MaxDividends

By BeatMarket team

Free Edition Dividend Monthly Macro Overview the U.S. Market

📋 June 2025



Introduction

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"The true investor will do better if he forgets about the stock market and focuses on his dividend returns and the operational results of his companies."

Benjamin Graham

Why do dividend investors tend to outperform other strategies in the market?

In today's financial world, we're constantly told that the most important thing about an asset is its price movement. News outlets are always hyping stock market swings, with daily updates on index changes, top gainers, and biggest losers. But not much attention is given to dividend changes, which are crucial for long-term investing.

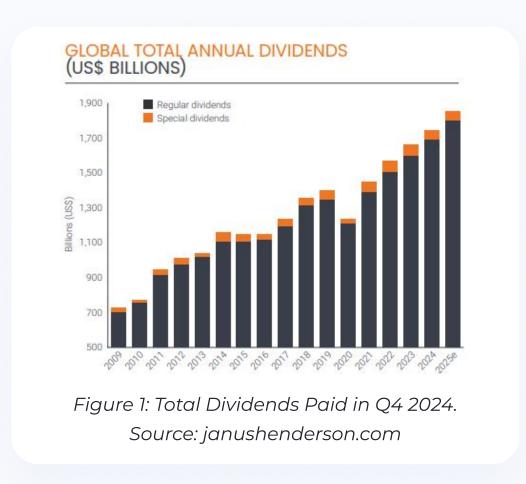
Most investors never achieve true wealth, and a big reason for this is their tendency to panic every time prices dip. Many get excited when an asset jumps in price, but struggle to handle a simple 5% drop—they often sell in a panic. Price swings happen every day in a market full of speculators, but companies that pay dividends to shareholders offer more stability. There are over 211 U.S. companies that have maintained or even raised their dividends over the past 10 years!

When you focus on dividends, you're getting consistent, reliable returns on your capital, which brings peace of mind and confidence in your investments.

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Global: Latest Dividend Data

The global cumulative dividend payout for Q4 2024 continued the upward trend seen in Q4 2020. This indicates that most dividend-paying companies have weathered the impact of the 2020 crisis and successfully adapted their businesses to the new reality. As a result, they've been able to keep increasing their dividend payouts.



Companies paid out \$371.7 billion in dividends in the fourth quarter of 2024. In comparison, companies collectively paid out \$339.9 billion in Q4 2023 (Figure 1).

The top performers in dividend growth for the fourth quarter were Japan, Europe ex UK, and North America, with increases of 23.2%, 15.9%, and 8.6%, respectively. No regions showed negative growth in dividend payments, but the weakest performance came from Asia Pacific ex Japan, with dividend growth of just 0.8%.

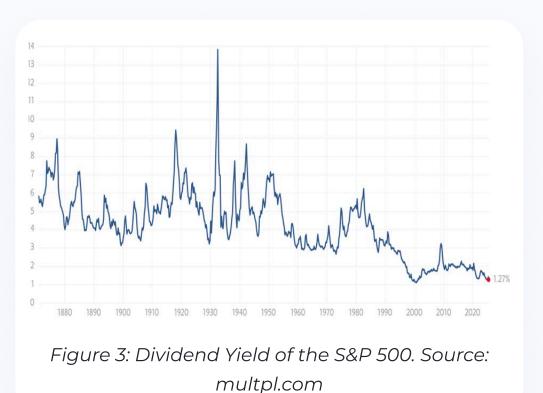
Region	2021	%*	2022	%*	2023	%*	2024	%*	Q4 2023	%*	Q4 2024	56*
Emerging Markets	\$135.2	30.4%	\$153.9	13.8%	\$168.6	9.6%	\$182.0	7.9%	\$28.2	11.1%	\$29.5	4.8%
Europe ex UK	\$235.5	39.6%	\$259.0	10.0%	\$306.0	18.1%	\$313.2	2.3%	\$29.4	16.4%	\$34.1	15.9%
Japan	\$81.8	1.6%	\$73.3	-10.3%	\$77.8	6.1%	\$86.0	10.4%	\$31.5	4.8%	\$38.8	23.2%
North America	\$572.7	3.9%	\$631.4	10.2%	\$664.6	5.3%	\$715.2	7.6%	\$167.2	7.1%	\$181.5	8.6%
Asia Pacific ex Japan	\$174.4	35.0%	\$185.8	6.5%	\$170.7	-8.1%	\$163.5	-4.2%	\$32.9	30.6%	\$33.2	0.8%
UK	\$87.5	38.6%	\$89.6	2.4%	\$86.9	-3.0%	\$90.6	4.3%	\$12.5	24.4%	\$12.8	2.1%
Total	\$1,287.0	17.4%	\$1,393.0	8.2%	\$1,474.7	5.9%	\$1,550.4	5.1%	\$301.6	10.9%	\$329.8	9.4%
Divs outside top 1,200	\$163.3	17.4%	\$176.7	8.2%	\$187.1	5.9%	\$196.7	5.1%	\$38.3	10.9%	\$41.8	9.4%
Grand total	\$1,450.3	17.4%	\$1,569.7	8.2%	\$1,661.8	5.9%	\$1,747.1	5.1%	\$339.9	10.9%	\$371.7	9.4%

