

INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

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The following commentary comes from **MARKET ETHOS**.

The Million Dollar Question

By: Craig Basinger, Chris Kerlow, Derek Benedet, Shane Obata

All you really need to know is whether or not there will be a recession in the next six months. Ok, that is an exaggeration but bear with us.

Since about 1950, the average monthly return for the S&P 500 is about 0.7%. That works out to a decent 7.7% on an annualized compound basis and this does not include dividends (feel free to add 1.5% - 3.0%). Add a couple points for dividends and this demonstrates the power of compounding returns over the long term. During this period there were 11 recessions of varying durations and magnitudes with the most recent ending in June 2009.

It is common knowledge that the stock market is not a fan of recessions. Lower economic activity, credit risk, multiple compression, the list of recession symptoms is long, and the vast majority are not good for equities. So much so, the vast majority of bear markets roughly line up with recessions. While there are some exceptions, this is a good and intuitive general rule.

BW: This is an excellent article complete with informative graphs and charts. I highly recommend reading the complete article, which you can do HERE.

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Charts are sourced to Bloomberg unless otherwise noted.





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