

Did You “Picture” a Comfortable Retirement?

Remember back in elementary school when your teacher asked you to draw a picture of what you wanted to be when you grew up? Chances are, your career goal in second or third grade was a lot different from the career you have now.

It's not always easy to know ahead of time what you'll be doing several years down the road. But one thing is certain: No matter what other goals you may have along the way, saving for a financially secure retirement should be a priority.

Think About Your Future Lifestyle

People are different when it comes to the amount of money they'll need in retirement. If you plan to travel or pursue hobbies, you'll probably need more income than retirees who spend their leisure years at home. Living costs vary from one area to another, too. So consider *where* you're likely to spend your retirement years when you project your financial needs.

Make Saving a Habit

Depositing a certain amount from each paycheck directly into your employer's retirement plan or an individual retirement account can help you steadily build your retirement savings. Since funds are taken out before you get your check, you won't be tempted to spend the money instead of saving it. Your account can benefit from the potential for compound growth over the years.

Persistence Pays Off

Keeping your goal of a comfortable retirement in sight can help you meet your objective. Whenever you get a raise or a bonus, consider increasing the amount you contribute to your retirement plan or other investment account.