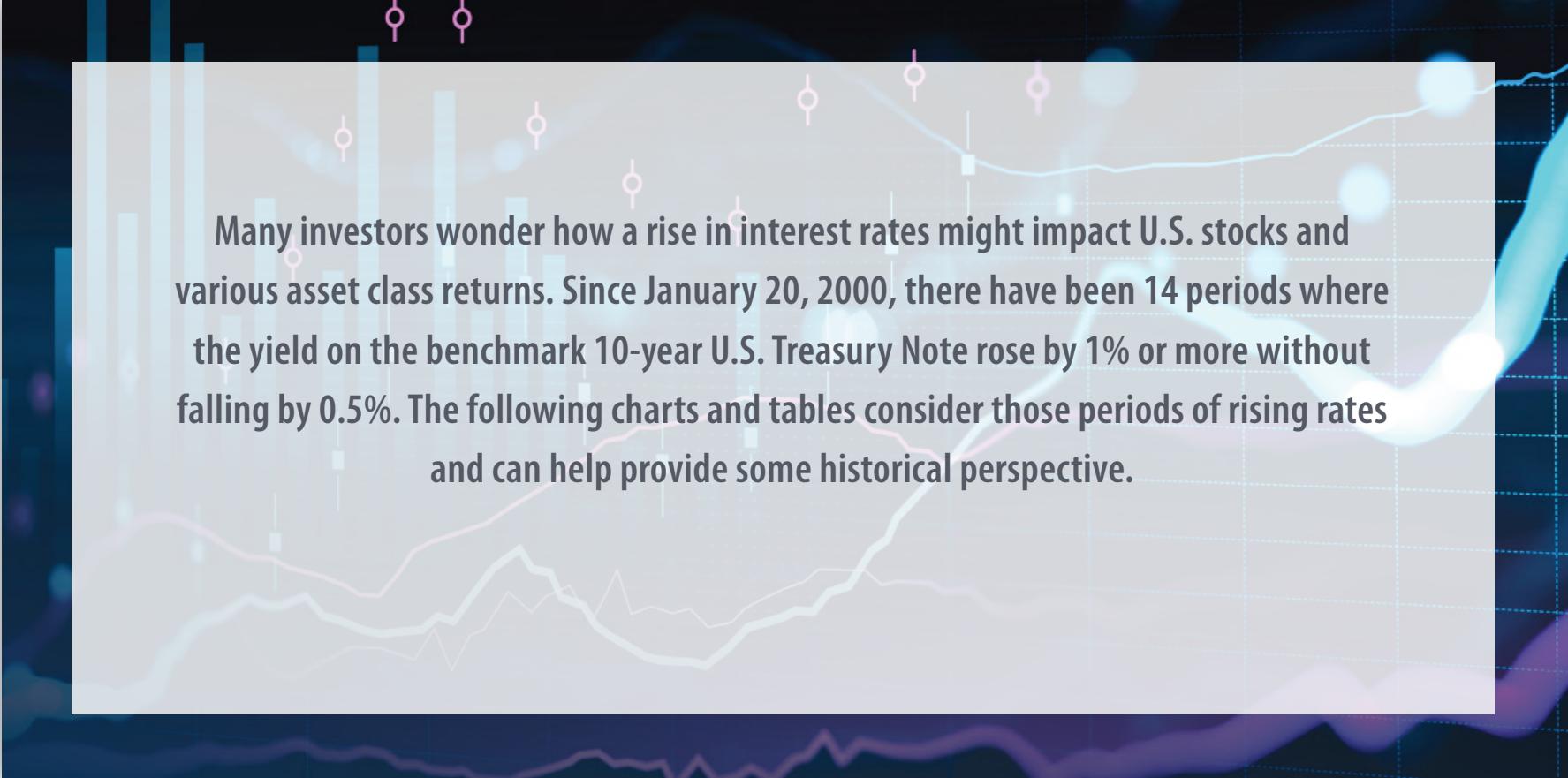




CLIENT RESOURCE KIT

RISING RATES

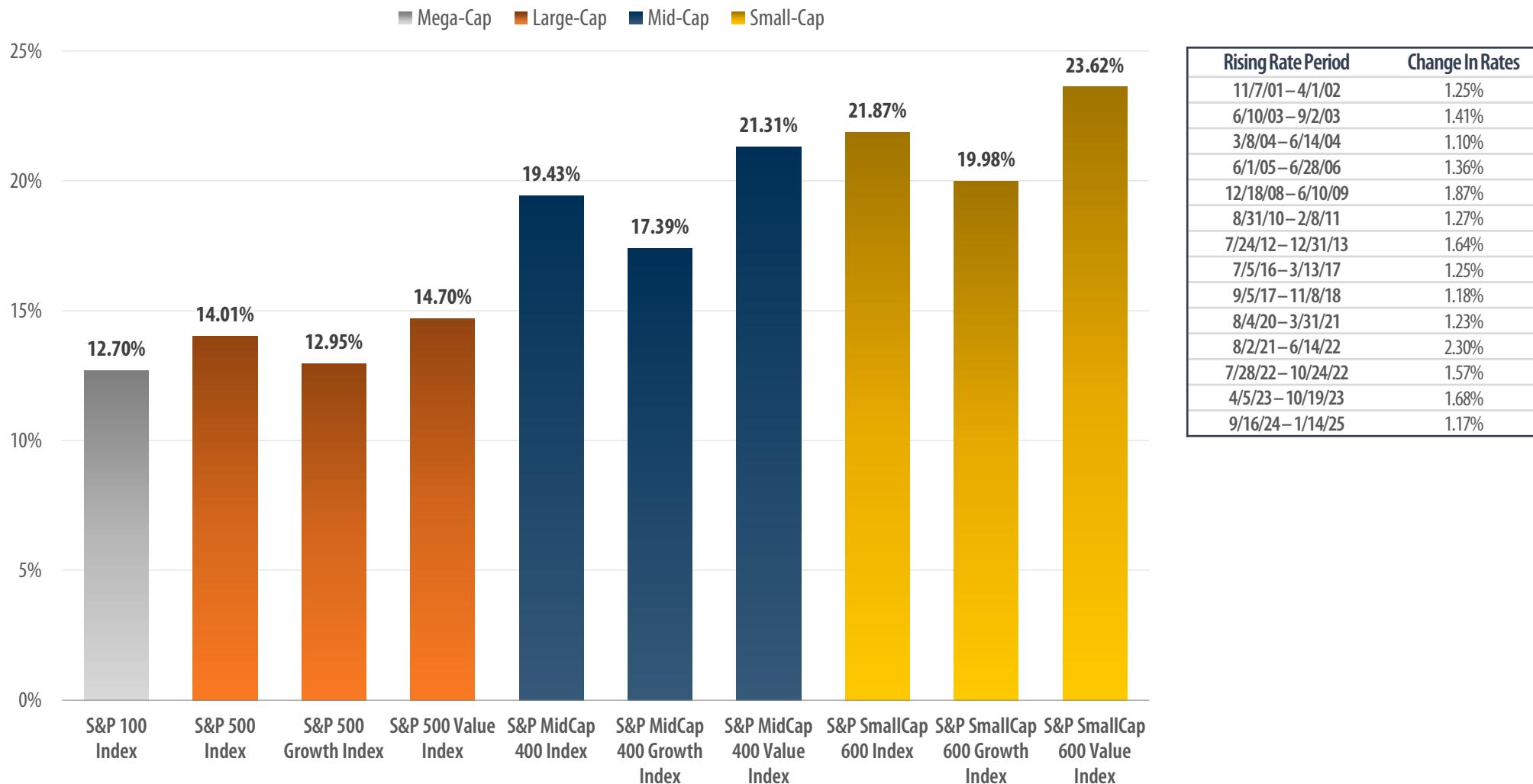
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Many investors wonder how a rise in interest rates might impact U.S. stocks and various asset class returns. Since January 20, 2000, there have been 14 periods where the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury Note rose by 1% or more without falling by 0.5%. The following charts and tables consider those periods of rising rates and can help provide some historical perspective.

