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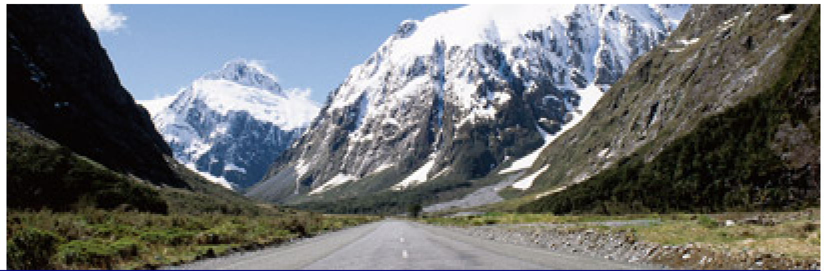

YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Your Guide to Life Planning

May 2014

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Don't Overlook an IRA When Planning for Retirement

More than 46 million American households own an individual retirement account (IRA).[1] While the IRA has evolved into a popular retirement savings vehicle -- with more than $5.7 trillion in total assets -- it is often an overlooked component of most investors' financial planning strategies. In fact, over the past two years, only 15% of households that were eligible to contribute to an IRA did so.[1]

Have you forgotten your IRA? Should an IRA be part of your overall investment plan?

Appealing IRA Benefits

Whether you are an active account holder or just considering opening an IRA, there are many appealing benefits to this retirement savings vehicle.

- **Tax deferral:** Traditional IRAs allow your investment earnings to grow tax-deferred until withdrawn, typically at retirement. For 2014, the maximum contribution is $5,500, but for those aged 50 and over, the limit is $6,500. The limits are the same for a Roth IRA, but to be eligible to fully contribute, an investor must have a 2014 modified adjusted gross income of less than $114,000 for singles and $181,000 for married couples filing jointly. Singles earning less than $129,000 and couples earning less than $181,000 are eligible for partial contributions.
- **Deductibility:** If you are a single taxpayer who doesn't participate in an employer-sponsored plan and you earn less than $60,000 in 2014, you can deduct your contributions to a traditional IRA from your income taxes. Couples earning under $96,000 are also eligible for a full deduction. Partial deduction limits also apply, up to $70,000 for singles and $116,000 for couples. Note that Roth IRA contributions are not deductible.
- **Investment flexibility:** IRAs typically give investors access to a wider range of investment options than workplace-sponsored plans such as a 401(k).
- **Convertibility:** Traditional IRA holders can convert to a Roth IRA to enjoy some of the additional benefits listed below. But before you decide to make a switch, be sure to investigate the tax consequences of such a move.

Additional Roth IRA Benefits

- **Qualified tax-free withdrawals:** Since Roth IRAs are funded with after-tax dollars, your withdrawals are tax free, as long as you have held the account for at least five years and are over age 59½.
- **No RMDs:** Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions (RMDs) once the account holder reaches age 70½.

You can find out more about the benefits of IRAs -- including which types of accounts and investments may be right for you -- by speaking with your financial professional.

[1]*Source: Investment Company Institute, "The Role of IRAs in U.S. Households' Saving for Retirement, 2013," November 2013.*

indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.