10 Principles of Successful Investing

Improve your investment outcome with 10 simple principles

FINANCIAL SYNERGIES®
WEALTH ADVISORS

1. Embrace Market Pricing

The market is an effective information-processing machine. Each day, the world equity markets process billions of dollars in trades between buyers and sellers - and the real-time information they bring helps set accurate prices.

All Available Information

$653.4 Billion World Equity Trading in 2020 (Daily Average)

Prices

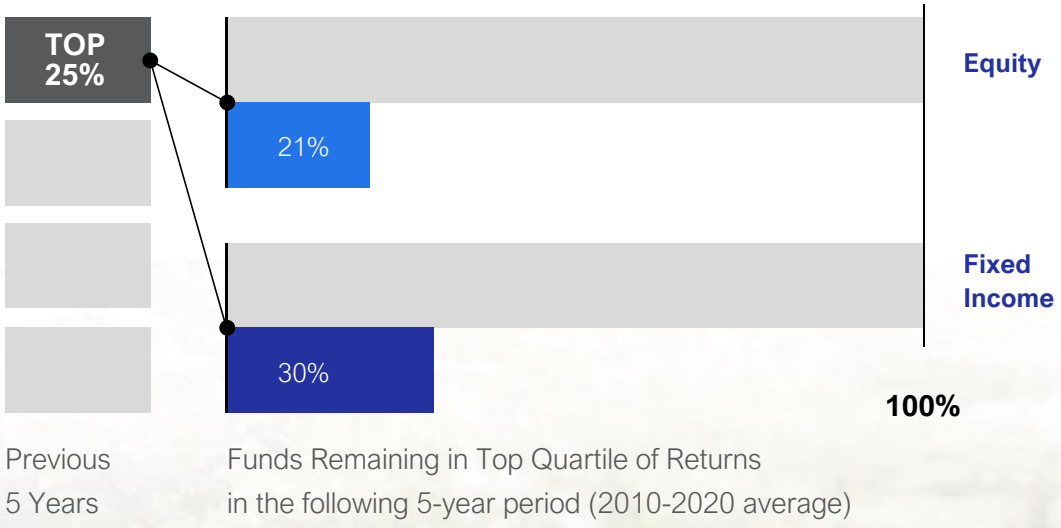
2. Don't Try to Outguess the Market

The market's pricing power works against investors and fund managers who try to outperform through stock picking or market timing. As evidence, only 19% of US equity mutual funds and 11% of fixed income funds have survived and outperformed their benchmarks over the past 20 years.

3. Resist Chasing Past Performance

Some investors select investments based on their past returns. Yet, past performance offers little insight into an investment's future returns. For example, most funds in the top quartile of previous five-year returns did not maintain a top quartile ranking in the following five years.

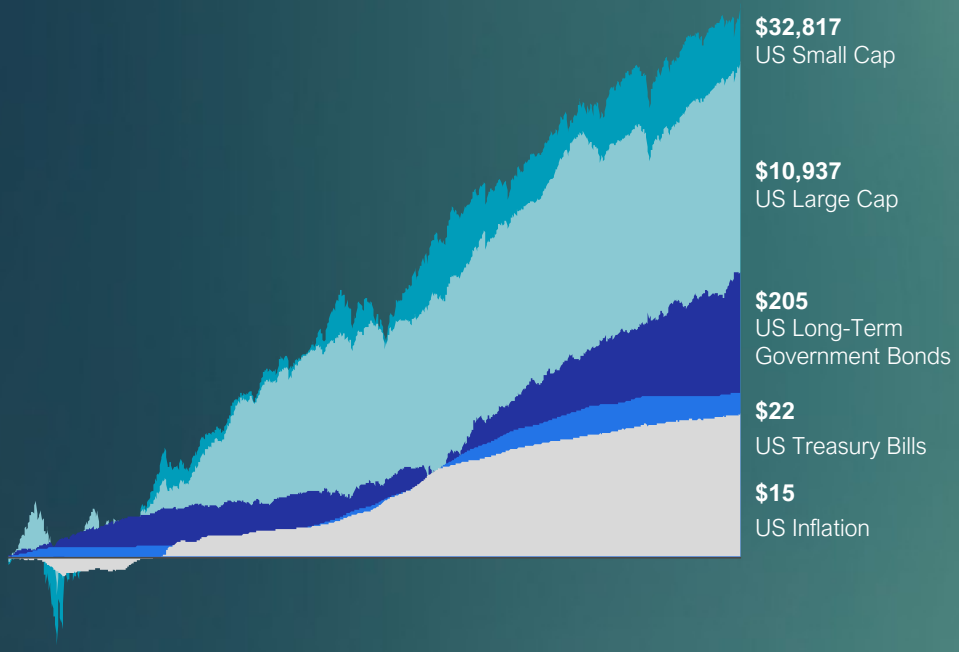
Percentage of Top-Ranked Funds That Stayed on Top



4. Let Markets Work for You

The financial markets have rewarded long-term investors. People expect a positive return on the capital they supply, and historically, the equity and bond markets have provided growth of wealth that has more than offset inflation.

