

Text

For questions 8 and 10: I retired 2 years ago at age 50. I was working in my "second career" at the time when we realized we were living well within the pension income from my first career (retired military). This is the only reason I remain 100% invested in stocks and 0% bonds. Without that pension buffer, I'd definitely be 70%/30% stocks/bonds and I would re-balance at least annually or every 10% market swing

For question 13: Although we think Social Security will be still around when we reach FRA, we are not counting on it for our income because we think the amounts will change for people who already have other sources of income, especially government funded income like my military retirement.

no

#1 Pension

My goals are to keep enjoying life, being healthy & hopefully staying self sufficient. I am tossing around moving where not the winters I presently have (Vermont) or maybe get out for a few months.

When we retired we rolled the 401Ks into self directed IRAs which allows us better choice in how the money is invested. Since we now live in a state that doesn't tax withdrawals from IRAs we are starting to move money from those rather than waiting till we are required to when a larger minimum withdrawals could impact our federal taxes more.

Retired last week, it's reassuring to hear from our financial advisor that our plan was successful.

Could not drag.s.s. and investment.savings

I have always been a believer in buying dividend-paying stocks and signing up for the free DRIP program (dividend reinvestment program). We moved all free cash from bank/brokerage to Goldman Sachs Marcus - pays 2.25% vs next to nothing at bank/brokerage. Won't start social security until 70.

Ranked sources of income...

401, Savings, SS, part time job, pension

1, IRA/401k

2, Savings/investment

3, Social Security

4, Pension

I'm still not sure if I have "enough" saved. There are too many unknowns in the future to be sure if I have enough saved.

I review my plan every month and track results against what I had planned. I make changes as necessary to spending levels.

After a lot of budget planning, I retired at 65 when I hit my targets: \$1M in my 401K, a paid-off retirement-friendly house (no major repairs expected for 10+ years), no debt and cash put aside for a replacement car in the future. I have a small cash cushion and have opened a line of credit against my home for emergencies. I used work insurance from 60-65 for preventative dental work, medical tests etc. to try to mini

I am concerned that I'm invested too aggressively, but it seems the only way to make money.

I am 48, my wife is 45. We both grew up poor so have always been big savers and not living to keep up with the Jones's. Travel is our one big passion so we've visited 47 countries so far. We have \$2.5 million in 401K + a paid off house + a paid off business + zero debt + we have a 1 year emergency fund set aside. Our goal is to retire at 60/57 and retire to the Algarve region of Portugal or possibly Belize or St. Cr

I was able to work for a good company for 33 years and offered a 3% match on the first 6% you saved. A nice raise for just saving money. It also had a pension plan which is sound unlike so many others that are in danger or trouble.

Set savings and investment goals EARLY!

Most important source:

1 IRA/401k

2. Social security

3. Savings/investment

4. Pension (small)

We started planning well before actual retirement. Once DH was diagnosed with Parkinson's, we ramped up to get ready and he was forced, by his condition, to retire earlier than we had originally planned. Using some inheritance \$ we purchased a home in our target location, while he was still working, then he was able to get Fed. Disability and we moved, selling our other home immediately thereafter. We have be

No.

As mentioned although my wife is healthy medical insurance cost are very expensive till she is on Medicare. We have also been conservative in our spending/vacations and immediately downsized when our children completed high school and left for college.

I worked 30 years for a public school system in Texas. We pay into the retirement system, but do not pay social security, so that isn't an option. We invested heavily in annuities and that money has grown nicely. I am covered by my pension for healthcare (for a pretty reasonable monthly fee). Can now work part time in the same field and that has proved very lucrative. My pension is \$103,000/year, so we really just w

I spend about an hour+ each day reviewing financial events and news, and evaluating opportunities to improve my investment results. The focus is always on dividend income. I have no interest in leaving a significant estate.

