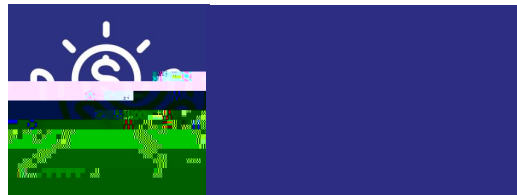


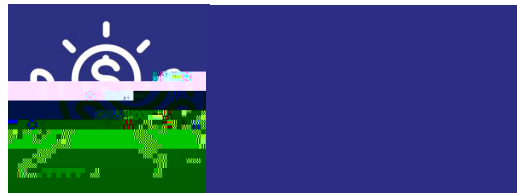
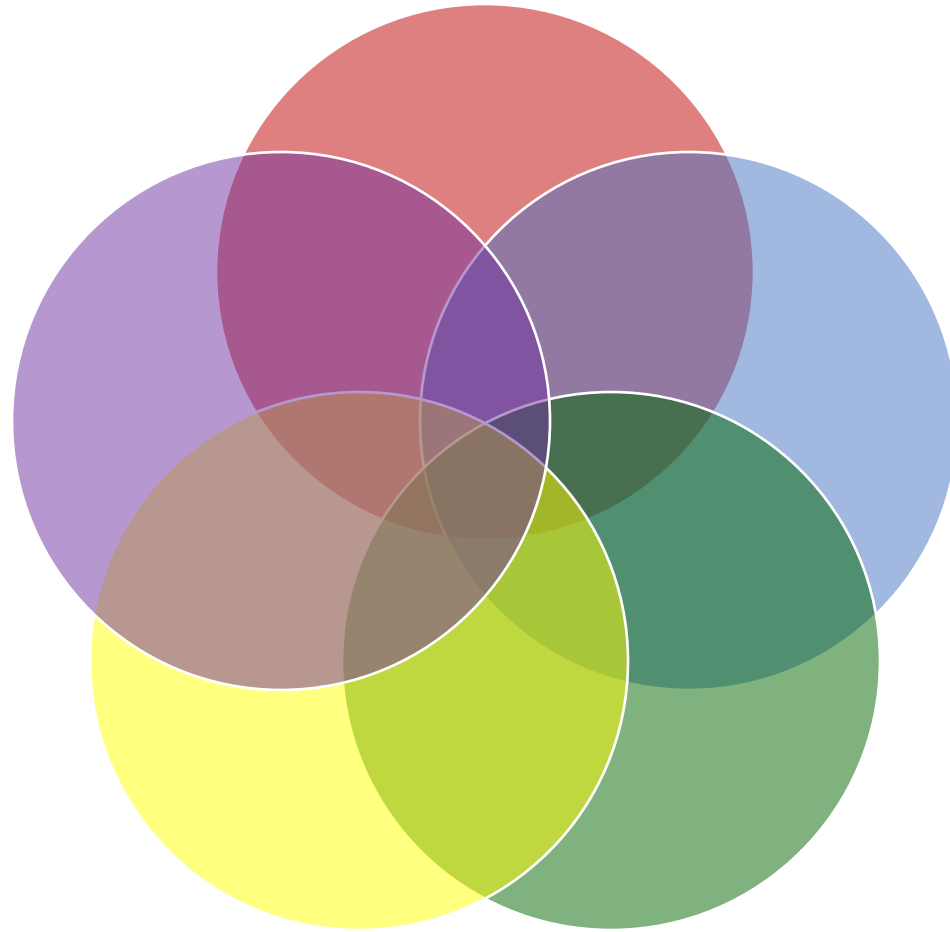



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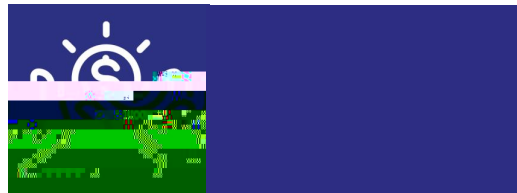




