

# 7 fundamentals you need for investing success

*charles*  
SCHWAB

*Own your tomorrow.*



We look at the  
world through  
clients' eyes.

We believe in  
the power of  
investing to  
transform  
peoples' lives.

And, we believe  
you create the  
best outcomes  
when you're  
fully engaged.

We challenge you  
to challenge us.



# Today we'll discuss

01

Start with a plan that reflects your goals

02

Implement your plan with core investing principles

03

Monitor your results and stay on track



# Schwab Investing Principles

## The fundamentals you need for success

01



Establish a financial plan based on your goals

02



Start saving and investing today

03



Build a diversified portfolio based on your tolerance for risk

04



Minimize fees and taxes

05



Build in protection against significant losses

06



Rebalance your portfolio regularly

07



Ignore the noise



01



# Establish a financial plan based on your goals

Be realistic about your goals

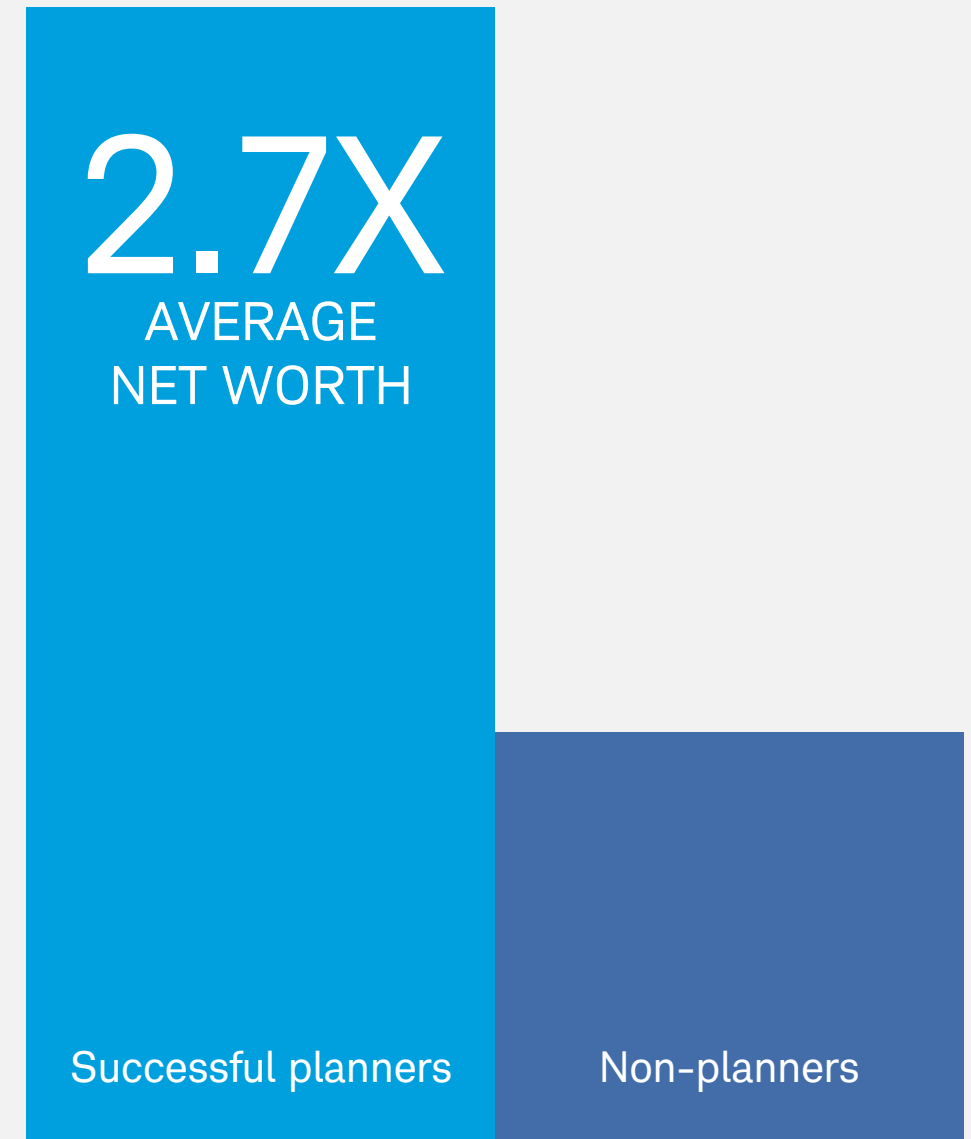
Review your plan at least annually

Make changes as your life circumstances change

01



**Successful planners**—those who stuck with their plans—can have an average total net worth 2.7 times higher than those without a plan.



