

# When Headlines Worry You, Bank on Investment Principles

First quarter 2023

Dimensional Fund Advisors

On Friday, March 10, regulators took control of Silicon Valley Bank as a run on the bank unfolded. Two days later, regulators took control of a second lender, Signature Bank. With increasing anxiety, many investors are eyeing their portfolios for exposure to these and other regional banks.

Rather than rummaging through your portfolio looking for trouble when headlines make you anxious, turn instead to your investment plan. Hopefully, your plan is designed with your long-term goals in mind and is based on principles that you can stick with, given your personal risk tolerances. While every investor's plan is a bit different, ignoring headlines and focusing on the following time-tested principles may help you avoid making shortsighted missteps.

## 1. Uncertainty Is Unavoidable

Remember that uncertainty is nothing new and investing comes with risks. Consider the events of the last three years alone: a global pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, spiking inflation, and ongoing recession fears. In other words, it may have seemed as if there were plenty of reasons to panic. Despite these concerns, for the three years ending February 28, 2023, the Russell 3000 Index (a broad market-capitalization-weighted index of public US companies) returned an annualized 11.79%, slightly

outpacing its average annualized returns of 11.65% since inception in January 1979. The past three years certainly make a case for weathering short-term ups and downs and sticking with your plan.

## 2. Market Timing Is Futile

Inevitably, when events turn bleak and headlines warn of worse to come, some investors' thoughts turn to market timing. The idea of using short-term strategies to avoid near-term pain without missing out on long-term gains is seductive, but research repeatedly demonstrates that timing strategies are not effective. The impact of miscalculating your timing strategy can far outweigh the perceived benefits.

## 3. "Diversification Is Your Buddy"

Nobel laureate Merton Miller famously used to say, "Diversification is your buddy." Thanks to financial innovations over the last century in the form of mutual funds, and later ETFs, most investors can access broadly diversified investment strategies at very low costs. While not all risks—including a systemic risk such as an economic recession—can be diversified away (see Principle 1 above), diversification is still an incredibly effective tool for reducing many risks investors face.

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In particular, diversification can reduce the potential pain caused by the poor performance of a single company, industry, or country.<sup>1</sup> As of February 28, Silicon Valley Bank (SIVB) represented just 0.04% of the Russell 3000, while regional banks represented approximately 1.70%.<sup>2</sup> For investors with globally diversified portfolios, exposure to SIVB and other US-based regional banks likely was significantly smaller. If buddying up with diversification is part of your investment plan, headline moments can help drive home the long-term benefits of your approach.

When the unexpected happens, many investors feel like they should be doing something with their portfolios. Often, headlines and pundits stoke these sentiments with predictions of more doom and gloom. For the long-term investor, however, planning for what can happen is far more powerful than trying to predict what will happen.

1. Consider that a study of single stock performance in the US from 1927 to 2020 illustrated that the survival of any given stock is far from guaranteed. The study found that on average for 20-year rolling periods, about 18% of US stocks went through a “bad” delisting. The authors note that delisting events can be “good” or “bad” depending on the experience for investors. For example, a stock delisting due to a merger would be a good delist, as the shareholders of that stock would be compensated during the acquisition. On the other hand, a firm that delists due to its deteriorating financial condition would be a bad delist since it is an adverse outcome for investors. Given these results, there is a good case to avoid concentrated exposure to a single company. Source: “Singed Out: Historical Performance of Individual Stocks” (Dimensional Fund Advisors, 2022).

2. Regional banks weight reflects the weight of the “Regional Banks” GICS Sub-Industry. GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global.

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# Quarterly Market Summary



















## Index returns

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q1 2023	STOCKS				BONDS	
	7.18%	8.02%	3.96%	1.37%	2.96%	2.86%
						
Since Jan. 2001						
Average Quarterly Return	2.2%	1.5%	2.5%	2.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Best Quarter	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	4.6%	4.6%
	<b>2020 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q3</b>	<b>2001 Q3</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-5.9%	-4.1%
	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2020 Q1</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2022 Q1</b>	<b>2022 Q1</b>

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net dividends]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net dividends]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net dividends]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2023 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2023, all rights reserved. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg.

