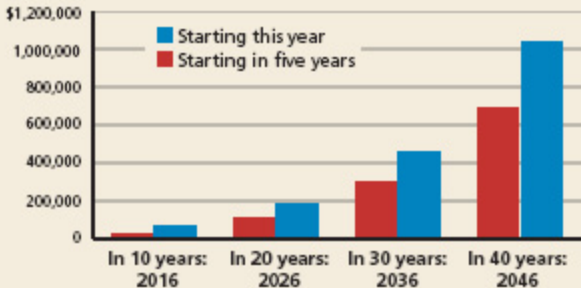


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Don't wait another year to start an IRA

April 17, the last day to file 2005 taxes without an extension, is also the deadline for funding 2005 individual retirement accounts. If you are considering an IRA, or considering an addition to an existing IRA, don't wait: It will cost you more money than you think. Delaying an IRA contribution by only one year will cost tens of thousands of dollars. The chart below illustrates the cost of delaying an IRA contribution five years, assuming an 8 percent annual return. There are several online tools that enable you to easily change the variable to reflect your situation and calculate the potential impact on your retirement savings. Type "future value" in your favorite search engine.

IRA growth, assuming \$4,000 annual contributions



QUESTIONS: Contact Professor Bill Pinkovitz with the UW-Extension at bill.pinkovitz@uwex.edu.