02



Start saving and  
investing today

Maximize what  
you can afford  
to invest

Time in the  
market is key

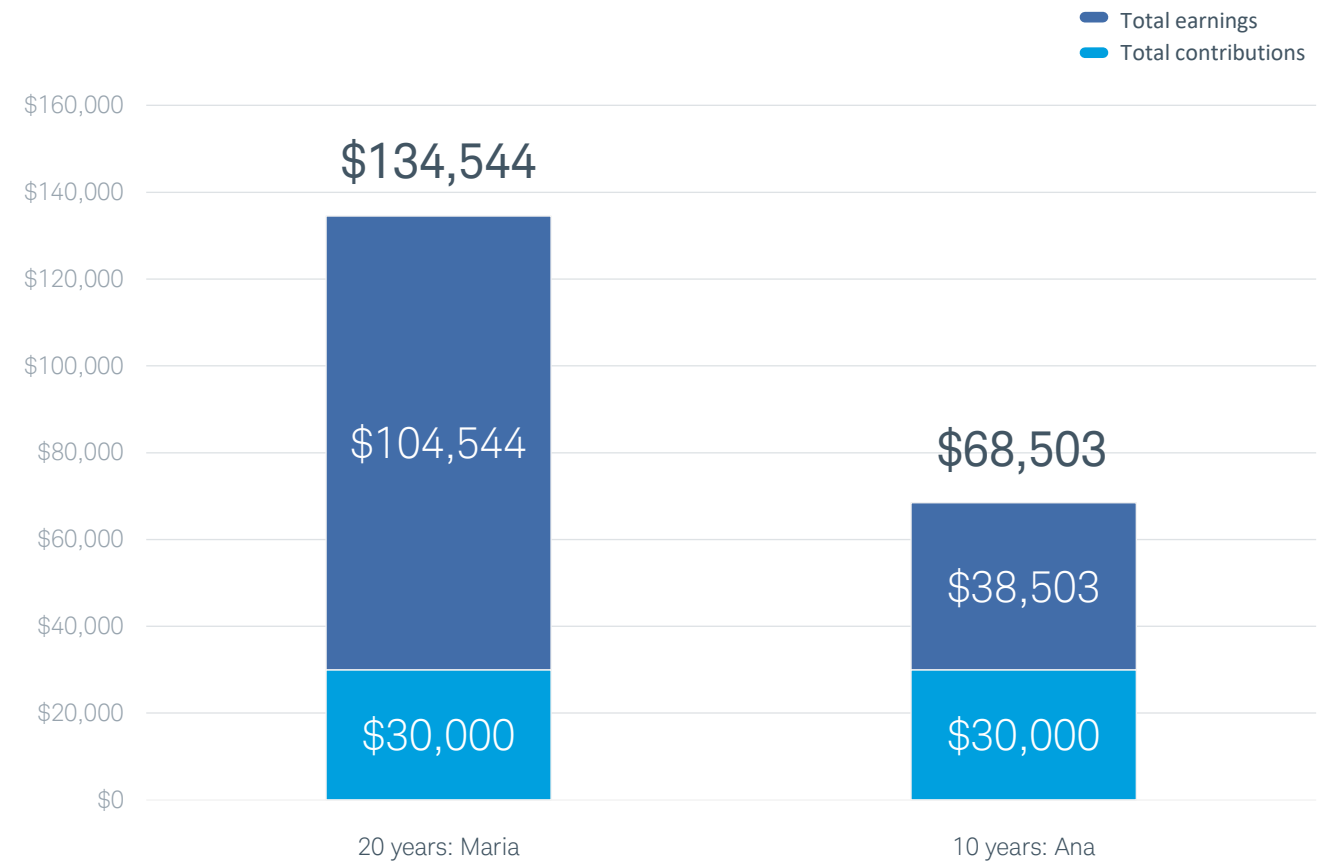
Don't try to time  
the market—it's  
nearly impossible

02



## It pays to invest early

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. The hypothetical portfolio is invested entirely in the S&P 500 Index® from January 1, 2001–December 31, 2020 for Maria, and from January 1, 2011–December 31, 2020 for Ana. The end amount includes capital appreciation and dividends. Dividends are assumed to be reinvested when received. Fees and expenses would lower returns. Ana's average annual rate of return is 13.88%; Maria's is 7.47%. The actual rate of return will fluctuate with market conditions. **Past performance is no indication of future results.** Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur management fees, costs and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.





