

Taking A Look At The Retirement Picture

(NAPSA)—What is the key to retiring on your own terms? Begin saving early, says a recent survey. Americans lead the world in preparing for retirement.

In fact, they save more than people in any other country and begin preparations earlier than people in most countries. More than 75 percent of U.S. respondents said they are saving money for retirement, and 73 percent say they are “prepared.” In addition, nearly 80 percent have a plan for where they want to live, what they want to do and how much money they’ll need.

The survey, called AXA Retirement Scope, was conducted by AXA, a worldwide leader in financial protection and wealth management, in an effort to understand global attitudes toward retirement. One such reality is the age at which people will retire. Working people in the U.S. who were surveyed said they would like to retire at 55, but expect they will actually retire at 63. Retirement ages varied worldwide.

Affording Retirement

The survey found Americans are starting to prepare for their retirement in their 30s. American workers, on average, save \$687 a month for retirement. Additionally, more than 50 percent of working adults contribute to an employee-sponsored retirement plan.



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Life After Retirement

Working people surveyed said they are looking forward to retirement, while most retirees said they are enjoying being retired—and with good reason. Thirty-seven percent of retired people said they spend time traveling, 19 percent enjoy a hobby, 18 percent participate in sports and 16 percent volunteer. In addition, 72 percent of retirees said their standard of living remained the same or was better than when they were working.

A New Look At Old Age

According to most respondents, “old age” doesn’t start until well after retirement age. People surveyed said they consider 75 or older to be old age.

For more information on the survey or retirement, visit the Web site www.axaonline.com.