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FINANCIAL ADVICE

VIEWPOINT

FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

Please enjoy reading our newsletter. If you would like to discuss any of the articles further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Five tips for investing in uncertain times

It's easy to worry about your investments when markets are volatile and the news is filled with uncertainty. And it's normal to be concerned, but taking a measured approach can help you ride out uncomfortable periods and maintain good financial health. Here are five ways to stay calm and focused during periods of volatility.

1. Focus on your long-term goals

It's important to remember why you started investing in the first place. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding a child's education or simply building your wealth, your long-term goals are precisely that: long-term and markets have historically shown resilience to short-term pressures. Staying committed to your objectives can help you avoid hasty decisions that could jeopardise future returns.

2. Diversify your portfolio

Diversification means spreading your investments across a variety of sectors, asset classes and regions. When you diversify, losses in one area may be offset by gains in another, helping to balance your portfolio and increase its resilience. Diversification can act as a buffer against the full impact of volatility, and the knowledge that your eggs are spread across many different baskets can be helpful if market conditions become challenging.

3. Stick to a consistent investment schedule

Committing to regular investments can be an effective way to keep your portfolio on track by taking emotion out of the equation and allows you to buy assets at various price points which smoothes out the effects of volatility. You pay more when times are good and less when the market dips, but the cost will average out over the long-term and your portfolio will continue to grow. This is often referred to as pound cost averaging.

4. Keep cash reserves on hand

Easy access to cash can provide a sense of stability in uncertain times. Cash reserves can help you avoid selling assets at a loss if you need emergency liquidity, but they can also give you the flexibility to act if an opportunity arises. For some investors, a mix of cash and short-term fixed-income investments help balance their portfolio's risk profile and provides easy access to funds without having to sell when prices are low.

5. Reevaluate your risk tolerance

It's normal to worry about your portfolio when things are uncertain, but if market volatility has you losing sleep it could be a sign that your investments aren't aligned with your risk tolerance. Consider adjusting your portfolio to reflect a level of risk you are comfortable with.

We can help you stay focused on your goals through periods of volatility. Please get in touch if you want to talk about your investments.

The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount invested.

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The benefits of starting a pension early

It's never too early to start saving for retirement. In fact, the sooner you start saving, the more time for your money to grow.

Starting a pension early is one of the best things you can do for your financial future. By taking advantage of the benefits of early retirement savings, you can ensure that you have a secure financial future and enjoy your retirement years to the fullest.

More time to save

One of the most significant benefits of starting a pension early is the additional time you have to save money. The longer your money is invested, the more time for it to grow, which can help you accumulate a larger retirement fund. Starting early also means that you can take advantage of compound interest, which is interest earned on both the principal and the accumulated interest. Over time, compound interest can significantly increase the value of your pension fund.

Lower monthly contributions

Starting a pension early can also help you keep your monthly contributions lower. Because you have more time to save, you can spread your contributions over a longer period. This can make it easier to budget for your retirement savings and ensure that you are putting away enough money to reach your retirement goals.

Employer contributions

If you are enrolled in a workplace pension scheme many employers offer to match employee pension contributions, (up to a certain percentage). This 'free money' can help you save even more for retirement.

Tax benefits

The government offers tax relief on pension contributions, which means you can put more money into your pension each month. For example, if you're a taxpayer, you can get up to 45% tax relief on your contributions.

Financial security

Starting a pension early can help provide financial security in retirement. By starting to save early, you can build a solid foundation for your retirement years and ensure that you have enough money to cover your expenses. This can help alleviate financial stress and allow you to enjoy your retirement years without worrying about running out of money. Knowing that you have a secure financial future can give you peace of mind and allow you to enjoy your retirement more.

Tips for starting a pension early:

- **Set up a regular contribution**
  The best way to make sure you're saving for retirement is to set up a regular contribution. This could be a fixed amount each month or a percentage of your salary.
- **Increase your contributions as you earn more**
  As your income increases, you can increase your pension contributions to make sure you're on track for a comfortable retirement.
- **Take advantage of tax relief**
  The government offers tax relief on pension contributions, which means you can put more money into your pension each month.
- **Consider employer contributions**
  Many employers offer to match employee pension contributions, which is free money that can help you save even more for retirement.

By giving yourself more time to save, keeping your contributions manageable, taking advantage of tax benefits, and providing financial security in retirement, you can set yourself up for a comfortable and fulfilling retirement. So, if you haven't started saving for retirement yet, now is the time to start!

The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount invested.

HM Revenue and Customs practice and the law relating to taxation are complex and subject to individual circumstances and changes which cannot be foreseen.

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The future of wealth is female

More women own their wealth, and their ambitions are changing too.

Industry commentators often say that 60% of UK wealth will be in the hands of women by 2025.

That figure is from a report published 20 years ago, so we can't vouch for its accuracy today. But there are other signs that the Great Wealth Transfer is pushing more wealth towards women and that the face of financial advice is changing as a result.

Mavericks and trendsetters

Baby boomers own most of the UK's wealth and female boomers are increasingly coming into the money left behind by their partners. Research from Schroders suggests that two thirds of baby boomer wealth is found in joint households, and that the first transfer typically occurs between a husband and a wife.

But this situation is changing. A growing proportion of female wealth owners are Gen X (born between 1965 and 1980) whose needs, expectations and ambitions are different from their mothers. And the stereotype of the risk-averse female investor is rapidly eroding as the number and diversity of female wealth owners continues to grow.

Almost 70% of women want to make a positive social impact with their investments, according to analysis from The WealthiHer Network. Meanwhile, half of UK landlords are female and almost 10% of volatile cryptocurrency investments are owned by women, according to more Schroders research.

Even women who don't own exotic assets are starting to reshape the advice industry. Many women are taking control of their wealth, some for the first time in their lives. Whilst the maverick female investor is increasingly common, you don't have to be radical to make the most of your money.

Get set for your future

Whether you want to leverage your wealth for greater independence, use your money to do good in the world, or simply provide for the people you care about, we're here to give you the confidence and advice you need to realise your ambitions.

The value of your investment can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.