

Cardinal at Work | Retirement Savings Benefits

ACTIVE V INDEX

WHICH IS BETTER?



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Markets were made to be beaten!

“But we promise to translate!”

The content contains... involves generalizations... necessarily the view of Francis... understand!

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What we'll cover today

- The difference
- The debate
- The decision

3

What we'll cover today

- The difference

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Review – Stock Investments

- Stock investments represent ownership of individual companies
- These companies can be divided by
 - Size of company
 - Type of company
 - Location of company



- These are purchased with the hope of future sales for a profit

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Review – Mutual Funds

- Mutual – many investors
- Fund – pool their money
- Investments – to purchase investments
- But how do they decide what to buy?



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How does the mutual fund manager pick?



Active Manager
Goal: BEAT the Market

Passive (Index) Manager
Goal: BE the Market!



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What is an index?

Three white rounded rectangular panels, each representing a different stock index. The first panel is titled "S&P 500" and contains logos for Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, JPMorganChase, Johnson & Johnson, ExxonMobil, Verizon, Walt Disney, and Chevron. The second panel is titled "Russel 2000" and contains logos for API GROUP, BRINKS, CARVANA, HubSpot, duolingo, WD-40, yelp, and Genworth. The third panel is titled "MSCI Ex USA" and contains logos for Nestlé, Alibaba.com, Tencent (腾讯), SAMSUNG, tsmc, SIEMENS, Toyota, and Shell.

Sample of S&P 500, Russel 2000, and MSCI Ex USA Companies

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Large US Companies



Sample of S&P 500 Companies

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Option 1 – Pay an active manager to pick the best!

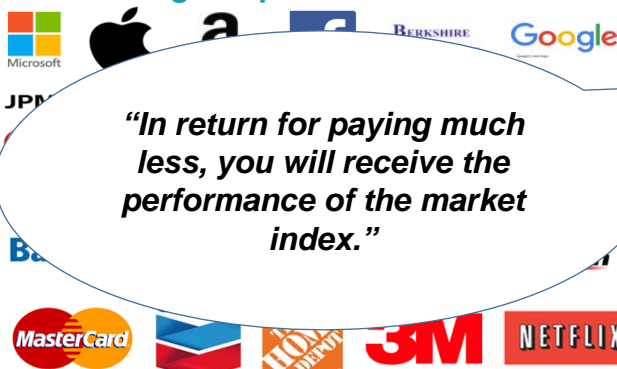


For illustration purposes only – Not a recommendation.

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Option 2 – Pay much less to buy the whole market!

Large-Cap Index Portfolio



“In return for paying much less, you will receive the performance of the market index.”



Sample of S&P 500 Companies – Not a recommendation

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What we'll cover today

- The difference
- The debate

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The Case for Index (Passive)

- Zero-Sum Game Theory
- The Impact of Fees
- Scarcity of Persistent Outperformance



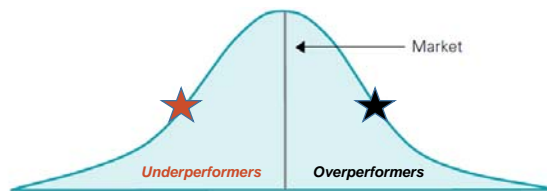
The case for low-cost index-fund investing – Vanguard April 2019

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The Case for Index (Passive)

- Zero-Sum Game Theory
 - The aggregate market return is equal to the asset-weighted return of all market participants.
 - For each position that outperforms the market, there must be a position that underperforms the market by the same amount.

Figure 1. Market participants' asset-weighted returns form a bell curve around market's return



Source: Vanguard.



The case for low-cost index-fund investing – Vanguard April 2019

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The Case for Index (Passive)

• Zero-Sum Game Theory

- The aggregate market return is equal to the asset-weighted return of all market participants.
- For each position that is bought, there must be a position sold by the same amount.
- As a result, the sum of all investments is zero.