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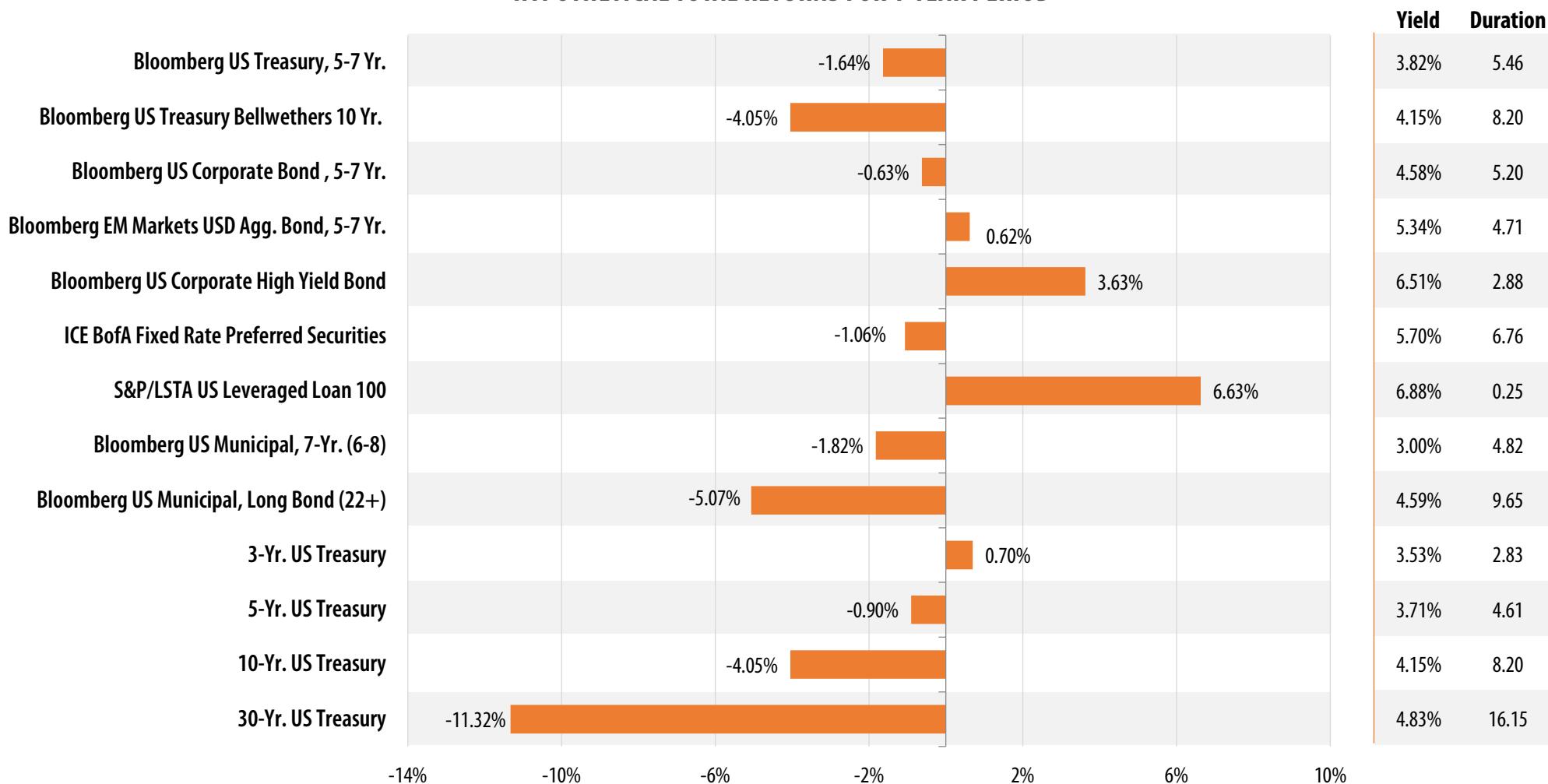
AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN DURING RISING RATE PERIODS



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. As of 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions or other expenses incurred when investing. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. The S&P Indexes are unmanaged, capitalization-weighted indices of stocks used to measure U.S. stock market performance and cannot be purchased directly by investors. The **S&P 500 Index** comprises 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The **S&P 100 Index** is a sub-set of the S&P 500 and comprises 100 major blue chip stocks from a variety of industries. The **S&P MidCap 400 Index** tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The **S&P SmallCap 600 Index** tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. Value indices measure stocks using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price. Growth indices measure stocks using three factors: sales growth, the ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum.

