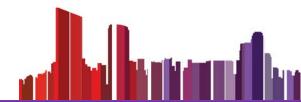


Investment Series Part 1: Investment Basics and Growing Your Money

Presented by: Debbie Rochester

Today's Agenda

- Why We Save
- Understand Why Investing Matters
- Basics of Investing
- Invest for Different Life Stages
- Cost of Investing
- MERS Structure for Success
- Utilizing MERS Resources





Why We Save

To ultimately reach our financial goals



Retirement Goal

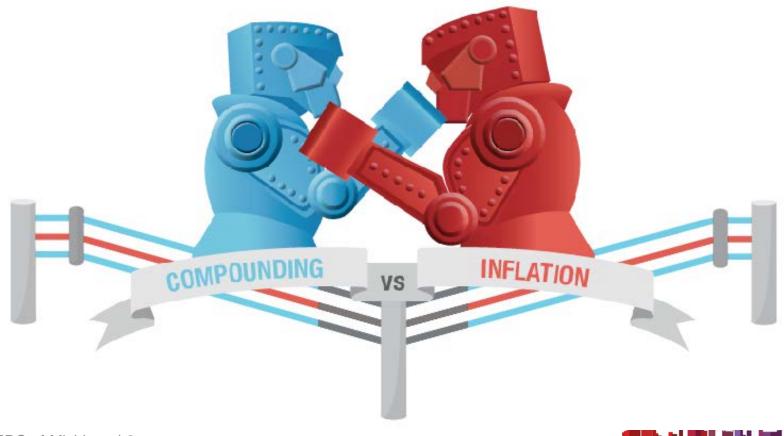
Have enough money set aside at retirement to feel comfortable that you will be able to cover your expected expenses.





Why Investing Matters

Let's see how the fight between COMPOUNDING and INFLATION impacts your money.



In the blue corner...

In the red corner...

COMPOUNDING

Background

The power of compounding is when earnings are generated not only on your initial investment, but also on all previously accumulated earnings — which means interest builds on top of interest.

Fight Record

Average annual investment return:

6.00%

INFLATION

Background

Inflation is when the value of your money decreases and it costs more to buy the same goods and services than it did yesterday or last year. In just 25 years, inflation can cut the value of your money in half.¹

Fight Record

Average annual inflation rate:

3.22%*

¹25 Years of Inflation (1992-2016) from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics





Impact of Inflation



ANNA - AGE 30 Starts INVESTING



from her biweekly paycheck

\$91,000 CONTRIBUTED OVER 35 YEARS

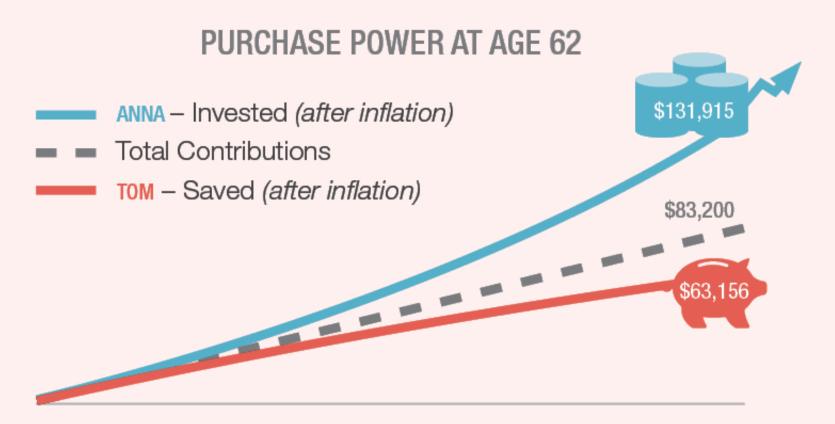




from his biweekly paycheck

\$91,000 CONTRIBUTED OVER 35 YEARS





While both put in the same amount, after accounting for inflation, the purchasing power of ANNA'S contributions is more than double what TOM'S is because her invested money outgrew inflation while his saved money lost value.²



²Assumes hypothetical 6% annual investment return, 3.22% annual inflation rate and 1.35% annual savings return, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.



Power of Compounding







from his biweekly paycheck

> \$104,000 **CONTRIBUTED OVER 40 YEARS**





from her biweekly paycheck

> \$104,000 **CONTRIBUTED OVER 20 YEARS**



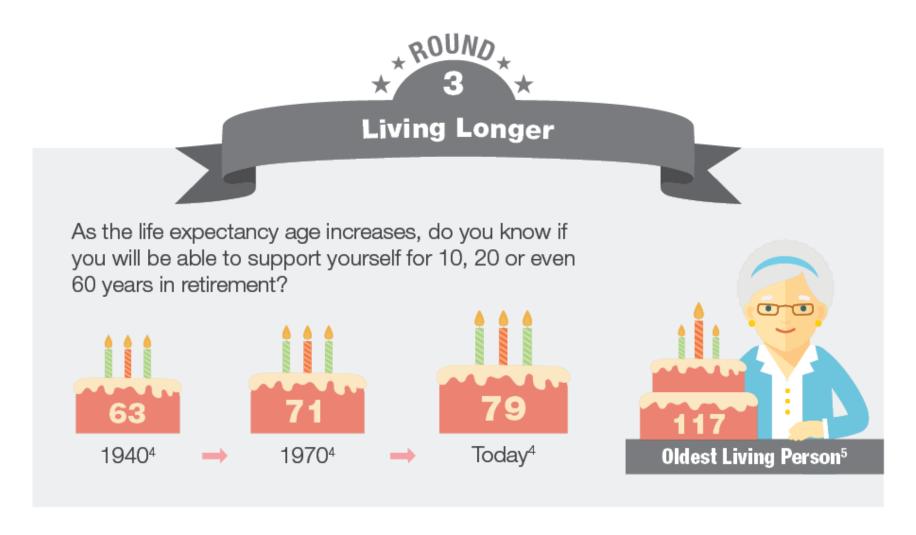
ASSETS AT AGE 62



While both participants contributed the same amount, JOHN ended up with more than double CANDICE because he started early and used the power of compounding to his advantage.³

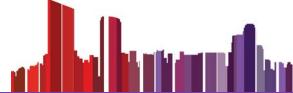


³Assumes hypothetical 6% annual investment return, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.

