



Article Highlights

- A comprehensive listing of the Internet's best investment-related resources.
- New websites have been added to several categories.
- AAII staff list their personal favorite online resources.

Our 17th annual Best of the Net guide features what we consider to be the most useful online resources. We tell you where to go to find data, access good analytical tools and get answers to key questions. In all cases, we looked for websites that provide useful information, are easy to use and do not overwhelm you with ads. Whenever possible, we sought out websites that are free, though when subscription fees are charged, we clearly tell you. (Keep in mind that many websites offer both free and subscription-based content.)

Our primary criterion for analyzing a website was to consider whether it offered value for its visitors. There are a large number of websites with well-designed pages and lots of content, but that possess little that is unique enough to make them stand out from their peers. We paid a lot of attention to the quality of content and whether it was credible or not. We also compared our former Best of the Net picks against their peers to see if a better alternative has emerged in the past 12 months.

One notable website missing from this year's guide is SmartMoney.com. The site

was shut down earlier this year by its corporate parent, Dow Jones. We were sad to see it go because SmartMoney.com was one of our favorite websites for both content and tools. In its place, you will see several new names.

To reflect the changing nature of the Internet, we also revamped the listing of social media and networking websites. Most notably dropped from the list of recommended websites are the Yahoo! Finance message boards. New to the category this year are Seeking Alpha and StockTwits. The former is an aggregator of financial blogs, newsletters and other financial commentary. The latter is a Twitter-based website.

Many websites automatically adapt to the device you are accessing them on, whether it is a PC, an iPad or a smartphone. Some websites also offer apps for Apple's iOS and Google's Android operating systems. The quality of these apps varies widely, however, and in our experience, they often lack all of the content or features available on a website. There are some apps worth downloading, however, and you can find out what they are on page 27.

Finally, you will see boxes throughout the guide listing our favorite resources on AAII.com and the Internet resources that the AAII staff personally use. The third-party resources we personally use are not necessarily "Best of the Web" picks, but they are websites and tools we find to be very useful.

The first section of the guide presents a categorical listing of our picks for Best of the Net. The second section provides an alphabetical listing of the individual websites, with information about the features we find particularly useful and how to find the content and tools within each site. The online version of this guide includes hyperlinks to all of the top sites.

The Best of the Net Ratings

AAII awards a Best of the Net rating to sites that provide investment information or service that, in our view, is both useful and substantial to individual investors and available either for free or for a reasonable price.

Most sites provide the information
(continued on page 28)

Research for this article was contributed by AAII editors Joe Lan, Jaclyn McClellan and Charles Rotblut.

AAll's Best of the Net: Our Top Picks

Presented below are our top picks—the websites we think provide the best coverage for each major subject area. The individual sites are described in more detail in our alphabetical listing, which starts on page 12.

Comprehensive

Comprehensive websites offer a full range of investment information, including financial news, fundamental data and analytical tools. Expect to find market, industry, and economic data and trends; fundamental and technical analysis tools including screeners; stock, mutual fund and ETF research; portfolio trackers; and quotes, charts and news.

These top sites offer in-depth investment data as well as sophisticated tools and are great references for keeping up to date.

★★★★ [MarketWatch.com](#)

★★★★ [Morningstar.com](#)

★★★★ [Yahoo! Finance](#)

STOCKS

IPOs

An initial public offering (IPO) is the first sale of stock by a company to the general public, effectively making a once privately held firm a publicly traded firm. Information on IPOs is sought after because of the possibility of generating above-market returns and because an IPO represents the first time most individual investors can buy shares of a certain company. Several sites provide IPO news and data, including SEC registration statements and calendars of upcoming IPOs. Our top sites provide comprehensive IPO information such as follow-up data, actual offering information and secondary offering data.

★★★★ [123Jump.com IPO Center](#)

★★★★ [Hoover's Online IPO Central](#)

Stock Data

Fundamental stock data is accessed by entering a stock's ticker symbol on the site's home page. Stock data sites usually report current price quotes, company profiles and financial data, including ratios and financial statements. The depth and range of data offered distinguish the superior sites. Features such as industry and competitor comparisons, historical price quotes and stock valuation techniques are prized. The top sites provide financial statement data for a number of historical periods and focus on individual securities.

★★★★ [FinViz.com](#)

★★★★ [MarketWatch.com](#)

★★★★ [Morningstar.com](#)

Analyst Estimates, Ratings & Recommendations

Analyst estimates and ratings are frequently used by investors to help make a judgment about the future prospects of a stock.

The stock price can rise or fall significantly if earnings come in above or below analyst consensus estimates. This information can be found for free on a majority of financial websites. Typically, financial sites will provide high, low and consensus or average estimates for earnings and revenues. The top sites offer earnings and revenue estimates not only for the current year, but also for the next few years. Furthermore, superior websites report analyst buy, hold and sell ratings and track these ratings over time, allowing users to easily see trends.

★★★★ [CNBC.com](#)

★★★★ [DailyFinance](#)

★★★★ [Reuters](#)

★★★★ [Zacks.com](#)

Stock Screening

A popular approach to stock research is using stock screens. This method involves running quantitative filters through a universe of stocks to find candidates that are promising and warrant further analysis. The stocks that pass a screen will meet the criteria used to create the screen. Investors seek various characteristics in stocks, but the quintessential qualities of high growth and low valuation are popular criteria. Using stock screens, you are able to focus on a small selection of stocks that meet your preferred characteristics. The top stock screening sites provide an abundance of data fields. Superior sites provide filters for stock sector, stock type, performance, growth and valuation and cover an exhaustive universe. They also have predefined screens available. However, you should be prepared to pay for the top screening services.

★★★★ [CNBC.com](#)

★★★★ [Morningstar.com](#)

★★★★ [Zacks.com](#)

Stock Charting & Technical Analysis

Technical analysis involves studying the market based on volume and pricing trends. Market technicians typically use charts and technical indicators to decide on the future movement of stock and index prices. There are numerous technical analysis websites and programs on the Internet, but superior sites offer a wide range of charts and options. Most allow the user to create price charts of securities and indexes as well as to overlay technical indicators for a number of years. Top sites offer technical screening that can filter a universe of stocks based on technical indicators or chart patterns. Usually, these sites will also offer educational material on technical analysis.

★★★★ [BigCharts](#)

★★★★ [FreeStockCharts.com](#)

★★★★ [StockCharts.com](#)

Stock Valuation & Ratings

While it is easy to find the current price of a stock, deciding whether the market is undervaluing or overvaluing the stock is a challenge. Stock valuation and ratings websites will typically offer an intrinsic value estimate based on future cash flows, growth rates, market conditions or a combination of several fundamental and risk factors. Keep in mind that the valuations are simply estimates and should be used in conjunction with other stock analysis techniques. Also, these estimates are based partially on subjective factors. In addition to a value estimate, certain sites will also include ratings on the stock. The top valuation sites allow the user to specify underlying fundamental assumptions based on their own research.

- ★★★★ Moneychimp
- ★★★★ MSN Money
- ★★★★ ValuEngine.com (fee-based)

Company Conference Calls

Conference calls are usually held between a company's executives and the analysts who follow the stock each quarter when earnings are released. Calls often contain information not given in press releases and, at times, analysts can ask questions. Companies may also hold conference calls to announce major corporate events. Some sites make a live stream of the audio available and others provide a complete transcript of the call. These sites also provide archives of recent conference calls.

- ★★★★ Earnings Impact
- ★★★★ Morningstar.com
- ★★★★ Seeking Alpha

Market Index Statistics

Market indexes keep investors abreast of the performance of various industries and sectors. They are also commonly used as benchmarks with which to compare the performance of securities, portfolios or funds. Indexes also provide an idea as to the volatility of specific industries and sectors. The top sites provide comprehensive data on well-known indexes, including current and historical performance, composition and fundamental characteristics.

- ★★★★ Dow Jones Indexes
- ★★★★ MSCI
- ★★★★ Russell
- ★★★★ S&P Dow Jones Indices
- ★★★★ Wilshire

FUNDS

Mutual Fund Data

The top sites for mutual fund data are distinguished by the universe of funds covered and the breadth of data provided. Fund data is usually divided into performance, ratings, management and analysis; sites may also have separate sections for expenses and risk factors. Superior sites will provide all the necessary information for investors to make an educated

decision as to the quality of a fund and its management. The best sites also provide proprietary mutual fund research.

- ★★★★ MarketWatch.com
- ★★★★ Morningstar.com
- ★★★★ Yahoo! Finance

Mutual Fund Screening

Similar to stock screening, mutual fund screening sites offer filters to reduce a universe of mutual funds to a more manageable number based on the user's fundamental preferences. To qualify as a top site, it should offer a large universe of funds, frequently updated data and a large number of variables for customizing screens. Special importance should be placed on management and fee data fields.

- ★★★★ Morningstar.com (fee-based)

Exchange-Traded Funds

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have become increasingly popular over the past few years due to their diversification effects and low operating costs. They have become an established alternative to open-ended mutual funds and are especially useful for filling out portfolios. The top sites offer performance, risk and expenses as well as education and news.

- ★★★★ ETF Database
- ★★★★ ETF Trends
- ★★★★ Morningstar.com
- ★★★★ XTF.com

Closed-End Funds

Closed-end funds differ from mutual funds in that once the fund issues shares, those shares are bought and sold in the open market; unlike a mutual fund, the closed-end fund does not itself stand ready to redeem shares from investors wishing to sell their shares. Shares of closed-end funds trade on the open market and are priced by demand; they sometimes trade at discounts or premiums to their net asset value. Top sites provide fundamental data and performance statistics. Look also for fund screeners and solid educational information.

- ★★★★ CEF Connect
- ★★★★ Closed-End Fund Association
- ★★★★ Closed-End Funds from Capital Link

OTHER INVESTMENTS

International

One of the ways to increase diversification is to invest internationally. However, since the needs of the investor seeking international investments are broad, the top sites listed here provide a range of features or links to additional resources that may more closely match your interests.

