

Market Volatility and My Pension: Should I Worry?

The markets are down. Should I be concerned about the pension plan?

There are several levels of security built into your pension. The Hanford Site Multi-Employer Pension Plan (Pension Plan) assets are invested based on a long term, diversified, target asset allocation. Annual Pension Plan contributions are calculated by actuaries. The Plan Sponsors are required by their contracts with Department of Energy (DOE) to contribute to the Pension Plan. The money to pay the pension contributions ultimately comes through DOE. The Plan is also insured by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation.

Is my pension annuity impacted by the market?

Market fluctuations do not change a Retiree's annuity. Market fluctuations also do not change the amount of monthly benefit that has been accrued by an Employee.

When the markets go down, do pension contributions go up?

Yes. Pension contributions which are made by the Plan Sponsors are influenced by a number of factors including the demographics of the Pension Plan's Participants. Pension Plan contributions also generally increase when interest rates decrease.

What about my Savings Plan?

The following web link provides some commentary from Vanguard on market performance:

<https://retirementplans.vanguard.com/VGApp/pe/PubVgiNews?ArticleName=WhenStocksGoDown>