# **MSRB** Understanding Your Account Statement

An account statement is an official summary of investment assets and activity in a brokerage account, including the sales and purchases of securities since the last statement was issued. Account statements may be mailed or provided electronically to investors at the end of the statement period. Generally, investors will receive statements at least four times each calendar year if their account contains money or securities. More active accounts may receive a monthly statement.

# What Does an Account Statement Tell You?

Generally, the account statement describes all securities held in your account, cash balances and account activity. The valuations provided on the account statement represent the value of holdings as of the closing date of the statement period that is shown on the statement ("statement date"). Because market movements occur daily, the valuation provided on the account statement is only a snapshot of the value of your holdings as of the last business day of the month or the quarter of the statement period. In the time it takes for a printed statement to reach you, or for you to view your statement online, those values are likely to have changed from what they were on the statement date.

The back of the account statement usually defines terms mentioned on the front of the statement. It also includes valuable information such as the method of computing interest, how to request additional information about your account, risks associated with a type of financial product or security, and other resources to support making informed investment decisions.

The appearance and format of an account statement will differ from firm to firm, but certain common information is contained in most statements:

- Account Information;
- Financial or Account Summary;
- Portfolio Holdings;
- Income Summary and Changes;
- Unrealized Gains and Loss Summary;
- Cash Flow Analysis; and
- Account Transaction Activity.

## **Account Information**

The account information section provides basic information, such as the account holder's name and address; the office servicing your account; the entity providing the statement (a service firm, rather than the firm you opened your account with, may provide the statement); statement period covered; account number(s); date of the last statement; and contact information for your broker or financial adviser.



Access other resources for investors in the <u>MSRB Education</u> <u>Center</u>.

# Value of your account

	on November 30 (\$)	on December 31 (\$)	
Your assets	104,254.76	105,900.62	
Your liabilities	0.00	0.00	
Value of your account	\$104,254.76	\$105,900.62	

# Change in the value of your account

	November 30 (\$)	Year to date (\$)
Opening account value	\$104,254.76	\$157,615.11
Withdrawals and fees, including securities transferred out	-988.89	-15,238.35
Dividend and interest income	421.49	4,453.29
Change in value of outside assets/accruals	-25.16	-220.02
Change in market value	2,238.42	-40,509.63
Your liabilities	0.00	0.00
Closing account value	\$105,900.62	\$105,900.62

# **Financial or Account Summary**

The financial or account summary section is usually the first page of the account statement and summarizes the holdings within the account on a single page. It may also provide a snapshot of your portfolio indicating the value of securities as of the statement date, net equity for the period, net equity for the last statement and changes in market value from that period. In addition, the value of the account(s) as of the statement date is shown in this section, with line items for the beginning balance, any withdrawals or activity, and the ending balance. If multiple accounts are held at one firm (such as a mutual fund, IRA and a cash account), the value of all the accounts typically would be combined on a single line. The combined value of all the accounts may be referred to as "total net worth," "total equity," "net value" or "total account value."

# **Portfolio Holdings**

The term "portfolio" means the collection of financial assets — stocks, bonds, funds, cash equivalents — held by an investor. The portfolio holdings section of a statement provides the estimated market value of your portfolio. It is a summary of cash, money market funds, equities, mutual funds, fixed income and other securities in your account as of the statement date. In an account that contains fixed income securities, the accrued interest (if listed) represents interest earned, but not yet paid or collected, since the last time that interest was paid (a "coupon date").

The market value of the portfolio holdings is typically calculated as of the last business day of the statement period. For municipal bonds, the prices used for determining market value are estimates. Pricing estimates on a statement may be

The term "portfolio" means the collection of financial assets — stocks, bonds, funds, cash equivalents — held by an investor.

## Your assets

Some prices, income and current values shown may be approximate. As a result, gains and losses may not be accurately reflected. See *important information about your statement* on the last two pages of this statement for more information.

#### Cash

#### Cash and money balances

Holding	Opening balance on Dec 1 (\$)	Closing balance on Dec 31 (\$)
Cash	0.00	179.38
XYZ CASH RESERVES FUND	2,901.39	1,732.18
Total	\$2,901.39	\$1,911.56

obtained from multiple sources. Indications of value provided on the statement by third-party information sources may be reliable but might not be independently verified by your broker or financial adviser. Pricing estimates may be based on bids, prices within the bid-offering spread, closing prices or matrix methodology that uses data related to other securities whose prices are more ascertainable to produce a hypothetical price based on the estimated yield spread relationship between the securities.

Actual prices realized at sale may vary from those shown on the account statement.

Actual prices realized at sale may vary from those shown on the account statement. For securities that are infrequently traded or hard to sell, the value of the security will generally be different from its purchase price. This means that market value and unrealized losses or gains shown in the statement are representative values and may not reflect the actual value (and gains or losses) that could be obtained in the market if you choose to sell a security.

In addition to overall market value, the portfolio holdings section in a statement provides a list of the individual assets in the account, and securities that you

purchased on a trade-date basis, except for cash and money market funds, which are generally displayed on a settlementdate basis. Many firms categorize this section by the type of security (e.g., stocks, bonds, mutual funds), which can be useful in determining the extent to which an investor's portfolio is diversified in security type. For each securities position in the account, the name of the security, number of shares owned, price per share, anticipated income from the investment and market value of the position is listed. An investor can quickly determine whether a security position is being held by looking at the portfolio holdings section.

