



Closing the gap: Four steps to boost retirement savings.



RETIRE WITH CONFIDENCE®

It's easy to fall behind on saving for retirement. A gap in employment or paying for college may take you off track. Here are some “rules of thumb” that may help you focus your savings between now and the day you retire.

You could be retired for 30 years or longer, but you still have time—and options—to maximize your savings.

WORK YOUR PLAN

Your workplace retirement plan is one of the most effective and convenient ways to save for retirement. We suggest that you save at least 15% of your income each year.

If setting aside 15% of your pay isn't practical right now, start with 6% and try to increase the amount by 2% each year.

Be sure to take full advantage of any employer contributions to your plan—they count toward that 15% savings goal.

CATCH UP FASTER

If you're participating in the plan and will be 50 or over this year, you may be able to contribute above the annual IRS limit on workplace retirement plan contributions. Making these annual catch-up contributions can help make up for the gaps in your savings history. And keep in mind that even if you're already making catch-up contributions, you can continue to build your savings with an individual retirement account (IRA).

GIVE YOURSELF MORE TIME

This can make a bigger difference than you might have thought. If your current retirement savings are falling behind your goals, these strategies may help close the gap:

- Waiting until age 67 or later to collect Social Security can boost your retirement income.
- If you're able to work past age 65, you can use that time to continue building your nest egg. Delaying retirement by only a few years can make a significant difference.

KEEP YOUR ASSETS WORKING FOR YOU

As you near retirement, it's common to think you should focus on more conservative investments. However, options such as bonds and money markets may not keep pace with inflation. Your retirement could last decades, so it's wise to stay diversified, keeping a portion of your assets in stocks for potential growth.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

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