



Financial Strategies For Your Future

August Newsletter

Hello Eric,

The Month of August

August was named to honor the first Roman emperor (and grandnephew of Julius Caesar), Augustus Caesar (63 b.c.–a.d. 14).

We can also look forward to August 1, traditionally known as Lammas Day, August 10, St. Lawrence's Day, August 19 brings National Aviation Day, and August 26 is Women's Equality Day, which celebrates the 1920 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and, with it, women's right to vote in the United States.

The best bounty of the season—ripened tomatoes, ripe melon, sweet corn on the cob, and zucchini come in August.

We are here to help you make the most of your finances and hope to create a bounty for you. Please give me and my team a call anytime, (603) 343-4515 or email: Info@AztecFG.Com to set up an appointment.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/month-august-holidays-fun-facts>

Interesting Fact:

August is a wonderful month for star gazing! It's the month of the Perseid meteor shower, which peaks between August 11 and 13. This year, they peak right around the last quarter Moon, which means that the Moon shouldn't wash out too many of the "falling stars."

<https://www.almanac.com/content/month-august-holidays-fun-facts>

Events & Resources

'A Beautiful View' at
the NHAA

PMAC Adult Lecture Series Online

Date: Ongoing
Tuesday Nights @ 7:00 PM
Cost: \$25

[More Information](#)

Date: Aug. 5 to Aug. 30

Cost: Free

Where: New Hampshire Art
Association's Robert Lincoln Levy
Gallery, 136 State Street,
Portsmouth

[More Information](#)



Dover Farmers Market

Date: Wednesdays, 2:15 p.m.–5:30
p.m.

Cost: Free

Where: Greater Dover Chamber of
Commerce Parking Lot
550 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820

[More Information](#)

The Governor's Inn Summer Music Series

Date: All Summer

Cost: \$5

Where: 78 Wakefield Street,
Rochester, NH 03867 (back lawn)

Where:

[More Information](#)

The Investment Risk No One's Ever Heard Of



Knowledgeable investors are aware that investing in the capital markets presents any number of risks, including interest rate risk, company risk, and market risk. Risk is an inseparable companion to the potential for long-term growth. Some of the investment risks we face can be mitigated through diversification.¹

As an investor, you face another, lesser-known risk for which the market does not compensate you, nor can it be easily reduced through diversification. Yet, it may be the biggest challenge to the sustainability of your retirement income.

This risk is called the sequence of returns risk.

The sequence of returns risk refers to the uncertainty of the order of returns an investor will receive over an extended period of time. As Milton Friedman once observed, you should, “never try to walk across a river just because it has an average depth of four feet.”²

Sequence of Returns

Mr. Friedman’s point was that averages may hide dangerous possibilities. This is especially true with the stock market. You may be comfortable that the market will deliver its historical average return over the long-term, but you can never know when you will be receiving the varying positive and negative returns that comprise the average. The order in which you receive these returns can make a big difference.

For instance, a hypothetical market decline of 30% is not to be unexpected. However, would you rather experience this decline when you have relatively small retirement savings or at the moment you are ready to retire – when your savings may never be more valuable?

Without a doubt, the former scenario is preferable, but the timing of that large potential decline is out of your control.

Timing, Timing, Timing

The sequence of returns risk is especially problematic while you are in retirement. Down years, in combination with portfolio withdrawals taken to provide retirement income, have the potential to seriously damage the ability of your savings to recover sufficiently, even as the markets fully rebound.

If you are nearing retirement or already in retirement, it’s time to give serious consideration to the “sequence of returns risk” and ask questions about how you can better manage your portfolio.

1. Diversification is an approach to help manage investment risk. It does not eliminate the risk of loss if security prices decline.

2. Quotefancy.com, 2020

Prevent a Rift: Money Tips for Newlyweds



Prevent a Rift: Money Tips for Newlyweds

Research suggests that 70% of married millennial couples argue about financial decisions more than any other topic. This could explain why some experts say financial problems are one of the top reasons marriages fail.^{1,2}

Fortunately, when couples work together to address their finances, they may be able to mitigate many of the problems money may cause in a marriage.

10 Tips for Newly Married Couples

Communication - Couples should consider talking about their financial goals, memories, and habits, as each partner may come into the marriage with fundamental differences in experiences and outlooks driving their behaviors.

Set Goals - Setting goals establishes a common objective that both partners become committed to pursuing.

Create a Budget - A budget is an exercise for developing a spending and savings plan that is designed to reflect mutually agreed upon priorities.

Set the Foundation for Your Financial House - Identify assets and debts. Look to begin reducing debts, while building your emergency fund.

Work Together - By sharing the financial decision-making, both spouses are vested in all choices, reducing the friction that can come from a single decision-maker.

Set a Minimum Threshold for Big Expenses - While possessing a level of individual spending latitude is reasonable, large expenditures should only be

made with both spouses' consent. Agreeing to a purchase amount should require a mutual decision.

Set Up Regular Meetings - Set aside a predetermined time once or twice a month to discuss finances. Talk about budgeting, upcoming expenses, and any changes in circumstances.

Update and Revise - As a newly married couple, you may need to update the beneficiaries on your accounts, reevaluate your insurance coverage, and revise (or create) your will.³

Love, Trust, and Honesty - Approach contentious subjects with care and understanding, be honest about money decisions you know your spouse might be upset with, and trust your spouse to be responsible with handling finances.

Consider Speaking with a Financial Professional - A financial professional may offer insights to help you work through the critical financial decisions that all married couples face.

1. NPR.org, February 10, 2020

2. Marriage.com, June 8, 2020

3. When drafting a will, consider enlisting the help of a legal, tax, or financial professional who may be able to offer additional insight, especially if you have a large estate or complex family situation.

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Spotting Credit Trouble



American households with credit card balances carry an average debt of \$8,602.¹

The wise use of credit is a critical skill in today's world. Used unwisely, credit can rapidly turn from a useful tool to a crippling burden. There are a number of warning signs that you may be approaching credit problems:

1. Have you used one credit card to pay off another?
2. Have you used credit card advances to pay bills?
3. Do you regularly use a charge card because you are short on cash?
4. Do you charge items you might not buy if you were paying cash?
5. Do you need to use your credit cards to buy groceries?
6. Are you reluctant to open monthly statements from creditors?

7. Do you regularly charge more each month than you pay off?
8. Do you write checks today on funds to be deposited tomorrow?
9. Do you apply for new credit cards so you can increase borrowing?
10. Are you receiving late and over-limit credit card charges?

It is important to recognize the warning signs of potential credit problems. The more quickly corrective action is taken, the better. Procrastinating might result in financial difficulty down the road.

1. WalletHubTM (Evolution Finance, Inc.), 2019

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