#### Income Summary and Charges

The information listed in the income summary and charges section reflects the funds and income earnings generated in the account during the statement period. The income summary reflects the total dividend, interest and other income for the statement period and year-to-date. Any tax withheld, and margin interest charges paid out of the account during the previous month or quarter, are included,



if applicable. Other common entries that appear in this section include the receipt of dividends, receipt of interest, payment of checks against the account and the payment of credit card charges. Some firms combine the income and charges section with the account activity section of the statement, while other firms present them separately.

Estimated annual income is calculated on a pre-tax basis and does not include any reduction for applicable non-U.S. withholding taxes, if you are subject to them. Estimated annual income for certain securities may include capital gains, which could overstate estimated annual income. For securities that have a defined maturity date within the next 12-month period, estimated annual income is reflected through the maturity date. Estimated yield reflects only the income generated by an investment and does not reflect changes in its price. Actual income or yield may be lower or higher than the estimates. To determine income or earnings, review the yield-to-worst calculation on your statement, or ask your adviser for the number if it is not provided. The yield to worst is the lowest yield you can expect to earn from a bond. It is a measure that is used in addition to yield to maturity with callable bonds, particularly when bonds are trading at a premium. Yield to worst does not reflect any fees charged by your adviser and represents a measure of yield calculated based on income.

For tax-exempt municipal securities purchased at a premium, the associated estimated annual income on your statement may not reflect the effect of amortization of the premium paid for the security. Tax-exempt municipal security income is derived from the coupon payment, which is the payment of interest, usually but not always semi-annually.

Tax-exempt municipal securities purchased at a premium — securities for which more

Fixed inco	ome sec	curities								
Municipal Bonds										
								ESTIMATED		
DESCRIPTION	% OF ACCOUNT	QUANTITY	ADJ PRICE/ ORIG PRICE	ADJ COST/ ORIG COST	CURRENT PRICE	CURRENT MARKET VALUE	UNREALIZED GAIN/LOSS	ACCRUED INTEREST	ANNUAL INCOME	ANNUAL YIELD (%)
STATE TRANSN AUTH										
CPN 4.500%										
Due 07/01/41										
DTD 09/07/17										
FC 01/01/18										
CALL 07/01/17 @ 100.00										
Moody AA3,										
S&P AA-										
CUSIP 999999999			108.00	10,800.72						
Acquired 09/21/17		10,000	110.00	11,005.00	100.0620	10,006.20	-794.52	112.5	450.00	4.49
Total Municipal			108.00	10,800.72						
Bonds		10,000	110.00	11,005.00	100.0620	10,006.20	-\$794.52	\$112.5	\$450.00	4.50
<b>Total Fixed Income</b>			108.00	10,800.72						
Securities		10,000	110.00	11,005.00	100.0620	10,006.20	-\$794.52	\$112.5	\$450.00	4.50



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summary reflects the total dividend, interest and other income for the statement period and year-to-date.

The income

than the par or "face" value was paid — will have higher yields than current market yields for similar but non-premium municipal securities. However, the Internal Revenue Service requires amortization of the tax-exempt municipal securities premium, or the amount above par that you paid. The amortized premium amount is used to offset the annual interest gains from the tax-exempt municipal securities during the same period. Because of this amortization, if you hold your tax-exempt security to maturity, the cost basis — or the price you paid to purchase a security plus any additional costs, such as broker's fees or commissions — at the time of maturity will be the same as the face value or par amount of the security.

Although the municipal security interest is not federally taxed, you must report both the interest and annual amortized amount of the premium when filing tax returns. Consult your financial adviser or broker for the annual amortized amounts and speak with your tax professional regarding tax matters.

Generally, cost basis is reflected on the statement for informational purposes only.

#### **Unrealized Gains and Loss Summary**

Unrealized gain/loss information on an account statement is provided for holdings as if they had been sold on the statement date and excludes transactions where the cost basis information has not been provided or is unavailable. Typically, total cost basis for each security position and the unrealized gain/loss are provided solely as a general indication of performance and do not reflect the result if you were to decide to sell a security. Generally, cost basis is reflected on the statement for informational purposes only.

#### **Cash Flow Analysis**

Cash flow analysis reflects changes in credits or debits in the account. The opening balance reflects the credit or debit to the cash balance carried over from the previous period's closing balance. The closing balance is the combination of the total debits and credits for the statement period calculated against the opening balance. A debit balance, or money owed, is indicated by a minus sign.

#### **Distribution Summary**

The distribution summary section of an account statement reflects return on capital, liquidations and other income for the statement period and current year.

#### Account Transaction Activity

All account activity that occurs as of the statement date is listed in the account activity section. Transaction details reflect all transactions settling or processed during the account statement period. The most common entries appearing in this section include individual buy and sell transactions, money or securities coming in or going out of the account, margin interest charges, interest payments and the beginning and ending balance. A careful review of this section can reveal problems, such as unauthorized trading or "churning" in an account.



Be an informed investor — Note that the brokerage firm you opened an account with may not be the firm that sends your account statements and trade confirmations. If you work with an introducing firm, your statements most likely come from the clearing firm. Introducing firms generally make recommendations, take orders and have an arrangement with clearing firms, which are the ones that finalize ("settle" or "clear") trades and hold the funds or securities.

Understand the sections of the account statement and compare trades detailed on the account statement with trade confirmations. Call your brokerage firm about any transaction or entry you do not understand or did not authorize, and re-confirm any oral communication in writing with the firm. You should report promptly any inaccuracy or discrepancy in your account to your brokerage firm.

