

# Helping You Grow More Money

- The Basics
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### What is Morningstar?

Morningstar is a respected and reliable source of independent investment analysis for all levels of fund and stock investors, ranging from inexperienced beginners to experts.

It updates every month, providing investors with a quantitative way of judging their decisions. It primarily evaluates the performance of funds. While many systems rate and rank investments, Morningstar ratings have become the most widely cited and influential in the world.

## How do I access all this great information?

You will need a library card (free!) in order to access. Go to <a href="www.randquest.org">www.randquest.org</a> and select our <a href="mailto:link">Investments</a> tab on the left side of the page to open a drop-down menu showing a link to Morningstar. You can also click on the Morningstar box in the center of the page.



Next you must enter in your library card number, PIN and select Login. You will be directed to Morningstar.



Library Card Number (All 14 digits, no spaces) or ACS Student ID:

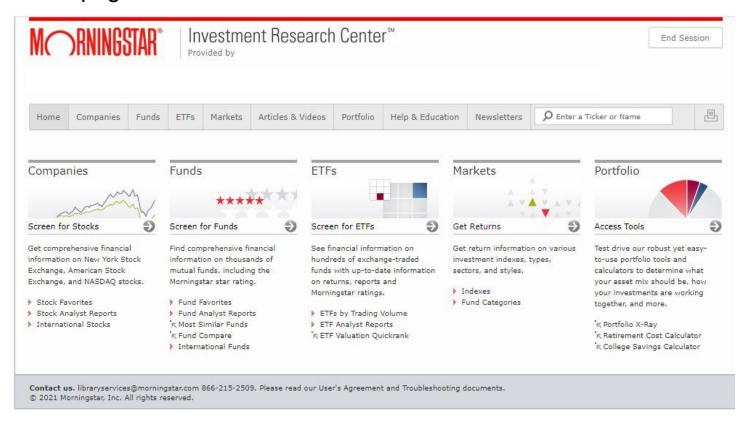
Personal Identification Number (PIN):

PIN is the last 4 digits of your phone number.

OR

If you are student, enter you birthday (month/day; excluding year) if you are using your Student ID.

### Homepage



Morningstar offers information about stocks, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. They provide tools to create an strong investment portfolio.

For this tutorial we are going to focus on two major investment terms: stocks and mutual funds.

Let's start with the basics: What is a stock? What is a mutual fund?

### **Investing Explained**

What does investing mean? When someone says investing, most people think of words such as, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate.

In the broadest/simplest sense, investing is about purchasing something that will create future profit.

The goal of investing is to generate income with something that will appreciate (increase in value over time).

# Stocks Explained

What is a *stock*? Plain and simple, stock is a share in the ownership of a company. Buying stock makes you a *shareholder*. You become one of the many owners of a company! The more stock you buy in a company the more ownership you have in that company.

If you ever hear the words "stock", "equity" or "shares", it all means the same thing so don't get confused.

## Mutual Funds Explained

When you hear the word *mutual fund* you may immediately feel confused on what it is, but don't worry, it's not as complicated as you may think.

Mutual funds are where investors (yourself and many others) pool their money to together to invest in the stock market. What is useful about this is it is professionally managed by an experienced Fund Manager who invests for you. They keep an eye on the market for you. You can check on their progress at any time.

This is one of the easiest and least stressful ways to invest in the market.

