

# The Power of Active, Long-Term Investing

## Save Today, Enjoy Tomorrow

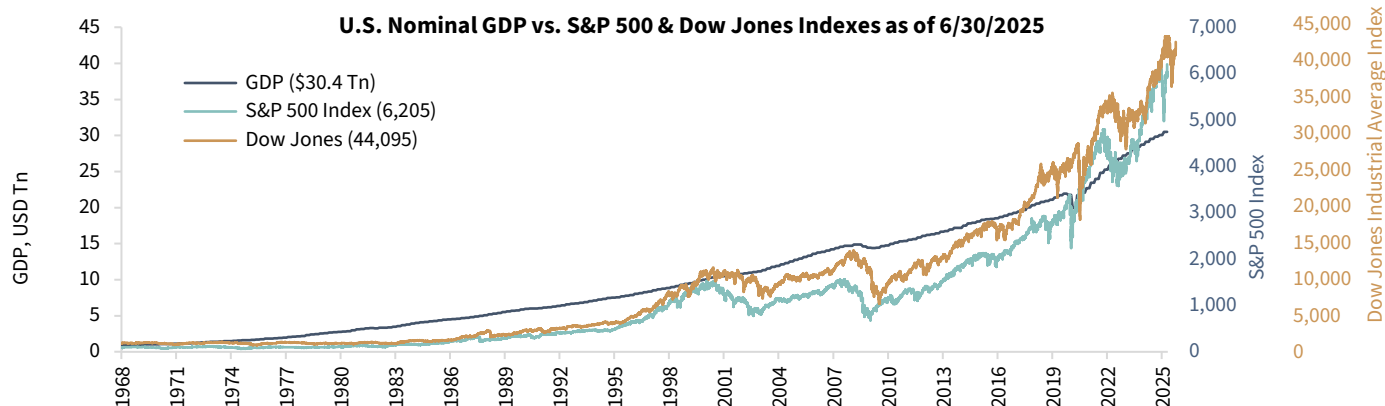
Staying invested in equities over longer periods increases the likelihood of positive returns. Historically, our economy has grown on average 6% to 7% nominally per year, or doubling every 10 or 12 years, and the stock markets have closely reflected that growth.

### As GDP Has Grown, So Has the Stock Market

U.S. GDP in 1968 was \$934 billion. It is now \$30.4 trillion, or more than 32 times greater. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 898 and the S&P 500 was 100 in 1968. They are now 44,095 and 6,205, respectively.

*“Historically, the stock market has doubled on average every 10 to 12 years. We strive to do better.”*

**Ron Baron**



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, FactSet.

### Long-Term Investors Have Had Better Chances of Positive Returns

An investor in a product that tracks the S&P 500 would have had a 69% chance of generating a positive return during any given quarter between 1926 and September 2025. Increasing the investment horizon to 10 years would have resulted in a 95% chance of a positive return. And investing over any 20- or 30-year period would have produced positive returns 100% of the time.

#### S&P 500 Index % of Time Positive Returns and Range of Returns Over Various Periods

Based on monthly rolling periods, 1/31/1926 – 9/30/2025

| Rolling Period | % Time Positive | Average Annualized Return | Smallest Annualized Return | Largest Annualized Return |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Quarter*     | 69%             | 3.00%                     | -44.78%                    | 91.17%                    |
| 1 Year*        | 76%             | 12.51%                    | -67.56%                    | 162.89%                   |
| 3 Years        | 85%             | 10.79%                    | -42.35%                    | 43.35%                    |
| 5 Years        | 89%             | 10.37%                    | -17.36%                    | 36.12%                    |
| 10 Years       | 95%             | 10.59%                    | -4.95%                     | 21.43%                    |
| 20 Years       | 100%            | 10.80%                    | 1.89%                      | 18.26%                    |
| 30 Years       | 100%            | 11.11%                    | 7.80%                      | 14.78%                    |

\*Not Annualized.

