

small changes. BIG DIFFERENCE.



national save for retirement week
OCTOBER 18-24, 2009

Once again, Congress calls attention to the importance of saving for retirement by proclaiming October 18-24, 2009 as National Save for Retirement Week.

Given the economic downturn, you may have put off thinking or doing much about your retirement future. Maybe this fall you can make it a priority in your life again.

Like exercising and eating healthy, retirement planning and investing are activities that begin with a decision to try. Sticking with it and making small changes over time can add up to a big difference.

Consider increasing your contribution amount. Your decision to invest a larger amount on a regular basis may have a greater impact on the growth of your Plan account than the investments you choose. It's easy to change your deferral contribution amount online at <http://mo.ingplans.com>. Use the retirement and investment planning tools and services, including the new My Retirement Outlook (previously known as My Retirement Wizard), on the Plan Web site in the *Resource Center* section. The more you learn and practice, the more confident you can be about investing your Plan account assets.

Make a fresh start toward a secure retirement future during National Save for Retirement Week. ●

Is your beneficiary up-to-date?

Choosing a beneficiary for your State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan account is important. Your beneficiary would receive your account assets in the event of your death.

Check this information at least once a year, especially if your life changes because of a marriage, a divorce, the birth of a child or grandchild, or a death. You want your beneficiary designation to reflect your current wishes. It's easy to add or change your beneficiary information online as often as you like. Go to <http://mo.ingplans.com>. Log in, then go to the site map and select *Personal Information*, then *Beneficiary Information*, then *Add/Edit Beneficiary*. To request a form, call the Plan Information Line. ●

Get to know your Deferred Compensation Plan

Are you interested in the current statistics of the Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan? Have you ever wondered how your retirement savings efforts compare with those of other State of Missouri employees? Here are some Plan specifics and averages as of June 30, 2009.

Total Plan assets:

\$1,249,653,205

Percentage of Plan assets in:

Missouri Target Date Funds: **25%**
ING Stable Income: **57.4%**

Percentage of eligible employees who participate in the Plan:

61.5%

Average account balance:

\$21,678.43

Total participants who contribute:

Less than \$35 per month: **6,938**
\$35 or more per month: **31,737**

Average monthly deferral:

\$126.28

Average monthly deferral by age group:

Under 25: **\$57.87**
25-34: **\$67.26**
35-44: **\$95.12**
45-54: **\$133.47**
55 and over: **\$189.68**

Know your score to protect your credit

It used to be possible for almost anyone to be approved for credit cards, auto, personal or student loans, and even mortgages. Since the global economy's slowdown began in 2008, credit markets have tightened and the rules of creditworthiness have changed.

Credit is harder to get.

You may find it more difficult to qualify for auto loans, a mortgage, or new credit cards, even if you've had good credit in the past. Credit is in shorter supply from banks and other lenders that suffered major losses on mortgages and credit cards as a result of the recession. Another reason is that the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion — changed their formulas for calculating credit scores.

What's a credit score?

The credit bureaus collect personal and financial information about consumers from a variety of sources, including creditors, lenders, utilities, debt collection agencies, and public records. An individual's credit report contains this data which credit bureaus also use to calculate a credit score, ranging from 300 to 850 points. The higher the score, the better. Some factors that affect credit scores include:

- Length of credit history
- Types of credit held
- Payment history
- Amount of credit used versus amount available

Banks and other lenders look at your credit score whenever you apply for any loan or credit card. A high score makes the approval process go smoothly and brings the best interest rates. With a low score, you may pay higher interest rates, need a co-signer for a loan, or be turned down.

A low credit score results from black marks on a credit record caused by:

- Late payments
- Too many applications for credit in a short period
- A limited credit history or insufficient credit
- Bankruptcy
- Recordkeeping errors

To access your credit score online, go to equifax.com, myfico.com, or scorepower.com.

Review the terms of any trial offers or fees carefully before accessing your credit profile or providing your credit card information online.



Request a free report.

Monitoring your credit report is an important responsibility. Check the accuracy of your personal and financial data by requesting your credit report regularly, at least once a year. By federal law, you are entitled to a free annual credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus. To order your free copy, go to annualcreditreport.com, the Web site maintained by the three companies. If you prefer, contact them individually:

- **Equifax** (800) 997-2493 equifax.com
- **Experian** (888) 397-3742 experian.com
- **TransUnion** (800) 888-4213 transunion.com

Improve your credit rating

Correct errors.

