



*"From Where I Sit ..."*

## **Retirement Plan Tops \$36 Million!**

Congratulations are in order! Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, the CME Retirement Plan surpassed another major milestone having attained **\$36,008,283** in total assets during the month of June. This achievement represents a **91%** increase, nearly doubling the \$18,838,977 of total assets reported for December 2002.

What is even more significant is the realization that this growth occurred with fewer active participants in the CME Retirement Plan in 2021 (1,085 compared to 1,277 in 2002), a decline of 15%.

Some might ask, "How did this happen? What sparked the growth?" The answer comes in several parts. 1) Despite the challenges of the Pandemic, the investment markets have performed quite well due to governmental led stimulus infusions into the economy, 2) The Plan has continued with a conservative investment allocation of 60% equities and 40% fixed income even when investment markets experienced downturns, and 3) The Plan has exercised a specific focus on maximizing returns "within" detailed subcategories inside respective allocations.



Some might also remember the sobering effects of the stock market crash of 2000 that led to the establishment of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 which was legislated to help protect shareholders, employees and the public from accounting errors and fraudulent financial practices. Despite the crash of 2000 and the subsequent market crash of 2008 and its long-term implications for the nation in areas of banking, real estate, home building, refinancing, mortgages, etc., this Plan has still rebounded in an astonishing way leading to these all-time highs of total assets.

Of course, the question on the mind of all participants at the writing of this article is, "What were the returns as of June 30, 2021?" The Plan posted the following returns: **Active Participants 10.59%, Safe Harbor 1.30%, and Pre-Enrollees 1.47%**.

So, will there be a decline in the investment markets of the near future? Perhaps, but no one can know exactly when! But the guiding thought among most investors is that over the long term the market always rises or, to repeat 2016 quote attributed to Warren Buffet, "*In America, gains from winning investments have always far more than offset the losses from [losing investments].*" The results reported in this article over the past 19 years seem to so indicate. **Or at least that's the way it looks to me...**

*"From Where I Sit"*

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