Figure 2: Dividend Payments in Q4 by Region. Source: janushenderson.com

The US Dividend Data

Dividend	Current	Average 5-Year	Dividend	Dividend	Div. Growth (10
	Dividend Yield -	Dividend Yield -	Growth (TTM) -	Growth (5 Years)	Years) - ETF
	ETF VOO	ETF VOO	ETF VOO	- ETF VOO	VOO
Yield	1,27%	1,40%	8,71%	5,65%	6,56%

Table 1: Overall Performance. Source: seekingalpha.com



The S&P 500 dividend yield has been cut in half over the past decade. It now stands at 1.27%, which means stock prices relative to dividends are higher than usual. As a result, the dividend yield is at record lows.

Inflation has been rising faster than dividends have been increasing, leading to a correction in the S&P 500 dividend chart. Since mid-2022, inflation has been gradually declining, allowing the S&P 500 dividend chart to reflect growth. Since mid-2023, the pace of inflation's decline has slowed significantly. However, the ongoing downward trend in inflation continues to positively impact the growth of the S&P 500 dividend chart.

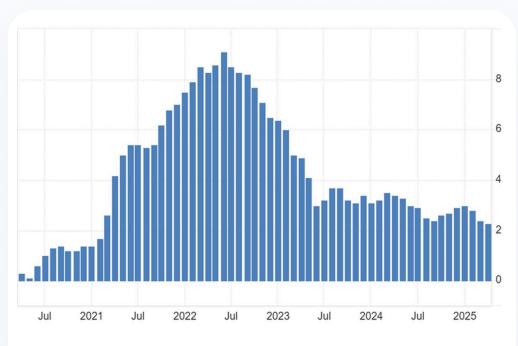
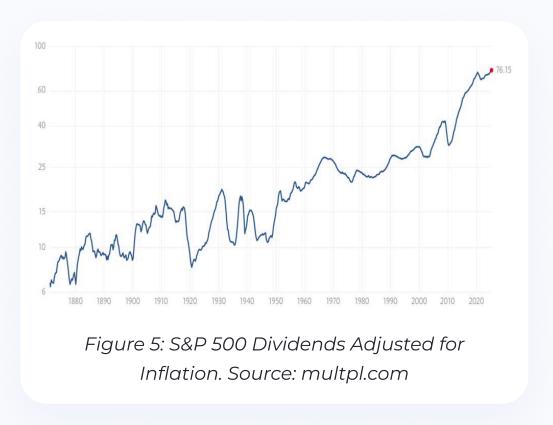


Figure 4: Inflation in the United States. Source: tradingeconomics.com

The US Dividend Data

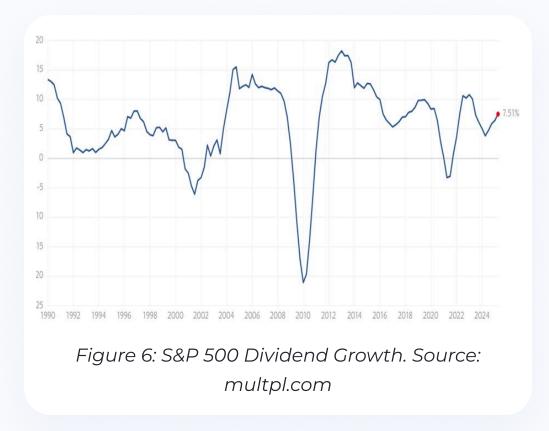


Historical dividends from stocks that are part of the S&P 500 Index are shown in Figure 5. The data is adjusted for inflation. With the current inflation rate (Figure 4), there is a gradual acceleration in the growth of dividends on the S&P 500 Index. The previous peak was in May 2020, when the dividend was 73.09. Currently, this figure stands at 76.15.