As soon as a retirement plan became available at my husband's place of employment, we started putting in the maximum of what we could afford. This was many, many years ago. This also enabled us to be eligible for 6% of "free" money that the company would invest in our behalf. When my husband turned 50, we were able to increase our amount to \$23,000.00 a year as a catch up. My place of employment di

When I retire since I lead a fairly simple lifestyle I want enough to pay my mortgage (when I relocate) and pay bills. I do not travel and am fine with staying home reading and gardening.

Saved money every month for retirement since age of 18 and increased savings after every pay raise. Worked in a great organization for 47 years that now provides an adequate pension and good health care benefits that complements Medicare. Started taking Social Security this past November at FRA of 66, although, not needed to meet current or normal projected expenses. My wife and I are taking social secu

No

It has been said that one must diversify in retirement. I will have 5 different sources of income in retirement. My home is almost paid off. I will not be rich and famous, don't care at all about that, but I do believe that we will be able to live within our means and be happy. I believe the key to success is live within your means.

Pension, IRA, SS, savings

It is extremely hard to save for retirement when your income is stretching to cover bills that are necessary - like insurance, utilities and food. Hardly ever spend on something not necessary and still have a hard time. Feel lucky to have a job at my age. Single parent who put her children through college and a divorce that took everything (the divorce was not my fault - ex-spouse wanted to be free from marriage, was c

75% OR MORE OF SO-CALLED CERTIFIED FINANCIAL ADVISORS ARE LOOKING

AT THEIR BOTTOM LINE. BE CAREFUL. I'M HAVING A HELL OF A TIME

FINDING THE RIGHT ADVISOR. BE VERY CAREFUL.

No

Began in mutual funds while working at Eastern Airlines in 1985. Added knowledge and individual stocks over the years (and two other airlines) Paid close attention to our portfolio. Stayed fully invested (chewed many finger nails short). Passed \$1M in 2016... We will retire in July 2023. And no, I wasn't a pilot. I was /am a aircraft mechanic...

Keys: Education, time, staying invested, individual stocks.

After 16 years of retirement, two Soc Secs, a small pension and IRAs/401Ks now converted to Vanguard investments, continue to be self-managed. We started with a budget spreadsheet based on all costs which we tracked for a year pre-retirement. We projected the budget annually for our lifetimes, updated it annually and have used it to track every expense to this day. This has allowed us to know how our asset

Our attempts to engage financial advisers were not good -- most betrayed our trust -- we were lucky (and knowledgeable enough) to see the issues and discover it early -- no major losses. Only one independent adviser and advice from Vanguard proved to truly keep our interests first. I recommend everyone make the effort to at least understand investing and monitor their status.

More concerned about managing healthcare costs in retirement than anything else. I only have about \$15k in an HSA but previous employers are on the hook for insurance.

Fed up with advisors and done much better on my own with Vanguard funds.

My plan, which has been working out thus far, is to live (including travel) on my pension, social security and rarely dipping into savings. The savings is there for a larger necessity item should the need arise. My goal is not to touch the 403b at all (until they force me to take an annual percentage out at age 70). I own my home and a vacant parcel of land on the water. The parcel could be sold at any time; I keep it as i

Nope

I have three government annuities. Two (CSRS and VA) increase with annual COLA's, and the third (Wisconsin ETF state retirement fund) increases by amounts related to market returns averaged over several years. The annuity from the VA, is completely tax exempt. This year, I also have had to start RMD's from my traditional IRA, and I also have a Roth IRA with a large balance. Both IRA's are invested in Vanguard

I did all this without a financial advisor. The only time my late wife and I visited an independent financial advisor (at her insistence), the advisor marveled at my planning and execution of my retirement goals, and said he could not do any better.

Social security and annuity are the most important sources.

I did not spend my money on toys during my working years like everyone else did. I saved for my retirement. Now I am financially well off and loving life!

Finding a good financial advisor/fiduciary is not easy. Have to understand what their commission incentives are.

Live below your means during your working life even if it hurts. Plan for retirement and execute the plan.