- ★★★★ ADR.com
- ★★★★ BNY Mellon Depositary Receipts
- ★★★★ CIA World Factbook

Bonds

Researching bonds is not as easy as researching stocks because a single company or government entity can have multiple debentures, each with different maturity dates and interest rates. This is why you may need to consult more than one source. Several sites have extensive bond listings with current quotes, and some sites offer educational content. In addition, the U.S. government's TreasuryDirect system allows investors to easily buy newly issued Treasuries and savings bonds directly from the U.S. Treasury without paying a commission.

- ★★★★ **EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access)**
- ★★★★ **FINRA Bond Market Data**
- ★★★★ **TreasuryDirect**

REITs

Real estate investments can provide an added level of diversification for a stock and bond portfolio. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) offer investors a way to invest in real estate without having to actually purchase property or take on mortgages. Numerous REITs trade on stock exchanges, so data for REITs can easily be found on sites that offer fundamental stock data. A top REIT site should feature educational articles on REITs.

- ★★★★ **REIT.com**

Options/Futures

The top sites provide comprehensive information on options and futures. Typically, websites will include an education section with seminars, online courses, webcasts and other tools to help novice investors familiarize themselves with these derivatives. Many sites offer instructional articles on basic strategies and instruments used for options and futures. Derivatives have a different risk profile, so make sure to educate yourself on the various risks before buying them for your portfolio.

- ★★★★ **Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE)**
- ★★★★ **Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)**
- ★★★★ **Options Industry Council**

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Personal Finance

Personal finance encompasses the broad array of financial concerns that most individuals must deal with throughout their lifetimes, including banking, insurance, savings, taxes, health care issues and all kinds of financial planning. Many websites cover at least one aspect of personal finance, but the sites we have listed below offer extensive coverage of a range of personal finance issues, such as mortgages, auto loans, credit cards, CDs, money market accounts and insurance. Plus, most also have numerous calculators, planning tools and educational materials that can help you with budgeting, asset allocation, college planning, health care decisions, tax planning, estate planning and retirement planning.

- ★★★★ **Bankrate.com**

- ★★★★ **Kiplinger**
- ★★★★ **MyMoney.gov**
- ★★★★ **Yahoo! Finance**

Retirement Planning

Retirement planning sites focus on helping you determine how much you need to save for retirement and how much you can safely spend during retirement. Most comprehensive personal finance sites include retirement planning tools for individuals who need to determine how much to save; far fewer websites include low-cost calculators for investors who are looking for tools to determine how much they can safely spend during retirement. The list below focuses on the sites with the best retirement tools and commentary.

- ★★★★ **MarketWatch.com**
- ★★★★ **USA.gov**
- ★★★★ **Yahoo! Finance**

Estate Planning

While many comprehensive financial planning websites have a few generalized estate planning articles, the sites listed below are much more specialized; they can help you determine your estate planning needs, as well as who and where to turn to for more help. These sites provide in-depth articles on estate planning with little or no graphics and not much interactivity. However, their content is informative and helpful.

- ★★★★ **Estate Planning Answers**
- ★★★★ **Financial Planning Toolkit (fee-based)**
- ★★★★ **Nolo**

Tax Information

Though the IRS encourages electronic filing and more taxpayers complete their taxes online, the complexity of tax law has not changed. This is why it is important to get both thorough and clear information. The sites we list typically offer explanations of general tax issues, tips on cutting taxes, tax planning tools and estimators, and overviews of recent tax law changes. (Tax preparation software and services are not covered. If a clear answer is not found or if your tax situation is complex, a consultation with a tax professional may be prudent.)

- ★★★★ **Bankrate**
- ★★★★ **Financial Planning Toolkit (fee-based)**
- ★★★★ **H&R Block**
- ★★★★ **Internal Revenue Service**

Portfolio Tracking

Portfolio tracking services allow users to monitor their portfolio. The top sites track a large number and wide range of securities and holdings and allows users to combine multiple brokerage accounts to see overall portfolio asset allocation and performance. Certain sites provide the ability to sync with your brokerage accounts, making it unnecessary to manually update transactions.

- ★★★★ **Morningstar.com**
- ★★★★ **wikinvest**

INSURANCE PRODUCTS

Immediate Annuities

An immediate annuity, or income annuity, is an insurance product that provides guaranteed payments to an investor over a specified period of time, funded through a lump-sum payment. Immediate annuities offer a useful fixed-income alternative for retirees. However, they are complex investments with tax structures and fee schedules that must be understood before a purchasing decision can be made. The sites listed below provide the most extensive educational information, as well as policy quotes.

- ★★★★ [Fidelity.com](#)
- ★★★★ [ImmediateAnnuities.com](#)
- ★★★★ [Vanguard](#)

Insurance

Insurance sites provide educational information or quote comparisons for life insurance products; some also provide information on long-term care insurance. Look for interactive calculators to help you determine your insurance needs. Some sites offer helpful checklists that you can use when comparing policies or allow you to check out an insurance company for past complaints. The top sites provide education on the different types of life and long-term care insurance. You can check out a company or report suspected fraud at the NAIC site (www.naic.org).

- ★★★★ [Insure U](#)
- ★★★★ [Katt & Company](#)
- ★★★★ [LIFE \(Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education\)](#)
- ★★★★ [LifeInsure.com](#)
- ★★★★ [LongTermCare.gov](#)

Medicare

Medicare currently provides health insurance coverage to those who are 65 or older, as well as certain individuals with disabilities. The Web offers extensive information on Medicare, but the sites listed here offer the best information relating to basic coverage issues, benefits offered, how to enroll and how to choose your options. Medicare's website, listed below, even allows you to search for and compare plans.

- ★★★★ [American Association of Retired Persons \(AARP\)](#)
- ★★★★ [Medicare Interactive.org](#)
- ★★★★ [Medicare.gov](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Financial News & Analysis

These websites provide current news and updated analysis on the global economy and politics as well as of individual stocks and funds. Typically, sites will provide links to top news items and separate sections for market highlights and data, personal finance, politics, companies, technology and the economy. Many of these sites offer quotes for stocks, mutual funds and ETFs, along with summaries for each. Registering at these sites will allow you to personalize the website by choosing sectors, regions or holdings that are of the most interest. The top sites provide up-to-the-minute world news, articles from various sources and a wide array of news information.

- ★★★★ [Bloomberg.com](#)
- ★★★★ [CNN Money](#)
- ★★★★ [Reuters](#)
- ★★★★ [WSJ.com](#)

Economic Data

Access to economic data and analyses can be especially useful to individual investors who want to assess the economic climate on their own. The list below includes government as well as private sites, most of which provide both data and analyses; some even allow users to download economic statistics.

- ★★★★ [Econoday](#)
- ★★★★ [EconStats](#)
- ★★★★ [Federal Reserve](#)
- ★★★★ [FRED \(Federal Reserve Economic Data\)](#)

Investing Videos

Investing videos are popular among investors wanting to stream financial news. Websites have responded to this demand by combining videos with traditional printed news. The top sites provide a wealth of videos covering a broad range of topics. Oftentimes, financial news can be streamed directly. Superior sites present interviews with industry experts and offer easy navigation with exceptional organization.

- ★★★★ [Bloomberg.com](#)
- ★★★★ [CNBC.com](#)
- ★★★★ [MarketWatch.com](#)

Social Media & Networking

Social media and networking sites are based on user participation and user-generated content. These sites allow users to exchange opinions, insights, experiences and perspectives with each other about individual securities, investment practices, etc. Social media can take many different forms, including Internet forums or message boards, weblogs (blogs), wikis (user-driven information centers) and podcasts.

- ★★★★ [Motley Fool CAPS](#)
- ★★★★ [Seeking Alpha](#)
- ★★★★ [StockTwits](#)

Turn to the next page for descriptions of what each website listed here offers.

AAll's Best of the Net: The Sites

123Jump.com IPO Center

www.123jump.com/ipo
FREE

Category: IPOs

Offers recent IPO news stories and an IPO calendar and reports the upcoming week's offerings with a price range, the size and a "hot tamale" sentiment rating that takes into account investor interest and future prospects. The latest IPO prices, withdrawals and reports are all available on the main page. Provides financial data and a business summary for all IPOs. Includes IPO performance data and monthly and annual historical prices for companies dating back to 2000. Search IPOs by industry, ticker symbol or state. Lockup and quiet periods are not reported.

ADR.com

www.adr.com
FREE

Category: International

🔍 **Where to Find:** Search for an ADR by ticker in the DR Search bar at the top right.

Great resource for screening and researching American depositary receipts (ADRs), foreign securities traded on U.S. exchanges. Search for ADRs by name, ticker, exchange, country, industry and more. The search results are displayed in a table and include country of origin, dividend payments and corporate actions. Provides charts, financials, fundamentals and earnings estimates for each ADR. Consensus recommendations are given when available, and upward and downward revisions are reported for a number of ADRs. Offers an education and guidance section on depositary receipts.

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

www.aarp.org
FREE

Category: Medicare

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Health

in the upper menu (just below the AARP logo), then click on Medicare & Medicaid.

This area of the AARP site features current news on health care reform issues and Medicare developments. The Medicare Starter Kit gives guidance on how to get started with the program. A "doughnut-hole" calculator determines your annual out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs and suggests alternative medications that may be cheaper. Questions on Medicare can be sent to the site and answers are posted online. Ads for other AARP services are prevalent, but not obtrusive.

Bankrate.com

www.bankrate.com
FREE

Category: Personal Finance

Our top choice as a source for interest rate data and other information to help in the selection of bank CDs, checking and savings accounts, money market accounts, credit cards, mortgages, car loans, home equity loans and other personal loans. There are also numerous personal finance calculators (how to optimize CD ladders, whether mortgage refinancing makes sense, how much to save for a child's education, etc.), several tax calculators, and information on debt management, as well as educational articles on personal finance. Redesigned earlier this year, the website is now easier to navigate and use.