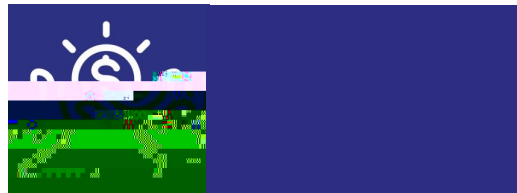


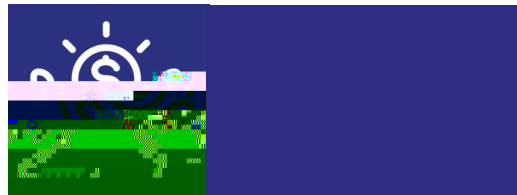
*“Prediction is difficult...
...especially about the future.”*

Niels Bohr







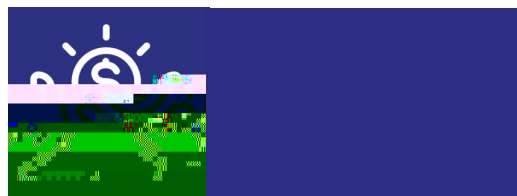


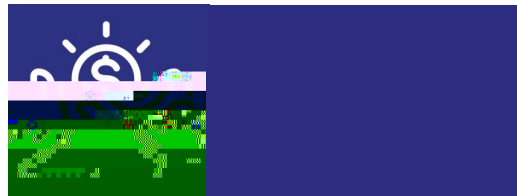
In order to get us through the extreme economic uncertainty of 2020, governments and central banks around the world increased the amount of money that was floating around.

The U.S. Federal Reserve increased its assets from \$4 trillion to \$7 trillion during 2020, a 75% increase (kind of).

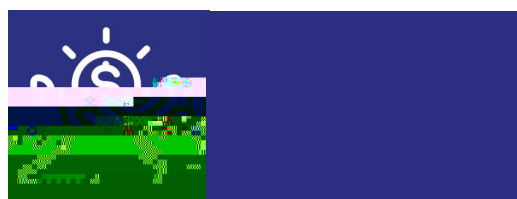
But, the actual economies that are using that money have not increased much at all. So, the value of each dollar bill is less.

If you cut a pizza into 16 slices instead of just 8, the entire pizza still has the same value.

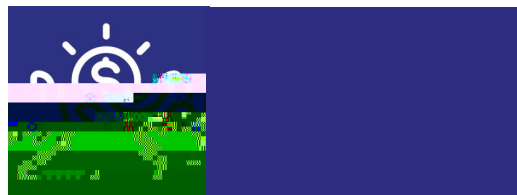




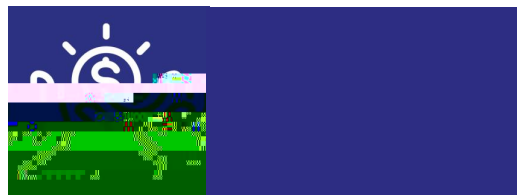
Which of these 4 countries currently has the highest inflation rate?



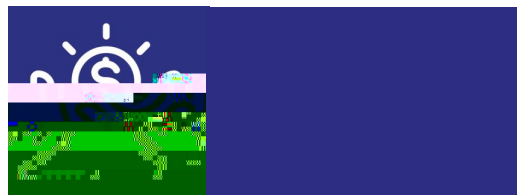
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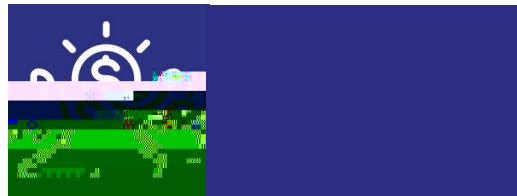


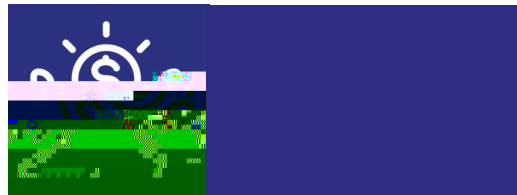
Which of these 4 countries
currently has the LOWEST inflation rate?



Which of these 4 countries
currently has the LOWEST inflation rate?









The job market has been very strong for the past 2.5 years.

