

## $15^{\text {th }}$ Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey

Influences of Gender on Retirement Preparedness

TRANSAMERICA CENTER
FOR RETIREMENT STUDIES ${ }^{\circ}$

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## About the Survey

- Since 1998, the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies ${ }^{\circledR}$ has conducted national surveys of U.S. business employers and workers regarding their attitudes toward retirement. The overall goals for the study are to illuminate emerging trends, promote awareness, and help educate the public.
- Nielsen and the Harris Poll were commissioned to conduct the $15^{\text {th }}$ Annual Retirement Survey for Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies. Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies is not affiliated with Nielsen.
- About Nielsen \& The Harris Poll: On February 3, 2014, Nielsen acquired Harris Interactive and The Harris Poll. Nielsen Holdings N.V. (NYSE: NLSN) is a global information and measurement company with leading market positions in marketing and consumer information, television and other media measurement, online intelligence and mobile measurement. Nielsen has a presence in approximately 100 countries, with headquarters in New York, USA and Diemen, the Netherlands. For more information, visit www.nielsen.com.


## Worker Survey Methodology

- A 22-minute, online survey was conducted between February 21 - March 17, 2014 among a nationally representative sample of 4,143 workers using the Harris Poll. Respondents met the following criteria:
- U.S. residents, age 18 or older
- Full-time or part-time workers in a for-profit company employing 10 or more people
- Data were weighted as follows:
- Census data were referenced for education, age by gender, race/ethnicity, region, household income, and number of employees by company size. Results were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with the population of US residents age 18+, employed full time in a for-profit company with $10+$ employees or employed part time in a for profit company.
- The weighting also adjusts for attitudinal and behavioral differences between those who are online versus those who are not, those who join online panels versus those who do not, and those who responded to this survey versus those who did not.
- Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent. Differences in the sums of combined categories/answers are due to rounding.
- This report focuses on full-time and part-time workers combined.


## Terminology

This report uses the following terminology:

## Generation

- Millennial:
- Generation X:
- Baby Boomer:


## Company Size

- Small Company: 10 to 499 employees
- Large Company: 500 or more employees


## All Workers

- Refers to all workers age 18 and older



## Influences of Gender on Retirement Preparations

Detailed Findings

## Confidence in Retiring Comfortably

Although confidence is higher for both men and women compared to last year, women continue to lag behind men in confidence. In 2014, women who are "very confident" doubled.

| ■ Very confident | Confidence in Retiring Comfortably |
| :--- | :---: |
| $\boxed{\text { S }}$ Somewhat confident | Top 2 Box \% (Very/Somewhat Confident) |



## Building a Large Enough Nest Egg

Men continue to be more confident that they are building a large enough retirement nest egg, although women's confidence in their ability to do so has directionally increased over the years.


## Greatest Financial Priority

Women continue to be more likely to cite "just getting by" is their greatest financial priority, while men are more likely to cite "saving for retirement" is their greatest financial priority.

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - '14 ( $\mathrm{N}=2172$ ) | - '14 ( $\mathrm{N}=1971$ ) |
|  | - '13 ( $\mathrm{N}=1902$ ) | - '13 ( $\mathrm{N}=1749$ ) |
|  | - '12 ( $\mathrm{N}=1818$ ) | - '12 ( $\mathrm{N}=1791$ ) |
|  | - '11 ( $\mathrm{N}=1811$ ) | - '11 ( $\mathrm{N}=2269$ ) |
|  | - $09 / 10$ ( $\mathrm{N}=1680$ ) | - '09/'10 ( $\mathrm{N}=1332$ ) |
| Paying off debt <br> (consumer debt, i.e. credit card) | 26 <br> 27 <br> 28 <br> 25 <br> 28 | 23 <br>  <br> $\quad 24$ <br> 23 <br> 27 |
| Just getting by - covering basic living expenses | $\begin{gathered} 24 \\ \quad 29 \\ 27 \\ 30 \\ 32 \end{gathered}$ | 21 <br> 22 <br>  <br> 22 |
| Saving for retirement | 195 <br>  <br> 20 <br>  <br> 20 | 29 <br>  <br> $\quad 26$ <br> 22 <br> 22 |
| Paying off mortgage |  |  |
| Supporting children and/or parents | $\begin{gathered} 7 \\ 8 \\ 89 \\ 6 \\ 5 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{array}$ |
| Paying healthcare expenses | $\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{array}$ |
| Other | $\begin{aligned} & 5 \\ & 4 \\ & 4 \\ & 5 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6 \\ & 5 \\ & 5 \\ & 5 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ |

## Primary Source of Retirement Income

The level of women expecting an employee-funded plan to be their primary source of retirement income increased significantly from last year. Additionally, men are more likely than women to expect a pension will be their primary source of retirement income.


