

# Rising Bond Yields And Stock Performance

**S&P 500 Index Total Returns vs. Rising Treasury (10-Yr.) Yields**

Year	↑ in 10-Yr. T-Note Yield	S&P 500 Total Return
2021	59 bps	28.71%
2018	28 bps	-4.36%
2016	18 bps	11.96%
2015	10 bps	1.38%
2013	127 bps	32.39%
2009	163 bps	26.46%
2006	31 bps	15.79%
2005	17 bps	4.91%
2003	43 bps	28.68%
1999	179 bps	21.04%
1996	85 bps	23.07%
1994	203 bps	1.31%
1990	13 bps	-3.17%
1988	28 bps	16.81%
1987	164 bps	5.23%
1983	133 bps	22.51%
1981	155 bps	-4.91%
1980	210 bps	32.42%
1979	118 bps	18.44%
1978	137 bps	6.56%
1977	97 bps	-7.18%
1975	36 bps	37.20%

Source: Bloomberg. Data covers 1975-2021. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

## View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post provides some historical perspective on how the S&P 500 Index has performed in calendar years when the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note (T-note) finished the year higher than where it began.
2. From 1975-2021, there were 22 such years (see table). The S&P 500 Index posted a positive total return in 18 of those 22 years.
3. The yield on the 10-year T-note increased in excess of 100 basis points in 10 of the 22 years, with the most recent being 2013.
4. Monitoring the yield on the 10-year T-note is commonplace for equity investors, in our opinion. The higher the yield trends the more competitive Treasuries, and other investment-grade bonds, become as an alternative investment opportunity to equities.
5. Standard & Poor's showed that, from 1953 through March 2012, U.S. stocks posted their best returns when the yield on the 10-year T-note rose to around 4.0%, according to Businessweek. Stock prices usually retrenched when the yield topped 6.0%. Its yield stood at 1.99% on 2/14/22.
6. With respect to rising short-term interest rates, U.S. equities have tended to perform well during periods when the Federal Reserve has tightened monetary policy, according to Bloomberg. The need to raise interest rates indicates a growing economy as well as corporate profit growth. Keith Lerner, co-chief investment officer at Truist Advisory Services, Inc., notes that the S&P 500 Index has risen at an average annualized rate of 9.0% during the 12 Fed rate hike cycles since the 1950s and generated positive returns in 11 of those instances.

*This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance.*

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