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Friday, August 12, 2016

(Room 7)

16:30 - 17:25 WS #46: Risk/Returns on Investment in the New Low Interest Rate Environment

17:35 - 18:30 WS #56: Risk/Returns on Investment in the New Low Interest Rate Environment (Repeated)

Six Common Mistakes People Make When Investing

Lance Dawber-Ashley

Mistake #1 They underestimate their tolerance for risk

- Many investors don't fully understand their personal tolerance for risk and how much they can stomach financially and emotionally.
- This can lead to problems when selecting investments to match your goals
- It can also lead to knee-jerk behaviour, such as buying high and selling low and derail your investment plan.

Mistake #2 They fail to plan ahead

- Research shows that those who plan for retirement accumulate much greater assets than those that do not
- You can't put a price on your peace of mind and sense of control that comes with knowing your retirement will meet your expectations

Mistake #3 They don't understand diversification

- Unfortunately many investors think diversification means buying shares in different industries such as technology and manufacturing
- However true diversification is about spreading wealth across different asset classes, such as shares, property, fixed interest and cash.
- This helps to even out the ups and downs of investment markets, as well as better protect your wealth if an unforeseen event occurs.

Mistake #4 They let their emotions get in the way

- Emotional behaviour when investing often leads to buying high and selling low, resulting in poor long term performance

Mistake #5 They don't understand what they are investing in

- Smart investing means familiarising yourself with the likely risks, benefits and costs of any investment and asking lots of questions.

Mistake #6 They fail to seek advice

- It can be a tough business doing it yourself
- Seek advice from a credible source that is skilled and trained in that area, such as an Authorised Financial Adviser (AFA)

Understand the risk and return dynamic to be a better investor

- Risk and return is a fundamental investment equation. You can't have one without the other.
- It's a journey, you need to understand your emotional and financial tolerance to risk, your investment goals, and your timeline in order to structure your investments appropriately
- Get good advice, a good Adviser will help you get the right mix of investments to match your financial goals and your tolerance for risk

General pointers to remember in relation to risk

- The more money you have, the more risk you may be able to take
- The less time you have, the less risk you can take
- Spreading money around different investments reduces risk

Three steps to successful investing

- Step one, watch your behaviour, careful planning, keep your emotions in check. Watch for fear and greed, that can result in a buy high and sell low behaviour
- Step two, stick to sound investment principles, diversify, understand what it is you are investing in, insist on transparency, know the risks and how to manage them
- Step three, know when to get professional advice.

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To preserve and grow your wealth



Risks have eased, but reasons to be wary

Global share markets have recovered post UK Brexit vote. The main reasons for this are:

- Easy central bank policies and low interest rates
- Better US economic activity
- Fears over China's financial system not materialising
- Stabilising oil prices

Despite recent market gains, market sentiment is still fragile because of:

- Concerns that market valuations are too high in many markets.
- Doubts over whether China authorities can manage the economy's transition from investment-led to consumer-led growth.
- Vulnerabilities in European banks, particularly Italian banks.
- Nervousness about the rise of populism and protectionism in the US and Europe.

Heightened risks, but cautiously optimistic outlook

- Modest share market gains should be possible in 2016 given low interest rates and moderately growing economies.
- However, uncertainty and higher volatility may continue to characterise this year as concerns related to relatively high valuations, China's debt, the US presidential elections, and Italian banks persist.
- Interest rates should rise as the year progresses. However, rises are likely to be gradual given still low inflation and easy money from many central banks.

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