

BEST MUTUAL FUNDS AWARDS

Best Mutual Funds 2022 Topping Their Categories And Beat Benchmarks Over One, Three, Five And 10 Years

BY IBD STAFF

Mutual funds are often the best choice for meeting the needs of your retirement or other long-term accounts. The question is: Which ones are right for your portfolio from the nearly 8,000 mutual funds available? Our report on the seventh annual IBD Best Mutual Funds 2022 Awards can make your search for a fund a lot easier.

Each award-winning fund has beat its benchmark — the S&P 500 for stock funds — for the past one, three, five and 10 years, showing it outperformed in recent market conditions as well as over the longer term. Among funds at least 10 years old, that's a feat only 18% of funds achieved.

IBD compared the performance of 3,673 funds that have been around for at least 10 years and found that 677 beat their benchmark index in those four periods. Funds in 11 categories qualified, including growth stock mutual funds, small-cap funds, bond funds and index funds. No value funds met the performance criteria.

The overview list below shows the the top five winners in each category based on their 10-year average annual returns. All returns are as of Dec. 31, 2021. But remember, all the funds that earned Best Mutual Funds Awards are worth reviewing.



Best U.S. Diversified Stock Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Baron Partners Retail	BPTRX	31.39	67.92	43.58	27.89	Large Growth	No
Oberweis Micro-Cap	OBMCX	53.38	34.44	22.20	19.56	Small Growth	No
Goldman Sachs Large Cap Gr Insights Instl	GCGIX	29.81	30.54	22.46	19.01	Large Growth	No
Columbia Large Cap Growth V	GAEGX	28.72	32.83	23.45	18.80	Large Growth	Yes
Glenmede Quant US Large Cap Gr Eq	GTLLX	33.20	28.66	20.94	18.78	Large Growth	No

Best Growth Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Baron Partners Retail	BPTRX	31.39	67.92	43.58	27.89	Large Growth	No
Oberweis Micro-Cap	OBMCX	53.38	34.44	22.20	19.56	Small Growth	No
Goldman Sachs Large Cap Gr Insights Instl	GCGIX	29.81	30.54	22.46	19.01	Large Growth	No
Columbia Large Cap Growth V	GAEGX	28.72	32.83	23.45	18.80	Large Growth	Yes
Glenmede Quant US Large Cap Gr Eq	GTLLX	33.20	28.66	20.94	18.78	Large Growth	No

Best Blend Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
JHancock Fundamental All Cap Core I	JFCIX	30.15	31.38	19.93	17.69	Large Blend	No
Nationwide BNY Mellon Dyn US Core R6	MUIGX	30.29	28.79	21.79	17.32	Large Blend	No
JPMorgan US Large Cap Core Plus I	JLPSX	29.20	28.37	18.98	17.05	Large Blend	No
Federated Hermes MDT All Cap Core IS	QIACX	31.22	26.62	19.10	16.95	Large Blend	No
JPMorgan US Sustainable Leaders I	JISX	31.00	26.79	18.67	16.88	Large Blend	No

Best Large-Cap Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Baron Partners Retail	BPTRX	31.39	67.92	43.58	27.89	Large Growth	No
Goldman Sachs Large Cap Gr Insights Instl	GCGIX	29.81	30.54	22.46	19.01	Large Growth	No
Columbia Large Cap Growth V	GAEGX	28.72	32.83	23.45	18.80	Large Growth	Yes
Glenmede Quant US Large Cap Gr Eq	GTLLX	33.20	28.66	20.94	18.78	Large Growth	No
Federated Hermes MDT Large Cap Grwth IS	QILGX	30.38	33.53	24.87	18.77	Large Growth	No

Best Small-Cap Funds*

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Oberweis Micro-Cap	OBMCX	53.38	34.44	22.20	19.56	Small Growth	No
Needham Aggressive Growth Retail	NEAGX	37.54	44.18	22.37	17.95	Small Growth	No
Congress Small Cap Growth Institutional	CSMCX	39.39	34.36	24.89	17.02	Small Growth	No
Oberweis Small-Cap Opportunities	OBSOX	43.57	33.49	22.61	16.91	Small Growth	No

Best Sector Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Fidelity Select Semiconductors	FSELX	59.19	55.64	35.06	28.35	Technology	No
Fidelity Advisor Semiconductors I	FELIX	57.91	55.16	34.58	27.99	Technology	No
Rydex Electronics Inv	RYSIX	38.67	51.47	31.98	23.88	Technology	No
Fidelity Select Construction & Hsg Port	FSHOX	57.55	40.80	24.34	20.52	Consumer Cyclical	No
Fidelity Select Brokerage & Invmt Mgmt	FSLBX	40.61	31.39	20.16	17.11	Financial	No

Best International Stock Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: MSCI EAFE		11.26%	13.54%	9.55%	8.03%		
Wasatch Emerging India Investor	WAINX	37.54	22.56	21.69	18.22	India Equity	No
Grandeur Peak Global Opportunities Instl	GPGIX	21.86	32.50	20.44	17.59	World Small/Mid Stock	Yes
American Funds New Economy A	ANEFX	11.92	23.61	19.44	16.97	World Large-Stock Growth	No
Artisan Global Opportunities Inv	ARTRX	13.62	29.15	20.77	16.95	World Large-Stock Growth	No
Wasatch Global Opportunities Investor	WAGOX	21.50	31.99	24.07	16.34	World Small/Mid Stock	No

