



BRIDGING THE RETIREMENT GAP

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What Challenges Will You Face in Retirement?

Lack of Guarantees

What once was a tried and true source of income during retirement is now subject to uncertainty. Recent market downturns and market volatility have been a wake up call for many investors. Even with regular contributions and sensible allocations, market downturns can cause problems for many retirement portfolios. And, once upon a time, workers could count on receiving a pension after you worked with a company long enough. But now pension plans are cutting back or failing. State and local governments are cutting budgets and are raising retirement ages. Coupled with the uncertainty of Social Security income these inevitabilities need to be considered.

Do I want my retirement income guaranteed?

Longevity

Increasing life spans may create the risk that you'll outlive your savings. According to the 2010 US Department of Health and Human Services, United States report, at birth, a male born in 1950 was expected to live to age 66 and a female to age 71. At age 65, that male born in 1950, is expected to live to age 78 and the female to age 80.

When I retire, how long do I want my retirement income to last?

Rising Costs

The cost of basic expenses; food, utilities, etc., tend to increase. In planning, it's wise not to underestimate the impact these costs can have on your standard of living. Inflation and health-care costs can erode your retirement nest egg. For instance, in the last 10 years, inflation has risen an average of 2.40% per year¹. And, health care costs are projected to increase an average of 6.69% per year over the next 10 years.²

How much will my retirement cost?

Lack of Savings

While Americans' may have a lack of confidence in their ability to secure a comfortable retirement, people often overlook the need to take steps to compensate for the shortcomings by improving their preparation. Let's explore some statistics from the 2011 Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) report.



- More than half of workers report they and/or their spouse have less than \$25,000 in total savings and investments (excluding their home and defined benefit plans), including 29 percent who have less than \$1,000 in total savings.
- Thirty-nine percent of all workers think they need to accumulate at least \$500,000 by the time they retire to live comfortably in retirement. Nineteen percent feel they need between \$250,000 and \$499,999, while 31 percent think they need to save less than \$250,000 for a comfortable retirement.
- Workers who have performed a retirement needs calculation are more than twice as likely to expect they will need to accumulate at least \$1 million before retiring.

Do I have enough saved for retirement?

Let's Look a Little Closer.

Now that we have identified the factors that may impact your retirement planning, let's put pencil to paper. A critical step in building a retirement strategy is an assessment of your anticipated expenses and income. The following exercise will give us an idea of any gaps you may have in your future plans.

Let's explore your needs, your wants and your wishes. Needs are expressed as those things you'll need for basic living expenses. Your wants are those things on top of your normal expenses that you would like to factor in. And finally, your wishes are those things that, in a perfect world, you'd be able to afford to do.

Let's estimate	e the followin	ng on a monthly basis:
Needs:	\$(Example: he	ousing, living expenses)
Wants:	\$(Example: re	ecreation, charitable giving)
Wishes:	\$	
Now let's ex		rojected income on a monthly basis:
Investment Income:		\$(Example: IRAs, real estate)
Other Income:		\$ (Example: guaranteed income such as pensions, Social Security)
Working Income:		\$(Example: part time job)

And the answer is....

Now that we have identified your expenses and income, let's calculate a simple projection on where you may fall in your retirement spending needs, assuming only your basic needs in the equation.

Total Monthly Income:	\$(Example: investment, other and working income totals)
Total Monthly Needs:	\$ (Example: housing, living expenses)
Monthly Income Gap:	\$(Total monthly income minus total monthly needs)
Annual Gap:	\$(Monthly gap multiplied by 12)

EXAMPLE:

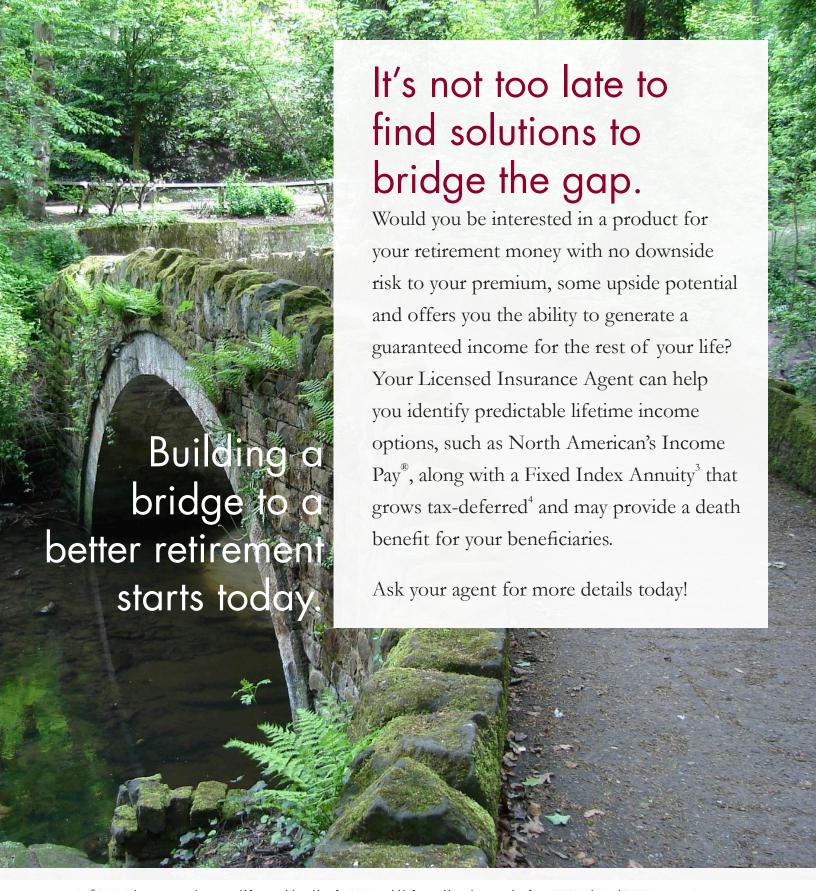
Income: \$8,000

Needs: \$9,000

Gap: (\$1,000)

Annual
Gap: (\$12,000)

Is there a gap in your plans?



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FINANCIAL STRENGTH

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A.M. Best	A+ (Superior)**	2nd highest out of 15 categories	A.M. Best is a large third-party independent reporting and rating company that rates an insurance company on the basis of the company's financial strength, operating performance, and ability to meet its obligations to contract holders.
Standard & Poor's Corporation	A+ (Strong)°, §	5th highest out of 22 categories	Standard & Poor's Corporation is an independent third-party rating firm that rates on the basis of financial strength.

^{*} A.M. Best rating affirmed on May 26, 2011. For the latest rating, access www.ambest.com.

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May Lose Value	Not Insured By Any Federal Government Agency		

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^o Awarded to North American as part of Sammons Financial Group, which consists of Midland National Life Insurance Company and North American Company for Life and Health Insurance.

[§] Standard and Poor's awarded its rating on February 26, 2009 and affirmed on April 6, 2011.