

THE ADVANCED CONNECTION

ISSUE #29

August 2022

Pg 2 Market Update

Pg 3 Stay on Track: 10 Tips for
Midyear Financial Planning

Pg 5 Protect Yourself from Fraud
and Scams

Pg 7 What's growing in your garden?

Pg 7 Office Closures



ADVANCED
WEALTH
MANAGEMENT

www.advwealth.com | 503-452-9300

PG 1

Market Update

Presented by Ted Haley

As I write this in early July, it is hard to believe that the first half of 2022 has already come and gone. And what a year it has been for financial assets. We have seen a plethora of bad performance and scary headlines. Things like “Worst start to the year for stock markets in 50 years!” “Inflation running higher than we have seen for 40 years!” “Bonds off to their worst start in 30 years!” Overall, it is not a pleasant time to be reading the business section of the newspapers.

And yet, even though those headlines might be factual, they do not tell the whole story, and they definitely don't contain any useful information for those of us looking to make the best possible decisions with our investment accounts. Despite performance not being what we might hope for, all investments serve as tools to build balanced and diversified portfolios, and all of our tools are doing what we expect from them.

Stock markets are down, but not nearly as much as we have seen in past moments of crisis, and the up and downs of the market are what allow

stocks to offer the best long-term growth potential. Bonds are down, but not to a degree that is concerning from a long-term perspective. Inflation is running high, and hurting our wallets at the gas pump and grocery store, but it is impossible at this stage to tell if inflationary pressures are easing or will be with us for a few more years.

Despite all the bad headlines out there, our advice is to keep your long-term goals in mind, filter out all the “noise” that can distract and lead to bad decisions, and use moments like this to look for opportunities or confirmation of your tolerance for fluctuation risk. We do not necessarily feel that this is a great time to be more aggressive, but it is a great time to check in and make sure that your investments are dialed in to our long-term targets. It is quite possible that performance will continue to go down from here, and we might not have seen the end of the turbulence, but in the end everything we are experiencing is normal and to be expected from time to time, and does not suggest to us that a change in our flight path is appropriate.

Commonwealth Financial Network, our business partner, is honored to announce that, for the ninth time, J.D. Power has ranked them #1 in its 2022 U.S. Independent Financial Advisor Satisfaction Study. <https://www.jdpower.com/business/press-releases/2022-us-financial-advisor-satisfaction-study>

Stay on Track: 10 Tips for Midyear Financial Planning

Presented by Bob Haley, Ted Haley, Traci Nelson & EJ Cortez

Although we all have the best intentions when we set financial goals each January, a lot can happen in 12 months to cause you to veer off course. Nobody wants to arrive at the end of the year and encounter a financial mess. One great way to keep yourself on a steady path to meeting your goals is to do a midyear check so you can make any necessary adjustments before things get out of hand. Use these 10 guidelines to ensure that your spending and investing are on track—and to avoid any surprises come December.

#1 Look over your budget

This is the most basic step you can take to keep yourself on a path to financial health. Look at your spending through the middle of the year and determine whether you are right where you want to be, you need to cut back, or you have extra funds to spend on holiday gifts. Dozens of budgeting tools are out there to assist you in tracking your budget. Many have a digital platform where you can connect your accounts and track expenses. This pulse check provides an easy way to steer yourself back if you've strayed from your budget. And, if you haven't set a budget, this could be a good time to at least compare income to expenses and see if adjustments are prudent.

#2 Reconsider your retirement contributions

Did you receive a raise during the first half of this year? If you're not maximizing your contributions to your 401(k), 403(b), IRA, or other retirement plan, and you have additional funds from your increased salary or bonus that allow you to

contribute more, it may be worth considering a bump in your retirement allocation.

#3 Assess tax withholdings

It's a good idea to check your tax withholdings midyear, especially if you have had major life events such as a job change or significant pay increases. The IRS has many tools that can assist in determining whether your tax withholdings are appropriate.

#4 Rebalance your investment portfolio

The volatility at the beginning of 2022 may have caused your investments to drift away from your strategy. This is a great time to look at your retirement plans and taxable accounts, and to talk with us about rebalancing your portfolios to better align with your goals.

#5 Adjust insurance policies, if necessary

Have you had changes in your life that would warrant additional insurance? If you haven't



gotten around to adding insurance or increasing existing policies to account for marriage, having children, starting a business, buying a house, inflation, or other life events, use this midyear check to reevaluate your insurance needs.

