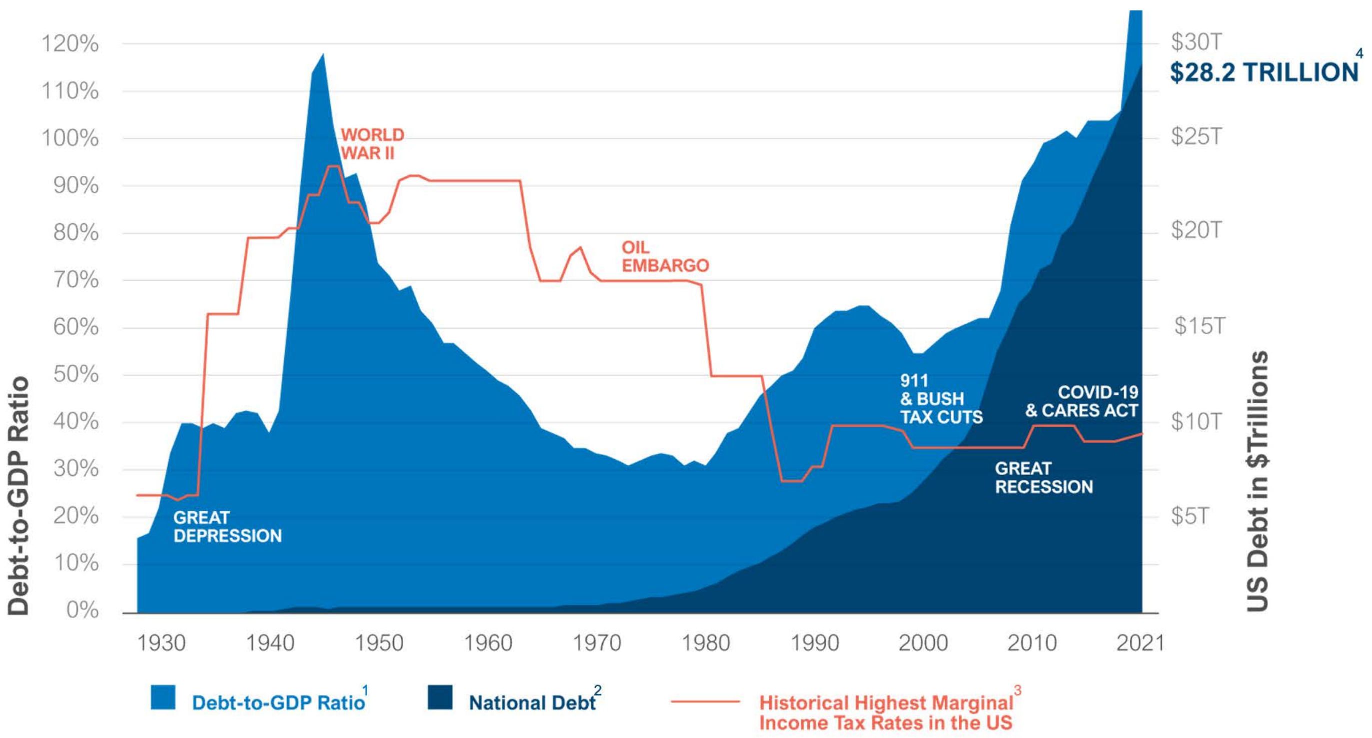
Risk: **Tax Increases**

Many Americans will owe taxes on their retirement income withdrawals. This can equate to 15, 20, or even 30 years of future tax liabilities while one is no longer earning an income. The retirement risk in this scenario is tax increases. If taxes go up, there is a likelihood that so will your tax bill. This means less money for the things you need and want in retirement.

In the U.S., we have seen a correlation between debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a leading indicator of tax increases. The chart below illustrates how the highest marginal tax income rate trends with the debt-to-GDP ratio. Today, our debt is reaching unprecedented levels, therefore many anticipate U.S. tax rates will also increase in the near future.

Debt to GDP as a Leading Indicator of Tax Increases



It's important to meet with a qualified financial professional who can help structure your retirement assets in the most tax-efficient manner possible.

Disclosures and Disclaimers

This content is for informational purposes only and does not intend to make an offer or solicitation for sale or purchase of any securities. Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy, such as asset allocation or diversification, can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. All investment strategies involve risk and have the potential for profit or loss. Changes in investment strategies, contributions or withdrawals, and economic conditions may materially affect the performance of your portfolio. There are no assurances that a portfolio will match or outperform any particular benchmark. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses before investing. Any financial services firms referenced in this material do not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax or legal professional regarding specific issues prior to making a tax or legal decision.

Any comments regarding safe or secure investments or guarantee of insurance related income refer only to fixed insurance products and do not refer in any way to securities or investment advisory products. Fixed index annuities with income riders are long-term investments and are not a direct or indirect investment in the stock market and while protecting principal against all stock market losses, will in almost all cases earn a lower rate of return than the stock market in positive stock market growth years, meaning you will not receive full stock market participation. Income riders in a fixed index annuity may provide a specified and guaranteed lifetime income amount and a specified and guaranteed "roll-up rate" that increases the guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit which increases future guaranteed lifetime income but is not available in a lump sum. Income riders will typically carry an annual fee of approximately 1%, and your fee could be higher or lower. Principal guarantees, lifetime income guarantees, and guaranteed death benefits discussed are backed by the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Pursuant to IRS Circular 230, this content it is not intended to provide specific legal or tax advice and cannot be used to avoid penalties or to promote, market, or recommend any tax plan or arrangement. You are encouraged to consult your personal tax advisor or attorney.

WORKS CITED

1 - TheBalance.com, "Debt to GDP Ratio and National Debt," https://www.thebalance.com/national-debt-by-year-compared-to-gdp-and-major-events-3306287. Published 03/25/21. Accessed 06/30/21.

2 - FRED Economic Data, "Federal Debt: Total Public Debt as Percent of Gross Domestic Product," https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GFDEGDQ188S. Updated 06/24/21. Accessed 06/30/21.

3 - Bradford Tax Institute, "History of Federal Income Tax Rates: 1913-2021," https://bradfordtaxinstitute.com/Free_Resources/Federal-Income-Tax-Rates.aspx. Accessed 06/30/21.

4 - CNBC.com, "U.S. budget deficit for fiscal 2021 so far tops $2 trillion," https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/10/us-budget-deficit-for-fiscal-2021-so-far-tops-2-trillion.html. Published 06/10/21. Accessed 06/30/21.