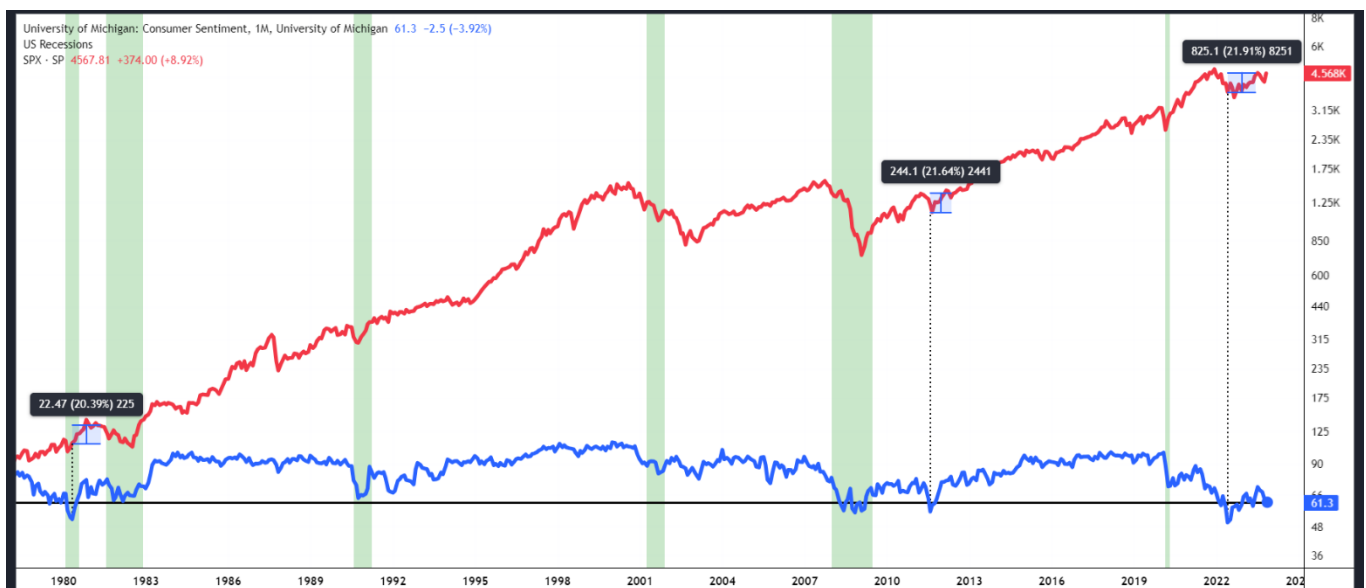


US Consumer Sentiment and the performance of the S&P 500 year to date

Currently, US consumer sentiment (the blue line) is at one of its lowest points in years, in fact when looking at the chart, the index has only been below the current level for an extended period of time on four separate time horizons, two of which were in recessions (green bars). Excluding the Global Financial Crisis in 2008/09, the period during the remaining three time horizons when consumer sentiment index was lower than the current level, the corresponding 12 month return on the S&P 500 (red line) has been between 20.0% and 21.9%. This reinforces the belief that it can be more prudent to invest when sentiment is at all-time lows, which we are almost approaching.



Source: Seaspray Private

Already this week, the S&P 500 hit and pushed past Wall Street's consensus for the year-end target for 2024. However, the S&P has been aided not just by the Magnificent 7, but by other less well-known companies. Juniper Networks, for example, manufacture networking products such as Wi-Fi routers. So far, they have gained 26.0% YTD in 2024. Other companies such as Netflix, who are up 15.4% YTD and IBM, who are up 16.54% have also contributed to this rally. Having said that, semiconductor giants NVIDIA and AMD have still posted 2024 YTD gains of over 23.0% each and make up the top 3 risers in 2024 along with Juniper Networks.