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HYPOTHETICAL TOTAL RETURNS FOR 1-YEAR PERIOD



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Source: First Trust, Bloomberg, ICE BofA, S&P LSTA. As of 12/31/2025. The table illustrates hypothetical examples and does not represent the return on any particular investment. Effective duration is used for the preferred index and modified adjusted duration for all others. Duration is a measure of a bond's sensitivity to interest rate changes that reflects the change in a bond's price given a change in yield. Given that senior loans typically pay a floating rate of interest, they tend to have an effective duration of approximately zero. As such, we estimate the duration for senior loans to be approximately 0.25 years. **Bloomberg US Treasury, 5-7 Year Index** - Measures USD-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal debt issued by the US Treasury with 5-6.9999 years to maturity. **Bloomberg US Treasury Bellwethers 10 Yr. Index** - An unmanaged index representing the most recently issued U.S. Treasury bonds with 10 years' maturity. **Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index** - Measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. **Bloomberg Emerging Markets (EM) USD Aggregate Bond Index, 5-7 Year** - A flagship hard currency EM debt benchmark that includes fixed and floating-rate US dollar-denominated debt issued from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers. **Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index** - Measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. **ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index** - Tracks the performance of fixed rate USD-denominated preferred securities issued in the US domestic market. **S&P/LSTA US Leveraged Loan 100 Index** - Designed to reflect the performance of the largest facilities in the leveraged loan market. **Bloomberg U.S. Municipal Index** - Covers the USD-denominated long-term tax-exempt bond market of the following maturities: 7 Year (6-8) and Long Bond (22+). **3-, 5-, 10- and 30-Year U.S. Treasuries** - The most recently issued U.S. Treasury bonds or notes of a particular maturity. Indexes are unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

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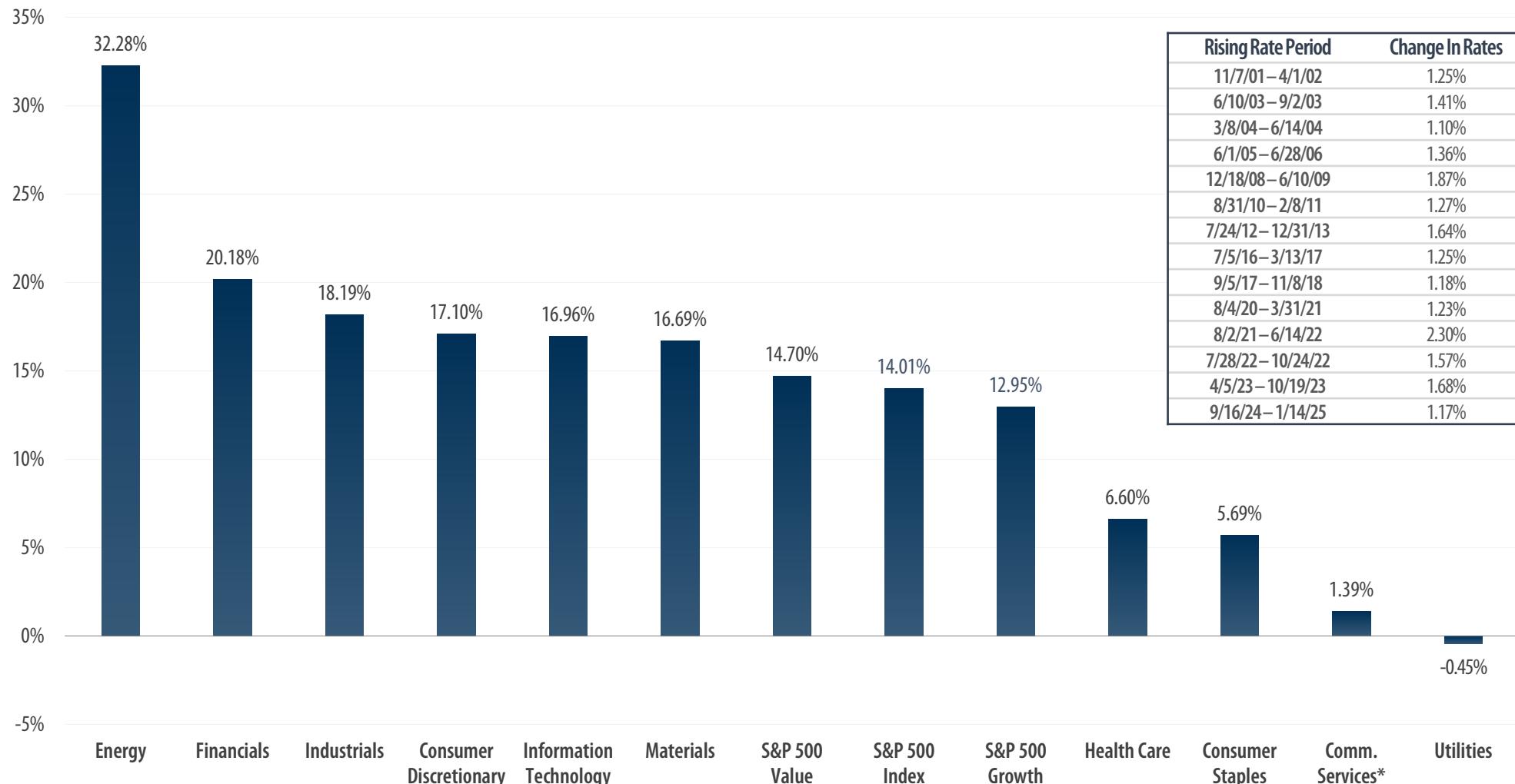
HISTORICAL IMPACT OF RISING RATES ON U.S. EQUITY SECTORS

