Start the new year with a clearer financial picture

Do you know where you stand today financially? Did you recently mark specific resolutions to attain certain investment goals in 1985?

Your chances of fulfilling those New Year's resolutions will be greatly enhanced if you take the time today to place your total financial picture into sharper focus.

Determine your personal net worth

A surprising number of people today are totally unaware of, or have never actually calculated, their net value.

Considering the simplicity of the mathematics involved (assets minus liabilities equals net worth), it is amazing that so many individuals disregard this most vital step toward developing a comprehensive investment program. After all, who can establish effective financial objectives without knowledge of their present situation?

You may be surprised to find that your net worth is greater than you think, when you consider accelerating property values, group insurance and other factors which have swollen many estates.

To arrive at your net worth, use the worksheet provided here to add up your assets, then subtract your liabilities from them. Once you have completed this review, you will have a clearer picture of where you stand, as well as what progress you have made and some direction for the future. It's fairly simple to update your net worth calculation each year as well.

When you know exactly where you are, you'll have a much better view of where you'd like to go. Calculating your net worth means taking that first step toward developing a plan to optimize returns on all your assets.

Credit: Kemper Extra Winter '85

Determining your net worth Assets Accrued pension benefits Household furnishings Cash on hand \$ Automobile(s) \$. Kemper Money Market Jewelry, antiques, Fund balance \$. art objects, boat \$ Other Mutual Funds Clothing and other (Market value) \$ personal property Stocks & bonds (current market value) \$ TOTAL: \$. Checking accounts \$ Savings accounts \$ Liabilities Certificates of Deposit \$ Estimated value of your home \$. Unpaid home mortgage Other real estate \$. Current bills (credit cards, Cash value of individual medical, other) personal life insurance \$. Installment debts (car, appliances, home Death benefits payable improvement, tuition, other) retirement plan or from Taxes due fraternal organizations \$ Other debts \$. IRA or Keogh funds \$. TOTAL: \$. Estimated deferred profit sharing benefits & Total assets -Vested company benefits \$. total liabilities Stock-purchase plan \$. = Net Worth Company savings plan \$.

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