



Market Volatility: Taken in Perspective

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Global turmoil and rising inflation have presented today's investors with some pretty daunting risks.

But remember, this is the situation for which you built a long-term asset allocation strategy.

It is also important to appreciate where we live and how well the United States has fared recent misfortunes. The U.S. post-pandemic economic recovery is unlike any in recent history. Here's a not-so-small sampling:

- Businesses are eager to hire and have increased wages to attract new workers
- 74% of U.S. counties reported more businesses in their area than before the pandemic
- New businesses are launching at the fastest pace on record
- The Great Resignation is a marker for worker confidence in the labor market
- In just one year, the S&P 500 gained 75% after its crash on March 23, 2020
- In 2021, the median sales price of existing homes increased by 15% in one year, and the typical home value rose by about \$50,000
- The U.S. was one of the quickest out the gate to vaccinate
- We are an energy-independent nation

In short, the way to keep recent volatility in perspective is to recognize how good things really are, especially given how much we've been through in recent years. While investing abroad is a viable means to diversify your portfolio, also remember that there's a reason our nation is so strong. Our companies are consistent performers. When it comes to investing, remember some basic principles, such as brand loyalty, knowing what you buy, and that the most reliable path to wealth accumulation is a slow one.

A diversified allocation in domestic equities is a good way to build wealth and confidently stay ahead of long-term inflation. After all, since the S&P 500 Index was conceptualized in 1957 through the year 2021, the average annual return was 10.5%.

Believing in our nation's capabilities and your own strategic asset allocation can help you progress toward a successful future.

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