

MARCH 2024

SPRING CLEANING YOUR FINANCES

It's a time for renewal, where organising and optimising our finances paves the way for a brighter, more secure financial future.



'Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket'

The Perfect Metaphor for
Financial Diversification.

Creating Financial Goals Around Your Lifestyle

Financial success comes from planning
and informed decision-making.

Preparing Financially for Parenthood

Parenthood is exciting, but it requires
financial planning and big decisions.

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WORKING WITH MANNING & COMPANY

For over 30 years Manning and Company has been giving clients trustworthy, proven and personal financial advice.

Based in Ivybridge near Plymouth, we're a respected and well-established name in Plymouth and South Devon – but we also work with clients throughout the UK.

We provide financial guidance to individuals and businesses alike. We're completely independent of any financial institutions, and we offer financial products from across the whole of the market – so our clients always get fully-informed, impartial advice. We firmly believe good financial advice should be available to everyone, not just wealthy clients – and all our clients receive the same level of attention and respect.

From a first-time mortgage to a complex investment portfolio, we have the breadth and depth of experience to help.

- Manning & Company

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Financial success arises from careful planning and informed decision-making



SHEDDING LIGHT ON DEBT

Empowering Individuals During Debt Awareness Week
(18-24th March)

Debt Awareness Week represents a pivotal moment in our collective conversation about finance, raising awareness of the profound effects of debt on individuals and communities alike. The campaign's mission is to shine a spotlight on the intricacies of debt and its widespread impact. Debt Awareness Week offers a unique opportunity for reflection, education, and action towards a more financially educated society.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

At the heart of Debt Awareness Week lies the importance of financial literacy. In a time when financial products and services grow increasingly complex, the power of informed financial decisions has never been more important. Education and awareness are vital tools in empowering individuals to navigate the sometimes deep waters of debt, creating a culture of responsible financial management and proactive planning.

UNDERSTANDING DEBT

Defining Different Types of Debt

The landscape of debt is varied, encompassing consumer debt such as credit cards and personal loans, student loans and mortgages. Each type carries its own characteristics, implications,

and strategies for management, underscoring the need for a rounded understanding of debt as a multifaceted financial issue.

Exploring the Causes of Debt

Debt accumulation, often viewed through a lens of negativity, can actually stem from many causes, some of which are not only rational, but necessary for financial growth and stability. While it's true that factors such as the allure of overspending, the unpredictability of job loss, the financial burdens of illness or emergencies, and the pitfalls of inadequate financial planning contribute significantly to rising debt levels, it's crucial to recognise the broader spectrum of debt's origins.

Importantly, not all debt is inherently negative. In many instances, taking on debt can be a strategic financial decision. For example, mortgages allow individuals to own homes, student loans provide access to education and career advancement, and business loans fuel the growth of enterprises. Each of these scenarios illustrates debt as an investment in one's future, offering potential returns that outweigh the borrowing costs.

Moreover, having a history of well-managed debt plays an important

role in building a strong credit profile. Lenders and financial institutions often look at one's debt management history as a key indicator of financial responsibility. Regular, timely payments towards debt demonstrate reliability and creditworthiness, which can be beneficial for future financial endeavours, such as securing loans with favourable terms or qualifying for lower interest rates.

It's equally important to acknowledge the strategic use of debt as a tool for achieving personal and financial milestones. Recognising these triggers as part of a larger, more complex financial picture is the first step in crafting a balanced and informed approach to debt management. By understanding the nuanced roles that debt can play in one's financial journey, individuals are better equipped to make decisions that align with their long-term goals and financial health.

In navigating the complexities of debt, the key lies in discerning between debt that propels one forward and debt that hinders progress. Effective debt management, therefore, involves not only mitigating unnecessary borrowing, but also leveraging beneficial debt in a way that contributes to financial resilience and success.

