

Building wealth and achieving financial goals

Aligning investments with risk tolerance and capacity

Investing is an indispensable tool for building wealth and achieving financial goals. By allocating resources to various investments, individuals can accumulate wealth over time through capital appreciation, dividends and interest. For example, investing in a diversified portfolio of stocks can yield significant returns, enabling you to grow your wealth far beyond what traditional savings accounts offer.

Additionally, investments can provide a passive income stream, helping to fund major life events such as buying a home, funding education or enjoying a comfortable retirement. The power of compounding returns further amplifies the benefits of investing, as the earnings on your investments generate their earnings over time.

However, it is crucial to understand the concepts of risk tolerance and risk capacity to make informed investment decisions. Properly balancing your investment strategy with your risk profile can significantly impact your financial success and peace of mind, helping you navigate the complexities of the financial markets more effectively and confidently.

UNDERSTANDING RISK TOLERANCE

Risk tolerance refers to an investor's willingness and ability to endure market volatility and potential losses. It measures your comfort level with investing

in assets that may fluctuate in value. Factors influencing risk tolerance include your personality, past investment experiences and financial goals.

For example, if you are comfortable taking risks, you might prefer investments offering higher potential returns, understanding that these come with greater volatility. Conversely, if you are risk-averse, you would likely choose safer investments, even if they offer lower returns.

Understanding your risk tolerance is crucial before you begin investing. Ask yourself questions like: How comfortable are you with market volatility? How might you react if your investments decrease in value? Are you someone who embraces investment risk for greater opportunities, or are you more risk-averse and likely to worry when the market dips?

DEFINING RISK CAPACITY

Unlike risk tolerance, risk capacity is not based on your emotional comfort with risk. Instead, it

pertains to how much risk you can afford to take, given your financial situation, investment time horizon and life stage.

Risk capacity considers practical aspects like your income, savings, liabilities and the time frame for achieving your financial goals. For instance, a young professional with a steady income and decades before retirement may have a higher risk capacity than someone nearing retirement who cannot afford significant portfolio losses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ALIGNING INVESTMENTS

Aligning your investments with risk tolerance and capacity is critical for several reasons. First, it helps ensure that you do not take on more risk than you can handle emotionally or financially. Second, it prevents you from being overly conservative, which might hinder your ability to grow your wealth sufficiently to meet your financial goals.



PRACTICAL TIPS FOR ASSESSING RISK TOLERANCE AND CAPACITY

Self-assessment: Reflect on your past reactions to financial losses. How did you feel and respond? Consider your long-term financial goals and how much volatility you will endure to achieve them.

Financial review: Evaluate your current financial situation, including your income, savings, debts and future financial needs. Determine how much loss you can afford without jeopardising your financial security.

Time horizon: Assess the time you have to invest. Longer time horizons generally allow for taking on more risk, as there is more time to recover from potential losses.

Risk tolerance questionnaire: We can help assess your risk tolerance and provide insights into your comfort level with different types of investments.

CHOOSING INVESTMENTS

Once you understand your risk tolerance and capacity, we can advise on the appropriate investments that align with these factors.

HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS:

For high-risk tolerance and capacity: Equities, growth stocks and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). These investments offer higher potential returns but come with increased volatility.

For moderate risk tolerance and capacity: Balanced portfolios with a mix of stocks and bonds can provide a good balance of growth and stability.

For low-risk tolerance and capacity: Conservative investments such as government bonds, blue-chip stocks and high-quality fixed-

income securities. These options offer lower returns but are less volatile.

ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH RISK TOLERANCE AND CAPACITY

It's essential to align your investments with both your risk tolerance and risk capacity. Failing to do so may result in taking on more risk than you can afford or being overly cautious, causing your savings to grow too slowly. Both scenarios could hinder your ability to reach your financial goals.

Understanding your unique approach to risk and how it impacts you is vital.

Additionally, aligning your investments with your risk tolerance and capacity is essential for achieving your financial goals while maintaining peace of mind. By assessing these factors and choosing appropriate investments, you can more effectively navigate the complexities of the financial markets. ■

THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE TAX, LEGAL OR FINANCIAL ADVICE AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS SUCH. AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON AS SUCH. TAX TREATMENT DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CLIENT AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. FOR GUIDANCE, SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENTS CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP, AND YOU MAY GET BACK LESS THAN YOU INVESTED.

THE TAX TREATMENT IS DEPENDENT ON INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN FUTURE.

READY TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE?

We'll listen to your plans and goals and create an investment strategy tailored to your unique risk profile and financial situation. To discuss your investment requirements – please get in touch with us.