

Open-End Net Fund Flows (\$)	3/22	2/22	YTD (Mar)
Equity	-20.82B	-8.30B	-46.57B
Taxable Bond	-29.91B	-23.98B	-63.80B
Municipal Bond	-14.63B	-10.49B	-28.67B
Hybrid	-6.36B	-3.12B	-10.59B
Taxable Money Market	9.24B	-36.20B	-162.58B

Key Interest Rates	4/29/22	12/31/21	4/30/21
Federal Funds Target Rate	0.50%	0.25%	0.25%
2-Year T-Note	2.72%	0.73%	0.16%
5-Year T-Note	2.96%	1.26%	0.85%
10-Year T-Note	2.94%	1.51%	1.63%
Bond Buyer 40	4.29%	3.45%	3.46%

Commodities/U.S. Dollar	4/22	YTD	12 Mo.
U.S. Dollar Index (DXY)	4.73%	7.62%	12.80%
Refinitiv/CC CRB Excess Ret.	4.43%	32.66%	54.32%
Crude Oil/WTI (per Barrel)	4.40%	39.20%	64.66%
Natural Gas (per million BTUs)	28.37%	94.10%	147.10%
Gold Bullion (Ounce)	-1.92%	4.54%	8.15%

Total Return Performance

U.S. Stock Indices	4/22	YTD	12 Mo.
S&P 500	-8.72%	-12.92%	0.20%
DJIA	-4.82%	-8.73%	-0.82%
NASDAQ 100	-13.34%	-21.06%	-6.61%
S&P MidCap 400	-7.11%	-11.65%	-7.06%
Russell 2000	-9.91%	-16.70%	-16.90%
Russell 3000	-8.97%	-13.78%	-3.13%

U.S. Styles/Market Caps	4/22	YTD	12 Mo.
S&P 500 Growth	-12.48%	-20.00%	-3.24%
S&P 500 Value	-4.86%	-5.02%	3.22%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-7.62%	-15.99%	-11.66%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-6.62%	-7.19%	-2.34%
Russell 2000 Growth	-12.27%	-23.35%	-26.46%
Russell 2000 Value	-7.76%	-9.98%	-6.63%

Foreign Stock Indices (USD)	4/22	YTD	12 Mo.
MSCI World NET (Ex-U.S.)	-6.57%	-11.06%	-6.66%
MSCI Emerging Markets NET	-5.56%	-12.15%	-18.33%
MSCI Europe NET	-5.75%	-12.69%	-6.69%
MSCI BRIC NET	-4.57%	-17.24%	-27.43%
MSCI EM Latin America NET	-12.98%	10.74%	3.67%
Nikkei 225	-10.43%	-17.26%	-20.79%

Bloomberg Fixed Income Ind.	4/22	YTD	12 Mo.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-1.60%	-5.74%	-6.06%
GNMA 30 Year	-3.24%	-7.25%	-8.02%
Municipal Bond (22+)	-4.62%	-12.87%	-10.92%
U.S. Aggregate	-3.79%	-9.50%	-8.51%
Intermediate Corporate	-2.88%	-7.99%	-7.55%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	-3.56%	-8.22%	-5.22%
Global Aggregate	-5.48%	-11.30%	-12.63%
EM Hard Currency Aggregate	-4.92%	-14.27%	-14.55%

Sources: Bloomberg and Investment Company Institute

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Historical performance figures for the indices are for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Indices are unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly in an index.

Climate

The Federal Reserve ("Fed") is expected to boost its federal funds target rate by 50 basis points to 1.00% (upper end of its range) on 5/4/22. Based on year-to-date performance figures, the poor showing in the stock and bond markets indicates that they have already priced in this rate hike, and perhaps others, in our opinion. On 5/4/22, we suspect that investors will be more interested in hearing the Fed's guidance for June's meeting and beyond. While stocks and bonds have been hit hard so far in 2022, the housing market has managed to avoid such shocks. Home prices, despite the jump in mortgage rates, remain elevated due to low inventory levels. Unless home prices fall, one would think that rising mortgage rates are eventually going to price a lot of prospective buyers out of the market.