ASSESSING PERSONAL DEBT

Taking Stock of Debt Obligations

A crucial step towards mastering one's financial health involves making an unreserved list of existing debt obligations. Understanding the specifics of each debt type, from interest rates to repayment terms, lays the groundwork for informed decision-making and strategic planning.

Calculating Debt-to-Income Ratio

The debt-to-income ratio is a critical metric in gauging financial health and navigating the journey towards debt freedom. This ratio not only illuminates the affordability of current debt levels, but also serves as an indicator for financial decision-making, highlighting the balance between income and indebtedness.

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING DEBT

Creating a Budget

The foundation of debt management is budgeting. Crafting a realistic budget that tracks income and expenditures enables individuals to gain control of their financial narrative, prioritising debt repayment and reducing unnecessary spending.

Developing a Debt Repayment Plan

Embarking on a debt repayment journey requires a carefully planned strategy. Negotiating with creditors can also uncover pathways to reduced interest rates and more manageable payment terms, easing the financial strain.

BUILDING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Establishing an Emergency Fund

The cornerstone of financial resilience lies in the establishment of an emergency fund, a shield against the unforeseen, which can mitigate the need for debt. This proactive measure

safeguards against the turbulences of life, ensuring preparedness for unexpected expenses.

Exploring Debt-Free Living

The pursuit of a debt-free lifestyle offers not only financial liberation, but also profound peace and security. Strategies for minimising debt dependence and cultivating sustainable spending habits pave the way towards a future unhindered by financial commitments. For you, this may be paying off credit cards in full or larger obligations, such as paying off your mortgage.

ADDRESSING DEBT STIGMA

Challenging Misconceptions

Debt, often shrouded in stigma and misconception, calls for a reevaluation of our collective perspective. By fostering open dialogue and challenging rooted beliefs, we can abolish the shame surrounding debt and embrace a more rounded, compassionate and understanding approach.

Promoting Financial Education

By advancing educational initiatives and advocating for the integration of better financial education into school curricula, we can provide individuals with the essential knowledge and tools needed to adeptly navigate the complexities of financial management. This proactive approach to financial education is pivotal in preempting the pitfalls associated with debt, thereby establishing a society defined by informed and prudent financial management.

The promotion of financial literacy requires a collaborative effort from policymakers, educational institutions, financial advisers, and community organisations. By embedding comprehensive financial education into the national curriculum, we could ensure

that financial literacy is not an optional skill, but a fundamental aspect of a young person's education, equipping future generations with the knowledge they need to succeed financially.

EMPOWERING CHANGE

As Debt Awareness Week unfolds, its significance as a catalyst for change becomes ever more apparent. By shining a light on the intricacies of debt and the importance of financial literacy, we pave the way for a future defined by financial wellness and resilience.

Let us all pledge to take proactive steps towards managing debt responsibly, seeking support when necessary, and steadily working towards a brighter financial future. Together, we can transform the narrative around debt, empowering individuals to regain their financial freedom and embark on a journey towards lasting financial health.

DEBT SUPPORT

For those struggling with the complications of debt, many resources are ready to help. From financial counselling services and debt management programs to a wealth of online tools.

National Debtline

National Debtline offers phone and webchat services in England and Wales. Telephone: 0808 808 4000

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice offers phone and webchat services. They also have advice centres in England, Wales and Scotland.

Telephone (England): 0800 144 8848

Telephone (Wales): 0800 702 2020

Telephone (Scotland): 0800 028 1456





PREPARING FINANCIALLY FOR PARENTHOOD

The arrival of spring brings with it fields of blooming flowers, hatching chicks, and baby lambs, all set against the backdrop of Mother's Day celebrations. This season of renewal and birth offers a glimpse into the joys awaiting those preparing to welcome a new baby.

The journey of parenthood is an exciting adventure, but it requires financial planning and decisions. This period of preparation is important, as it sets the stage for navigating the financial landscapes that accompany the growth of a family, ensuring a smooth and joyous transition into this new chapter of life.