| Rising Rate Period | Change In Rates | Consumer Staples | Utilities | Comm. Services* | Health Care | Information Technology | Financials | Industrials | Energy | Materials | Consumer Discretionary | S&P 500 Growth | S&P 500 Value | S&P 500 Index |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|-----------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 11/7/01–4/1/02 | 1.25% | 8.78% | 0.90% | -14.47% | 0.25% | -3.42% | 5.58% | 5.17% | 11.78% | 14.12% | 9.99% | 2.31% | 4.15% | 3.32% |
| 6/10/03–9/2/03 | 1.41% | 1.73% | -2.32% | -3.04% | -2.51% | 11.91% | 3.00% | 7.00% | 1.05% | 11.19% | 7.81% | 4.34% | 4.02% | 4.18% |
| 3/8/04–6/14/04 | 1.10% | 0.50% | -4.19% | -5.44% | -1.74% | -0.10% | -5.45% | 3.73% | 0.94% | -4.45% | -1.08% | -0.24% | -2.65% | -1.47% |
| 6/1/05–6/28/06 | 1.36% | 4.26% | 9.15% | 11.54% | -4.00% | -3.64% | 10.99% | 9.06% | 26.36% | 12.12% | -0.20% | 0.73% | 10.97% | 5.72% |
| 12/18/08–6/10/09 | 1.87% | 0.46% | -2.76% | -3.64% | -1.80% | 26.95% | 1.23% | 4.54% | 10.33% | 21.62% | 12.96% | 12.49% | 2.38% | 7.56% |
| 8/31/10–2/8/11 | 1.27% | 12.70% | 6.34% | 14.94% | 16.15% | 33.91% | 26.02% | 34.22% | 44.92% | 33.09% | 30.07% | 27.86% | 26.76% | 27.28% |
| 7/24/12–12/31/13 | 1.64% | 29.03% | 9.08% | 14.08% | 52.77% | 32.90% | 58.26% | 55.70% | 33.12% | 39.37% | 60.20% | 39.76% | 46.13% | 42.60% |
| 7/5/16–3/13/17 | 1.25% | 1.54% | -1.55% | -4.08% | 6.25% | 28.15% | 37.84% | 18.03% | 3.12% | 16.38% | 12.52% | 13.97% | 16.56% | 15.36% |
| 9/5/17–11/8/18 | 1.18% | 6.48% | 4.17% | 3.58% | 17.81% | 25.99% | 15.53% | 8.95% | 11.85% | 4.20% | 25.96% | 21.15% | 12.17% | 16.78% |
| 8/4/20–3/31/21 | 1.23% | 9.79% | 7.95% | 25.10% | 11.32% | 17.66% | 44.05% | 37.98% | 37.62% | 31.24% | 17.28% | 16.56% | 27.19% | 21.46% |
| 8/2/21–6/14/22 | 2.30% | -0.16% | 2.05% | -32.44% | -7.91% | -17.43% | -13.25% | -13.40% | 78.69% | -4.94% | -25.16% | -21.15% | -5.94% | -13.73% |
| 7/28/22–10/24/22 | 1.57% | -5.55% | -12.37% | -10.47% | -2.55% | -10.88% | -1.34% | -3.67% | 18.35% | -6.24% | -7.87% | -8.94% | -3.87% | -6.37% |
| 4/5/23–10/19/23 | 1.68% | -7.98% | -14.00% | 20.00% | -2.65% | 14.44% | 3.66% | 2.83% | 7.79% | -3.45% | 8.23% | 8.37% | 2.14% | 5.47% |
| 9/16/24–1/14/25 | 1.17% | -6.62% | -2.90% | 13.25% | -10.13% | 5.84% | 7.89% | 3.16% | 6.23% | -7.12% | 17.69% | 8.41% | -1.64% | 4.15% |