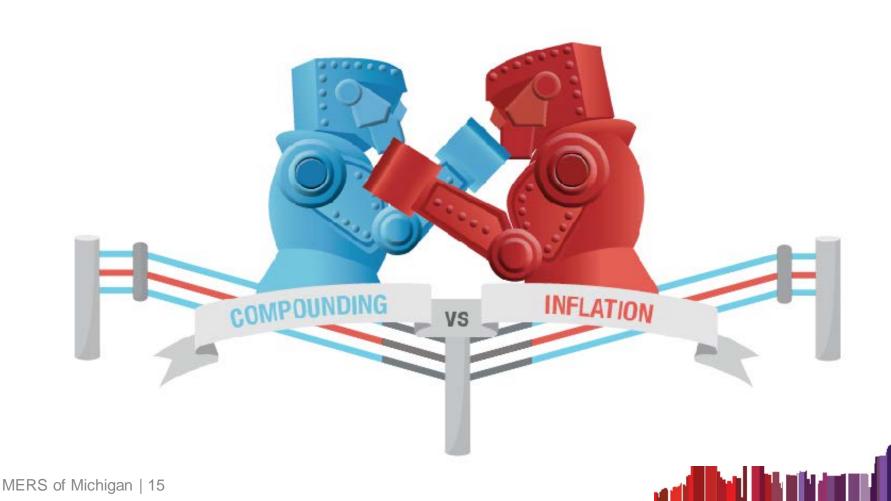


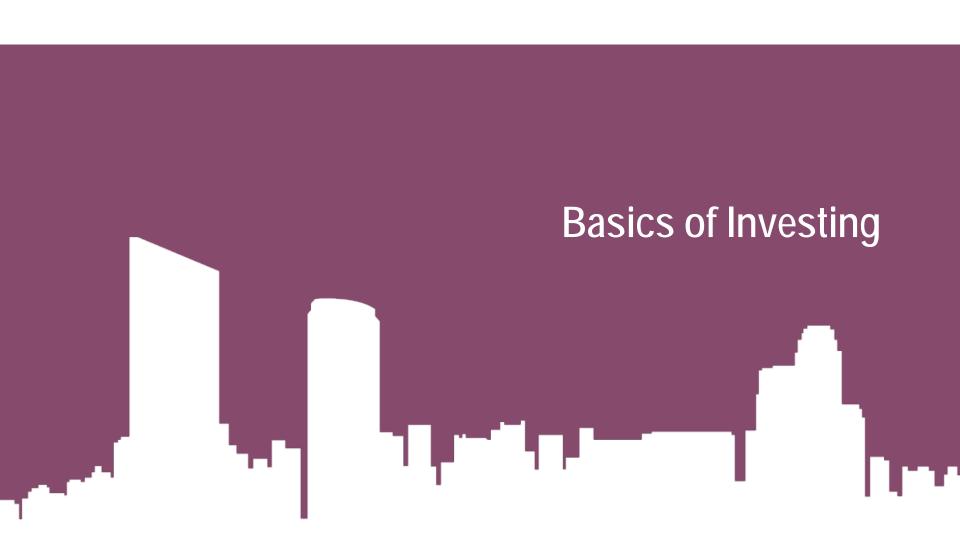
⁴National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports. Web: <u>www.cdc.gov/nchs</u>.

⁵Web: https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/List of the verified oldest people



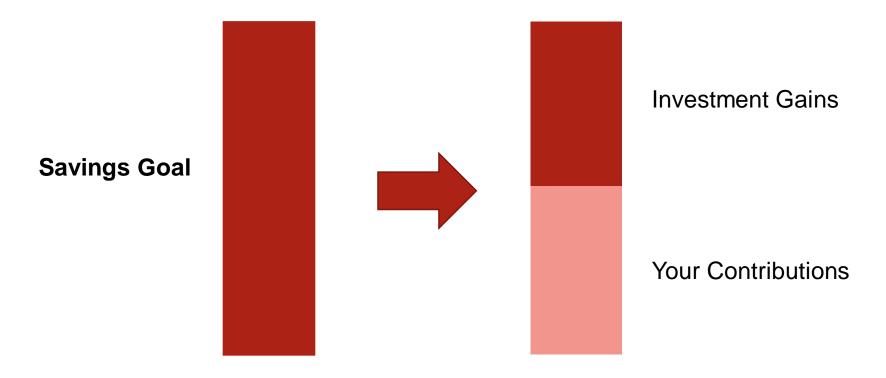
INFLATION will try to deplete the value of your money whether it's invested or not, so avoid the easy KNOCK OUT and get in the ring to fight inflation with the power of COMPOUNDING today!





Why We Invest

By investing your money in the market, you allow the money that you contribute to work for you and grow.





What Determines Your Investment Returns?

As an investor, your money can be exchanged for a variety of assets.

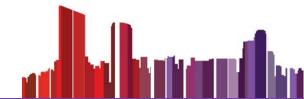


Types of Asset Classes

Groups of investments that have:

- Similar characteristics
- Behave similarly in the marketplace
- Subject to the same laws and regulations



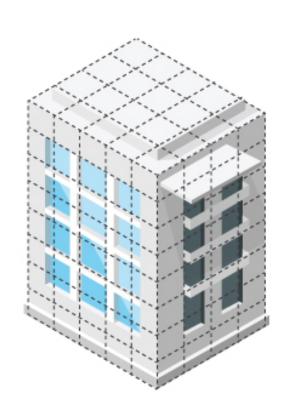


What are Stocks?



