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Third-Quarter 2018 Funds Performance

By MICHAEL SHERIDAN • Senior Consultant

Overall, stock investments this year have done surprisingly well as the US economy continues to dominate global activity. A very recent article in the Wall Street Journal documented the degree of this domination and points out the difficulties being experienced in many parts of the world, especially Europe. The tariff disputes, initiated by the US, seem to have had, at least at this point in time, only a small impact on the US economy, but are affecting other countries in significantly negative ways. China is having a difficult year with its domestic stock market, while the US seems to be on a solid track to decent returns again.

Even though the decline is small and less volatile, bond markets continue to show negative returns. As the Federal Reserve continues its policy of increasing interest rates to more traditionally normal levels, the value of existing bonds slowly declines, particularly for longer term maturity bonds. Your plan's policy on bond funds emphasizes safety, and we monitor our fund's continuing commitment to only holding high-rated bonds and not chasing returns with riskier, but temporarily higher-yielding bonds.

The European economic difficulties have eroded the value of your plan's International fund, American; Europacific this year and it is down almost 3% in value. This is a well-managed fund, but we realize that it reflects global realities.

As has been the case for most of the year, the stock funds have been driven by the large cap, so called, FAANG stocks. Our top performing fund for the year is T. Rowe Price; Blue Chip which is up 18.7%. Apple and Microsoft are dominating the S&P 500 gains, and they are both solid, profitable companies. Small caps have been doing well this year, even though our two funds slipped in value in September. They both have over 10% gains for the year and are outperforming the S&P Index. For reasons that I do not grasp, the two mid-caps are lagging behind the large and small caps gains, but still show decent growth. A closer watch will ensue for the balance of this year.

The three balanced funds are showing mediocre gains for the year and are dragged down by their bond holdings. We offer

these funds as a safe and "balanced" means of preserving your retirement plan's assets, but I am not comfortable about the degree of underperformance this year.

The Target fund's year-to-date performance is to be understood in the context of negative bond performance, but still remains a valid place to invest your retirement funds and not have to constantly rebalance them as you get closer to retirement.

As described above, our bond funds are losers for this year, at least to this date. I thought that there would be much greater demand for bonds, especially shorter maturity dated bonds, as stocks became increasingly volatile during the year. I was wrong, and although they are safe havens for your plan's funds, their underperformance this year is offsetting most of the higher interest rates you are being credited as interest rates rise and new bonds are purchased by the fund managers.

The money market fund has increased 1.2% in value, and as much as I cannot recommend it as an investment, it may be a place to "park" money if you can't abide with the plan's bond funds showing negative returns. I never thought I would make that recommendation but I can't stand the thought of losing money in "safe investments." I don't mind being slightly negative in these investments if it is for a very short time and we are protecting base assets. However, this has been going on for most of this year. If you decide to take profits from some of your stock funds (buy low and sell high), while the stock indexes are at all-time highs, you might want to consider "parking" the proceeds in the money market fund until the investment cycle returns to more normal patterns, and you can reinvest in funds that meet your investment risk profile.

With the entire world's uncertainty right now, and the US economy booming, but much of the rest of the globe in some degree of decline, taking profits and waiting it out might make sense. You might miss some gain opportunities, but protecting retirement assets is what a Vista 401(k) Plan should have as a core value. Whatever you decide, make sure you diversify your holdings as well as what you choose to sell.



What is a Target-Date Retirement Fund?

By **ROBERT PUMPHREY** • Retirement Plan Specialist

A TARGET-DATE RETIREMENT FUND (TDF) is a package of mutual funds designed to provide a simple investment solution through a portfolio with an asset allocation mix which becomes more conservative as the target date (*age 62 for these funds*) approaches. Choosing the right investment is rarely easy, but for many investors, these funds can eliminate the guesswork in choosing the right investment strategy within your 401(k) or another qualified retirement plan. A TDF can offer one-stop shopping and a set-it-and-forget-it investing solution, which many investors may prefer. Simply stated, a TDF offers investors a professionally managed asset allocation strategy that takes into consideration risk tolerance over a predetermined time.

A TDF is based on the simple premise that the younger the investor, the longer the time horizon the investor has before retirement. Therefore, a young investor's portfolio, for example, may contain mostly equities (stocks). In contrast, an older investor may hold a more conservative portfolio, with fewer equities and more fixed-income investments (bonds). Let's take a closer look at the asset allocation for three of the American Funds: 2050 TDF, 2035 TDF and 2020 TDF.

- **2050 TDF (RHITX – ticker symbol)** is tailored for a younger investor in their 20s to 30s and with the asset allocation of 45% in growth and income funds, 40% in growth funds, 10% in equity-income funds and 5% in bond funds.
- **2035 TDF (RHFTX)** would benefit an investor in their 40s with an allocation of 35% in growth and income funds, 37% in growth funds, 20% in equity-income funds, and 8% in bond funds.
- Lastly, for a more mature investor in their late 50s and early 60s, **2020 TDF (RHCTX)** has an asset allocation of 25% in Growth and Income funds, 9% in Growth funds, 24% in equity-income funds, and 42% in bond funds.