### This can be a great way to invest for your retirement!

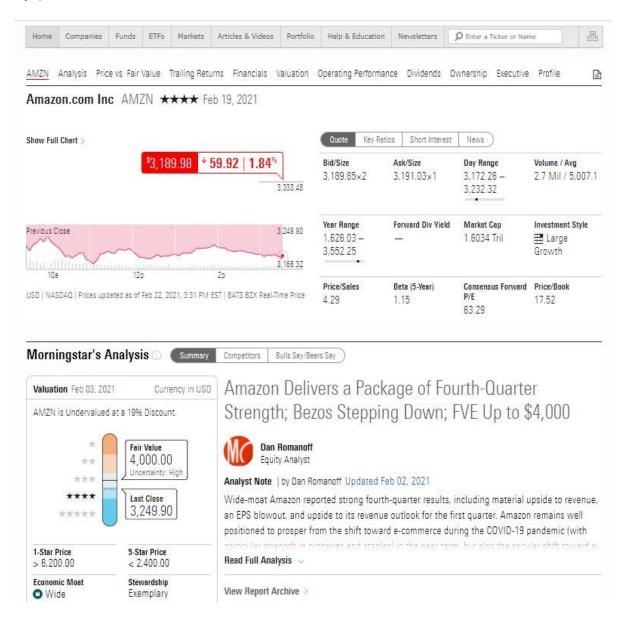
Now let's look at an example of how you can use Morningstar as an investment tool.

#### **Stocks**

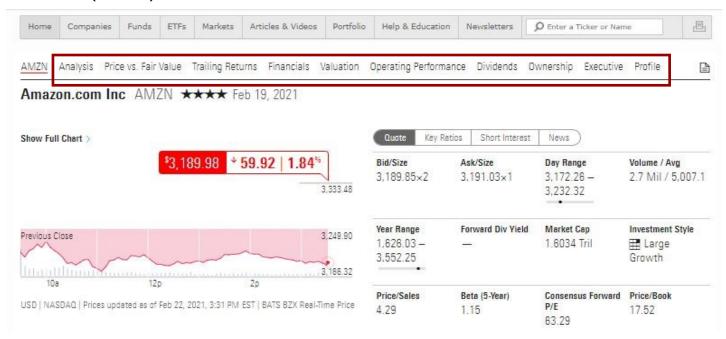


Let's use the search box in the top-right to look for a specific stock. For this example we are going to search for Amazon.

This opening screen gives the details of the company such as financials and company profile.



## Stocks (cont.)

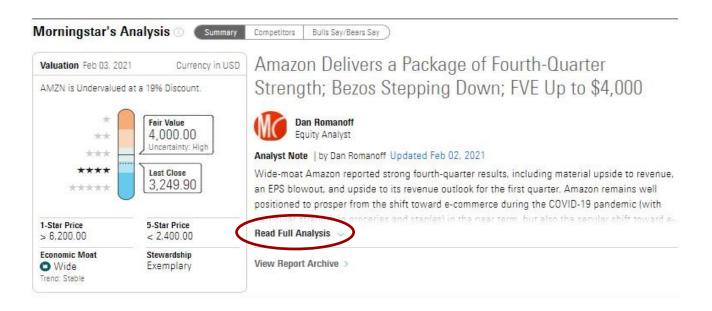


The tabs at the top of the screen are helpful in finding the information you are looking for immediately. We are going to focus on three in particular:

- 1. Stock Analysis
- 2. Return on Investment
- 3. Key Ratios

### 1. Stock Analysis

This gives you Morningstar's opinion about the stock. Make sure to click *Read full analysis* to get a better understanding of the company.



#### 2. Return on Investment

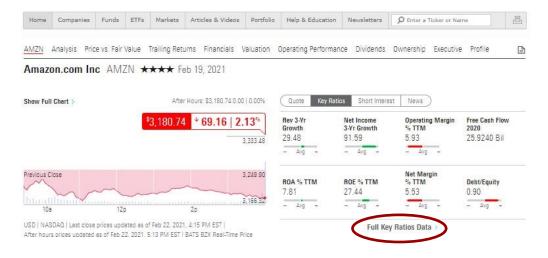
This is the growth/overall performance of the company. The red line shows how much the one share is considered worth on the stock market. The colored lines show when the stock was either overvalued or undervalued. Most importantly is total return of the stock.