ASSESSING FAMILY FINANCES

Embarking on the journey of parenthood is an exciting time. However, it's also a period that requires careful financial planning. A study by Ergobaby UK highlights a crucial insight: a significant majority of British parents were surprised by the financial demands of welcoming a new baby. Nearly three-quarters of parents were unprepared for the costs associated with their new arrival, underscoring the importance of a thorough financial review. [1]

The revelation that a third of new parents did not set a budget for baby-related expenses—and for many, this oversight led to one of the most financially challenging years of their lives—serves as a stark reminder of the need for proactive financial assessment. Reviewing your current income, savings, and monthly expenditures is critical to understanding your financial readiness for the changes ahead. Additionally,

projecting your income during parental leave, considering both employer benefits and potential income adjustments, is an essential step in preparing for a secure financial future as a family.

This research underscores the necessity of not only setting a realistic budget for the upcoming expenses, but also of regularly revisiting and adjusting this budget as your family's needs evolve. By taking these steps, you can avoid financial surprises and ensure a smoother transition into this new and exciting chapter of life.

MAXIMISING PAID LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Understanding and maximising your entitlements to parental leave and benefits is key. Familiarise yourself with your employer's policies on parental leave, including statutory maternity and paternity pay, and explore options for extending your leave if needed. This may include using unused and accrued holiday. Don't overlook additional benefits, such as shared parental leave or workplace support schemes. These should all be detailed in your employment contract.

PLANNING FOR CHILDCARE COSTS

Childcare is a significant consideration for new parents. Exploring the various childcare options and their costs will help you make informed decisions about what works for your family. Budgeting for these expenses, both during parental leave and after returning to work, is crucial. Explore government support like childcare vouchers or tax-free childcare schemes to ease the financial burden.

SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Navigating the financial aspect of parenthood can be daunting, especially for first-time parents. The UK government and various local organisations offer support mechanisms designed to ease this transition. Here's a more detailed look at the financial assistance available to expecting parents:

Government Support and Financial Assistance

Child Benefit

Almost everyone with children can claim Child Benefit. It's a regular payment made to parents or guardians for each child living with them. The amount you receive depends on the number of children and, in some cases, your income level. It's crucial to apply early, as payments can only be backdated three months.

Tax Credits and Universal Credit

Depending on your income and employment status, you may be eligible for support through tax credits or Universal Credit. The Child Element of Universal Credit, for instance, is designed to help with the costs of raising children. It's important to check your eligibility and understand how to integrate these benefits into your financial planning for parenthood.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

For families on low incomes, the Sure Start Maternity Grant offers a one-off payment to help with the costs of having a new baby. This grant is designed to ease the initial financial burden of new parents and does not need to be repaid.

Parental Leave and Pay

Understanding your entitlements to parental leave and pay is vital. Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and Statutory Paternity Pay (SPP) offer financial support during the period of leave from work. Additionally, Shared Parental Leave allows parents to share leave and pay, offering flexibility in how you care for your child in the first year.

By taking advantage of the financial assistance available in the UK, expecting parents can alleviate the financial

pressures of welcoming a new family member, ensuring a more secure and stress-free start to parenthood.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As you navigate the initial stages of parenthood, the focus often lies on the immediate needs and expenses of your new baby. However, the financial journey of raising a child extends far beyond the first year, covering everything from the ongoing costs of childcare to planning for education fees. This is where working with a financial adviser becomes invaluable.