# Long-Term Market Summary

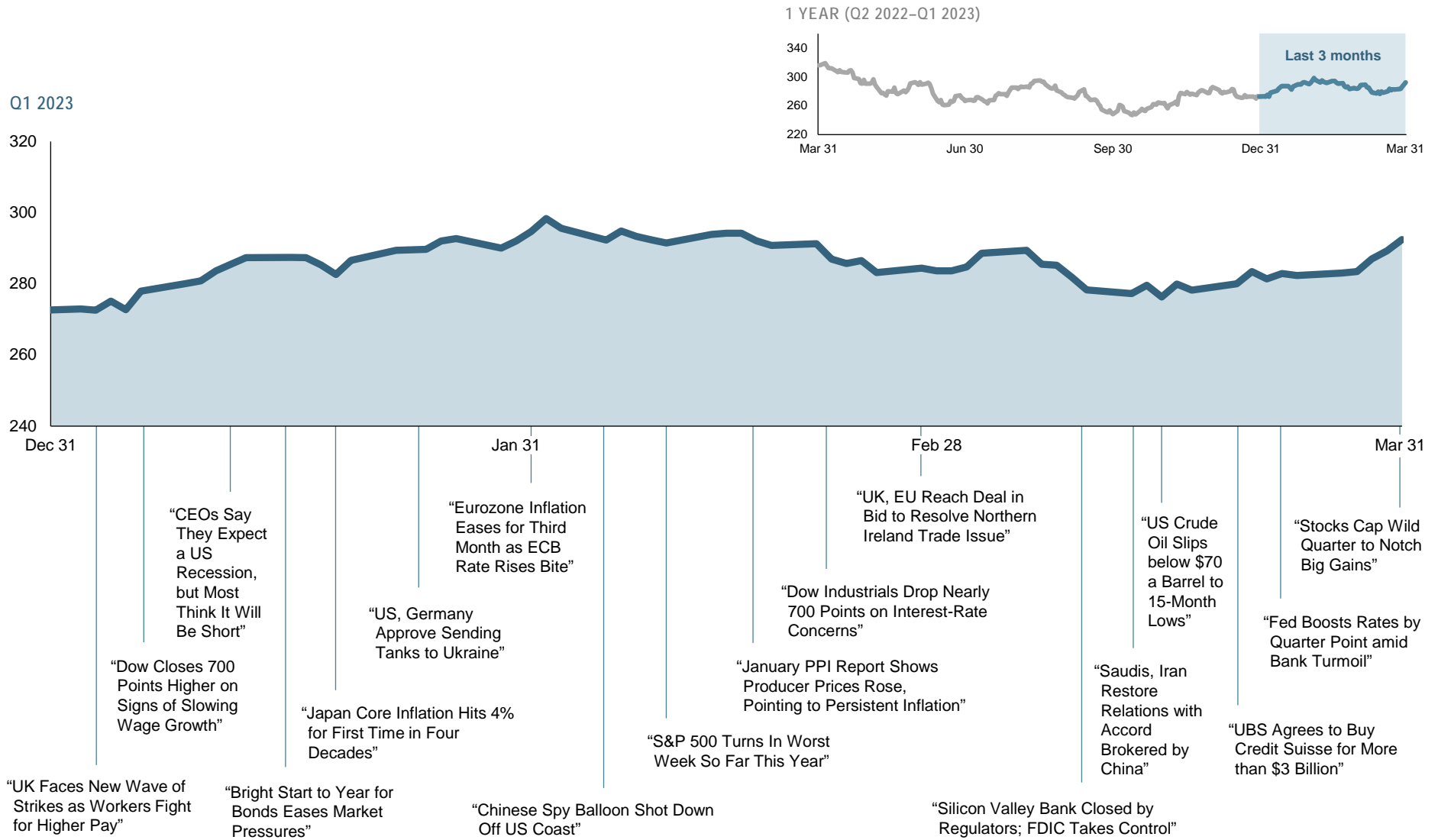
Index returns as of March 31, 2023

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1 Year	STOCKS				BONDS	
	-8.58%	-2.74%	-10.70%	-20.29%	-4.78%	-3.27%
						
