

The Most Unloved Bull Market in History?

What is a bull market, and more importantly, who determines if we are in one?

Technically speaking, a bull market is defined as a 20% gain in a stock market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500, from a closing low.

So are we in one? Technically, no. The S&P 500 hit a low of 3,583 on October 10, 2022. So a 20% gain would put the S&P 500 at right about 4,300. As you can see from the accompanying chart, the S&P 500 is still below that level.

Quiet Rally?

Weekly close on the S&P 500 from May 18, 2022, to May 18, 2023.



Disclosure: The S&P 500 Composite Index is an unmanaged index that is considered representative of the overall U.S. stock market. Index performance is not indicative of the past performance of a particular investment. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. The return and principal value of stock prices will fluctuate as market conditions change. And shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

Source: Finance.Yahoo.com, May 18, 2023

The accompanying chart also shows how challenging the stock market has been since October 2022. When stock prices rally higher, those gains are often met by selling pressure. So it's easy to understand that it has been a difficult period to remain focused as an investor.

It's also a period that reminds us how important it is to "tune out the noise" and focus on what you can control, like your time horizon, risk tolerance, and goals. So let me know if you need help turning down the bear volume you might be hearing.

Bonnie Hill

bonnie@hillfs.com

203-284-0040

Hill Financial Services, PC

<http://www.hillfs.com>