

Your Retirement Planning Checklist

Great assets don't always yield great retirement planning. According to a U.S. Trust Insights on Wealth and Worth survey of almost 1,000 high net worth individuals, half of them have an end goal in mind for their savings — and the same number of respondents say they lack a plan for getting there.

This begs one key question:

How can you save enough to ensure you have a secure retirement?



What Affects Your Saving Strategy

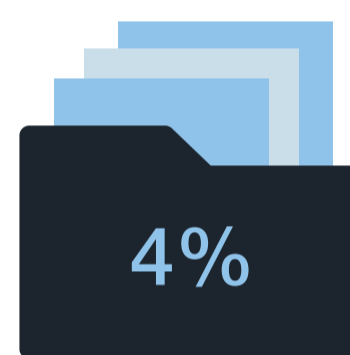
Keep the following three elements in mind to determine whether you're saving enough:

Spending: How you spend now influences what you can save and how you'll be able to live later on. Having a retirement endgame in mind should help you see how your day-to-day spending habits/responsibilities can impact your saving. Whether it's house payments, college funds, family obligations, or other necessities, circumstances should dictate how much money you put away.



Tax obligations: Just as your saving strategy depends on your current life status, so do your tax obligations. Consider how those changes will influence your tax responsibilities and, consequently, your ability to save for the quality of life you desire after retirement. Starting when you're young, saving into qualified retirement accounts like 401(k)s and IRAs can lower your tax burden while you set aside money for your later years. But every life change is a chance to examine your tax obligations and how they impact your saving.

Portfolio diversification: Your portfolio will likely be the primary source of your retirement income, so you'll want to build a diverse and fruitful portfolio. As you build your wealth, you should focus on building a portfolio that is diversified across types of accounts (a cash emergency fund, taxable investment accounts, and qualified retirement accounts) as well as diversified across asset classes.



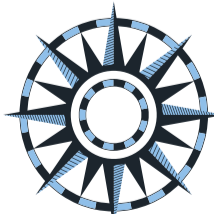
Are You Saving Enough?

The following questions should provide you with the answers you need:

1. When will you retire?
2. How much do you expect to receive from Social Security?
3. Do you have additional sources of income (e.g., pension or disability)?
4. Do you anticipate having any medical conditions later in life?
5. Do you have a sufficient emergency fund set aside?
6. What will your tax responsibilities be in retirement?
7. What other financial goals (e.g., someone's education, a sick family member, etc.) do you have?

Want to learn more about how you should be saving toward retirement?

Read "A Retirement Planning Guide for High Net Worth Individuals" to learn more.



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Sources:

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