Category: Tax Information

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Financial Planning, then Taxes

Provides articles on tax-related topics, tax calculators and several IRS forms and documents. Income tax bracket tables cover 2008 through 2013 tax years. State tax map details income, sales, property, estate and other tax rates. Articles cover a range of topics, including how to challenge real estate property taxes. Ads are noticeable, but not obtrusive.

BigCharts

bigcharts.marketwatch.com
FREE

Category: Stock Charting & Technical Analysis

Operated by MarketWatch. Provides free charts, a comprehensive library of technical indicators, market and company news, historical quotes and industry analysis. Offers three charting options: basic charts present a chart when you enter a symbol and select a time frame; advanced charts allow you to specify a custom time period as well as add technical indicators; and interactive charts allow you to plot various pre-defined time frames and draw your own trendlines. Choose from eight chart types including open/high/low/close, high/low/close, candlesticks and bar charts. Users can plot an unlimited number of securities per chart and historical data can be viewed by specifying a ticker and a date. Custom charts can be delivered to users via email on a daily or weekly basis. Users can create alerts for certain charts or add them to their portfolio. Charts can be emailed or printed as well.

Bloomberg.com

www.bloomberg.com
FREE

Category: Investing Videos

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on TV from the main menu bar.

Dedicated entirely to video content. Provides live stream channels for U.S., Europe and Asia. Comprehensive video area includes sections for earnings, markets, technology and politics. Also offers extended clips from a number of shows.

Category: Financial News & Analysis

One of the most trusted financial websites for global market news. Coverage is comprehensive and includes a variety of asset classes including bonds, energy, currencies and commodities. News articles are separated by region and country, markets and industries. Site

offers separate sections on market data, personal finance, technology, politics and sustainability. Bloomberg TV and Bloomberg Radio are both streamed live, and podcasts are available for download.

BNY Mellon Depositary Receipts

www.adrbnymellon.com

FREE

Category: *International*

🔍 **Where to Find:** Search for depositary receipts (DR) by name, symbol or CUSIP at the top right of the home page.

Offers extensive list of sponsored and unsponsored ADRs and holding company depositary receipts (HOLDERS). Search for ADRs by region, country, industry, DR exchange and depositary. For each ADR, the website provides a DR profile as well as dividends, news and trading summary. Links are provided for further research on individual listings. Extensive DR educational resources are housed in DR University, which provides both basic and in-depth education. Free interactive charting tool. Fundamental data not as strong as that at ADR.com.

CEF Connect

www.cefconnect.com

FREE

Category: *Closed-End Funds*

Provides share prices and ranges for closed-end funds, along with interactive charts and fund basics such as net assets, shares outstanding, category and daily volume. Presents distributions, pricing history, performance and portfolio characteristics of each fund. Offers a screener that works in much the same way as mutual fund screeners. The fund sorter allows you to sort by discount, premium, distribution rate, total assets and year-to-date return. An education center provides articles on closed-end fund basics, types and strategies, along with advanced topics.

Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE)

www.cboe.com

FREE

Category: *Options/Futures*

Charles' Favorite Web Resources

When researching a stock, I use these mostly free websites to seek out information that cannot be found by merely analyzing financial statements.

SEC EDGAR

www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/webusers.htm

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) publishes filings for publicly traded companies in its EDGAR system. I pay particular attention to Form 10-K, which is a company's annual report and is a goldmine of information.

Seeking Alpha

www.seekingalpha.com

Seeking Alpha publishes quarterly conference call transcripts for many companies. These transcripts can offer much insight into a how a company performed over the past quarter and what management thinks may happen in the future. (To find transcripts, enter a stock's ticker in the search box to call up the quote page and then click on the "Transcripts" link below the price chart.) I mostly ignore the articles submitted by contributing authors and posted on Seeking Alpha, however, since their quality varies widely. The website may prompt you to register; if so, registration is free.

Barron's

www.barrons.com

On its quote pages, Barron's links to not only its own articles, but also articles from The Wall Street Journal, Dow Jones Newswires and MarketWatch. The format makes it very easy to scan through all headlines from all four sources without having to go to different websites or sort through headlines from other sources. A subscription is required to read the actual articles from Barron's and The Wall Street Journal.

CNNMoney

money.cnn.com

CNNMoney does a good job of aggregating news articles from a variety of credible sources. Equally important, it excludes much, but not all, of the fluff and repetitive articles that now appear on other websites. I now use CNNMoney's portfolio tool for monitoring all of the stocks I follow.

FreeStockCharts.com

www.freestockcharts.com

Even though I am a value investor, I like to look at a stock's price chart to make sure I have not missed anything with my analysis. The customizable charts on this website are easy to use, but offer enough tools to satisfy someone who wants to conduct detailed technical analysis.

Investor Relations Websites

To locate, type the company's name plus "investor relations" in a search engine such as Google.

Often overlooked, the investor relations section of a company's website can offer a large amount of information. Though each website is different, it is not uncommon to find presentations, annual reports, dividend history, historical press releases and a calendar of upcoming events.

—Charles Rotblut, CFA, vice president at AAIL and AAIL Journal editor

🔗 **Where to Find:** Educational areas and tools are accessed through tabs running across top of home page.

The world's largest options exchange; this site is one of the most comprehensive. Delayed quotes are provided free. Has some of the best tools available, including Virtual Trade, which lets you test your trading strategy without the use of real money. Also offers sections for trading resources and strategies that investors can use to familiarize themselves with options and futures investing. Extensive education section provides seminars, online courses, webcasts, market commentary, educational tools, online tutorials and quick facts. Numerous tools are available for individual investors. Some areas require site registration.

CIA World Factbook

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook
FREE

Category: International

🔗 **Where to Find:** Select a country or location from the dropdown menu.

Not a financial website, but provides extensive data on every government, country and territory in the world, offering information on history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military and transnational issues. The Economy Overview should be your main focus; it touches on GDP, market forces, infrastructure and long-term obstacles. A great source for background information on unfamiliar countries.

Closed-End Fund Association

www.cefa.com
FREE

Category: Closed-End Funds

Provides useful information on various categories of closed-end funds (CEFs). Offers daily fund leaders with the highest one-day net asset value appreciation. CEFs are now separated by asset classes, and leverage funds have their own section. The site presents the Lipper market averages and the number of funds within each Lipper category, providing a simple method of comparing individual closed-

end funds with the market average for their asset class. Also provides a weekly average premium/discount scorecard for equity and bond CEFs. Provides links to current and archived news relating to closed-end funds and includes an audio section. There is also a section on upcoming offerings.

Closed-End Funds from Capital Link

cef.capitallink.com
FREE

Category: Closed-End Funds

Offers closed-end fund profiles, return performance and other fundamental data. Presents historical data and charts for one-week to five-year returns. Lets you personalize a screen of closed-end funds that are of interest. Fund Filter allows for the sorting of CEFs based on various criteria. Click on the reports section to open a listing of S&P reports for various closed-end funds. A listing of funds is offered (click on Funds at top to show).

CNBC.com

www.cnbc.com
FREE–\$299/year

Category: Analyst Estimates, Ratings & Recommendations

🔗 **Where to Find:** Enter a stock's ticker at the top of the page in the Real-Time Quotes box. On the company page, click on the Earnings tab.

Reports the company's historical earnings and consensus earnings estimates on a quarterly and annual basis for the next fiscal year. Shows growth forecasts for the firm, with comparisons to its sector and industry and to the market. Shows current and historical consensus recommendations along with a trendline. Earnings momentum table gives mean estimate and number of estimate revisions upward and downward for the previous week, month, quarter and six-month periods. The Peer Earnings section presents the company's consensus recommendation and key earnings metrics compared to those of its main competitors. Information is offered as a bar chart and in a tabular format.

Category: Investing Videos

🔗 **Where to Find:** Click on Shows at the top of the home page.

Provides an extensive video section, with shows streamed directly online. Full episodes of CNBC TV investing shows such as Mad Money, Fast Money and Power Lunch, as well as show recaps with video segments. Also offers CNBC U.S., Asia Pacific, Europe and World. A paid subscription to CNBC Pro includes real-time quotes and unlimited live streaming of CNBC TV.

Category: Stock Screening

🔗 **Where to Find:** Hover your mouse over the Investing tab and click on Stock Screener.

One of the best free stock screeners. Offers filters for nine data categories, including company overview, performance, growth trends, valuation, management efficiency and dividends, with over 12,000 companies provided in the universe. Additional variables are shown within each category. Shows the number of company matches for each variable so that you can change the field values to allow more or fewer companies to pass the screen. Three views are presented for passing companies: overview, performance and earnings. Passing company links illustrate relevant fundamental stock data. Offers five predefined screens, and custom screens can be saved.

CNN Money

money.cnn.com
FREE

Category: Financial News & Analysis

The Internet home of Fortune, Money and CNN offers current and archived magazine stories as well as daily CNN videos. Separate areas for business news, markets, economy and technology are provided. Data is given on stocks, U.S. and world markets, bonds, commodities, ADRs and currencies. Separate section houses international business news. Registered users can create a profile and add alerts for companies, markets, mutual funds, ETFs and keywords. Watchlists and a newly created portfolio tracker are offered, as well as videos and podcasts.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

www.cftc.gov

FREE

Category: *Options/Futures*

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Consumer Protection for fraud and education sections.

Government-commissioned organization aimed at ensuring the integrity of the futures and options market. Offers market reports including financial data, economic analysis and a monthly summary of the futures market. Education area includes a section providing fraud awareness and prevention. Allows you to file complaints and report suspicious activities, while providing case status reports, disciplinary history and an education center. Presents information on industry oversight, laws and regulations. Includes an international section. New press releases are linked on the main page, as is a listing of recent events.

DailyFinance

www.dailyfinance.com

FREE

Category: *Analyst Estimates, Ratings & Recommendations*

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type in stock's ticker in the search box at the top of the page. Click on Analyst Ratings on the left-hand side of the page under Profile.

