



Secure your retirement with more guaranteed income

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Today's retirement challenges

Retirement is evolving. As a retiree today, you may face unique challenges that can impact the long-term viability of your retirement plan.



Rising costs: Inflation and unpredictable expenses—especially healthcare—can reduce the purchasing power of your savings, making it difficult to maintain your desired lifestyle.



Market volatility: The ups and downs of the market can quickly erode years of careful saving. Withdrawing funds during a downturn can make it even harder to recover and may jeopardize your long-term plans.



Fewer pensions: Traditional pensions are rare. Most people now rely on personal savings, Social Security, and defined contribution plans like 401(k)s, shifting the responsibility for retirement income squarely onto your shoulders.



Longer lifespans: For a 65-year-old today, average life expectancy stretches well into their 80s, meaning your retirement savings may need to last as long as your working years. Secure sources of income, such as Social Security, may only cover 40% of pay, which may not fully provide the income you need in retirement.

Why add more guaranteed income

Even with thoughtful planning, relying solely on Social Security and personal savings may not provide the steady, reliable income you need to cover essential or unexpected expenses and maintain your desired lifestyle in retirement. That's why adding more guaranteed income sources to your retirement plan can make a significant difference and help ease concerns.

Benefits of guaranteed income in retirement:



Financial confidence: Retirees with more guaranteed income tend to spend more freely, knowing their basic needs are covered.



Emotional security: A protected “paycheck” helps reduce stress about market swings, so you can enjoy your retirement.



Budget simplicity: Automated, predictable income makes it easier to manage your finances as you age, reducing the risk of costly mistakes.

The solution:

A fixed-indexed annuity with the Income Ascender rider

Despite the challenges of an ever-changing retirement landscape, we can help you bridge income gaps and boost your retirement confidence. MassMutual Ascend's fixed-indexed annuities with the optional Income Ascender rider offer a powerful way to boost your guaranteed income.

- **Protection from loss:** Your original purchase payment is safe, regardless of market performance.
- **Locked-in gains:** Interest credited to your annuity is locked in and can't be lost due to market declines.
- **Lifetime income:** The Income Ascender rider provides a reliable stream of guaranteed income for life—even if your account value is depleted.
- **High income potential:** Rider features like a 9% benefit base roll-up, resets, and competitive withdrawal rates can help maximize your income.
- **Flexibility:** Choose when and how to receive income payments, with options for return of rider charges if income hasn't started at death.

Case study: Bridging the income gap

Meet Kathy and Steve

Kathy (65) and Steve (67) are approaching retirement, excited to travel and spend time with loved ones. However, they are worried about the impact of recent market volatility on their savings.



They plan to rely on typical income sources like Social Security, their employer retirement plans and personal savings to support their retirement needs. But only Social Security will provide guaranteed income they can rely on to cover inflexible or unexpected expenses.

RETIREMENT INCOME SOURCES



Their financial professional, Mark, recommends they consider using a portion of their retirement savings to purchase a fixed-indexed annuity with the Income Ascender rider from MassMutual Ascend.

Mark explains how a fixed-indexed annuity offers protection from loss and locked-in earnings, all important factors since they are close to retirement. And adding the Income Ascender offers higher opportunities to grow their savings and an additional source of guaranteed income that can help supplement their Social Security benefits in retirement.

How the Income Ascender rider works

When Kathy and Steve purchase a fixed-indexed annuity with an initial purchase payment of \$200,000 and add the Income Ascender rider¹, a new value – referred to as the benefit base – is created. The benefit base grows by 9% of the initial purchase payment each year for five years. When Kathy and Steve are ready to start income payments, the benefit base is the amount used to calculate what these payments will be. The benefit base is multiplied by the applicable income percentage (based on issue age and contract year of benefit start date), determining their annual guaranteed income – even if their account value runs out.

HOW KATHY AND STEVE'S RIDER BENEFIT BASE GROWS*				
End of Year	Kathy's Age ²	Rider Benefit Base	Rider Income Percentage ³	Annual Rider Benefit Amount
1	66	\$218,000	6.65%	\$14,497
2	67	\$236,000	6.90%	\$16,284
3	68	\$254,000	7.15%	\$18,161
4	69	\$272,000	7.40%	\$20,128
5	70	\$290,000	7.70%	\$22,330

When Kathy and Steve begin receiving rider income payments at the end of contract year 5, their rider benefit base will have grown to \$290,000. They will receive an annual rider benefit of \$22,330 (\$290,000 x 7.70%) or \$1,860 per month. The annual payments will continue for the rest of their life, even if their account value is depleted.