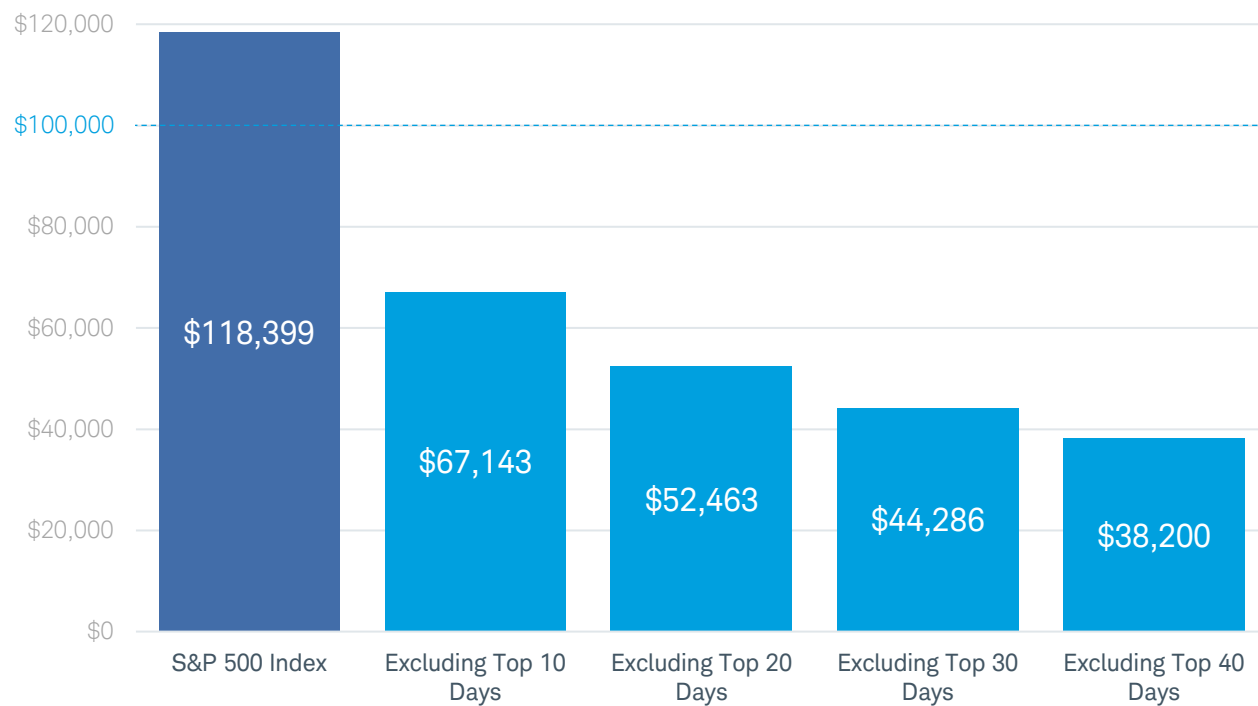


# Don't try to predict market highs and lows

Time in the market is more important than timing the market

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. The year begins on the first trading day in January and ends on the last trading day of December, and daily total returns were used. Returns assume reinvestment of dividends. Fees and expenses would lower returns. When out of the market, cash is not invested. Market returns are represented by the S&P 500 Index, an index of widely traded stocks. Top days are defined as the best performing days of the S&P 500 during 2020. This chart represents a hypothetical investment and is for illustrative purposes only. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Growth of \$100,000 fully invested versus missing key 2020 trading days



03



Build a diversified  
portfolio based on  
your tolerance

Know your  
comfort level with  
temporary losses

Understand that  
asset classes  
behave differently

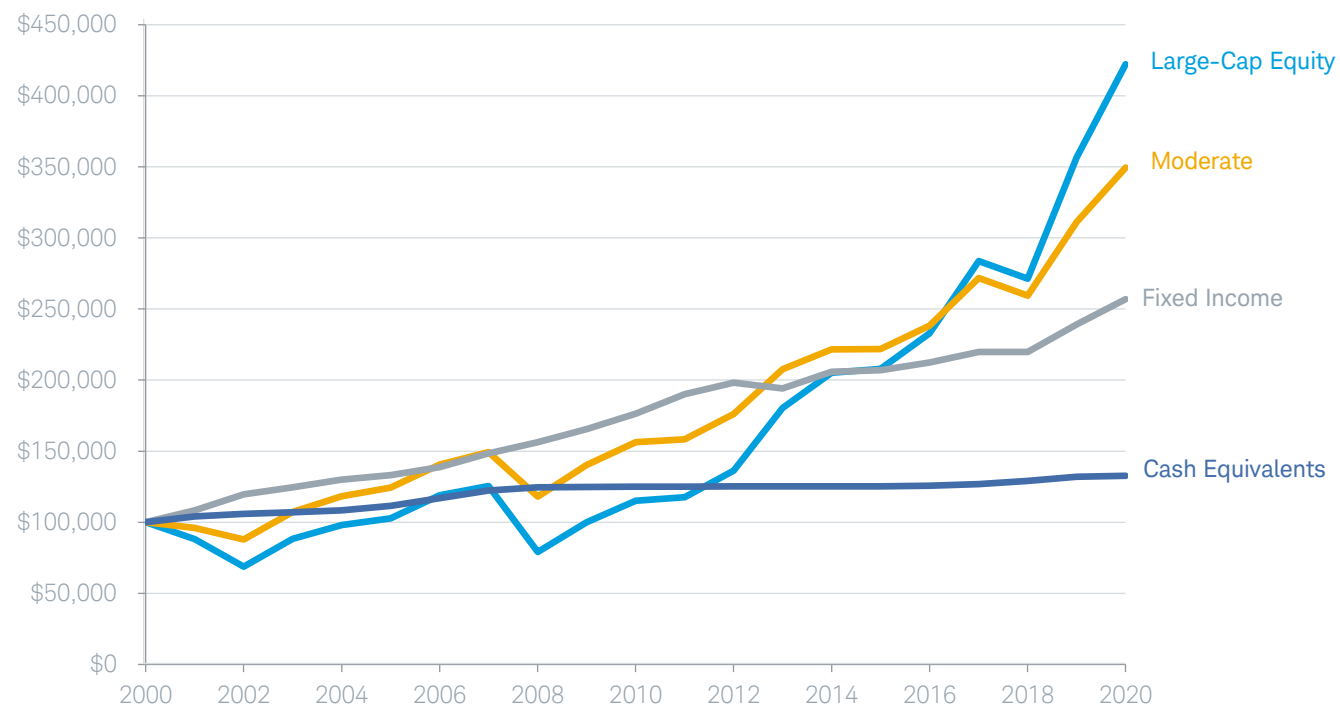
Don't chase past  
performance



## Asset classes perform differently

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. The indexes used are: S&P 500 (large-cap equity), Russell 2000 (small-cap equity), MSCI EAFE Net of Taxes (international equity), Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (fixed income), FTSE U.S. T-Bills (cash equivalents). The Moderate Allocation is 35% large cap equity, 10% small cap equity, 15% international equity, 35% fixed income, and 5% cash, using the indexes noted. **Past performance is no indication of future results.** Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur management fees, costs and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.

Asset Classes Performance 2000-2020





# What's your risk/return comfort zone?

Short-term  
allocation



40% Fixed income  
60% Cash Investments

Conservative  
allocation



15% Large-cap equity  
5% International equity  
50% Fixed income  
30% Cash investments

Moderately  
conservative



25% Large-cap equity  
5% Small-cap equity  
10% International equity  
50% Fixed income  
10% Cash investments

Moderate  
allocation



35% Large-cap equity  
10% Small-cap equity  
15% International equity  
35% Fixed income  
5% Cash investments

Moderately  
aggressive



45% Large-cap equity  
15% Small-cap equity  
20% International equity  
15% Fixed income  
5% Cash investments

Aggressive  
allocation



50% Large-cap equity  
20% Small-cap equity  
25% International equity  
5% Cash investments

You cannot invest directly in the models. Models presented here are for illustrative purposes only.

