## Timeless Strategies for the Successful Investor

Engage in Healthy Investor Behavior
Maintaining a long-term investment strategy is far easier said than done, especially in the face of disappointing short-term results.

When faced with such situations, most investors tend to engage in unhealthy investor behavior and may abandon their long-term investment strategies, chase the hot performing categories or try to time the market in some fashion.

The impact of engaging in such unhealthy investor behavior is illustrated quite strikingly in the study results below. The study shows that while the average stock fund delivered an average annual return of $11.3 \%$ per year from 1987 to 2006, the average stock fund investor received an average annualized return of only 4.3\% per year.

At Davis, we believe one way to encourage healthy investor behavior is to seek out those managers 1) Who have demonstrated an ability to deliver attractive results over the long term during many different market, economic and political environments, 2) Who have acted as stewards of clients' capital and 3) Who have communicated with clients openly and honestly. Such managers will instill the conviction necessary to engage in healthy investor behavior.

Furthermore, financial professionals can help investors through the process of searching for the right managers and staying invested during the inevitable periods of underperformance. In our view, the cost of financial advice seems relatively modest when compared to the cost of self-inflicted underperformance that results from unhealthy investor behavior.


Source: Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior by Dalbar, Inc. (July 2007) and Lipper. Dalbar computed the "average stock fund investor" returns by using industry cash flow reports from the Investment Company Institute. The "average stock fund return" figures represent the average return for all funds listed in Lipper's U.S. Diversified Equity fund classification model. Dalbar also measured the behavior of a "systematic investor" and "asset allocation investor." The annualized return for these investor types was 6.1\% and 3.7\% respectively over the time frame measured. All Dalbar returns were computed using the S\&P $500^{\circledR}$ Index. Returns assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

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Dalbar, a Boston-based financial research firm that is independent from Davis Advisors, researched the result of actively trading mutual funds in a report entitled Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior (QAIB). The Dalbar report covered the time periods from 1987-2006. The Lipper Equity LANA Universe includes all U.S. registered equity and mixed equity mutual funds with data available through Lipper. The fact that buy and hold has been a successful strategy in the past does not guarantee that it will continue to be successful in the future.

The S\&P $500^{\circ}$ Index is an unmanaged index of 500 selected common stocks, most of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The Index is adjusted for dividends, weighted towards stocks with large market capitalizations and represents approximately two-thirds of the total market value of all domestic common stocks. Investments cannot be made directly in the S\&P $500^{\oplus}$ Index.
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