

Brokerage Relationship Summary



You have choices when it comes to your investment solutions. Merrill Lynch, as both a broker dealer and a registered investment adviser, offers brokerage and investment advisory services. Your advisor will provide information and guidance on the type of relationship that may meet your needs.

What is a brokerage account?

It allows you to purchase, sell and hold your investments in an account type set up for taxable assets, personal retirement assets (*i.e.*, an IRA or Roth IRA), and retirement plan assets (*i.e.*, a SEP, SIMPLE, BASIC or RCMA Investment Only plan account).

What are the key features and services of a brokerage account?

Brokerage services: When we make recommendations to you, the recommendations must be suitable in light of, among other things, your investment objectives, risk tolerance, liquidity needs, time horizon, financial needs, tax status and other financial information you have disclosed to us.

Transaction execution: We provide you with transaction execution (purchase and sales) and we are paid transaction-based compensation, which we describe below. You make the final decision whether to buy, sell, or hold securities. We must follow best execution regulations and provide competitive execution prices consistent with regulatory obligations.

Investment solutions and information: We review investment products for inclusion on our platform. You have access to investment and market education, research and guidance about the investment solutions we offer.

Cash sweep: Under the Merrill Lynch brokerage account sweep program, uninvested cash in your brokerage account will be “swept” into an FDIC-eligible bank deposit account at a Merrill Lynch affiliated bank.

Certain account types may have other sweep options. Merrill Lynch and its affiliates derive a benefit from those deposits. You can also instruct us to invest that cash in another investment product.

No ongoing monitoring: We will not monitor your brokerage account on an ongoing basis.

What fees do I pay?

Brokerage transaction fees: You will pay a fee per transaction, called a “commission,” “mark up” or a “sales charge.” It can be a direct payment from you and deducted from the amount you invest, or a payment made to us by a product sponsor out of the value of your investment (indirect payment). These fees vary from product to product. Discounting of those fees is permitted for certain transactions. The more transactions that are made in your brokerage account, the more we get paid.

Other fees and expenses: Additional fees, such as brokerage charges, custodian fees, and account maintenance fees may apply to your brokerage account. Please review the [Merrill Lynch Schedule of Miscellaneous Account and Service Fees](#) for more information.

Commission information: For details on commissions, please review the [Explanation of Fees](#) or ask your advisor.



Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and Member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation (“BofA Corp.”). Credit and banking products are provided by Bank of America, N.A., and affiliated banks, Members FDIC and wholly owned subsidiaries of BofA Corp.

Investment products:

Are Not FDIC Insured

Are Not Bank Guaranteed

May Lose Value

How is my advisor paid for brokerage accounts?

Production credits: Your advisor is compensated through production credits that primarily consist of transaction fees, like commissions, and other types of compensation (*i.e.*, mutual funds provide for an ongoing payment of compensation to the advisor, known as a “trail,” that is paid by the product sponsor or from the fund in which you have invested).

Referral payments: Advisors may share in fees charged for services provided by Merrill Lynch and its affiliates, and their compensation may be affected by the overall value of assets in the account. Your advisor may receive more compensation from some investment products and other services than from others.

Recruitment bonus approach: Advisors that join Merrill Lynch from other firms are eligible for bonus payments based on the assets that are transferred to Merrill Lynch and revenues generated from these accounts at particular points in time.

What types of payments does Merrill Lynch receive from third parties?

Third party payments for services: We receive compensation from certain product sponsors, like funds and fund managers, for services we provide to them. This includes payments for sub-accounting and shareholder services provided to funds we offer in our program and marketing support payments for providing them certain product support. Please review [Mutual Fund Investing at Merrill Lynch](#) for certain additional information describing these arrangements.

Revenue sharing arrangements: Merrill Lynch may share in revenues that the providers of certain investment products may collect, like certain alternative investments, which are disclosed in the offering materials and other disclosures we provide when you purchase these products.

Investor education support: Certain third party product providers help us support educational seminars and other advisor and client information programs.

Where can I find more information?

Your brokerage account agreement and other documents are available through your advisor. You will receive a Client Welcome Kit upon account opening, which will provide you with more details about your brokerage relationship.

You can research our firm and advisors, including disciplinary events, for free at investor.gov and brokercheck.finra.org.

You may access more information on the program choices available to you at ml.com/knowthedetails.