



Berkshire

DIVIDEND STRATEGY

Berkshire Asset Management
46 Public Square, Suite 700
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570.825.2600

“Casual Friday” Commentary

Casual Friday: Blue Collar, Blue Chip & A "Little Patience" – April 28th, 2023

Good Morning,
#TGICF!

Blue Collar, Blue Chip:

Another low-drama week. VIX quiet, bond yields chill. That’s good. Markets appear in rally mode as talk of widespread bank failure remained quiescent. FRC put some bank fear back in the market but Microsoft’s AI rich earnings release created a rising but narrow market (again).

Are recession fears brewing? Maybe – Thursday’s top headline on Bloomberg read “Worst of Both Worlds - persistent inflation and slow growth.” Murky and borderline disheartening? Kinda. But a reminder: low stock prices and a rosy outlook typically don’t go together.

We’ve always said investors want to “buy low” until they see news that feels like what Axel Rose said was a cold November rain. But he also advocated: **“All we need is just a little patience”** ...

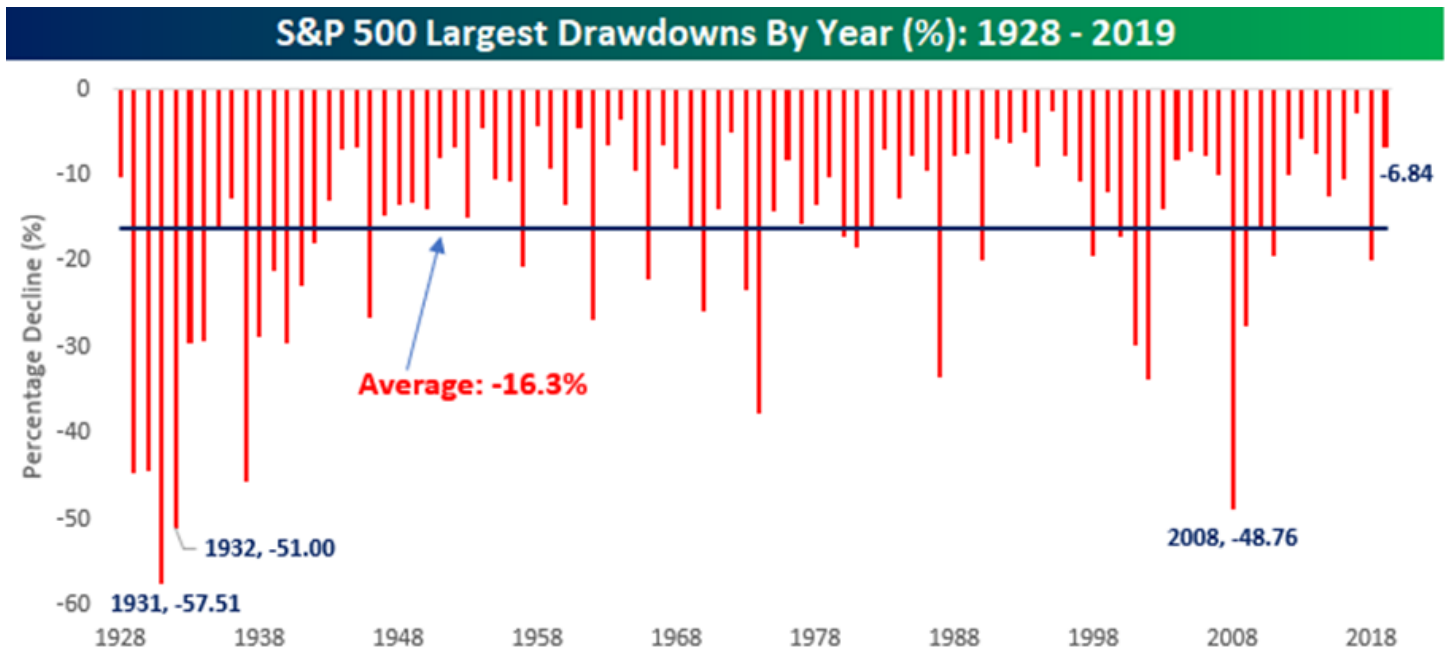
This was his tender attempt to buy more time to restore a struggling relationship that had long-term promise. And so, it is with investing... Markets ebb and flow, styles come in and out of favor and bring the inevitable recession and drawdown. As in life and relationships, investing success typically comes down to a few key principles – patience is likely one of the most important.

Speaking of patience, consider the notable story of Ronald James Read.

His Wikipedia page reads -- “philanthropist, investor, janitor, and gas station attendant.” He died with a portfolio of \$8 million! No, this humble man didn’t win the lottery or inherit some massive fortune from a distant relative. Instead, he amassed his fortune by saving his modest income, compounding and patience. Over the years Ronald likely experienced a dozen+ drawdowns of -20% (see chart below) but we know he never panic sold when the markets were stressed – How do we know? When he died, Mr. Read left behind a five-inch-thick stack of stock certificates in a safe-deposit box worth \$8 million.