Own a portion of company





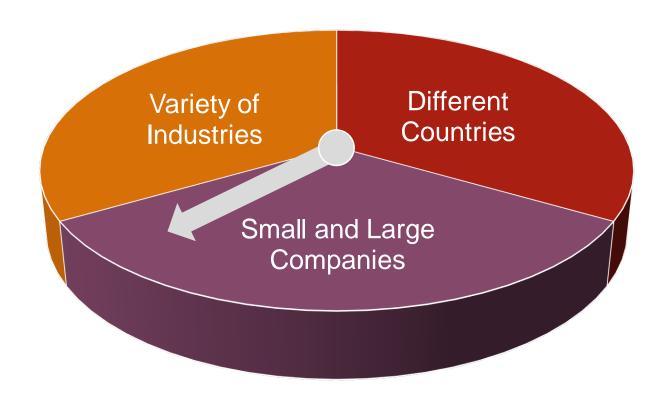


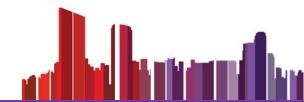


Assortment of Companies



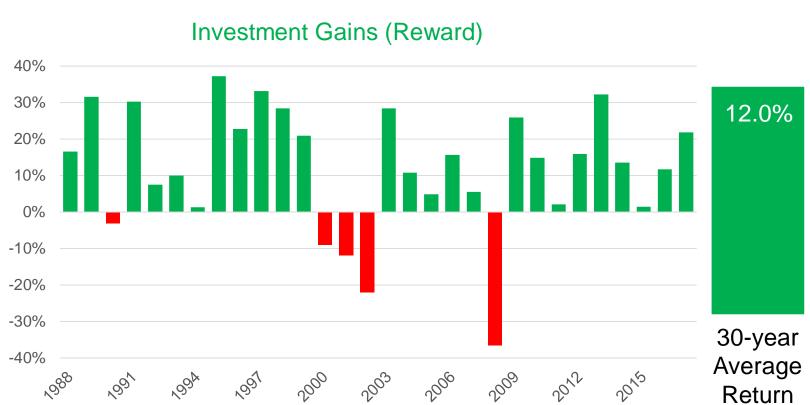
Where you invest your money can give you different opportunities.





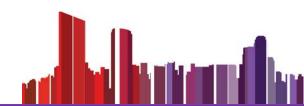
Return History of Stocks



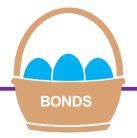


Investment Losses (Risk)

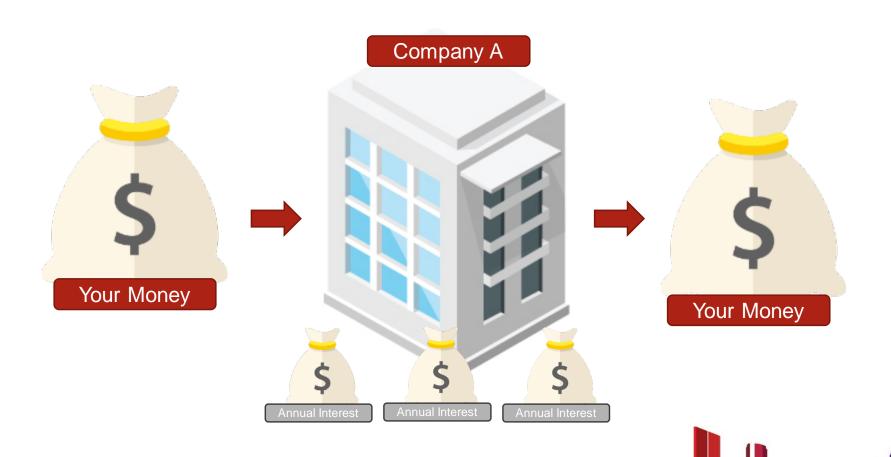
Returns shown are for the S&P 500 Index (1988 - 2017)



What are Bonds?



Loaning money to a company



Interest Rate Varies



The amount of money a borrower will pay you in interest depends on three key factors.







Medium Term



Long Term



Government



Startup Company

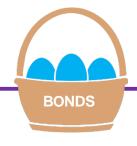


United States

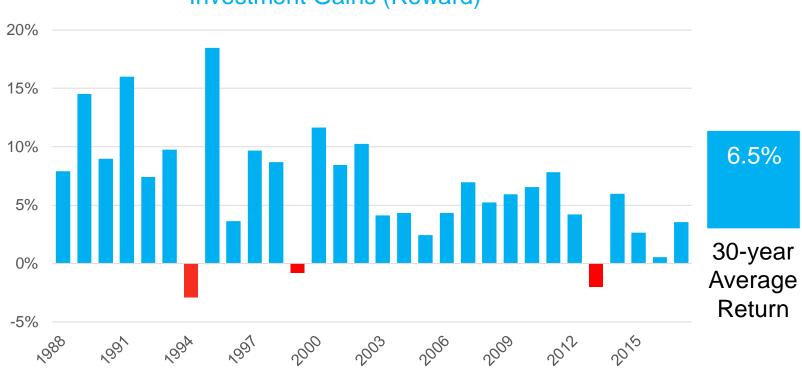
Developed Country



Return History of Bonds

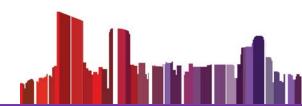






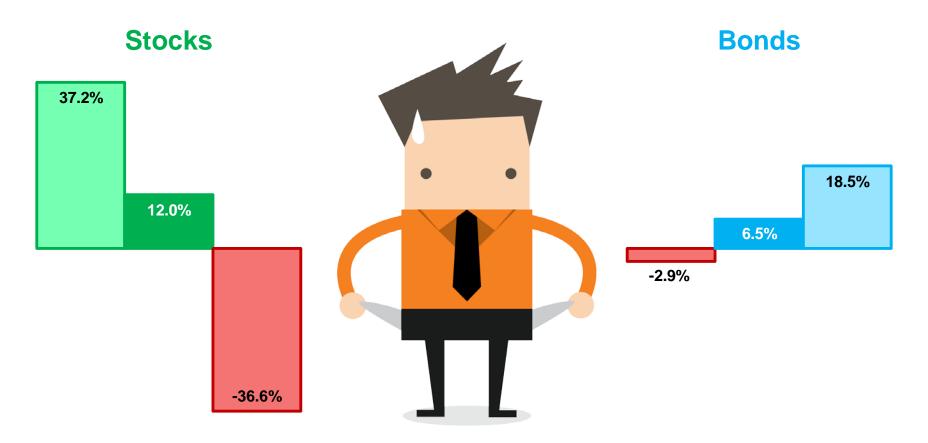
Investment Losses (Risk)

Returns shown are for the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (1988 – 2017)

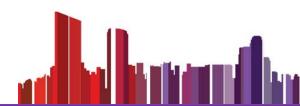


Risk Tolerance

How comfortable are you with risk?