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data provided by Morningstar, Inc. The asset allocation plans are weighted averages of the performance of the indices used to represent each asset class in the plans, include reinvestment of dividends and interest, and are rebalanced annually. The indices representing each asset class in the historical asset allocation plans are: S&P 500® Index (large-cap stocks); CRSP 6-8 Index for the period 1970-1978 and Russell 2000 Index for the period 1979-2015 (small-cap stocks); MSCI EAFE Net of Taxes (international stocks); Ibbotson Intermediate-Term Government Bond Index for the period 1970-1975 and Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index for the period 1976-2015 (fixed income); and Ibbotson U.S. 30-day Treasury Bill Index for the period 1970-1977 and FTSE 3-month U.S. Treasury Bills (cash investments). Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur fees and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.



04



# Minimize fees and taxes

Markets are  
uncertain;  
fees are certain

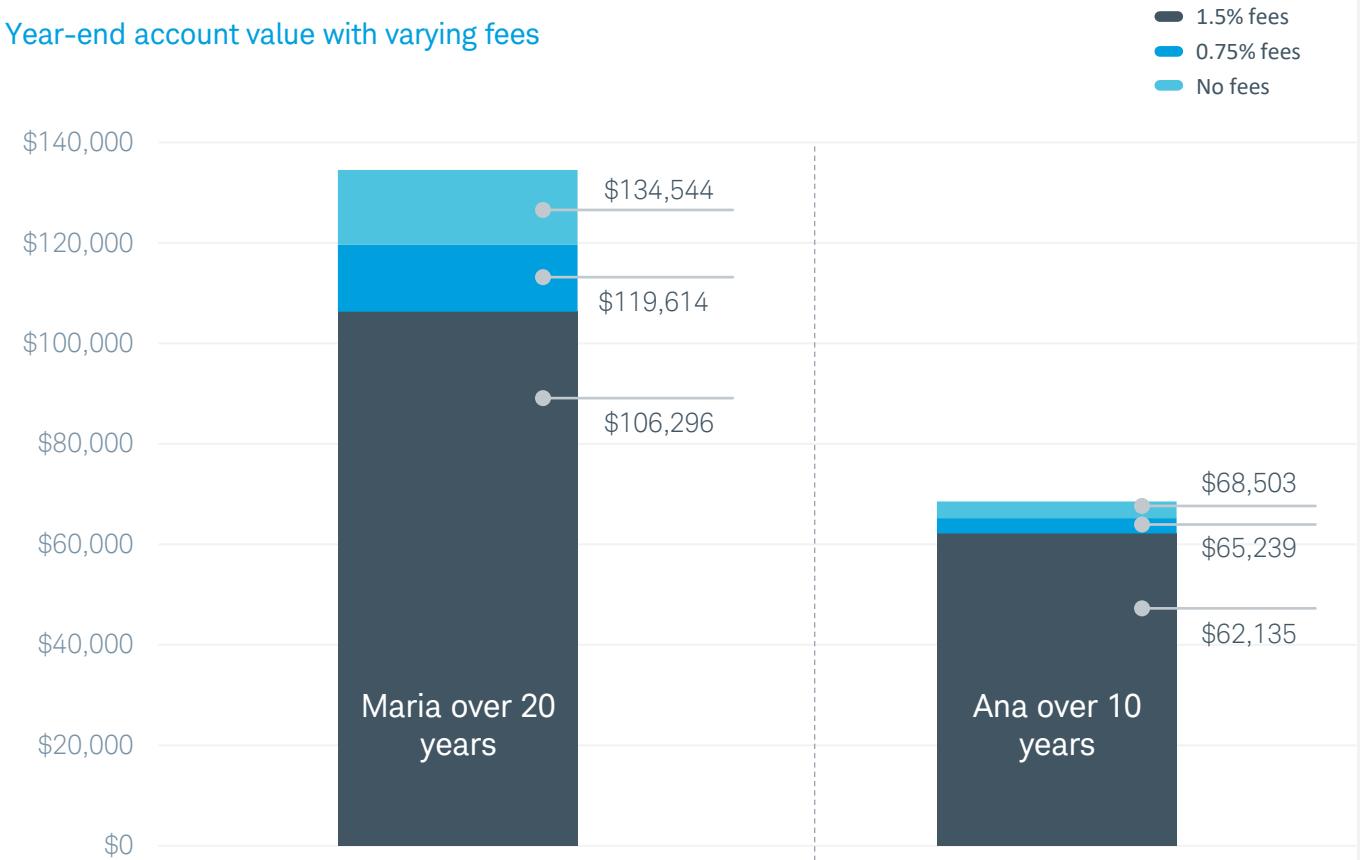
Pay attention to  
net returns

Minimizing taxes  
can help  
maximize returns

# Fees can eat away at your returns

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. The hypothetical investor invests \$3,000 on the first day of January of every year for 10 years. Returns are assessed a fee at year-end. The hypothetical portfolio is invested entirely in the S&P 500 Index from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2020 with \$3,000 in annual contributions for the first 10 years. Chart does not take into account the effects of any possible taxes. Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur management fees, costs and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.

