



Canadian fact sheet

The Future of Retirement in a World of Rising Life Expectancies

Canadian research summary

- The global study commissioned by HSBC has revealed that the Canadians are extremely optimistic about their later years, which they see as a time of reinvention, ambition, new careers, and close relationships with friends and family.
- Overwhelmingly, Canadians believe retirement is an opportunity for a whole new chapter in life and the time to take on personal challenges and risks. Canadians believe good preparation is the key to a satisfying retirement, and know retirement preparation is their own personal responsibility.
- Canadians frequently review their savings and investments and discuss their retirement preparation with both professionals and friends. Though they are well prepared, they don't plan on just relaxing in their later years, but view work and continued career challenges as an integral part of retirement.

Key findings from Canada

Attitude to ageing and elders

- The Canadians have an extremely positive view of their elders

Retirement planning

- Over half are likely to believe retirement is the time for personal challenges and taking risks (57%)
- Nearly six in 10 (59%) think retirement is a whole new chapter in life
- Nearly all pre-retirees to have taken steps to prepare for retirement within the last 12 months (96%)
- Six in 10 (60%) Canadians believe they will bear most of their own retirement costs (60%)

Attitude to retirement and old age

- More than a third (37%) think age 50 plus years will be the best years in their lifetime
- Nearly six in 10 (58%) see retirement as a whole new chapter
- Canadians are the least likely respondents to think retirement is a time for rest and relaxation (22%)
- But are often likely to believe retirement is the time for personal challenges and taking risks (57%)
- A quarter (24%) believe having dreams and ambitions is extremely important for a happy old age

Attitude to work in later years

- Very likely to want to do some kind of work in retirement (78%)
- One in five (21%) think that having work you enjoy is extremely important for a happy old age
- A large majority are against mandatory retirement (84%)
- Many also think those over 65 should have the freedom to work for as long as they want (85%)

Care and support in retirement

- Canadians are the most likely to think loving family and friends are extremely important for a happy old age (73%)
- Half are likely to be seriously concerned about being a burden to their families in old age (50%)
- Only one in eight (12%) are likely to think their children and other family members will bear most of their retirement costs
- About half (51%) expect to rely on their children for care in old age
- And while nearly a third (30%) are seriously concerned about outliving their spouses
- Just over a third (36%) are seriously concerned about caring for ageing relatives in old age

Supporting data

Recent UN global population research (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 8 December 2004) highlights the extent of the ageing population:

- The proportion of older persons was 8 per cent in 1950, 10 per cent in 2005 and is projected to reach 21 per cent by mid-century
- In 2000, the global population included 600 million older persons, triple the number in 1950
- The global population of older persons is growing by 1.9 per cent annually, considerably faster than the population as a whole
- By 2050, the world is expected to have 2 billion older persons