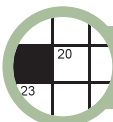
If your credit record is inaccurate, you could be denied credit. Here are mistakes to watch out for: false late payments, accounts that don't belong to you, accounts you closed but that are still listed as open, and personal information that is misspelled or outdated. If you find a mistake, notify a credit bureau immediately.

Pay on time.

As soon as you receive a bill, check the payment due date to be sure it hasn't changed. Know the key information about your accounts: interest rates, number of days in your billing cycle, fees for late payment, and the default interest rate if you make a late payment. If you don't pay your mortgage or bills on time, you will be charged late fees and your late payment may be reported to a credit bureau.

Be proactive.

With credit in short supply and unemployment rising, more people are finding themselves in trouble when their financial resources become limited. If you can't keep up with payments, call your creditors right away. Let them know about your circumstances and ask them to work with you. If you need help, find a reputable credit counselor. ●



This article's concepts are the theme of the puzzle on page 4. *Just for fun, solve it!*



Separating retirement truths from myths

Myth: One income source will suffice.

Truth: Most retirees cannot rely on only one income source to meet their financial needs. You are likely to need income from a number of sources: your employer-sponsored retirement plan, Social Security benefits (if you are eligible), and personal savings and investments. Since you can't assume one income source will be enough, take full advantage of every opportunity to invest for retirement.

Myth: Retirement means moving to a retirement community or a nursing home.

Truth: The vast majority of older people maintain independent households in the communities where they've lived for many years, often near their friends and children.

Myth: Retirement means slowing down.

Truth: According to one poll, the majority of Americans think of retired people as lonely, bored, or in ill health. But the vast majority of retirees see things differently. They describe themselves as engaged in life, active, and in good health. Some who retire begin a second career, take a part-time position, or pursue a busy schedule as a volunteer. Americans are living longer, healthier lives than at any other time in history. ●

Managing cash flow during your retirement

If you want to stretch your retirement savings to make them last, here are some money management strategies to consider.

Delay if you can.

Try to postpone withdrawing money from your retirement accounts so they continue to accumulate tax deferred for as long as possible.

If your pension and Social Security income doesn't cover your living expenses, consider drawing down what you need from bank accounts or taxable brokerage accounts first. Your choice of which accounts to tap, the amounts, and the timing can affect how well you live in retirement.

Withdraw wisely.

Smaller withdrawals from your retirement accounts in the first few years after you retire could lead to greater long-term financial security. You could give your retirement savings a 90 percent chance of lasting 30 years if you withdraw no more than four percent of your savings during the first year of retirement.

Later, you could increase your withdrawals annually for inflation. Or you could skip the adjustment for inflation for a few years, leaving more in your accounts to continue compounding.

If your withdrawal rate must exceed four percent at the beginning of your retirement, think of ways to reduce your expenses. You want to limit how much you take out of your accounts up front to minimize your risk of running out of money.

Create a budget.

Track your expenses over a few months. Write down what you spend on necessities, such as housing, food, taxes, and insurance, as well as discretionary expenses, such as travel and entertainment. Once you have a budget in place, it's easier to calculate how much you need to withdraw from your accounts. Knowing where your money goes can also empower you to make the most of it.

Review regularly.

