
THE SCIENCE
of INVESTING



Dimensional at a Glance

44

YEARS SINCE
FOUNDING

\$1.1T

FIRMWIDE ASSETS
UNDER MANAGMENT

1,600+

EMPLOYEES IN
15 GLOBAL OFFICES

5

NOBEL LAUREATES WITH
DEEP CONNECTIONS TO THE FIRM

One

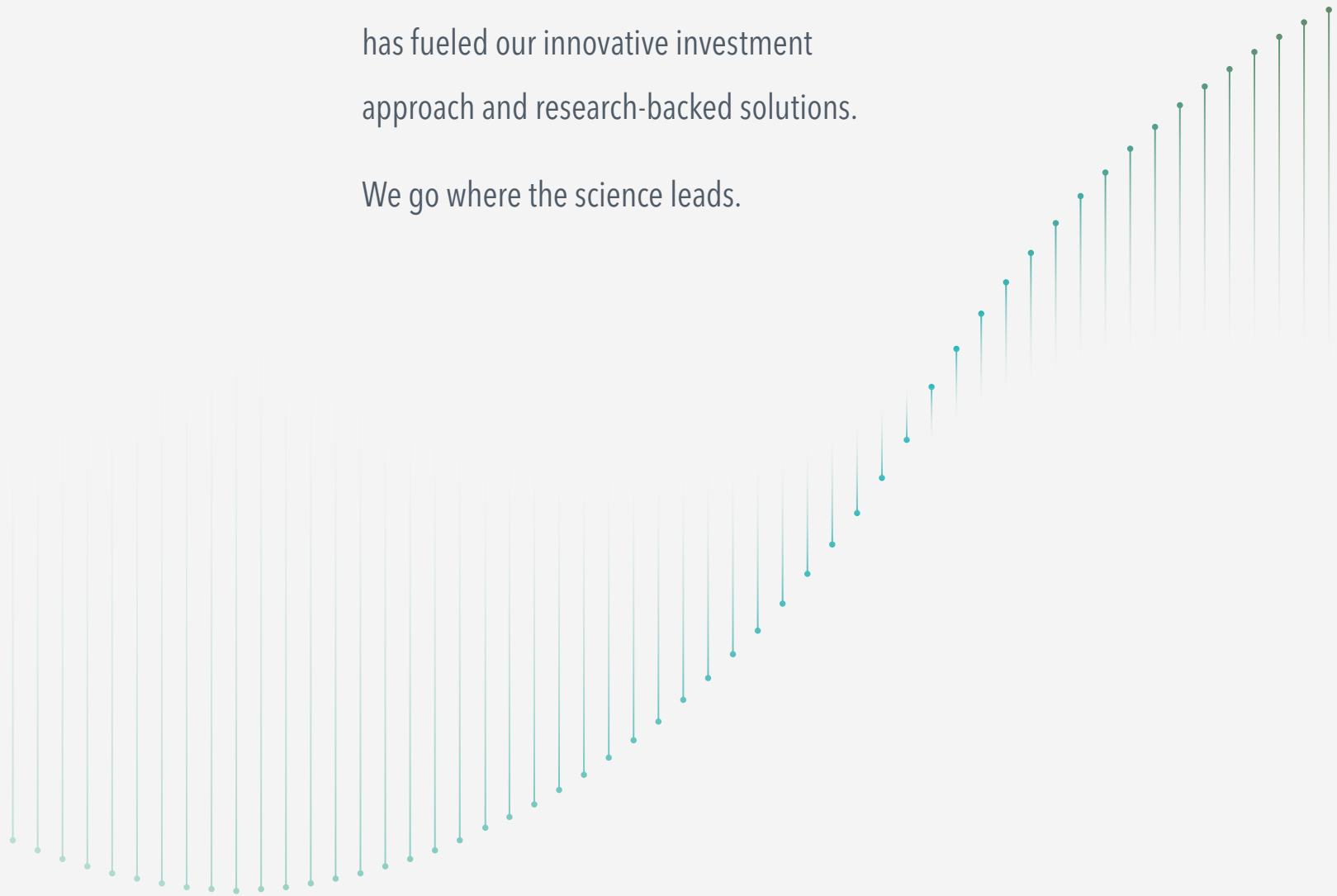
INVESTMENT
PHILOSOPHY

THE SCIENCE *of* INVESTING

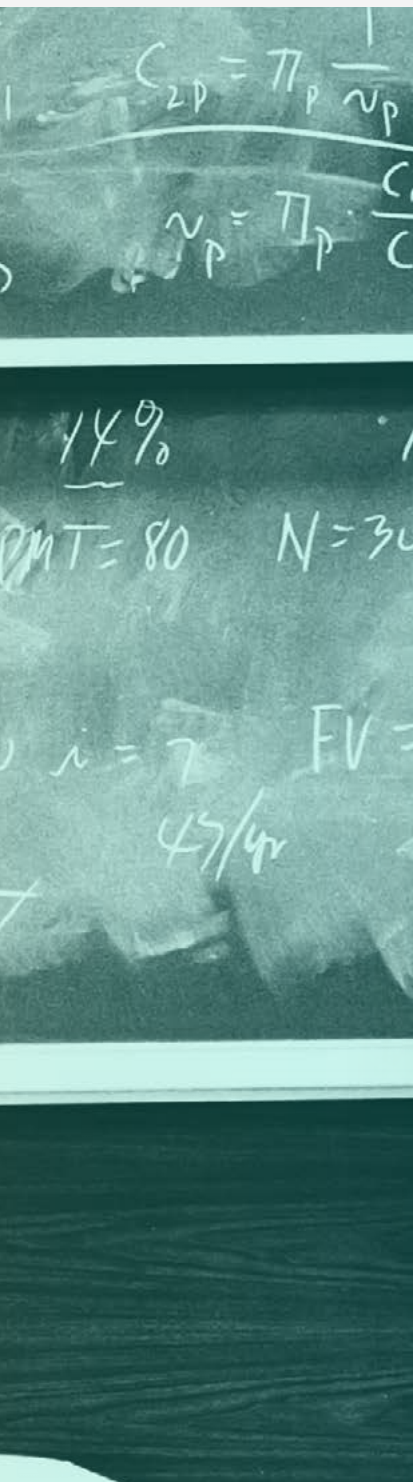
Since our founding, Dimensional
has forged lasting relationships with
the best academics in finance.

Our long and productive collaboration
has fueled our innovative investment
approach and research-backed solutions.

We go where the science leads.







THE BIRTH *of* MODERN FINANCE

In the 1950s, academics transformed the study of finance by applying the scientific method and empirical analysis to their research, laying the groundwork for modern portfolio theory.

This included groundbreaking research by University of Chicago Professors Merton Miller and Franco Modigliani, whose Modigliani-Miller theorem showed that a firm's dividend policy is an unreliable guide for stock selection.

Miller, along with Professors Harry Markowitz and William Sharpe, received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1990 for pioneering work transforming finance into a science.



◀
Harry Markowitz, Merton Miller, and William Sharpe, left to right, at the Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm in December 1990.

A NEW VIEW *of* MARKETS



▲
In 1960, Professors James Lorie and Lawrence Fisher, left and right in top photo, launched the Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP) at the University of Chicago.

Eugene Fama, bottom photo, earned his PhD from the University of Chicago with his dissertation, "The Behavior of Stock Market Prices."



When computers arrived on campus in the early 1960s, researchers could suddenly crunch reams of numbers to try to better understand **how markets work**. Professors at the University of Chicago created the Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP) database, cataloging stock returns back to 1926. Using this data, Eugene Fama, a PhD student studying under Merton Miller, developed the efficient market hypothesis, which holds that prices incorporate all available information.

This research was revolutionary for investors, as it proved you can have a rewarding investment experience without trying to outguess the market. Fama won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2013 for his empirical analysis of asset prices.