The Analyst Ratings section of this finance and investing site provides a bar graph of analyst ratings along with a mean recommendation. Ratings are broken down from strong buy to strong sell. Tables of analyst ratings go back monthly for three months; the latest analyst upgrades and downgrades are also provided. The upgrades and downgrades table presents the previous rating and target price, the new rating and target price and the total number of analysts providing expectations. The Earnings and Growth Rates section provides the average, high, low and prior year estimates for the current and next fiscal quarter and current and next fiscal year. Revenue, earnings and dividend growth rates for the last one-, three- and five-year periods are also provided.

Dow Jones Indexes

www.djindexes.com

FREE

Category: *Market Index Statistics*

Dow Jones Indexes are under the S&P Dow Jones Indices umbrella. Provides historical performance overviews of major domestic and international indexes used for benchmarking and market or sector analysis. At the main page, hover over indexes to see a listing broken down into equity, strategy and thematic, alternative asset class, fixed-income and total portfolio indexes. PDF files of the fact sheet and the methodology are offered; the fact sheet highlights performance, fundamentals, sector allocation and top holdings. Real-time values and performance charts are presented. Users must create an account to see the components for each index. Also provides a list of index-linked investment products.

Earnings Impact

earningsimpact.com

FREE

Category: *Company Conference Calls*

Offers transcripts of corporate events such as earnings events, business updates, sales calls, brokerage presentations, mergers and acquisitions, shareholder meetings and analyst events and for domestic and foreign listed stocks. An event schedule is listed and updated daily, shown in a tabular format. Transcripts are posted within two hours of the live event. Users can search through historical transcripts or search by company name or ticker. Registered users can receive email reminders of upcoming events and notification of recently released reports.

Econoday

www.econoday.com

FREE

Category: *Economic Data*

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on View Full Calendar.

A calendar listing all upcoming economic reports is provided. Consensus forecasts are listed for the major upcoming releases. Charts of past data for certain indicators and a thorough description of what the report measures are offered. A special "Why Investors

Care" section for major releases explains how the report may impact market direction. A full-year release schedule for the data is published. Free weekly emails covering U.S. and global economic data are available.

EconStats

www.econstats.com

FREE

Category: *Economic Data*

A wide array of economic data includes U.S. indicators, interest rates (U.S. and LIBOR), oil inventories, global equity returns and select international reports. Data is presented in large tables, which are functional but not visually appealing. The statistics can be downloaded into Microsoft Excel for further analysis. Great site for raw data, but not analysis.

A short weekly poll commonly appears on the website's home page and must be filled out before the website can be accessed, but the survey can be taken anonymously.

EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access)

emma.msrb.org

FREE

Category: *Bonds*

A municipal bond database operated by the MSRB (Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board). Contains municipal disclosures, market transparency data and educational materials about municipal bonds. Quote information includes real-time pricing, interest rates and historical information for trades occurring on or after January 31, 2005. Bond information includes size, source of refunding and maturity. Personalized email alerts for trading activity and the availability of new information on bonds are free with registration. Educational content ranges from descriptions of various types of bonds to an overview of the various types of official statements and refunding documents.

Also provides information about 529 College Savings Plans on a state-by-state basis.

Estate Planning Answers

www.estateplanninganswers.org
FREE

Category: Estate Planning

Operated by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils, this site gives information on a wide range of estate-planning topics. Subjects range from disability and illness to springing power of attorney documents to tax planning. The site also offers information on subjects not often covered, including women's financial issues, spendthrift heirs and non-traditional families. Several articles include links to third-party websites for more information.

ETF Database

www.etfdb.com
FREE—\$199/year (free 14-day trial)

Category: Exchange-Traded Funds

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type ETF ticker in search box.

Offers coverage of over 1,400 exchange-traded funds. Daily news and ETF analysis is free of charge. ETF investment guides and screener also available to nonpaying members. Provides links to educational sites regarding ETFs. Pro subscribers have access to over 40 ETF portfolios and can export ETF data from the screener. Weekly trading ideas, newsletter, category reports, comparison tools and real-time ratings are available to pro subscribers.

ETF Trends

etftrends.com
FREE—\$1,200/yr. (free 7-day trial)

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type ETF ticker in quote box at upper right.

Category: Exchange-Traded Funds

Offers data on 1,484 ETFs through an “ETF Resume” that gives summary, chart, articles, prospectus, fact sheet, composition and holdings. In addition to general information, ETF Trends also reports some risk figures, such as alpha, beta and standard deviation. Users can download a prospectus and fact sheet in PDF format for any ETF. Unique model portfolio area offers five different model ETF portfolios catering to different investor profiles, giving the holdings and performance for each

model. An education area can help those getting started in ETF investing. The community area includes a forum, podcasts, webcasts and videos.

Federal Reserve

www.federalreserve.gov
FREE

Category: Economic Data

Provides a compilation of speeches and testimony from Federal Reserve officials, both in written and video format. Policy statements and press releases for certain economic data are published, including the statement and minutes from the periodic Federal Open Market Committee meetings. The About the Fed section includes links to the websites of the 12 Federal Reserve district banks, each of which provides its own collections of data, articles and analyses.

Fidelity.com

www.fidelity.com
FREE

Category: Immediate Annuities

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Investment Products, then select Annuities from the list that pops up underneath. To go to the Immediate Annuities page, click on Immediate Fixed Income Annuities underneath the Retirement Income heading.

Information and guidance on annuities is given, including a short video that explains various aspects of immediate annuities. Annuities page offers an interactive questionnaire to help you narrow down the range of retirement income products to the ones that may suit your needs. Details on the providers of immediate annuities that Fidelity offers access to are given in a comparison box. A guaranteed-income estimator helps you decide which type of annuity offers the payment and features you need.

Financial Planning Toolkit

finance.toolkit.com
\$24.99/yr.

Category: Estate Planning (fee-based)

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Estate Planning.

Provides a very detailed discussion of all aspects of estate planning, including

information on various types of trusts and other techniques to reduce estate tax exposure. However, some discussions are technical and complex. Plus, there are few graphics or illustrations. Website sponsor CCH Inc. is a major provider of up-to-date business, legal and tax information and software for professionals, including estate planning attorneys.

Category: Tax Information (fee-based)

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Tax Planning.

Provides extensive information on taxes and tax planning. Sponsor CCH Inc. is a major provider of up-to-date tax information and software for professionals. (We contact CCH when we need assistance with tax-related questions for *AII Journal* articles.) Note that the site does not provide an extensive table of contents, but a search box is on the top of every page. The information is presented as straight text, with very few graphics or illustrations.

FinViz.com

finviz.com
FREE—\$299.50/yr.

Category: Stock Data

Focus is on active trading. Home page lists stocks with notable intraday moves labeled by gains and losses, new highs and lows, unusual volume and other key trading characteristics. Its stock screener combines basic fundamental criteria (valuation ratios, growth rates, etc.) with technical analysis criteria, including moving averages and candlestick formations. Information on stocks passing the screens can be displayed in numeric or chart format. Maps show which stocks are moving up or down within specific global indexes. Elite membership offers real-time quotes, correlation data and backtests on technical indicators.

FINRA Bond Market Data

www.finra.org/marketdata
FREE

Category: Bonds

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on “Bonds” on the left-hand side.

FINRA is an independent regulator for the securities industry. In the bonds section of the Market Data Center, you can get general bond market information, as well as price information with intraday transaction prices (delayed 15 minutes) for corporate bonds, municipal bonds, U.S. Treasury and government agency bonds. Pricing information includes execution date and time, quantity, price, yield and several years of trade history, where applicable; basic description information and credit ratings are also indicated. A bond screen lets you search by issuer name, CUSIP, type, maturity, yield, coupon type, trade activity and other criteria. A watchlist allows you to track up to 100 issues at a time. Educational material on bonds, bond investing and bond trading is also provided.

FRED (Federal Reserve Economic Data)

research.stlouisfed.org
FREE

Category: Economic Data

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on FRED Economic Data.

A comprehensive database featuring more than 140,000 economic data series. Data is presented in a chart, and links are provided to view or download the actual economic data. Straightforward navigation, with broad categories and subindexes of specific data sets. Narrative is limited to working papers and regional publications from the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. A FRED app is available for the iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

FreeStockCharts.com

www.freestockcharts.com
FREE

Category: Stock Charting & Technical Analysis

Provides free real-time charts of indexes, stocks and ETFs, without exchange fees. However, the real-time data may differ from that seen elsewhere for stocks that are not actively traded. The site offers seven different charting types—including line, bar and candlestick charts—that can be plotted

John's Favorite Web Resources

The Internet offers so many great investment resources that my favorites focus on the tools that I use to control the flow of information.

Feedly

www.feedly.com

Most investment sites offer an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed that alerts readers when information has been updated or newly published. By subscribing to an RSS feed, I am able to centrally follow news headlines and stories from a wide range of sites in an organized fashion. Feedly is a news aggregator that allows me to organize my feeds and read my news items on a number of platforms—computer Web browser, iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire, etc. Feedly keeps track of the articles that I have read, so if I go through the news items on my phone with the Feedly app in the morning, only freshly posted articles will be displayed when I access the Feedly website on my computer in the afternoon. Feedly allows me to scan headlines, read articles, save stories for later access or share news through email links or social networking postings. Some of the feeds that I am currently following include AAIL.com, CNNMoney.com, ChicagoBusiness.com, ChicagoTribune.com, Engadget.com, Lifehacker.com, Morningstar.com and The Wall Street Journal (WSJ.com).

Markets Pulse – WSJ.com

stream.wsj.com/story/markets/ss-2-5

I have a digital subscription to The Wall Street Journal and have complete access to the full content on the Web and through their apps that work well on the iPad and Kindle Fire. I make use of WSJ's Markets Pulse feature, which provides streaming coverage of the news impacting the markets. Major market indexes and an overview of issues moving the markets are presented on one side of the page, while headlines from the wide array of sections covered by The Wall Street Journal are posted to the other side of the page. New stories are time-stamped and added to the top of the list. It is easy to expand upon a given headline and read the full story without leaving the Web page. Markets Pulse also works on tablets and smartphones.

