

CHECKING YOUR FISCAL FITNESS



Checking Your Fiscal Fitness

Even in these often hectic times, you set aside valuable time to visit your dentist and doctor to maintain your physical health, but have you set aside the time to take care of your fiscal health? The first step toward maintaining financial "health" is to determine your net worth (value). Once you are aware of your assets (what you own) and liabilities (what you owe), you are then better equipped to devise your financial strategy in accordance with those strengths and weaknesses.

Liabilities can include such things as loans (for your car, home, college, etc.), credit card debts, and your utility bills. Assets can encompass your home, car, jewelry, antiques, stocks, and bonds. A general guideline is to maintain enough of your assets in cash to pay at least six months of bills. After that, asset allocation and net worth depend on your personal needs and situation. Availing yourself of your financial professional's knowledge can be a great help in setting up a more "healthy" fiscal regimen for your particular lifestyle.

DETERMINING YOUR NET WORTH

A GENERAL CHECKLIST FOR DIAGNOSING YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH FOLLOWS:



Assets:

Cash (both checking and savings account) ______ Home ______ Other real estate holdings ______ Life insurance cash value ______ Motor vehicles ______ Mutual funds ______ Securities (stocks and bonds) ______ Securities (stocks and bonds) ______ Receivables (loans made, rebates) ______ Retirement accounts ______ Pension lump-sum valueAntiques, art, jewelry ______ Other (stamp, coin, baseball card collection, household appliances) ______ Total ______ THE FIRST STEP TOWARD MAINTAINING FINANCIAL "HEALTH" IS TO DETERMINE YOUR NET WORTH.



Liabilities:

Home mortgage	
Home equity loan	
College (or other school) loans	
Automobile loans	
Installment loans	
Credit card debts	
Taxes payable	
Current bills (utilities)	
Other (rent, childcare)	
Total	
Net Worth:	
Total Assets	

Minus Total Liabilities -

=

New Worth

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