◀
Nobel laureate Eugene Fama, a founding Dimensional Director and member of Dimensional's Investment Research Committee, at the 2013 Nobel ceremony.

“I take the market efficiency hypothesis to be the simple statement that security prices fully reflect all available information.”

Eugene Fama





▲
John “Mac” McQuown led a team at Wells Fargo in the early 1970s. McQuown served as a Dimensional Director from 1981 to 2024. (Photo is used with permission from Wells Fargo Corporate Archives.)



▶
In 1971, David Booth joined McQuown’s Wells Fargo team in San Francisco.

REAL-WORLD APPLICATION

In 1971, Eugene Fama connected PhD student David Booth to John “Mac” McQuown, who hired Booth to join the Management Sciences group he led at Wells Fargo. McQuown was a pioneering “data dog,” applying academic ideas to devise a better way to invest than speculative stock picking.

This group is credited with creating the first index portfolio in 1971. Two professors consulting with the Wells Fargo team, Myron Scholes and Robert Merton, jointly received the 1997 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for their options pricing model, demonstrating that flexibility adds value. That insight would later prove useful to Booth when formulating Dimensional’s approach to improving on indexing.



▲
Robert C. Merton, left, and Myron Scholes received the Nobel Prize in 1997.

Merton is Dimensional’s Resident Scientist and served as an Independent Director from 2003 to 2009.

Scholes served as a founding Dimensional Independent Director and was on the board from 1981 to 2021.

“The research is out there for anybody to access. What distinguishes Dimensional is the way we implement the ideas.”

David Booth

THE FOUNDING *of* DIMENSIONAL



In 1981, David Booth saw a need in the industry for small cap investing, which would offer diversification benefits not widely available at the time. Dimensional was born, and the company aligned itself with financial science from the start—three future Nobelists served in key early roles.

The firm's groundbreaking emphasis on historical drivers of outperformance would come to be known as factor investing. This new way of investing, implemented through a daily, flexible process, was engineered to do better than stock picking and indexing, while still maintaining the virtues of diversification and low costs.



◀ *Dimensional's first office was in David Booth's Brooklyn brownstone apartment.*



▲ *Dimensional was founded to apply financial science to investing. Its board in the early days included, from left, Mac McQuown, Rex Sinquefeld, David Booth, Lloyd Stockel, and Eugene Fama.*

MULTIFACTOR INVESTING BREAKTHROUGH

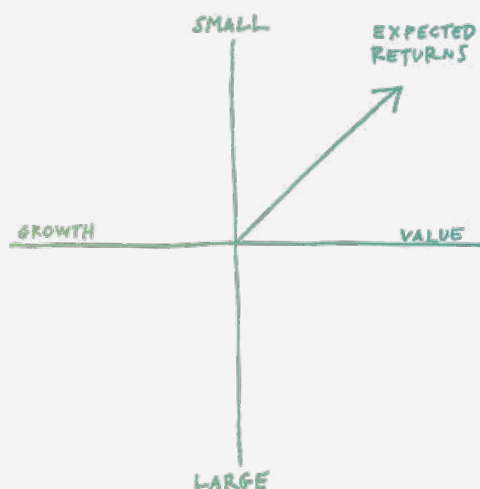
In the early 1990s, Professors Eugene Fama and Kenneth French synthesized decades of asset pricing research in their paper **"The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns."**

They found that company size and relative price are systematic drivers of higher expected returns, leading to their industry-changing three-factor model.

Dimensional launched its first value strategies based on the research before the paper was published, later applying it across a full range of equity strategies around the world.



Professor Eugene Fama, left, and Professor Kenneth French, right and below, did pioneering work on the drivers of stock returns. Both are Dimensional Directors and members of Dimensional's Investment Research Committee.



DIMENSIONAL TODAY



▲
Dimensional Co-CEO and Co-CIO Gerard O'Reilly is a Dimensional Director and member of the Investment Research Committee and Investment Committee.