Sources: Morningstar Direct, FactSet, Baron Capital.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. The index is unmanaged. Index performance is not Fund performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

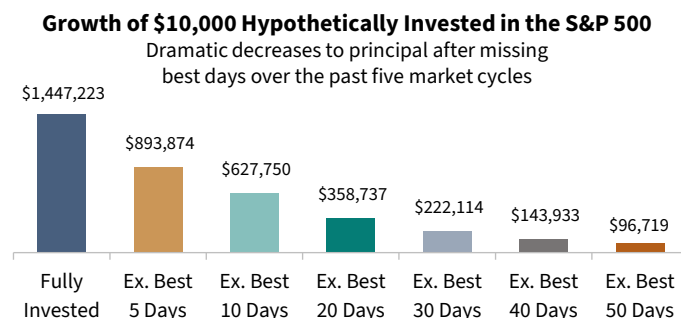
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## A Few Missed Days May Be Costly

Since we cannot predict when economic and market cycles start or end, there is no good time to time the market. Over the past five market cycles, missing the best five days would have resulted in a 38.2% lower value of a hypothetical \$10,000 investment, and missing the best 10 days would have resulted in a 56.6% lower value. As big down days are often closely followed by big up days, those who panic and sell on the down days are likely to miss out on the ensuing up days.

Sources: FactSet, Baron Capital.

Notes: The analysis is based on daily total returns of the S&P 500 Index for the period 8/12/1982 – 9/30/2025, which covers the past five complete market cycles of the index. Each market cycle is defined as a bull market followed by a bear market. Bull markets are measured as an increase of 20% or more after a trough from a decline of 20% or higher; vice-versa for bear markets. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The index is unmanaged. Index performance is not Fund performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.



## Inflation and the Power of Compounding

The purchasing power of the dollar has fallen about 50% every 17 years over the past 55 years. Although inflation causes currencies to lose value over time, it has a positive impact on tangible assets, businesses, and economic growth. This means stocks are the best hedge against the devaluation of your money.

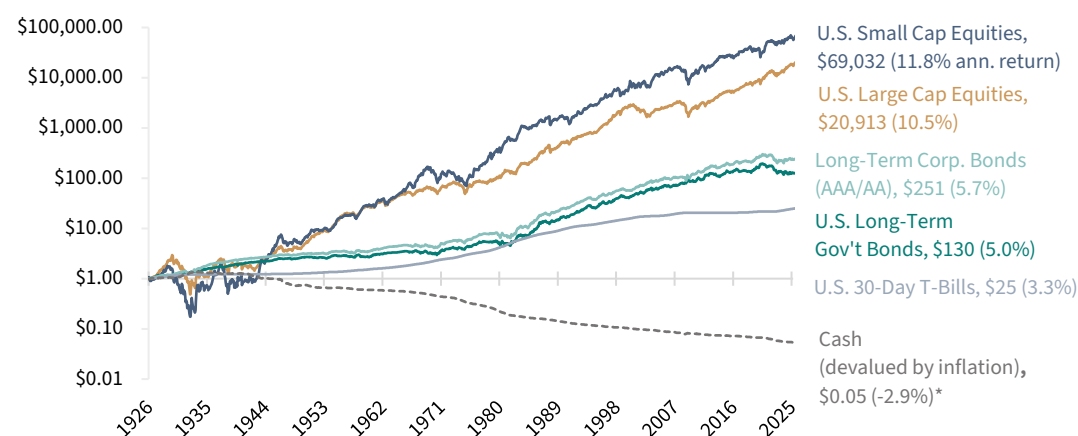
While the simple answer to combat inflation is to invest your money over the long term, the concept of compounding tells us why. When your savings earn returns (e.g., bank interest, dividends), compounding allows these returns to earn even more returns. Over time, this effect snowballs, and earnings grow at an increasingly fast rate. Given a small initial investment, in year one the amount you earn on your investments will not be a lot. However, in year 10...or 20...or 30... you will not believe the impact of the “power of compounding.”

*“Compounding [interest] is the most powerful force in the universe.”*

**Albert Einstein**

### Growth of \$1 Invested in Various Asset Classes

As of September 30, 2025



If you earn 6.5% on an investment, which is the approximate historic annual growth rate of the U.S. economy and stock market (excluding dividends) for the past 60 years, the growth of your investment over a lifetime will be exponential. You will have nearly 7 times your initial amount in 30 years, more than 12 times in 40 years, and more than 23 times in 50 years!