No

IRA/401K, Social Security, Employment Income, Savings/investments, Other

Was unable to drag. No. 1 is Social Security, No. 2 is IRA.

I've had a good experience with my financial advisor.

Used a financial adviser before I retired. But once I did so, was ready to take on managing my investments on my own. No need to pay the 1%+ every year. Vanguard willing to at least review my investments and allocations for free so feel confident for now that I do not need an adviser.

have been very fortunate to have a financial advisor who is fee only and not affiliated with investment companies. he has steered us right for over 20 years.

I started diligently saving early in life. I had some very good bosses and mentors who gave me good advice. At times my wife thought I was to "tight" but now, we both are in our early 70's, she thinks I was pretty smart.

Low cost mutual index funds

Maintain my lifestyle

Buy and hold

Claim SS as late as feasible

"Unless you need a financial adviser to help you get started in that routine, you probably don't need a financial adviser at all," John Bogle

Started investing in real estate at retirement. I wish I would have started earlier.

Debt free, income 72K Per year.

Biggest will be investment. Asset Allocation is most important as it alone is the biggest factor in investment return. Tax efficiency is also important. Low cost brokerage is important. Bogleheads is a good website. You guys are doing a outstanding service to people of all ages!

One of the most important things I did to build a successful portfolio and retire early was to become an educated consumer. I purchased a lifetime membership to AAII in my late 20's and have been a life long student of investing. This included reading numerous articles/books and subscribing to financial management subscriptions such as Money and Kiplinger Personal Finance magazines. This enabled me to act

Live well within available income (pension + SS) and don't touch the 401K

I was widowed at 56 and took a woman's money management course. Found a college professor there who not only helped me invest but helped me learn to invest. Since then I have quadrupled the money my husband left me through wise investment and also traveling and living full time in a motor home which I miss terribly. I am old now, living with my son and his wife near my other children and grandchildren bu

Start early in career. Never touch funds even when you think you need them.

Start early in career. Never touch funds even when you think you need them. #1 source 401K

Read a lot and be your own best advocate. Start early and do above 15% total contributions(yourself and employer) when you can.

Vast majority of our retirement income will be from the US Gov't 401k Plan (Thrift Savings Plan).

Pension

Hoping we avoid another meltdown like 2008. Being ever mindful of that experience.

Educate yourself, use a fiduciary advisor judiciously/sparingly.

Mostly index funds / ETFs. Diversify. Have 2+ years of expenses stashed so you can weather the inevitable market downturns. Good luck.

I have had the same financial advisor since 1986. He has managed an account that we put into and he has also managed my 401K thru my employment. He has also given me advise thru the years on staying calm during the 2008 mess and how to keep my money safe. The only thing I went against his advise on was when I bought into my work pension with years of service and what I had in my 401K. I felt more

Note I renumbered above. Could not drag.#1 would be savings/investments.

Both my wife and I are receiving pension income, social security, and annual distributions from 401K and IRAs. The 401K is invested in a balanced portfolio of stocks and bonds and adjusts monthly towards conservation of assets. We still have a small mortgage that we will pay off this year now that we are taking the standard deduction for tax purposes. We intend to sell our home in Northern Virginia and move to a

5 years prior to retirement date, your need to restructure your investment portfolio capital so it generates monthly /quarterly investment income so you don't have to rely only on a pension & Social security for a comfortable retirement.

I found an FA over a year before I retired. He was waiting in the wings for me. He and I talk often about how my money is to be handled, and I keep track of my earnings on a weekly basis. He knows more than I do, but I ask him questions and he usually responds in less than 24 hours. He is a legal fiduciary FA. I want him to know that I am watching, am involved, and active in my financial life. I studied retirement first

Started seriously working with financial advisor before the 2007 debacle, but stayed the course. She helped and guided us for a long time.

Had fun diversifying with agricultural investments outside US - will be getting income from cocoa, avocados and teak! These won't be life-changing returns, but are more fun than AT&T.

