$^{/}$ Alger On the Money

Fall Harvesting

Many investors believe selling stocks with embedded losses is a good tax strategy. With many investors following this strategy after a mixed 2023, where the majority of the S&P 500 year-to-date returns have been driven by the top ten stocks by market cap as of October 2023, could battered-down stocks provide an attractive entry point to prudent investors just as others are selling?

Historical Outperformance of Tax Loss Candidates



From 1986 to 2022, Tax Loss Candidate (TLC) stocks were down more than 10% from January through October in a calendar year.



TLC stocks have historically outperformed by an average 1.9% over the following three months of November through January.

Source: Bank of America Global Research. Analysis conducted from January 1986 through January 2023 shows that S&P 500 stocks which were down over 10% from January through October in a calendar year (termed as Tax Loss Candidates), exhibited relative outperformance when held from November through January.

- As the chart indicates, stocks that are tax loss candidates (TLCs) or those down more than 10% in a calendar year through October have historically outperformed the stock market from November through January by an average of 1.9% since January 1986 through January 2023, according to analysis from Bank of America.
- Investors often harvest equity losses for tax purposes at the end of the year. Mutual funds typically sell before October 31st (the deadline for most to realize capital gains) and retail investors by December 31st.
- With over a third of stocks in the S&P 500 Index down more than 10% this year, we believe there may be notable selling at a tax loss. This dynamic may create a buying opportunity for TLCs, due to their potential disconnect from company fundamentals. While past performance is not indicative of future performance, those beaten-up names may offer compelling returns in the months ahead.



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Tax Loss Candidates, defined by Bank of America Securities, are stocks within the S&P 500 that are down 10% of more from January 1 – October 31 in a calendar year. Alger pays compensation to third party marketers to sell various strategies to prospective investors.