

Make the most of your money this summer

As the summer holiday season unfolds, many of us are finding ourselves at home for the holidays this year. This extra time at home might be a great time to take a closer look at your finances.

With life still looking a little different, things can seem a bit more chaotic than usual. Getting productive on the financial front may be one way you can feel more organised.



1. **Make the most of the Financial year** – April has quickly been and gone, but don't forget you have a new allowance for your Individual Savings Account (ISA). This year - 2020/21 - the allowance is £20,000 for a Stocks and Shares ISA, and £9,000 for a Junior ISA.

It's not too late to make the most of your ISA allowance.

2. **Identify your 'good spending' and 'bad spending'** – It is easy to spend small amounts without thinking but those small purchases can add up. Have a look at your discretionary purchases to see how much you really spend each month on small things.

Think about your grocery shopping too. Do you plan and buy just what you need, or do you shop more spontaneously? Putting together a meal plan might help you save both time and money and could also help reduce your food waste.

Before tapping your card or clicking 'Buy', ask yourself - 'Do I need this, or do I just want this?'

3. Complete some important pension

admin – Getting on top of your ‘life admin’ could mean many things and one of them should include reviewing your pension. Making sure your details are up to date is important.

Make sure that your contact details are up to date and that you have an active email address. You may need to include a personal email address as well as your work email address so that you can be easily contacted. Particularly if you are on furlough or don’t have access to your usual work resources.

Protect your pension by making sure your provider knows who you’d like your pension paid to should the worst happen. This is called nominating a beneficiary and can be done by completing an Expression of Wish form. You can nominate one person, or divide it between family, friends and charities. Log into PlanViewer.co.uk to access your details or ask your employer where to find this form.

4. Understand your pension allowances – In

April, there were changes made to pension allowances. The annual allowance, that’s the maximum you can save into a pension in one year, remains the same at £40,000. The lifetime allowance has increased slightly to just over £1.073m.

The biggest change has been to something called the tapered annual allowance. This affects high-earners - prior to April 6, those that earned over £110,000 could have had their annual allowance reduced, potentially down to £10,000. The government has now increased the amount you can earn before the tapered annual allowance affects you. From 6 April 2020, it can come into play when earnings cross the threshold of £200,000. And when it does, the revised tapered annual allowance could reduce your annual allowance down to £4,000.

Check [fidelitypensions.co.uk](https://www.fidelitypensions.co.uk) for expert insight and guidance.

The year to date has been an extraordinary time for most of us. But there’s plenty of simple tasks that you can complete to get yourself financially fitter over summer.

This information is not a personal recommendation for any particular investment. If you are unsure about the suitability of an investment you should speak to an authorised financial adviser. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount invested. The ideas and conclusions here do not necessarily reflect the views of Fidelity’s portfolio managers and are for general interest only.

© FIL Limited UKM/0720/31162/SSO/1020