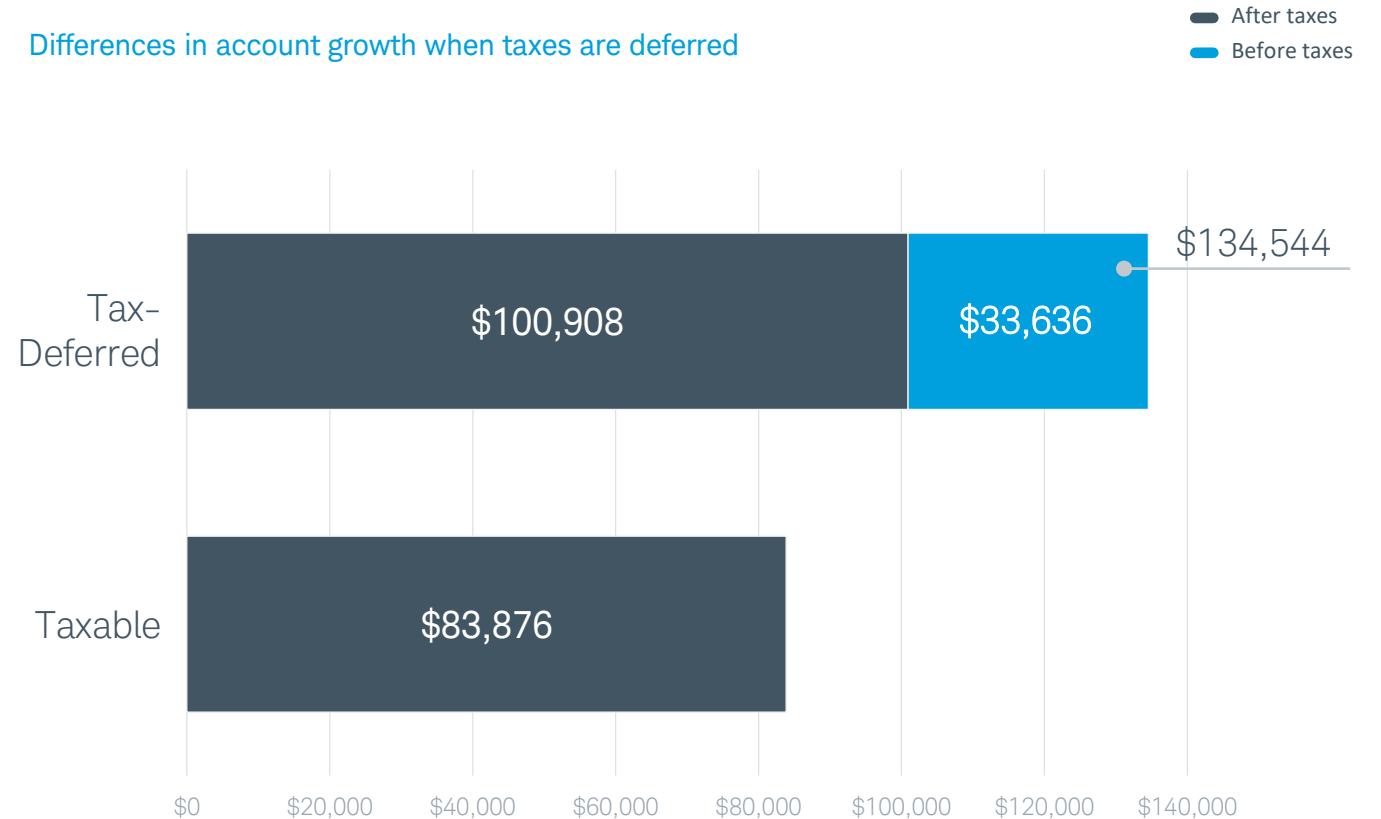
Year-end account value with varying fees



# Try to minimize taxes

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. In the tax-deferred hypothetical scenario, \$3,000 is invested in the S&P 500 Index every year for 10 years, then nothing is invested for the next 10 years. The account earns capital appreciation and dividends. Dividends are assumed to be reinvested when received. Maria makes a lump-sum withdrawal in year 20, when she is in the 25% marginal tax bracket. In the taxable scenario, Maria is in the 25% marginal tax bracket and after taxes invests \$2,250 in the S&P 500 Index every year for 10 years. She invests nothing for the next 10 years, leaving her money fully invested. The account earns dividends, which are taxed at 15%, and recognizes capital gains every 5 years, which are taxed at 15% with net proceeds reinvested. All capital losses were assumed to be carried forward to offset future capital gains. Performance is based on historical returns of the S&P 500 from 2001-2020. This information does not constitute and is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, legal, or investment planning advice. Where specific advice is necessary or appropriate, Schwab recommends consultation with a qualified tax advisor, CPA, financial planner, or investment manager.

Differences in account growth when taxes are deferred



05



## Build in protection against significant losses

Modest temporary losses are okay, but recovery from significant losses can take years.

Use cash investments and bonds for diversification.

Asset allocation and diversification are two ways to approach managing risk in your portfolio.