#6 Take stock of employee benefits

Be sure that you know when open enrollment for benefits occurs at your company and determine whether you need to make changes to your plans. This is also a good time to check on your FSA and HSA funds, submit receipts, and plan for how to use the remaining balance so you don't lose that money.

#7 Review your credit report

You're legally entitled to a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three national credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). Take advantage of that opportunity to check for fraud or mistakes so you can remedy any issues as quickly as possible.

#8 Check your emergency fund

Unexpected expenses do come up, and it's prudent to have an emergency fund on standby to meet them. Without this money tucked away, you may have to take cash meant for other expenses or goals, or even accrue credit card debt to pay for expenses. Most experts agree that you should have three to six months of expenses in an emergency fund. Midyear is a great time to take stock of whether you've sufficiently saved for

unexpected costs. If you're running a surplus on your budget, it makes good financial sense to use this surplus to ensure that your emergency fund is in good shape.

#9 Be sure that your estate documents reflect your wishes

You likely won't need to revise your will, trust, living will, or other estate documents, but it's a good idea to review them annually and make sure that they still align with your desires. If you've experienced major life events such as marriage, divorce, or birth of a child, you may want to speak with an estate planning attorney to ensure that your documents are in good order and meet your current needs.

#10 Set financial goals for the rest of the year

Take stock of where you started and where you are midway through the year. Six months is plenty of time for situations to change and goals to shift. If nothing has changed, ensure that you are staying on track with your initial objectives. If major changes have happened in your life, you may want to reassess your financial goals for the remainder of the year.

If it has been a while since we have talked, or you would like to discuss any of these items, give our office a call to schedule an appointment at (503)452-9300, or you can use our [online scheduling link here!](#)

Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams

Our team recently attended a seminar on financial scams and fraud prevention, and the frequency and scale of financial fraud in our country is eye-opening. According to the Federal Trade Commission consumers reported \$5.8 billion to fraud in 2021. Furthermore, consumers reported \$7 billion in cybercrime to the FBI in 2021. In order to protect yourself and your family, we would like to share with you some of the key points and tips we learned.

Protecting Yourself from Common Scams

If you are ever concerned by a call or message that you receive, follow up by contacting the named entity directly to confirm what is presented to you.

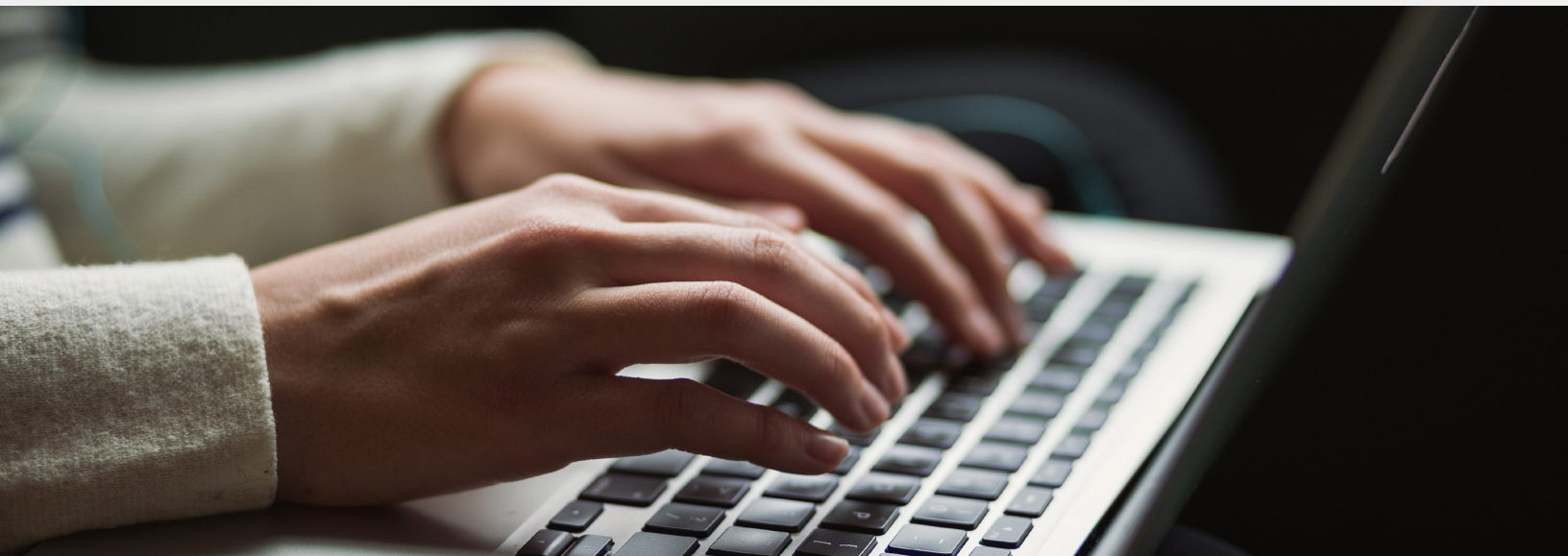
The government and businesses in general do not contact individuals out of the blue about an urgent problem.