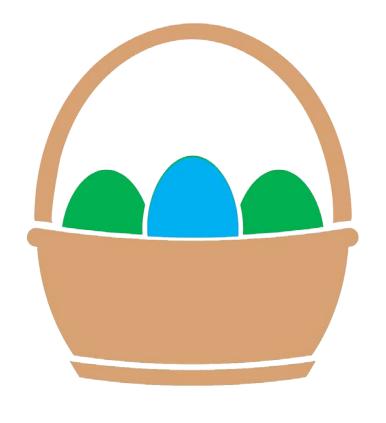


Returns over last 30 Years (1988 - 2017)



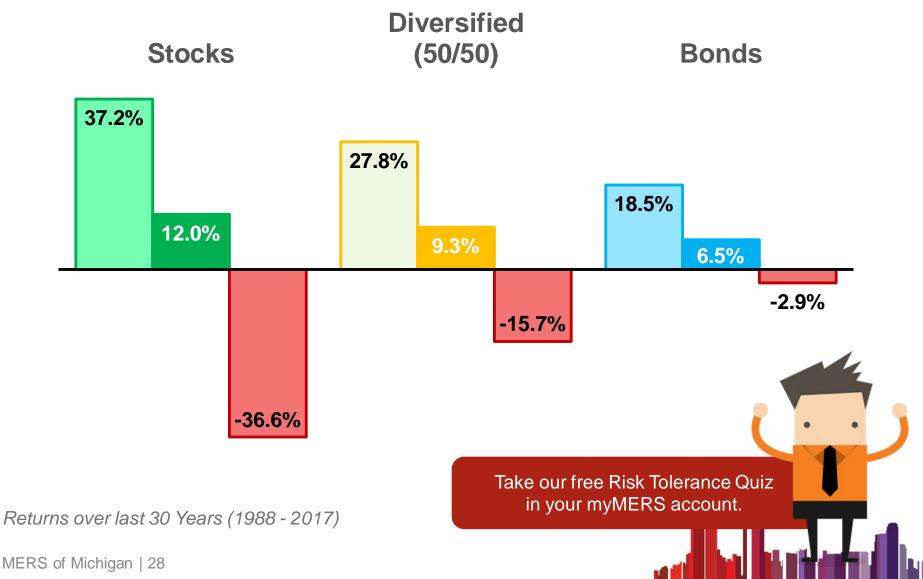
Diversification

An investor can lower their risk, while still reaching higher returns, by diversifying their portfolio of investment funds.





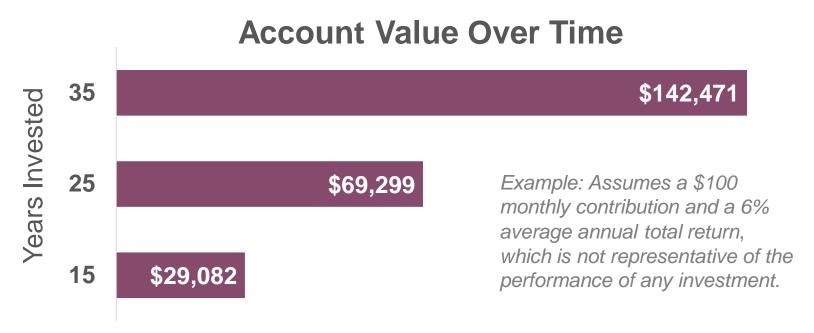
Return Comparison

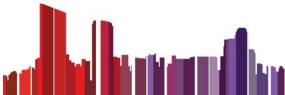




START SMALL

Cut your spending by about \$25 a week (\$100 a month) and invest that money.





COMPARE TAX BENEFITS

Consider making contributions before taxes are withdrawn.

Sample Bi-Weekly Paycheck	No Contribution	Roth 457	Pre-Tax 457
Gross Wages:	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Contributions:			
Pre-Tax 457	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Roth 457	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Taxes:			
Federal Income Tax	\$252.52	\$252.52	\$239.32
State Income Tax	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$82.46
Social Security Tax	\$124.00	\$124.00	\$124.00
Medicare Tax	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
Net Pay (take-home pay):	\$1,509.48	\$1,459.48	\$1,465.22
Net Change to Take-Home	N/A	-\$50.00	-\$44.26



START EARLY

The age you start saving will determine how big your contributions will be each paycheck.



AGE 25 \$50 per pay

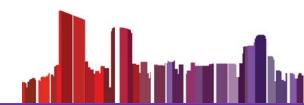


AGE 35 \$100 per pay



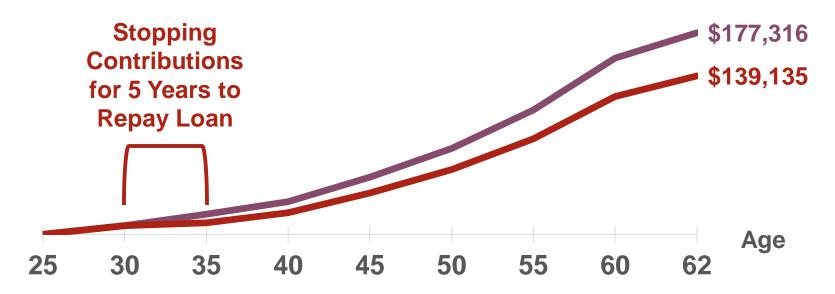
AGE 45 \$225 per pay

Example: People at different ages trying to reach \$175,000 by the time they retire at age 62 with an investment return of 6% and biweekly pay periods, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.



