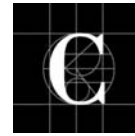


Focusing Your Future



CAPTRUST

Winter 2010

Invitation Only



You're invited to an exclusive event — your retirement! We hope you can join us as soon as possible to help make the most of this special time of life. Dress code is optional — formal, casual, even resort wear. RSVP to your company's retirement savings plan.

When you are planning for your retirement, pretend you are preparing for a big party. Except, unlike a gala or weekend wedding, your retirement will last a lot longer. So it's important that you take extra care with all the details.

The Guest List

Successful hosts and hostesses choose their guests carefully, since great guests can really make a party. Your employer's plan lets you choose investments for your retirement account. Which investments should you select?

Most retirement plans offer choices in three main categories.

Stocks — Historically, stocks have provided the highest potential long-term returns, but they also have the greatest risk of short-term losses. (Past performance does not guarantee future results.)

Bonds — Bonds tend to provide more modest returns than stocks, but are generally less volatile.

Cash — Investments that can easily be converted to cash, such as money market investments, are the least risky but also offer the lowest potential returns of the three major asset classes.

In the past, returns of assets in the three major categories have not moved up and down together. Market conditions that cause stocks to rise may cause bond returns to fall, and vice versa. Diversifying* your retirement portfolio by investing in different types of assets may result in the poor performance of one type being cushioned by the stronger returns of another.

Time and Location

When you are preparing for an event, you take into consideration when it will take place and what the activities will be. A '70s-themed disco dance on Saturday night requires different preparations than a luncheon garden

party. As you are making preparations for your retirement, be sure to think about when you intend to retire and the lifestyle you hope to lead. Your investing time frame, your risk tolerance, and your financial goals are key factors that can help guide you when you are making decisions about your plan investments.

Early in your career, you may feel comfortable with the excitement (and risk) of investing a significant portion of your retirement savings in stock investments to increase the potential for long-term growth. As you near retirement, however, you may prefer the more sedate (and conservative) experience of putting more of your plan savings in bonds and cash investments to reduce the risk of loss and help preserve the value of your portfolio.

** Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.*



CAPTRUST

4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 1700
Raleigh, NC 27609
919/870-6822 • 800/216-0645

Securities Offered Through
CapFinancial Partners, LLC
member FINRA & SIPC

Make No Excuses

You can always come up with a plausible excuse for not doing what you know is best. Making excuses for not going to the gym this week or skipping dinner with your in-laws may be relatively harmless. But making excuses for not saving more for retirement might have a long-term impact on your financial future. Here are some common excuses for not saving more for retirement.

I Have Plenty of Time To Spare

No matter how long you have before you plan to retire, the sooner you start saving more for retirement, the better. If you wait, you could miss out on years of contributions and potential

compound earnings. Compounding occurs when your plan assets generate investment earnings, which are then reinvested to generate additional earnings. The longer earnings compound, the more money you may be able to accumulate for retirement.

