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GIVE OLD TECH NEW LIFE BEFORE IT'S OBSOLETE

Twin Cities consumers have several options when it comes to what to do with unwanted electronics such as old phones, charging cords and laptops. People can recycle their items, donate them for reuse or even sell some. Find out how to repurpose old technology on **D3**

Star Tribune illustration

Rates on I bonds dropped to 4.3 percent. Are they still worth it?

By MICHELLE SINGLETARY
Washington Post

Millions of investors queasy from the volatility of the stock market have shown an extraordinary interest in inflation-protected I bonds over the past year, purchasing billions of dollars of the savings bonds.

There was such a feverish desire for the Series I savings bonds when they hit 9.62% last year, the highest yield since the bond debut in 1998, that the TreasuryDirect site used for buying them crashed.

But with inflation waning, the Treasury Department just announced a new rate of 4.3% for I bonds, down from the most recent 6.89% that ended in April. That's still a good rate, but it's not likely to lead to a mad rush like last year. The lower rate is yet another indication that inflation has come down.

Here's what you need to know about buying an I bond.

First, the definition of an inflation-indexed savings bond. Series I savings bonds are designed for inflation protection to help preserve your buying power.

There are two components to the return for the bond — the fixed rate and the inflation rate. When inflation increases, the combined rate increases.

The fixed rate stays the same for the life of the bond. The inflation rate — as measured by the consumer price index for all urban consumers — adjusts every six months.

The fixed rate of return and the inflation rate are announced by the Treasury Department at the start of May and November.

When inflation started

See **SINGLETARY** on D4 ►