

# Slow Start in Saving for Retirement?

## Strategies to help you stay in the race

### Many boomers started late

Americans ages 55 to 64 who have retirement accounts have accumulated approximately \$104,000 in savings. That will produce just a few hundred dollars a month to add to their Social Security payments. Those without a retirement account have accumulated about \$14,500 for retirement. Most likely, they'll need more.

National Institute on Retirement Security, *The Continuing Retirement Savings Crisis, March 2015*. Values represent the median amount and not the average.

### The best time to save is now

If you are in your 20s and 30s, you still have the luxury of time when it comes to saving for your future. Beyond your 30s, it is time to get realistic about your savings strategies. Whether you got a late start or you just plain haven't been saving enough, there are ways you can start to potentially increase your retirement savings now.

### Reduce your expenses

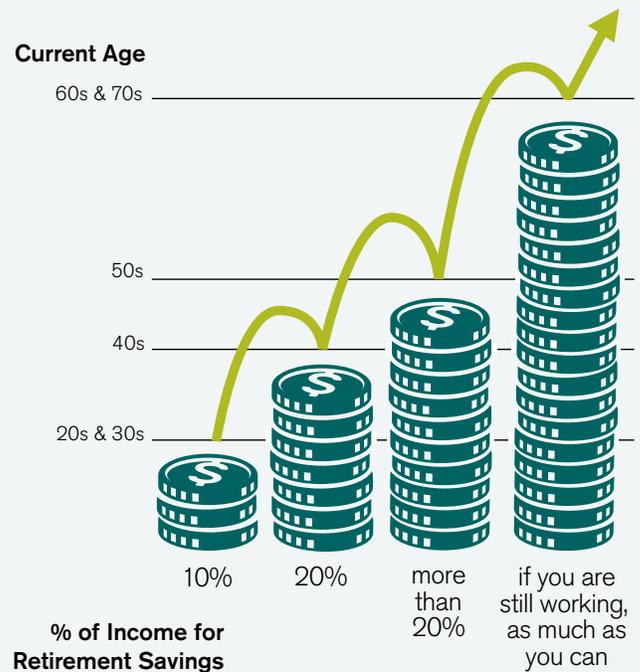
You've probably heard it many times, but the best way to save for the future is reduce how much you are spending now. Not only does that free up money to invest in your retirement plan, but if you're in your 50s, it also means you will be used to living on less when you retire.

### Plan to work longer

Age 65 seemed like the magic retirement age for so many years, and was the age set for retirement in 1935 when Social Security was established. It may even be the age you are still aiming for. However, it's best to be realistic. Working longer gives you more time to save and may help you get the best benefit from Social Security.

### How much should you save?

That depends on many factors: your age, marital status, the age you plan to retire and what kind of lifestyle you want in retirement. Below are basic guidelines financial planners use:



### Social Security: What a difference a year makes

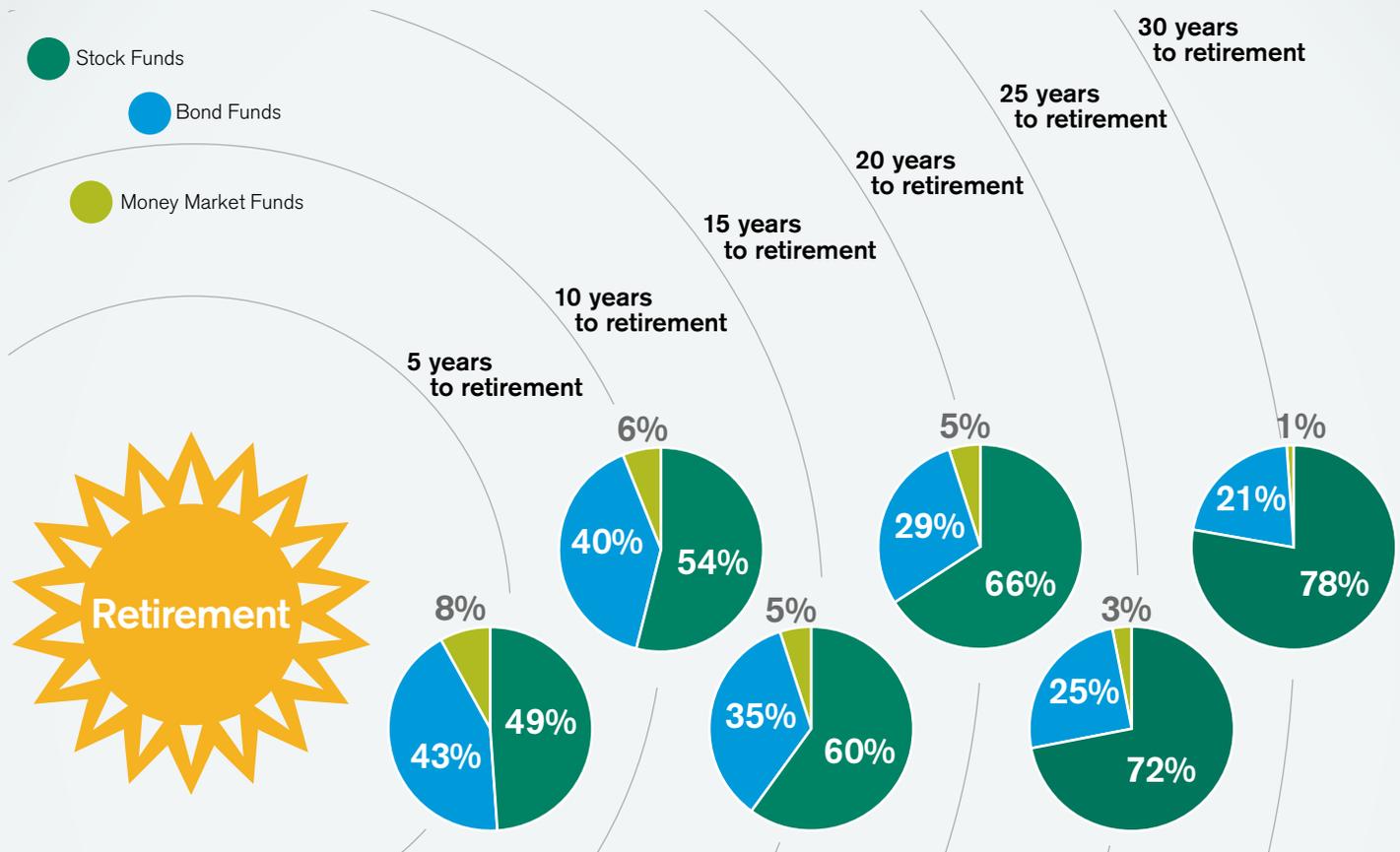
You get the most benefit from Social Security when you wait until your full benefit age. If your full retirement age is 67, your Social Security benefit is reduced by about:



Social Security Administration, Retirement Planner: Full Retirement Age article, www.ssa.gov, 2016.

## Have the right mix of investments

While people in their 20s and 50s should not have the same kind of retirement savings makeup, you do want to make sure you have enough stock investments to potentially keep your money growing at any age.



These are sample allocations and are not meant as financial advice.

Source: American Century Investments, 2016.

### The Bottom Line

Regardless of where you are in your retirement savings timeline, the best time to review your retirement savings strategies is now.

*This is not intended to be a personalized recommendation or fiduciary advice. Other options may be available to you for your retirement plan investments. You should consider those options if you are unsure. Our representatives can also assist with these considerations.*

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