

Financial Issues

SPRING 2019

CEFCU® Investment Services and Wealth Management

For Retirement, Income Matters as Much as Savings

Steady income or a lump sum?

Last year, the financial services firm The Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA) asked working Americans: “at retirement, if you could choose between a lump sum of \$500,000 or a monthly income of \$2,700, which would you choose?”¹ Sixty-two percent said they would take the \$2,700 per month. Figuring a 20-year retirement for today’s 65-year-olds, \$2,700 per month comes to \$648,000 by age 85. So, why did nearly 40% of the survey respondents pick the lump sum over the stable monthly income?¹

Maybe instant gratification played a part. Maybe they ran some numbers and figured the \$500,000 lump sum would grow to exceed \$648,000 in 20 years if invested — but there is certainly no guarantee of that. Or, perhaps they felt their retirements would last less than 20 years, as was the case with many of their parents, perceiving the lump sum as a “better deal.”

The reality is, once you retire, income becomes a primary concern. Retirement is when you start to convert savings to fund your everyday life. Could you retire with income equivalent to 80% of your final salary? If you saved and invested consistently through the years, that objective may be achievable.

Social Security replaces about 40% of income for the average earner

So where will you get the rest of your retirement income? It could come from multiple sources, including:²

- ◆ **Regular, automatic withdrawals from retirement savings and investment accounts.** You may start taking distributions from these accounts at an initial withdrawal rate of 4% (or less). If these accounts are quite large, these funds could even match or exceed your Social Security benefits.³
- ◆ **401(k) or 403(b) plans.** These are a common source of retirement income if you worked for a for-profit or nonprofit company, such as a school, religious group, or the government.
- ◆ **Pensions.** This can be a prime source of income for people who retire from a government position or larger company.
- ◆ **Your home.** Selling an expensive residence and buying a cheaper one can free up equity and reduce future expenses, thereby leaving more money for you in the future.



Working longer may give your retirement income a boost

A recent analysis from the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded that by delaying your retirement even three to six months, you could give yourself the potential to raise your standard of living in retirement as much as you would if you save 1% more of your pay over 30 years!^{3,4}

More retirement income is better than less!

Although your retirement benefits may be taxed, more retirement income is decidedly better than less — and a key part of retirement planning is estimating both your retirement income need and your retirement income potential. Before you retire, talk with a Representative from CEFCU Investment Services. You can meet with a Representative by phone, online (from the convenience of your home or workplace), or in person at most Member Centers. To schedule a no-obligation appointment, call 309.633.2571 or 1.800.356.7865, ext. 32571, or go to cefcu.com/invest.

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Citations.

- 1 - fool.com/retirement/2018/01/02/lifetime-income-retirees-need-it-and-heres-how-to.aspx [1/2/18]
- 2 - ssa.gov/planners/retire/r&m6.html [1/25/18]
- 3 - cbsnews.com/news/the-top-retirement-decisions-facing-older-workers/ [1/25/18]
- 4 - nber.org/papers/w24226.pdf [1/18]

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Five Retirement Concerns Often Overlooked

Retirement is a major life and financial transition. In looking forward to our “second act,” we may overlook a few matters that are not immediately obvious (depending on our time horizon) that a thorough retirement strategy could address, including the impact of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), taxes, health care, and the rising cost of living.

RMDs

The Internal Revenue Service requires people to withdraw money from qualified retirement accounts after age 70½. This includes traditional IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans, such as a 401(k) and 403(b). It's important to remember the income from an RMD is fully taxable and cannot be rolled over into a Roth IRA. While this income can be helpful in retirement, if not planful about when to start withdrawing the money, it could put a retiree into a higher income tax bracket for the year.¹

Taxes

Retirement does not necessarily imply reduced taxes. While people may earn less in retirement than they did while working, many forms of income are taxable, including: RMDs, investment income, dividends, most pensions, and even a portion of Social Security income (depending on a taxpayer's total income and filing status).

Health care costs

Those who retire in reasonably good health may not be inclined to think about the future cost of health care. But, as we age, medical situations can arise and be costly. Forbes noted in a recent white paper, called *The Lifetime Medical Spending of Retirees*, the average American retiree, age 70+, pays \$122,000 for medical care — much of it from personal savings. The “donut hole” in Medicare still exists, and annually, there are retirees who pay thousands of dollars of their own money just for prescriptions.^{2,3}

Long-term care needs

Those who live longer or face health complications may need long-term care. According to a study from the Department of Health and Human Services, the average American who turned 65 in 2015 could pay \$138,000 in total long-term care costs.⁴

Another end-of-life expense many retirees overlook: funeral and burial costs. Pre-planning to address this expense may help surviving spouses and children.



CEFCU® Wealth Management

Rising consumer prices

Since 1968, consumer inflation has averaged around 4% a year. Over time, 4% inflation can affect purchasing power. In 20 years, continued 4% inflation would make today's dollar worth \$0.46. So, it's a good idea to invest in a way that gives you the potential to keep up with increasing consumer costs.⁴

As part of your preparation for retirement, give these matters some thought. To discuss the potential for how these (and other) factors could impact your financial future, contact Kevin Barbier, Trust and Investment Officer and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional. Kevin is part of the CEFCU Wealth Management team and can provide sound, unbiased investment planning and management that follows the same standards that guide your Credit Union — looking out for your best interests. To schedule an appointment, please call 309.633.3836 or 1.800.633.7077, ext. 33836.

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Citations.

- 1 – [thebalance.com/required-minimum-distributions-2388780](https://www.thebalance.com/required-minimum-distributions-2388780) [6/3/18]
- 2 – forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2018/06/28/the-truth-about-health-care-costs-in-retirement/ [6/28/18]
- 3 – mdmag.com/physicians-money-digest/practice-management/four-big-retirement-threats-and-how-to-protect-yourself [8/2/18]
- 4 – money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/saving-and-budgeting/articles/2018-04-13/6-ways-to-pay-for-long-term-care-if-you-cant-afford-insurance [4/13/18]



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