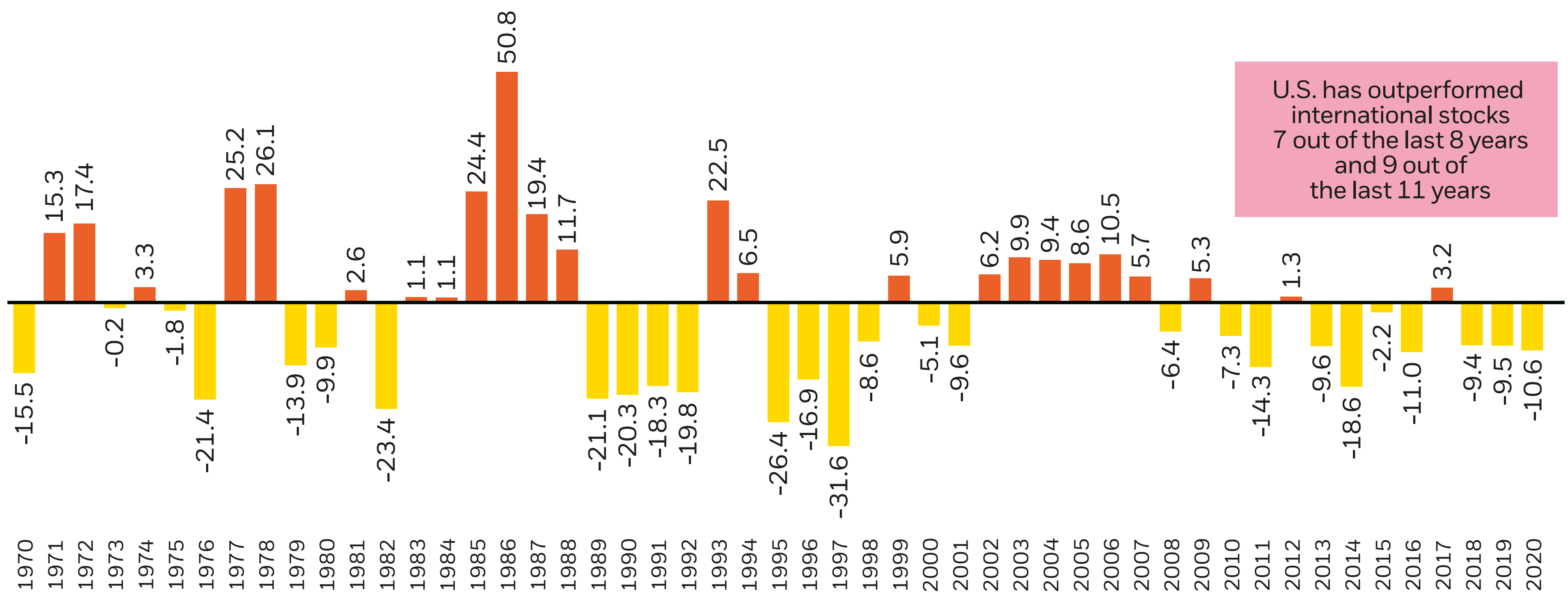
International stocks: why bother?

Fairhaven
wealth management

We know it's important for our portfolio to be diversified across asset class, strategy and geography. However, lower historical performance in international stock markets in recent years has made it easy to continue investing primarily in the U.S. When it comes to international stocks, we may find ourselves wondering: "why bother?"

U.S. vs. International stocks

Performance difference for each calendar year
International stocks minus U.S. stocks (1970- 2020)



● U.S. outperformed ● International outperformed

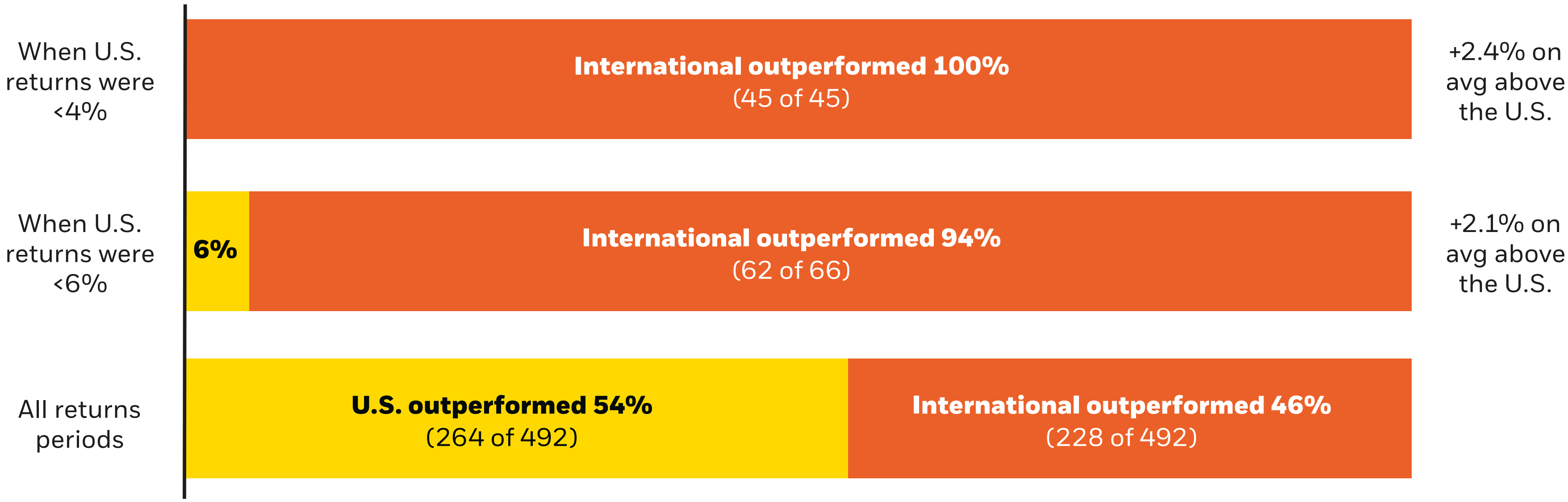
Source: Morningstar as of 12/31/20. U.S. stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Index. International stocks are represented by the MSCI EAFE NR Index. **Past performancedoes not guarantee or indicate future results.** Index performance is for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Despite lagging in recent years, international stocks have performed strongly throughout history, outperforming U.S. stocks during nearly half of all time periods over the last 50 years. With lower returns forecasted for U.S. stocks over the coming years, international stocks may be primed to outperform.

Historically, international stocks outperformed 94% of the time when U.S. stocks returned less than 6% and 100% of the time when U.S. stocks returned less than 4%.

International stocks have historically outperformed in periods of lower U.S. stock returns

(10-year rolling periods, U.S. return levels vs. international, 1970 - 2020)



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Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. International investing involves risks, including risks related to foreign currency, limited liquidity, less government regulation and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks often are heightened for investments in emerging/developing markets or in concentrations of single countries.

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