

# The Randomness of Quarterly Returns

December 31, 2020

This table shows from top to bottom the highest returning asset classes each quarter over the last 17 quarters. Each asset class is color coded based on the legend below.

Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
6.17	10.83	3.48	3.90	7.63	4.36	8.21	5.12	1.77	13.29	2.58	7.12	9.54	2.30	16.97	7.45	14.16	?
4.54	6.65	3.34	3.68	6.39	2.10	6.77	0.31	1.33	11.57	2.51	2.48	6.70	1.56	16.61	6.98	10.68	?
1.31	5.01	1.11	1.50	4.45	1.32	5.86	0.01	0.41	11.39	1.68	2.35	5.94	0.46	12.99	4.73	9.26	?
0.12	2.41	0.23	0.56	4.42	0.26	0.77	-0.41	-0.45	7.57	1.41	1.19	3.17	-13.30	9.93	2.78	8.97	?
-0.56	1.24	0.17	0.28	3.16	0.10	0.51	-0.57	-2.22	7.51	1.26	0.79	0.43	-15.29	6.38	0.44	7.34	?
-2.21	0.88	0.13	0.16	2.02	0.04	0.31	-0.96	-7.58	3.91	0.42	0.42	0.09	-16.14	5.87	0.39	0.63	?
-3.18	0.21	-0.99	-1.84	0.21	-3.06	0.04	-1.77	-9.58	0.94	-0.93	0.23	-0.85	-20.90	0.49	0.21	0.12	?
-3.44	0.13	-1.64	-2.61	-0.04	-4.52	-6.09	-2.81	-10.11	0.39	-1.59	-2.98	-1.27	-22.09	0.06	0.06	0.03	?

Canadian Stocks
US Stocks
International Developed Markets
Emerging Markets
Global REITs
Canadian 1-Month T-Bills
Canadian Bonds
Global Bonds

The lack of a pattern indicates that picking which asset classes will be the best or worst performers is virtually impossible.

Portfolios combining these various investments will avoid extreme returns.

Data is in Canadian dollars. Indexes represented as follows: Canadian stocks (S&P/TSX Composite Index), US stocks (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Markets (MSCI EAFE Index), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index), Global REIT (S&P Global REIT Index), Canadian 1-Month T-Bills (FTSE Canada 30 Day T-Bill), Canadian Bonds (FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index), Global Bonds (FTSE World Government Bond Index Canada 1-5 Years (hedged to CAD)). MSCI and Russell index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. S&P/TSX data provided by S&P/TSX. MSCI data copyright MSCI 2021, all rights reserved. S&P data copyright 2021 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. FTSE fixed income indices © 2021 FTSE Fixed Income LLC. Indexes are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.