For more than 45 years, Dimensional's culture of uncompromising research has been shaped by top minds in finance, and it lives on in our work every day. Led by Co-Chief Investment Officers Gerard O'Reilly and Savina Rizova, Dimensional's Investment team rigorously interprets, tests, and applies research to investment strategies designed to maximize returns while minimizing costs and risks.

Dimensional's funds are also overseen by the Board of the firm's US mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, an esteemed group of academics that includes Nobel laureate Douglas Diamond, a founder of modern banking theory.

▶
Douglas Diamond won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2022 for his research on banks and financial crises. He is a Dimensional Independent Director.



“We have energy and passion around doing the right thing for the client.”

Dave Butler

▶ *Savina Rizova is Co-CIO, Chair of the Investment Research Committee, and a member of the Investment Committee.*



▶ *Dave Butler serves as Co-CEO and is a Dimensional Director. He joined the firm in 1995 and was named Co-CEO in 2017.*



◀ *Dimensional's funds board is made up of Independent Directors from top universities.*

FIRST ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT

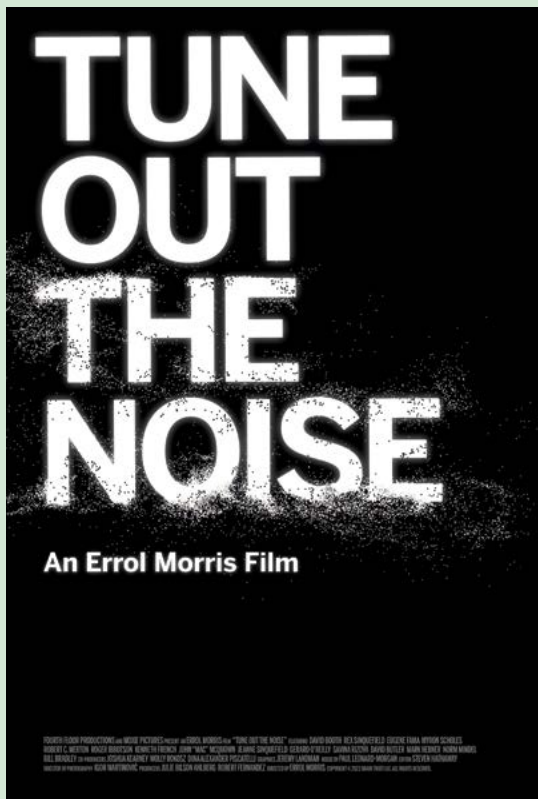
Abbie J. Smith, University of Chicago; David Booth; Ingrid M. Werner, The Ohio State University; Reena Aggarwal, Georgetown University; Heather E. Tookes, Yale University.

SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT

Francis A. Longstaff, UCLA; Gerard O'Reilly; Douglas W. Diamond, University of Chicago; Darrell Duffie, Stanford University.

BACK ROW

Stefan Nagel, University of Chicago; Dave Butler.



Errol Morris, David Booth, and Dave Butler, left to right rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange to celebrate the premiere of Tune Out the Noise in March 2025.



Dimensional worked with Academy Award–winning director Errol Morris to spread the word about a better way to invest—and the result is a film that has drawn more than 31 million views on YouTube. Shot in Morris’s iconic style, the documentary unfolds through revealing interviews with Eugene Fama, Robert Merton, Myron Scholes, Ken French, David Booth, Mac McQuown, and many others. It tells the story of the birth of modern finance, the launch of index funds, the creation of multifactor investing, the evolution of financial advice, and the role Dimensional and its founders had in those events.

**31 million+ views
on YouTube**

Watch *Tune Out the Noise* on YouTube to learn more about the science of investing.



AMERICAS
Austin, Charlotte, Santa Monica, Toronto, Vancouver

EUROPE
Amsterdam, Berlin, Dublin, London, Munich

ASIA PACIFIC
Hong Kong, Melbourne, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo

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