Month	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25
Yield	72.63	72.90	73.26	73.66	74.08	74.45	74.85	75.37	75.83	75.77	75.88	76.15

Table 2: S&P 500 Dividends Adjusted for Inflation. Source: multpl.com

The S&P 500 dividend growth is shown in Figure 6. Over the past 32 years, the chart has been negative only three times, and all of those periods were linked to crises. Over the past month, dividend growth has outpaced inflation, reaching 7.51%. The upward trend has continued over the past 12 months.



The US Dividend Stocks List Changes

Here is a table showing the U.S. stock market companies that increased their dividends last month. However, some companies have reduced or suspended their dividend payments. The table includes only companies that have consistently paid dividends for five years or more. The data reflects only decisions made in the past month.

List of Dividend Increases in May '25:

- · CNB (ACNB) 6.25%
- · Agree Realty (ADC) 1.19%
- · Ameriprise Financial(AMP) 8.11%
- Aon plc (AON) 10.37%
- · Avery Dennison (AVY) 6.82%
- American Water Works (AWK) 8.17%
- · Bar Harbor Bankshares (BHB) 6.67%
- · Community Healthcare Trust (CHCT) 0.53%
- · Costco Wholesale (COST) 12.07%
- CSW Industrials(CSWI) 12.50%
- · Donegal Group A (DGICA) 5.80%
- · Donegal Group B (DGICB) 6.45%
- Delek Logistics Partners, LP (DKL) 0.45%
- Enterprise Financial Services Corp (EFSC) 3.45%
- Evercore (EVR) 5.00%
- · Fastenal (FAST) 2.33%
- First Commonwealth Financial (FCF) 3.85%
- First Financial Bankshares(FFIN) 5.56%
- Comfort Systems USA(FIX) 12.50%
- H.B. Fuller (FUL) 5.62%
- · GFL Environmental (GFL) 10.00%
- W.W. Grainger (GWW) 10.24%

- Hess Midstream LP (HESM) 1.23%
- Home Bancshares (HOMB) 2.56%
- · Hawthorn Bancshares (HWBK) 5.26%
- International Business Machines (IBM) 0.60%
- · Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) 4.84%
- · Kinder Morgan (KMI) 1.74%
- · Lithia Motors (LAD) 3.77%
- MetLife (MET) 4.13%
- Nasdaq (NDAQ) 12.50%
- Otis Worldwide (OTIS) 7.69%
- Bank OZK (OZK) 2.38%
- · Peoples Bancorp (PEBO) 2.50%
- Pripal Financial Group (PFG) 1.33%
- The Procter & Gamble (PG) 5.00%
- Parker-Hannifin (PH) 10.43%
- Portland General Electric (POR) 5.00%
- Phillips 66 (PSX) 4.35%
- QUALCOMM orporated (QCOM) 4.71%
- · SB Financial Group (SBFG) 3.45%
- Star Group, L.P. (SGU) 7.25%
- · The Southern (SO) 2.78%
- Sonoco Products (SON) 1.92%

The US Dividend Stocks List Changes

- · 1st Source (SRCE) 5.56%
- · Constellation Brands (STZ) 0.99%
- Sysco (SYY) 5.88%
- The Travelers Companies (TRV) 4.76%
- · Timberland Bancorp (TSBK) 4.00%

- · Calvin B. Taylor Bankshares (TYCB) 2.78%
- · United Bancorp (UBCP) 1.37%
- · Value Line (VALU) 8.33%
- · Westamerica Ban (WABC) 4.55%
- Watsco (WSO) 11.11%

Were acquired by other companies:

First Bancshares (FBMS) acquired by Renasant (RNST)

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