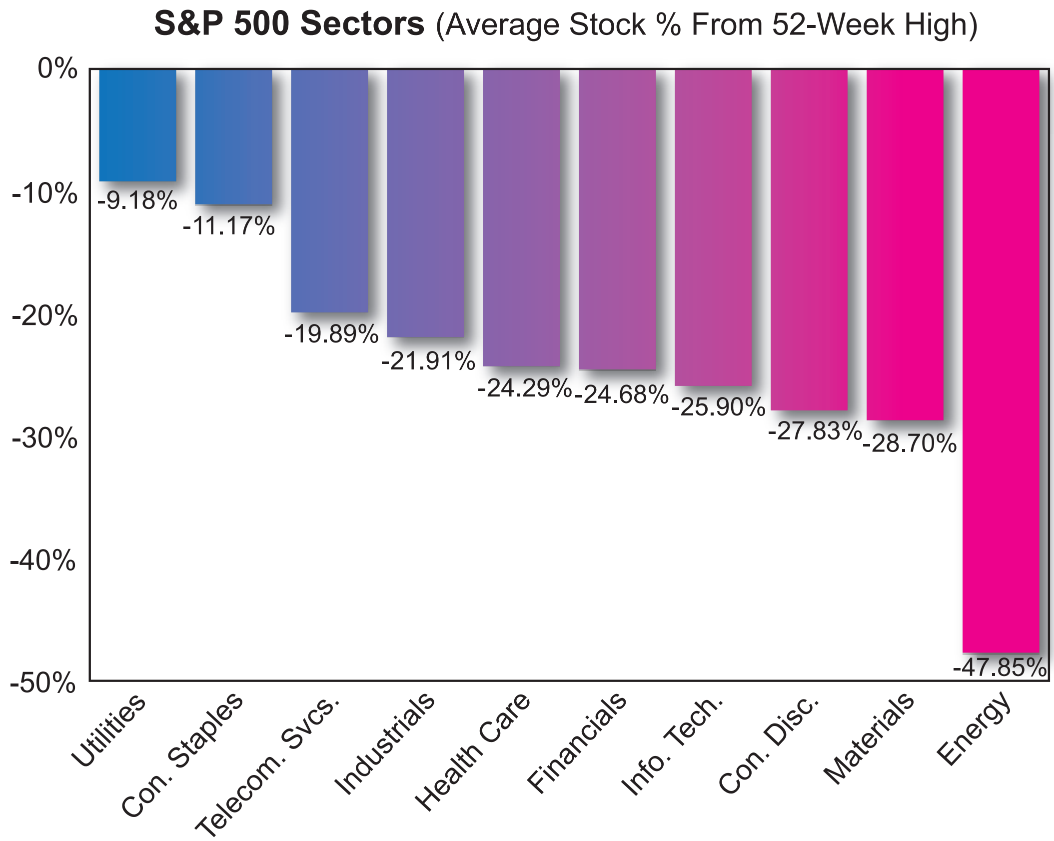
The Average Stock In The S&P 500 Index May Be Down More Than You Think



Source: Bloomberg. As of 2/12/16.

View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post is an update of a previous one. Investors can compare today's snapshot to the one we did on 1/7/16 (click here to view).
2. The S&P 500 Index, which is capitalization-weighted, posted a total return of -8.79% for the 12-month period ended 2/12/16, according to Bloomberg. On a price-only basis, which excludes dividends, the index was down 10.71%.
3. The averages in the chart simply reflect where each of the 500 stocks stood, by sector, relative to their 52-week high as of 2/12/16. Their respective cap-weightings were not factored into the calculations.
4. As of 2/12/16, the S&P 500 Index, on a cap-weighted basis, stood 12.49% below its all-time high of 2130.82, which was established on 5/21/15.
5. As indicated by the percentages in the chart, the three sectors reflecting the least damage over the past 52 weeks are all considered to be defensive in nature.

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