CREATE AN EMERGENCY SAVINGS

Build up a savings fund to use for emergencies to avoid stopping contributions to your retirement in the future.



This hypothetical example illustrates the effect of stopping contributions for 5 years. Contributions are \$50 bi-weekly, with investment earnings of 6%, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.



EVALUATE HOW YOU CONTRIBUTE

Consider starting your contributions as a percentage-ofpay instead of a straight dollar amount



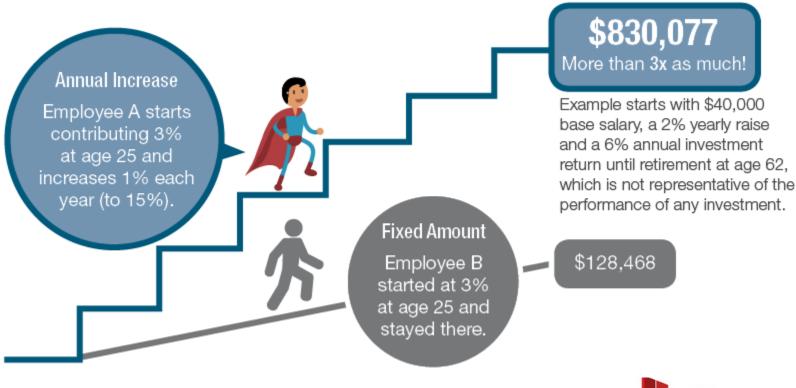
Example: 25 Year old participant making \$40,000, salary growth rate of 2%, retiring at age 62, and investment returns of 6%, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.

Retirement Savings at 62



INCREASE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Consider increasing your percentage of contributions by 1% each year.





GATHER INFORMATION

Take a look at your goals, income, savings and risk profile.



John's Profile		
Current Age	33	
Retirement Age	62	
Income	\$38,000	
Savings	\$11,000	
Contribution Rate	3%	
Employer Match	Up to 5%	
Risk Profile	Aggressive	



Mary's Profile		
Current Age	30	
Retirement Age	62	
Income	\$46,000	
Savings	\$42,500	
Contribution Rate	10%	
Employer Match	Up to 5%	
Risk Profile	Conservative	



DEVELOP A NEW PLAN

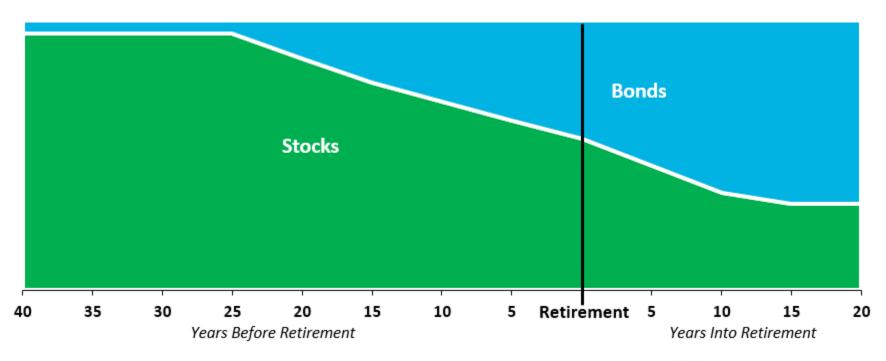
After reviewing you and your spouse's retirement profile and making a list of action items, implement them.



John and Mary's Profile						
Current Ages	33 & 30					
Retirement Age	65 & 62					
Combined Income	\$84,000					
Combined Savings	\$53,500					
Combined Contribution Rate	8%					
Employer Match	5%					
Risk Profile	Moderate					

ADJUST ASSET ALLOCATION

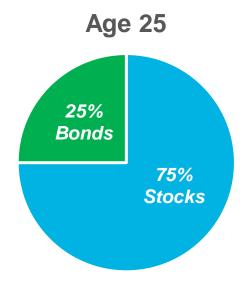
Protect the assets you have accumulated by investing more conservatively.

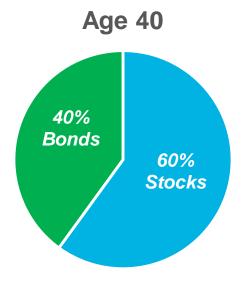


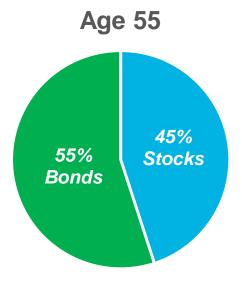


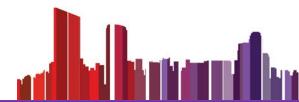
EVALUATE YOUR ASSET ALLOCATION

Subtract your age from 100 to find out what percentage of your investments should be allocated to stocks.



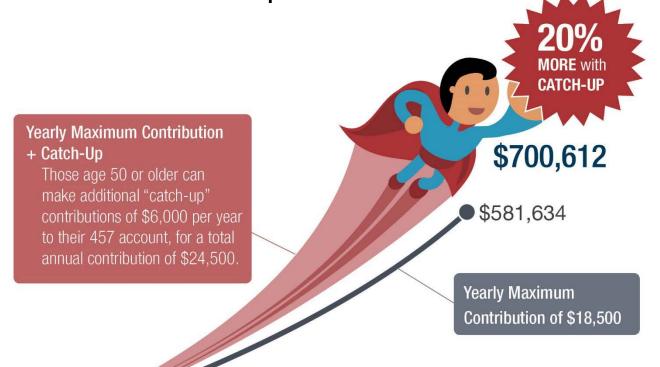






MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

After maxing out your annual contributions, consider making additional "Catch-Up" contributions.



Example: Based on a starting balance of \$100,000 at age 50 and assumed investment return of 6% per year until age 62, which is not representative of the performance of any investment.



