

## Target Fund Dates Explained

In our busy lives, we all have to choose where to focus our time and attention for best results, something that definitely applies to planning your financial future.

As your group retirement and savings partner, we can help.

If you are a member of your group plan, you have to choose where to invest your savings and if your plan offers a variety of fund options

that could leave you wondering what's right for your situation.

Target Date Funds, a diversified portfolio of investments built to optimize the growth of your money before the chosen target date,

are an effective and straightforward investment option. They can help you: minimize the need for upfront decision making,

maximize the power of investment growth over time and successfully realize your retirement goals.

With Target Date Funds, investing can be as easy as plotting a calendar.

Based on your savings goals, simply pick the date when you plan to retire. From there, Target Date Funds will automatically expose you

to a strategic variety of investments and asset classes, both domestic and foreign.

Target Date Funds are managed by professional fund managers. Assets will automatically shift over time, ultimately becoming less risky

as your target date draws nearer. So, how do Target Date Funds work?

Your group retirement plan offers a series of Target Date Funds in five-year increments.

Begin by choosing the Target Date Fund year that is closest to your anticipated retirement date. Next, consider your comfort level around market risk.

If you are okay with more risk or the possibility of greater returns, choose a fund with a longer target date, like the 2055 fund.

If you'd prefer to take on less risk, help minimize potential losses choose a target fund with a closer date, like the 2050 fund.

If your time until retirement spans decades, your fund will initially have a greater allocation towards stocks, helping to grow your money.

If your time until retirement is nearer, your fund will have a greater allocation towards fixed income, such as cash and bonds.

While your money will continue to grow, the emphasis will be on preserving your investment so it's there when you need it.

Until then, it's smart investing practice to review your fund selections regularly to ensure that they continue to meet your needs,

especially if you experience any significant life changes. If your risk comfort level or your target retirement date changes

that regular check-in will also allow you to pivot accordingly. You can access information about your plan at any time through your group retirement online account.

By now, you know how Target Date Funds can make investing easier. But how do you know if they are right for you?

Here are questions to ask to help you decide. Do you understand your investment options, your risk tolerance and the financial markets?

Do you feel confident in selecting investments? Do you enjoy following financial market news and tracking fund performances?

If you answered "no" to these questions you are not alone. Many investors prefer to have a professional fund manager do it all for them.

In this case, Target Date Funds may be right for your situation and your financial future.

So, what are you waiting for? To reach your financial goals, all you have to do is choose the target date. We'll help you hit it.