

ACHIEVE THE RETIREMENT YOU WANT

BUILD YOUR ACTION PLAN



TOTAL MERRILL®

FINANCIAL FREEDOM CHECKLIST

DATE _____

Planning ahead is critical to achieving the life you want in retirement. The following exercise can help show you what you need to consider when planning for your future. It also will give you an excellent starting point for developing a comprehensive strategy. Fill in the blanks in the “Amount” column, and then write down any specific steps you could take to change or improve your situation to achieve financial freedom. Then share it with your Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor, who can help you create a customized financial strategy for the future.

Steps to Achieve Financial Freedom

My Action Plan

- I have a comprehensive financial strategy for retirement. Yes No _____
- I have organized financial records that I keep in a safe place. Yes No _____

- I know where I stand financially. Yes No
- | | Amount | My Action Plan |
|---|----------|----------------|
| (a) My liquid net worth (savings and investments, including retirement accounts) less consumer/non-real-estate debt is: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| (b) My real estate equity (current value less mortgages) is: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| (c) My total net worth (a + b = c) is: | \$ _____ | _____ |

- I'm saving regularly for the future. Yes No
- | | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| My annual tax-deferred savings is: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| My annual taxable savings for retirement is: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| My annual taxable savings for other goals is: | \$ _____ | _____ |

- I'm living within my means. Yes No
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------|
| My total monthly income is: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| My nondiscretionary expenses are: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| My discretionary expenses are: | \$ _____ | _____ |
| Net surplus/deficit: | \$ _____ | _____ |

My assets are properly diversified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount	Allocation	My Action Plan
Stocks	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Total			100 %	

I'm effectively managing my liabilities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount	Interest Rate	My Action Plan
First mortgage:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Second mortgage or credit line:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Vacation home or other mortgage:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Auto 1 loan:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Auto 2 loan:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Boat/other loan:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Credit card debt:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____ %	_____
Last year, I increased (+) or paid off (-) principal:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____		_____
I paid in interest:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____		_____
This year I expect to increase (+) or pay off (-) principal:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____		_____

I'm effectively managing my cash.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount	My Action Plan
		\$ _____	_____

I have sufficient insurance to manage key risks to my financial security.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount	My Action Plan
		\$ _____	_____

Life and Health Insurance		Amount	My Action Plan
Life insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Medical insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Disability insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Long-term care insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____

Property and Liability Insurance		Amount	My Action Plan
Homeowners insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Auto insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Boat insurance (if applicable):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Personal liability (umbrella) insurance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____

I have a plan to help fund my children's or grandchildren's (if applicable) college education(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount	My Action Plan
529 college investing plan(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
UGMA/UTMA account(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Coverdell Education Savings Accounts:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	\$ _____	_____

I have separate savings for other major planned expenses.

Yes No

Amount

My Action Plan

Child's wedding:

Yes No

\$ _____

Vacation home purchase:

Yes No

\$ _____

Other:

Yes No

\$ _____

I have an emergency fund for unexpected expenses or loss of income.

Yes No

Amount

My Action Plan

\$ _____

My Action Plan

I have a will.

Yes No

The beneficiaries I have designated on my retirement accounts, insurance policies and annuity contracts are current.

Yes No

I have a business succession plan (if applicable).

Yes No

**WANT HELP TO PUT YOUR PLAN IN PLACE?
CONTACT A MERRILL LYNCH FINANCIAL ADVISOR.**

A Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor is someone who understands your situation, your needs and what you want to accomplish. Our understanding of you enables us to draw upon the breadth and depth of Total Merrill® to bring you the right solution at the right time for you. Call (800) MERRILL, visit a local branch or go to <http://totalmerrill.com/retirement> to get started.

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