



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
 McCourt School of Public Policy  
 Center for Retirement Initiatives

## FAST FACT SHEET #1

### *How Confident Are Americans about their Retirement Readiness?*

- ✓ From 2001 to 2014, retirement has remained Americans' top financial concern, with never less than 52% of Americans saying they are worried about not having enough money for retirement.  
["Retirement Remains Americans' Top Financial Worry,"](#) Gallup Poll, April 22, 2014.
- ✓ 86% of Americans believe that the United States faces a retirement crisis, and 86% of Americans agree that the retirement system is under stress.  
["Retirement Security 2015: Roadmap for Policy Makers Americans' Views of the Retirement Crisis,"](#)  
 National Institute on Retirement Security, March 2015.
- ✓ 74% of Americans are concerned about their ability to achieve secure retirement, but this concern has dissipated slightly as the economy has recovered, coming down from a high of 85% in 2013.  
["Retirement Security 2015: Roadmap for Policy Makers Americans' Views of the Retirement Crisis"](#)  
 National Institute on Retirement Security, March 2015.
- ✓ Only 18% of workers are very confident they will live comfortably through their retirement years. 37% are somewhat confident, while 43% were not too confident or not at all confident.  
["The 2014 Retirement Confidence Survey: Confidence Rebounds—for Those With Retirement Plans,"](#) Employee Benefit Research Institute, March 2014
- ✓ 55% of workers anticipate retiring after age 65 or do not plan to retire at all.  
["15<sup>th</sup> Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey: A Compendium of Findings About American Workers,"](#)  
 Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, August 2014
- ✓ Retirement confidence is strongly related to whether one participates in a retirement plan. Workers without retirement plans were four times as likely to say they were not at all confident about their retirement security than those with plans (46% vs. 11%).  
["The 2014 Retirement Confidence Survey: Confidence Rebounds—for Those With Retirement Plans"](#) Employee Benefit Research Institute, March 2014
- ✓ 42% of American worry they will need to sell their homes after retirement for financial security reasons.  
["Retirement Security 2015: Roadmap for Policy Makers Americans' Views of the Retirement Crisis"](#)  
 National Institute on Retirement Security, March 2015.
- ✓ Over half of households will not achieve retirement income levels to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living, even if they work to age 65.  
["NRRI Update Shows Half Still Falling Short,"](#) Center for Retirement Research, December 2015
- ✓ Those who are delaying retirement most often cite the poor economy (25%), can't afford to retire (18%), and a change in employment situation (17%) as reasons for postponing retirement.  
["The 2014 Retirement Confidence Survey: Confidence Rebounds—for Those With Retirement Plans"](#) Employee Benefit Research Institute, March 2014
- ✓ 73% agree that American workers cannot save enough on their own to guarantee secure retirement, and 81% of Americans believe it is harder for future generations to prepare for retirement.  
["Retirement Security 2015: Roadmap for Policy Makers Americans' Views of the Retirement Crisis"](#)  
 National Institute on Retirement Security, March 2015.