THE ROLE OF A FINANCIAL ADVISER

A financial adviser can offer personalised advice tailored to your family's unique financial situation and long-term goals. They can help you:

- **Strategies for the Future:** Beyond the early years, your financial planning needs to include education fees, ongoing childcare costs, and the general cost of raising a child. A financial adviser can help you forecast these expenses and incorporate them into your financial planning.
- **Invest Wisely:** Investing for your child's future, whether for their education or to give them a financial head start as adults, requires a strategic approach. A financial adviser can guide you on the most suitable investment vehicles, taking into account your risk tolerance and time horizon.
- **Maximise Savings:** From Junior ISAs to Child Trust Funds and beyond, there are various savings vehicles available that offer tax advantages. An adviser can help you understand these options and choose the most suitable one for you and your family.
- **Plan for the Unexpected:** Life insurance, critical illness cover, and income protection can provide financial security for your family in case of unforeseen circumstances. A financial adviser can help evaluate your needs and select appropriate coverage.

Working with a financial adviser is not just about making immediate financial decisions. It's about building a partnership that can grow and evolve as your family does. By planning ahead and preparing for future financial milestones, you can ensure your family is well-positioned to face the joys and challenges of parenthood head-on.

With careful planning, reflection, and the right support, you can navigate the financial complexities of raising a child, from their first steps to university, early adulthood and beyond. Embrace this journey with confidence, knowing you have a plan in place for your family's financial well-being.

Get in touch for tailored advice on the unique needs of your growing family.

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SOURCE DATA:

[1] Ergo Baby UK - UK Study Reveals How Much First-Time Parents are Spending on Baby Gear

SPRING CLEANING YOUR FINANCES

As the winter chill thaws and the first green shoots of spring make their appearance, it's not just our homes that benefit from thorough spring cleaning.

Our finances, too, can emerge rejuvenated from a dedicated review and refresh. Just as we declutter our living spaces, organising and optimising our finances can significantly enhance our financial health and well-being, setting us up for success in the months ahead.

THE POWER OF RENEWAL

Embarking on a financial spring clean is an empowering exercise, offering a chance to reset, reassess, and realign our financial management with our life's objectives. It's a time for renewal, where organising and optimising our finances paves the way for a brighter, more secure financial future.

ASSESSING FINANCIAL GOALS

Reflecting on Priorities

The first step in our financial spring clean is to reflect on our priorities. What are your financial goals and aspirations for the year ahead? Have they shifted since last year? This reflection is crucial for setting a foundation for your financial decisions and actions throughout the year.

SETTING SMART GOALS

To ensure your aspirations are achievable, it's sensible to set 'SMART' goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. These criteria transform vague ambitions into actionable steps, guiding your financial journey with clarity and purpose.

BUDGET REFRESH

Review Your Spending

Analysing your spending habits provides insight into where your money goes each month. Identify areas where you can adjust your spending to better align

with your financial goals. This could mean cutting unnecessary expenses or reallocating funds to save more efficiently.

Creating a New Budget

With an updated understanding of your spending, it's time to refine your budget. Incorporate any changes in income, expenses, or financial goals. A refreshed budget acts as a roadmap for your finances, helping you move ahead with confidence.

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Evaluating Debt Levels

Assessing your current debt is important. Understand the amount owed, interest rates, and repayment terms. This overview helps strategise ways to effectively reduce your debt burden.

Prioritising Repayment

Focus on repaying high-interest debt first, as it costs you the most. Consider debt consolidation or refinancing options to lower interest rates and monthly payments, making your debt more manageable.

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Building Emergency Savings

An emergency savings fund is your financial safety net. Aim to save enough to cover 3-6 months of living expenses. If you're starting from scratch or your fund has been depleted, prioritise rebuilding this crucial buffer.

Reviewing Investment Portfolios

Take time to review your investment portfolio. Market fluctuations and changes in your financial situation or goals may require rebalancing or

reallocating assets to ensure alignment with your long-term objectives.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Assessing Retirement Readiness

Evaluate your retirement savings and whether you're on track to meet your goals. Consider any recent changes in your financial situation or retirement plans, and adjust your saving strategy accordingly.

