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[i](#) INFORMATION

DALBAR WEBMONITOR RESULTS

Transamerica's Websites Ranked #1

Each quarter, Transamerica's sponsor and participant websites are evaluated and ranked against more than 40 other providers by DALBAR, Inc, one of the financial community's leading independent experts for evaluating, auditing and rating business practices, customer performance, product quality and service.



We are very pleased to announce that Transamerica's sponsor and participant websites were both ranked #1 against the competition. You can read more about the DALBAR rankings [here](#).

We appreciate your feedback as we continue to strive to find ways to improve our websites, and provide you and your participants with the most outstanding website services.

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INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

Federal Reserve Actions Help the Rally to Continue



In this [weekly investment commentary by BlackRock](#), their experts examine the U.S. Federal Reserve's recent announcement of quantitative easing. BlackRock asserts that although it was expected, "the aggressiveness of the plan and its open-ended commitment came as a positive surprise to observers." The announcement was followed by an immediate jump in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 Index, and the Nasdaq Composite.

BlackRock cautions that investors should look for improvements in economic growth statistics, and continued policy support from the European Central Bank as positive signs that the equity markets will continue their positive performance.

INVESTOR EDUCATION

Put time on your side: Tap the power of stocks

The professionals at Legg Mason give us [this timely reminder](#) that although stocks are more volatile than cash or bonds over the long-term, they have historically provided the best chance for portfolio growth.

Transamerica Retirement Services does not provide investment advice. BlackRock and Legg Mason provide investment management services for some of the investment choices offered in Transamerica's retirement plans. BlackRock and Legg Mason are not affiliated with Transamerica.

Transamerica provides you with informative articles from our investment partners to help you in your participant education efforts.

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LEGISLATIVE/COMPLIANCE

The Next Phase of Fee Disclosure - Your Ongoing Responsibilities



As of August 30, 2012 all employees, former employees, plan beneficiaries and alternate payees who have the right to direct investments in your retirement plan ("Covered Employees") should have received the *2012 Disclosure and Comparative Chart for Retirement Plan Participants* ("Disclosure") that you recently received from Transamerica. Now that your initial participant fee disclosure responsibility has been met, your primary responsibility as the plan sponsor will be to ensure that Covered Employees receive required Disclosures annually and that newly Covered Employees throughout the year are provided the Disclosure on or before the date that they can first direct investments in the plan.

A good way to ensure that newly Covered Employees receive the Disclosure may

Transamerica strives to provide you with all the information you need to perform your fiduciary duties.

be to include the annual Disclosure in the materials that all new hires receive. Keep in mind that newly Covered Employees such as beneficiaries and alternate payees must also be provided with the initial Disclosure.

Following is a brief recap of your ongoing participant fee disclosure responsibilities:

- Provide all Covered Employees with the annual Disclosure. Each year in the July/August timeframe Transamerica will provide you with an updated Disclosure for that year, which is valid for 12 months. The disclosure must be distributed to all Covered Employees at that time.
- Provide any newly Covered Employees with the annual Disclosure on, or before, the date that they can first direct investments in your plan.
- Provide notice to Covered Employees if you make changes to your plan that result in a change to the fees charged to participant accounts (e.g., changes to your fund line-up, adding optional services, etc.). This notice must be distributed to Covered Employees at least 30 days, but not more than 90 days, **prior to** the effective date of the pricing change. The documents that you execute to facilitate the change will include appropriate instructions and a notice to provide to your Covered Employees. Newly Covered Employees must receive a copy of this notice of the change along with a copy of the annual Disclosure.

Transamerica will continue to support your participant disclosure obligations by providing you with annual Disclosures, quarterly statements with enhanced disclosure information, and access to our website, which contains a significant amount of extra investment information for your participants. Please keep in mind that the participant disclosure requirements are an important part of your fiduciary duties to your participants, and you are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all Covered Employees receive the disclosures they are required to receive. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Transamerica representative and we will be happy to assist you.

PLAN MANAGEMENT

Consider the Benefits of a Roth 401(k) Option

In 2006, the Roth 401(k) contribution feature was introduced to retirement plans. This optional provision allows employees to make **after-tax contributions**, which are subject to the same eligibility, change provisions, and contribution limitations as standard 401(k) deferrals.



The Roth 401(k) contribution feature offers participants a **number of valuable benefits**, including:

- **No income restrictions** for participants who make contributions, as compared to a standard Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- A **higher contribution and catch-up limit (\$17,000 and \$5,500 respectively)** than Roth IRAs
- **Tax-free distribution** of earnings
- **Advantageous tax treatment of distributions** if a participant's tax rate is

lower at the time contributions are made than at the time distributions are taken, relative to standard pre-tax contributions

Before adding the Roth 401(k) feature to your plan, you should consider that these contributions may change the result of your Average Deferral Percentage (ADP) test. Additionally, you should bear in mind that Roth 401(k) contributions are required to remain in the plan for a period of at least five years before they are eligible for the tax-free distribution.

If you are interested in learning more about Roth 401(k) contributions or would like to add this feature to your plan, please contact us at (866) 498-4557 .

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COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

September 30

Distribute Summary Annual Report (SAR) to covered participants (or if a Form 5558 was filed by 7/31 for extending the 2011 calendar Plan Year Form 5500 filing date, then distribute by 12/15).

October 1

First date by which an employer can provide mandatory notices to participants for a 1/1/13 effective date for safe harbor or automatic enrollment,* where applicable.** For plans that provide a Qualified Default Investment Alternative (QDIA) in addition to a safe harbor feature and/or automatic enrollment arrangement, the required QDIA notice will be incorporated into the safe harbor notice or automatic enrollment notice.

October 15

Due date for 2011 calendar Plan Year Form 5500 for plans that filed a Form 5558 extension by 7/31.

*This includes an Automatic Contribution Arrangement (ACA), Eligible Automatic Contribution Arrangement (EACA), and a Qualified Automatic Contribution Arrangement (QACA).

**Applies to plans where the plan year coincides with the calendar year.

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Transamerica or Transamerica Retirement Services refers to Transamerica Retirement Services Corporation, which is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA.

This email was sent by Transamerica Retirement Services
1150 S. Olive Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

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