For example, in 2011 it was -3.83% total return on investment. Anyone investing when Amazon first started lost on their investment. However, by 2020 the stock has grown 76.26% in value. If you bought stock in Amazon in 2011 was roughly \$173 per 1 share. As of 2020, it is \$3,200 per 1 share. That's major growth!



### 3. Key Ratios

Key Ratios show additional data over a select yearly period to give you a better understanding of the company. You can see revenue, net income, operating income and much more. Here the homepage shows us the past 3 years. Click on Full Key Ratios Data to see more information starting with when shares in Amazon first became available to purchase in 2011.

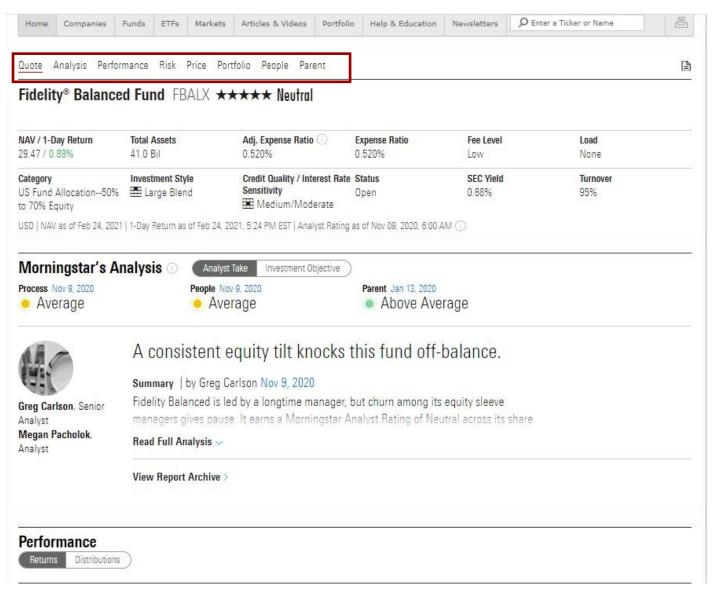


#### **Mutual Funds**

Let's move on and look at mutual funds. Click on the *Funds* tab at the top of the page to go to the mutual fund homepage. Use the search box on the right-side of screen just like we used in our example on stocks. We are going to search for a mutual fund called *Fidelity Balanced*.

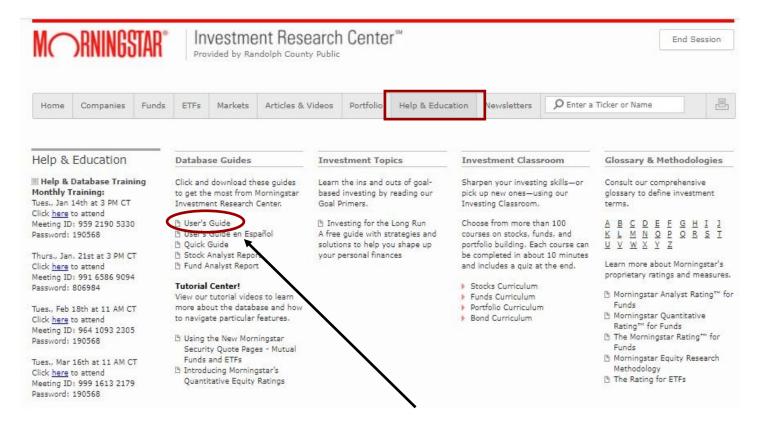


Here is the *Fidelity Balanced Fund* homepage where you get an general overview of the fund as well as performance over time and Morningstar's recommendation.



#### Education

Click Help & Education at the top of any page to find tutorials, investment class-rooms and even a glossary of terms used in investment.



\*We highly suggest your take a look at their User Guide <u>library.morningstar.com/</u> **Education/MIRC UserGuide.pdf** as you begin using Morningstar.

### We're Here to Help

Call us at **336-318-6803** or stop by anytime to setup a free one-on-one appointment at a time that's convenient for you with at the Asheboro Public Library.