Maximising Retirement Contributions

Maximising your contributions to pension schemes, such as workplace pensions and personal pensions, is crucial for enhancing your retirement savings in the UK. The UK offers several tax advantages for pension contributions, including tax relief at your highest rate of income tax. Additionally, many employers offer matching contributions to workplace pensions, which can significantly boost your retirement savings. It's important to take full advantage of these opportunities, especially considering the benefits of compound interest over time.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Reviewing Insurance Policies

Regularly reviewing your insurance coverage ensures that you're adequately protected. As your life circumstances change, so do your insurance needs. Make sure your policies reflect your current situation.

Exploring Cost-Saving Measures

You may be able to reduce insurance premiums by shopping around, adjusting your coverage levels, or bundling policies. Evaluate your options to ensure you're getting value without compromising on coverage.

ESTATE PLANNING

Updating Estate Documents

Life changes—marriages, births, divorces, and deaths—necessitate updates to your estate planning documents. Ensure your will, trusts, and powers of attorney accurately reflect your current wishes and circumstances.

Addressing Beneficiary Designations

Similarly, review and update the beneficiary designations on your financial accounts and insurance policies. These designations supersede wills and trusts, so it's crucial they're kept up to date.

Conducting a thorough financial spring clean can bring clarity, efficiency, and

a sense of control over your financial future. By reviewing and refreshing your financial strategies, you can identify areas for improvement and take proactive steps to enhance your financial health.

Embrace this opportunity for financial renewal. With careful planning, reflection, and action, you can make meaningful changes that support your financial well-being. Let this spring be the start of a healthier financial future, one where you're empowered to achieve your financial goals and enjoy greater peace of mind.

Ready to rejuvenate your finances this spring? Our team of financial advisers is here to guide you every step of the

way. From realistic goal setting to optimising your investment strategy, we're committed to helping you achieve financial clarity and success.

Take the first step towards a healthier financial future today. Contact us for a personalised consultation, and let's plant the seeds for your financial growth together.

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'DON'T PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET'



The Perfect Metaphor for Financial Diversification.

With Easter festivities upon us, the age-old saying “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket” takes poignant relevance. This wisdom has profound implications for investors worldwide. It underscores the vital principle of diversification—a strategy that safeguards your financial portfolio against the unpredictable ebbs and flows of the market.

UNDERSTANDING DIVERSIFICATION

Diversification is like building a team where each player has a unique role. If you’re playing a sport, you wouldn’t want a team made up entirely of goalkeepers.

Similarly, in investing, you wouldn’t want to put all your money into just one type of investment. By spreading your investments across different asset classes, such as stocks, bonds, and property, you reduce the risk of a single failure impacting your entire financial plan. This strategy helps protect your portfolio from unexpected market

downturns, as not all asset classes react the same way to economic changes.

BENEFITS OF DIVERSIFICATION

Diversifying your investment portfolio doesn’t just spread risk; it can also enhance returns. By investing in a mix of assets that perform differently under various economic conditions, you’re more likely to capture gains from high-performing assets while minimising losses from underperformers. This approach can lead to a smoother investment experience over time, with less volatility and more predictable outcomes. Additionally, diversification allows investors to take advantage of growth opportunities across a broader spectrum of assets and markets, potentially leading to higher long-term returns.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

One common misconception is that diversification guarantees profits or fully protects against loss.

While diversification can reduce the risk of large losses and smooth out returns, it doesn’t eliminate risk entirely. Market conditions, economic factors, and global events can still affect the overall performance of a diversified portfolio. Another misconception is that more investments automatically mean better diversification. However, true diversification is about the quality and correlation of assets, not just quantity. It’s possible to be over-diversified if many of your investments perform similarly under market stress.

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE

Start by selecting various investment types, such as stocks for growth, bonds for income, and property for stability. Then, within each category, choose options from different industries, countries, and companies of various sizes. This method ensures that your investments have a chance of growing, regardless of individual market fluctuations.

