

## Major US stock market as 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Sources: FE Fundinfo & Yahoo Finance



### Key points

- A major US stock market index covering the largest 500 companies fell into a 'bear market' on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- Bears hibernate, so bears represent a market that's retreating, in contrast, a surging stock market is a bull market, because bulls charge.
- A 'bear' market is a term that describes a sustained market downturn of 20% or more from a recent high; 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 as shown above.

### Why is this happening?

- Historically low interest rates have proved a stimulus to the US economy during the pandemic, this has partly helped maintain share prices at higher levels resulting in all-time highs.
- To combat rapidly rising inflation, the Federal Reserve (the US central bank) has raised interest rates quicker and more than previously anticipated.
- Company profits are impacted from increased borrowing costs because of higher interest rates, whilst higher inflation impacts consumer spending. This has led to a sharp selloff in shares of companies irrespective of the fundamental merits of the underlying businesses.

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Major US stock market returns following bear market start

Source: Based on data from [www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)

Bear market date	1 day later	1 week later	1 month later	6 months later	1 year later	3 years later
21/10/1957	0%	3%	2%	9%	31%	39%
28/05/1962	5%	4%	-5%	11%	26%	59%
29/08/1966	2%	3%	3%	18%	25%	26%
29/01/1970	-1%	0%	5%	-9%	11%	36%
27/11/1973	2%	-2%	2%	-9%	-28%	7%
22/11/1982	0%	2%	2%	1%	32%	63%
19/10/1987	5%	1%	8%	15%	23%	35%
12/03/2001	1%	-1%	-1%	-7%	-1%	-5%
09/07/2008	1%	0%	2%	-27%	-29%	8%
12/03/2020	5%	-3%	11%	35%	59%	?
Average	2%	1%	3%	4%	15%	30%

### How long will this last?

- This is unknown. However, whilst noting the **past performance is no guide to future returns**, as shown above what can be said is that since 1957 this major US stock market's average return ...
- ... one month after closing in a bear market has been around 3%, with 2 out of 11 of the bear markets above staying under water after one month...
- ... six months after has been around 4%, with 4 out of 11 remaining negative after six months...
- ... and 3 years after, has been around 30%, with, so far, 1 out of 10 bear markets (2001) having minus returns after 3 years (2020 excluded).

### What does this tell us?

- Bear markets can be psychologically challenging in the short term to those invested 100% in equities or shares. Making decisions during market turmoil often leads to poor long-term outcomes.
- For most investors, unless money is required immediately, those smartly diversified should zoom out from the short term and focus on the long term, the same timescale of their financial objectives and goals.

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**Past performance is no guide to future returns**

All sourced: FE Fundinfo

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**Past performance is no guide to future returns**

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Where performance data is not available for a period of five years or more, this is quoted from inception date. Where no performance figures are shown, no data is available, which we have labelled as N/A for the purposes of this document.

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The OCF is defined as the expected total cost of managing and operating the fund for the coming year. The OCF includes the annual management charge (AMC) paid to the fund manager plus the additional operational charges of the fund (custody, distribution, audit, registration and regulatory fees). The OCF does not include an estimate of performance fees unlike a previous measure, total expense ratio (TER), which was based on the experience over the prior year.

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