



STATE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY 2018

Retirement Fact Sheet

Overview

The MassMutual State of the American Family (SOAF) survey* conducted in 2018 probed a wide range of financial issues impacting Americans with household incomes (HHI) of \$50,000 or more. For trending purposes, a subset of the 2018 SOAF respondents with HHI of \$75,000 or more were highlighted and compared to a similar survey conducted in 2013. This fact sheet focuses on questions relating to attitudes about retirement planning.

This year's SOAF survey seems to indicate that Americans express greater optimism about their ability to retire – possibility due to a spike in equity markets since 2015 and rising 401(k) balances. Less than half are confident about being ready to retire at their intended age, and fewer people have determined how much income will be needed in retirement.

Retirement Expectations

Perhaps reflecting the spike in 401(k) balances, respondents in 2018 intent to retire earlier (ages 56-60) than those in 2013 (ages 66-71+). However, less than half are confident they will retire by their preferred retirement age.

Age intended to retire (among employed and know age intend to retire)	2018	2013
<50	2%	2%
50-55	14%	12%
56-60	24%	18%
61-65	39%	38%
66-70	18%	23%
71+	4%	7%
Average age intended to retire	62	64
Confident will retire at intended age	47%	45%

Uncertainty & Worry Remain Prevalent

About a third worry about outliving their retirement savings and know they should be doing more to save.

Retirement attitudes	2018	2013
I worry about outliving my retirement savings	35%	33%
I should be doing more to save for the future but right now I'm just struggling to get by	27%	31%

Retirement Savings Has Spiked

The average retirement savings balance within a 401(k) increased from \$72,383 in 2013 to \$75,385 in 2016, according to the latest data available from the Employee Benefit Research Institute**. Among consistent savers, those who remained active throughout the period measured by EBRI, account balances rose from \$121,152 in 2013 to \$167,330 in 2016.

401(k) balances	2016	2013
Average balance	\$75,385	\$72,383
Consistent savers	\$167,330	\$121,152

Retirement Planning

While a majority of working Americans say they have figured out how much they need to save for retirement, fewer have figured out how much they need to save in 2018 compared to 2013. Approximately a third have an actual plan.

Retirement requisites	2018	2013
Figured out how much savings are needed to retire	56%	61%
Developed plan for retirement savings	36%	35%
Sticks to plan (always)	24%	26%

*Methodology

The State of the American Family survey was conducted for MassMutual by Isobar between Jan, 19 and Feb. 7, 2018 via a 20-minute online questionnaire. The survey comprised 3,235 total interviews with Americans. The vast majority of these interviews (2,730) were conducted with men and women aged 25-64, with household incomes equal to or greater than \$50,000 and with dependents under age 26 for whom they are financially responsible. Respondents had to contribute at least 40 percent to decisions regarding financial matters in their household to qualify. Results were weighted to the March 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey for age, income, gender, ethnicity, region, and weighted to the 2016 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample for same sex married/partnered couples, to be representative of American families in this age and income bracket. This study includes trending data for the previous survey wave conducted in 2013. The sampling margin of error for the 2018 study is +/- 1.88 percentage points at the 95% confidence level when looking at the results for the 2,730 interviews at a total level. For more information, contact Isobar Marketing Intelligence at <https://isobarmarketingintelligence.com/>. For more information about the MassMutual State of the American Family Survey, please go to <https://www.massmutual.com/cm/family-study>.

About MassMutual

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**Consistent 401(k) Participation Leads to Higher Account Balances, Employee Benefit Research Institute, Nov. 6, 2018, https://www.ebri.org/docs/default-source/ebri-press-release/pr-1225-long-k-6nov18.pdf?sfvrsn=37773e2f_2

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