REBALANCING YOUR PORTFOLIO

As markets shift, so can the balance of your investments. What started as a well-diversified portfolio can become unbalanced, with too much weight in one area. That's why it's crucial to review and adjust your portfolio periodically, typically once a year or after significant market movements.

This process, known as rebalancing, involves selling off some investments in over-performing areas and buying more in under-performing ones to return to your original asset allocation plan. Rebalancing helps maintain your desired level of risk and can improve the long-term performance of your portfolio.

WORKING WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISER

As we navigate through the principles of diversification, it's crucial to highlight the instrumental role of financial advisers in this process. Financial advisers are not just guides. We are partners in crafting a diversified investment strategy that aligns with your personal financial goals and risk tolerance. Our expertise becomes valuable in several key aspects:

- **Personalised Investment Strategies:** A financial adviser understands that diversification goes beyond just mixing different types of investments. We work closely with you to ensure that your portfolio diversification strategy is tailored to your individual needs, taking into account your financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment horizon.
- **Access to a Wide Array of Investment Options:** With our finger on the pulse of the market, financial advisers can offer access to a broader spectrum of investment opportunities. This includes not just stocks and bonds, but also alternative investments that might be beyond the reach of the average investor. Our knowledge can open doors to new avenues for diversification, further strengthening your portfolio against market volatility.
- **Dynamic Portfolio Rebalancing:** The market is ever-changing, and a portfolio that was once well-diversified can become unbalanced over time.

Financial advisers monitor these shifts and recommend adjustments to your investment mix, ensuring your portfolio remains aligned with your strategic asset allocation. This proactive approach to rebalancing is crucial in maintaining the desired level of diversification and effectively managing risk.

- **Mitigating Misconceptions and Ensuring Clarity:** Financial advisers play a critical role in eradicating common myths surrounding diversification. We provide clarity on what diversification can and cannot do, emphasising that while it reduces risk, it does not remove it. Through ongoing education and communication, advisers ensure realistic expectations about your investment strategy's potential risks and rewards.

The expertise of a financial adviser into your diversification strategy provides the insights, tools and ongoing support needed to navigate the complexity of the market, helping ensure that your investment strategy remains robust, responsive and in line with your financial goals.

By leveraging expertise, you can ensure your portfolio is not only diversified, but also strategically positioned to achieve long-term financial success.

We hope the wisdom of not putting all your eggs in one basket inspires your investment journey. Embracing financial diversification is more than a strategy. It's a philosophy that supports balance, prudence, and foresight. By diversifying your investments, you not only safeguard against the turbulence of the market, but also set the stage for long-term financial success. Reach out for a portfolio review or to begin crafting a diversified investment plan that reflects your unique financial circumstances.

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CREATING FINANCIAL GOALS AROUND YOUR LIFESTYLE

Financial success arises from careful planning, informed decision-making, and deep understanding of one's own lifestyle and ambitions. It's a journey that surpasses merely accumulation of wealth, focusing instead on aligning financial strategies with personal goals to establish a fulfilling life.

SETTING THE STAGE

The first step towards financial clarity is defining your goals. These should reflect your life's ambitions — be it living debt-free, retiring early, or owning your dream home. Each objective acts as a milestone, offering both direction and motivation. This ensures that each financial decision you make is a step closer towards your desired future.

The significance of articulating and planning for these goals is underscored by a study conducted at Dominican University in California. This research involved 149 participants and explored how the processes of writing down goals, sharing these goals with friends, and creating a specific action plan could influence the likelihood of achieving said goals. The findings were telling: at the study's conclusion, only 40 percent of those who had merely contemplated their goals without further action were at least halfway toward realising them. In stark contrast, among the group that diligently wrote down their goals, devised an action plan, and sent weekly progress updates to a friend, 76 percent were at least halfway to accomplish their goals. [1]

These findings highlight the power of not just setting goals, but actively engaging with them through written plans and social accountability.