Other Goals Are More Important

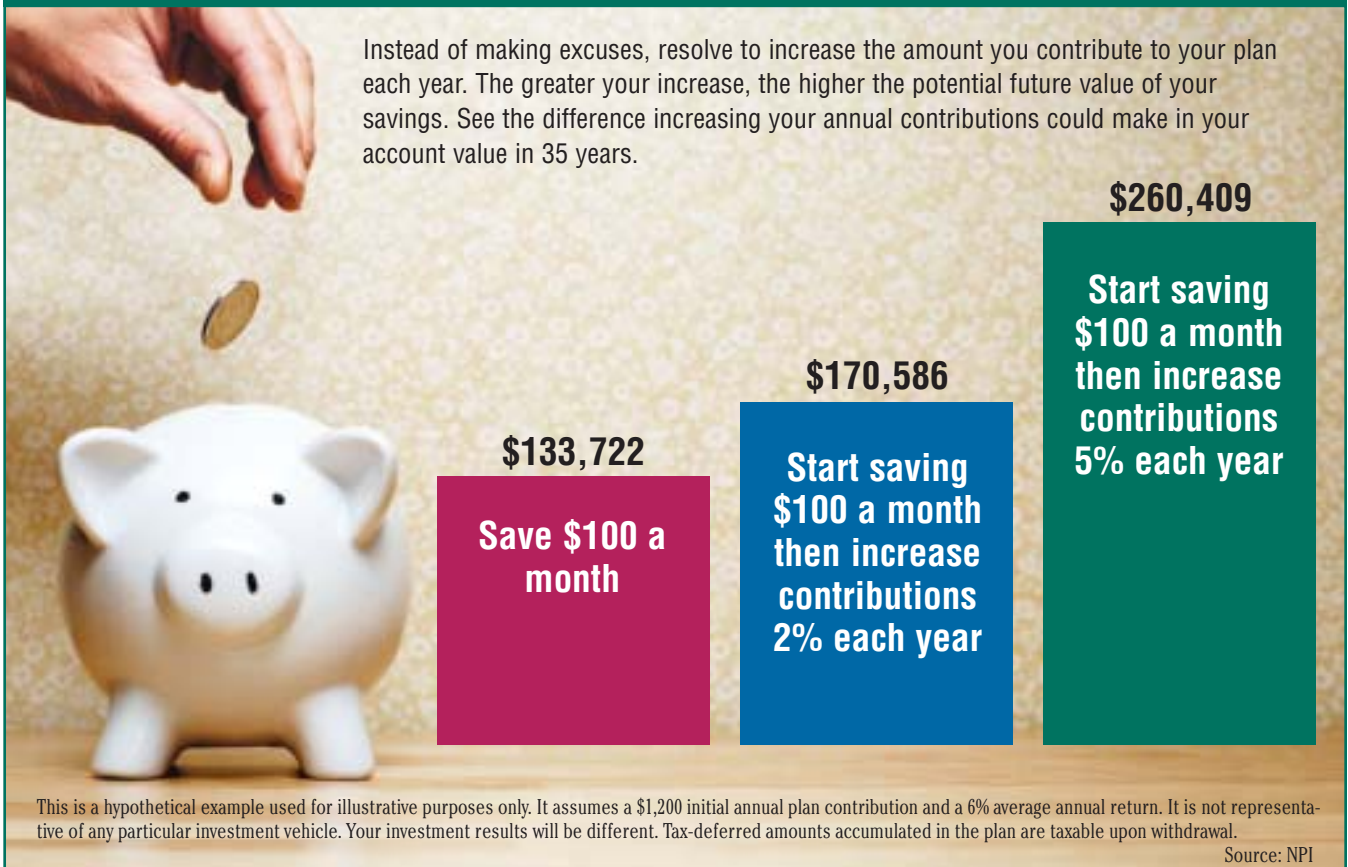
Other financial goals, such as buying a house and helping with your children's college costs, *are* important. However, if you always put those goals first and your retirement savings last, you may not be able to save enough for your retirement. If possible, save for all your financial goals. But keep in mind that you're probably going to need more

money to fund a comfortable retirement than you will to pay your children's college expenses. So make saving for retirement your priority.

I'm Going To Continue Working During My Retirement Years

Even if you intend to continue working during your later years, you should still save as much as possible in your retirement plan account. A number of factors could prevent you from working as long as you want, such as illness or disability, having to care for a loved one, or a lay-off. Since the future is uncertain, saving more for retirement now will help you prepare for whatever comes your way.

A Good Reason To Save More



ANY QUESTIONS?

Q. *What can I expect to receive from Social Security when I retire?*

A. You can't be sure exactly how much you will receive from Social Security when you retire. The annual statement you receive from the Social Security Administration is only a projected estimate of your future benefits. But if you look at it closely and also consider what current retirees receive, you may decide to save even more in your employer's retirement plan.

By the Numbers

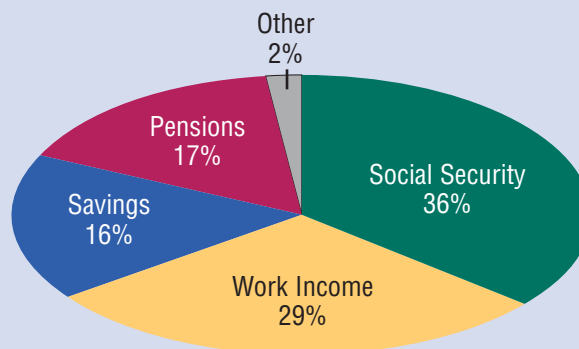
As of September 2009, the average monthly Social Security retirement benefit for retired workers was approximately \$1,161 — roughly \$13,900 a year. The average annual benefit for retired workers and spouses was less than \$20,800.* Compare that average amount to the median income of U.S. households — \$50,303 in 2008** — and you'll see that for many retirees, Social Security alone isn't enough to support a comfortable lifestyle.

Uncertain Future

Social Security is basically a “pay-as-you-go” program with today's taxpayers paying the benefits of today's retirees. As a result of a number of demographic factors, including people living longer, fewer workers will be paying the benefits of more retirees in the future. And the number of retirees is projected to double

Check Your Sources

For many current retirees, Social Security is just one source of retirement income. Here is a breakdown of retirees' sources of income.



