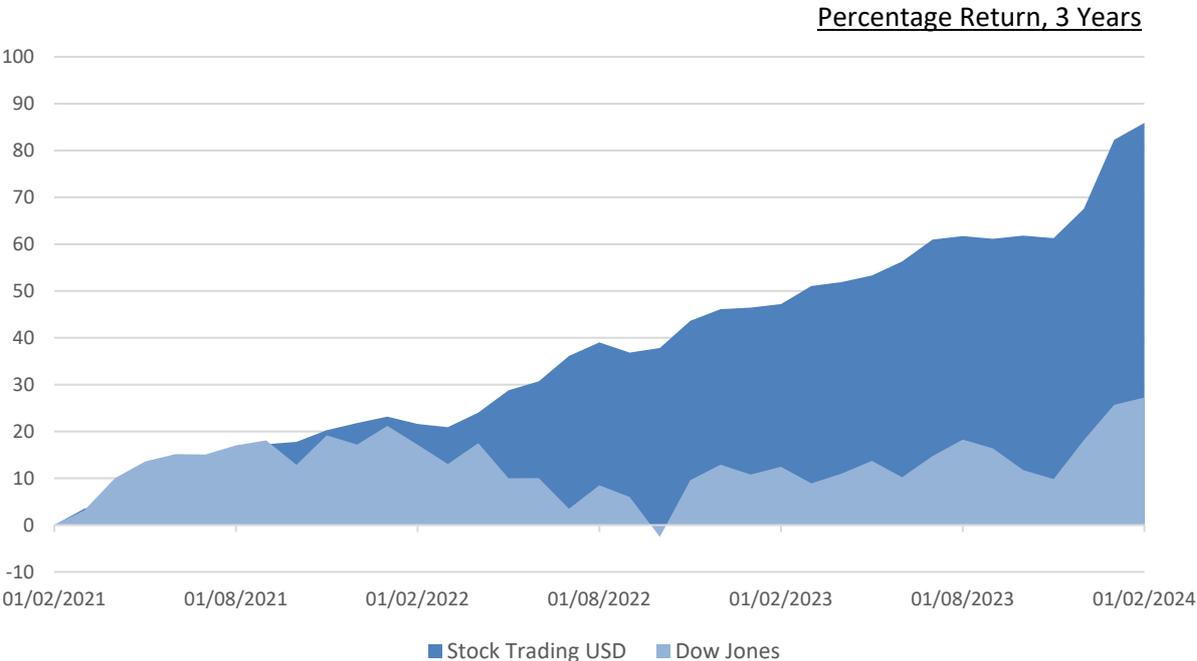




Stock Trading USD posted a gain of 1.98% during January, this adding to December's stellar performance, when the account posted an 8.78% net profit. A closer look reveals the true value of this investment as it has never posted an annual loss, to be clear, every calendar year has been closed in profit.

Looking back, 2022 was a period when almost every other investment house were overweight in equities and as a result they suffered double digit losses. RIO, however, had correctly predicted that 2022 would be a year of carnage, and therefore spent much of that year weighted to safety (cash), the result was that the account avoided losses. Of course my decision to weight the account to cash was also influenced by the fact that in the prior two years (2020/2021) the account had posted significant returns of 62.24% for those invested. Given that, it seemed only logical to protect the gains to date.

The information above certainly portrays a rosy picture, but it's the performance over the past three years which have made this investment the envy of many in the investment industry. The accounts Benchmark (Dow Jones) has filed a return of 27.24% in the past three years, and this return, although positive, pales in comparison when measured against Stock Trading which produced a staggering 85.90% in the same period; that says it all! It is interesting to note that during the aforementioned period Stock Trading was one of the top performing equity investments in the market.



So the notoriety in this case is justified, this investment has massively outperformed both its benchmark (Dow Jones), and its target return. The net gain to date stands at 159.66%.

The Market

The Dow Jones closed at a record high on Friday the 26th, ending that week at 38,109, it was an incredible Bull run, despite the market fall back at the end of January.

A word of caution going forward, in a few months, we will likely see the Fed announce that they will start cutting rates. I would draw members' attention to the fact that historically, the start of a rate-cutting cycle in the US has not been good for the broader stock market. Today, the rate cutting is likely to begin while the market remains arguably overvalued. So, a clear warning: the good news may soon turn out to be seen as 'bad news' as and when the rate cutting cycle starts.

Finally, I predict that 2024 will be volatile, a second underlining factor is that this year's US election is likely to be very contentious and this is almost certainly going to add to the chop. Active trading opportunities will soon arrive!

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