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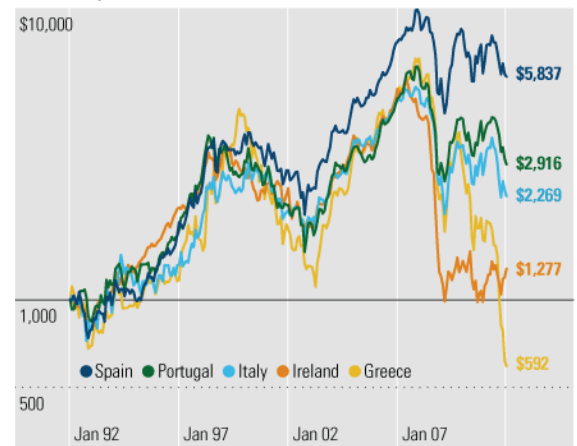
"Morningstar's Best Client Newsletter" in 2012

PIIGS Performance

The "PIIGS" acronym refers to the economies of Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain. The term became popular during the European sovereign debt crisis in highlighting the weaker performance of these economies coming out of the economic downturn. As shown in the image, the PIIGS economies have yet to fully recover from the 2007 financial crisis and the subsequent European sovereign debt crisis. In fact, an initial \$1,000 invested in Greek stocks at the start of 1992 would have yielded a mere \$592 by the end of 2011 (a 41% decline in value).

If an investor desires to invest in international markets, it is important to remember to diversify across not just asset classes, but also country exposure. Diversification may minimize the financial impact to your portfolio if a specific country or region ends up in financial distress.

Growth of \$1,000
January 1992–December 2011



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any investment. An investment cannot be made directly in an index. Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy and Spain are each represented by the corresponding Morgan Stanley Capital International Index. Returns in U.S. dollars are based on the exchange rate over the selected time period. Returns and principal invested in stocks are not guaranteed. The 1992 start date for this analysis was chosen in order to analyze the most recent 20-year time period. International investments involve special risks such as fluctuations in currency, foreign taxation, economic and political risks, and differences in accounting and financial standards. Diversification does not eliminate the risk of experiencing investment losses.



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More about COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC

COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC is a client-focused wealth management firm dedicated to providing superior advice to individuals, families, and corporate retirement plans.

Our wealth management services include investment management, retirement and gift planning, education funding, and other advisory services.

We take pride in offering you expert financial advice along with personalized service. Assisting you in reaching your financial goals is our business and we take that responsibility very seriously.

For details on the selection criteria used to determine the recipients of the FIVE STAR Wealth Manager award, please visit our web site.

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