## Retirement Benefits: Importance Compared to Other Benefits

There is little difference between the importance men and women place on retirement benefits.


## Retirement Benefits Currently Offered and Plan Participation

Significantly more female workers do not have access to any kind of retirement plan through their workplace. Additionally, women continue to lag behind men participating in employeefunded retirement plans when available.

Retirement Plan Offered by Current Employer (\%)
■ An employee-funded 401(k) plan
■ Other employee self-funded plan

- A company-funded defined benefit pension plan
- A company-funded cash balance plan *
- None of the above



## Plan Contribution Rates

In addition to more male workers having access to retirement savings plans through work, men save a directionally higher percentage of their salary.

Contribution Rate, Median \%


## Estimated Retirement Savings Needs

Estimates for retirement savings needs are higher for men and women this year; however, women's estimates are generally lower compared to that of men - \$800,000 for women and \$1 million for men (estimated medians).


Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

## Basis of Estimated Retirement Savings Needs

Among workers who provided an estimate of their retirement savings needs, more than half of women have guessed at what that number should be. Men are more likely to use a retirement calculator or complete a worksheet.


## Saving Outside the Workplace

While majorities of both genders are saving for retirement outside of work, a significantly higher proportion of men are saving outside of work.

Currently Saving for Retirement Outside of Work,
\% Indicate "Yes"


## Retirement Preparation and Involvement

Women remain more pessimistic than men about not knowing as much as they should about retirement investing and not having enough saved if they worked until age 65. Men continue to be more involved in monitoring and managing their retirement savings than women.


## Asset Allocation

A quarter of women continue to be more unsure of their asset allocation, significantly higher than men. Men are more likely to have an aggressive investment portfolio mostly in stocks.


■ Mostly in bonds, money market funds, cash and other stable investments

- Relatively equal mix of stocks and investments such as bonds, money market funds, and cash

■ Mostly in stocks, with little or no money in investments such as bonds, money market funds, and other stable investments

- Not sure


## Most Influential Sources: Retirement Planning \& Investing

Women are far more likely than men to be most influenced by friends/family, while men are more likely to be most influenced by financial planners/brokers and financial websites.

Single Most Influential Source (\%)

|  | Women |  |  |  | Men |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | '13 $\mathrm{N}=1902$ | '12 $\mathrm{N}=1818$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { '11 } \\ \mathrm{N}=1811 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { '13 } \\ N=1749 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { '11 } \\ N=2269 \end{gathered}$ |
| Financial planner/broker | 19 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 21 |
| Friends/Family | 19 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 11 |
| Financial websites | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 17 |
| Retirement plan provider website | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 11 |
| Online newspapers, magazines, and blogs * | 3 | 2 | 3 | N/A | 5 | 5 | 6 | N/A |
| Financial-related tv shows | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Retirement calculators | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Accountant | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Employer | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Print newspapers/magazines | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Plan provider printed material | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Insurance agent | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | <1 |
| Lawyer | 1 | 0 | 1 | <1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | <1 |
| Online social media * | 0 | 1 | <1 | N/A | 0 | 0 | <1 | N/A |
| Other | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| None | 26 | 26 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 16 |

## Use a Professional Financial Advisor

Similar levels of women and men use a financial advisor to help manage their retirement investing or planning.

Use a Professional Financial Advisor,
\% Indicate "Yes"


## Retirement Strategy: Written Plans

Women are less likely to have any retirement strategy, while men are more likely to have an unwritten plan. However, few workers of either gender actually have a written plan for retirement.
\% Indicate "Have Plan"

- I have a written plan
- I have a plan, but it is not written down



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