

# S&P 500 Buybacks Set Quarterly and 12-Month Records - Again

**S&P 500 Q1 2022 buybacks were \$281.0 billion, up 4.0% from Q4 2021's record of \$270.1 billion; the 12-month March 2022 expenditure of \$985 billion set a record, up 11.7% from 2021's record of \$882 billion and up 97.2% from the 12-month March 2021's \$499 billion**

NEW YORK, June 16, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- S&P Dow Jones Indices ("S&P DJI") announced today preliminary [S&P 500®](#) stock buybacks, or share repurchases, data for Q1 2022.

Historical data on S&P 500 buybacks are available at [www.spdji.com/indices/equity/sp-500](http://www.spdji.com/indices/equity/sp-500).

## **Key Takeaways:**

- **Q1 2022 share repurchases were a record \$281.0 billion**, up 4.0% from Q4 2021's record \$270.1 billion expenditure and up 57.8% from March 2021's \$178.1 billion.
- **374 companies reported buybacks of at least \$5 million for the quarter**, up from 325 in Q4 2021 and up from 335 in Q1 2021; 395 companies did some buybacks for the quarter, up from 383 in Q4 2021 and up from 370 in Q1 2021; 432 companies did some buybacks for the 12-months ending March 2022, up from 416 in the prior period.
- **Buybacks remained top heavy but declined significantly with the top 20 companies accounting for 42.1% of Q1 2022 buybacks**, down from Q4 2021's 51.8%, down from the dominating 87.2% in Q2 2020, and down from the pre-COVID historical average of 44.5%.
- **For the 12-months ending March 2022, buybacks were a record \$984.6 billion, a 97.2% increase from the \$499.2 billion spent in the March 2021 time period.**
- **17.6% of companies reduced share counts used for earnings-per-share (EPS) by at least 4% year-over-year**, up from Q4 2021's 14.9% and Q1 2021's 5.8%, but were still significantly down from the Q1 2019 rate of 24.9%.
- **S&P 500 Q1 2022 dividends increased 2.8% to a record \$137.6 billion** from Q4 2021's \$133.9 billion and were 11.1% greater than the \$123.9 billion in Q1 2021. For the 12-months ending March 2022, dividends were a record \$524.9 billion, up 9.3% on an aggregate basis from the 12-month's March 2021's \$480.1 billion.
- **Total shareholder return of buybacks and dividends was a record \$418.6 billion in Q1 2022**, up 3.6% from Q4 2021's \$404.0 billion and up 38.6% from Q1 2021's \$302.0 billion.
- **Total shareholder return for the 12-months ending March 2022 increased to a record \$1.510 trillion** from the March 2021 \$0.979 trillion.
- **Buybacks are expected to continue** at a higher level for Q2 2022, even as prices have declined, as reduced prices will increase the number of shares purchased and lift EPS due to share reduction.

"Companies continued their record-breaking buyback and dividend expenditures in Q1 2022, even as prices declined and market volatility and uncertainty increased," said **Howard Silverblatt, Senior Index Analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices**. "The record expenditures led to 17.6% of the companies in the S&P 500 increasing their earnings-per-share by at least 4% thanks to their newly lowered share count, up from the 5.8% in Q1 2021. While the EPS uplift remained well below the 24.9% rate of Q1 2019, the direction remained consistent, with declared new programs setting the stage for increased buying throughout 2022.

## **Outlook for Q2 2022:**

Silverblatt added, "Companies are expected to maintain their buyback activities for Q2 through the current price downturn. This means companies will be getting more shares for their expenditures and reducing share counts even further, resulting in higher EPS. Operating earnings, which had set a record in Q4 2021, declined an estimated 13% in Q1 2022, but are expected to rebound in Q2 2022, with more issues benefiting from lower share counts and therefore adding stronger tailwinds to their EPS."

"Beyond Q2, at the minimum, companies are expected to cover exercised options, with stronger-cash-flow issues continuing to reduce shares. Given the strong base buying, expected earnings, even with the current level of inflation, a consumer spending slowdown and lower margins, buybacks could easily set another record in 2022."

Silverblatt noted that, "the 12-month March 2022 buyback record of \$984.6 billion, which is expected to surpass the \$1 trillion mark for the first time for June 2022 is a Washington headline in the waiting."

