



# Hong Kong fact sheet

## The Future of Retirement in a World of Rising Life Expectancies

### Hong Kong research summary

- The global study commissioned by HSBC has revealed that in Hong Kong later life is viewed as a time for rest, relaxation, and the enjoyment of accumulated wealth. Hong Kong respondents feel that what is most important is being healthy enough and wealthy enough to do whatever they please during a pleasant and lengthy retirement.
- Hong Kong respondents are unlikely to want to work in their later years. Instead, they intend to enjoy the fruits of their hard labour. In fact, money is viewed as the most significant source of both happiness and worry in old age and most feel they should bear their own retirement costs.
- Nonetheless, compared to other markets, they are only moderately focused on planning and preparing for their retirement, perhaps because they feel they can rely on their children and family for significant support and care.

### Key findings from Hong Kong

#### Attitude to ageing and elders

- The Hong Kong respondents have a moderately positive view of their elders

#### Retirement planning

- Over half (57%) of pre-retirees have taken steps to prepare for retirement in the last 12 months
- Half (49%) think they will bear most of their own retirement costs
- Most likely to think not having to worry about money is extremely important for a happy old age (71%), more than any other country or territory
- Most likely to be seriously concerned about outliving their money (66%)

#### Attitude to retirement and old age

- Only two in 10 (19%) feel age 50 plus years will be the best years in their lifetime
- A third (35%) think retirement is a whole new chapter
- Half (49%) feel retirement is a time for rest and relaxation
- Half (50%) believe retirement is the time for personal challenges and taking risks

#### Attitude to work in later years

- Over half (55%) are likely to want to work in retirement
- Over eight in 10 (85%) are against mandatory retirement

#### Care and support in retirement

- Six in 10 (60%) are likely to be seriously concerned about being a burden to their families in old age
- A third (36%) think their children and other family members will bear most of their retirement costs
- Eight in 10 (80%) expect to rely on their children for care in old age
- Nearly a quarter (23%) are less likely to be seriously concerned about outliving their spouses, the lowest figure among all groups of respondents

#### Supporting data

- Recent UN global population research (United Nations Economic and Social Council) 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