

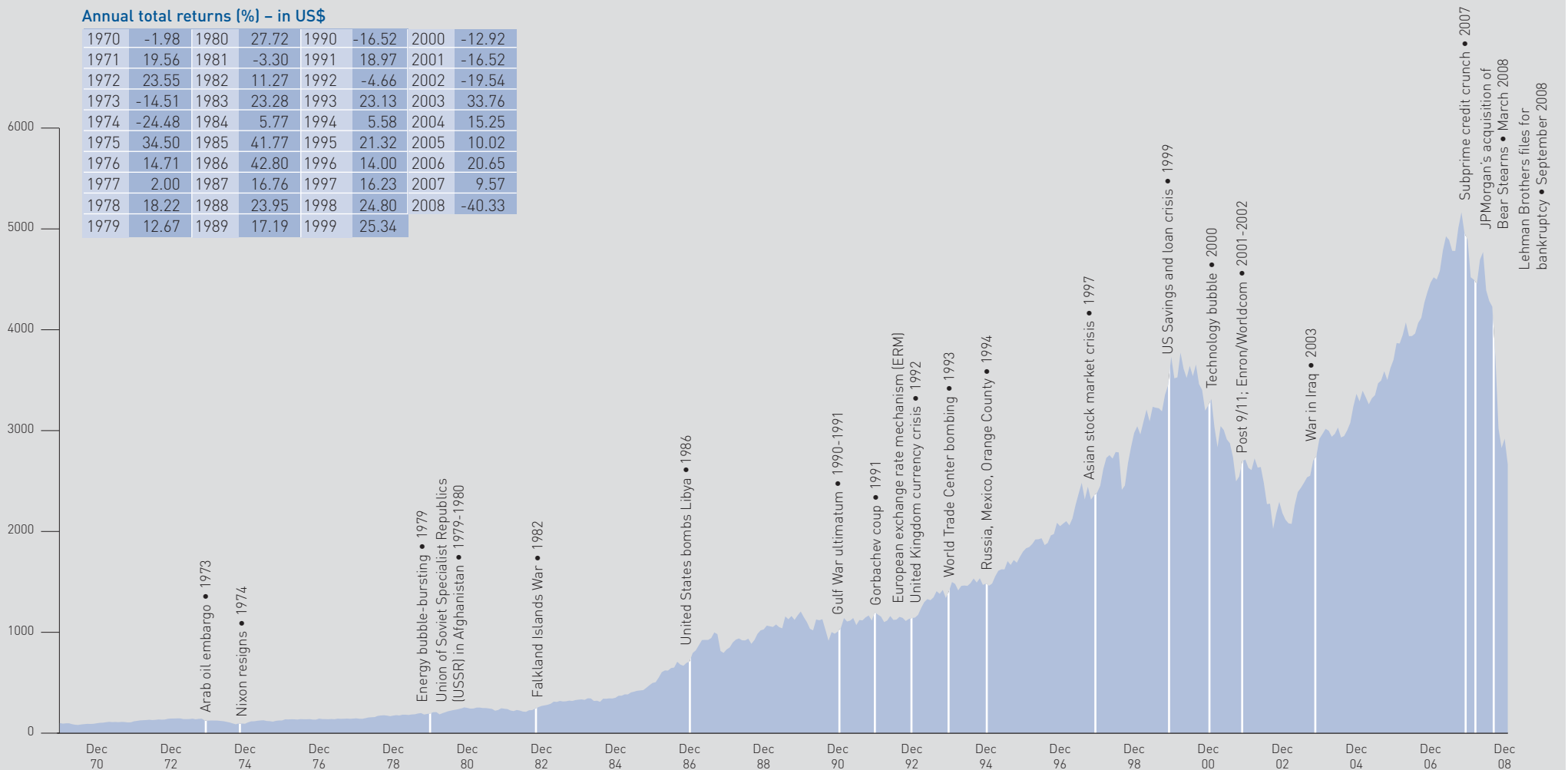
Investing during uncertain times

Global equity markets



History has shown that world equity markets are not immune to the effects of political and economic instability nor the impact of catastrophic events. While the market has been resilient in the long run, investors should be aware that there is a premium to pay for the additional return that equities can potentially offer over bonds: volatility. This chart reinforces the importance of taking a long-term approach to investing in global stock markets and to assessing one's risk appetite prior to investing.

MSCI World Index – 31 December 1969 to 31 December 2008



Source: Bloomberg; Lipper, Inc. as of 31 December 2008. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. The information provided is for illustrative purposes and is not meant to represent the performance of any particular investment. It is not possible to directly invest in an index.