5 Years						
	10.45%	3.80%	-0.91%	2.41%	0.91%	0.90%
						
10 Years						
	11.73%	4.91%	2.00%	3.26%	1.36%	2.28%
						

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net dividends]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net dividends]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net dividends]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2023 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2023, all rights reserved. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg.

# World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q1 2023



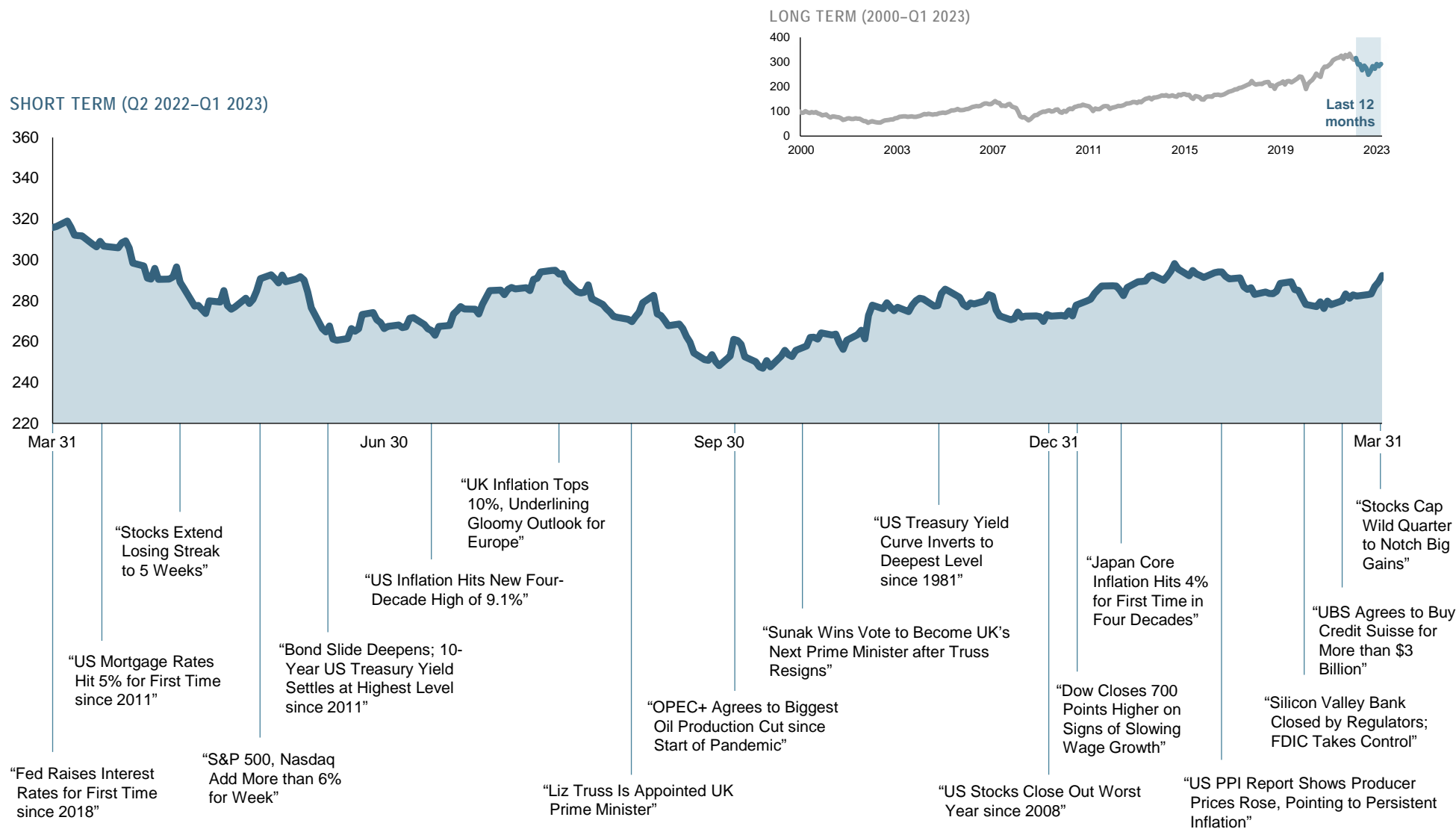
*These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.*

