

# No Asset Class Wins All the Time

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Creating a winning portfolio is not easy. Just look at the chart below. We know, there are a lot of colors! But as they say, a picture tells a thousand words.



Motley Fool  
Wealth Management

In order of best to worst performing, this chart ranks all the asset classes for the last 15 years through March 31, 2024.\*

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD
EM Equity 79.0%	REITs 27.9%	REITs 8.3%	REITs 19.7%	Small Cap 38.8%	REITs 28.0%	REITs 2.8%	Small Cap 21.3%	EM Equity 37.8%	Cash 1.8%	Large Cap 31.5%	Small Cap 20.0%	REITs 41.3%	Comdty. 16.1%	Large Cap 26.3%	Large Cap 10.6%
High Yield 59.4%	Small Cap 26.9%	Fixed Income 7.8%	High Yield 19.6%	Large Cap 32.4%	Large Cap 13.7%	Large Cap 1.4%	High Yield 14.3%	DM Equity 25.6%	Fixed Income 0.0%	REITs 28.7%	EM Equity 18.7%	Large Cap 28.7%	Cash 1.5%	DM Equity 18.9%	DM Equity 5.8%
DM Equity 32.5%	EM Equity 19.2%	High Yield 3.1%	EM Equity 18.6%	DM Equity 23.3%	Fixed Income 6.0%	Fixed Income 0.5%	Large Cap 12.0%	Large Cap 21.8%	REITs -4.0%	Small Cap 25.5%	Large Cap 18.4%	Comdty. 27.1%	High Yield -12.7%	Small Cap 16.9%	Small Cap 5.2%
REITs 28.0%	Comdty. 16.8%	Large Cap 2.1%	DM Equity 17.9%	Asset Alloc. 14.9%	Asset Alloc. 5.2%	Cash 0.0%	Comdty. 11.8%	Small Cap 14.6%	High Yield -4.1%	DM Equity 22.7%	Asset Alloc. 10.6%	Small Cap 14.8%	Fixed Income -13.0%	Asset Alloc. 14.1%	Asset Alloc. 4.2%
Small Cap 27.2%	Large Cap 15.1%	Cash 0.1%	Small Cap 16.3%	High Yield 7.3%	Small Cap 4.9%	DM Equity -0.4%	EM Equity 11.6%	Asset Alloc. 14.6%	Large Cap -4.4%	Asset Alloc. 19.5%	DM Equity 8.3%	Asset Alloc. 13.5%	Asset Alloc. -13.9%	High Yield 14.0%	Comdty. 2.2%
Large Cap 26.5%	High Yield 14.8%	Asset Alloc. -0.7%	Large Cap 16.0%	REITs 2.9%	Cash 0.0%	Asset Alloc. -2.0%	REITs 8.6%	High Yield 10.4%	Asset Alloc. -5.8%	EM Equity 18.9%	Fixed Income 7.5%	DM Equity 11.8%	DM Equity -14.0%	REITs 11.4%	EM Equity 2.2%
Asset Alloc. 25.0%	Asset Alloc. 13.3%	Small Cap -4.2%	Asset Alloc. 12.2%	Cash 0.0%	High Yield 0.0%	High Yield -2.7%	Asset Alloc. 8.3%	REITs 8.7%	Small Cap -11.0%	High Yield 12.6%	High Yield 7.0%	High Yield 1.0%	Large Cap -18.1%	EM Equity 10.3%	High Yield 2.1%
Comdty. 18.9%	DM Equity 8.2%	DM Equity -11.7%	Fixed Income 4.2%	Fixed Income -2.0%	EM Equity -1.8%	Small Cap -4.4%	Fixed Income 2.6%	Fixed Income 3.5%	Comdty. -11.2%	Fixed Income 8.7%	Cash 0.5%	Cash 0.0%	EM Equity -19.7%	Fixed Income 5.5%	Cash 1.3%
Fixed Income 5.9%	Fixed Income 6.5%	Comdty. -13.3%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -2.3%	DM Equity -4.5%	EM Equity -14.6%	DM Equity 1.5%	Comdty. 1.7%	DM Equity -13.4%	Comdty. 7.7%	Comdty. -3.1%	Fixed Income -1.5%	Small Cap -20.4%	Cash 5.1%	Fixed Income -0.8%
Cash 0.1%	Cash 0.1%	EM Equity -18.2%	Comdty. -1.1%	Comdty. -9.5%	Comdty. -17.0%	Comdty. -24.7%	Cash 0.3%	Cash 0.8%	EM Equity -14.2%	Cash 2.2%	REITs -5.1%	EM Equity -2.2%	REITs -24.9%	Comdty. -7.9%	REITs -1.3%

No, your eyes are not deceiving you! Asset class winners are all over the map.

That's because market leadership is not static.

For example, in 2018, cash was king, but in 2019, it was in the basement. REITs won in 2021, sandwiched between two years of bottom performance—2020 and 2022.

The takeaway? There's no discernable pattern.

## So, how can your investment manager help to construct a portfolio that has the potential to perform well despite asset class rotation and market volatility?

Since asset class returns are over the map, we don't try to chase them from year to year.

Instead, we construct your portfolio based on your wealth goals. We consider the amount of risk you are willing and able to take on, the timing of your cash needs, and your overall goals to establish a well-diversified asset allocation. That way, we're not following last year's winners down the chart.

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Source:

\*Bloomberg, FactSet, MSCI, NAREIT, Russell, Standard & Poor's, JP Morgan Guide to the Markets. Data through March 31, 2024. See Notes in disclosure.

Disclosure

The MSCI High Dividend Yield Index aims to offer a higher-than-average dividend yield relative to the parent index that passes dividend sustainability and persistence screens. The MSCI Minimum Volatility Index optimizes the MSCI USA Index using an estimated security co-variance matrix to produce low absolute volatility for a given set of constraints. The MSCI Defensive Sectors Index includes: Consumer Staples, energy, Health Care and Utilities. The MSCI Cyclical Sectors Index contains: Consumer Discretionary, Communication Services, Financials, Industrials, Information Technology and Materials. Securities within the MSCI Momentum Index are selected based on a momentum value of 12-month and 6-month price performance. Constituents of the MSCI Sector Neutral Quality Index are selected based on stronger quality characteristics to their peers within the same GICS sector by using three main variables: high return on equity, low leverage and low earnings variability. Constituents of the MSCI Enhanced Value Index are based on three variables: price-to-book value, price-to-forward earnings and enterprise value to cash flow from operations. The Russell 2000 is used for small cap. The MSCI USA Diversified Multiple Factor Index aims to maximize exposure to four factors—Value, Momentum, Quality, and Size

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