Selecting investments for your retirement plan account can be overwhelming. These T. Rowe Price general rules of thumb may help you assess your options.

The length of time you have before retirement—your investment “time horizon”—is an important consideration when selecting your asset allocation strategy, or the mix of stocks, bonds, and money market/stable value investments you select.

All of those investment vehicles are available in your plan, whether you choose to create your own portfolio or select a pre-assembled portfolio from T. Rowe Price, such as a target date fund or asset allocation fund.

If you’re thinking about your portfolio’s mix, consider that large-cap stocks (typically higher-risk investments) returned an average of 10% annually from 1926 to 2015 compared with 5.6% for government bonds, which are generally regarded as less risky than stocks, and 3.4% for U.S. Treasury bills, which is only slightly higher than inflation, at 2.9% (SOURCE: Ibbotson Associates).

Your goals, financial circumstances, and risk tolerance level may change as you go from entering the workforce to retirement and beyond.

**FINDING A BALANCE, DECADE BY DECADE:**

**Your 20s and 30s:** Now’s the time to start saving and investing through your workplace retirement plan. And the sooner you enroll and start saving the better. Here’s why: When you invest through the plan, any earnings are put right back into your account. The longer your money stays invested, the more it can potentially earn through compounding.

**LEARN MORE**

Log in to your account at rps.troweprice.com to review your options. In addition to stock, bond, and money market/stable value funds, your plan may also offer pre-assembled investment options based on your investment goals or a target retirement date.

Call 1-800-922-9945 to request a fact sheet, a prospectus, or, if available, a summary prospectus; each includes investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing.

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Because retirement is several decades away, consider a higher allocation to stocks. Your investments should have time to ride out any ups and downs in the market.

**Your 40s:** Even if you’re just getting started, you still have 20–25 years to build up your savings. So make the most of these years.

Historically, stocks provide better long-term growth potential when compared with bonds and money market/stable value investments.

**50s and over:** As retirement approaches, you may want to consider cutting down on stock allocations, which are more vulnerable to ups and downs in the market.

Before passing up too much growth potential though, remember inflation and the power it could have to erode your money. Consider keeping a portion of your portfolio in stocks to help stay ahead of inflation over the 20 to 30 years you may need your nest egg to last.

See the asset allocation models below.

**ASSET ALLOCATION CONSIDERATIONS BY DECADE**

*These allocations are age-based only and do not take risk tolerance into account.*

**Remember:** Once you’ve made your selections, check in periodically—at least once a year—to make sure your investment mix still matches up with your time horizon and goals. You can even sign up for a free automatic rebalancing service at rps.troweprice.com.

All investments involve risk, including possible loss of principal. Diversification cannot assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

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**Build a Fit Body for Your Goal**

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Stocks bonds money market/stable value

**Investing for Retirement**

Investing for a Specific Purchase

Investing for College

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