

Sector Annual Returns

2015 to 2024

This chart compares 10 calendar years of performance of each of the 11 sectors of the S&P 500. Choose any sector—Information technology in the sky blue box, for example—and follow its performance over the past 10 years. Notice how this sector has performed near or at the top and bottom compared to other sectors throughout the 10 years. Or take Energy in the dark red box. This sector shows the best performance for three out of the past 10 years, but has also been among the worst performers within

the same time period. This demonstrates the importance of sector diversification, since each sector tends to vary in performance from one year to the next. A sector that leads one year could trail the next year. While diversification can help reduce market risk, it does not eliminate it, and does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. However, you may be able to help mitigate losses by diversifying your investments across multiple sectors.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
10.11% Consumer discretionary	27.36% Energy	38.83% Information technology	6.47% Health care	50.29% Information technology	43.89% Information technology	54.64% Energy	65.72% Energy	57.84% Information technology	40.23% Communication services
6.89% Health care	23.49% Communication services	23.84% Materials	4.11% Utilities	32.69% Communication services	33.30% Consumer discretionary	46.19% Real estate	1.57% Utilities	55.80% Communication services	36.61% Information technology
6.60% Consumer staples	22.80% Financials	22.98% Consumer discretionary	0.83% Consumer discretionary	32.13% Financials	23.61% Communication services	35.04% Financials	-0.62% Consumer staples	42.41% Consumer discretionary	30.56% Financials
5.92% Information technology	18.86% Industrials	22.18% Financials	-0.29% Information technology	29.37% Industrials	20.73% Materials	34.53% Information technology	-1.95% Health care	18.13% Industrials	30.14% Consumer discretionary
4.68% Real estate	16.69% Materials	22.08% Health care	-2.22% Real estate	29.01% Real estate	13.45% Health care	27.28% Materials	-5.48% Industrials	12.55% Materials	23.43% Utilities
3.40% Communication services	16.29% Utilities	21.03% Industrials	-8.38% Consumer staples	27.94% Consumer discretionary	11.06% Industrials	26.13% Health care	-10.53% Financials	12.36% Real estate	17.47% Industrials
-1.53% Financials	13.85% Information technology	13.49% Consumer staples	-12.53% Communication services	27.61% Consumer staples	10.75% Consumer staples	24.43% Consumer discretionary	-12.27% Materials	12.15% Financials	14.87% Consumer staples
-2.53% Industrials	6.03% Consumer discretionary	12.11% Utilities	-13.03% Financials	26.35% Utilities	0.48% Utilities	21.57% Communication services	-26.13% Real estate	2.06% Health care	5.72% Energy
-4.85% Utilities	5.38% Consumer staples	10.85% Real estate	-13.29% Industrials	24.58% Materials	-1.69% Financials	21.12% Industrials	-28.19% Information technology	0.52% Consumer staples	5.23% Real estate
-8.38% Materials	3.39% Real estate	-1.01% Energy	-14.70% Materials	20.82% Health care	-2.17% Real estate	18.63% Consumer staples	-37.03% Consumer discretionary	-1.33% Energy	2.58% Health care
-21.12% Energy	-2.69% Health care	-1.25% Communication services	-18.10% Energy	11.81% Energy	-33.68% Energy	17.67% Utilities	-39.89% Communication services	-7.08% Utilities	-0.04% Materials

S&P 500 sectors

The S&P 500® Index is a market-cap weighted index that represents the average performance of a group of 500 large capitalization stocks. Each of the 11 sectors of the S&P 500 are defined below.

- **Communication services** represents companies involved in advertising, broadcasting, cable and satellite, publishing, movies and entertainment and interactive media and services, as well as those that provide telecommunication services primarily through a fixed-line, wireless, cellular, high bandwidth or fiber optic cables.
- **Consumer discretionary** companies are most sensitive to economic cycles, such as automotive, household durable goods, textiles & apparel, leisure equipment, hotels, restaurants, consumer retailing and services.
- **Consumer staples** companies have businesses that are less sensitive to economic cycles such as manufacturers and distributors of food and beverages, tobacco, and producers of non-durable household goods and personal products.
- **Energy** companies have businesses that are involved in the construction or provision of oil rigs, drilling equipment, energy related service and equipment or engaged in exploration, production, refining of or transportation of oil and gas products, coal, and other consumable fuels.
- **Financials** represents companies whose activities include banking, mortgage finance, consumer finance, specialized finance, investment banking, brokerage, asset management and custody, corporate lending, insurance and financial investment.
- **Health care** companies manufacture health care equipment and supplies or provide healthcare related services. Companies involved in research, development, production and marketing of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products.
- **Industrials** companies produce tangible goods including aerospace and defense, construction, engineering, building products, electrical equipment and industrial machinery. Companies that provide commercial services such as printing, employment, office services and environmental services, as well as transportation services including airlines, couriers, marine, road and rail, and transportation infrastructure.
- **Information technology** companies primarily develop software such as applications, systems, database management, internet, information technology consulting and services, and home entertainment. Companies that manufacture or distribute communications equipment, computers and peripherals, electronic equipment and related instruments, as well as semiconductors and semiconductor equipment manufacturers.
- **Materials** represents companies that manufacture chemicals, construction materials, glass, paper, forest products and related packaging products and metals, minerals, and mining companies, including steel producers.
- **Real estate** represents the sector containing Real estate Management and Development Services and all Real estate Investment Trusts (REITs), with the exception of Mortgage REITs.
- **Utilities** represents companies that are considered electric, gas, or water utilities or companies that operate as independent producers or distributors of power.

It's easy to get started

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