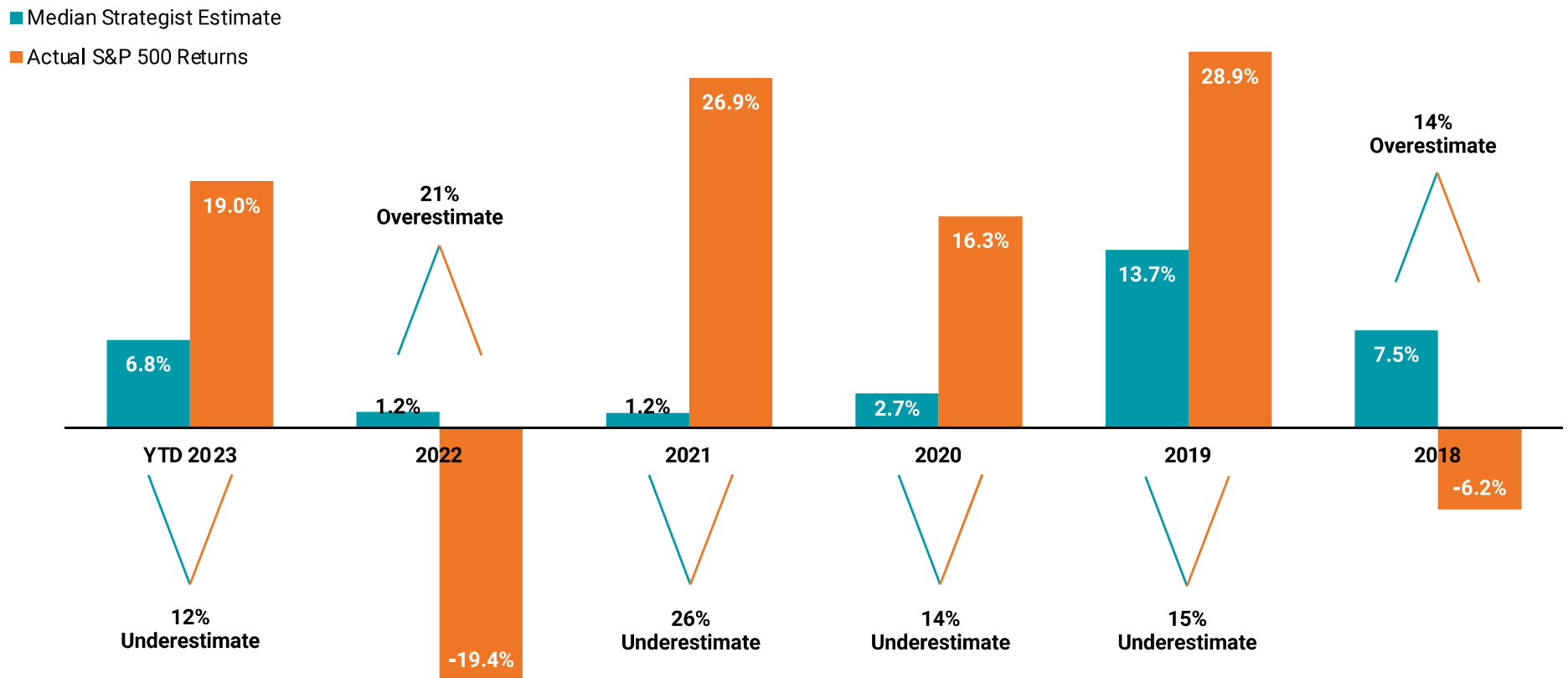


# Taking a Holistic View of Your Investment Journey

In **Figure 2**, we show median, or consensus, estimates from compiled industry strategist forecasts versus actual S&P 500 returns for year-to-date 2023 and the preceding five years. The results fall short of inspiring awe. For the five completed years, the estimation error ranged from 26% too low to 21% too high. On average, the median annual estimate was off by about 18 percentage points — nearly double the index’s long-term average annual return!

Figure 2 | Consensus S&P 500 Estimates vs. Actual Returns (2018-2023)



Data from 1/1/2018 - 11/30/2023. Returns are of the S&P 500 Price Index. Sources: Emily McCormick, "What Wall Street Strategists Forecast for the S&P 500 in 2019," Yahoo Finance, December 31, 2018; Jeff Sommer, "Clueless About 2020, Wall Street Forecasters Are at It Again for 2021," *New York Times*, December 18, 2020; Jeff Sommer, "Forget Stock Predictions for Next Year. Focus on the Next Decade," *New York Times*, December 16, 2022; and Senad Karaahmetovic, "Top Wall Street Strategists Give Their S&P 500 Forecasts for 2023," Investing.com, December 27, 2022. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.