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Lessons learned from the bust.



David R., age 56
Clearwater, Florida
Not retired
Married, three children

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Q In the 2000 market, I lost 60% of my investments, a lot of which were in stocks. **Q**

Highlights

- Changed his target retirement date after a significant loss.
- Transferring his money into safer investments as he nears retirement.

Tell us what worked for you

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David's Tips

- Pay down debt before retirement, if possible.
- Invest aggressively until you get close to retirement, then divest into safer plays.

What worked for you?

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We thank David for sharing what worked for him. His words have been edited. The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered an individualized recommendation or personalized investment advice. Examples provided are for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be predictive of future results.

After the last market crash, David course-corrected to get back on track.

“My original goal was to retire at 55. In the 2000 market, I lost 60% of my investments, a lot of which were in stocks. It was at that point that I figured I’d postpone retirement and spread out my investments.”

Risk-averse attitudes toward savings and retirement.

“Slowly, very slowly, I’m putting money into safer investments, and instead of selling them I’m looking at them for income. I have about one-third of my money in bonds. And I have another third that is still in mutual funds. I’m usually an aggressive investor, and right now I have a lot of money in cash.

“All my kids went to the University of Florida, which has a prepaid college program. I paid for my children’s school when they were 6, 3, and 1. They saw the value of graduating from college without debt.”

(0109-7518)

266 people found this helpful.

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