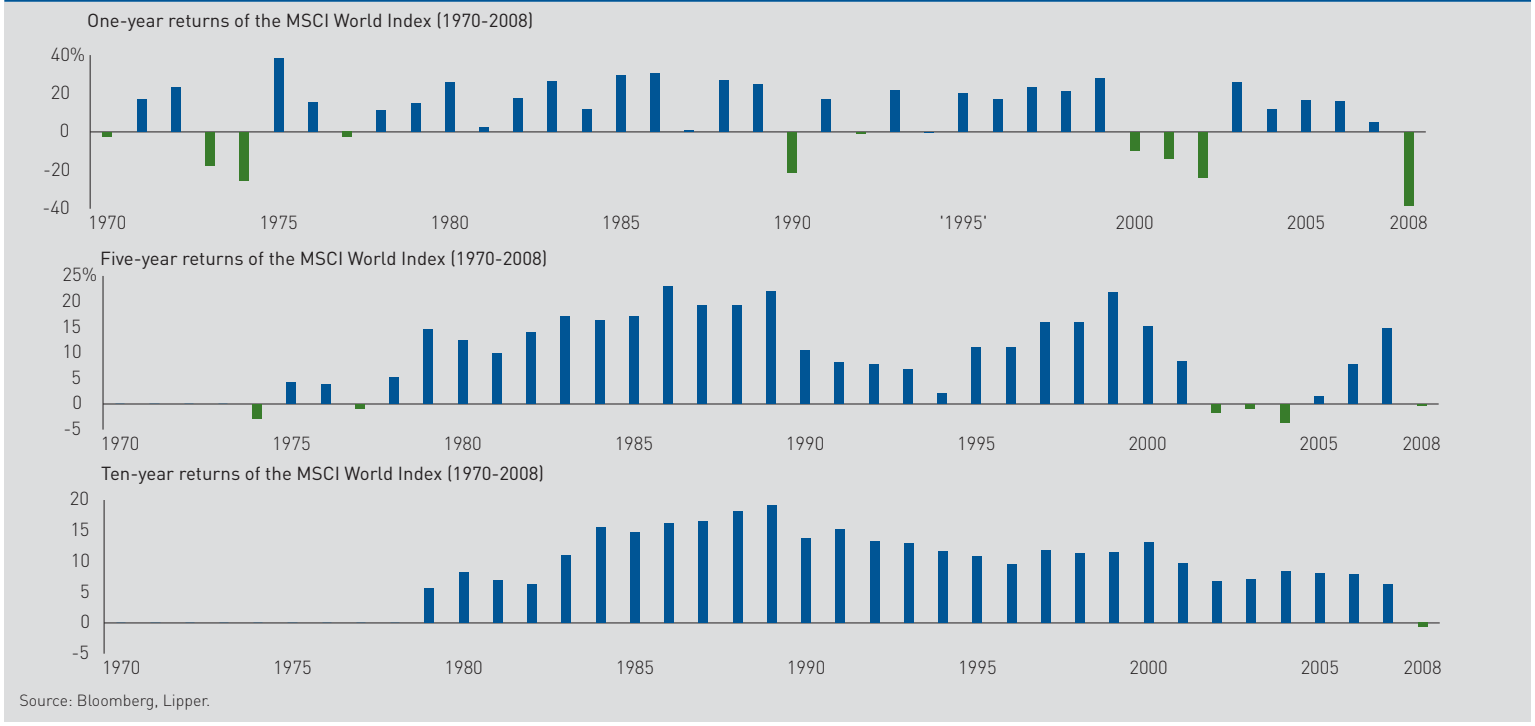
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Time horizon and risk



Global equity markets can be volatile in the short term. Since 1970, the MSCI World Index has experienced negative yearly returns 11 times (28% of the time). The unprecedented market falls in the last 18 months have led to the very first negative 10 year period since 1970. However, in general, if investors hold for the long term (10 years or longer), there is greater potential to reduce volatility.

The probability of stock market loss decreases as the investment horizon becomes longer.



One-year returns

Periods with Positive Returns: 71.9%
 Periods with Negative Returns: 28.21%

Five-year returns

Periods with Positive Returns: 82.86%
 Periods with Negative Returns: 17.14%

Ten-year returns

Periods with Positive Returns: 96.67%
 Periods with Negative Returns: 3.33%

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Telephone: 1300 366 100

Email: clientservices.aus@blackrock.com

www.blackrock.com/au