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. As of 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Average total return for each period is shown. For each rising rate period, the returns are from the start of the period to the peak date of the 10-year yield before it fell at least 50 bps. The **S&P 500 Index** is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Sector Indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. *Comm. Services = Communication Services. As of 9/28/18, the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was reconstituted, and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

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AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN DURING RISING RATE PERIODS



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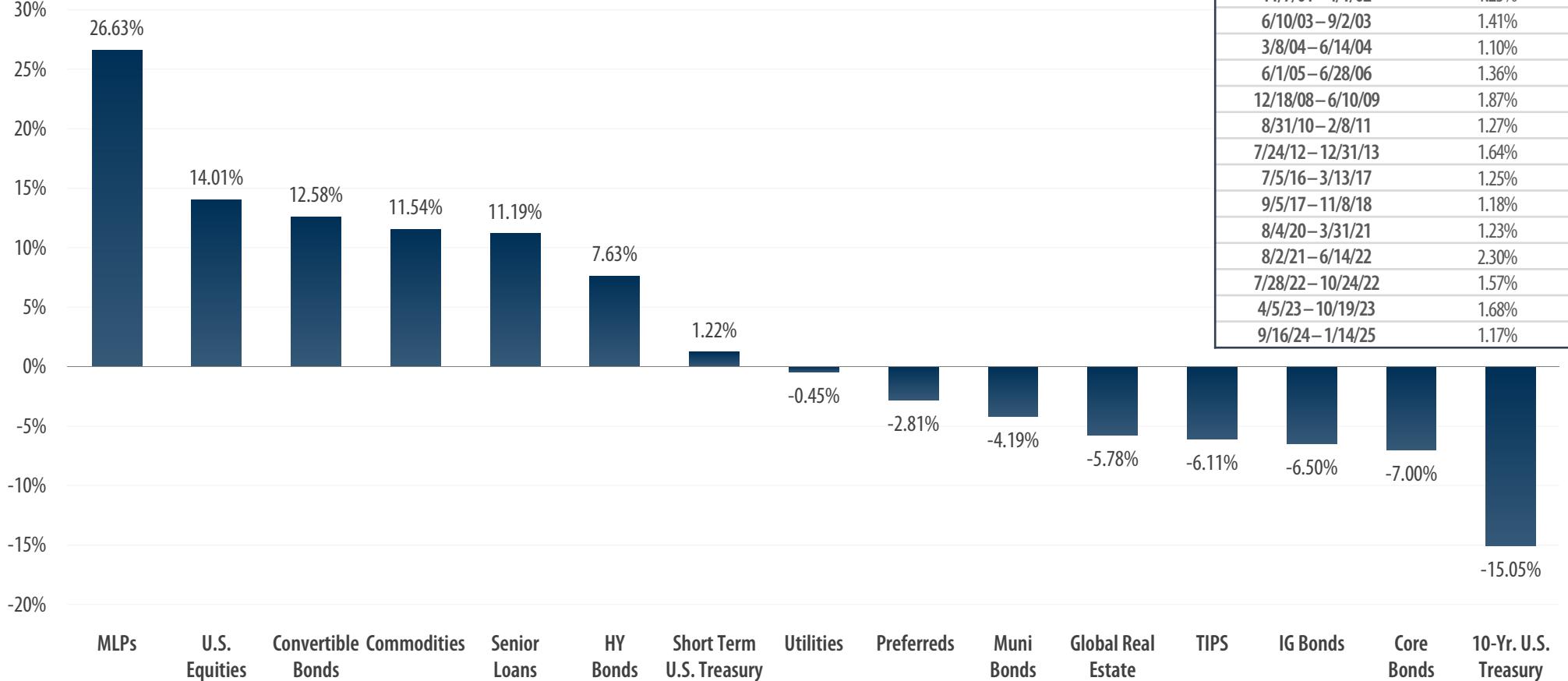
HISTORICAL IMPACT OF RISING RATES ON VARIOUS ASSET CLASSES