Types of Investment Costs



Administration



Investment Management



Recordkeeping



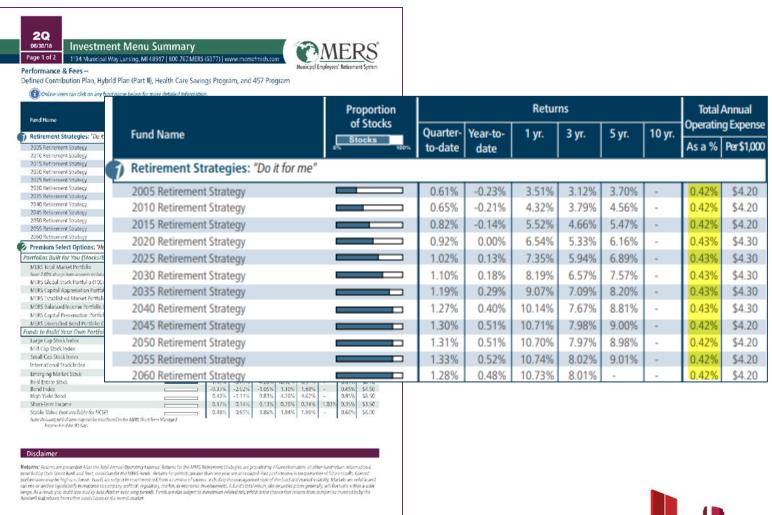


How Fees Are Charged

			Î		
Account Balance	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$100,000		
Account Fee	\$50	\$50	\$50		
Per-Service Fee	N/A	Divorce \$150	Loan \$100		
% of Assets (this example uses 1% of assets)	\$10	\$100	\$1,000		
uses 170 of ussets)					

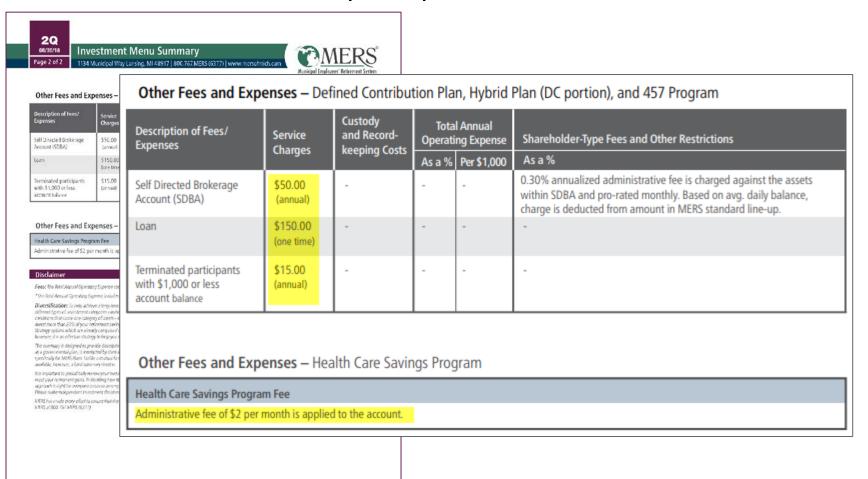
What Are My Plan Fees?

Investment information is available at mersofmich.com



What Are My Plan Fees? (cont'd)

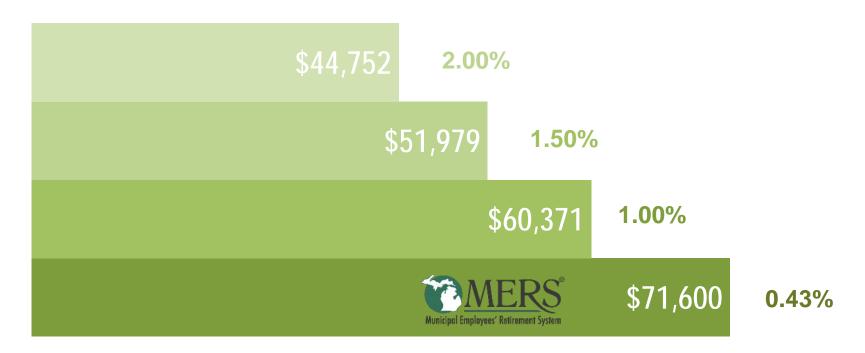
Investment information for participants is available at mersofmich.com



PUR 2800 20180717

How Costs Impact Your Account Balance

Growth of \$10,000 over 30 Years



This hypothetical example illustrates the effect fees can have on \$10,000 growing for 30 years, at an annual return of 7%, before the different investment costs are considered which is not representative of the performance of any investment.





Your Investment Choices

You're returns will be based on the choices you make.



Risk Tolerance



Diversification



Costs



Which Investment Would You Choose?

International Stocks

Real-Estate Stocks

Financial Industry Stocks

Foreign Bonds

Energy Industry Stocks Utility Industry Stocks

Technology Industry Stocks

Long-Term Bonds

Large-Size Company Stocks Small-Size Company Stocks

Mortgage-Backed Bonds

Fixed Accounts

Energy Industry Stocks

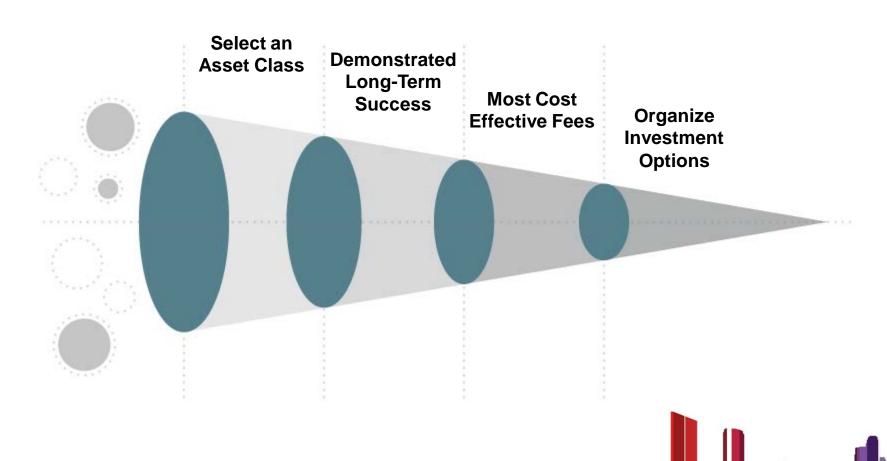
Health-Care Industry Stocks

Money Market

Short-Term Bonds

Choosing Where to Invest Your Money

As an investor, you have **many different options** of where you can invest your savings.