Source: Morningstar Direct

\*Cash devalued by inflation is measured through 8/31/25.

Notes: U.S. Small Cap Equities are represented by the Ibbotson® U.S. Small Stock Index; U.S. Large Cap Equities are represented by the Ibbotson® U.S. Large Stock Index; Long-Term Corporate Bonds are represented by the Ibbotson® Long-Term Corporate Bond Index until 3/31/2022 (when the index was temporarily discontinued) and the ICE BofA 15+ Year US Corporate Index Total Return Index after 3/31/2022; U.S. Long-Term Gov't Bonds are represented by the Ibbotson® U.S. Long-Term Government Bond Index (approximate bond maturity 21.5 years); U.S. 30-Day T-Bills are represented by the Ibbotson® U.S. 30-Day T-Bill Index; and the value of Cash (devalued by inflation) was calculated using the Ibbotson® U.S. Inflation Index. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The indexes are unmanaged. Index performance is not Fund performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# The Power of Active, Long-Term Investing

## Baron Capital Invests for the Long Term

Baron Capital purchases stocks of well-managed, competitively advantaged growth companies that we believe will increase in value in the years ahead. As growth managers, we believe a long-term investment horizon is key to achieving above-average performance. We have outperformed the economy and U.S. stock market over the long term because we seek to invest in businesses with the potential to double in the next five to 10 years, at a time when we believe their share prices do not reflect those favorable prospects.

*“If you aren’t willing to own a stock for 10 years, don’t even think about owning it for 10 minutes.”*

**Warren Buffett**

### Our Top 10 Longest Held Stocks Have Produced Strong Gains

The potential benefits of our long-term approach can be demonstrated by the returns of the 10 longest currently held investments across Baron Funds. Our investments have generated significant gains for our investors, with 8 of our top 10 longest held stocks generating annualized returns over 10.0% since their initial purchase.

#### Top 10 Longest Currently Held Stocks

As of September 30, 2025

| Ticker         | Security Name                     | Date of First Purchase | # of Years Held | Aggregate Baron Funds Investment Value as of 9/30/2025 (\$ millions) | Aggregate Baron Funds % of Net Assets | Cost Per Share (\$) | Baron Funds Net Realized & Unrealized Gains Since Date of First Purchase (\$ millions) | Stock Cumulative Total Return (%) | Stock Annualized Total Return (%) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SCHW           | The Charles Schwab Corporation    | 1992                   | 32.8            | 520.1                                                                | 1.4                                   | 17.97               | 1,530.0                                                                                | 15,487.9                          | 16.6                              |
| CHH            | Choice Hotels International, Inc. | 1996                   | 28.9            | 462.8                                                                | 1.3                                   | 38.50               | 555.0                                                                                  | 2,978.7                           | 12.6                              |
| MTN            | Vail Resorts, Inc.                | 1997                   | 28.7            | 696.4                                                                | 1.9                                   | 73.98               | 700.8                                                                                  | 833.4                             | 8.1                               |
| CAKE           | The Cheesecake Factory, Inc.      | 2001                   | 24.0            | 68.3                                                                 | 0.2                                   | 21.70               | 63.5                                                                                   | 301.0                             | 6.0                               |
| CSGP           | CoStar Group, Inc.                | 2001                   | 23.9            | 1,359.6                                                              | 3.8                                   | 16.03               | 1,608.2                                                                                | 4,762.8                           | 17.6                              |
| ACGL           | Arch Capital Group Ltd.           | 2002                   | 23.5            | 1,502.8                                                              | 4.2                                   | 5.19                | 1,946.5                                                                                | 3,237.2                           | 16.1                              |
| CNS            | Cohen & Steers, Inc.              | 2004                   | 21.1            | 93.8                                                                 | 0.3                                   | 24.36               | 129.9                                                                                  | 1,183.0                           | 12.8                              |
| IDXX           | IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.          | 2005                   | 20.6            | 981.0                                                                | 2.7                                   | 91.91               | 2,143.5                                                                                | 4,339.0                           | 20.2                              |
| CBRE           | CBRE Group, Inc.                  | 2005                   | 20.5            | 204.2                                                                | 0.6                                   | 49.59               | 303.5                                                                                  | 1,268.1                           | 13.6                              |
| MORN           | Morningstar, Inc.                 | 2005                   | 20.4            | 250.8                                                                | 0.7                                   | 48.43               | 281.9                                                                                  | 1,195.8                           | 13.4                              |
| <b>Total</b>   |                                   |                        |                 | <b>6,139.8</b>                                                       | <b>17.0</b>                           |                     | <b>9,262.8</b>                                                                         |                                   |                                   |
| <b>Average</b> |                                   |                        |                 |                                                                      |                                       |                     |                                                                                        | <b>3,558.7</b>                    | <b>13.7</b>                       |

