

Newsletter

How time flies

The Game finishes 15 November.

You can continue trading right up until market close at 4pm on Wednesday, 15 November. You do not have to cash in all of your shares on the final day if you do not want to, as it is the total portfolio value (cash plus shares) that players are ranked on.



While rankings are visible, final placings for our winners will not be confirmed until 23 November, along with feedback from the top players.

We'd love your feedback – complete our end of Game survey here.

Time to review your Game strategy

It is definitely worth reflecting on the lessons learned from this Game and what you might do differently next time around.

Here are some questions to consider.

1. Did you have a plan?
2. Did you stick to your plan?
3. What was your return on investment?
 $\text{Profits} \div \text{Trading Capital} \times 100 = \text{___}\%$
For example: If my final portfolio value was \$62,000, my profit is \$12,000 the calculation will be $(12,000 \div 50,000) \times 100 = 24\%$ return on investment.
4. Are you happy with this or do you think you could have done better?
5. Did you have clear rules as to when to enter or exit a trade?
6. Did you keep an eye on your portfolio or did you tend to forget about it?
7. If you lost interest, how could you stay more motivated?
8. Is there anything that you would do differently?
9. Does your plan need revising?

What you can do to keep learning

- Watch the latest Investment videos
- Sign up to the Investor update newsletter
- If you haven't already worked through them - do the Online shares course
- You could use the ASX watchlist tool if you want to continue to test your trading strategies as well as keep track of those companies that caught your eye
- Play the next Game - Registrations open 1 February 2018
- Invest in your education - there are many books on share trading to keep you learning.

If you are interested in learning about Options, a new Options Game has just started. You can get more information here.



Game's over, but just getting started

I know, I'm also sad the Game is over.

For some of you, your investment career finishes once the Game ends. Others of you may be more optimistic and wish to continue because your portfolio is in the green.

You must first remember that your returns in the Game shouldn't serve as an indicator of whether you should start investing. The Game is only a short time frame and when you're investing, your time horizon (if you're a long term investor) can last decades.

What you should look at when deciding whether you'd like to continue your education and participation in share markets are:

- **Did you enjoy the Game?** Did you actually have fun playing the Game? For a lot of you, it was extremely exciting to research, select and track the performance of the companies you chose. If this process is something that appealed to you, perhaps you would like to continue doing so as a hobby with a small amount of money, or a larger amount of money if you're more serious.

- **What are your financial goals?** You also need to ask yourself what your financial goals are. Do you want to retire by age 30? Have \$200,000 saved by 2020? Just beat the savings rate you can get at the bank? It doesn't matter what the specific goal is, but by quantifying and setting some concrete financial goals, you can then see if investing in the share market is a viable option to achieve it.
- **What is your risk tolerance?** Remember, the share market is risky. You may have had a couple of stocks in your game portfolio which you were optimistic about and just saw it tank because of some negative publicity or poor performance. In the market, there is a chance for high returns, but it definitely comes at a cost – higher risk. Ask yourself how risk averse you are and if you are actually willing to take on that level of uncertainty associated with the share market.

Okay, so you've read this far and decided that you want to continue your learning about investing. Let's go through some resources to help you your education journey:

Books

There are some brilliant books out there to educate you on the share market. Some personal favorites from the Simply Wall St team:

- **The Intelligent Investor**, by Benjamin Graham

Once Buffet was asked what the best investment he ever made was. His answer: "of all investments I ever made, buying Ben's book was the best"

- **One Up on Wall St**, Peter Lynch

Peter Lynch is a legend on Wall Street, and his book is regularly recommended by some of the most renowned investors today.

- **A Random Walk Down Wall Street**, Burton Malkiel

Again, one of the regularly recommended investment books you'll see hovering around the internet. It's jam-packed with information on fundamental analysis versus technical analysis, the history of the share market and much more.

Podcasts

Podcasts are a great way for auditory learners to learn on the go. There are a number of podcasts that can help improve your knowledge of investing and finance in general. Some notable ones are:

- Motley Fool Money and Market Foolery from the Motley Fool
- The Investor Podcast
- Sound Investing

Websites

Here are a few free sources on the web with a wealth of share market information:

- Investopedia – what this site doesn't cover isn't really worth knowing. A good tip is if you have a financial term or concept you want to understand, type it into google '<financial term> investopedia'
- Kahn Academy – a non-for profit and extremely reputable website which has a series of videos on investing
- Simply Wall St News – news and analysis on stocks from a fundamental perspective

Research Tools

Another great way to improve your education and analysis of stocks is through research and analysis tools. Obviously, we are biased and will suggest Simply Wall St! It's free to use, and for those who want all features and wish to upgrade, you can get a 30% discount with this ASX coupon code.

Game update