Source: *Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2009*, Social Security Administration, 2009

in less than 30 years. In 2008, there were 3.2 workers paying Social Security taxes for each Social Security beneficiary. In 2034, that ratio is projected to drop to 2.1 workers for every beneficiary.*** Changes may need to be made if the Social Security system is to be sustainable over the long term.

Your Sources of Income

Relying on Social Security to provide the bulk of your retirement income clearly is not the best plan. A better strategy may be to make sure you have several sources of income available when you

retire, including your retirement savings plan. Contributing as much as possible to your plan can help you get ready for the future.

* *Monthly Statistical Snapshot*, Social Security Administration, September 2009

** *Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008*, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2009

*** *Fast Facts & Figures About Social Security, 2009*, Social Security Administration, 2009



Bonds on Board

Have you seen those bright yellow “Baby on Board” signs in car windows? They’re designed to grab your attention and get you to slow down if you’re driving too fast. Is there something you can do to slow things down in your retirement portfolio if stocks move too fast for your comfort level? Consider bringing bonds on board.

Bond Basics

Bonds are issued by corporations to raise money for expansion and other capital needs. Federal and state governments and their agencies also issue bonds to raise money for a variety of purposes, such as building factories or constructing roads and bridges. Each bond has a set maturity date, which is when the issuer agrees to return the bond’s face value to the investor. The



issuer pays the investor interest while the bond is outstanding.

Current market interest rates and other factors cause bond prices to vary. When interest rates rise, the prices of existing bonds with lower interest rates tend to fall. And when interest rates drop, the prices of existing bonds with higher rates typically will rise. Long-term bonds are more sensitive to interest rate changes, so they are considered a riskier investment than short-term bonds.

Bond Funds

You may not be able to invest directly in individual bonds through your retirement plan, but you probably can invest in a bond fund or portfolio — a professionally managed collection of bonds. Some funds and portfolios invest only in U.S. government bonds, others specialize in corporate bonds, while

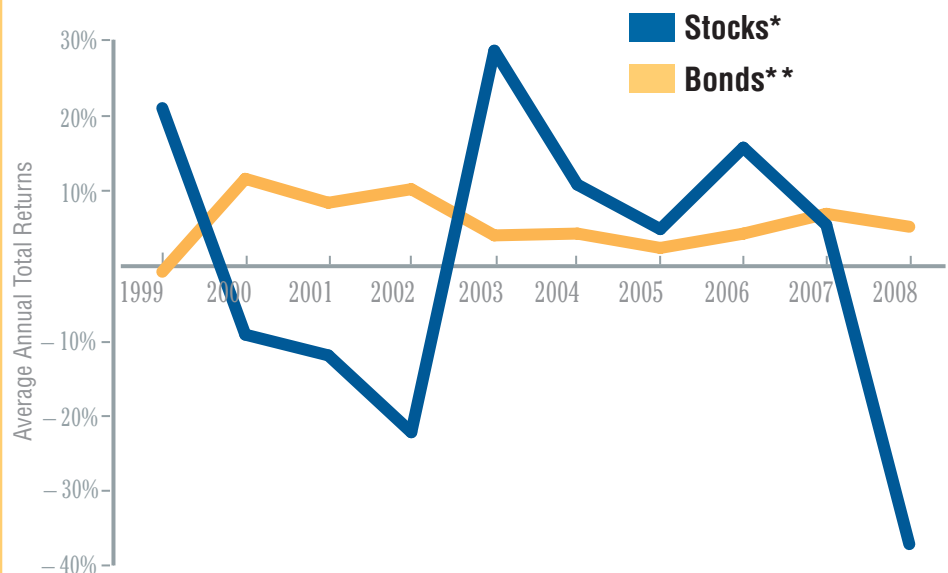
still others hold both types of bonds. You may be able to invest in a bond fund that holds only bonds with short maturities or one that holds longer term bonds. Others may hold bonds of varying maturities.

Stocks and Bonds

Stock and bond investments tend to have different reactions to changes in interest rates and shifts in the investment markets. When stocks perform poorly, bonds often perform well, and vice versa. If you invest in both stocks and bonds, losses in one asset type may be cushioned by gains in the other.

Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results. It’s possible that both the stock and bond markets could be up or down at the same time. And diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

The Ups and Downs of Stocks and Bonds



* Stocks are measured by the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index, an unmanaged index of the stocks of 500 major corporations.

** Bonds are measured by the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, an unmanaged index of U.S. government, corporate, and mortgage-backed securities.

Sources: NPI and Mellon Analytical Solutions, LLC

This publication is designed to provide useful information about retirement plans and investing your account savings. Before acting on any of the information provided, consult your professional advisor. CAPTRUST does not render legal, accounting, or tax advice. This material has been prepared solely for information purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. Copyright 2009 by NPI.