Generally, there are two types of glide paths in TDFs. A glide path is the adjustment to the asset allocations of the portfolio. Some go up to the target date, when the fund typically stop adjusting the portfolio allocation, and those that go through the target date, with asset allocations that continue to change. The American Funds TDRF Series in the Vista 401(k) Plan has a “through” glide path out 30 years beyond the target date keeping some equities in the fund so you will continue to have growth throughout you retirement years.

In closing, target-date retirement funds play vital role in retirement plans as they serve as the qualified default investment in most defined-contribution retirement plans, such as your Vista 401(k) Plan.



The Savvy Saver's Secret Garden

By SARAH VITO • Retirement Plan Representative

What if I told you that you could enjoy the exclusive benefits of a \$2,500 product, for as little as \$25?

Congratulations! This opportunity is yours, and it is better than renting a luxury villa or trying a free trial at a trendy gym. Your employer-sponsored 401(k) plan is designed to give you access to world-class investment products from day one. Saving with your 401(k) gives you premier access to not one, but multiple mutual funds – at any budget. This unique feature sets employer plans apart from the rest.

Now for the best part, you actually get to keep all of it — no catch, no limits or expiration.

As your money grows, the gains and dividends reinvest back into the fund. These reinvestments are added to your original contribution, and together they compound to maximize your overall savings over time! Employer plans are special in this way; unlike brokerage retirement accounts, such as Roth or Traditional IRA's, which require each mutual fund be bought at its minimum price tag of often \$2,500. This means a person just starting their retirement savings journey contributing \$100 a month must wait more than two years before investing in one mutual fund, missing out on all those critical compounding gains and dividends along the way.

To put this concept in perspective, let's paint a picture in our minds together. Imagine that opening any type of retirement account bestows an empty garden plot to the new account owner. It is the responsibility of the account owner, or gardener, to stock, tend, and grow a healthy garden to provide nourishment and beauty to enjoy in their retirement. Each decorative flower, fragrant herb truss, and shady fruit tree play an essential role in curating a diverse and sustainable garden, just as the many types of investments do in a retirement account. Yet, for many novice gardeners, transforming an empty plot into a paradise can seem daunting. Especially if it can take years to save up for a single tree, which can be the reality for many IRA "gardeners."

But this is no ordinary plot, but a 401(k) "nursery." As a plot owner of your employer-sponsored nursery, you can start investing in many different trees from day one. All you need is a small deposit of \$25 a paycheck, and you can choose from a sundry of seeds and propagated leaves from some of the most fruitful trees and decadent flowers in the world. The sooner you start sowing the seeds of your future, the sooner you can enjoy the succulent fruits.

Saving for retirement is NOT a luxury, and it certainly does not require excess! Much of the information surrounding retirement savings is misleading; even one of our esteemed founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, famously penned a "penny saved is a penny earned." This notion is grossly misleading and underestimates of the plentiful benefits of saving (unless you are stuffing dollars in your couch cushions). Perhaps this philosophy is a reflection of Franklin's time. Luckily, saving and growing your money for retirement in 2018 is easy, especially with a 401(k) plan. Nonetheless, it is no surprise that many hard-working Americans believe they cannot prioritize saving for retirement. At Vista 401(k), we believe saving for your retirement should be simple. When searching for the best solutions, we go back to the basics and get a little advice from Mom, "Eat your greens now and savor the sweetness later." Give it a try—the proof is in the pudding.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SARAH VITO is delighted to join the FBMC team as a Retirement Plan Representative, assisting you with valuable 401(k) plan information, maintenance, and problem resolution. Originally hailing from the greater New York area, Sarah flew the nest to the Midwest to receive her BAS from Miami University (Ohio). She proceeded further west to Denver, Colorado, where she pursued a career in finance at Fidelity Investments as a full trader. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys translating poetry, watercolor painting, and relishing the glory of the outdoors with her friends and family.



Vista 401(k) Plan as a Retirement Savings Tool

By TONI MILTON • Sr. Retirement Plan Specialist

Welcome back! The summer was time for rest, relaxation, and hopefully a bit of fun for everyone. Whether you're new to the school district or have been there for 20 years, it is both necessary and wise to supplement your pension as you near retirement. A retirement savings cushion offers you the opportunity to retire early or it may provide you the resources to do what you want when you retire.

Unfortunately, many of today's workers pass on the opportunity to save for retirement early in their careers. We can't stress enough how important it is to commit to start saving for retirement as early as possible. Saving money is probably the most essential part of planning for retirement. Did you know your employer offers you the opportunity to contribute to a 401(k) plan? We encourage you to take advantage of this employer-sponsored plan.