## **Q1 2022 GICS® Sector Analysis:**

**Information Technology** continued to lead in buybacks, even as its percentage of buybacks declined. In Q1 2022, IT's share declined to 25.5% of all S&P 500 buybacks compared to Q4 2021's 27.7% and Q1 2021's 31.6%, as expenditures decreased (4.4%) to \$71.6 billion from the prior quarter's \$74.9 billion and were 27.0% higher than the Q1 2021 expenditure of \$56.4 billion. For the 12-months ending March 2022, the sector spent \$275.3 billion, representing 28.0% of all S&P buybacks, up from 12-month 2021's \$199.1 billion, which represented 39.9% of all buybacks. For the 10-years, the sector spent \$1.76 trillion, representing 28.5% of the expenditures.

**Health Care** buybacks increased 88.3%, spending \$41.1 billion in Q1 2022 representing 14.6% of all buybacks, up from the Q4 2021 \$21.8 billion, which accounted for 8.1% of the buybacks.

**Financial** buybacks increased 6.2% to \$54.7 billion, representing 19.5% of the buybacks, from the Q4 2021 \$51.5 billion, which represented 19.1% of all buybacks. The 12-month buybacks of \$209.9 billion were 202% higher than the 12-month March 2021 buybacks of \$69.4 billion, when the Fed limited buybacks.

**Energy** buybacks increased by 12.3% for the quarter, to \$8.6 billion, from the prior quarter's \$7.6 billion and up 1,654% from the Q1 2021 \$0.5 billion. For the 12-months, buybacks were \$20.8 billion compared to the prior period's \$0.9 billion, a 2,092% increase.

**Communication Services** buybacks decreased by 21.3%, to \$34.1 billion, from the prior quarter's \$43.3 billion and up 56.4% from the Q1 2021 \$21.8 billion. As a percentage of all buybacks, the sector decreased to 12.1% of all buybacks from the prior quarter's 16.0%, and the Q1 2021 12.2%.

The five issues with the highest total buybacks for Q1 2022 are:

- For more information about S&P Dow Jones Indices, please visit [www.spdji.com](http://www.spdji.com).

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## S&P Dow Jones Indices

### S&P 500 20 LARGEST Q1 2022 BUYBACKS, \$ MILLIONS

Company	Ticker	Sector	Q1 2022 Buybacks \$ Million	Q4 2021 Buybacks \$ Million	Q1 20221 Buybacks \$ Million	12-Months Mar,'22 \$ Million	12-Months Mar,'21 \$ Million	5-Year Buybacks \$ Million	10-Year Buybacks \$ Million	Indicated Dividend \$ Million
Apple	AAPL	Information Technology	\$22,961	\$23,366	\$18,847	\$92,371	\$89,665	\$375,799	\$533,335	\$15,804
Alphabet	GOOGL	Communication Services	\$13,300	\$13,473	\$11,395	\$52,179	\$39,992	\$125,913	\$132,513	\$0
Meta Platforms	FB	Communication Services	\$10,431	\$21,569	\$5,016	\$55,467	\$19,224	\$97,168	\$101,998	\$0
Microsoft	MSFT	Information Technology	\$8,822	\$7,433	\$6,930	\$31,116	\$27,385	\$106,321	\$160,462	\$18,592
S&P Global	SPGI	Financials	\$7,069	\$2	\$41	\$7,084	\$62	\$12,187	\$16,219	\$1,204
Amgen	AMGN	Health Care	\$6,360	\$1,443	\$871	\$10,464	\$4,422	\$43,208	\$53,489	\$4,371
Wells Fargo	WFC	Financials	\$6,018	\$6,949	\$596	\$19,878	\$2,711	\$78,291	\$116,756	\$3,886
Bristol-Myers Squibb	BMJ	Health Care	\$5,000	\$2,751	\$1,775	\$9,512	\$4,476	\$20,922	\$25,655	\$4,708
Lowe's Companies	LOW	Consumer Discretionary	\$4,037	\$4,013	\$3,038	\$14,011	\$10,179	\$31,325	\$50,301	\$2,830
Morgan Stanley	MS	Financials	\$3,681	\$2,847	\$2,582	\$13,174	\$5,680	\$32,297	\$42,349	\$6,202
Charter Communications	CHTR	Communication Services	\$3,333	\$4,597	\$3,652	\$15,112	\$14,878	\$52,073	\$54,610	\$0
Broadcom	AVGO	Information Technology	\$3,290	\$3,099	\$461	\$7,002	\$1,218	\$22,174	\$22,306	\$6,771
Comcast	CMCSA	Communication Services	\$3,223	\$2,055	\$309	\$7,586	\$1,222	\$18,692	\$40,291	\$4,886
Union Pacific	UNP	Industrials	\$3,183	\$1,445	\$1,347	\$9,127	\$5,234	\$31,462	\$45,275	\$3,312
Berkshire Hathaway	BRK.b	Financials	\$3,180	\$6,869	\$6,580	\$23,661	\$30,527	\$61,143	\$61,143	\$0
Citigroup	C	Financials	\$3,163	\$162	\$1,793	\$9,308	\$4,709	\$50,310	\$71,088	\$4,048
Visa	V	Information Technology	\$2,952	\$4,217	\$1,719	\$12,340	\$7,395	\$43,699	\$67,769	\$2,488
Marathon Petroleum	MPC	Energy	\$2,846	\$2,742	\$0	\$7,500	\$984	\$13,689	\$20,695	\$1,343
Adobe	ADBE	Information Technology	\$2,666	\$1,117	\$1,341	\$5,994	\$3,940	\$17,656	\$22,187	\$0
Amazon.com	AMZN	Consumer Discretionary	\$2,666	\$0	\$0	\$2,666	\$0	\$2,666	\$2,666	\$0
<b>Top 20 S&amp;P 500</b>			<b>\$118,181</b>	<b>\$110,149</b>	<b>\$68,293</b>	<b>\$405,552</b>	<b>\$273,903</b>	<b>\$1,236,995</b>	<b>\$1,641,107</b>	<b>\$80,445</b>
<b>Top 20 % of S&amp;P 500</b>			<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$270,102</b>	<b>\$123,907</b>	<b>\$984,596</b>	<b>\$499,173</b>	<b>\$3,603,885</b>	<b>\$6,189,053</b>	<b>\$589,388</b>
			<b>42.06 %</b>	<b>40.78 %</b>	<b>55.12 %</b>	<b>41.19 %</b>	<b>54.87 %</b>	<b>34.32 %</b>	<b>26.52 %</b>	<b>13.65 %</b>
Gross values are not adjusted for float										

