# The Dangers of Investing \& How To Reduce Losses 

Protecting Your Money From The Next Market Crash
"It does not matter how frequently something succeeds if failure is too costly to bear."

Nassim Taleb, Ph.D.

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## What We'll Review

1. The Dangers of Investing
2. The Obstacles to Success
3. Why Stocks Rise?
4. Why Stocks Fall?
5. Can Investing Be Made Safe?

- Bonus Topics


## Is Investing Safe or Dangerous?

"Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors are destined to repeat them."
-George Santayana

So, let's learn from history!
I. An Unpredictable Roller Coaster
2. Is Investing Safe \& Reliable? Are Results Predictable?
3. $\$ 4$ Trillion in Losses

## An Unpredictable Roller Coaster

This graph highlights most of the major changes.

The market...
I. Very risky \& unsafe
2. Inconsistent \& erratic
3. Occasionally very rewarding
4. Often harsh
5. Unpredictable \& volatile

Market declines have mostly followed major market increases.

Market increases have mostly followed major market declines.

## Real S\&P, Adjusted For Inflation, Fees and Taxes

When Do You Make Money In The Stock Market?


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

## Nov 1915 to Sep 1929:

Nearly 14 years, $5.4 \%$ annually


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Sep 1929 to Feb 1937
Nearly 8 years, down 13\%


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Feb 1937 to Apr 1946: Just over 9 years, down 2\%

Feb '37-Apr '42

- 5 yrs \& 2 mos
$-52 \%$

0.40


$100^{99^{92}}$

- 4 yrs

20\%


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Apr 1946 to Nov 1968:
Nearly 23 years, 5.1\% annually


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Nov 1968 to Dec I999:
Over 3I years, 2.4\% annually
Nov '68-Jul 82 • $13 \mathrm{yrs} \& 8 \mathrm{mos}$

## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Dec 1999 to Mar 2003:
Nearly 12 years, down 12\%


## Is Investing Reliable? Are Results Predictable?

Mar 2003 to Dec 2013:
Just over 6 years, $0.2 \%$ annually
0.95

## What To Expect From The Stock Market? What Wall Street Will Show You:



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. - An investment cannot be made directly in an index. - Hypothetical value of $\$ 1$ invested at the beginning of 1926 Assumes reinvestment of income and no transaction costs or taxes. This is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any investment. - Source: Created by Raymond James using lbbotson Presentation Materials • © 2011 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. 3/1/2011

MORNMGGTAR

## When Adjusted for Inflation, Fees, and Taxes...



## The Tremendously Profitable Periods Financial Salesman Show to Lure You In



## Market Declines Which Have Destroyed the Lives of Millions of Families and Businesses



## Periods When You Would Have Waited, and Waited, and Waited...

| Sep '29-Jun '82 | $\bullet 52 \mathrm{yrs}, 9 \mathrm{mos}$ | $12.2 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| May '63-Mar '09 | $\bullet 45 \mathrm{yrs}, 10 \mathrm{mos}$ | $5.8 \%$ |
| Nov '55-Oct '90 | $\bullet 34 \mathrm{yrs}, 11 \mathrm{mos}$ | $20.2 \%$ |
| Nov '15-Jun '49 | $\bullet 33 \mathrm{yrs}, 7 \mathrm{mos}$ | $16.1 \%$ |
| Apr '46-Dec '74 | $\bullet 28 \mathrm{yrs}, 8 \mathrm{mos}$ | $30.2 \%$ |
| Feb '37-Sep '53 | $\bullet 16 \mathrm{yrs}, 7 \mathrm{mos}$ | $2.8 \%$ |
| Mar '98-Jan '14 | $\bullet 15 \mathrm{yrs}, 10 \mathrm{mos}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 8 \%}$ |