| Rising Rate Period | Change In Rates | U.S. Equities | Utilities | Commodities | Global Real Estate | MLPs | Convertible Bonds | Preferreds | IG Bonds | HY Bonds | Senior Loans | Core Bonds | Muni Bonds | Short Term U.S. Treas. | 10-Yr. U.S. Treas. | TIPS |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 11/7/01–4/1/02 | 1.25% | 3.32% | 0.90% | 14.75% | N/A | N/A | 2.00% | 0.61% | -2.65% | N/A | N/A | -2.44% | -1.55% | 0.63% | -7.48% | -2.68% |
| 6/10/03–9/2/03 | 1.41% | 4.18% | -2.32% | -1.24% | N/A | N/A | 1.75% | -1.44% | -5.34% | 1.60% | N/A | -4.20% | -4.09% | 0.15% | -9.53% | -5.97% |
| 3/8/04–6/14/04 | 1.10% | -1.47% | -4.19% | 0.91% | N/A | N/A | -3.19% | -4.95% | -4.96% | -2.06% | N/A | -4.03% | -4.49% | 0.03% | -7.14% | -4.56% |
| 6/1/05–6/28/06 | 1.36% | 5.72% | 9.15% | 14.17% | N/A | N/A | 8.87% | 0.99% | -2.53% | 5.01% | N/A | -1.28% | 1.02% | 3.73% | -6.53% | -3.22% |
| 12/18/08–6/10/09 | 1.87% | 7.56% | -2.76% | 14.37% | -2.94% | 34.68% | 24.92% | 8.24% | 6.59% | 39.60% | 34.00% | -0.14% | 8.30% | 0.22% | -13.19% | 1.72% |
| 8/31/10–2/8/11 | 1.27% | 27.28% | 6.34% | 24.59% | 18.84% | 19.61% | 18.48% | 2.89% | -1.93% | 9.12% | 7.20% | -2.36% | -5.54% | 0.12% | -8.65% | -1.62% |
| 7/24/12–12/31/13 | 1.64% | 42.60% | 9.08% | -11.42% | 5.39% | 28.57% | 36.37% | -1.21% | 0.95% | 14.66% | 9.42% | -1.71% | -1.21% | 0.27% | -9.35% | -7.71% |
| 7/5/16–3/13/17 | 1.25% | 15.36% | -1.55% | -3.21% | -8.27% | 7.93% | 12.93% | 0.38% | -2.53% | 8.55% | 6.55% | -3.68% | -3.81% | 0.25% | -9.67% | -2.78% |
| 9/5/17–11/8/18 | 1.18% | 16.78% | 4.17% | -0.48% | 1.83% | 1.39% | 9.28% | -0.54% | -3.02% | 2.74% | 5.57% | -2.92% | -1.11% | 1.81% | -7.07% | -2.38% |
| 8/4/20–3/31/21 | 1.23% | 21.46% | 7.95% | 18.35% | 11.66% | 35.95% | 28.41% | 3.96% | -3.30% | 7.16% | 7.78% | -3.70% | 0.86% | 0.11% | -9.99% | 0.51% |
| 8/2/21–6/14/22 | 2.30% | -13.73% | 2.05% | 35.19% | -15.90% | 21.74% | -20.28% | -14.71% | -16.97% | -11.87% | -1.08% | -13.77% | -10.41% | -0.51% | -16.99% | -8.01% |
| 7/28/22–10/24/22 | 1.57% | -6.37% | -12.37% | -6.51% | -21.26% | 4.52% | -3.52% | -8.77% | -9.76% | -4.55% | 0.07% | -9.36% | -6.40% | 0.17% | -11.80% | -8.03% |
| 4/5/23–10/19/23 | 1.68% | 5.47% | -14.00% | 2.38% | -10.23% | 16.72% | 0.43% | -4.16% | -6.24% | 0.47% | 6.52% | -7.29% | -5.53% | 2.45% | -11.06% | -5.58% |
| 9/16/24–1/14/25 | 1.17% | 4.15% | -2.90% | 7.77% | -11.74% | 10.09% | 5.21% | -4.06% | -4.41% | 0.79% | 2.91% | -4.82% | -1.98% | 1.42% | -7.71% | -3.57% |

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AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN DURING RISING RATE PERIODS



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