When applied to financial planning, this approach can dramatically enhance your ability to reach your financial aspirations.

By clearly defining your financial goals, documenting a step-by-step plan to achieve them, and perhaps even sharing this journey with a trusted friend or adviser, you significantly increase your chances of success. It's a method that adds structure and accountability to your financial journey, transforming aspirations into actionable, achievable milestones.

ALIGNING LIFESTYLE AND FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

A harmonious financial plan complements your current lifestyle, while paving the way for future goals. This balance is achieved through careful review and adjustment of your spending, saving, and investing habits. An organised approach to finances empowers you, granting control and confidence in your financial journey.

THE POWER OF SPECIFIC GOALS

Ambiguous goals lead to uncertain outcomes. Specific, well-defined financial targets, on the other hand, offer a roadmap to success. Identifying clear objectives for every aspect of your life, from education funding to retirement planning, and setting a precise value and deadline for each, transforms vague ambitions into achievable objectives.

KEEP IT REALISTIC

While ambition fuels progress, realism anchors it. Realistic goals are those that balance optimism with practicality, ensuring that your ambitions are attainable within your current means

and circumstances. This sense of realism will also motivate you as you continue to reach them.

CATEGORISING YOUR GOALS

Distinguishing your financial goals into short, medium, and long-term groups is not just about timing—it's also about aligning these goals with your current life stage and individual risk tolerance. This approach enables you to craft strategies that are not only time-appropriate, but also reflective of your comfort with risk and life's changing circumstances.

Short-term Goals

These are goals you aim to achieve within the next five years. At this stage, you might prioritise stability and liquidity due to the shorter timeframe, especially if you're in the early stages of your career or have immediate financial needs, such as building an emergency fund or saving for a significant purchase.

Medium-term Goals

As you progress to goals with a 5-10 year horizon, your risk tolerance could increase, allowing for more growth-oriented investments.

This period often coincides with mid-life stages, such as career advancement or family growth, where you might be more financially secure and willing to take calculated risks for higher returns.

Long-term Goals

Goals extending beyond a decade are typically aligned with long-term growth and retirement planning. Your approach here may evolve with your life stage.

For younger investors, this could mean a higher risk tolerance, with a focus on equities. As you near retirement, a shift towards preserving capital and reducing risk is common, reflecting a change in priorities and risk appetite.

It's also crucial to acknowledge that life stages and risk tolerance are not static. They change as you move through different stages of life, such as transitioning from full-time employment to retirement, or experiencing significant life events like marriage, parenthood, or receiving an inheritance. Each of these stages requires a reassessment of your financial goals and the strategies you've set out to achieve them.

By taking into account not only the timeframe, but also the specific life stage and associated risk tolerance, you can ensure that your financial plan remains dynamic and robust, capable of adapting to your evolving needs and circumstances. This approach underscores the importance of periodic reviews and adjustments to your financial strategy, ensuring that it continues to align with your personal goals, risk tolerance, and life changes.

THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE

While personal effort is invaluable, the expertise of a financial adviser can dramatically enhance your financial planning

process. Advisers offer personalised advice tailored to your unique circumstances and goals. They provide insights into financial markets, help navigate tax complexities, and adjust your plan as your life evolves.

Understanding your aspirations and creating a financial plan to achieve them is the core of personal finance. By setting realistic goals and considering professional advice, you create a robust framework for financial success.

For those looking to refine their financial strategy and align it with their lifestyle, our team is ready to help. We are committed to helping you achieve your financial goals.

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SOURCE DATA:

[1] Dominican University of California - Strategies for achieving goals, resolutions.



READY TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE?

At Manning and Company, we excel at providing expert guidance and support to our clients in navigating their complex financial landscape, regardless of how unique their situation may be. Allow us to assist you in reviewing your portfolio and exploring a wide range of options tailored to your specific needs. Get in touch with us today, and let's embark on a journey towards financial success together.

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