

GENDER COMPARISONS AMONG WORKERS

Retirement Confidence

Overall confidence in having enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement:

27 percent very confident Males:

18 percent very confident Females: 42 percent somewhat confident 41 percent somewhat confident 29 percent not confident 41 percent not confident

Confidence in doing a good job of preparing financially for retirement:

Males: 31 percent very confident

Females: 23 percent very confident 42 percent somewhat confident 44 percent somewhat confident 25 percent not confident 33 percent not confident

Confidence levels about having enough money to take care of medical expenses in retirement:

23 percent very confident Males:

Females: 16 percent very confident 39 percent somewhat confident 37 percent somewhat confident 36 percent not confident 45 percent not confident

Retirement Preparations

Have saved for retirement:

74 percent in 2001a Males:

69 percent in 2001a Females: 78 percent in 2000 71 percent in 2000 67 percent in 1999 68 percent in 1999 66 percent in 1998 53 percent in 1998 69 percent in 1997 63 percent in 1997

Have done a retirement savings needs calculation (2001 differences disappear at the household level):

Males: 50 percent in 2001a

Females: 43 percent in 2001a 56 percent in 2000 45 percent in 2000 49 percent in 1999 41 percent in 1999 47 percent in 1998 37 percent in 1998 36 percent in 1997 30 percent in 1997

Retirement planning and saving status:

Males: 8 percent ahead of schedule Females: 4 percent ahead of schedule

34 percent on track

32 percent on track

26 percent a little behind schedule 29 percent a lot behind schedule

25 percent a little behind schedule 39 percent a lot behind schedule

^aThe 2001 RCS obtained two measurements of saving for retirement and doing a retirement savings needs calculation. The first (presented above) measured these activities in the same way as previous waves of the RCS. The second measurement was obtained from respondents who were asked about these activities after being asked a series of detailed questions about the components of a retirement needs calculation. This yielded more conservative results for saving for retirement (68 percent for males and 62 percent for females) and for doing a retirement needs calculation (44 percent for males and 35 percent for females).

Source: 2001 Retirement Confidence Survey.