Managing the ups and downs

Markets are resilient: History shows declines don’t last.

Markets are always moving — up, down and sideways. While unsettling, market volatility is inevitable and completely normal. The challenge for investors is to not let market declines get them off track as they seek to achieve long-term goals. Because time after time, stock markets have recovered from the disruptive, but ultimately short-term, declines and gone on to post gains.

Intra-year decline is the largest price drop from peak-to-trough during a calendar year. In the past 39 years, only 9 declines have led to a down year.

Moving out of stocks could lock in losses and may prevent you from profiting from any subsequent gains.

Source: FactSet and S&P US. Daily data as of 31 December 1979 to 31 December 2018. Returns above are in US dollars and calculated based on the S&P 500 Price Return Index. Max drawdown is the largest drawdown (peak-to-trough) within each calendar year.

Intra-year decline is the largest price drop from peak-to-trough during a calendar year.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. These data are not intended to represent the performance of any MFS® portfolio. For more information on any MFS product, including performance, visit mfs.com.

The S&P 500 Index measures the broad US stock market. Returns for periods noted are price only. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.
Building wealth takes time. Think long term.

Historically, investing in stocks has been one of the best ways to build wealth, compared to bonds. That’s because over long periods of time the stock market has generated positive returns. And moving in and out of the market — market timing — to avoid volatility rarely works. Your advisor can help you build a portfolio that may help you ride out the ups and downs of the stock market and achieve your long-term goals.

Over 20-year periods, as of 12/31/18, stocks have generated positive returns 100% of the time

- % of time periods S&P went up
- % of time periods S&P went down

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Periods</th>
<th>% of time periods S&amp;P went up</th>
<th>% of time periods S&amp;P went down</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-year periods</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-year periods</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<td>10-year periods</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<td>20-year periods</td>
<td>100%</td>
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As part of an overall portfolio, consider stocks for their long-term growth potential.

The investments you choose should correspond to your financial needs, goals, and risk tolerance. For assistance in determining your financial situation, consult an investment professional.

Source: Thomson Wealth Management. The historical performance of the index cited is provided to illustrate market trends; it does not represent the performance of a particular MFS® investment product. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 is a commonly used measure of the board stock market. Index performance does not take into account fees and expenses. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Common stocks generally provide an opportunity for more capital appreciation than fixed-income investments but have also been subject to greater market fluctuations. Keep in mind, all investments do not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.