Reach | *July*

ARE YOU MOVING AHEAD OR FALLING BEHIND?

Are you better off financially than you were a year ago? Or have your finances taken a hit? This time of year is a great time to take a realistic look at your current financial strategy and to make any adjustments necessary to help you reach your goals

Is your budget working for you?

Looking back at your spending and expenses for the year can show you where your money is going and help you adjust your spending plan if you need to. If your personal situation has changed due to marriage, divorce, the birth of a baby or retirement, reviewing your expenses gives you the opportunity to make adjustments.

Are your investments performing as expected?

You chose investments for your portfolio based on your goals, time frame and risk tolerance. Now is a good time to determine whether your investments are performing the way you expected by comparing their performance to an appropriate benchmark index. Look at returns over several years before you make any changes.

Changes in your asset mix or your feelings about risk may mean you should consider making some changes to your portfolio. Rebalancing investments can bring your asset allocation* in line with your comfort level. Be sure to consider the potential tax consequences if you decide to sell investments held in a taxable account.

Have your goals changed?

Investing goals may be different at age 50 than they are at age 30. During your mid year review, revisit your goals and assess your progress in reaching them. If you've had limited success or if your goals have changed since your last review, consider revising your investment strategy.

Are your retirement savings on track?

No matter what other goals you have, investing for retirement should be a priority. Contribute the maximum amount you can afford — or at least as much as your employer will match — to your employer's 401(k) or other tax-advantaged retirement plan. If you don't have a retirement plan at work, setting up an individual retirement account can help you invest for your future.

*Asset allocation does not guarantee a profit or protect against losses.

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