



Past performance does not guarantee future results. Hypothetical value of \$1 invested at the beginning of 1926. Assumes reinvestment of income and no transaction costs or taxes. This data is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any investment. An investment cannot be made directly in an index.

Ibbotson SBI

Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation 1926–2014

An 89-year examination of past capital market returns provides historical insight into the performance characteristics of various asset classes. This graph illustrates the hypothetical growth of inflation and a \$1 investment in four traditional asset classes over the time period January 1, 1926 through December 31, 2014.

Large and small stocks have provided the highest returns and largest increase in wealth over the past 89 years. As illustrated by the image, the fixed-income investments provided only a fraction of the growth provided by stocks. However, the higher returns achieved by stocks are associated with much greater risk, which can be identified by the volatility or fluctuation of the graph lines.

Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government as to the timely payment of principal and interest, while stocks are not guaranteed and have been more volatile than the other asset classes. Furthermore, small stocks are more volatile than large stocks, are subject to significant price fluctuations and business risks, and are thinly traded.

Source: Small Stocks—represented by the Ibbotson® Small Company Stock Index; Large Stocks—Ibbotson® Large Company Stock Index; Long-Term Government Bonds—20-year U.S. Government Bond; Treasury Bills—30-day U.S. Treasury Bill; Inflation—Consumer Price Index.