# Saving for RETIREMENT

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# Imagining RETIREMENT

## What do you want your retirement to look like?



A worldwide adventure?



The simple life?



Pursuing a passion?



Moving to a new city?

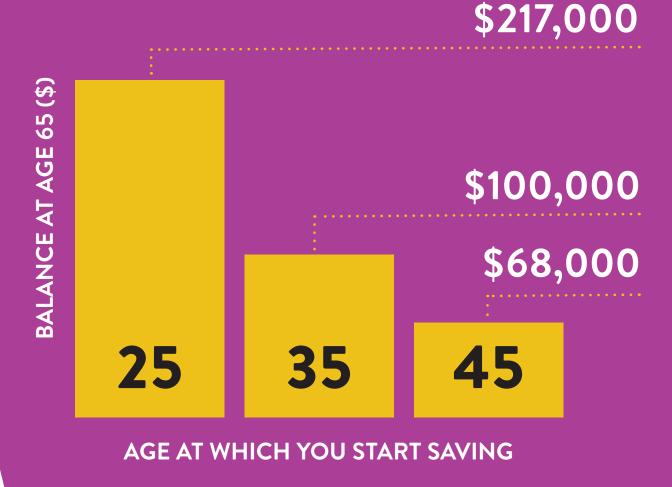


# Your retirement fund will likely be your longest-term savings goal

That makes it tricky to prioritize—but it pays to start saving early!

# Timing is **EVERYTHING**

Let's say you put \$10,000 in your 401(k) and do nothing further until it's time to withdraw the balance at age 65



# The same investment can be worth a lot more when given some extra time to grow

# Retirement SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Retirement savings accounts act like containers in which your various investments can grow tax-free



## The most popular options include Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs and 401(k)s



### COMPARING OPTIONS

#### TRADITIONAL IRA

Set up at your financial institution

\$7,000 contribution limit (combined limit for all IRAs)

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

#### **ROTH IRA**

Set up at your financial institution

\$7,000 contribution limit (combined limit for all IRAs)

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

#### 401(k)

Set up through your employer

\$23,000 contribution limit

Withdrawals can be made after age **59**½

### COMPARING OPTIONS

#### TRADITIONAL IRA

**Contributions are**pre-tax and can be
deducted from your
income tax return

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income

#### **ROTH IRA**

Contributions are made with after-tax dollars and cannot be deducted from your income tax return

Withdrawals are tax-free

#### 401(k)

Contributions are pre-tax and do not count toward your taxable income for the year

Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income

### COMPARING OPTIONS

#### TRADITIONAL IRA

Traditional IRAs
offer a wide range
of investments,
but their RMDs
(required minimum
distributions) mean
you have to start
withdrawing funds at
a certain point

#### **ROTH IRA**

Unlike Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs have tax-free distributions and no RMDs— however, they will not give tax breaks on your contribution amounts

#### 401(k)

Your employer may offer a 401(k) contribution match, which is like free money-however, 401(k) plans are sometimes associated with limited investment options and higher fees

### STARTER PLAN

Contribute enough to meet your 401(k) match

2 Switch over and max out your Roth IRA contribution

If you have money left over, top up your 401(k)

# Strategies for SAVING

# In order for your money to grow, you need to create the right environment



Eliminate high-interest debt Paying down credit cards (and other high-interest debt) should be your top financial priority





**Build** an emergency fund The last thing you need is an unexpected expense taking a bite out of your savings

## Maximize your repayment plan

See if there's a smart way to consolidate or refinance your loans as a way of freeing up extra cash for savings





### Start today

Time is on your side when it comes to retirement savings— even if you have to start small, start saving today

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Sources: Investopedia, IRS.gov, NerdWallet, The Motley Fool, Time Inc.

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