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?

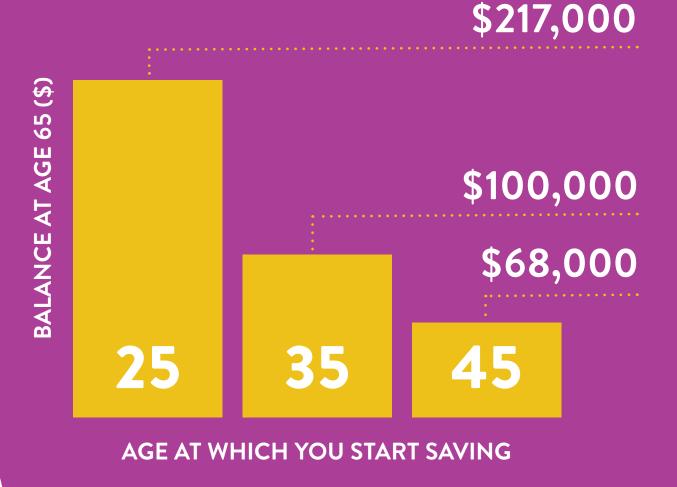


Your retirement fund will likely be your longest-term savings goal

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 RRSP and do nothing further until it's time to withdraw the balance at age 65



*based on an 8% average annual return

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 RRSPs and TFSAs



COMPARING OPTIONS

RRSP

Set up at your financial institution— RRSPs are registered by the federal government

\$26,010 annual contribution limit

Contributions are made with **pre-tax** dollars and may be deducted from your income tax for that year

TFSA

Set up at your financial institution

\$5,500 annual contribution limit

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

COMPARING OPTIONS

RRSP

Withdrawals of investment income and contributions are taxable

Early withdrawals are subject to an additional withholding tax

TFSA

There are no taxes on withdrawals of investment income and contributions

You can make withdrawals from your TFSA at any time

COMPARING OPTIONS

RRSP

RRSPs are basically a tax deferral program—they are specifically designed for retirement savings

You'll pay tax on your savings when you withdraw them in retirement— the idea is that you'll be in a lower marginal tax bracket in retirement than you are in your working years; however, this is not always the case

TFSA

TFSAs are not strictly for retirement savings—they can be used for any savings goal

TFSAs are flexible—unlike RRSPs, there are no age restrictions for making contributions or withdrawals; however, the TFSA's flexibility also makes it tempting to withdraw your savings early

STARTER PLAN

Take advantage of employer RRSP contribution-matching (if applicable)

Max out your TFSA contribution (be careful not to overcontribute)

If you have money left over, top up your RRSPs

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: Canada.ca, Investopedia, Money Sense, The Globe and Mail, The Motley Fool, Time Inc.

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