If you are contacted to make any payment that you are not expecting, especially from an

untrusted contact, contact the entity that is named to confirm before proceeding.

Do not pay an up-front fee to collect any offers, services or prizes that you have not solicited.

Do not respond to any unsolicited, often brief or urgent message where you are asked to do a favor, make a purchase, transfer money or run an errand to settle an issue.



Helpful Tips to Protect Yourself from Identity Theft or Identity Fraud

Use a password manager to protect your personal information for all of accounts.

Regularly monitor accounts by setting up online access.

Upon opening a new account, it is advised to create a login yourself before anyone has the chance to do so on your behalf.

What Should You Do if Your Identity Is Compromised?

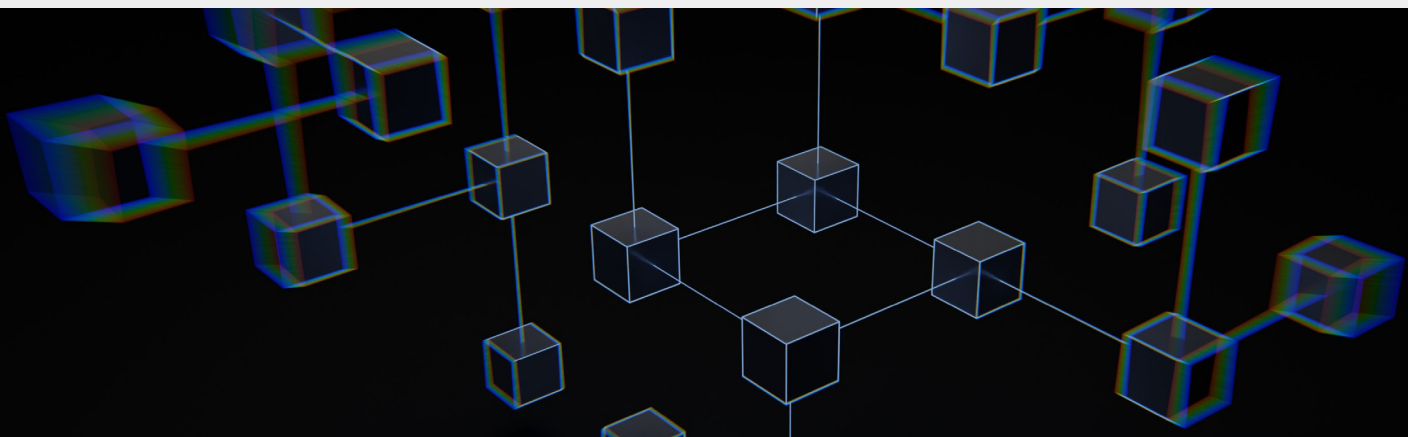
Start by freezing your credit with all three credit bureaus until the matter is resolved.

Share updates of what is happening with each of the entities you have accounts with to stay ahead of potential breaches.

Share what is happening with family or trusted contacts so they can assist you.

In order to get the matter resolved, visit www.identitytheft.gov for more information.

Whether you are trying to protect yourself or have a loved one who has been a victim of these crimes, it is important to acknowledge the crime and the sophistication of those responsible. It's important to be aware of how to protect ourselves and how to support our loved ones who may need assistance. If we respond to victims with empathy and concern, and assist victims to report any of these incidences as we are aware of them, we can help in the fight against these crimes. If you or those you know are interested in learning more, or experience any of these issues in the future, the AARP's Fraud Watch Network serves as a resource that is available to you free of charge. You can reach out to the helpline at Fraud Watch Network at (877) 908-3360.



What's growing in your garden?

Many of us at Advanced Wealth Management are spending time tending to our gardens this summer. We hope you enjoy the pictures of what we are growing and encourage you to send us pictures of yours as well! Local food pantries and food banks often welcome donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from home gardens. If you find you have a surplus, consider donating to an organization near you!



Office Closures

Labor Day
September 5th

Christmas (observed)
December 26th

Thanksgiving
November 24th - 25th

New Year's Day (observed)
January 2nd

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

10220 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97223

