

Take Charge of Your Financial Destiny

Financial Planning. Mortgage Management. Asset Protection

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Are You Ready To Invest?

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Amidst the recent uncertainty and turmoil of the global financial markets, many investors have been left wondering if this is still a good time to look for investment opportunities. As with everything in life, there are two sides to the same story.

On the one hand, the economic turmoil could be taken as a clear sign to rush out and away from the market. On the other hand, an economic turmoil can be a signal for long-term investors to slowly work their way into the market, following the belief that crises are often opportunities in disguise.

What most people forget, however, is to ask whether they are even in a position to invest. The basic questions: "Are you financially ready to invest?", "How do you determine if you are financially ready to invest?" and "What have you done so far to gauge your financial readiness?" are



furthest from their minds.

How To Determine If You Are Financially Ready

Determining your financial readiness is not merely estimating how much you have in your bank account. There are 3 barometers of financial health that you will have to check yourself against: Personal Income and Expenses Statement, Personal Net Worth Statement and Financial Ratios. Only when you systematically review your finances will you be aware of your readiness to invest in the future. Let us go through the 3 barometers so that you will be more aware of what they are and how they can give you an idea of where you are financially.

Alfred Chia

Alfred Chia
190 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh
#02-510
Singapore 310190

E-MAIL:
askalfredchia@gmail.com

We're on the
Web!
Visit us at:
www.alfredchia.
com

Establishing Your Current Financial Standing

Firstly, you should be able to keep a good track of the money entering and leaving your wallet. You can achieve this through a personal income and expenses statement, a tabulation of your monthly income and expenses. Someone who is financially sound will have greater money inflow than outflow.

The next step in determining your financial readiness is to identify your assets and liabilities and compile them in a Personal Net Worth Statement. This statement shows you whether you are a positive net worth individual with many assets or whether you are a negative net worth individual, one who is bogged down by the many liabilities of life.

Finally, to really gauge whether you are financially ready, you must understand important financial ratios that will aid you in seeing the bigger picture of your financial health.

Learn And Grow Rich

If the three different barometers of financial health above sound unfamiliar to you, fret not. Knowing how financially ready you are to invest can be a breeze if you have the right knowledge.

In my next few articles in this series, I will share more about the different barometers of financial health, and how you can arrange your finances to invest in an investment vehicle which best suits your investment profile.

To further value-add to our readers, SingCapital – an MAS-licensed financial advisory firm – would like to kick-start your investment journey by offering you free worksheets for download. Readers will – for a limited time period – be able to download financial worksheets that give you a snapshot of your current financial health, for free! Do visit www.singcapital.com.sg to find out more. ■

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