Review Asset Classes

International Stocks

Real-Estate Stocks

Financial Industry Stocks

Foreign Bonds

Energy Industry Stocks Utility Industry Stocks Technology Industry Stocks

Long-Term Bonds

Large-Size Company Stocks Small-Size Company Stocks Mortgage-Backed Bonds

Fixed Accounts

Energy Industry Stocks

Health-Care Industry Stocks

Money Market

Short-Term Bonds

Step 1: Select an Asset Class

Manager B

Manager A Rating: 9 Manager C Rating: 6 \$\$\$ Rating: 4 \$\$

International Stocks

Manager D
Rating: 9
\$ Manager E
Rating: 8

Manager E
Rating: 8

r

Manager B

Manager A

Rating: 9

Rating: 6

\$\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$

\$\$\$

Large-Size Company
Stocks

Manager D Rating: 9 \$

Manager F

Manager E

Rating: 8

**S

Manager B

Manager A Rating: 9 Manager C
Rating: 6 \$\$\$ Rating: 4
\$\$

Real Estate Stocks

Manager D
Rating: 9
\$ Manager E
Rating: 8
\$ \$\$

Manager B

Manager A
Rating: 9
Rating: 6
\$\$\$ Manager C
Rating: 4
\$\$

Small-Size Company Stocks

Manager D
Rating: 9
\$ Manager E
Rating: 8
\$\$

Manager B

Manager A Rating: 9
Rating: 6 \$\$\$ Manager C
Rating: 4
\$\$

Long-Term Bonds

Manager D
Rating: 9
\$ Manager E
Rating: 8
\$ \$\$

Manager B

Manager A Rating: 9 Manager C
Rating: 6 \$\$\$ Rating: 4
\$\$

Short-Term Bonds

Manager D
Rating: 9
\$ Manager E
Rating: 8

**Station Rating: 8



Step 2: Determine Who's Successful

Manager B

Manager A

Rating: 6 \$\$

Rating: 9 \$\$\$

Manager C
Rating: 4
\$\$

Real Estate Stocks

Manager D

Rating: 9

Manager E

Rating: 8

\$

Manager F

Rating: 9

\$\$

Step 3: Determine Who's Cost Effective

Manager B

Rating: 9 \$\$\$

Real Estate Stocks

Manager F

Rating: 9 \$\$

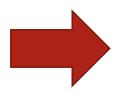
Step 4: Simplify Investment Name



Manager D
Rating: 9

\$

"Cohen & Steers Realty Shares"



Real Estate Stock





Investment Menu Summary

1134 Municipal Way Lansing, MI 48917 | 800.767.MERS (6377) | www.mersofmich.com



Performance & Fees -

Defined Contribution Plan, Hybrid Plan (Part II), Health Care Savings Program, and 457 Program

1 Online users can click on any fund name below for more detailed information.

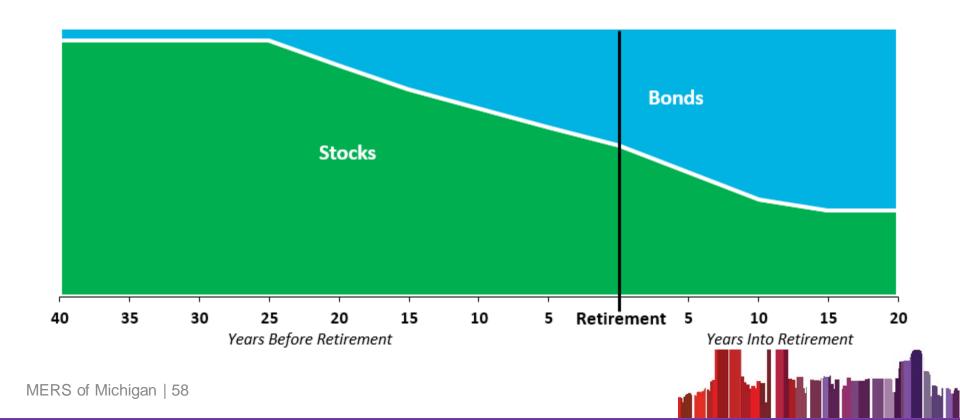
Fund Name	Proportion of Stocks Stocks	Returns					Total Annual		
		Quarter- to-date	Year-to- date	1 yr.	3 yr.	5 yr.	10 yr.	Operatin As a %	-
Retirement Strategies: "Do it for me"	·								
2005 Retirement Strategy		1.91%	7.42%	7.42%	3.51%	3.83%		0.41%	\$4.1
2010 Retirement Strategy		2.33%	9.10%	9.10%	4.29%	4.85%		0.42%	\$4.2
2015 Retirement Strategy		2.93%	11.16%	11.16%	5.20%	5.97%		0.42%	\$4.7
2020 Retirement Strategy		3.37%	12.90%	12.90%	5.90%	6.83%	-	0.42%	\$4.
2025 Retirement Strategy		3.72%	14.39%	14.39%	6.53%	7.73%		0.43%	\$4.
2030 Retirement Strategy		4.17%	15.96%	15.96%	7.19%	8.61%	-	0.43%	\$4.
2035 Retirement Strategy		4.61%	17.54%	17.54%	7.79%	9.42%	-	0.43%	\$4.
2040 Retirement Strategy		5.16%	19.33%	19.33%	8.43%	10.11%	-	0.42%	\$4.
2045 Retirement Strategy		5.39%	20.20%	20.20%	8.70%	10.27%	-	0.42%	\$4.
2050 Retirement Strategy		5.35%	20.15%	20.15%	8.70%	10.28%	-	0.42%	\$4.
2055 Retirement Strategy		5.44%	20.19%	20.19%	8.72%	10.28%	-	0.42%	\$4.
2060 Retirement Strategy		5.43%	20.17%	20.17%	8.71%	-	-	0.42%	\$4
Note: 2.00% charge from amounts withdrawn/transferred within 90 da	ys of each contribution	0.070/	2E 000/	2E 000	11.029/			0.609/	0.0
MERS Total Market Portfolio	us of each contribution	4.46%	14.17%	14.17%	7.51%	8.62%	5.29%	0.58%	\$5
MERS Global Stock Portfolio (100/0)		8.87%	25.80%	25.80%	11.03%	-	-	0.68%	\$6
MERS Capital Appreciation Portfolio (80/20)		6.85%	19.84%	19.84%	9.82%	11.10%	-	0.56%	-
MERS Established Market Portfolio (60/40)		5.09%	15.90%	15.90%	8.13%	8.91%	6.03%	0.55%	\$5
MERS Balanced Income Portfolio (40/60)		3.38%	12.09%	12.09%	6.47%	6.64%		0.53%	\$5
MERS Capital Preservation Portfolio (20/80)		1.81%	8.16%	8.16%	5.05%	4.67%	-	0.48%	\$4
MERS Diversified Bond Portfolio (0/100)		-0.10%	3.98%	3.98%	2.62%	1.84%	4.34%	0.50%	\$5
nds to Build Your Own Portfolio									
Large Cap Stock Index		9.80%	24.97%	24.97%	11.96%	16.01%	8.72%	0.35%	\$3
Mid Cap Stock Index		10.20%	20.18%	20.18%	12.21%	15.60%	10.18%	0.35%	\$3
Small Cap Stock Index		7.38%	16.95%	16.95%	12.89%	-	-	0.35%	\$3
International Stock Index		5.19%	23.80%	23.80%	7.19%	6.89%		0.39%	\$3
Emerging Market Stock		7.31%	33.89%	33.89%	8.64%	-	-	1.21%	\$12
Real Estate Stock		3.63%	7.19%	7.19%	5.79%	9.27%	-	0.81%	\$8
Bond Index		0.35%	3.04%	3.04%	1.69%	1.52%		0.45%	
High Yield Bond		0.10%	6.75%	6.75%	5.48%	4.93%		0.85%	
Short-Term Income		-0.35%	0.26%	0.26%	0.30%	0.25%	1.35%	0.35%	\$3.



