STABLER
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

A Perspective on the Recent Market Volatility

The markets have been bumpy lately, and that's uncomfortable for all of us. It's important to remember that turbulence like this is normal, and we plan for stretches like this when building your portfolio and financial plan.

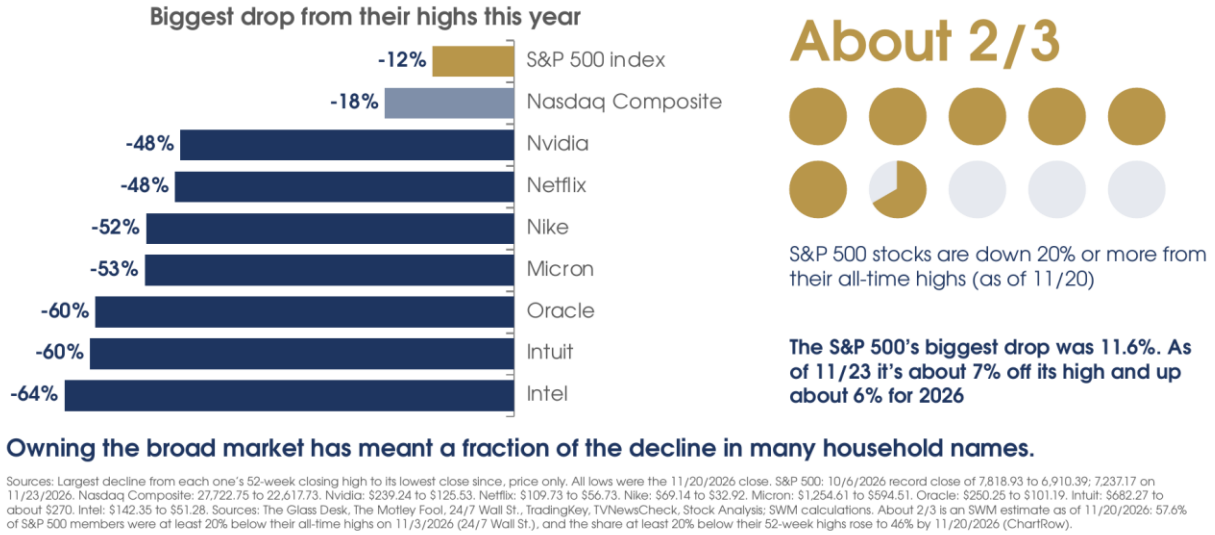
What's happening

Last week the S&P 500 fell nearly 9%, its worst week since April 2025, leaving it about 12% below its October high. Then on Monday it jumped 4.7%, its best day since April 2025. As of Monday's close, it's about 7% below its high and up about 6% for the year.

That's a good reminder that the best days tend to show up right alongside the worst ones, and they're nearly impossible to time. It's a big reason staying invested matters so much.

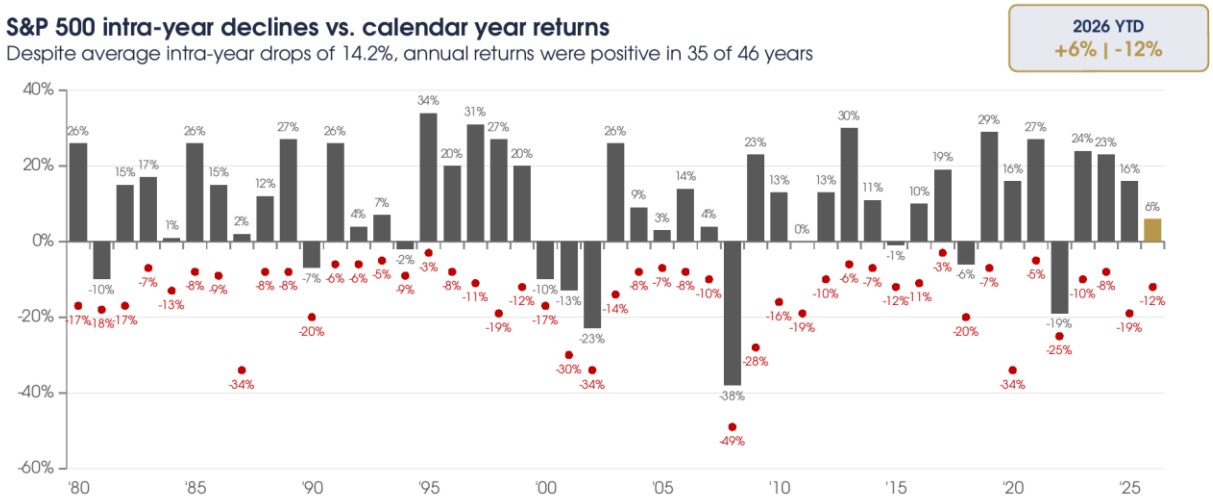
Diversification is doing its job

Part of the reason this turbulence has felt so stark is that under the surface it has been much worse for most individual companies. As of last Friday, about 2/3 of S&P 500 stocks were down 20% or more from their highs, and some well-known companies have fallen much further. A diversified portfolio has felt a fraction of that.



This happens almost every year

The chart below is one we come back to often. Nearly every year the market has a pullback like this one, and most of those years still ended positive. We've been through plenty of turbulent stretches in recent years, and long-term returns have been strong through all of it.



Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management. 2026 YTD updated by SWM through 11/23/2026: price return from the 12/31/2025 close of 6,845.50 to 7,237.17; intra-year decline from the 10/6/2026 record close of 7,818.93. Returns are price returns and exclude dividends. Intra-year declines are the largest peak-to-trough drop within each calendar year. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

What we're watching

Nobody knows what the next few weeks will bring. The good news is that company earnings have been strong, and after this pullback stocks are more reasonably priced than they were at the start of the year. We're keeping a close eye on whether those earnings hold up.

The bottom line

Corrections are uncomfortable, but they're a normal part of investing, and this one is playing out the way diversified portfolios are designed to handle. There's nothing you need to do right now. As always, we're here if you'd like to talk anything through.

Schedule a Time to Talk

This article was created for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended as ERISA, tax, legal or investment advice. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investing involves risk, including loss of principal. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC. Stabler Wealth Management ***is not*** registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor.