A Portrait of the Self-Employed

Reasons for becoming self-employed

83% Net: Positive
41% Net: Negative
53% "I like being my own boss"
55% "I can work a flexible schedule and hours"
42% "I can work where I want"
28% "The opportunity to earn more money"
22% "I am an entrepreneur"
9% "There are tax advantages"
7% "It allows me to transition into retirement"
19% "I lost my job with an employer"
17% "I was unable to find employment in my chosen field"
19% "I was unable to find suitable employment generally"
3% "Don’t know/ can’t recall"

Source: Retirement Preparations in a New Age of Self-Employment, Aegon Retirement Readiness Survey 2016. This study is a collaboration between Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies® (TCRS) and Aegon Center for Longevity and Retirement. TCRS is a division of the Transamerica Institute®, a nonprofit, private foundation that is funded by contributions from Transamerica Life Insurance Company and its affiliates and may receive funds from unaffiliated third parties. For more information and full survey results, visit www.transamericacenter.org.