***The payout rates used in this sample are for illustration purposes only and may not reflect current payout rates.**

¹Income Ascender rider can only be added at contract issue.

²Kathy's age is used because we use the younger age to determine the income percentage.

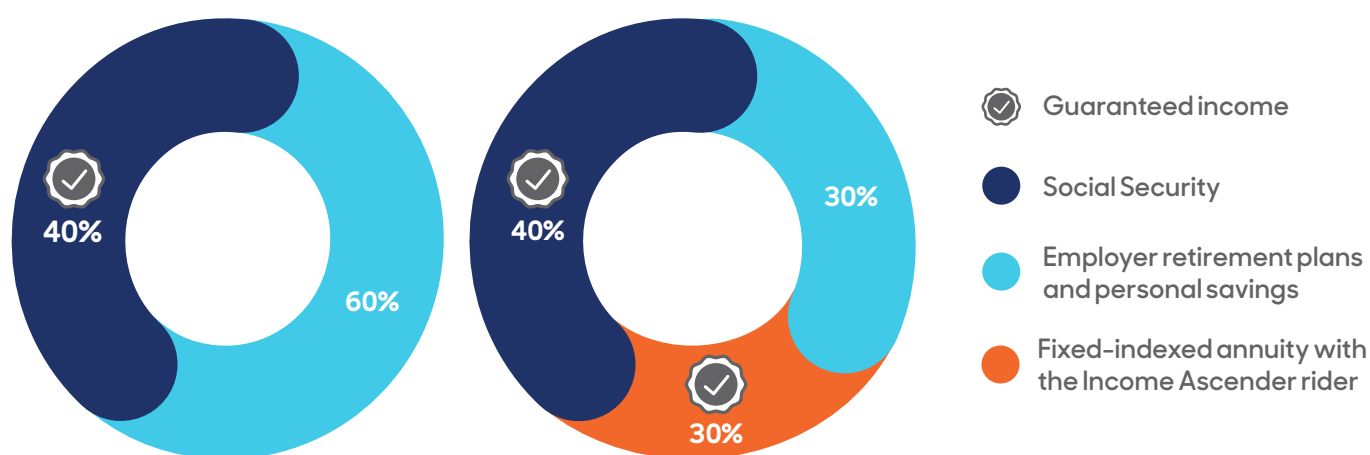
³Based on issue age and contract year of benefit start date.

An annual rider charge equal to 1.10% of the rider benefit base will be deducted from the account value of the annuity at the end of each contract year. The annual rider charge may increase if certain events occur. Consider the benefits and restrictions of the annuity contract, which can provide guaranteed income for life through annuitization, and the benefits, restrictions and costs of the Income Ascender rider before adding the rider to a fixed-indexed annuity.

A more confident plan for the future

By adding a fixed-indexed annuity with the Income Ascender rider to their retirement plan, Kathy and Steve increase the portion of their retirement income that's guaranteed. This helps protect their plan from unexpected risks – like the ups and downs of the market – and boosts their confidence that their money will last a lifetime.

RETIREMENT INCOME SOURCES



Talk to your financial professional today to see how adding the Income Ascender rider to your fixed-indexed annuity could help increase your stream of guaranteed income.

Generally, this guide uses “income” in place of “benefit.” For example, income payments are referred to as benefit payments in the rider. Guarantees provided in this rider are subject to the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Please refer to the rider for definitions and complete terms and conditions, as this is a summary of the rider’s features.

Increases in the benefit base are subject to the limitations set out in the rider. For single lifetime option you must be at least age 55 on the income start date. For joint lifetime option, you and your spouse must both be at least age 55 on the income start date.

Withdrawals may have a significant negative impact on the benefits of the rider. For example, withdrawals may reduce the benefit base and/or stop increases in the benefit base. This brochure presents one example of how the Income Ascender rider works. The Income Ascender rider brochure contains additional information about the rider. Please read your rider for definitions and complete terms and conditions.

MassMutual AscendSM is not an investment advisor and the information provided in this document is not investment advice. You should consult your investment professional for advice based on your personal circumstances and financial situation.

This information is not intended or written to be used as legal or tax advice. You should seek advice on legal and tax questions based on your particular circumstances from an independent attorney or tax advisor.

The Income Ascender (ICC25-R6087225NW) rider is issued by MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance CompanySM (Cincinnati, Ohio), a wholly owned subsidiary of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual). Rider form number may vary by state. Rider and features may vary by state, and may not be available in all states. For use with contract forms ICC25-P1470025NW, ICC21-P1476721NW, ICC20-P1474420NW and ICC20-P1474420NW-NoMVA.

All guarantees subject to the claims-paying ability of MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company.

This content does not apply in the state of New York.

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