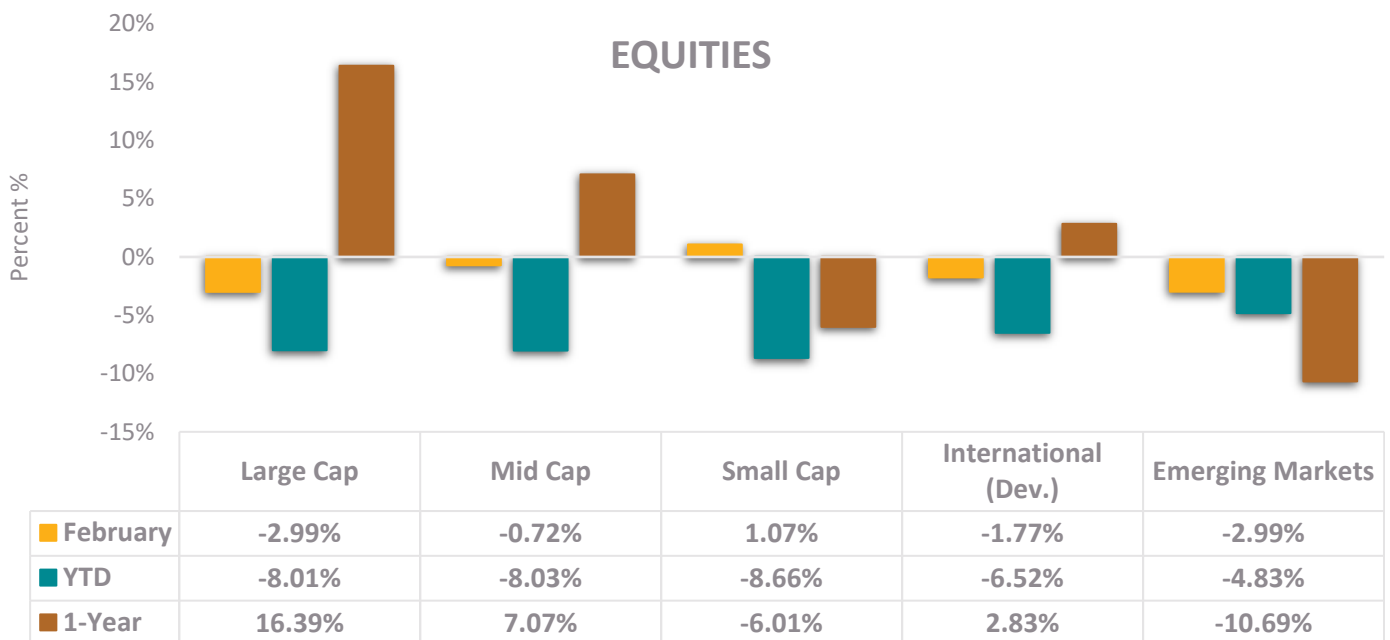


# Monthly Market Summary

## Market Update and Economic Developments

- Continuing to slump, the S&P 500 Index posted a -2.99% return in February. Inflation continued to trend upwards due to lingering supply chain problems and broad-based price surges across the global economy following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- In the early hours of Thursday, February 24, Russian troops attacked Ukraine. The geopolitical turmoil caused a powerful surge in commodities prices. Russia, a key exporter of energy, metals, and grain, indirectly induced significant price jumps in aluminum, platinum, and nickel. Western allies enacted a wave of sanctions against Russia in an attempt to economically isolate Moscow. These sanctions impose financial restrictions on Russian banks and Russian elites with ties to Vladimir Putin. Russia made up 1.7% of global GDP and 3% of the MSCI Emerging Market Index as of 12/31/2021. However, as of March 9<sup>th</sup>, Russian companies will be removed from the index.
- Corn futures increased and wheat prices soared to their highest level in almost a decade. The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil broke \$100 for the first time since 2014.



Benchmark Indexes: Large Cap = S&P 500; Mid Cap = Russell Mid Cap; Small Cap = Russell 2000; International Developed = MSCI EAFE; Emerging Markets = MSCI EM.



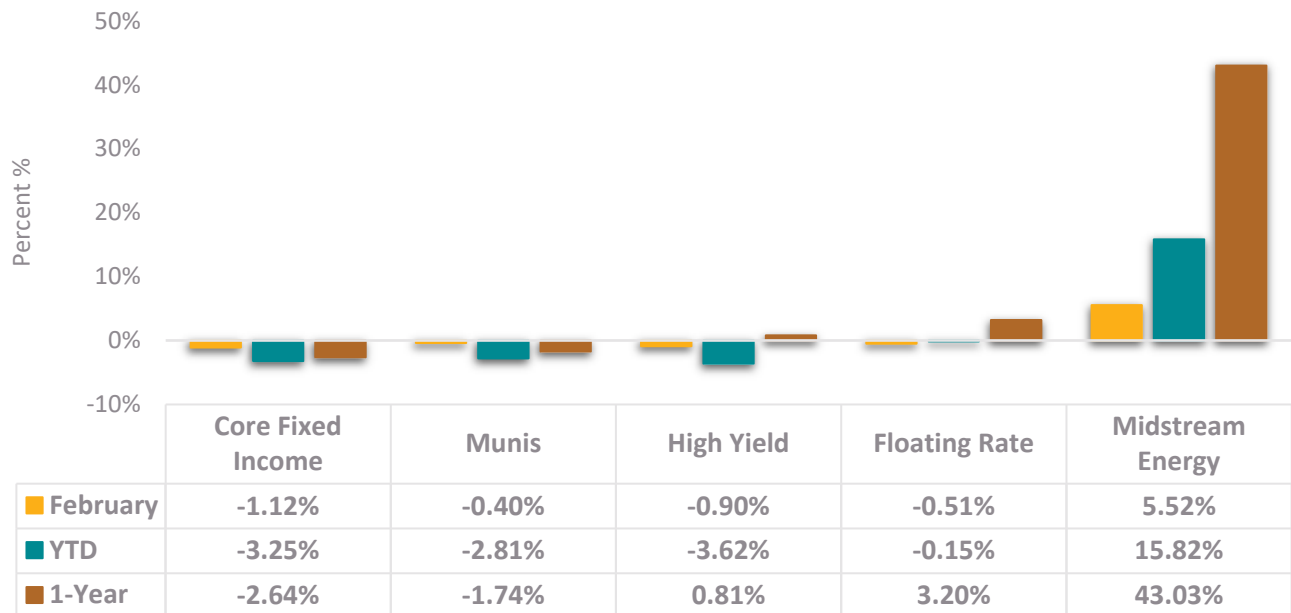
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# Monthly Market Summary

## Fixed Income Market Update and Other Assets

- Fixed Income holdings posted negative returns in February, as interest rates continue to rise amid speculation of future rate hikes. Midstream Energy continues to perform well, up 5.52% for the month aided by rising energy prices.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.6% in January and has risen 7.5% for the 12 months ending January 2022; this marks the largest 12-month increase since the period ending February 1982. Index increases for food, electricity, and shelter served as the largest contributors to the overall increase.
- The Federal Open Market Committee is set to meet in mid-March. Jerome Powell and fellow Committee Members are expected to increase the federal funds rate to help rein in inflation even as geopolitical turmoil in Eastern Europe threatens to weaken the economy. The Fed Funds rate has been at 0.25% since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020.

### FIXED INCOME AND OTHERS



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