Translation:
“Taken as a whole, active managers will not outperform the average market return!”



Theoretical summation for the purpose of illustrating the Zero-Sum Game theory. Assumes a theoretical, efficient, cost free market
The case for low-cost index-fund investing – Vanguard April 2019

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The Case for Index (Passive)

• The impact of fees

- Investors are subject to costs which shift the return distribution to the left.
- This reduces the number of investments that out-perform the market.

Translation:
“The lower the cost of the investment strategy, the higher the likelihood of overperformance.”



Source: Vanguard.

“Considerable evidence supports the view that the odds of outperforming a majority of similar investments increase if investors simply seek the lowest possible cost for a given strategy” – The Case for Low-Cost Index-Fund Investing, Vanguard April 2019
Theoretical summation for the purpose of illustrating the impact of fees.

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The Case for Index (Passive)

• Scarcity of Persistent Outperformance

- Studies including Sharpe (1966) and Jensen (1968), Carhart (1997), and Fama and French (2010) indicate how difficult it is to consistently outperform the market.
- A Vanguard Study found that only 1% of active funds available in the market outperformed the market over the long term.

Translation:
"It is hard to consistently 'beat' the market, so don't try, just 'be' the market!"



The Case for Low Cost Index-Fund Investing, Vanguard, April 2019
 Keys to improving the odds of active management success, Vanguard April 2016
 Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

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The Case for Index (Passive)

	YTD	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Average -Large Cap Core Fund	17.1%	-5.1%	20.9%	12.3%	-0.7%	11.3%	31.8%	15.3%	0.1%	12.8%	28.2%	-37.1%	6.6%	13.4%	5.7%
S&P 500	18.5%	-4.4%	21.8%	12.0%	1.4%	13.7%	32.4%	16.0%	2.1%	15.1%	26.5%	-37.0%	5.5%	15.8%	4.9%
% Active Outperformance	37.6%	30.9%	37.8%	26.5%	32.9%	17.8%	41.7%	42.3%	25.5%	26.2%	53.0%	53.4%	60.3%	34.1%	64.8%

"Just look at the 15-year performance!"



Source: Lipper, 2019 YTD as of 6/30/19
 Francis LLC News You Can Use
 Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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The Case for Active Investing

- The long-term perspective
- Good times and bad times
- Not all indexes are created equal



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The Case for Active Investing

- The long-term perspective
- Remember this chart?*

	YTD	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	Average	Batting
Average - Large Cap Core Fund	17.1%	-5.1%	20.9%	12.3%	-0.7%	11.3%	31.8%	15.3%	0.1%	12.8%	28.2%	-37.1%	6.6%	13.4%	5.7%		
S&P 500	18.5%	-4.4%	21.8%	12.0%									5.5%	15.8%	4.9%		
% Active Outperformed		37.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%	33.0%
		34.1%	64.8%	4 of 15													



Translation:
 “Even a successful ride is a bumpy one!
 Take the long view.”

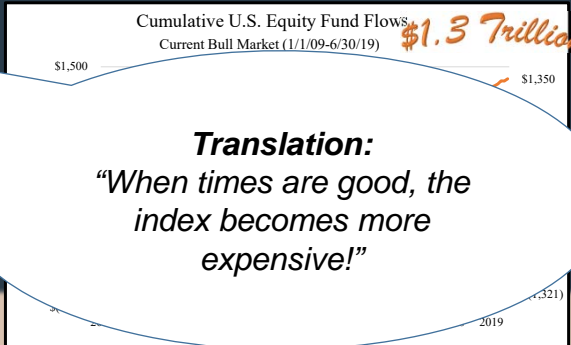
- A 1
- C
- 59
- 98% un
- All of them underperformed at least 3 years! †

Source: Lipper, Francis LLC News You Can Use
 † Keys to improving the odds of active management success, Vanguard April 2016
 Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

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The Case for Active Investing

- Good Times And Bad Times
- “Momentum Effect” – cash flow into the index during good times can make the index overvalued