We put a lot of effort into monitoring expenses. This allows reasonable insight into where our money has gone, and how our recent relocation will likely change things. Yes, we are among those who left Illinois for Florida.

I educated myself on financial matters and I have had the same financial advisor for over 29 years. We laid out a financial plan and I stayed focus on it.

I'm on my third financial advisor and I'm not sure he's going to be the last. I retired earlier than I planned and therefore I only came close to meeting financial goals. My budget is working very well and I'm confident I will meet my long term needs. I'm having a lot of fun in retirement and could cut back some more if needed. My only worry is if I had an emergency that consumed a large portion of my funds.

I discovered that the key to success is how much you spend, not how much you have.

Our budget that we started about five years before I retired and maintain today has been the map to guide us. This has been extremely valuable.

My wife and I meet several times a year with our financial advisor. I will not answer your question on how much we have saved, but will state this: I have put our savings amount through many online retirement calculators which results in that we have more than met our goal to maintain our quality of life in our retirement years. In 2018 we our sources of income provided 355% of our income from when we both retir

We had a plan, worked the plan, and the plan has put us in a nice comfort zone for the remainder of our lives. One key part of our plan was to live within our means and not have excessive debt other than a mortgage and car payment. Another key part of our plan was to refuse being the bank for relatives because we don't believe in enabling poor choices. Once we could pay credit cards off in full each month, we c

We can do the things we like and still leave money to our children. Life is good!

My greatest retirement income worry is health insurance costs.

6 and 4

401K

Start saving as much as possible as early as possible. Invest for long-term and stay in the market through the corrections/down markets. Read "The Millionaire Next Door" and adopt the concepts.

We always paid ourselves first and lived within our means.

#1 is pensio

401K

Don't try to beat the market - buy and hold solid funds

Live below your means. Save, save, save!

Our most important source of income is pension, second are IRAs and third is Social Security.

401k, IRA, SS

There is always a risk that your portfolio could be reduced by factors beyond your control. A company pension can be altered or reduced. Social Security is on shaky ground and a 401k value is somewhat dependent on the economy.
It's important to develop a trusted relationship with your financial advisor.

6, 2, 4, 5, 3, 1

We recently transferred some mutual funds (that were invested in stocks & bonds) into CDs and money markets. Now that we are retired, we would rather get guaranteed lower returns than "ride the waves" and take a chance on an unpredictable stock market!

Couldn't drag but changed numbers manually. IRA/401(k) will be our largest source, pensions, SSA, and savings are our order.

I am a retirement advisor, so of course I manage my own money.

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I have been with Ameriprise for over 25 years. The bulk of my retirement investments started coming in 2013 through 2016. I have over \$600,000.00 invested in a combination of stocks 56%, bonds, cash and foreign markets 44%. I have had the same advisor for 20 years. Even after my divorce I retained the bulk of the above accounts. I hope to average 5 to 6% a year. Luckily I have averaged more than that some years. #1 source of income is pension.

No pension. Minimal social security income. Income from investments and savings is the primary source. Preservation of capital, income, and inflation protection are the main goals. Frugality and freedom are lifelong practices.

Ira/401k

IRA's

#1 source of income will be selling my business, #2 source will be real estate rental income, #3 dividends / withdrawals from Cash value whole life ins., #4 IRAs, #5 social security

We have had a goal of trying to replicate 70% to 73% of our pre-retirement (gross) salary during retirement. Using my pension, both of our Social Security incomes, savings and deferred compensation/IRAs, we will meet that goal at 72%. Another priority of ours was to be debt free, which we also worked hard to accomplish before we retired at the ages of 62 and 57. We will both take Social Security at FRA, and total if using a Financial Advisor, absolutely be sure they are a certified fiduciary, and fee only. Others are not necessarily keeping your best interests front and center.

Our most important source of income is pension, second are IRA's and third is Social Security.