

Participant Corner

Your Retirement Date

The Month in Brief

In November, the S&P 500 gained 2.81% and advanced for a thirteenth straight month – an unprecedented milestone in the index’s long history. Consumer confidence and investor confidence were both abundant, as further evidence arrived that the economy was growing at an impressive rate. Solid fundamental indicators, upbeat earnings announcements, and hopes for 2018 tax cuts motivated stock gains in the U.S.; though many foreign benchmarks slumped. Oil took steps toward \$60. Home sales picked up after a late-summer lull. Wall Street anticipated a year-end rate hike from the Federal Reserve.^{1,2}

% CHANGE	Y-T-D	1-YR CHG	5-YR AVG	10-YR AVG
DJIA	+22.82	+26.92	+17.27	+8.15
NASDAQ	+27.69	+29.12	+25.67	+15.83
S&P 500	+18.26	+20.41	+17.39	+7.88
REAL YIELD	8/31 RATE	1 YR AGO	5 YRS AGO	10 YRS AGO
10 YR TIPS	0.56%	0.43%	-0.79%	1.63%

Sources: barchart.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov – 11/30/17^{18,19,20,21}
 Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested into directly. These returns do not include dividends. 10-year TIPS real yield = projected return at maturity given expected inflation.

MONTHLY QUOTE

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

- *Malcolm Forbes*

MONTHLY TIP

Are you building an emergency fund? Consider investing a portion (or perhaps all) of those dollars in an interest-bearing deposit account or bank vehicle, to help them grow a little more.

MONTHLY RIDDLE

It will let you enter, but not come in. It lets you create space, but it will never offer you a room. It has keys, but they open no locks. What is it?

Last month’s riddle:

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?

Last month’s answer:

Charcoal.

Your Retirement Date

Retirement can be the most wonderful time of your life, truly the golden years. It is up to you to do what you can to make it so. Enjoying good health in retirement is key to quality of life. The other major determiner of quality of life in retirement is financial security. Below are some important questions that are never too early to consider.

When is your retirement date?

Life expectancy is constantly being extended by medical advances and lifestyle decisions. Working until age 70 is not a farfetched concept. Many people will be quite physically and mentally capable of sustaining some degree of employment through their 80s, whether for financial reasons or simply because they enjoy the engagement.

What will your expenses be?

Expenses are difficult to estimate. Having your own home is very helpful, but trying to predict other expenses is a challenge. The retirement investing industry has relied on the “old saw” that you should plan to replace 75 percent of your pre-retirement income. That may have worked for your parents, but likely not so much for you. If you retire with some degree of financial comfort you will have much time on your hands to indulge in your interests and hobbies. Don't worry that you might save too much for retirement, because there is no such thing as too much money. There are many worthy causes you can help, if you have excess assets.

What about working longer?

In some ways work is like school or military duty (during peaceful times), you can't wait until you are done with it, but then in hindsight, you miss aspects of it. This is not to say you should remain working 40 hours a week, but you may consider part-time work in your current field or begin a new career that is of interest to you, perhaps this may be associated with a hobby or sport you enjoy, or some charitable institution you feel strongly about. There really are many options.

What about Social Security?

In spite of all the Social Security kerfuffle about it being bankrupt, it is likely to still be here when you need it. For every year past eligibility you wait to begin benefits, your monthly amount increases by approximately 8 percent. That is not a bad return for a safe investment. You can delay your benefit until it makes sense not to. Also, consider a potential spouse's benefit as well.

For more information on your retirement date, please call our plan's advisor at [703-884-2061] or email at [twall@capstonerg.com].



Disclosures:

In addition to the options listed here, there may be other options available. You should also consider your other options before rolling over retirement savings. Consider the differences in investment options, services, fees and expenses, withdrawal options, required minimum distributions, other plan features, and tax treatment. This material is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified attorney, tax advisor, investment professional or insurance agent. This is a hypothetical illustration and does not represent an actual investment. There is no guarantee similar results can be achieved. If fees had been reflected, the return would have been less.

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Citations Economic Section:

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ACR#269396 12/17

About Capstone Retirement Group

Capstone Retirement Group is a professional retirement plan consulting firm. We partner with plan fiduciaries to identify and implement the optimal retirement plan for their organization.

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