Websites and Resources for Investors

A century ago, we got our news and information primarily from word-of-mouth, newspapers, the radio and even cinema. Fast forward to today and the internet is a powerful resource with a plethora of information and resources. Information is power and investors should be equipped with the resources required to be informed and make good decisions regarding investment and financial decisions. As Benjamin Franklin put it, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Following are some online resources which you may find helpful in gaining information, and with a higher level of awareness and understanding, turn that information into knowledge. Also, a kind reminder that anything can be posted online, accurate and inaccurate. The following websites are believed to be accurate and reliable, however none of these websites are produced or associated with the author of this article.

Useful resources include:

* The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) has a portal to check the registration, licensing, experience and disciplinary action of registered FINRA brokers with their “Broker Check” portal. This can be found at <https://brokercheck.finra.org/>
* Similar to FINRA’s Broker Check, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) licenses Investment Advisors and offers information on Investment Advisors which can be found at https://adviserinfo.sec.gov. In looking to work with a financial advisor, it is wise to verify that individual is properly licensed and check-up on their history.
* FINRA’s “Fund Analyzer” found at <https://tools.finra.org/fund_analyzer/> can be used by investors to analyze and compare the cost of owning mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds (ETFs).
* FINRA aggregates data from various sources related to fixed income (bond) investments. Trade data, recent pricing, and other helpful resources for bond investors can be found at www.finra.org/finra-data/fixed-income
* Over the years, it was very common for investors to own paper EE or I bonds. The following website by the US Treasury, is a resource investors can use to lookup current bond valuations and other treasury issued paper bond information: [www.treasurydirect.gov/BC/SBCPrice](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/BC/SBCPrice)
* Lastly, while a little technical, the CME Group has aggregated data as to the probability of the Federal Reserve’s Open Market Committee in maintaining or adjusting interest rates. The CME Group’s “FedWatch Tool” can be found at www.cmegroup.com/markets/interest-rates/cme-fedwatch-tool.html

This list only scratches the surface of financial data and information that can be found online. Save these links to your internet web browser – you never know when you may want to access information they contain.

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