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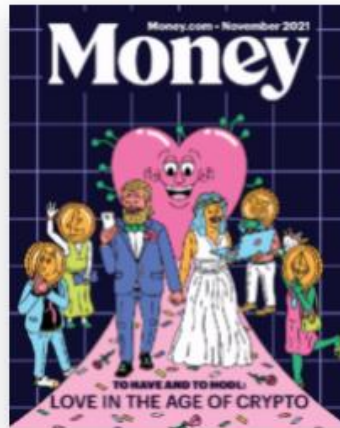
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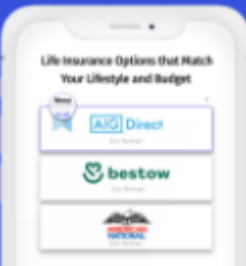
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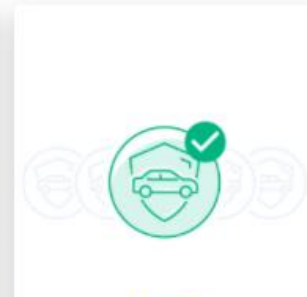
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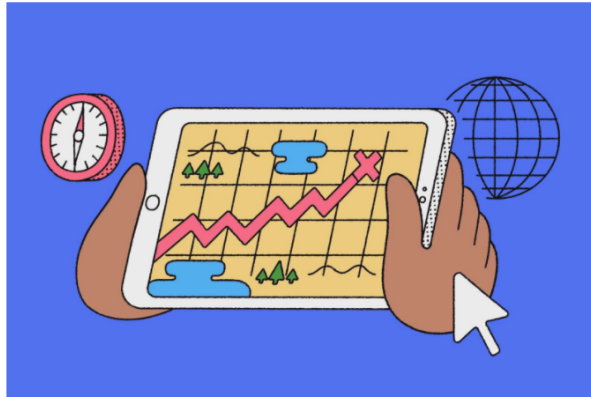
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INVESTING

How to Buy Stocks

By **Mallika Mitra**
September 20, 2021

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Filip Fröhlich for Money

If you want to grow your wealth, or even just save for a secure retirement, investing in the stock market is one of the smartest moves you can make.

Stocks represent a small share of ownership over a corporation. That means when you buy a stock, you have a chance to own a small slice of one of the world's best-known brands, such as Apple or Tesla — as well as hundreds of others making everything from medical devices to oil rigs to burritos.

Companies sell their shares to the public in order to raise cash to invest and grow. Afterwards the value of the shares rise and fall based on the corporation's business prospects. That means when the company grows, so too does the value of your investment — if you are lucky, to the point where your stock is worth many times what you initially paid for it.

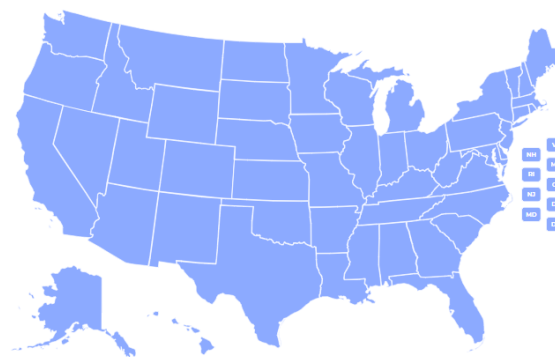
Of course, there's risk in the stock market too. If the company falters you can lose money. Even, in theory, your entire investment.

Investing in stocks doesn't have to be hard. But there are a few important questions you should tackle before you commit your hard-earned savings:

Ad 

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GET STARTED

Question to ask before you start buying stocks

- [What kind of investor are you?](#)
- [Should you own individual stocks or mutual funds?](#)
- [What kind of stock market account should you open?](#)
- [How to grow your stock portfolio](#)

What kind of investor are you?

The appeal of the stock market isn't hard to fathom. **According to research from Vanguard**, the stock market has returned around 10% a year, on average, going all the way back to the 1920s.

That means, if you're patient, owning stocks is one of the surest ways to build wealth — and even become a millionaire. Start saving \$500 a month in your 20s and, if all goes well, that 10% annual return could turn into a million dollars in around 30 years.

The problem is that that 10% represents a long term average — think over a period of 30 years or more. In any given year the stock market may be up or down as much as 40% from the previous one. If you need your money at the wrong time or if one of the stock market's periodic **bear markets** spooks you, you could end up losing, not compounding, your savings.

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INSURANCE

What Does Homeowners Insurance Cover in 2021?

By [Daniel Bortz](#) And [Javier Cruz](#)
Updated: April 7, 2021 10:54 AM ET

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Arad Golan Coll for Money

A typical HO-3 homeowners insurance policy comes with four tiers of coverage: dwelling, personal property, loss of use, and personal liability. Each protects you and your home in specific ways, generally against 16 known perils. More premium policies — such as the HO-5 — cover both personal property and the home’s structure for virtually anything that happens. This is called an open peril policy, since unless specifically excluded, coverage is eligible for damage from any disaster.

When you first look into homeowners insurance, you’ll find that most people simply need the basic four-part coverage of an HO-3 policy. Further down, you’ll learn what coverage you can and can’t expect, as well as any additional coverage or exclusions that exist. You can also check out [Money’s top homeowners insurance picks for 2021](#).