Read here: [Route to an \\$8 Million Portfolio Started With Frugal Living](#)

Best of all, he did it by owning US blue-chip companies that mostly...paid dividends.



NFL Draft Rules Decoded?

<https://operations.nfl.com/journey-to-the-nfl/the-nfl-draft/the-rules-of-the-draft/>

Have a great weekend,
Gerry

Gerard Mihalick, CFA

Dividend Strategy Portfolio Manager/Partner
Berkshire Asset Management, LLC

Office (570) 825 – 2600

Berkshire Dividend Growth SMA is available through various custodians, broker-dealers and UMA providers. This email is Intended for Institutional and advisor use only. This email may make information of third parties available via website links. The Third Party Content is not created or endorsed by Berkshire nor any business offering products or services through it. The delivery of Third Party Content is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or sell any security or make any other type of investment or investment decision. In addition, the Third Party Content is not intended to provide tax, legal or investment advice. the Third Party Content provided to is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and that no guarantees are made by Berkshire or the providers of the Third Party Content as to its accuracy, completeness, timeliness.

Any companies referenced, have been done so, solely for illustrative purposes and not based on investment performance or attribution to the overall performance of the strategy. The companies identified herein do not represent all the securities purchased, sold or recommended for client accounts, and you should not assume that an investment in the companies identified was or will be profitable. Berkshire retains the right to revise or modify portfolios and strategies if it believes such modifications would be in the best interests of its clients. Model portfolios may or may not contain any specific security at any time, and decisions to invest should not be made based on the presumed or current composition of any model portfolio - A complete list of holdings in the Berkshire Dividend Growth Strategy.

Berkshire Asset Management, LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. To receive GIPS-compliant performance information for the firm's strategies and products, contact Jason Reilly, CFP® Tel: 570-825-2600 or info@berkshiream.com.

Definitions: The S & P 500 Index is a market capitalization weighted index of the largest 500 U.S. stocks. It is a market-value weighted index (stock price times # of shares outstanding), with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value. The index is designed to measure changes in the economy and is representative of most major industries. Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The index was developed with a base value of 200 as of August 31, 1992. Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The index was developed with a base value of 200 as of August 31, 1992. You cannot invest directly in an index. BEst (Bloomberg Estimates) Earnings Per Share (EPS Adjusted) estimate returns Earnings Per Share from Continuing Operations, which may exclude the effects of one-time and extraordinary gains/losses. Beta is a measure of volatility vs. an index. Upside/Downside capture ratios refer to a portfolio's performance as a percentage of either positive returns (upside) or negative returns (downside) vs. an index. Standard Deviation is a measure of total risk. Alpha, Beta and capture ratios are represented as calculated by Morningstar.

Risks: Past performance does not guarantee future results. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and there can be no assurance that any specific investment will either be suitable or profitable for an individual's investment portfolio. Dividends are subject to change, are not guaranteed, and may be cut. Investing based on dividends alone may not be favorable as it does not include all material risks. There is no guarantee any stated (or implied) portfolio or performance objective mentioned by Berkshire can be met. Berkshire's equity style may focus its investments in certain sectors or industries, thereby increasing potential volatility relative to other strategies or indices. The dividend strategy may include bundled services also known as a "wrap fee program". Because there is typically a low turnover in the strategy, this may be more costly for some investors. No one should assume that any information presented serves as the receipt of, or a substitute for, personalized individual advice from a qualified advisor or any other investment professional.

*Market Commentary, Aggregate Holdings, Securities, Sectors, Portfolio Characteristics Mentioned: No statement made in this presentation shall construe investment advice. This presentation is for informational purposes only. Views, comments or research mentioned is not intended to be a forecast of future events. The mention of any security or sector is not deemed as a recommendation to buy or sell. Any reference to any security or sector is used to explain the portfolio manager's rationale for portfolio decisions or philosophy. Research or financial statistics cited regarding securities or sectors do not contain all material information about them. Any securities mentioned represent a partial list of holdings whereas Berkshire portfolios typically contain approximately 30-40 securities in percentage weightings ranging from 1-5%. A complete list of holdings from a representative account is available upon request. Overall portfolio characteristics mentioned are from a representative account deemed representative of the strategy; data may be compiled from Bloomberg, Baseline or Berkshire estimates. Individual holdings, performance and aggregate characteristics of actual portfolios may vary based on a variety of factors including market conditions, timing of client cash flows and manager discretion. This presentation contains Berkshire opinions and use of Berkshire estimates which are subject to change at any time. Berkshire employees may have personal positions in any securities or sectors mentioned. Charts, presentations or articles may be obtained from third parties and Berkshire does not guarantee their accuracy. *Platform restrictions may apply. Preliminary returns are based on composite estimates only. Individual accounts will vary.*

Copyright © 2023 Berkshire Asset Management, LLC, All rights reserved.