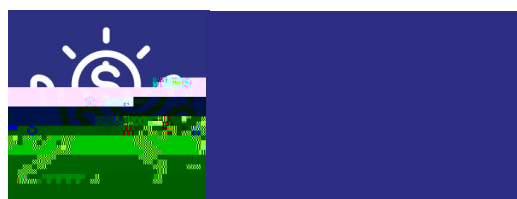
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The stock market has gained 20% in 2023 after losing 22% in 2022 (which was after gaining 25% in 2021).

I predict (with about 35% confidence) that we will gain another 5% thru December.

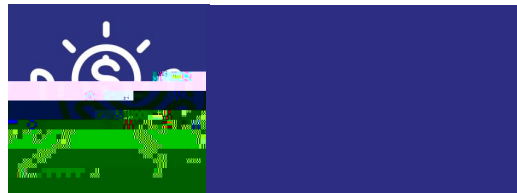
We may lose 5% thru December. I do not expect us to lose >10% this year.

We are not in a recession. We have not been in a recession since 2020. We are probably not going to dip into a recession this year.



I'm about to receive \$50,000 from a family member.

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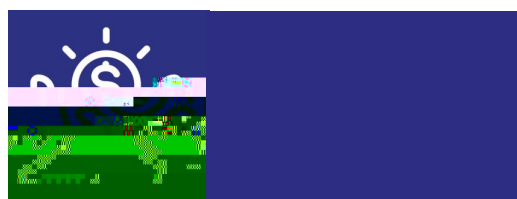


I'm about to receive \$50,000 fr o 0,000 fr 0,

Personal Finance is PERSONAL. Investing is PERSONAL.

If you ever meet with a financial advisor, they will ask you 2 questions:

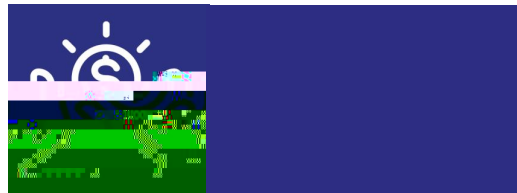
- 1. What are your goals?*
- 2. What is your risk tolerance?*



*I'm about to receive \$50,000 from a family member.
What should I do with it?*

Let's assume you are 25 years old:

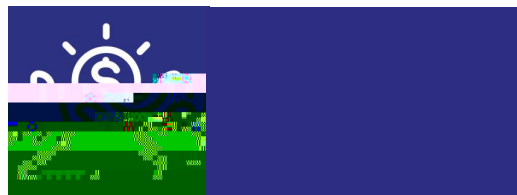
- 1. Pay bills, pay off bad debt.*
- 2. \$10,000 in cash / savings*
- 3. \$10,000 in a 6 or 12 month certificate of deposit, earning a certain 5% per year.*
- 4. \$10,000 to \$15,000 in the S&P 500 Index, a broad basket of 500 of the largest companies in the U.S. Average return over the past 100 years = 12.1%*
- 5. \$10,000 to \$15,000 in 5-10 companies / stocks that interest you. Don't stress or overanalyze. Don't sell within 1 year. Just pick, watch, and wait patiently.*





Let's assume you are 55 years old:

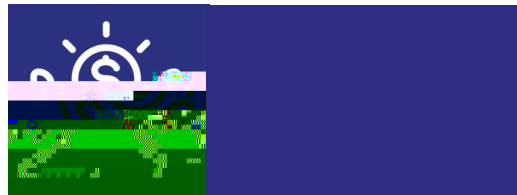
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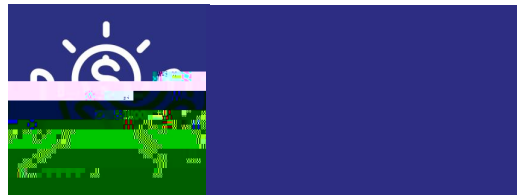


*I'm about to receive \$50,000 from a family member.
What should I do with it?*

If you told me you wanted to take the entire \$50,000 – regardless of your age or situation – and do the following, I would say that's really smart & reasonable:

- 1. \$12,500 in a 6-month CD (certificate of deposit) earning 5%.*
- 2. \$12,500 in a 12-month CD (certificate of deposit) earning 5%.*
- 3. \$12,500 in a 18-month CD (certificate of deposit) earning 5%.*
- 4. \$12,500 in a 24-month CD (certificate of deposit) earning 5%.*

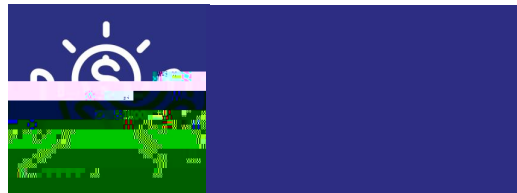




INDULGENCE is good.

