You deserve the chance to prepare for the retirement you envision. We would argue that time is of the essence. There’s nothing wrong with starting early — in fact, it might give you a distinct advantage in the long run.

**DON’T DELAY**

While it’s never too late to start contributing to your retirement account, earlier is almost always better.

**Consider this scenario:** A 21-year-old contributes $130 per month for 44 years ($68,640) and earns an average of 6% investment growth annually. At 65, the account balance is $337,634.

Getting a later start, a 35-year-old contributes $130 per month for 30 years ($46,800) with the same 6% annual growth. At age 65, the account balance is $131,240.

**The 21-year-old contributed a modest $22,000 more and ends up with $206,394 in additional assets.**

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**TIPS FOR INVESTING SUCCESS**

**DON’T WORRY — THEY’RE PRETTY SIMPLE**

1. Start as early as possible
2. Increase your contributions regularly

Source: bankrate.com/calculators
THE 1% DIFFERENCE

Now let’s look at hypothetical twins who did almost everything the same. They worked at the same company, earned the same salary ($30,000 a year), and started contributing to the same retirement plan at age 35. The only difference? How they managed their contribution rates.

Monica contributed 2% of her pay each year, her salary rose 3% a year, and her investments earned 6% annually until retirement. Mary followed the same route, but raised her contribution rate by 1% each year until it reached 10%. Then she kept contributing 10% for the next 22 years, until retirement.

When the twins celebrated at age 65, they compared notes on their retirement accounts. Monica had a nest egg of $70,309, while Mary had $293,419 — nearly triple her sister’s total. Mary told Monica she hardly noticed the difference in her take-home pay when she raised her contribution percentage each year by 1%. But the result was impossible to overlook.

![Graph showing the difference between Monica and Mary's retirement accounts after 10, 15, and 20 years.](source:dinkytown.net)

When it comes to contributing to your retirement account, there’s no time like the present.

**Get going.** Enroll in your plan today. For more information on how to enroll, go to [Transamerica.com/portal/home]

**Keep going.** Consider raising your contribution rate by 1% a year.

These examples are hypothetical and do not represent the performance of any particular investment fund or product. Regular investing does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Initial tax savings on contributions and earnings are deferred until distribution.

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