CNBC Pro

www.cnbc.com

The CNBC website allows me to watch CNBC TV on my computer or iPad and provides real-time data and alerts. Their great mobile app, CNBC Pro, alerts me to breaking news and allows me to track my portfolio (pro.cnbc.com). It is the primary phone app I use to track the stocks in my portfolio.

Email Subscriptions

Many websites also offer helpful emails that push information to my inbox. For example, I get a daily email from Seeking Alpha that lists the daily price action and news headlines for each of my holdings from my portfolios.

Discount Brokerage Research

I have accounts at two discount brokers that offer research on stocks and mutual funds from third-party services. I generally find it useful to get a second opinion on a stock before I buy or sell the security. While the research offerings differ from broker to broker, most top discount brokers give their customers free access to research reports from companies such as Morningstar, Thomson Reuters and Standard & Poor's.

—John Bajkowski, AAIL president

Using Twitter for Investing News and Ideas

Twitter is a useful resource for investors, despite its origins as a social networking service. It provides news in real time and many posts contain links to full-length articles. The 140-character limit of a single post, called a “tweet,” forces writers to be pithy, which not only makes the posts interesting to read, but also easy to scan. Most importantly, since Twitter connects so many people, we are often alerted to insightful commentary that we would have otherwise missed.

Twitter is very simple to use. You do not have to write a single tweet if you don’t want to. In fact, you can read all of a person’s or company’s tweets simply by going directly to their Twitter page. For example, www.twitter.com/BloombergNews displays all of the headlines posted by Bloomberg News.

However, there are advantages to signing up for your own Twitter account. The biggest one is that you can create a list of the people and companies that you want to follow. This turns your Twitter page into your own personal news feed, which is simpler than visiting multiple Web pages to get the same information. You can also post questions and interact with other Twitter users. Finally, if you are so inclined, you can write your own tweets. Twitter is completely free.

In terms of investing, who you should follow depends on your interests. Investment-related tweets cover everything from a broad view of the market and the economy to specific information about an individual’s trades. To help you get started, here are some of the favorite twitter feeds among AAIL staff.

Comprehensive CBS MoneyWatch

twitter.com/cbsmoneywatch

CNN Money

twitter.com/CNNMoney

Investopedia

twitter.com/Investopedia

Kiplinger

twitter.com/Kiplinger

Marketplace

twitter.com/MarketplaceAPM

StockTwits

twitter.com/stocktwits

Yahoo! Finance

twitter.com/YahooFinance

Financial News/Market Commentary

Bloomberg News

twitter.com/BloombergNews

Financial Times Alphaville

twitter.com/FTAlphaville

New York Times Business

twitter.com/nytimesbusiness

Reuters

twitter.com/Reuters

Wall Street Journal

twitter.com/WSJ

Economics and Bonds

Calculated Risk

twitter.com/calculatedrisk

The Dismal Scientist

twitter.com/dismalscientist

WSJ Real Time Economics

twitter.com/WSJecon

AAIL Twitter Accounts

Among the AAIL staff, Wayne and Charles maintain Twitter pages. You can see a complete list of who they follow by going to their personal twitter pages and clicking on the “following” link on the right-hand side of the page.

Charles Rotblut

twitter.com/charlesrotblut

Wayne A. Thorp

twitter.com/AAIL_CI

We also offer Twitter feeds with AAIL content and other useful information.

AAIL Invest Ed

twitter.com/AAIL_Invest_Ed

AAIL Stock Investor Pro

twitter.com/AAIL_SIPro

on an intraday, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Boasts over 80 indicators and allows the user to draw their own trendlines. Registered users can create chart layouts and save them for future use. Built-in watchlists cover indexes, industries and ETFs. Only one security may be plotted per chart.

Charts can be exported to the user’s computer or other social networking sites. Professional level of service offered through Worden’s TC2000, but price is too high for most individual investors.

H&R Block

www.hrblock.com

FREE

Category: Tax Information

🔗 **Where to Find:** Click on Tax Calculators and Tips.

Site may seem underwhelming at first glance, but articles covering a wide

variety of tax subjects, useful calculators (including one for 2014 health insurance tax credit eligibility) and other related tools are easily accessible. The articles are concise, but provide plenty of information. A tax blog that also covers personal finance topics is updated throughout the year. The Tax Estimator tool is surprisingly thorough for an online tool, though it cannot be used to file. Reminders for the company's premium services are noticeable, but not obtrusive.

Hoover's Online IPO Central

www.hoovers.com/global/ipoc
FREE

Category: IPOs

Lists the proposed IPO offerings for the week, latest IPO filings and latest pricing information. Each company name in the charts links to a quick overview of the firm. Hoover's also provides a calendar, and its IPO filings section organizes filings by quarter. The IPO performance page presents shares offered, offer amount and price, along with first day opening and closing prices. A IPO scorecard offers data on best and worst returns, biggest first days, and winners and losers; it also provides a breakdown of IPO pricing by industry for the last quarter.

ImmediateAnnuities.com

www.immediateannuities.com
FREE

Category: Immediate Annuities

The website looks dated, but it does provide annuity quotes when you enter your state, age, gender and either the lump sum you have to invest or the monthly dollar amount you'd like to receive. However, to get the full nine-page report on any policy, you must submit your name and contact information. Site also provides a comparison of current payouts, a monthly income calculator and a list of the insurance companies that participate, along with their asset size and ratings from the major agencies.

Insure U

www.insurance.insureuonline.org
FREE

Category: Insurance

Operated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), this site provides educational information. Guides cover auto, home, life, cancer and earthquake insurance; they can be downloaded from the site or ordered by mail. The States and Jurisdiction Map links to each state's insurance regulator's website, allowing individuals to find information specific to their state. Online courses discuss special considerations related to various stages of life.

Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov
FREE

Category: Tax Information

The official IRS website provides numerous explanations of almost every tax issue in the tax code. The downloadable publications, tax forms and instructions are valuable, particularly for less common tax issues. The official publications and rules for current-year tax filings usually start to appear on the site in late October (though they may have been delayed this year because of the government shutdown). You can search for articles or publications by specific tax topics, and you can search among various IRS resources including FAQs, forms and publications, and how to e-file. Once you have filed, you can check on the status of any refund owed by going to "Where's My Refund?"

Katt & Company

www.peterkatt.com
FREE

Category: Insurance

Robust library of in-depth articles written for consumers and planners. Life Insurance Perspectives newsletter covers specific policies and policy trends for estate planning professionals, but can also be instructive for consumers. Recent case profiles illustrate solutions for real-life situations.

Kiplinger

kiplinger.com
FREE

Category: Personal Finance

Complements same-named magazine with information on retirement, taxes,

investing, real estate, saving, borrowing and insurance. Comprehensive set of tools including a variety of calculators, a budget worksheet, college rankings and guide to state taxes. Focus is more on advice than current news, with commentary presented via written articles, slide shows and videos.

Economic Outlooks section provides a nice overview of major data points.

LIFE (Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education)

www.lifehappens.org
FREE

Category: Insurance

Provides straightforward basics on life, disability, long-term care and health insurance. Online tool allows you to search for agents by name, ZIP code or city and state. Articles, videos and consumer guides explain the difference between various types of insurance and the types of policies offered. An updated blog discusses current insurance issues of interest and allows visitors to post comments.

LifeInsure.com

www.lifeinsure.com
FREE

Category: Insurance

Quote search engine doesn't require personal contact information. The list shows the A.M. Best rating and premium amount for each resulting company; click on company name for more ratings and a company summary. Well-written materials explain the basic types of insurance, plus how rates are calculated. Articles include information on recent developments. Video alternative is available for some articles. Site also shows how to calculate how much life insurance you need. The blog discusses life insurance news.

LongTermCare.gov

www.longtermcare.gov
FREE

Category: Insurance

 **Where to Find:** Click on Paying for LTC, then LTC Insurance under the Private Financing heading.

Offers good explanations of benefit choices, what long-term care policies cover, plan costs, designing coverage to meet your needs and where to buy. Includes useful links to related resources.

MarketWatch

marketwatch.com

FREE–\$199/yr. (4 weeks free)

Category: Comprehensive

Provides a wide range of financial news regarding investing, markets, personal finance, retirement and economy/politics. Portfolio tracker is offered for registered users. Personal finance section is robust with a large collection of articles and a bevy of tools. Offers stock, fund and options screeners as well as investor calculators. Domestic and international markets data are both covered. Extensive company financial information can be accessed through the ticker/keyword search providing extensive information including charts, historical quotes and analyst estimates. Earnings and conference call calendars are presented. Earnings Watch page is especially helpful during earnings season; it continuously updates as new earnings are released. Site also includes video, radio and podcasts. Users can access premium newsletters for a fee.

Category: Investing Videos

Presents a wide range of videos separated by the categories top news, programs, markets, featured and partner channel. Subcategories are provided for each depending on current events. The videos are presented by WSJ Live. A description of each video is provided.

Category: Mutual Fund Data

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type the mutual fund ticker in the quote box at the top of the page.

Fundamental data is provided on the main mutual fund page and includes fees and expenses, distributions and risk measures. Lipper ratings for total return, consistent return, preservation, tax efficiency and expenses are provided, along with the year-to-date Lipper ranking. Users can calculate the growth of \$10,000 from a user-specified year.

Fund compare enables the comparison of up to five funds. The Holdings tab presents the holdings and a breakdown by sector and asset allocation. Charts are also provided.

Category: Retirement Planning

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Retirement below the MarketWatch logo.

Combines articles, expert columns and calculators about retirement-related topics. The asset tool gives suggestions to retirees based on their income, savings and economic outlook. The retirement planning tool is customizable and allows for inputs on taxes, rates of return and expected level of activity in retirement. The tool also suggests options for increasing the potential success of having enough saved for retirement.