The Vista 401(k) Plan is a flexible benefit option offered to all eligible School Board employees. Starting or continuing a contribution to the Vista 401(k) Plan is vital to help you meet your retirement goals. Not only is your contribution taxed deferred, but your gross income is being reduced by the amount you are putting into the plan, which means you are reducing your federal income taxes. With the 401(k) plan, you have immediate tax saving and any interest, dividends, and capital gains all grow untaxed while in the plan.

The Vista 401(k) plan offers a variety of attractive features that make investing for the future easier and potentially profitable. The plan is very simple to use. The Vista 401(k) website lets you bypass the middleman and costs associated with other retirement plans. The website allows you to make contribution changes, investment changes, download your statement, track your account performance, and much more. The minimum contribution amount is only \$25 per pay period, which is done through payroll deduction. The plan is easy. You may [enroll online at vista401k.com](https://vista401k.com)

and browse the site to find information and tools to help you understand your investment choices and empower you to take control of your retirement planning. Once enrolled as a participant, you can invest in one of three ways:

- **Select funds based on Target Retirement Date**
These are packages of funds that are actively managed and automatically adjusted during your employment years, as your projected retirement date approaches.
- **Select funds based on your Risk Category**
These are model packages of funds suitable for how you rate your personal tolerance for taking risks in order to have a potential for greater returns.
- **Select your own funds from a select group of funds**
Choose any fund or funds in the plan you wish to include in your portfolio.

The plan also allows you to rollover your old retirement accounts that you might have with other companies. For example, if you have accounts from a prior employer or, an IRA, 403(b), or even 457 accounts, they all can be rolled into the Vista 401(k) Plan. The plan is less expensive than most retirement plans and has money-saving advantages, such as no surrender charges, no front-end charges, and no fees, or restrictions on transferring plan assets. Although the Vista 401(k) plan representatives do not give investment advice, they can provide you with sufficient information needed to make an informed decision on the different types of investments offered by the plan. Retirement is the period in your career that you anxiously anticipate. It may be decades away or just around the corner, but you can reach your retirement saving goals by utilizing and maximizing the retirement saving tools that are made available to you by your employer. *We encourage you to contribute to your future financial security through Vista 401(k)!*



The DROP Box

Are you enrolled in DROP and close to retiring?

Do you have questions about what to do with your DROP benefits?

Would you like to speak with a 401(k) Plan Specialist about your distribution options?

CALL 866-325-1278 or EMAIL 401k@vista401k.com

When you retire, you don't have the option of leaving your DROP benefits with the State of Florida. You are required to select a payout method from the following three choices:

- Lump Sum Distribution – less income tax withholding (under age 55, an additional 10% tax penalty withheld)
- Direct Rollover – no tax withholding
- Partial Distribution and Direct Rollover – some income tax withholding

Here are some good reasons to rollover the DROP payout into a Vista 401(k) account:

- If you take the DROP funds as a payment directly to yourself, these funds will be taxable income for the current tax year.

- If you qualify for normal retirement from the School Board and reach the age of 55, you qualify to withdraw your funds without incurring the age 59½ withdrawal penalty from your 401(k) Plan. This means that if you choose to rollover your DROP funds to your Vista 401(k) Account, instead of a traditional IRA, you can withdraw funds before age 59½, without a penalty.

If you entered DROP in 2013, your DROP benefit will be distributed in 2018.

We also accept rollovers from your BENCOR, 403(b) or 457 accounts, so you can have all of your retirement funds in one convenient account. Call us at 866-325-1278 or email us at: 401k@vista401k.com for one-on-one support from our experienced Retirement Services Team.



Carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the underlying fund before you invest. This and other important information is contained in the prospectus, which should be read carefully before investing. You can request underlying fund prospectuses from the Vista 401(k) website at www.vista401k.com or call us at 866-325-1278.