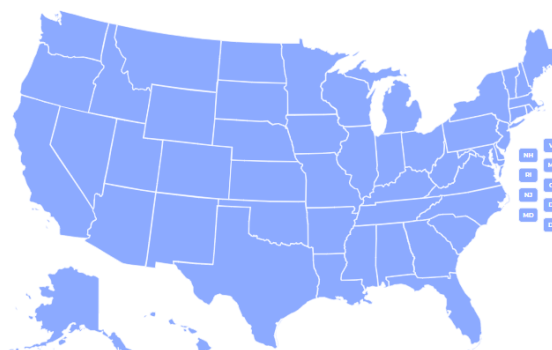
Homeowners Insurance Table:

HO-3 Policy Features	What it covers	What it doesn't cover
<i>Dwelling Coverage</i>	Covers repairs and/or rebuilding costs of your home if damaged by specific hazards.	-Specific natural events or disasters, like floods, earthquakes, and sinkholes. -Damage caused by lack of maintenance. -Intentional damage.
<i>Personal Property Coverage</i>	-Covers personal items in your home, up to 50 or 70% of the amount of coverage your home is insured for. -Coverage covers hazards, damage or theft. -Additional coverage can be purchased via add-ons	-Any lost items. -Damage to personal property due to natural disasters like floods and hurricanes.
<i>Loss of Use Coverage</i>	-Coverage for additional living expenses that resulted from dwelling damage. -It includes food, travel, and lodging expenses.	-Living expenses that surface after your dwelling is rebuilt.
<i>Personal Liability Coverage</i>	-Liability protection for accidents and/or physical harm you or your family caused to someone else while in your dwelling. -Lost wages reimbursement. -Legal costs -Pays medical expenses for people that don't live in your dwelling.	-Personal liability coverage for people that live in your dwelling. -Injuries that were inflicted on purpose.

Ad 1

Your home is your biggest asset, protecting it should be a top priority.

Select your state to get a free home insurance quote and make sure that you're fully protected.




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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Retire with Money** <money@mail.money.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 10:05 AM

Subject: An Overlooked Part of Estate Planning

To: Luis Gabriel Nieves <luisgabriel@consumersadvocate.org>

October 26, 2021

Retire with **Money**



Just under half of American adults have a will, **surveys have shown**. While there's room for improvement, let's take a moment to celebrate the 46% who got it done. After all, making a will isn't easy: It requires time, (often) money and thinking about death! If you don't get around to it, the court will eventually decide how your assets will be split. But you might want something different than what the law specifies. And if you have young children, you definitely want to name a guardian for them instead of letting the court appoint one. One often-overlooked part of the estate planning process is what to do with digital assets like social media accounts — you might not want to leave those to chance. And remember, your will is a living document: update it whenever you have a big life change, like buying another property or getting a divorce.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. If you got this newsletter from a friend, **sign up here** for email delivery to make sure you don't miss the next issue.

Timely Retirement News, Insights and Advice

Why Your Estate Plan Needs to Include Digital Assets Like Passwords and Cryptocurrency

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How to Change Your Estate Plan During Divorce

Timing matters.

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To Have and to HODL: Welcome to Love in the Age of Cryptocurrency

Crypto devotees are finding love on the blockchain.

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Retire With Money Community News



Please welcome our Reader of the Week! Kathy C., 62, teaches personal finance at a Title 1 (low-income) school in Corona, Calif.

What are you up to these days?

Work, thankfully back at school this year. I love to travel and scuba dive. I'm looking for something in the financial arena to do in retirement. Possibly back at my district teaching adult education in the finance area, helping them like I do their kids.

Fantastic! Any advice you'd like to share for others about preparing for retirement?

No matter what, start early on your OWN retirement, even if you're married. I made the mistake of allowing my husband at the time to max out his 401(k), since he had a company match and I put nothing into mine. Then I divorced, and I got nothing. (California is a community property state, but I got screwed — he had a lawyer who managed to convert it to disability income because he was off work because of a brain tumor. I basically saw maybe \$9,000 if I was lucky out of a \$50,000+ account, so that was the most unfair divorce.)

When I started my 403(b), I regret not listening to my advisor and putting it all into technology. Remember the tech bubble? Then when I wanted to follow his advice and be diversified, I told him to sell what was left of technology. He said no, but I insisted. HUGE mistake when tech came back with a vengeance. I learned to listen to those smarter than me.

Always pay yourself first, not only maxing out your retirement account but also funding an emergency fund of nine months minimum. Only buy when on sale and use every discount possible when shopping online. (hint: extensions such as TopCashBack and Honey). Never buy on impulse, even when you can afford it. Do you really need it?

Smart! Please tell me something you're proud of.

I am most proud of my mom and myself making it through very tough financial times, and raising our kids on our own. This is why I love helping others BEFORE they get into that situation. Paying it forward.

No one cares more about your money than you. Know where it goes and what it's doing. Earn while you're sleeping. INVEST!!!

Retirement News From Around The Web

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A financial advisor thinks not. [KIPLINGER](#)

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Some big trends will favor older workers, he says. [NEXT AVENUE](#)

Elizabeth O'Brien is deputy editor at Money. She has covered retirement and health care for nearly a decade. A Brooklyn resident and mom of two boys, she navigates the alphabet soup of Medicare and the New York City subway system with equal ease. You can email her at elizabeth.obrien@money.com and follow her on Twitter at [@elizobrien](#).