Category: Stock Data

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type a stock's ticker in the quote search box.

Provides common quote stock data including the current price, volume and 52-week price range. Financial statement data is provided for the past five periods annually and quarterly, along with a graphic trend chart. Accessing historical quotes requires users to enter a specific date instead of a range. Stock profile includes price chart with insider action depicted. Options data is provided. Links to SEC filings include 8-K, 10-Q and 10-K. Hulbert report shows the consensus recommendations among investment newsletters, including AAI's *Stock Superstars Report*, for the stock. Insiders section offers insider buys and sells within the last 12 months.

Medicare Interactive.org

www.medicareinteractive.org

FREE–\$125/year

Category: Medicare

Provides comprehensive information on Medicare neatly organized into topics and subtopics, with related links pointing to detailed information. A free newsletter covering Medicare issues is offered. Medicare Rights University gives advice on how to enroll, file appeals and access nursing care (a subscription is required for this part, however).

Medicare.gov

www.medicare.gov

FREE

Category: Medicare

Government website that offers an extensive collection of resources. The home page reports news affecting Medicare and includes commonly accessed resources and an especially useful collection of search tools that allow you to locate and compare Medicare prescription drug plans, Medigap (Medicare supplement insurance) and health plan policies, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and dialysis facilities. My Medicare (www.mymedicare.gov) is the official government secure online service for accessing your personal Medicare information. In order to use the service, you must be a registered user (requires a Medicare number).

Moneychimp

www.moneychimp.com

FREE

Category: Stock Valuation & Ratings

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on How Much are Stocks Worth?

A box on the upper right side of the page provides navigation choices. There are two educational articles written to teach the basics of stock valuation. The valuation methods are based on discounted cash flow (DCF), price-earnings ratio, price-to-sales ratio, PEG ratio, Graham's formula, dividend discount model, Buffett's formula and capital asset pricing model (CAPM). Each valuation technique allows the user to enter relevant information on the stock in question and generate a value such as share price, fair price-earnings ratio and fair price-to-sales ratio. Highly beneficial site for simple, fundamental stock analysis because it provides a variety of fundamental calculators while allowing the user to control most of the inputs.

Morningstar.com

www.morningstar.com

FREE–\$195/yr (free 14-day trial)

Category: Company Conference Calls

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Stocks, and then click Call Transcripts on the left.

Offers complete transcripts of company earnings conference calls. Includes the company presentation, the question-and-answer session, and a list of the executives and analysts participating in the call. The site lists the most recent and most popular transcripts, and also allows the user to search the database. Transcripts are broken down by sector, analyst and date. Transcripts are only available back to the beginning of 2010. There is also no audio playback, but the transcripts are provided free of charge.

Category: Comprehensive

One of the best overall sites. Provides financial news stories and videos on a variety of investment topics. Simple to navigate and provides easy-to-locate individual sections for markets, personal finance and user forums. Comprehensive data is available on more than 385,000 investment offerings. Fundamental data for stocks and funds are especially strong. Stock and mutual fund screeners are available, as well as a portfolio manager. ETF research can be conducted, and several different calculators are available. Site also presents earnings call transcripts. A real-life finance section covers saving for college, investing for retirement, optimizing a portfolio and minimizing taxes. Forums are also now also offered. Premium subscribers have access to Morningstar's proprietary research reports with "star" ratings, premium stock and mutual fund screeners and additional portfolio monitoring tools. The bonds section provides ratings for corporate bonds.

Category: Exchange-Traded Funds

Where to Find: Click on ETFs.

Provides a free ETF screener that covers over 1,400 ETFs. Analyst reports are also provided free of charge. A performance table can be ranked according to the ETF performance for various time frames. ETF data provided is comparable to mutual fund data. A wide variety of news surrounding ETFs is available at no cost. Analyst picks and an ETF valuation quickrank are available to Premium subscribers. The Cost Analyzer, another Premium feature, enables

Joe's Favorite Web Resources

Wikinvest

www.wikinvest.com

I like wikinvest as an online portfolio manager. The website automatically connects to my brokerage and retirement accounts and updates my holdings. The performances of my various accounts are available on the home page, and performance is broken down in the performance tab. Outside of tracking performance, however, the site lacks sophisticated portfolio analysis tools and functionality. But it is available to users for free and has apps that can be installed on smartphones and tablets.

CNN Money

money.cnn.com

This remains my go-to website for financial news. On the right-hand side of the website, the last five viewed quotes and my watchlist are easily accessible, along with the most popular articles. The site does a good job of highlighting breaking news at the very top.

The Economist

www.economist.com

The Economist's focus is much more international, providing a great change of pace from the normal financial websites; it mixes world politics with business and economics. The website also features science and technology news and provides a section dedicated to global culture. Mostly, though, I like scrolling through the headlines since they are often vastly different than those presented at domestic financial news outlets.

— Joe Lan, CFA, assistant financial analyst at AAIL

users to ascertain which funds are the cheapest based on initial investment, monthly investment, return expectations and time horizon.

Category: Mutual Fund Data

Where to Find: Type the mutual fund ticker in the quote box at the top of the page.

Morningstar is generally acknowledged as the leader in mutual fund research and analysis. Provides over 150 fund statistics, including index and category comparisons, for free. Premium subscribers have access to analyst fund reports similar to premium stock reports. Fund Compare allows for quick comparisons of multiple funds. Access to fund family reports is for Premium subscribers, but a snapshot of basic fund family data is free. Provides a section detailing management, and the expense area is useful in assessing the cost of a fund compared to the average and median. Morningstar's

proprietary ratings for return and risk, as well as several volatility measures, are presented in the ratings and risk section. Also presents a star rating (out of five) for all widely used mutual funds. The rating is based on the proprietary report available to Premium subscribers.

Category: Mutual Fund Screening (fee-based)

Where to Find: Click on Funds, then click on Screeners and choose Premium Fund Screener.

Premium Fund Screener includes data for almost 26,000 mutual funds. Screening criteria is broken down by category and a comprehensive definition dictionary is available. Provides data field quartile ranges to assist users in picking values. Offers 10 preloaded screens that help you get started. After entering your criteria, the screener will show how many funds meet your requirements, making it easy to tighten or loosen the standards if

needed. Users can search for data points of interest. Screens can be saved for later use. Passing companies can be ranked according to your preference for each data point used in the screen. A free mutual fund screener is offered but only has 18 data points; the criteria are not customizable and results cannot be saved.

Category: Portfolio Tracking

🔍 **Where to Find:** Choose Portfolio.

Can import portfolios from Quicken and Excel. Tracks the current price, price change, shares held, market value, percentage weight and Morningstar rating in the summary page. Also provides news and opinions, gain/loss tables, fundamentals and insights. Four different views with 75 data points are available, along with a section that charts performance. The X-Ray function, a Premium feature, reports your portfolio's weaknesses in asset allocation, and the Stock Intersection Analyzer lists any stock overlap in your mutual funds. The Risk Analyzer evaluates how your securities interact and measures overall portfolio risk. A nightly email is tailored to your alert settings, such as changes in ratings, estimates and financials, performance, and price movements. Portfolio views are printable. A comprehensive help section that includes data definitions is available. A comprehensive report can be printed on your portfolio as a whole that incorporates several Premium features (only available to Premium subscribers). Website offers strong set of portfolio analysis tools but does not automatically sync with brokerage account.

Category: Stock Data

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type a stock's ticker in the quote box at the top of the page.

Financial statement data is provided for the last five fiscal quarters and fiscal years (premium subscribers have access to 10 years and 10 quarters). Performance history given on an annual basis, along with trailing returns going back 15 years. Valuation section offers multiples for the selected company, as well as multiples for its five-year average, the industry average and the S&P 500 for comparison.

Trends in multiples are also presented. Ownership data is listed and premium subscribers have access to ownership history, allowing users to see trends. Key ratios are reported for the current fiscal year as well as going back 10 years. Bond data and options pricing are presented. Premium subscribers have access to Morningstar's analyst reports, which are available on approximately 1,700 investments. Reports form the basis of Morningstar's famous "star" ratings.

Category: Stock Screening

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Stocks at the top of the page, and then click Stock Screener at the bottom left under Tools.

The free stock screener allows you to filter by stock basics, Morningstar stock grades, company performance, stock performance and valuation. Stock basics filters include sector, type (e.g., aggressive growth, cyclical), equity style box (e.g., large-cap growth, small-cap value) and market cap size. Morningstar stock grades provide a growth grade, profitability grade and financial health grade. Stock performance filters allow you to choose year-to-date, one-month, three-month, one-year and five-year periods, and valuation filters allow you to choose trailing price-earnings ratio, price-earnings-to-earnings-growth (PEG) ratio and dividend yield values. Results can be scored based on the importance of criteria. For instance, users can choose a high growth rate as the most important characteristic, and the screener will rank the passing companies accordingly.

Fee-based Premium screener has 440 data fields for screening, allows you to run more thorough screens and offers nine built-in screens. The Premium screener is a better choice for those who use stock screens often for investment research; the free screener simply does not offer enough data fields.

Motley Fool CAPS

caps.fool.com

FREE

Category: Social Media & Networking

Registered users can post predictions of stock performance relative to the S&P

500 over a specified time period. As stock prices change, the site evaluates player predictions. Over time, players receive an accuracy percentage based on how often they make correct predictions. In addition, based on the performance of their picks, players receive a percentile rating indicating the percentage of players they are outperforming. Stocks also receive ratings, which are aggregations of every player prediction for that stock, indicating whether or not players think the stock will outperform the S&P 500. Players with higher ratings have more influence on stock ratings. CAPS screener allows users to screen for stocks with varying CAPS ratings as well as on financial data elements. Though there are competitive websites, CAPS remains the most popular of its kind.

MSCI

www.msci.com

FREE

Category: Market Index Statistics

🔍 **Where to Find:** Hover over Indices for a listing of indexes.