Stock Market

The S&P 500 Index ("index") closed April 2022 at 4,131.93, 13.86% below its all-time closing high of 4,796.56 on 1/3/22, according to Bloomberg. The S&P MidCap 400 and S&P SmallCap 600 Indices stood 14.10% and 17.14%, respectively, below their record closing highs as of month-end. All three major stock indices are in correction territory. A correction is usually defined as a 10.00% to 19.99% decline in the price of a security or index from its most recent peak. Keep in mind, prior to 2020, there were 26 market corrections since World War II, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, with an average decline of 13.7%, according to Goldman Sachs and CNBC. The average recovery period was approximately four months. In April 2022, the S&P 500 Index posted a total return of -8.72%. Only one of the 11 major sectors that comprise the index was up on a total return basis. The top-performer was Consumer Staples, up 2.56%, while the worst showing came from Communication Services, down 15.62%. The index posted a total return of -12.92% year-to-date through 4/29/22. This is the worst start to a calendar year for the index at this point since World War II, according to CFRA Research chief investment strategist Sam Stovall. Three of the 11 major sectors were up on a total return basis. The index's top performer was Energy, up 36.85%, while the worst showing came from Communication Services, down 25.68%. One potential silver lining in the current climate is that many of our largest corporations are holding a lot of cash. In Q4'21, S&P 500 Industrials (Old) cash and equivalents stood at \$1.80 trillion. The all-time high was \$1.89 trillion, set in Q4'20. This figure excludes cash held by Financials, Utilities, and Transportation companies. That is a lot of dry powder that could potentially reward shareholders with stock buybacks and dividend payouts moving forward, in our opinion.

Bond Market

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note (T-note) closed trading on 4/29/22 at 2.94%, up 60 basis points (bps) from its 2.34% close on 3/31/22, according to Bloomberg. The 2.94% yield stood 90 bps above its 2.04% average for the 10-year period ended 4/29/22. As indicated in the table (Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices), bond returns are down markedly across the board this year. In fact, global bonds just posted one of their worst months ever, due largely to rising interest rates and bond yields, according to Bloomberg. The Bloomberg Global-Aggregate Total Return Index of investment-grade debt (not in table) declined 5.48% on a total return basis in April, one of the largest monthly declines since the index's inception in 1990. Bond yields are starting to normalize worldwide. As of 4/25/22, all of the outstanding investment-grade corporate debt yielded 0% or higher. No more negative-yielding corporate debt. Some negative-yielding government debt remains but it is relatively small. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Negative Yielding Debt Index declined from \$11.31 trillion on 12/31/21 to \$2.78 trillion (all government bonds) as of 4/29/22. The index's all-time high was \$18.38 trillion on 12/11/20. Despite inflicting some significant short-term pain on fixed-income investors, the normalization of interest rates and bond yields are a long-term positive, especially when you factor in the damage high inflation can cause, in our opinion.

Takeaway

The Fed has a lot of work to do. We believe that it is behind the curve with respect to mitigating inflation. The war between Russia and Ukraine is making the Fed's job even tougher, particularly in the areas of food and energy. Rising costs and potential shortages are only adding to the economic fallout from existing global supply-chain bottlenecks, and said bottlenecks could become even bigger if the COVID-19 outbreak in China grows. Robust inflation is now a daily headwind for the average citizen. Brian Wesbury, Chief Economist at First Trust Advisors L.P., has said for many years that the Fed's attempts at tightening monetary policy have only resulted in the Fed being less loose. Stay tuned!

