

## Smart strategies for investing in your 50s and beyond

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For those in their 50s and beyond, investing can seem particularly intimidating. As retirement approaches, the timeframe for growing your money narrows, and priorities shift towards protecting capital. However, this does not mean investment opportunities are limited. Making sound financial decisions this decade is crucial to ensuring a comfortable future.

Many believe investing is only for the young, but it's never too late to make your money work harder. While you might have less time to recover from market downturns, your 50s are often your peak earning years. This presents a valuable opportunity to maximise pension contributions and other investments, giving your retirement savings a final, substantial boost before you need to start drawing from them.

### REASSESSING YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS AND RISK

Saving and investing serve different purposes, a distinction that becomes clearer in your 50s. Saving offers a secure fund for immediate needs, while investing aims to outperform inflation and grow your wealth over the long term. At this stage, your investment strategy should be closely aligned with your retirement plans. The main aim is often to consolidate growth and begin shifting towards lower-risk assets to protect your accumulated capital.

A key part of managing this transition is diversification. While you may have adopted a more aggressive, growth-focused approach in your younger years, now is the time to review your portfolio. Spreading your investments across different asset classes, such as shares, bonds and property, helps to cushion your portfolio against volatility, which is crucial when you have less time to recover potential losses.

### MAXIMISING YOUR PENSION AND SAVINGS

Your pension is probably your most significant investment. As you near retirement, it's essential to review it. Check your estimated retirement income,

understand the investment funds you are in and consider increasing your contributions if you can. Many schemes allow you to transfer your money into lower-risk funds as you approach your planned retirement date, helping to protect its value.

Beyond your pension, using tax-efficient wrappers like Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) is crucial. A Stocks & Shares ISA allows your investments to grow free of UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax. Maximising your annual ISA allowance can significantly boost your overall funds, providing a flexible and accessible income source in retirement.

### FINE-TUNING YOUR INVESTMENT CHOICES

While shares offer the potential for greater growth, their volatility suggests you reduce your exposure as you approach retirement. Bonds, which are loans to governments or companies that pay a fixed interest rate, are generally considered lower risk and can provide a more stable income stream. Many investors in their 50s and beyond find that a balanced portfolio, combining shares and bonds through investment funds, strikes the right balance.

For those who find managing these decisions complicated, ready-made portfolios provide a streamlined solution. These portfolios manage a diversified investment based on your age and risk tolerance. This automates the rebalancing process, gradually shifting your investments towards a more conservative allocation as you approach your target retirement date.

Ultimately, investing in your 50s means balancing the need to safeguard your assets with the aim of

ensuring they last through retirement. With careful planning and a clear understanding of your goals, you can approach this stage with confidence. ■

### IS IT THE RIGHT MOMENT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT OPTIONS?

If you're unsure about the best course of action for your personal circumstances, it is essential to seek professional financial advice. To discuss your situation or for further details, please contact us.

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