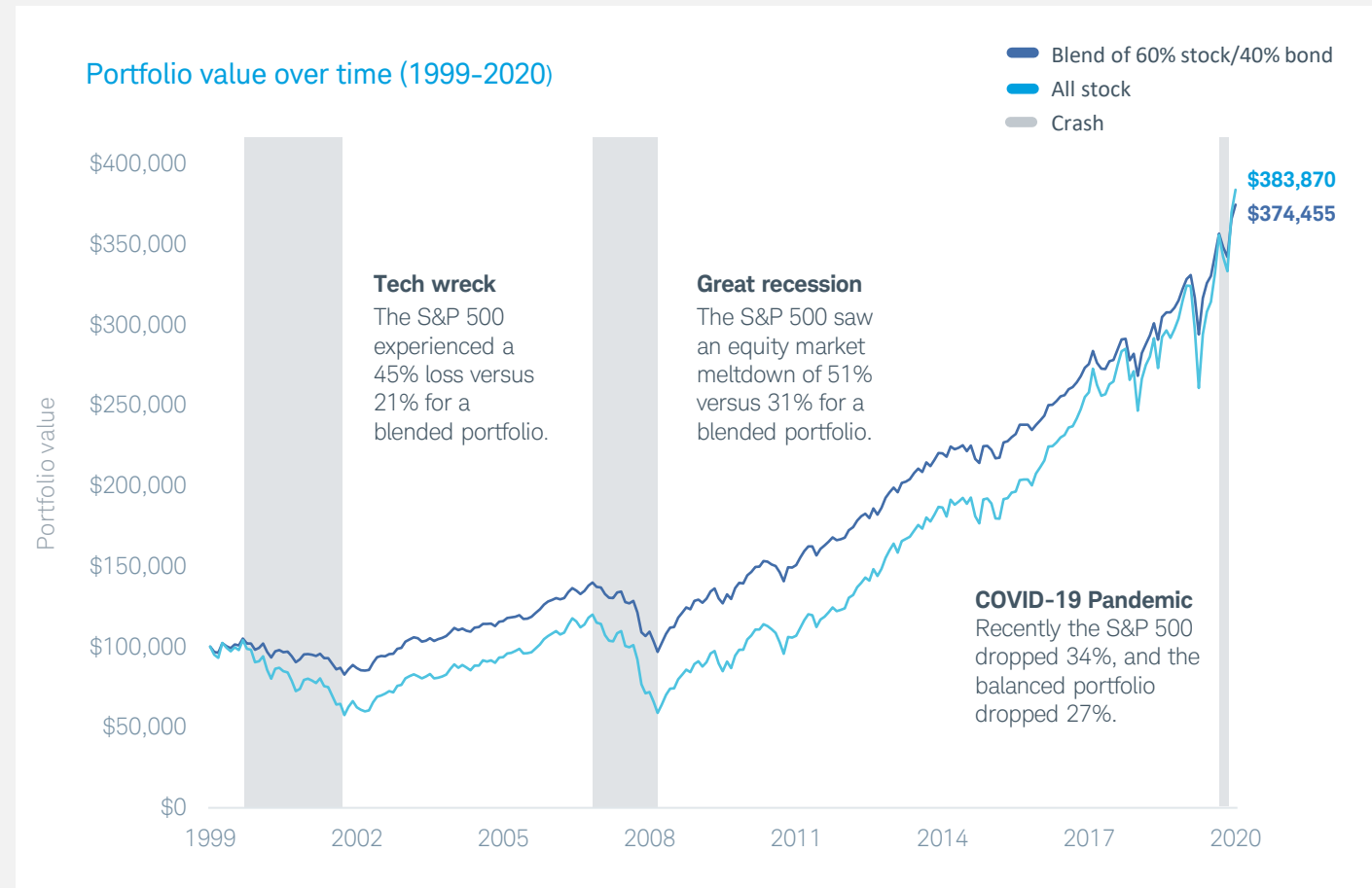




# Steep declines make it hard to recover

A balanced portfolio has helped  
reduce volatility over time

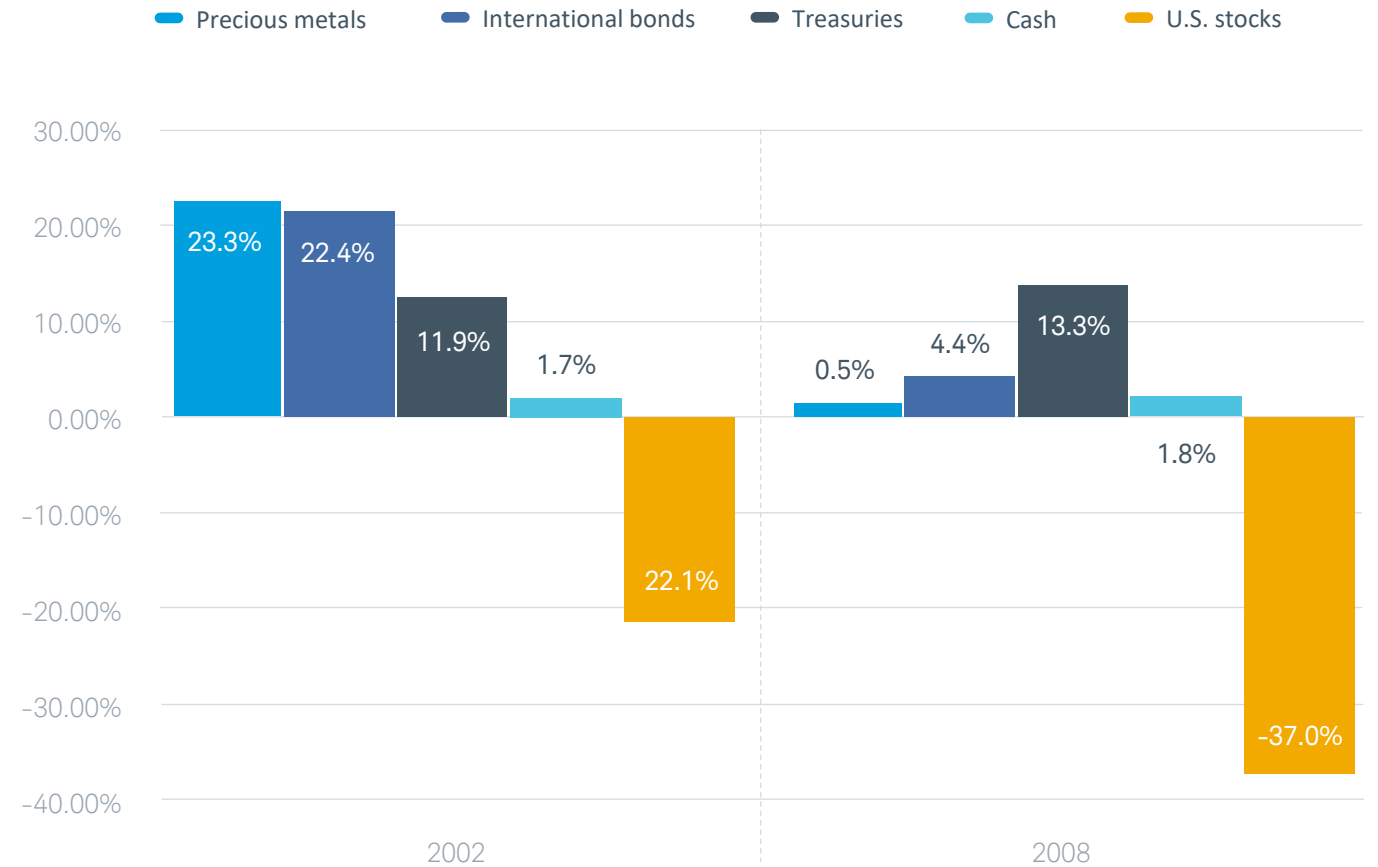
Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research, with data provided by Morningstar, Inc. Stocks are represented by total annual returns of the S&P 500® Index, and bonds are represented by total annual returns of the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index. The 60/40 portfolio is a hypothetical portfolio consisting of 60% S&P 500 Index stocks and 40% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index bonds. The portfolio is rebalanced annually. Returns include reinvestment of dividends, interest, and capital gains. Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested in directly. Diversification does not eliminate the risk of investment losses. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**