Home to equity, REIT and hedge fund indexes. Outlines what the indexes represent and how they are most widely used. For each index, MSCI provides performance, methodology, announcements and index definitions. Current and historical performance numbers in tabular and chart formats are offered. The site reports performance data for international indexes in both U.S. dollars and the local currency. The methodology link provides details on how the index is built, maintained and rebalanced, while the index review presents the monthly changes made to the index. Provides indexes of common hedge fund strategies such as long-short and leveraged equity.

MSN Money

money.msn.com

FREE

Category: Stock Valuation & Ratings

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type the stock ticker in the quote box at the top left of the page and then click on StockScouter Report under Ratings/Analysis on the left of company page. Provides an overall rating between one

and 10 for a stock based on company summary, fundamentals, ownership, valuation and technical trends. The summary offers a description of the company, its short-term outlook and its pros and cons. The rest of the page gives a letter grade for fundamental, ownership, valuation and technical areas, explaining the factors that went into the grade. The downside is that no true valuation is given, and there are no user inputs. The ratings, however, are fairly in-depth. Each individual section provides two or three factors incorporated in the letter grade provided. Each factor is rated from very negative to very positive.

MyMoney.gov

www.mymoney.gov
FREE

Category: Personal Finance

This site provides links to specific content on the websites of more than 20 federal agencies and bureaus. Nearly all aspects of personal finance are covered, including saving, spending and borrowing. The content covers all age ranges, from savings and spending resources for younger and older kids to instructions for notifying the Social Security Administration when a family member passes. Many tools are included, such as a life expectancy calculator, a daily spending worksheet and a checklist for protecting your finances for emergencies.

Nolo

www.nolo.com
FREE

Category: Estate Planning

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Get Informed, then Select Wills, Trusts and Probate.

Nolo is a publishing company that specializes in explaining legal matters to laymen. Though the home page promotes the company's books, forms and software, there is also a large amount of helpful commentary. In its Wills & Estates section, Nolo includes articles and Q&As on estate-planning basics, wills, probate, living trusts, estate and inheritance taxes and more. It also gives guidance on finding a lawyer to work with. Some of the premium products are

promoted in the articles, but the articles also contain links to useful external websites as well.

Options Industry Council

www.optionseducation.org
FREE

Category: Options/Futures

🔍 **Where to Find:** Use tabs running across top of page to access major areas. The OIC Education tab takes you to the directed learning center.

Provides online classes (check the course catalog for a complete listing), webcasts, a virtual trading system, seminars and audio and video podcasts designed to educate investors on options and futures. A listing of the options seminars presented around the U.S. is given. Also offers information on various options and futures trading strategies ranging from basic to more advanced. Provides a bevy of tools such as options, collar and covered call calculators. Delayed quotes are accessed by entering the appropriate symbol. Extensive market data and free email alerts are available. Also offers free DVD and brochures and literature.

REIT.com

www.reit.com
FREE

Category: REITs

Site combines functions for industry professionals with educational services for individual investors. Educational offerings include articles, videos and interviews with industry experts. Offers an extensive informational section on the basics of REITs including benefits, a glossary and a guide to getting started. The Data and Research tab provides index data, performance by investment sector and property sector and other research resources. The Investing tab offers a list of REIT funds and provides a portfolio optimizer that enables users to compare returns, volatility and Sharpe ratio for different REIT portfolios. Numerous REIT publications are archived online and available for free. The Policy Issues tab provides REIT federal tax legislation and federal and state tax issues. A calendar of the numerous events held around the U.S. for REIT investors is provided.

Reuters

www.reuters.com
FREE

Category: Analyst Estimates, Ratings, & Recommendations

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type a stock's ticker in the quote search box, then choose the Analysts tab.

Provides analyst estimates and recommendations in a tabular format, all on one page. Presents the consensus recommendation and next earnings estimate. Offers recent analyst recommendations and revisions; mean, high and low sales and earnings estimates; historical sales and earnings surprises; sales and earnings estimate trends; and revenue and earnings revisions. Each estimate is further broken down by quarter and year for multiple time periods. Lists the number of analysts rating the stock buy, outperform, hold, underperform and sell along with ratings from one, two and three months ago. Users can buy research reports from quick links provided on the page.

Category: Financial News & Analysis

Provides more of an international focus than other news sites. World news is provided for developed, emerging and frontier markets. Separate sections for U.S., European, Asian and global markets are offered. Covers politics and technology in addition to normal business-related news. Several well-known economists and investors, such as Lawrence Summers, provide opinions for Reuters that are posted. Videos are also provided and a "Breakingviews" Video stream has recently been introduced.

Russell

www.russell.com/indexes/
FREE

Category: Market Index Statistics

Global, Japanese, frontier market and domestic indexes are offered. Hover over Indexes at the top left to see a listing of index categories. Indexes are broken down by both region and sector. Index returns, values, construction and composition, news and commentary are presented. Fundamental data characteristics are also provided. Daily and

annualized total returns are provided and are downloadable into a PDF file. Exchange-traded funds based on the various U.S. indexes are presented. Historical performance cycles and index definitions are also offered.

S&P Dow Jones Indices

us.spindices.com
FREE

Category: Market Index Statistics

Standard & Poor's indexes are under the S&P Dow Jones Indices umbrella. Domestic and foreign S&P index data provided. Indexes are categorized by type and country. Factsheets, index methodology and FAQs are provided for each index. Performance data is updated daily, giving one-day, month-to-date, quarter-to-date, year-to-date figures, plus three- and five-year figures. Comprehensive fixed-income indexes, including municipals and global, are available. Total return data can be downloaded as a spreadsheet. Navigation throughout the website is easy. Click on Index Family at the top to select an index type.

Seeking Alpha

www.seekingalpha.com
FREE—\$2,388/year

Category: Company Conference Calls

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Earnings & Transcripts under Where to Go Next at the bottom of the home page.

Provides an extensive section devoted to transcripts of quarterly earnings conference calls. Includes the company presentation, the question-and-answer session and a list of the executives and analysts participating in the call. Presents the latest and most popular transcripts and separates them by broad industry. You can search by company, product or theme. A calendar shows upcoming earnings calls and events. Earnings Currents on the left-hand side of the page presents up-to-the-minute earnings news and expectations. You may also sign up for email alerts for upcoming earnings releases.

Category: Social Media & Networking

An aggregator of articles and blog posts. Topics range from individual

stocks and ETFs to income investing to market and economic analysis. Some articles can draw multiple comments with conversations forming between readers themselves. Free registration allows for customized email alerts of new commentary regarding specific stocks.

Paid Seeking Alpha Pro subscription gives early access to articles.

StockCharts.com

www.stockcharts.com
FREE—\$49.95/mo. (free 10-day trial)

Category: Stock Charting & Technical Analysis

Offers one of the best collections of charts available on the Internet. Features line, bar, equivolume and candlestick charting, as well as three options for point & figure charting. For point & figure charts, the site automatically displays pattern alerts. Non-subscribers can plot up to three of the 40 technical indicators available on one chart, while paid memberships allow for up to 25 overlays and indicators. Stock Scans allows users to apply technical formulas to a stock universe to receive a listing of stocks that meet those criteria and includes over 130 technical data fields. Real-time data and technical alerts are available to paid members. The ChartSchool is one of the most extensive educational sections on the Web. Pro subscribers get data going back to 1970 and have no limitations for charting. The Stock Charts store offers several learning tools, including books and DVDs about trading.

StockTwits

stocktwits.com
FREE

Category: Social Media & Networking

A twitter-based website with users discussing securities and strategies. Streams can be set up to monitor specific stocks, ETFs and futures. Heatmap and Social Signals tools highlight which sectors and stocks are being discussed the most. Website asks for registration, but streams can be called up by merely entering a ticker symbol into the search box.

TreasuryDirect

www.treasurydirect.gov

FREE

Category: Bonds

Allows individuals to buy Treasury securities online from the government commission-free, including U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds; TIPS (Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities); and U.S. government Series EE and inflation-linked I savings bonds. Also provides certain online services to holders of H/HH bonds (which are no longer issued).

Individuals can use one TreasuryDirect account for all Treasury products. The account allows you to reinvest interest payments and maturing securities and to sell Treasuries before maturity.

Provides comprehensive information on all Treasury securities and U.S. savings bonds. An easy-to-use interface allows you to manage your savings bond inventory and determine current redemption value.

USA.gov

www.usa.gov

Category: Retirement Planning

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Citizens in the Just for You section, then click on Seniors in the Browse by Audience Group section, and then click on Retirement.

A list of government resources covering many retirement topics including individual retirement accounts, Social Security and working after retirement. Also addresses situations not typically not covered elsewhere such as qualified domestic relations orders and retirement benefits, small business pension plan options and how employee benefits are affected by an employer's bankruptcy.

ValuEngine.com

www.valuengine.com
\$149.95/yr. (free 30-day trial)

Category: Stock Valuation & Ratings (fee-based)

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type a stock's ticker in the quotes search box after logging in (subscription required).

Provides fair values for individual stocks that are derived from a proprietary model employing three fundamental models: trailing 12-month earnings per

share, consensus forecasted earnings per share for the next 12 months and the current 30-year Treasury yield (all of which are updated throughout the day). Models also make use of firm-specific parameters such as long-term earnings growth rate, volatility of earnings growth rate, systematic risk of the firm and dividend payout ratio. Unfortunately, little information is made available regarding the actual process.

ValuEngine rates companies from one (strong sell) to five (strong buy). Individual investor membership includes market overview and delayed quotes, portfolio management functions, a stock screening tool and ValuEngine rating on over 4,000 stocks. Analyst research is also provided. ValuEngine is a top website for stock valuation, but no services are provided free of charge.

Vanguard

www.vanguard.com

FREE

Category: Immediate Annuities

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Personal Investors, What We Offer, and then Annuities.

