

May 27, 2021

I just want to wish a special Happy 125th Birthday to the Dow Jones Industrial Average!

The original index of 12 smokestack companies closed that first trading day, May 26, 1896, at 40.94 and is now close to 35,000. 😲

I can imagine investors in 1906 (when the Dow crossed 100) fearfully exclaiming, "I don't want to invest at these new record highs! It can't possibly grow from here. I will wait until it comes back under 100." 😉

The DJIA has risen in value about 8% per year for 125 years. From the WSJ article: "It's served as one measure of the financial markets through the Great Depression, two world wars and all the events that shaped the 20th and early 21st centuries."

Fun fact: the index was created by Charles Dow, co-founder of the Dow Jones, publisher of The Wall Street Journal. E For reference, the S&P 500 launched in 1957, and the Nasdaq Composite indexes launched in 1971.

Think of the magic of compound interest growing at an average of 8% for 125 years! I Long-term investors benefit tremendously from compound interest, which Albert Einstein famously called "the 8th wonder of the world."

As another great American, Benjamin Franklin, described it: "Money makes money. And the money that money makes, makes money." That is probably the simplest explanation of compound interest you'll ever hear.



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