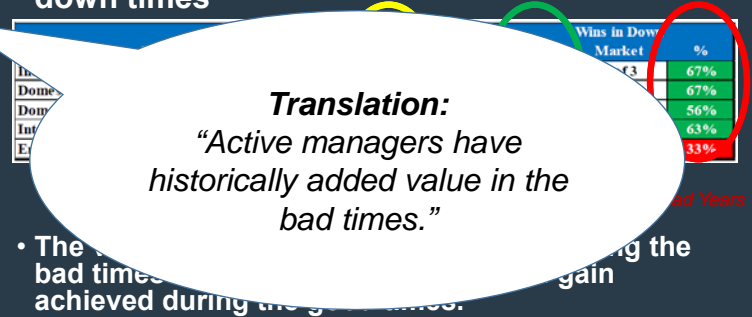


Source: Morningstar Asset Flows 2009-01-01 to 2019-06-30

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The Case for Active Investing

- Good Times And Bad Times
- Active managers can add value during the down times



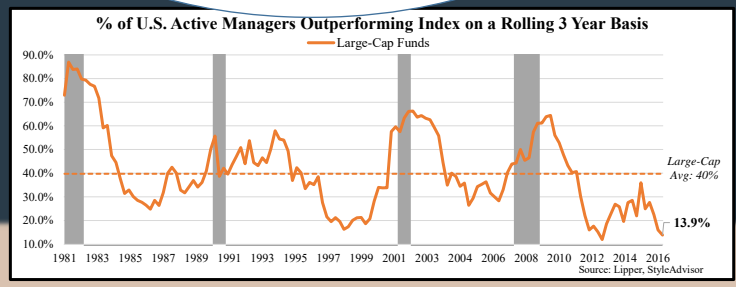
Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

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The Case for Active Investing



Translation:
 “An ‘efficient’ market is a market where stock prices reflect and immediately adjust to all available information.”



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

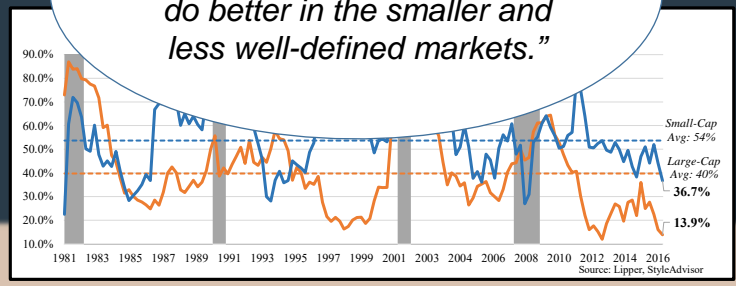
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The Case for Active Investing



- Not all indexes are created equal
- The US large-cap market is very well defined and efficient, making it difficult to beat

Translation:
 “A good active manager can do better in the smaller and less well-defined markets.”



Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

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What we'll cover today

- The difference
- The debate
- The decision

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So which should you use?



Active Manager
Goal: BEAT the Market

Passive (Index) Manager
Goal: BE the Market!



Sample of S&P 500 companies – for illustration purposes only.

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So which should you use?



- Both are appropriate investment strategies.
- Resist the temptation to chase returns by moving from one to the other.
- Consider diversifying your investment approach by using both!



Sample of S&P 500 companies – for illustration purposes only.

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Active Manager



- Do you have access to low-cost active funds?
- Will you be investing in a well defined, efficient market?
- Do you have time and risk tolerance to wait out the underperforming years?
- Will you be able to pick and exercise due diligence on the active managers?

Sample of S&P 500 companies – for illustration purposes only.

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Index (Passive) Manager

- Is your first and primary concern cost?
- Do you lack access to low-cost active funds?
- Does your risk tolerance suggest a lower long-term rate of return?
- Are you unable to pick and exercise due diligence on the active managers?



Sample of S&P 500 companies – for illustration purposes only.

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