Provides comparisons between immediate and deferred annuities, as well as guidance on how to choose between the two. Educational content includes an explanation of how immediate fixed annuities work. A calculator compares costs between Vanguard's products and annuities offered by many competitors.

wikinvest

www.wikinvest.com

FREE

Category: Portfolio Tracking

Portfolio tracker can synchronize with all major brokerages such as Vanguard, Scottrade, Fidelity and TD Ameritrade. The tracker provides a real-time picture of your combined portfolio performance. The dashboard consists of news, summary, performance and fundamentals. You can customize each to display data of personal interest. Performance is represented as time-weighted returns in accordance with Global Investment Performance Standards, meaning cash deposits or withdrawals will not impact

Wayne's Favorite Web Resources

Investopedia

www.investopedia.com

I find this to be an excellent source for definitions of financial terms. In addition, the site has tutorials and articles broken down by investment level and style, such as Beginners, Active Traders and Retirement. The coverage is comprehensive.

StockCharts.com

www.stockcharts.com

Arguably the best charting website available and an excellent resource for free point & figure charts; it's my favorite chart analysis tool. In addition, the site's Chart School is an excellent starting point for those wishing to learn more about charting and technical analysis.

MarketWatch.com

www.marketwatch.com

This is my go-to site for company news. I like how the site breaks things down by "premium" outlets, including WSJ.com, Barron's, TheStreet.com, and Seeking Alpha, as well as by company press releases. That way I can get "unfiltered" news about a company as well as that with an analytical slant.

—Wayne A. Thorp, CFA, AAI senior financial analyst and Computerized Investing editor

portfolio performance. The portfolio tracking tool also offers portfolio briefing emails and breaking news alerts. Can sync with your brokerage accounts if you provide your login and password information. One of the easiest portfolio trackers to use, but does not provide as detailed or sophisticated of reports as Morningstar's Premium tracker.

Wilshire

www.wilshire.com

FREE

Category: Market Index Statistics

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Indexes at the top of the page.

Wilshire provides broad market, real estate and U.S. style indexes. The site presents current and historical performance and construction/methodology information such as index membership requirements, weighting and adjustment and maintenance. Characteristics page shows index fundamental data, while membership page lists securities in each index. The Index Return Calculator allows users to track performances of a combination of indexes. Users are also able to input an "as of date" into the calculator to obtain figures for various

time frames.

WSJ.com

www.wsj.com

FREE—\$275.88/yr. for digital only

Category: Financial News & Analysis

One of the most popular and widely read publications on financial news. Current and archived content of The Wall Street Journal's print publications are augmented with additional online content. Online content is updated throughout the day. Market Data Center offers a wealth of data and statistics for domestic and foreign markets. Provides a searchable archive and customizable home page. Email updates, RSS data feeds and podcasts are available. WSJ's world page is highly extensive, providing news from Asia, China, Japan, India, Europe, the U.K., Russia, the Middle East and Africa. Frequent users may find paying for full service valuable.

XTF.com

www.xtf.com

FREE—\$1,188/yr. (free 15-day trial)

Category: Exchange-Traded Funds

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type ETF ticker in search box.

Staff Picks: Favorite Areas of AAI.com

AAII Investor Classroom

www.aaii.com/classroom

This is a great “how-to” resource, and I constantly refer members to it. The various lessons cover everything from managing risk and return expectations to evaluating dividend stocks. Best of all, it is very easy to find guidance on a specific investing topic.

—Charles Rotblut, CFA

AAII Asset Allocation Models

www.aaii.com/asset-allocation

AAII’s asset allocation models are a great guide for individual investors who want to diversify their investments across different asset classes. The guide presents suggested weightings for asset classes based on your personal risk tolerance. It also shows the historical return and standard deviation for the various asset allocations.

—Joe Lan, CFA

AAII Discussion Boards

www.aaii.com/boards

This is an excellent way for AAI members to interact with one another without having to leave their homes! Pose questions to other members on a variety of topics or offer your insights on member questions or comments.

—Wayne A. Thorp, CFA

AAII Stock Screens

www.aaii.com/stock-screens

The stock screens area offers both education and investment ideas for members looking to construct and manage a stock portfolio. The area profiles more than 60 strategies grouped by investment style. Members can read about factors that make each approach unique, see how a hypothetical portfolio following each approach has performed during various market environments, and even get a listing of stocks passing each screen.

—John Bajkowski

AAII Local Chapters

www.aaii.com/chapters

There’s always a lot going on at the AAI local chapters, and the Chapters area is a great place for members to find out who’s speaking where. You can locate a chapter near you through the main page’s listing by state or click on the Chapter Map. The Chapter Calendar is a comprehensive list of all meetings and can be sorted by date, chapter or speaker. If you are not receiving meeting announcements by mail or email, you can view and download the meeting details online. Questions about how the chapters are run are addressed in the Chapter FAQs page.

—Jean Henrich

Provides ratings on over 1,400 U.S.-listed ETFs, covering almost all of the exchange-traded marketplace. Main page for an ETF gives current quote data, investment philosophy, style and under-

lying index, along with yield, dividend, net asset value, discount or premium, top 10 holdings and news. Free section of research area offers an ETF screener, a compare tool and performance data

that includes an XTF rating. Subscribers have access to performance “heatmaps,” performance analytics, fund flows and trend analysis tools, and exporting capability. The top subscription level allows users to print ETF data as a PDF or export it to Excel. An education center is offered to all users.

Yahoo! Finance

finance.yahoo.com

FREE—\$131.40/yr. (free 30-day trial)

Category: Comprehensive

Offers news and opinions on the markets and provides an in-depth personal finance section, including retirement planning calculators. Each of the main sections expands to show a variety of categories that include market overview; investing ideas and expert advice; and budgeting, retirement planning and taxes. One of the few sites that offers historical quotes for stocks and indexes free of charge as well as comprehensive information regarding different sectors. Extensive fundamental data provided on stocks but data for funds is not as robust. Presents calendars for stock splits, economic events, earnings, IPOs and mergers. Simple free stock and mutual funds are offered. Fee-based services include real-time quotes, stock tracking, streaming news, stock screening and real-time in-play market commentary.

Category: Mutual Fund Data

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type the mutual fund ticker in the quote box at the top left of the page.

Provides current fund news, manager information, performance tables and graphs, risk measures and portfolio holdings. One of the few sites that provides daily historical prices. Comparisons to other funds or indexes can be overlaid on the charts. Risk page provides modern portfolio theory statistics for three-, five- and 10-year periods. Also shows number of years up and down, along with best and worst calendar-year performances. Top-performing funds are listed by style and sector. Interactive charting offers full customization. Email price alerts are available.

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and discuss financial information. In addition, its portfolio tracking tool can download your financial information from brokers and banks. The Wikipvest Portfolio app brings these same features found online to your mobile device. With it you can see all of your accounts at over 60 brokerages, all in one screen. You can see the biggest movers in your portfolio, get the latest quotes, and read company and market news. You can also read company analysis written by the community

and study data fundamentals with comparisons to industry competitors.

The app is available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

—Wayne A. Thorp, CFA, is senior financial analyst at AAIL and editor of *Computerized Investing*. Follow him on Twitter @AAIL_CI.

(Yahoo! Finance, continued from page 26)

Category: Personal Finance

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Personal Finance.

Numerous articles about all aspects of personal finance, including loans, insurance, real estate, saving and spending and tax planning. Also provides useful how-to articles that cover the basics of each area. Content is well-organized, although there is little original content. Topic-specific calculators are linked to in most sections. A thorough dictionary of financial terms is available. Navigation is well-organized, and the site is easy to use.

Category: Retirement Planning

🔍 **Where to Find:** Click on Personal Finance, and then click on Retirement.

Offers in-house and outside articles on saving for retirement and retirement spending. Several retirement-related calculators are available, including ones that estimate Social Security income, project

cash flow and future 401(k) balances and determine whether or not it make sense to convert to a Roth IRA.

Zacks.com

www.zacks.com

FREE—\$299/mo. (free 30-day trial)

Category: Analyst Estimates, Ratings & Recommendations

🔍 **Where to Find:** Type a stock's ticker in the quote box, then click on Detailed Estimates.

Provides comprehensive estimates free of charge. Offers earnings growth estimates for the current quarter, next quarter, current year, next year and next five years. Also shows estimate revisions and provides the estimate trend from seven, 30, 60 and 90 days ago. Earnings surprises are presented in a table dating back a year. What sets this site apart are the unique charts: The Price and Consensus chart shows the consensus estimate for each year along with the corresponding movement in the firm's stock price; the Price & EPS Surprise chart details each earnings surprise and the

subsequent stock price response; and the Broker Recommendations Chart plots the stock prices in relation to brokerage target prices. Zacks industry rank, target price and equity research reports are offered to premium subscribers.

Category: Stock Screening

🔍 **Where to Find:** At site, hover over Screening and click Stock Screening.

Allows screening on almost 8,000 companies. Screening criteria are broken down into categories including size and share volume, price and price changes, broker ratings and changes, valuations, and income statement and balance sheet items, along with other categories. Subscribers to Zacks Premium can screen based on Zacks Rank and Recommendations. Also allows screening based on earnings surprises and estimates, along with earnings revisions. Users can choose from predefined screens, save screens, or export screens to Excel without premium subscription. One of the more powerful free stock screeners. ▲

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or service that we are reviewing free of charge. Some offer basic information for free and charge various rates for more in-depth data or expanded services. In the alphabetical listings, we show the lowest and highest rates to give you an idea of the range; visit the sites for complete details on pricing.

Some types of sites not included here are covered in other AAIL venues: broker sites are investigated annually in *Computerized Investing*, mutual fund family sites are listed in AAIL's annual Guide to the Top Mutual Funds and exchange-traded fund (ETF) sponsor sites appear in the annual Guide to Exchange-Traded Funds. You can access these special ar-

ticles year-round in the Investor Guides area of AAIL.com.

Keep in mind that the Web is constantly evolving. Sites can change drastically in a short period of time. Be sure to verify the source of information or provider of a service. And read the fine print on pricing before agreeing to pay for any data or investment service. ▲