Notes: The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portfolio holdings are subject to change. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

# The Power of Active, Long-Term Investing

## Disclosures

All information as of September 30, 2025.

*Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the investment carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectuses contain this and other information about the Funds. You may obtain them from the Funds' distributor, Baron Capital, Inc., by calling 1-800-99-BARON or visiting [BaronCapitalGroup.com](http://BaronCapitalGroup.com). Please read them carefully before investing.*

**Risks:** All investments are subject to risk and may lose value.

The discussion of market trends is not intended as advice to any person regarding the advisability of investing in any particular security. The views expressed in this document reflect those of the respective writer. Some of our comments are based on management expectations and are considered "forward-looking statements." Actual future results, however, may prove to be different from our expectations. Our views are a reflection of our best judgment at the time and are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions and Baron has no obligation to update them.

**Portfolio holdings as a percentage of net assets as of September 30, 2025 for securities mentioned are as follows:** **The Charles Schwab Corporation** - Baron Asset Fund (2.6%), Baron FinTech Fund (2.6%), Baron Partners Fund (4.9%\*); **Choice Hotels International, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (1.3%), Baron Focused Growth Fund (2.4%), Baron Growth Fund (6.5%), Baron Partners Fund (0.3%\*); **Vail Resorts, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (1.5%), Baron Focused Growth Fund (3.9%), Baron Growth Fund (6.0%), Baron Partners Fund (2.6%\*), Baron Real Estate Income Fund (1.7%); **The Cheesecake Factory Incorporated** - Baron Small Cap Fund (1.8%); **CoStar Group, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (4.4%), Baron Durable Advantage Fund (2.0%), Baron FinTech Fund (1.0%), Baron Focused Growth Fund (4.0%), Baron Growth Fund (7.6%), Baron Opportunity Fund (2.2%), Baron Partners Fund (6.7%\*), Baron Real Estate Fund (3.1%), Baron Technology Fund (1.2%); **Arch Capital Group Ltd.** - Baron Asset Fund (3.9%), Baron Durable Advantage Fund (1.5%), Baron FinTech Fund (1.8%), Baron Focused Growth Fund (2.9%), Baron Growth Fund (14.1%), Baron International Growth Fund (1.8%), Baron Partners Fund (6.5%\*); **Cohen & Steers, Inc.** - Baron Growth Fund (1.9%); **IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (6.3%), Baron Focused Growth Fund (5.4%), Baron Growth Fund (3.9%), Baron Health Care Fund (2.8%), Baron Partners Fund (4.6%\*); **CBRE GROUP, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (2.1%), Baron Real Estate Fund (5.3%); **Morningstar, Inc.** - Baron Asset Fund (1.0%), Baron FinTech Fund (1.7%), Baron Growth Fund (4.3%).

\*% of Long Positions

Portfolio holdings may change over time.

The **Dow Jones Industrial Average** is a price-weighted measure of 30 U.S. blue-chip companies. It covers all industries with the exception of Transportation and Utilities. The total return version of the index is calculated with gross dividends reinvested. The **S&P 500 Index** measures the performance of 500 widely held large-cap U.S. companies. The indexes are unmanaged. Index performance is not fund performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The indexes include reinvestment of dividends before taxes. Reinvestment of dividends positively impacts performance results.

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