



Nasdaq-100[®]

The Benchmark of the 21st Century



The Nasdaq-100 Index® is a globally recognized index of 100 of the most innovative large cap companies listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market®. Today, the index is tracked by thousands of investment vehicles including exchange-traded funds, mutual funds, separately managed accounts, and insurance products.

Whether you are new to investing or a seasoned professional, this primer offers a clear look at what makes the Nasdaq-100 a true reflection of the modern day and future economy.

Discover why the Nasdaq-100 matters – and consider how it could play a role in your investment strategy.

The Nasdaq-100 provides **ACCESS** to a global community of leading innovators and disruptors listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The Nasdaq Stock Market was founded in 1971 as the world's first fully electronic stock exchange. This foundational emphasis on innovation quickly attracted the attention and initial public offerings of technology pioneers such as Apple, Intel, and Microsoft in the 1970s and 1980s. By the 1990s, Nasdaq had become a focal point for internet companies and the broader tech sector, with the exchange hosting the IPOs of thousands of startups including Amazon, Cisco, and Nvidia.

As technology evolved beyond personal computers and began to permeate nearly every aspect of commerce and everyday life, Nasdaq continued to be the premier destination for IPOs of leading 21st century innovators. By 2025, Nasdaq was home to all eight of the largest publicly listed companies in the world by market cap, including Alphabet, Broadcom, Meta Platforms, and Tesla, which together with 3,300+ other listed companies on the exchange, represented nearly \$37 trillion in total value.

Nasdaq has grown to become the 2nd largest exchange globally by listed market cap and is rapidly closing the gap thanks to 46 consecutive quarters of US IPO leadership as of 2Q 2025. As a function of its long-running IPO leadership and its relatively short history as an exchange, Nasdaq is home to a lion's share of the younger, more disruptive "new economy" public companies. The "new economy" is centered on software and the technology sub-sectors that will define the future of commerce including artificial intelligence, autonomous driving, cloud computing, e-commerce, electric vehicles, fintech, and social media. Nasdaq is also the leader across established industries that have always exhibited innovation in their lifeblood, such as biotechnology, consumer electronics, and semiconductors. In biotech, for example, Nasdaq has an all-time IPO win rate of 98%.

3,300+

Listed securities

\$36.7 Trillion

In total market capitalization

2,496

IPOs since 2015

84.5%

Win-rate of Nasdaq-eligible IPOs in 2025

With more than 80% of its exposure in Nasdaq-listed technology, consumer discretionary, and healthcare stocks, the Nasdaq-100 reflects where innovation-driven economic growth has been concentrated in the 21st century, and where it will likely continue to be in the foreseeable future.

The Nasdaq-100 is a **PURE LARGE CAP INDEX** when compared to other large cap benchmarks like the S&P 500 and Russell 1000.

Launched in 1985, the Nasdaq-100 Index draws from this global community of innovators and disruptors listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market and is the flagship index for Nasdaq. Today it is a pure large cap index, disproportionately weighted towards high-growth companies operating as innovative leaders within their respective industries. The evolution of the index mirrors that of the 21st century economy.

As recently as 2008, the Nasdaq-100 represented less than 20% of the S&P 500 by market cap, in line with the proportionately smaller contribution of Nasdaq-100 companies to aggregate US corporate revenues, profits, dividends, and other fundamental drivers of equity market returns. Since then, the market caps of many of the index's constituents have swelled as the modern economy has become increasingly driven by technology and innovation. As of June 30, 2025, the Nasdaq-100's market capitalization was just over one-half that of the S&P 500, reflecting two decades of consistently accelerating fundamental growth.

The index is in some sense more of a large cap benchmark than even the S&P 500 or Russell 1000, both of which – due to the shrinking number of publicly listed companies in the US – include many mid cap (and even small cap in some cases) companies that would be too small for inclusion in the Nasdaq-100, regardless of whether they are Nasdaq-listed. Within the S&P 500, approximately 37% of constituents overlap with the Nasdaq US Mid Cap™ Index. Similarly, within the Russell 1000, roughly 45% and 18% of constituents overlap with the Nasdaq US Mid Cap Index and Nasdaq US Small Cap™ Index, respectively.