Growth of a Dollar, 1926–2020 (compounded monthly)



5. Consider the Drivers of Returns

There is a wealth of academic research into what drives returns. Expected returns depend on current market prices and expected future cash flows. Investors can use this information to pursue higher expected returns in their portfolios.

Dimensions of Expected Returns

EQUITIES

- Company Size (Market Capitalization)
- Relative Price (Price/Book Equity)
- Profitability (Operating Profits/Book Equity)

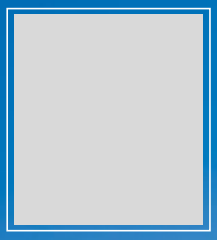
FIXED INCOME

- Term (Sensitivity to Interest Rates)
- Credit (Credit Quality of Issuer)
- Currency (Currency of Issuance)

6. Practice Smart Diversification

Holding securities across many market segments can help manage overall risk. But diversifying within your home market may not be enough. Global diversification can broaden your investment universe.

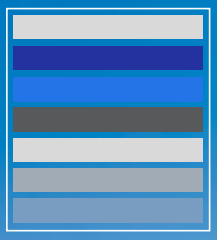
Home Market Index Portfolio



S&P 500 Index

1 country,
505 stocks

Global Market Index Portfolio



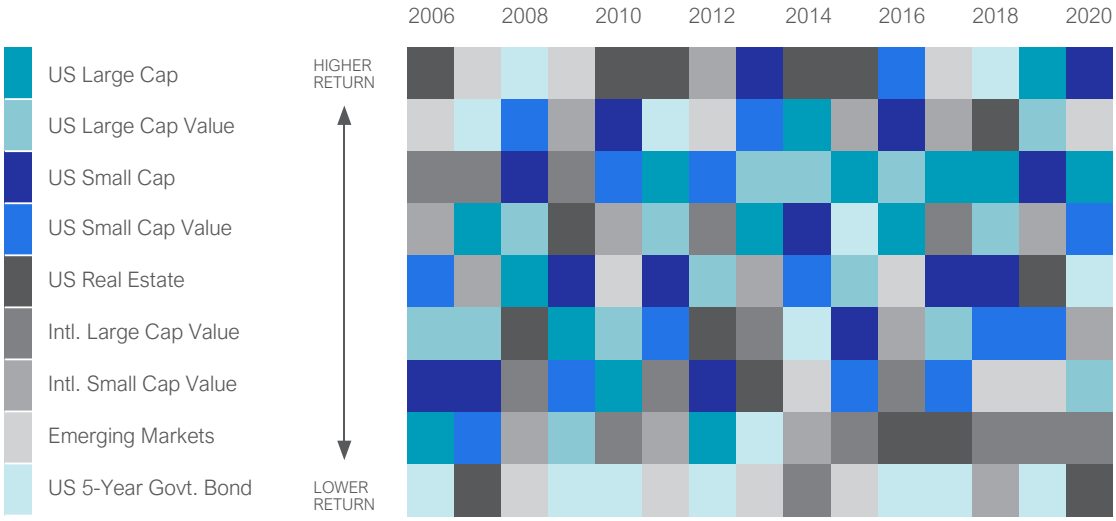
MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (IMI)

50 countries,
8,980 stocks

7. Avoid Market Timing

You never know which market segments will outperform from year to year. By holding a diversified portfolio of many asset classes, investors are well positioned to seek returns wherever they occur.

