

MARKETS

The U.S. Really Is #1 When It Comes to Stocks. Why It Will Stay That Way.

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It isn't a secret that U.S. stocks have outperformed the rest of the world. Over the past decade, the [S&P 500](#) returned 13% a year on average, compared with less than 5% for the MSCI EAFE index of developed countries.

Investors can thank the health of the U.S. economy and the remarkable growth of the tech sector. The downside: U.S. stocks now trade more than 21 times earnings, compared with less than 14 for international ones, leading some to worry the stock market [could face a "lost decade."](#)