## Defensive asset classes have performed better when stocks break down

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data provided by Morningstar. The two periods were selected to show how defensive asset classes performed when US stocks decrease by more than 20% annually within the last 20 years (2000-2020). Indexes representing each asset class are S&P 500® TR Index (US stocks), FTSE 3-month U.S. Treasury Bills Index Treasury Bill 3 Month Index (cash), Bloomberg Barclays US Treasury 3-7 Year TR Index (treasuries), S&P GSCI Precious Metal TR Index (precious metals), Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Ex-US Bond TR Index (international bonds). Returns assume reinvestment of dividends and interest. Fees and expenses would lower returns. International investing may involve greater risk than U.S. investments due to currency fluctuations, unforeseen political and economic events, and legal and regulatory structures in foreign countries. Such circumstances can potentially result in a loss of principal. **Past performance is no indication of future results.**



06



Rebalance your  
portfolio regularly

Be disciplined  
about your  
tolerance for risk

Stay engaged with  
your investments

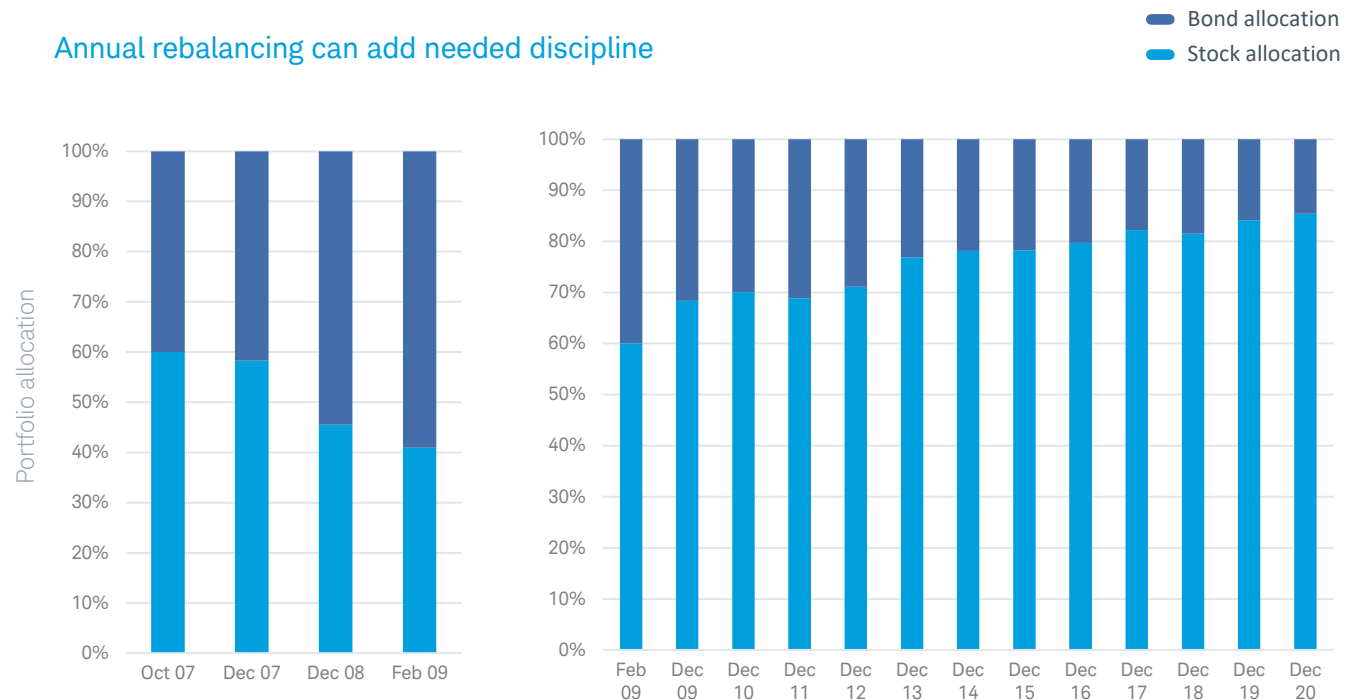
Understand that  
asset classes  
behave differently



# Regular rebalancing keeps your portfolio aligned with your risk tolerance

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar, Inc. The portfolio above is composed of 60% stocks and 40% bonds on 10/31/2007, and is not rebalanced through 02/28/2009. It is rebalanced to 60% stocks and 40% bonds on 02/28/09 and not rebalanced through 12/31/2020. Asset class allocations are derived from a weighted average of the total monthly returns of indices representing each asset class. The indices representing the asset classes are the S&P 500 Index (stocks) and the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (bonds). Returns assume reinvestment of dividends and interest. Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly. Rebalancing may cause investors to incur transaction costs and, when rebalancing a non-retirement account, taxable events will be created that may increase your tax liability. Rebalancing a portfolio cannot assure a profit or protect against a loss in any given market environment. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

## Annual rebalancing can add needed discipline



Without rebalancing during the credit crisis, a moderate portfolio lost recovery potential.

