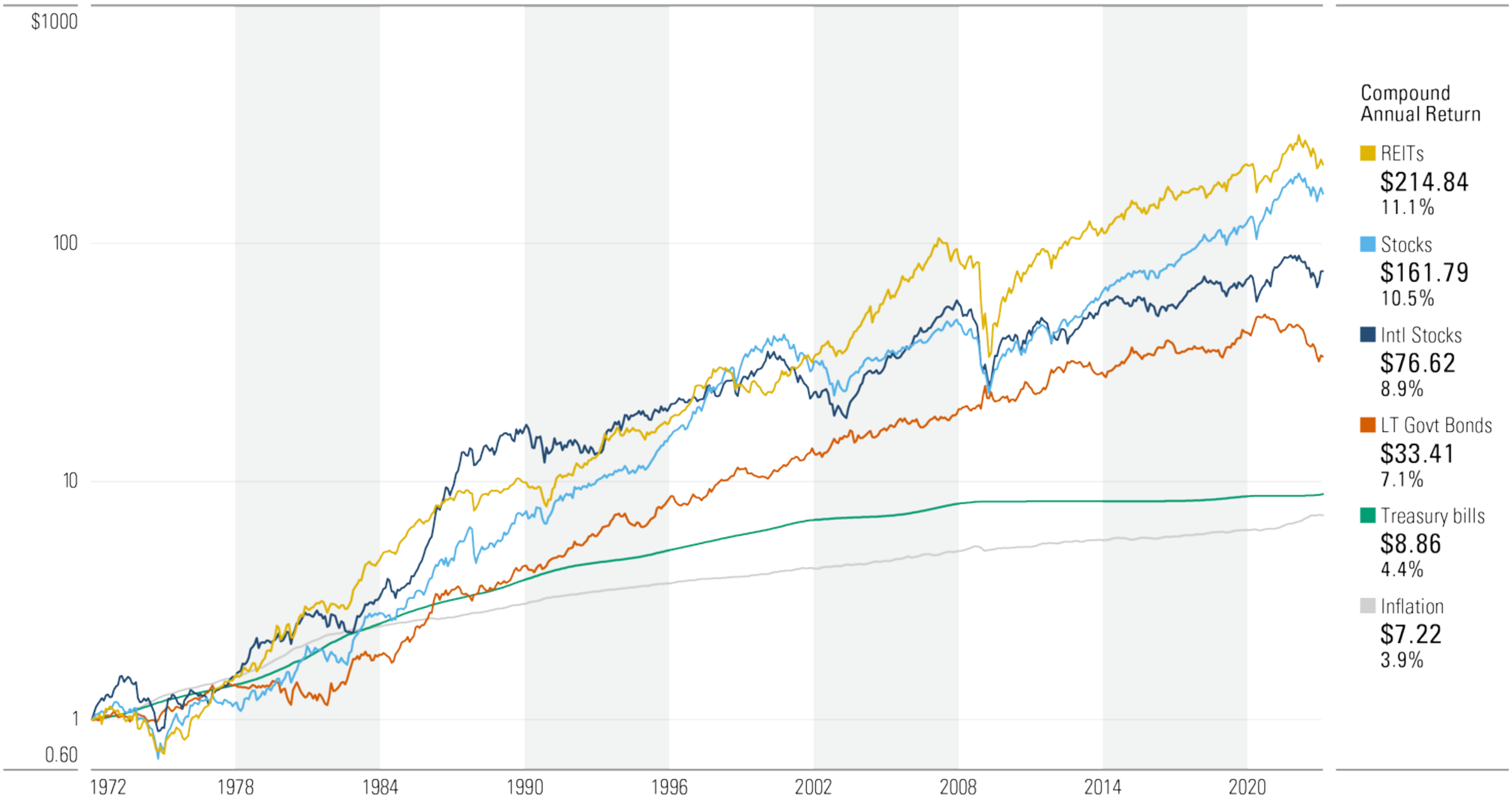
Performance: Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and REITs

1972–2022



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 About the data: REITs are represented by the FTSE NAREIT All Equity REIT Index®, stocks by the Standard & Poor's 500®, which is an unmanaged group of securities and considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general, international stocks by the Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australasia, and Far East (EAFE®) index, bonds by the 20-year U.S. government bond, and Treasury bills by the 30-day U.S. Treasury bill. Inflation is represented by the Consumer Price Index. An investment cannot be made directly in an index.

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A 49-year examination of past capital market returns provides historical insight into the performance characteristics of various asset classes. This graph illustrates the hypothetical growth of a $1 investment in five asset classes over the time period January 1, 1972 to December 31, 2022. REITs and stocks have provided the highest returns and largest increase in wealth over the time period analyzed. As illustrated by the image, REITs provided the largest growth, followed by domestic and international stocks. Among fixed-income investments, bonds appreciated considerably, but still finished behind stocks, and Treasury bills offered only a fraction of the growth provided by REITs and stocks. However, the higher returns achieved by stocks and REITs also come with certain risks, which can be identified by the volatility or fluctuation of the graph lines. Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest, while returns and principal invested in stocks are not guaranteed. Stocks have been more volatile than other asset classes.

Returns and principal invested in REITs are not guaranteed. REITs typically provide high dividends plus the potential for moderate, long-term capital appreciation. A REIT must distribute at least 90% of its taxable income to shareholders annually. Real estate investment options are subject to certain risks, such as risks associated with general and local economic conditions, interest rate fluctuation, credit risks, liquidity risks and corporate structure. International investments involve special risks such as fluctuations in currency, foreign taxation, economic and political risks, liquidity risks, and differences in accounting and financial standards.

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