

How much of the answer is an assumption?

Use hypothetical amounts. Work in pairs. One person runs the calculator; the other challenges the interpretation.

Start here

USD · 100,000 starting capital · 500 monthly saving · 10 years · 300,000 target in today's money · 60% global equities / 30% US aggregate bonds / 10% local cash · 0.3% annual fee · 2.5% inflation · alternative growth –2 percentage points.

<https://portfoliolab.app/tools/assumption-check>

1 / Predict before calculating

Which will change more than you expect: the final pot or the monthly saving required to reach the target? Why?

2 / Record both results

Measure	Reference	Alternative
Final pot in today's money	_____	_____
Monthly saving for the target	_____	_____

3 / Challenge the conclusion

What decision might change? What cannot be inferred from these smooth paths?

4 / Change the currency

Try CAD, GBP, EUR or ZAR. Check the inflation setting. Explain why the numbers are not an exchange-rate conversion of your first result.

An answer key, not an investment recommendation.

The USD reference projects 201,923; the lower-return case projects 171,792, both in today's money. Required nominal monthly saving is 1,276 versus 1,623.

Reference annual compound growth is 6.23% before fees. The -2pp case is selected for this exercise, not a second forecasting house's estimate. Contributions arrive at month end and do not rise with inflation. Final values are deflated once.

Listen for these distinctions: nominal versus real money; assumptions versus observations; a target reached in a smooth projection versus a probability of success; investor currency versus country-specific tax rules.

Ask participants to save the original snapshot before changing one input. They should be able to explain the difference without selecting whichever assumption produces the most appealing result.

Sources: JPM 2026 currency workbooks, imported 2026-09-02; Portfolio Lab's shared covariance and compounding calculations. The published reference horizon is 10–15 years. Tax, uncertain return paths and withdrawal sequencing are excluded.

[Full method, five-currency table and source workbooks](#)

Illustrative analysis, not personal investment advice. Capital at risk.