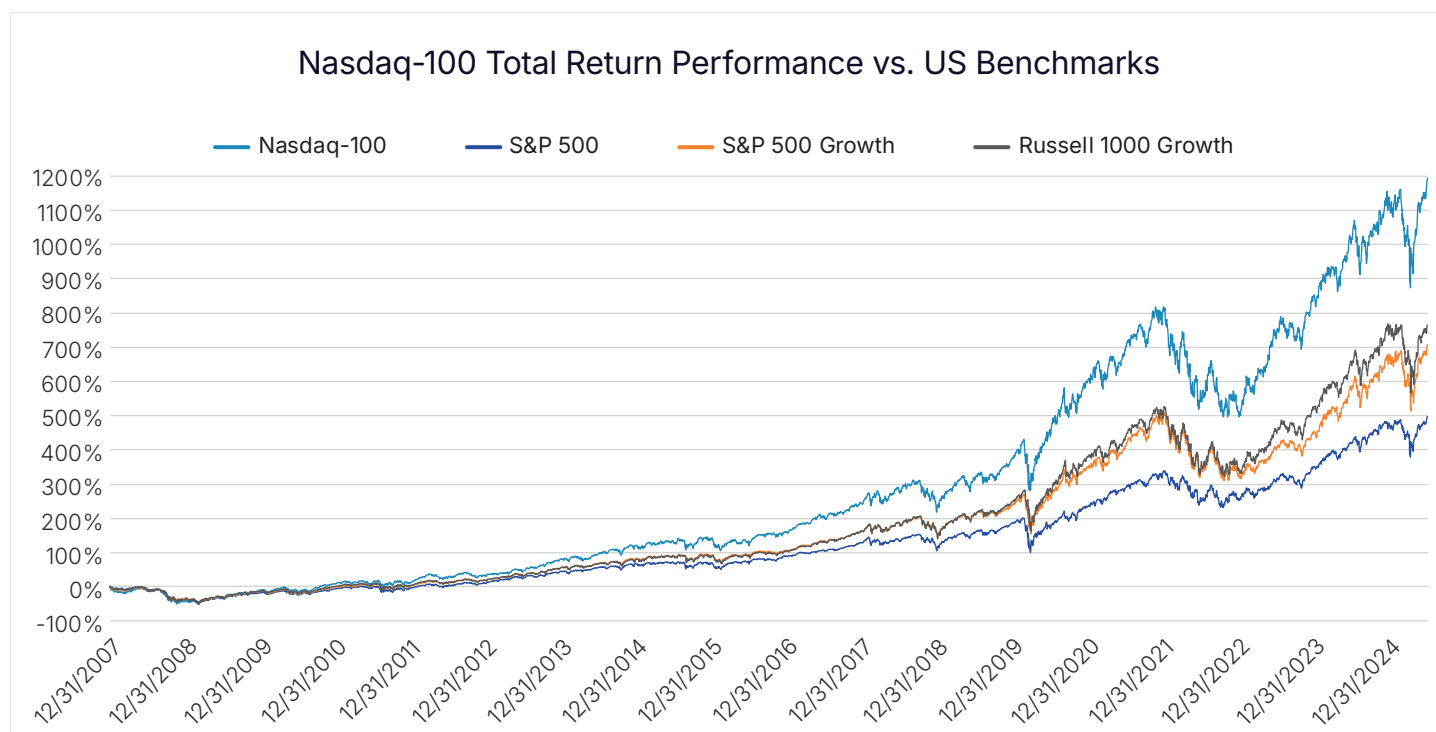
The Nasdaq-100 enables **A DIVERSE RANGE OF INVESTMENT APPLICATIONS**, given its attractive growth profile and historical outperformance versus other large cap benchmarks.

As of September 30, 2025, there was over \$500 billion of AUM tracking the Nasdaq-100 via ETFs listed in dozens of countries globally. Across the entire ETF industry, the Nasdaq-100 is second only to the S&P 500 in terms of AUM tracking an index. To put this in context, there are around 6,000 indexes tracked by ETFs globally. Roughly 50 these indexes (less than 1% of all tracked indexes) have aggregate ETF assets over \$50 billion. A mere six indexes have ETF assets of over \$200 billion and just three indexes, including the Nasdaq-100, have ETF assets over \$500 billion.

Beyond ETFs, there are innumerable other investment products worldwide – from mutual funds and annuities, to futures, options, and other structured vehicles – tracking the index.

In terms of performance, the Nasdaq-100 has produced consistent, long-running outperformance over the S&P 500 and other US equity benchmarks, while generating similar volatility. Since 2008, it has outperformed the S&P 500 in 13 of 17 calendar years, and its total-return performance of 1,191% was 2.4 times that of the S&P 500 (495%).

The Nasdaq-100 also outperformed leading US large cap growth benchmarks like the S&P 500 Growth (714%) and Russell 1000 Growth (780%) by approximately 1.5 times. Morningstar and Lipper consistently rank the index – via its largest tracking product, the Invesco QQQ ETF, also known as The Q's™ – in the top 1% among both passively and actively-managed fund strategies in its category, based on long-term performance metrics dating back 15 years.



Source: Nasdaq Global Indexes, Bloomberg. Data as of 6/30/25.

The Nasdaq-100 Index stands as a truly differentiated US large cap equity benchmark thanks to its prolonged record of outperformance in the 21st century, its rapid growth into representing ~50% of the S&P 500, its steady maturation into an average-volatility index full of fundamentally sound, large cap innovative companies, and its unique mix of sector exposures. For all of these reasons, the Nasdaq-100 has earned its right to be considered alongside any well-known large cap benchmark – and should thus be an option for every investor seeking out a compelling large cap growth or large cap core investment solution.

Notes: All data as of June 30, 2025 unless otherwise noted.

Sources: Nasdaq, Bloomberg, Invesco, Morningstar.

Disclaimer:

Nasdaq®, Nasdaq Stock Market®, Nasdaq-100 Index®, Nasdaq-100®, and NDX® are registered trademarks of Nasdaq, Inc. The information contained above is provided for informational and educational purposes only, and nothing contained herein should be construed as investment advice, either on behalf of a particular security or an overall investment strategy. Neither Nasdaq, Inc. nor any of its affiliates makes any recommendation to buy or sell any security or any representation about the financial condition of any company. Statements regarding Nasdaq-listed companies or Nasdaq proprietary indexes are not guarantees of future performance. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investors should undertake their own due diligence and carefully evaluate companies before investing.

ADVICE FROM A SECURITIES PROFESSIONAL IS STRONGLY ADVISED.

© 2025. Nasdaq, Inc. All Rights Reserved.