Without rebalancing in 2009-2020, a moderate portfolio took on too much risk.



07



Ignore the noise

Press makes noise  
to sell advertising

Markets fluctuate

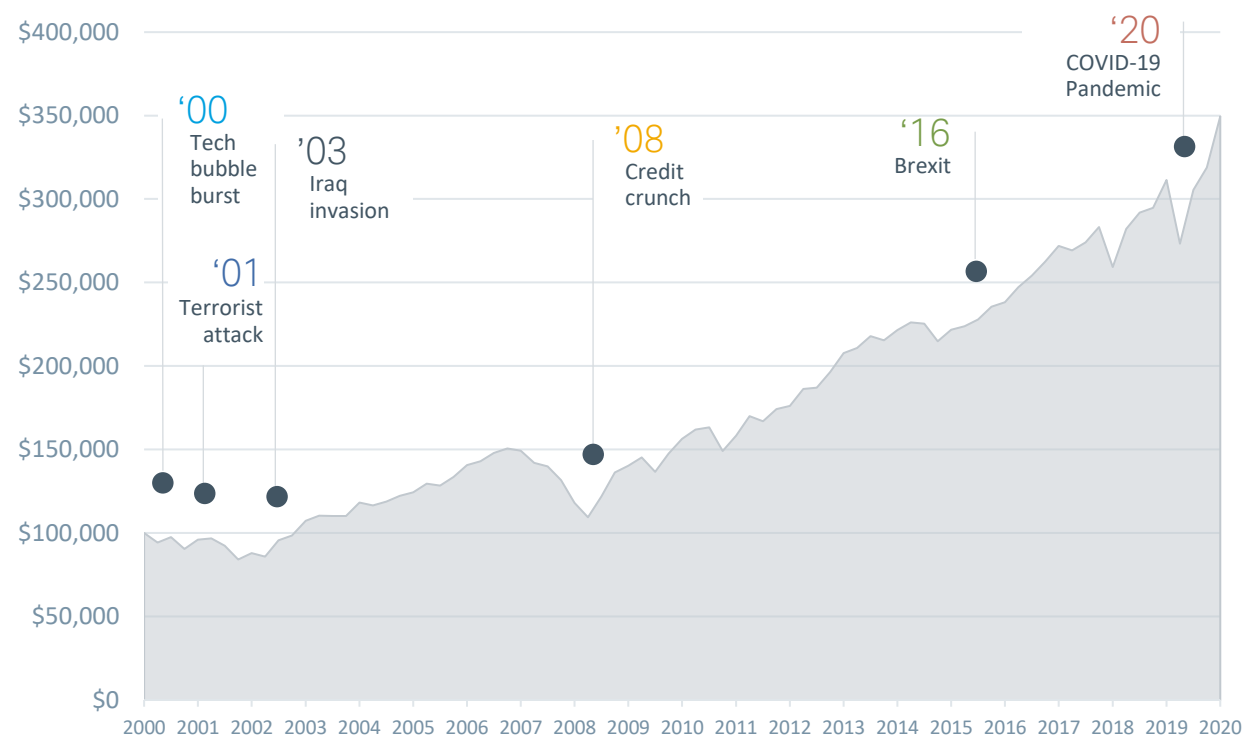
Stay focused on  
your plan



Progress towards  
your goal is  
more important  
than short-term  
performance

Source: Schwab Center for Financial Research with data from Morningstar. The chart illustrates the growth of \$100,000 invested in the Schwab Moderate Allocation Model. The asset allocation plan is weighted averages of the performance of the indexes used to represent each asset class in the plans and are rebalanced annually. Returns include reinvestment of dividends and interest. The indexes representing each asset class are S&P 500® Index (large-cap stocks), Russell 2000® Index (small-cap stocks), MSCI EAFE® Net of Taxes (international stocks), Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Index (bonds), and FTSE U.S. 3-month Treasury bills (cash investments). The Moderate allocation is 35% large-cap stocks, 10% small-cap stocks, 15% international stocks, 35% bonds, and 5% cash investments. Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur fees and expenses, and cannot be invested in directly. **Past performance is no indication of future results.**

Portfolio value over time (2000-2020)



# Let's review what we've learned

01



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A photograph of two men in a bright, modern kitchen. One man, wearing a light blue shirt and glasses, stands and gestures towards a laptop. The other man, wearing a dark sweater and glasses, sits at a wooden table, looking at the laptop. The kitchen features white cabinetry, a large window with a view of a building, and a modern circular pendant light. A blue text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

To take ownership,  
investors must  
ask questions  
and be engaged.



“Always put the client  
first. No matter what.”

*Charles R. Schwab*

*charles*  
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Diversification strategies do not ensure a profit and do not protect against losses in declining markets.

International investments involve additional risks, which include differences in financial accounting standards, currency fluctuations, geopolitical risk, foreign taxes and regulations, and the potential for illiquid markets. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks.

High-yield bonds and lower-rated securities are subject to greater credit risk, default risk, and liquidity risk.

Commodity-related products may be extremely volatile, illiquid and can be significantly affected by underlying commodity prices, world events, import controls, worldwide competition, government regulations, and economic conditions, regardless of the length of time shares are held. Investments in commodity-related products may subject the fund to significantly greater volatility than investments in traditional securities and involve substantial risks, including risk of loss of a significant portion of their principal value.

Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur management fees, cost, or expenses, and cannot be invested in directly.

For more information about the indexes shown in this presentation, please see [schwab.com/indexdefinitions](https://schwab.com/indexdefinitions).

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The logo for Charles Schwab, featuring the word "charles" in a script font and "SCHWAB" in a bold, sans-serif font, both in white, set against a blue square background.

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