

32 Reasons ^{NOT} to Invest(?)

If you're considering not investing in the stock market, below are the reasons that have kept others out in the past. Waiting can be a costly decision. Every year there are problems that look like they will derail the market. And the current reason always seems to be more serious. But it never is.

Below we list the "32 Reasons Not to Invest" beginning in 1974 with an original investment of \$100,000 in the S&P.

Date	Reason	Investment	Date	Reason	Investment
1975	This is the worst market in 40 years	\$138,325*	1992	Invest in stocks? Maybe you haven't heard, we're in a recession!	\$656,717
1976	New York City almost goes bankrupt	\$163,032	1993	Swearing in a new American President. I'm swearing off the market - still too high.	\$746,832
1977	Coffee is \$5 a pound. Inflation is killing the economy.	\$134,881	1994	Let the government run healthcare? American business will never recover.	\$762,817
1978	You can't make money in this market. It has barely moved in 2 years.	\$130,632	1995	The market keeps going up. I'll wait some more.	\$1,017,991
1979	No economy can withstand interest rates this high.	\$133,809	1996	The Dow broke 6500 this year. Got to be a market top. Don't like those 3% T-Bills much.	\$1,282,808
1980	Iran is holding America hostage. I'm staying in cash.	\$141,991	1997	Up another 20% this year. The Asian crisis has to be a problem, right? Help!	\$1,573,254
1981	Chrysler is about to go under and I'm supposed to invest in the market?!	\$169,829	1998	Russia is broke. Asia melts down. Earnings are way below expectations and the market is up 26%.	\$1,992,840
1982	Recession has started and it could get really ugly.	\$204,248	1999	Hunker down. Buy canned goods. Y2K could be the end of the world!	\$2,381,444
1983	Unemployment hits 10% and the banks are failing.	\$196,609	2000	Soaring oil prices and interest rates. A new American President. The market is way too high, isn't it?	\$2,140,013
1984	The Dow hits 1250. It's an all-time high and I've missed it. I'll wait some more.	\$250,955	2001	The tech bubble burst. We're in a recession and we'll never recover from the 9/11 terrorist attack.	\$1,860,902
1985	There haven't been this many bank failures since the 1930's.	\$307,665	2002	Cutting rates isn't helping. The market's still falling and I'm supposed to buy?	\$1,425,451
1986	The federal deficit is over \$200 billion!	\$377,190	2003	Iraq, WMD, SARS, Mad Cow Disease, deflation and 3 straight down years.	\$1,801,770
1987	The Dow's now over 2,000. I know I've missed the boat. Again.	\$385,720	2004	Iraq (again), the U.S. dollar collapsing, the U.S. Presidential election.	\$1,963,930
1988	Where were you on Black Monday? I was out of the market. Ha! Ha!	\$431,425	2005	Iraq (still), 13 rate increases, oil at \$70. The market's going nowhere!	\$2,022,920
1989	There's talk of bailing out the banks. I'm staying out of this market!	\$547,734	2006	No faith in the President, housing in decline, inverted yield curve.	\$2,342,340
1990	The '80's are over. The market has to come down to give me a chance.	\$523,935	2007	Every year there are plenty of reasons not to invest. What will this year's non-event be?	
1991	We're days away from war with Iraq. Could there be a worse time to invest?	\$630,401			