IMPULSE is bad.

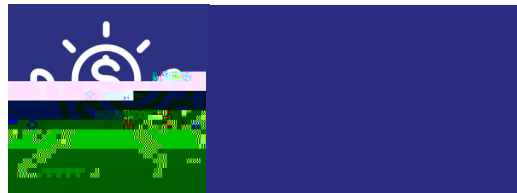
PLANNING AHEAD is the key.



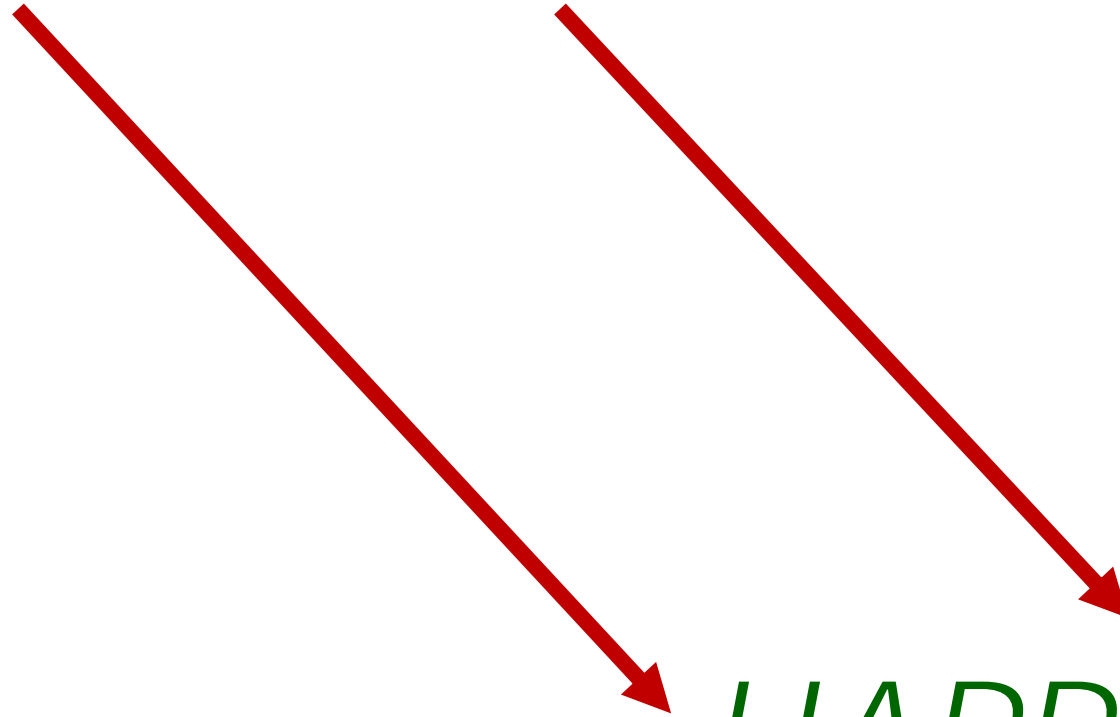
Because personal finance is personal, it is virtually impossible for me to give you any specific advice.

