

MONEY MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS

TAKE CONTROL BY MAKING
SMARTER FINANCIAL DECISIONS.



Zero debt, a perfect credit score, and a reliable emergency fund are smart ideas, but often feel out of reach. Don't worry; it's never too late to pick up better financial habits. The sooner you start, the sooner you'll feel more confident about your long-term future.

WAYS TO SAVE

Saving is an essential part of any financial strategy. It may help to organize your savings into three broad categories:

- An emergency fund, to prepare for unexpected costs or unemployment
- Short-term goals, to help you pursue things like home repairs or vacations
- Investing for long-term goals, to prepare for big-ticket items like college and retirement

SAVING VS. INVESTING

The two terms are not interchangeable. Saving money in a bank account is different than investing in the stock market.

MONEY IN THE BANK	INVESTING IN THE STOCK MARKET
Predictable	Unpredictable
Typically FDIC insured	Not insured by the FDIC or any federal government agency
Susceptible to inflation risk—your money may not grow enough to keep pace with rising prices	Susceptible to risk, including loss of principal – your investments may increase or decrease as the market moves

BUDGETING BASICS

Budgeting means keeping track of what money is coming in and how it's going out. Developing a budget for yourself may help you:

- Alleviate stress: You can breathe easier knowing your financial picture
- Spend confidently: If you've made room in your budget for something, you won't need to second-guess your purchases
- Strengthen your credit score: Sticking to a budget can help you avoid credit blunders and improve your credit score



TRANSAMERICA®

BUDGETING TOOLS YOU CAN USE

Automate wherever possible.

- Set up automatic transfers from a checking account into separate savings accounts for an emergency fund and short-term goals
- Leverage the automatic contribution features in college and retirement plans

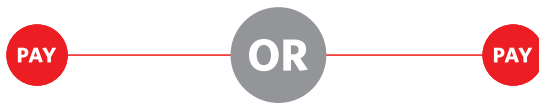
Consider using a budgeting app.*

- Mint
- PocketGuard
- You Need A Budget
- Wally
- Mvelopes
- Goodbudget
- Simple
- Personal Capital

MANAGING CREDIT AND DEBT

Saving and budgeting may help you prepare for the future, but we also need to manage past expenses. FICO produces your credit score based on information from three reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. Scores range from 300 to 850. You can request a free copy of your credit report annually at AnnualCreditReport.com.

TIPS FOR PAYING DOWN DEBT



Highest interest rate

Get rid of those high interest payments as soon as possible.

Smallest balance

Build motivation by ticking off one debt at a time, starting with the lowest one to pay off.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Whether it's starting an emergency fund, investing through your workplace retirement plan, creating a budget, or managing debt, Transamerica has resources to help.

 **Visit:** transamerica.com/portal/home

 **General questions:** 800-755-5801

 Meet with a retirement planning consultant to take a closer look at your financial picture.

NOTES

* Transamerica is not affiliated with, supported, or endorsed by the producers of the applications referenced above.

All investments involve risk, including loss of principal, and there is no guarantee of profits. Investors should carefully consider their objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizon before investing. There is no assurance that any investment will meet its stated objective.

Retirement planning consultants are registered representatives of Transamerica Investors Securities Corporation (TISC), member FINRA, 440 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Investment advisory services are offered through Transamerica Retirement Advisors, LLC (TRA), registered investment advisor. All Transamerica companies identified are affiliated.