## S&P Dow Jones Indices

### S&P 500 Q1 2022 Buyback Report

SECTOR	DIVIDEND YIELD	BUYBACK YIELD	COMBINED YIELD
Consumer Discretionary	2.28 %	3.17 %	5.45 %
Consumer Staples	1.58 %	2.57 %	4.15 %
Energy	2.08 %	1.86 %	3.93 %
Financials	1.52 %	3.41 %	4.93 %
HealthCare	2.01 %	2.12 %	4.13 %
Industrials	1.68 %	1.55 %	3.23 %
Information Technology	1.65 %	3.86 %	5.51 %
Materials	1.25 %	1.61 %	2.86 %
Real Estate	0.72 %	0.10 %	0.82 %
Communications Services	0.75 %	5.59 %	6.34 %
Utilities	2.19 %	0.18 %	2.38 %
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	<b>1.63 %</b>	<b>2.74 %</b>	<b>4.36 %</b>

Uses full values (unadjusted for float)

Dividends based on indicated; buybacks based on the last 12-months ending Q1,'22

## Share Count Changes

(Y/Y diluted shares used for EPS)	>=4%	<=-4%
Q1 2022	7.62 %	17.64 %
Q4 2021	10.06 %	14.89 %
Q3 2021	10.22 %	7.41 %
Q2 2021	11.02 %	5.41 %
Q1 2021	10.40 %	5.80 %
Q4 2020	9.02 %	6.01 %
Q3 2020	8.62 %	9.62 %
Q2 2020	8.60 %	17.80 %

<b>Q1 2020</b>	<b>8.00 %</b>	<b>19.60 %</b>
<b>Q4 2019</b>	<b>7.63 %</b>	<b>20.68 %</b>
<b>Q3 2019</b>	<b>8.62 %</b>	<b>22.85 %</b>
<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>7.98 %</b>	<b>24.15 %</b>
<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>8.03 %</b>	<b>24.90 %</b>

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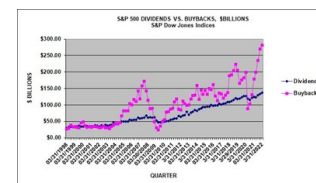
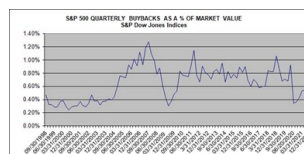
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