However, there is one word of advice that applies to 99% of people working on their finances:

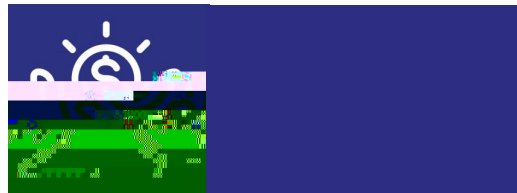
SAVE

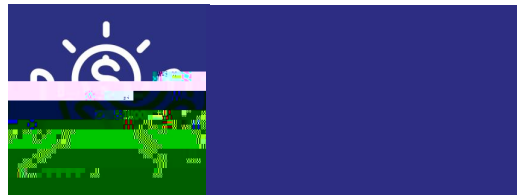
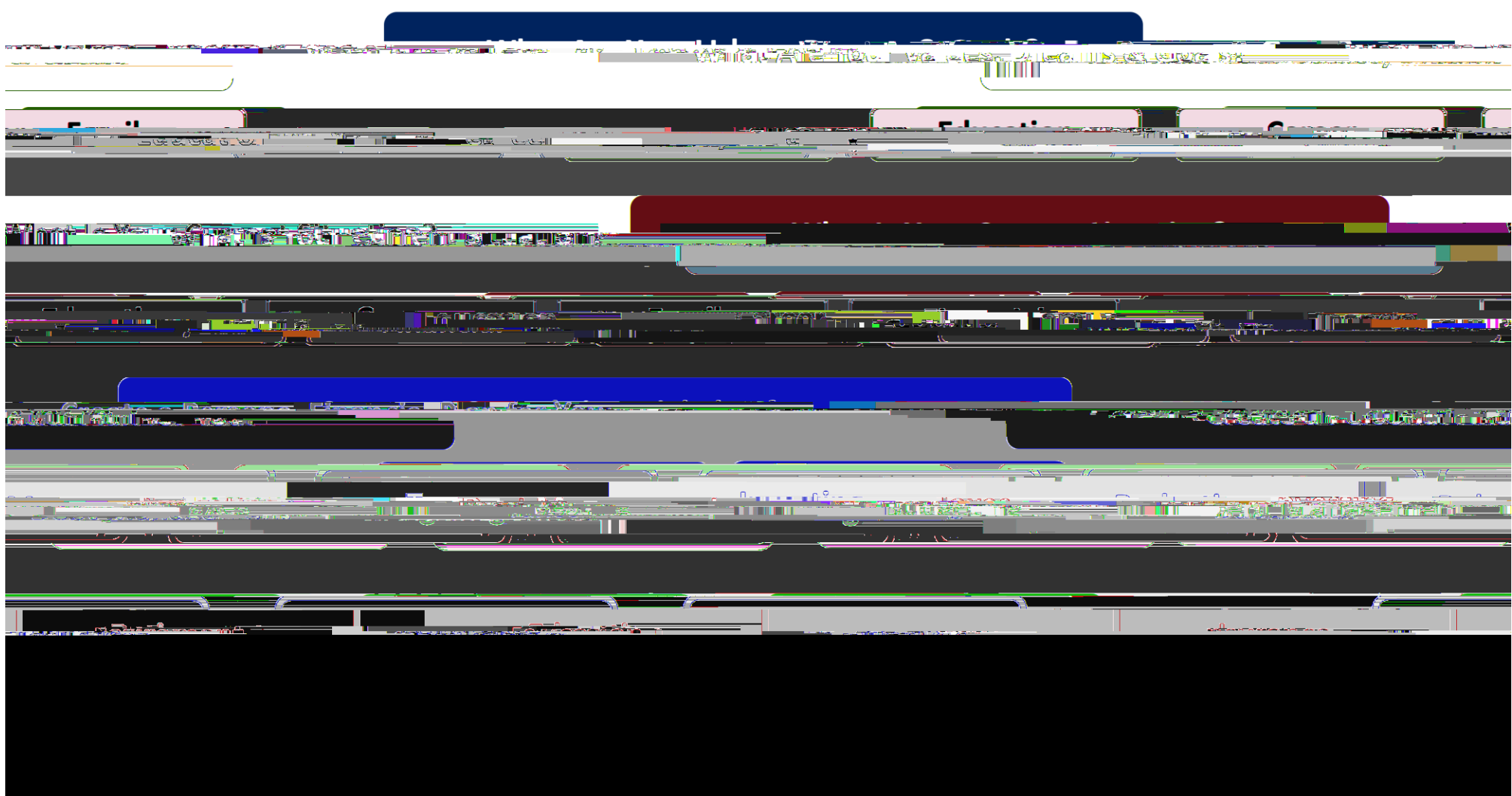


SAVINGS



HAPPINESS





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