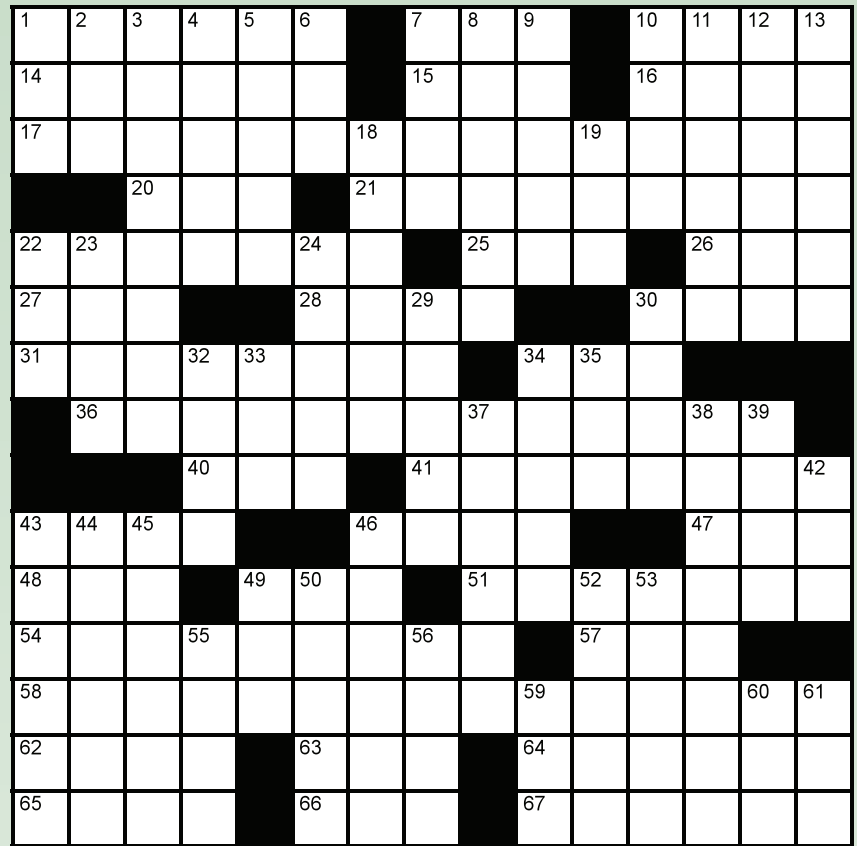
To help stay on track, you and your spouse or partner should review your income sources, expenses, investments, and asset allocation every year. ●

Give me some credit

Here's a fun way to test your knowledge after you read *Know your score* to protect your credit on page 2. Discover this puzzle's theme hidden in 21-, 36-, and 58- Across.

ACROSS

1. Boss
7. "___ we having fun yet?"
10. Coconut fiber
14. Bind
15. Come together
16. Uncommon (archaic)
17. Placed soldier on trial
20. Oolong, for one
21. How to help your credit score (3 words)
22. Color of red
25. "Harper Valley ___"
26. Masefield play "The Tragedy of ___"
27. "Catch-22" pilot
28. Network of blood vessels
30. Transmitted
31. Cut
34. "I see!"
36. Question for credit bureaus (3 words)



40. Not just "a"

41. Interview after voting

43. Units of work

46. ___ carotene

47. "It's no ___!"

48. Clinton, e.g.: abbr.

49. In favor of

51. Rendered capable

54. Abdominal surgery

57. "Them"

58. A borrower's question (3 words)

62. 100 centavos

63. Aged

64. Mame, for one

65. At one time, at one time

66. "Comprende?"

67. Catches some Zs

DOWN

1. Crime investigator

2. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer

3. Greek biographer

4. Risk taker

5. In base 8

6. Beauty

7. City on the Yamuna River

8. Enter again

9. "Four Quartets" poet

10. Kind of film

11. Wired

12. Professional killer

13. Gnawer

18. Best suited

19. "___ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)

22. Ground cover

23. Hands

24. Clear, as a disk

29. Giggle

30. Boutique

32. "Darn it all!"

33. Addis Ababa's land: abbr.

34. ___ flu

35. Appear

37. Magnitude

38. Gambling game

39. "... or ___!"

42. Certain digital watch face, for short

43. Break

44. Tool to drill holes

45. Granite-like rock

46. Restrain

49. ___ cry

50. Nabisco cookies

52. In conflict with, with "of"

53. Carried

55. Sean Connery, for one

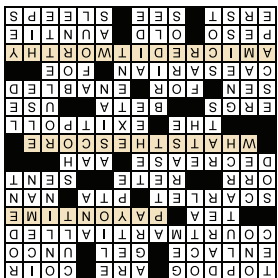
56. Assistant

59. Functioned as

60. Cool

61. "Absolutely!"

Solution



Participant Service Representatives:

Available Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
(800) 392-0925, option 1, and from the main menu, option 0

ING Local Office:

3349 American Avenue, Suite A • Jefferson City, MO 65109

ING Plan Consultants:

Available Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. • (800) 392-0925, option 2

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quarterly calendar

The New York Stock Exchange is closed:

- Thursday, November 26, 2009
- Friday, December 25, 2009
- Friday, January 1, 2010
- Monday, January 18, 2010

Transactions made on these days will be processed the following business day.