## **RISK AND RETURNS**

HOW COULD IT AFFECT YOUR MONEY IN THE FUNDS?



If you are an active member of the Columbus Retirement Funds, you've most likely heard about risk versus returns. But are you 100% certain about how these two factors affect your money in the Funds?

When investors want to earn more money, they look carefully at *risk versus returns*. Let's define these two terms.

Risk

•This is the amount of 'chance' you are willing to take with your money when choosing a portfolio to invest in.

Returns

•This is the amount of money you'll get back from investing in a portfolio over a number of years.

It's important to note, that the higher the risk you take, the higher your chance of reward, but also disappointment.

Ideally, you want your money to grow as much as possible. However, as with almost everything else in life, you need to be willing to take some risk to reach certain goals.

4 Questions to ask yourself before making an investment decision:

How comfortable are you with investment risk?

How many dependants do you think you will have when you retire? Do you have other retirement savings or investments?

How many years do you have left to your planned retirement date?

Determine your personal risk profile here:



You don't need to make the decision on your own. If you invest in the default investment strategy, the Trustees of the Columbus Retirement Funds do the hard work for you.

The Trustees take a number of factors into account to determine how much risk you are able to handle. Your risk profile changes according to the following aspects:

Your current age

Your planned retirement age

Your income and expenses

Your dependents and uniques circumstances

Your amount of money already invested

Once your *risk profile* has been established, you are placed in an investment portfolio. As you grow older, your profile is constantly monitored and your money is shifted according to your age. That's why it's called the **Age-related Portfolio**.

The number one tip of all time is to start saving before life gets complicated. When children, property, and other things enter the picture, you might not feel too comfortable with risking your money.

Sticking to your personal *risk profile* is also very important. You should never make emotional decisions, based on a feeling that you might make more money in a different portfolio. Always speak to your financial advisor first.

**REMEMBER** that the Trustees of the Columbus Retirement Funds regularly meet with an investment consultant to ensure that appropriate investment options are available for most members.

Want to learn more?

Visit 'My Investments' on the Columbus Website.

## http://yourfund.co.za/columbus

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