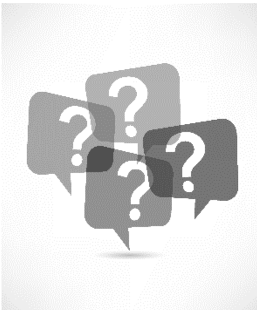

What Should I Do?

Volatile Times in the Markets

An extended period of volatility in the investment markets can test even the coolest heads. Dealing with volatility can be difficult for experienced as well as novice investors. These time-proven tips can help you and your portfolio survive the recent volatility and future market turbulence.

Keep a Long-Term Perspective

Don't allow the market's ups and downs to make you lose sight of the reason you are investing in the first place: your future retirement. When you have many working years ahead of you, retirement is a long-term goal. Over the long term, stocks have historically earned higher returns than more conservative investments, such as bonds and cash.* While there is no guarantee that history will repeat itself, the record shows us that a recovering and growing stock market has always followed bear market declines.

Review Your Asset Allocation**

As a retirement plan investor, you can diversify on multiple levels. When you invest in a fund that holds multiple individual securities, you can obtain a measure of diversification.** You can further manage the risk level in your portfolio by investing in different asset classes. The theory behind diversification is that declines in one investment or asset class can be offset by the performance of other investments and asset classes that do not decline or decline only marginally.

Want More Information?

Your retirement plan website has tools and educational resources for investors that can help you choose an asset allocation and put volatility into perspective. For additional help, consider talking to a financial professional, who can help you monitor your progress with your retirement savings and in other areas of your financial life.

A Long View on Stock and Bond Returns

Average annual total returns for the period ended 12/31/2020

	Stocks	Bonds
20 Years	7.47%	4.84%
10 Years	13.89%	3.84%
5 Years	15.22%	4.44%
1 Year	18.40%	7.51%

Source: DST Retirement Solutions, LLC, an SS&C company

Stocks are represented by the S&P 500, an unmanaged index that is generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. Bonds are represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, an index that measures the U.S. investment grade, fixed-rate taxable bond market. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Stock investing involves a high degree of risk. Stock prices fluctuate, and investors may lose money.*

***Asset allocation and diversification do not ensure a profit or protect against loss.*

A Heads-Up for the Soon-to-Retire Crowd

You've got plans, so you don't want to make mistakes that could derail them. If you're close to retirement, recognizing potential missteps can help you avoid them.

Investing Too Aggressively

What if you haven't saved as much as you'll need for retirement? You might decide to choose a more aggressive asset mix because it offers the potential for higher returns, but investing aggressively carries more risk -- along with the very real possibility that your investments will *lose* value instead.

If you haven't saved enough, consider taking measures that don't involve investment risk, such as working longer, saving more, and spending less.

Failing to Track Your Finances

Having a handle on your finances is important at any age, but it's particularly critical as retirement nears. If you don't have a budget to track the amount you're spending, you risk having to dip into your savings to pay the bills at a time when building your nest egg should be a priority. And by checking your net worth once a year, you'll have a current snapshot of your total financial situation.

Underestimating Health Care Expenses

Don't even *think* that Medicare will cover all of them! In addition to premiums for Part B, and possibly Part D, you'll have deductibles, coinsurance, and copays. And dental and eye care typically aren't covered. Any supplemental insurance you purchase will be an added expense.

Neglecting Social Security Planning

Your retirement planning should include figuring out the best time to begin collecting Social Security benefits. You can begin receiving reduced benefits at age 62. Or you can wait until you reach your full retirement age (FRA) to collect full benefits. Your benefit amount will increase for every year beyond your FRA (up to age 70) that you wait to collect, but if you don't wait until your FRA, your benefit will be permanently decreased.

Keep in mind that you don't have to claim benefits as soon as you retire. If you have other income sources, you might want to wait and claim a larger benefit later on. Other factors, such as your health and tax situation, should also play a role in your decision.