Saving for RETIREMENT

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Imagining RETIREMENT

What do you want your retirement to look like?



A worldwide adventure?



The simple life?



Pursuing a passion?



Moving to a new city?

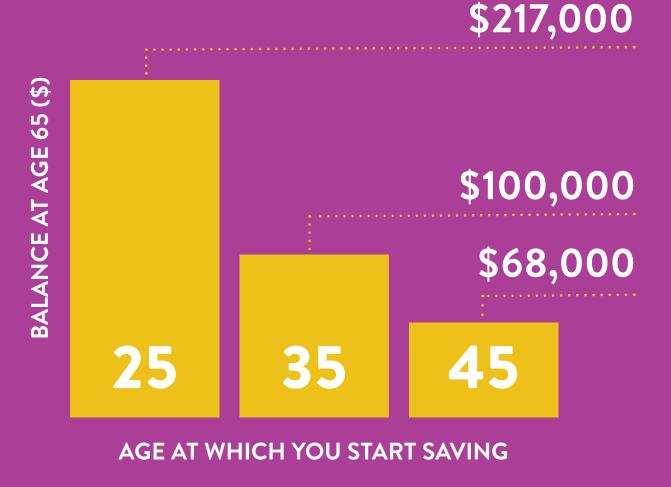


Your retirement fund will likely be your longest-term savings goal

That makes it tricky to prioritize—but it pays to start saving early!

Timing is **EVERYTHING**

Let's say you put \$10,000 in your 401(k) and do nothing further until it's time to withdraw the balance at age 65



The same investment can be worth a lot more when given some extra time to grow

Retirement SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Retirement savings accounts act like containers in which your various investments can grow tax-free



The most popular options include Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs and 401(k)s



COMPARING OPTIONS

TRADITIONAL IRA

Set up at your financial institution

\$6,000 contribution limit (combined limit for all IRAs)

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

ROTH IRA

Set up at your financial institution

\$6,000 contribution limit (combined limit for all IRAs)

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

401(k)

Set up through your employer

\$19,000 contribution limit

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

COMPARING OPTIONS

TRADITIONAL IRA

Contributions are pre-tax and can be deducted from your income tax return

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income

ROTH IRA

Contributions are made with after-tax dollars and cannot be deducted from your income tax return

Withdrawals are tax-free

401(k)

Contributions are pre-tax and do not count toward your taxable income for the year

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income

COMPARING OPTIONS

TRADITIONAL IRA

Traditional IRAs
offer a wide range
of investments,
but their RMDs
(required minimum
distributions) mean
you have to start
withdrawing funds at
a certain point

ROTH IRA

Unlike Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs have tax-free distributions and no RMDs— however, they will not give tax breaks on your contribution amounts

401(k)

Your employer may offer a 401(k) contribution match, which is like free money-however, 401(k) plans are sometimes associated with limited investment options and higher fees

STARTER PLAN

Contribute enough to meet your 401(k) match

Switch over and max out your Roth IRA contribution

If you have money left over, top up your 401(k)

Strategies for SAVING

In order for your money to grow, you need to create the right environment



Eliminate high-interest debt Paying down credit cards (and other high-interest debt) should be your top financial priority





Build an emergency fund The last thing you need is an unexpected expense taking a bite out of your savings

Maximize your repayment plan

See if there's a smart way to consolidate or refinance your loans as a way of freeing up extra cash for savings





Start today

Time is on your side when it comes to retirement savings— even if you have to start small, start saving today

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Sources: Investopedia, IRS.gov, NerdWallet, The Motley Fool, Time Inc.

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