Retirement Strategies

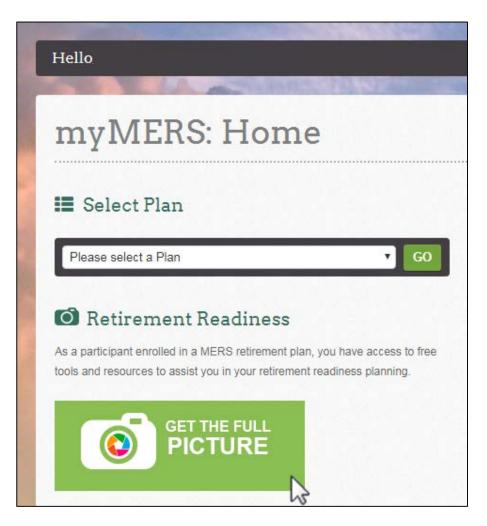


A one-stop investment strategy based on your expected retirement date.





Building Your Retirement Picture



Calculating Your Retirement Picture—Made Easy

Information already entered:

- Age
- Income
- MERS Benefits

Information you may add:

- Spouse's Information
- Outside Accounts
- Other Contributions



Your Retirement Picture

WELCOME TO YOUR RETIREMENT READINESS FULL PICTURE REPORT! Test Participant Lansing, MI 55555 Your Retirement Readiness Full Picture Report can help you decide how much to save for retirement and how to invest your plan account. The sections below provide an analysis of your current savings and investments, offer some suggestions to help you reach your goals, and show you how to make changes to your retirement account. In this retirement plan analysis you will receive: 1. A personalized assessment of your current retirement savings and investments. 2. An indication if you are on track to meet your retirement goals. 3. Suggestions on how to improve the probability of achieving your retirement objectives. 4. Simple steps to implement your new strategy. Assumptions used for this analysis: Participant: Current age 2048 (Age 65) Retirement year (age) Years in retirement Assumptions have been made to create this personal projector. Assumptions are not guaranteed. For example, your salary may or may not increase at the stated rate, your employer contribution may change or be eliminated, and/or inflation may or may not grow at the assumed rate of 2%. Also, the personal projector is only based on limited information your record keeper has about your retirement account services.

Full Personalized Report

- Determines your retirement income needs
- Calculates your retirement savings target
- Evaluates your investment mix based on your risk tolerance



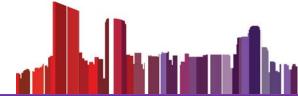
Your Retirement Picture, cont'd.

WELCOME TO YOUR RETIREMENT READINESS FULL PICTURE REPORT! Test Participant Lansing, MI 55555 Your Retirement Readiness Full Picture Report can help you decide how much to save for retirement and how to invest your plan account. The sections below provide an analysis of your current savings and investments, offer some suggestions to help you reach your goals, and show you how to make changes to your retirement account. In this retirement plan analysis you will receive: 1. A personalized assessment of your current retirement savings and investments. 2. An indication if you are on track to meet your retirement goals. 3. Suggestions on how to improve the probability of achieving your retirement objectives. 4. Simple steps to implement your new strategy. Assumptions used for this analysis: Current age 2048 (Age 65) Retirement year (age) Years in retirement Assumptions have been made to create this personal projector. Assumptions are not guaranteed. For example, your salary may or may not increase at the stated rate, your employer contribution may change or be eliminated, and/or inflation may or may not grow

at the assumed rate of 2%. Also, the personal projector is only based on limited information your record keeper has about your

Suggested strategies

- Change investment mix
- Change contribution rate
- Change retirement age
- Change income replacement ratio



retirement account services.

Contacting MERS of Michigan

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