PERFORMANCE CHART

Fund Company	Fund	Ticker	Morningstar Category	Current Fund Operating Expense	September 2018	YTD	Average Annual Performance		
							1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
TOTAL RETURNS (%) as of 09/30/2018; 1, 3, and 5 year returns are annualized.									
International									
American Funds	EuroPacific	RREX	Foreign Lg Growth	0.83%	-0.6%	-2.9%	1.1%	9.5%	5.8%
Small Cap Stock									
Vanguard	Small Cap Index	VSMAX	Small Blend	0.05%	-1.5%	11.0%	16.7%	16.3%	11.5%
T.Rowe Price	Small-Cap Stock	OTCFX	Small Growth	0.89%	-1.7%	15.5%	19.4%	18.2%	12.1%
Mid Cap Stock									
Fidelity	Growth Strategies	FDEGX	Mid Cap Growth	0.78%	-0.5%	9.0%	16.3%	12.4%	11.9%
Vanguard	Mid Cap Index	VIMAX	Mid Cap Blend	0.05%	-0.5%	7.4%	13.4%	13.8%	11.7%
Large Cap Stock									
American Funds	Investment Co. of America	RICEX	Large Blend	0.65%	1.4%	6.8%	13.4%	15.7%	12.3%
T.Rowe Price	Blue Chip Growth	PABGX	Large Growth	0.97%	0.3%	18.7%	26.9%	21.4%	17.3%
T.Rowe Price	Dividend Growth	TADGX	Large Blend	0.91%	0.8%	8.7%	15.0%	15.6%	12.5%
Vanguard	Institutional Index	VINIX	Large Blend	0.04%	0.6%	10.5%	17.9%	17.3%	13.9%
Balanced									
Vanguard	Balanced Index	VBAIX	50% to 70% Equity	0.06%	-0.1%	5.7%	9.9%	10.6%	8.9%
Vanguard	Wellesley Admiral	VWIAX	30% to 50% Equity	0.15%	-0.2%	0.2%	3.4%	7.0%	6.3%
Vanguard	Wellington Admiral	VWENX	50% to 70% Equity	0.17%	0.3%	3.6%	8.3%	11.2%	9.1%
Mixed Asset Target Date									
American Funds	2010 Target Date	RHATX	Tgt Date 2000-2010	0.47%	0.1%	1.2%	3.4%	7.0%	5.7%
American Funds	2015 Target Date	RHBTX	Tgt Date 2015	0.47%	0.1%	1.5%	3.9%	7.5%	6.2%
American Funds	2020 Target Date	RHCTX	Tgt Date 2020	0.48%	0.2%	2.2%	5.1%	8.3%	6.9%
American Funds	2025 Target Date	RHDTX	Tgt Date 2025	0.50%	0.2%	3.0%	6.5%	9.7%	7.8%
American Funds	2030 Target Date	RHETX	Tgt Date 2030	0.52%	0.2%	3.9%	8.1%	11.4%	8.9%
American Funds	2035 Target Date	RHFTX	Tgt Date 2035	0.54%	0.3%	5.0%	9.9%	12.9%	9.7%
American Funds	2040 Target Date	RHGTX	Tgt Date 2040	0.55%	0.3%	5.4%	10.6%	13.4%	10.0%
American Funds	2045 Target Date	RHHTX	Tgt Date 2045	0.55%	0.3%	5.6%	11.0%	13.7%	10.2%
American Funds	2050 Target Date	RHITX	Tgt Date 2050	0.55%	0.3%	5.8%	11.2%	13.9%	10.3%
Bond									
American Century	Government Bond	CPTNX	Intermediate Govmt	0.47%	-0.8%	-1.5%	-1.4%	0.3%	1.2%
American Century	Inflation-Adjusted Bond	ACITX	Inflation Protected	0.47%	-0.8%	-1.3%	-0.1%	1.9%	0.9%
Fidelity Advisor	Total Bond	FEPIX	Intermediate Term	0.50%	-0.3%	-1.2%	-0.7%	2.6%	2.8%
Cash/Money Market									
Vanguard	Federal Money Market	VMFXX	Money Market	0.11%	0.2%	1.2%	1.5%	0.8%	0.5%
Broad Base Benchmarks									
S & P 500 TR USD					0.6%	10.5%	17.9%	17.3%	13.9%
Barclays US Aggregate Bond					-0.8%	-1.5%	-1.4%	0.3%	1.2%

Sources: www.morningstar.com website as of 10/01/2018 and direct reports from the Fund Companies.

There are no sales (front-end load), transfer or surrender charges for any of the Vista 401(k) funds. If the fund normally charges such a fee to the public, they have been waived to Vista 401(k) participants.

The current Fund Operating Expense, is comprised of Management fees, Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) fees and Other expenses. The fees shown in this column are expressed as a percentage of assets on an annual basis, i.e. 0.85% of assets.

For further information, refer to the www.vista401k.com website. You may also call the Vista 401(k) Plan toll free at 866-325-1278 to speak to a Retirement Services Team representative.

Important Links

Fund Performance

[CLICK HERE](#)

To view Vista 401(k)
Fund Performance
for **September 2018**

Risk Tolerance Assessment

[VISIT THIS LINK](#)

To take an Investment
Risk Assessment for
your 401(k) Account

Confirmed your beneficiary?

[COMPLETE THIS FORM](#)

To confirm or update the
beneficiary information on
your Vista 401(k) Account

Increase your contributions

[COMPLETE THIS FORM](#)

To increase contributions
to your 401(k) Account

Have Questions?

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To see answers to the most
frequently asked questions



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retirement today
through the
Vista 401(k) Plan**

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