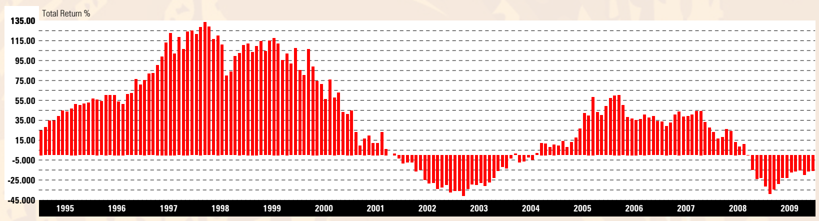
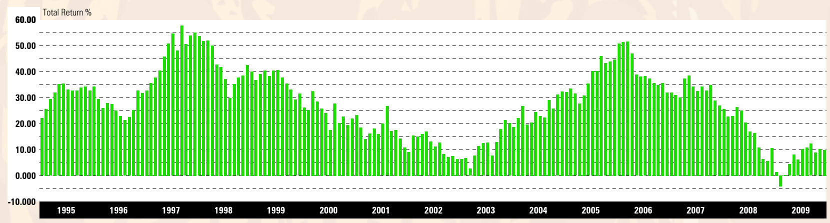
We conduct quarterly technical research to determine which investments compare favorably to various benchmarks. The charts below reflect one of several metrics we analyze, the rolling 3-year average rate of return for each quarter from the past 15 years.

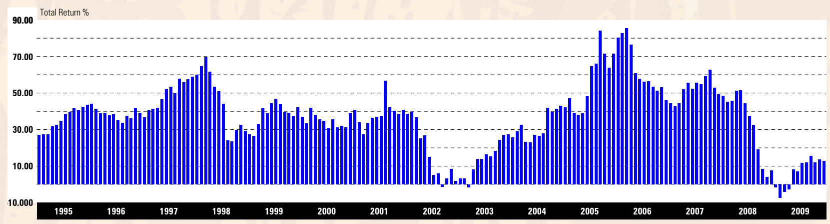
You'll notice the **red** S&P 500 chart indicates the "irrational exuberance" of the 1990's, the subsequent bear market bottoming out in 2002, and then the bull market that gave way in 2007 to the most recent trough.



In contrast, the **green** and **blue** charts represent two funds with comparitive benefits.

1. Lower volatility… The difference between their highs and lows is less than the difference between the highs and lows of the S&P 500.
2. Less Pain… The length and depth of declines during the two bear markets are lesser than those of the S&P 500.
3. Higher Returns… The overall returns—both total and annualized—are greater than the S&P 500.





These two funds aren't appropriate for every investor's situation, but they illustrate the kind of performance that can be culled from among thousands of investment choices. We will continue to monitor your existing holdings and possible alternatives in an effort to help you reach your financial objectives.