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index (net dividends). MSCI data © MSCI 2023, all rights reserved. Index level based at 100 starting January 2000.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

# World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from past 12 months




*These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.*

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index (net dividends). MSCI data © MSCI 2023, all rights reserved. Index level based at 100 starting January 2000.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

# Randomness Of Market Returns

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<p>Highest Return</p>   <p>Lowest Return</p>	US REIT 27.40%	US REIT 0.80%	Commodity 9.86%	Emerging Markets 34.35%	US Bonds 0.01%	Large Cap US 28.88%	Large Cap US 18.40%	Commodity 40.35%	Commodity 25.99%	International Developed 7.65%
	Large Cap US 11.40%	US Bonds 0.55%	US REIT 8.90%	International Developed 25.03%	Large Cap US -6.20%	US REIT 25.84%	Small Cap US 18.36%	US REIT 35.55%	Global Allocation -12.08%	Large Cap US 7.50%
	US Bonds 5.97%	Large Cap US -0.73%	US Bonds 5.31%	Large Cap US 19.40%	Global Allocation -6.41%	Small Cap US 23.72%	Emerging Markets 15.84%	Large Cap US 28.71%	US Bonds -13.01%	Global Allocation 4.24%
	Global Allocation 3.71%	International Developed -0.81%	Emerging Markets 5.03%	Global Allocation 14.04%	US REIT -8.00%	International Developed 18.44%	Global Allocation 10.12%	Small Cap US 13.70%	International Developed -16.79%	Emerging Markets 3.55%
	Small Cap US 3.50%	Global Allocation -1.74%	Global Allocation 9.16%	Small Cap US 13.10%	Small Cap US -12.20%	Global Allocation 18.17%	US Bonds 7.51%	Global Allocation 13.52%	Large Cap US -18.11%	US Bonds 2.96%
	Emerging Markets -4.63%	Small Cap US -5.70%	Large Cap US 2.70%	Commodity 5.77%	International Developed -13.79%	Commodity 17.63%	International Developed 5.43%	International Developed 8.78%	Small Cap US -21.56%	Small Cap US 2.34%
	International Developed -4.90%	Emerging Markets -16.96%	Small Cap US 1.40%	US Bonds 3.54%	Commodity -13.82%	Emerging Markets 15.42%	US REIT -9.32%	US Bonds -1.54%	Emerging Markets -22.37%	US REIT .47%
	Commodity -33.06%	Commodity -32.86%	International Developed -4.42%	US REIT -0.10%	Emerging Markets -16.64%	US Bonds 8.72%	Commodity -23.72%	Emerging Markets -4.59%	US REIT -27.89%	Commodity -4.94%

Large Cap US is defined as the S&P 500 Index, Small Cap US is defined as the Russel I 2000 Index, US Reit is defined as the Dow Jones US Select REIT Index, International Developed is defined as MSCI EAFE Index, Emerging Markets is defined as the MSCI Emerging Index, Commodity is defined as the S&P GSCI and US Bonds are Defined as the BarCap US Agg Bond Index. Indexes are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Global Allocation is defined as the DFA 60/40 Global Allocation Fund Institutional Shares.