Best U.S. Taxable Bond Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond		-1.54%	4.79%	3.57%	2.90%		
Virtus AllianzGI Convertible Inst	ANNPX	5.28	27.52	19.74	14.43	Convertibles	No
Franklin Convertible Securities A	FISCX	7.41	24.84	19.06	14.24	Convertibles	Yes
Lord Abbett Convertible I	LCFYX	1.19	27.60	18.58	13.87	Convertibles	No
Columbia Convertible Securities A	PACIX	3.87	24.67	17.16	13.55	Convertibles	No
Fidelity Convertible Securities	FCVXS	10.05	26.36	16.86	12.73	Convertibles	No

Best Municipal Bond Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: Bloomberg Municipal Bond		1.52%	4.73%	4.17%	3.72%		
Nuveen High Yield Municipal Bond I	NHMRX	9.89	8.33	7.76	7.90	High Yield Muni	Yes
Invesco Rochester Municipal Opps A	ORNAX	6.72	8.77	8.46	7.78	High Yield Muni	No
Nuveen CA High Yield Municipal Bond I	NCHRX	5.39	7.68	6.72	7.28	Muni California Long	Yes
Invesco AMT-Free Municipal A	OPTAX	4.15	7.86	7.39	7.06	High Yield Muni	No
MainStay MacKay High Yield Muncpl Bd I	MMHIX	6.36	6.96	6.80	6.88	High Yield Muni	No

Best International Bond Funds

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond		-4.71%	3.59%	3.36%	1.77%		
GMO Emerging Country Debt III	GMCDX	-1.29	6.55	5.06	6.82	Emerging Markets Bond	No
Stone Harbor Emerg Mkts Corp Dbt Instl	SHCDX	1.95	7.77	5.44	5.55	Emerging Markets Bond	No
Janus Henderson Developed World Bond A	HFAAX	-0.78	5.85	4.71	5.40	World Bond-USD Hedged	No
Franklin Emerging Market Debt Opps	FEMDX	1.58	5.08	5.06	5.13	Emerging Markets Bond	No
Transamerica Emerging Markets Debt I	EMTIX	-3.99	5.28	4.17	5.06	Emerging Markets Bond	No

Best Index Funds*

Fund	Symbol	1-year total return	3-year average annual return	5-year average annual return	10-year average annual return	Morningstar category	Closed to new investors
Benchmark: S&P 500		28.71%	26.07%	18.47%	16.55%		
Voya Russell Large Cap Growth Idx Port I	IRLNX	30.66	34.95	26.15	20.13	Large Growth	No
Praxis Growth Index I	MMDEX	31.97	32.36	24.16	19.46	Large Growth	No
ProFunds Large Cap Growth Inv	LGPIX	30.01	29.78	21.85	16.98	Large Growth	No

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Sources: IBD, Morningstar Direct

* Fewer than five funds qualified for awards

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the investment carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectuses contain this and other information about the Funds. You may obtain them from the Funds' distributor, Baron Capital, Inc., by calling 1-800-99BARON or visiting www.BaronFunds.com. Please read them carefully before investing.

Annual expense ratio for the Retail Shares as of December 31, 2020 was 1.56% (comprised of operating expenses of 1.31% and interest expense of 0.25%).

The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate; an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Adviser reimburses certain Baron Fund expenses pursuant to a contract expiring on August 29, 2032, unless renewed for another 11-year term and the Fund's transfer agency expenses may be reduced by expense offsets from an unaffiliated transfer agent, without which performance would have been lower. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For performance information current to the most recent month end, visit www.BaronFunds.com or call 1-800-99BARON.

Performance for the Institutional Shares prior to 5/29/2009 is based on the performance of the Retail Shares, which have a distribution fee. The Institutional Shares do not have a distribution fee. If the annual returns for the Institutional Shares prior to 5/29/2009 did not reflect this fee, the returns would be higher.

Risks: The Baron Partners Fund is non-diversified which means, in addition to increased volatility of the Fund's returns, it will likely have a greater percentage of its assets in a single issuer or a small number of issuers, including in a particular industry, than a diversified fund. Single issuer risk is the possibility that factors specific to an issuer to which the Fund is exposed will affect the market prices of the issuer's securities and therefore the net asset value of the Fund. As of the date of the latest prospectus supplement, about 40% of the Fund's assets are invested in Tesla stock. Therefore, the Fund is exposed to the risk that were Tesla stock to lose significant value, which could happen rapidly, the Fund's performance would be adversely affected. Specific risks associated with leverage include increased volatility of the Fund's returns and exposure of the Fund to greater risk of loss in any given period.

Investor's Business Daily's 2022 Best Mutual Funds Award winners have beaten their respective benchmark index in the past one, three, five and 10 year time periods as of December 31, 2021.

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