## How Safe are "Blue-Chip" Stocks?

| Stock | High Date | High <br> Price | Low <br> Price | Low <br> Date | Loss |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amer. Int'l Group | Nov-00 | $\$ 1,737.21$ | $\$ 5.87$ | Jun-09 | $\mathbf{- 1 0 0 \%}$ |
| Apple | Dec-12 | $\$ 702.10$ | $\$ 390.53$ | Jun-13 | $\mathbf{- 4 4 \%}$ |
| AT\&T | Jul-99 | $\$ 58.00$ | $\$ 20.06$ | Sep-02 | $\mathbf{- 6 5 \%}$ |
| Blackberry | Jul-07 | $\$ 230.52$ | $\$ 5.88$ | Dec-13 | $\mathbf{- 9 7 \%}$ |
| Campbell's Soup | Nov-98 | $\$ 59.15$ | $\$ 19.79$ | Jan-03 | $\mathbf{- 6 7 \%}$ |
| Cisco | Mar-00 | $\$ 77.31$ | $\$ 15.81$ | Sep-02 | $\mathbf{- 8 0 \%}$ |
| Citicorp | Dec-06 | $\$ 564.10$ | $\$ 10.20$ | Feb-09 | $\mathbf{- 9 8 \%}$ |
| Corning | Sep-00 | $\$ 113.22$ | $\$ 1.33$ | Oct-02 | $\mathbf{- 9 9 \%}$ |
| Eastman Kodak | Oct-87 | $\$ 104.91$ | $\$ 0.03$ | Jan-14 | $\mathbf{- 1 0 0 \%}$ |
| Ford | Apr-99 | $\$ 40.78$ | $\$ 1.58$ | Jan-09 | $\mathbf{- 9 6 \%}$ |
| GE | Aug-00 | $\$ 60.25$ | $\$ 6.66$ | Feb-09 | $\mathbf{- 8 9 \%}$ |
| GM | Apr-00 | $\$ 93.63$ | $\$ 0.00$ | Jun-09 | $\mathbf{- 1 0 0 \%}$ |
| Hewlett Packard | Jun-00 | $\$ 67.44$ | $\$ 11.16$ | Sep-02 | $\mathbf{- 8 3 \%}$ |
| Home Depot | Dec-99 | $\$ 68.75$ | $\$ 20.53$ | Jan-03 | $-70 \%$ |
| Intel | Aug-00 | $\$ 74.88$ | $\$ 12.74$ | Feb-09 | $\mathbf{- 8 3 \%}$ |
| International Paper | Jan-00 | $\$ 58.62$ | $\$ 4.09$ | Apr-09 | $\mathbf{- 9 3 \%}$ |
| Microsoft | Dec-99 | $\$ 59.56$ | $\$ 15.15$ | Feb-09 | $-75 \%$ |
| Oracle | Aug-00 | $\$ 46.31$ | $\$ 7.32$ | May-02 | $\mathbf{- 8 4 \%}$ |
| Pfizer | Jun-00 | $\$ 48.94$ | $\$ 11.87$ | Feb-09 | $-76 \%$ |
| Pitney Bowes | Jul-99 | $\$ 70.63$ | $\$ 10.41$ | Dec-12 | $\mathbf{- 8 5 \%}$ |
| Time Warner | Dec-99 | $\$ 194.04$ | $\$ 14.59$ | Feb-09 | $\mathbf{- 9 2 \%}$ |
| US Steel | Jun-08 | $\$ 186.93$ | $\$ 17.10$ | Jun-13 | $\mathbf{- 9 1 \%}$ |
| Wal-Mart | Dec-99 | $\$ 69.75$ | $\$ 43.63$ | Sep-07 | $\mathbf{- 3 7 \%}$ |
| Xerox | Jan-99 | $\$ 62.00$ | $\$ 4.34$ | Mar-09 | $\mathbf{- 9 3 \%}$ |
| Yahoo! | Dec-99 | $\$ 118.75$ | $\$ 4.54$ | Sep-01 | $\mathbf{- 9 6 \%}$ |

## Obstacles to Success

I. Supply and Demand for Stocks
2. Conflicts of Interest
3. Lack of Time for Research
4. Ignorance of Facts about Investing
5. Lack of Reliable Data
6. Lack of clear and reliable methods to evaluate risk
7. Lack of technology which allows for screening, sorting, comparing, and filtering 2000 stocks based on comprehensive data from financial statements

## The Supply of Stocks

12,089 Total US Companies
2,435
... with a market cap greater than \$500M
I,777
...with earnings greater than \$25M
935
...priced under $5 \times$ NTE
276 ...with debt less than half their Revenue
I63 ...with debt less than NTE

## The Demand for Stocks

$\sim 50$ million
$\sim \$ 18$ Trillion
$\sim 629,000$ FINRA
$\sim 100,000+1600$
$\sim 20,000$
$\sim 200$
$\sim 6,000$
$\sim 3,300$

Retail Investors
in Pensions and IRAs
Investment Salesmen
Multi-Millionaires and Billionaires
Investment Firms
Largest Corporations in world
Mutual Fund and Insurance Co's
Private Equity Firms

## Conflicts of Interest

## 3 Vital Services Wall Street Advisors Cannot Provide

I. An objective analysis of the risks and weaknesses of the products and services that they sell.
2. An objective analysis of the safety, costs, reliability, quality of service and potential for greater profits from competitors.
3. An objective analysis of completely different types of solutions from the solutions he sells.

## Why Stocks Rise

I. Cash on Cash Return (ex: Dividends)
2. Below Breakup Value
3. Supply and Demand
4. Superstitions
5. Low Interest Rates

## Why Stocks Fall

I. Real Business Problems
2. Rising Interest Rates
3. Recessions
4. Inflation Expectations
5. Over Valuation
6. Competition from Other Investments
7. Domestic or International Political Events
8. Bad Timing \& Panics

## Can Investing Be Made Safe?

## NO!

However, the more clearly we can identify the attributes of a safe stock, AND
the more clearly we can identify the attributes that make a stock risky,
the greater our capacity to avoid risky stocks; which enables us to greatly reduce losses.

Reducing losses is the foundation of safe investing!

## What are the Attributes of a Safe Stock?

I. It is Very Solvent (has little or long-term debt);
2. It is Cash Rich (has very high cash to total assets);
3. It has at least $\mathbf{5}$ years of Stable Revenues;
4. It has Clear and Positive Trends on its Balance Sheet;
5. It has Income Congruency (Net Income = Increases to Net Tangible Equity)
6. Its Share Price is Close to its "Net Tangible Equity (NTE)."
7. Can be purchased below its average, historical Price/NTE ratio.

> Which attributes of safety do you sacrifice when investing?

# The 3 Most Valuable Measures of Market Risk 

I. The Q-Ratio
2. NYSE Margin Debt
3. Price to Sales Ratio of the S\&P 500

## The Q-Ratio

## (developed by Nobel Laureate, James Tobin, Ph.D.)



## NYSE Margin Debt



## Price to Sales Ratio of S\&P500

Price/Sales Median: 1.43 Current: 1.71


## The Mullaney Market Risk Indicator

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The Mullaney Market Risk Indicator and the S\&P 500


## Thank You

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