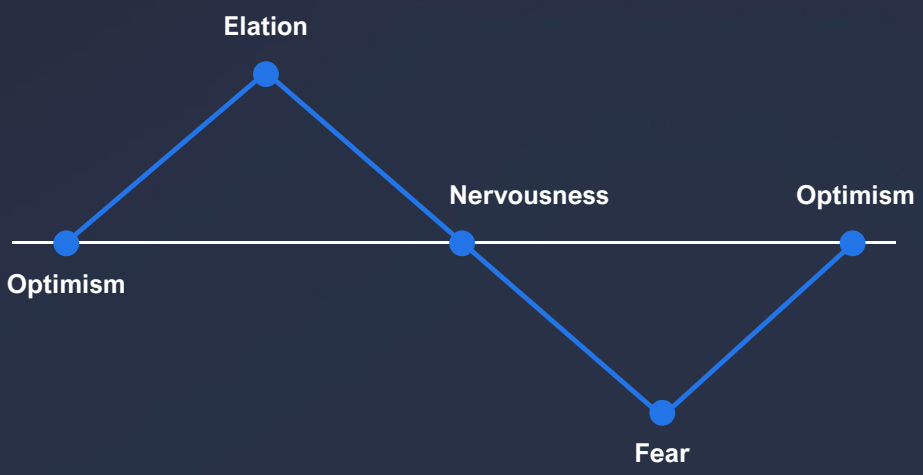
Annual Returns by Market Index

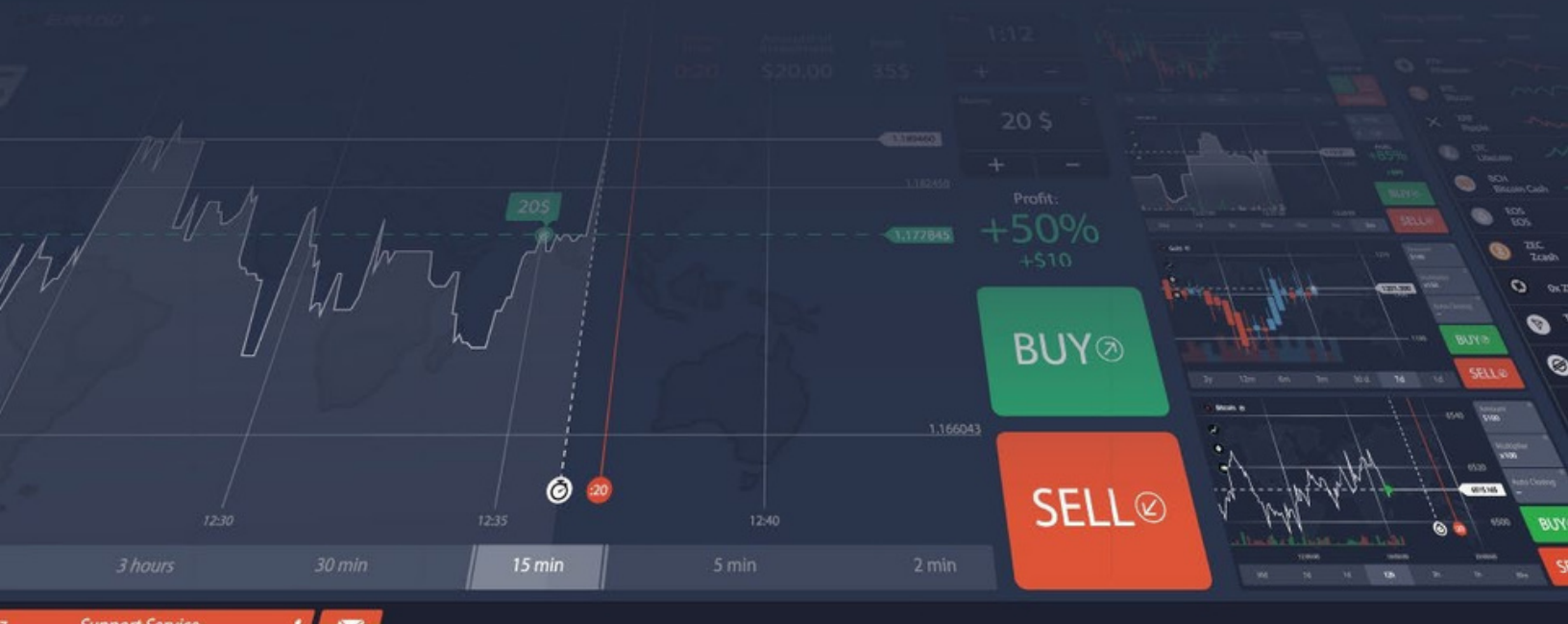


8. Manage Your Emotions

Many people struggle to separate their emotions from investing. Markets go up and down. Reacting to current market conditions may lead to making poor investment decisions.

Avoid Reactive Investing





9. Look Beyond the Headlines

Daily market news and commentary can challenge your investment discipline. Some messages stir anxiety about the future, while others tempt you to chase the latest investment fad.

When headlines unsettle you, consider the source and maintain a long-term perspective. Ignore the noise of the financial media.

RETIRE RICH

SELL STOCKS NOW

LOOMING RECESSION

TOP 10 FUNDS TO OWN

MARKET HITS RECORD HIGH

HOUSING MARKET BOOM

10. Focus on What You Can Control

At Financial Synergies Wealth Advisors, we offer expertise and guidance to help you focus on actions that add value. This leads to a better investment experience.

- **Create an investment plan to fit your needs and risk tolerance.**
- **Structure a portfolio along the dimensions of expected returns.**
- **Diversify globally.**
- **Manage expenses, turnover, and taxes.**
- **Stay disciplined through market dips and swings.**

Financial Synergies Wealth Advisors

Financial Planning | Investing | Wealth Management

4400 Post Oak Pkwy, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77027

713-623-6600

info@finsyn.com

finsyn.com