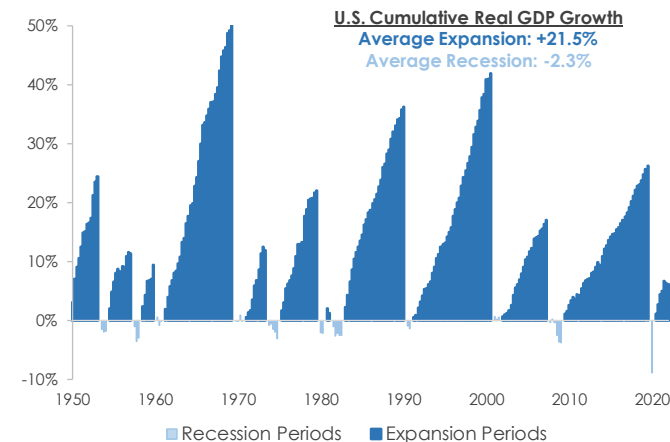
generated by corporate high yield bonds. High yield bonds have outperformed investment grade bonds during 2022 as rising interest rates weigh more on longer-maturity bonds, but markets are closely watching the high yield space for signs of credit stress.

### Fourth Quarter 2022 Outlook – Keeping an Eye on the Big Picture

It’s been a difficult year for both stock and bond markets. The S&P 500 Index has produced a -23.8% total return year-to-date, while the Bloomberg U.S. Bond Aggregate has generated a -14.3% total return. This year’s sell-off is particularly challenging because bonds, which historically act as a portfolio hedge during times of market turmoil, have traded down with stocks.

During volatile market environments like today, it is helpful to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Figure 4 graphs cumulative GDP growth during each economic expansion and recession period since 1950. The average recession period lasted 13.3 months with a -2.3% cumulative U.S. GDP contraction. In contrast, the average expansion period lasted 57.2 months with a cumulative +21.5% U.S. GDP growth. While recessions are painful, the data shows the following expansion periods are powerful.

FIGURE 4 – History of U.S. Economic Expansions and Recessions



Source: MarketDesk, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Bureau of Economic Research.

Volatility is the price of admission to investing in economic progress, technological innovation, increased productivity, and earnings growth. Markets experience both good times and bad, and the bad times can test even the most patient investor. It’s easy to sell and go to cash to relieve anxiety about your portfolio and retirement account, but this often creates a bigger issue – when do you re-enter the market? Lengthening your time horizon increases the odds in your favor. Put simply, it pays to be a long-term investor.

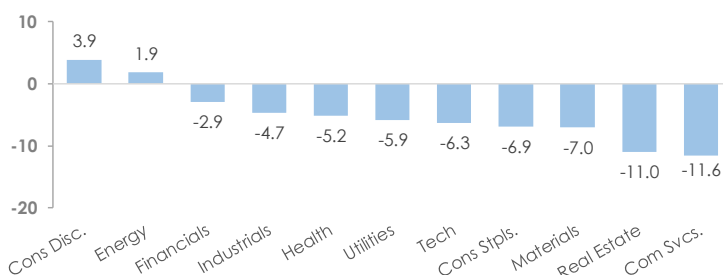
## THIS QUARTER IN NUMBERS

FIGURE 5  
U.S. Style Returns (3Q 2022 in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	-5.6	-4.9	-3.5
Mid	-4.8	-3.4	-0.8
Small	-4.6	-2.1	0.4

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 9/30/2022

FIGURE 6  
U.S. Sector Returns (3Q 2022 in %)



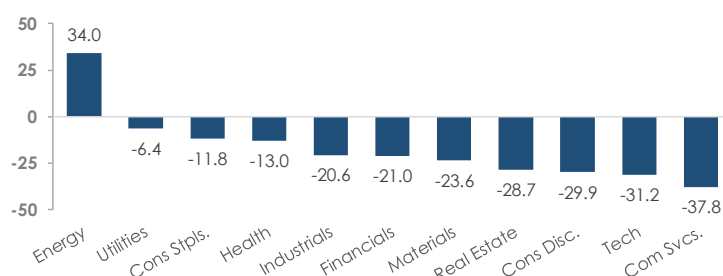
Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 9/30/2022

FIGURE 7  
U.S. Style Returns (YTD in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	-17.7	-23.8	-30.7
Mid	-20.3	-24.2	-31.6
Small	-21.1	-25.1	-29.1

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 9/30/2022

FIGURE 8  
U.S. Sector Returns (YTD in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 9/30/2022

FIGURE 9  
Market Data Center

Stocks	Level	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	3,586	-9.2%	-4.9%	-23.8%	-15.3%	26.3%	1.73%	15.4x	3.7x
Dow Jones	28,726	-8.7%	-6.1%	-19.6%	-13.2%	13.3%	2.16%	14.6x	4.0x
Russell 2000	4,137	-9.7%	-2.1%	-25.1%	-23.5%	13.3%	1.47%	16.8x	1.9x
Russell 1000 Growth	1,400	-9.7%	-3.5%	-30.7%	-22.6%	34.9%	0.84%	20.4x	9.2x
Russell 1000 Value	827	-8.7%	-5.6%	-17.7%	-11.2%	13.0%	2.20%	12.1x	2.2x
M SCI EAFE	1,137	-9.2%	-10.4%	-26.9%	-24.3%	-4.2%	5.38%	11.0x	1.5x
M SCI EM	54,180	-11.5%	-13.0%	-27.9%	-28.6%	-7.3%	3.14%	10.4x	1.5x
NASDAQ 100	10,971	-10.5%	-4.5%	-32.5%	-24.8%	44.4%	0.74%	19.5x	6.1x

Fixed Income	Yield	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
U.S. Aggregate	4.75%	-4.1%	-4.7%	-14.3%	-14.3%	-8.7%
U.S. Corporates	5.74%	-6.0%	-6.1%	-21.1%	-20.6%	-11.6%
Municipal Bonds	4.33%	-2.8%	-3.0%	-10.6%	-9.9%	-4.1%
High Yield Bonds	9.61%	-3.7%	-1.7%	-15.0%	-14.2%	-4.7%

Key Rates	9/30/2022	8/31/2022	6/30/2022	3/31/2022	9/30/2021	9/30/2019
2 yr Treasury	4.20%	3.44%	2.93%	2.29%	0.29%	1.62%
10 yr Treasury	3.80%	3.13%	2.98%	2.32%	1.53%	1.68%
30 yr Treasury	3.77%	3.25%	3.12%	2.45%	2.09%	2.12%
30 yr Fixed Mortgage	6.82%	5.95%	5.91%	4.90%	3.18%	3.72%
Prime Rate	6.25%	5.50%	4.75%	3.50%	3.25%	5.00%

Commodities	Level	1 month	YTD
Oil (WTI)	79.49	-11.2%	5.7%
Gasoline	2.57	-2.7%	15.5%
Natural Gas	6.77	-25.9%	90.2%
Propane	0.99	-9.1%	-4.2%
Ethanol	2.25	-12.8%	-8.4%
Gold	1,672	-3.1%	-8.6%
Silver	19.04	6.5%	-18.5%
Copper	3.44	-2.2%	-22.7%
Steel	762	-2.3%	-46.9%
Corn	6.78	1.0%	14.2%
Soybeans	14.33	-4.8%	9.2%

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 9/30/2022

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