

# There Are Always Reasons Not to Invest

Staying invested in stocks despite negative news has historically been profitable.



Whether the headline comes from a newspaper or a push notification, there will always be negative news that will make investors wary.

The table below shows standout news events over the past half century. Since we're in 2026, we highlighted events from each year ending in six. Disciplined investors who tuned out the noise and stayed invested in stocks were rewarded in the long run.

### Staying Invested Despite Negative News

Year	Reasons Not to Invest	Stock Market Return for Calendar Year	Growth of \$10,000 Investment From Year in Column 1* to 12/31/25
1976	High inflation	23.93%	\$2,939,582
	High unemployment		
	China earthquake kills 240,000		
1986	Cold War	18.67%	\$769,374
	Chernobyl meltdown		
	Iran-Contra Affair		
1996	"Irrational exuberance" speech	22.96%	\$192,167
	Federal Reserve rate hikes		
	Atlanta Olympics bombing		
2006	Housing bubble	15.79%	\$80,619
	Subprime loans surging		
	Global credit risks rising		
2016	Trump vs. Clinton	11.96%	\$39,827
	Brexit vote and fallout		
	Zika virus outbreak		
2026	US and Israel attack Iran	???	???
	AI bubble fears		
	Contentious midyear election		

**Past performance does not guarantee future results.**  
 \* Assumes an initial investment of \$10,000 in stocks beginning on January 1 of the year in column 1 through December 31, 2025, reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, and no taxes or transaction costs. Stocks are represented by the **S&P 500 Index**, which is a market capitalization-weighted price index composed of 500 widely held common stocks. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment. For illustrative purposes only. Data Sources: Morningstar and Hartford Funds, 1/26.

What will 2026 bring? Even if it's a down year for stocks like 2022 when the S&P 500 Index lost more than 18%, history suggests the market is likely to be resilient and reward investors over time.

**Your financial professional can help you become  
a more confident and disciplined investor.**

This material is provided for educational purposes only.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Individual investors' circumstances may vary. Before investing, consider your personal goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. While diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market, it may be prudent to diversify among equity and fixed-income investments.

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