Data as of 4/29/22

Index	10-Yr. High Value	Date	10-Yr. Low Value	Date	Month-End Value	% Off High Value	YTD Return (USD)	Month-End Yield
S&P 500	4796.56	1/3/2022	1278.05	6/1/2012	4131.93	-13.86%	-12.92%	1.51%
S&P 500 Growth	3423.28	12/27/2021	696.49	6/1/2012	2695.15	-21.27%	-20.00%	0.85%
S&P 500 Value	1571.24	1/12/2022	572.94	6/4/2012	1461.22	-7.00%	-5.02%	2.13%
S&P MidCap 400	2910.70	11/16/2021	891.32	6/4/2012	2500.26	-14.10%	-11.65%	1.62%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	1427.19	11/16/2021	409.95	6/4/2012	1160.57	-18.68%	-15.99%	1.15%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	908.15	11/15/2021	304.28	6/4/2012	820.78	-9.62%	-7.19%	2.06%
S&P 100	2219.44	1/3/2022	583.83	6/1/2012	1879.57	-15.31%	-13.97%	1.50%
DJIA	36799.65	1/4/2022	12101.46	6/4/2012	32977.21	-10.39%	-8.73%	1.96%
NASDAQ 100	16573.34	11/19/2021	2458.83	6/1/2012	12854.80	-22.44%	-21.06%	0.81%
Russell 2000	2442.74	11/8/2021	737.24	6/4/2012	1864.10	-23.69%	-16.70%	1.44%
Russell 2000 Growth	1709.62	2/9/2021	423.22	6/1/2012	1140.88	-33.27%	-23.35%	0.66%
Russell 2000 Value	2643.45	11/8/2021	972.37	6/4/2012	2230.33	-15.63%	-9.98%	2.11%
Russell 3000	2804.93	1/3/2022	754.11	6/4/2012	2393.63	-14.66%	-13.78%	1.50%
MSCI World Net (ex U.S.) (USD)	7936.92	9/6/2021	3452.12	6/4/2012	6923.96	-12.76%	-11.06%	2.95%
MSCI Emerging Markets Net (USD)	699.23	2/17/2021	296.25	1/21/2016	534.36	-23.58%	-12.15%	2.72%
Ibovespa/Brazil (USD)	32688.40	4/30/2012	9077.09	1/21/2016	21931.41	-32.91%	16.75%	8.74%
RTS/Russia (USD)	1919.58	10/25/2021	628.41	1/20/2016	1081.52	-43.66%	-31.87%	9.39%
S&P BSE 500/India (USD)	337.94	1/13/2022	95.89	9/3/2013	307.68	-8.96%	-3.48%	1.16%
Shanghai Composite/China (USD)	832.07	6/12/2015	314.68	12/3/2012	461.08	-44.59%	-19.45%	2.34%
KOSPI/South Korea (USD)	2.93	6/16/2021	1.16	3/19/2020	2.14	-27.14%	-14.41%	1.97%
Hang Seng (USD)	4241.01	1/26/2018	2343.90	6/4/2012	2687.74	-36.62%	-10.11%	2.89%
MSCI Euro (USD)	1705.00	9/6/2021	814.62	6/1/2012	1352.29	-20.69%	-17.54%	2.77%
S&P 500 Consumer Discretionary	1673.27	11/19/2021	329.22	6/1/2012	1272.15	-23.97%	-20.85%	0.73%
S&P 500 Consumer Staples	841.99	4/20/2022	341.55	6/1/2012	810.50	-3.74%	1.53%	2.39%
S&P 500 Energy	737.09	6/23/2014	179.94	3/18/2020	572.41	-22.34%	36.85%	3.45%
S&P 500 Utilities	390.94	4/8/2022	171.80	11/15/2012	361.88	-7.43%	0.32%	2.94%
S&P 500 Financials	688.85	1/12/2022	179.47	6/4/2012	573.70	-16.72%	-11.21%	1.97%
S&P 500 Banks	461.87	1/12/2022	138.93	6/4/2012	339.81	-26.43%	-17.98%	2.85%
FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs	980.08	12/31/2021	462.00	6/4/2012	887.28	-9.47%	-8.73%	2.99%
S&P 500 Health Care	1664.59	4/8/2022	409.97	6/1/2012	1518.45	-8.78%	-7.16%	1.55%
S&P 500 Pharmaceuticals	1002.58	4/8/2022	334.18	6/1/2012	955.66	-4.68%	0.66%	2.37%
NYSE Arca Biotechnology	6319.77	2/8/2021	1380.02	6/4/2012	4631.80	-26.71%	-16.01%	0.45%
S&P 500 Information Technology	3107.46	12/27/2021	436.56	6/1/2012	2478.00	-20.26%	-18.70%	0.93%
Philadelphia Semiconductor	4039.51	12/27/2021	351.45	7/17/2012	2919.74	-27.72%	-25.78%	1.35%
S&P 500 Communication Services	288.46	9/1/2021	130.86	12/24/2018	198.03	-31.35%	-25.68%	1.05%
S&P 500 Industrials	905.63	1/4/2022	288.15	6/4/2012	804.56	-11.16%	-9.71%	1.57%
S&P 500 Materials	569.63	12/31/2021	206.38	5/18/2012	533.97	-6.26%	-5.79%	1.83%
Philadelphia Gold & Silver	195.20	9/21/2012	38.84	1/19/2016	142.61	-26.94%	8.19%	1.79%
Refinitiv/CC CRB Excess Return	320.92	9/14/2012	106.29	4/21/2020	308.27	-3.94%	32.66%	N/A
ICE BofA Perpetual Preferred	319.67	9/22/2021	170.24	5/18/2012	279.24	-12.65%	-11.79%	5.65%
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained	522.13	12/28/2021	283.38	6/5/2012	480.23	-8.02%	-7.98%	7.05%

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