

New Retirement Mindscape 2010 City Pulse index **Rankings and key findings by metropolitan area**

Recent survey findings suggest that where you live may influence your readiness to retire. The *New Retirement Mindscape*® 2010 City Pulse index examined the 30 largest U.S. metropolitan areas to determine where consumers are the most prepared for and confident about retirement.

Metropolitan areas were scored based on responses to a national survey which measured consumers' likelihood to have determined the amount of money they need to save for retirement and their actual saving habits. The index also takes into account if people have planned for a variety of activities during retirement and expressed confidence about achieving their retirement goals.

1. Minneapolis-St. Paul

Preparation ranking: 3

Confidence ranking: 1

- The Twin Cities scored significantly higher than the national average on all but one factor related to retirement readiness. Nearly half (48%) of respondents report feeling “on track” for retirement and 83% of local residents say they have set aside money for retirement – the highest rate of saving among all the metros.
- What drove down this metro's preparation score? While people in the Twin Cities are financially prepared, they fell below the national average on one important indicator – planning for how they'll spend their retirement years.
- Another possible surprise? Residents aren't racing to escape the long, cold winters – or at least aren't planning to relocate permanently. A significant number (71%) say they'll spend both their working and retirement years in the Twin Cities. Although, nearly a quarter (23%) of those surveyed have given serious thought to traveling during retirement. Perhaps they're planning to fly south for a few months.
- Maybe money does buy happiness – or at least influences retirement preparation and confidence. The median incomes and investable assets reported by residents of the Twin Cities were substantially higher than the national average.

2. Raleigh-Durham

Preparation ranking: 1

Confidence ranking: 3

- Retirement appears to be a priority for Triangle residents. Only a small number (16%) report that they “haven't thought much about it,” compared to a quarter (26%) of people nationwide.
- People in Raleigh-Durham are prepared – and not just financially. While a significant number say they have set aside money for retirement (79%), they're also planning the activities they'd like to pursue at a higher rate (80%) than most of the country. Among the most popular are ensuring they stay healthy and spending more time with family.
- While reported incomes and investable assets were on par with the national average, the number of college educated respondents from the Triangle was significantly higher. This is likely due to the number of research universities in the immediate vicinity. However, only 12% say they plan continue their learning and education during retirement.

3. Nashville

Preparation ranking: 16

Confidence ranking: 2

- While Nashville ranks in the middle of the pack with regard to preparation, its residents are a confident bunch. A third (31%) said they're "highly" or "very confident" in their financial future, and half (50%) reported that they feel "on track" for retirement – making it the top ranked metro on both factors.
- Are people in Music City overly confident? Maybe not. They're on par with the rest of the country with regard to financial preparedness, and among the most likely to say they have planned for at least two activities during retirement.
- What could Nashville residents do to be more prepared? For starters, they might want to take a closer look at how long their retirement could last. On average, they're only planning to live on their retirement savings for 17 years – significantly less than the 30 years most financial experts suggest.

4. Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto

Preparation ranking: 5

Confidence ranking: 6

- If planning how and where they'll spend their retirement years was all that mattered, Sacramento residents would be at the top of the class. Eighty-six percent of those surveyed say they have planned for at least one activity during retirement and more than two-thirds (68%) have planned for two or more. Another unique aspect? Nearly one-fifth (19%) of people from this area said they'd like to continue their education or learning during retirement.
- How else are people in California's capital city preparing? More than a third (39%) report they have determined the amount of income they need in retirement – compared to only a quarter (25%) of people nationwide.
- While it is ranked higher than other California metros, not everything is sunny in Sacramento. Despite taking steps to prepare, a quarter (25%) of people from this area report feeling "anxious" when they think about retirement – which is significantly more than the national average.
- It's no wonder people in the Sacramento metro are a bit uneasy. More than a quarter (27%) say they've faced a career setback or layoff within the past 18 months. This may explain why the number who believe they'll retire earlier than originally planned is also above the national average.

5. Seattle-Tacoma

Preparation ranking: 10

Confidence ranking: 4

- While the Seattle area barely breaks into the top 10 with regard to preparation, people here are doing a few things right. More than a third (38%) report that they've calculated the amount of income they'll need in retirement, while a similar number (31%) determined how much they need to save.
- Residents of the Emerald City are also the most likely to put their plans in writing – their retirement plans that is. Approximately one-fifth (19%) of locals say they have taken this important action, compared to only 9% of people across the U.S.
- When compared to their west coast peers in Portland and San Francisco, people from the Seattle area express more confidence in reaching their retirement goals and in their financial future overall. One reason may be that fewer have experienced a job setback or layoff during the past 18 months.

6. San Diego

Preparation ranking: 11

Confidence ranking: 5

- San Diego gets high marks for confidence, with a third (31%) of its residents saying they feel “very confident” they’ll reach their retirement goals, or if already retired, that retirement has worked work out the way they planned. This compares to less than a quarter (24%) of people across the U.S. who shared the same sentiment.
- Maybe it’s those sunny California days. Three-quarters (74%) of people from this area expressed positive thoughts when asked how they feel about retirement.
- What about preparation? More than a third of San Diego residents say they’ve given a lot of thought to where they’d like to travel (38%) and live (35%) during retirement. The majority (64%) plan to call San Diego home both before and after they leave the workforce.
- If there’s one cloud hanging over San Diego, it is the small number (12%) who report putting their retirement plans in writing. However, they’re still on par with the national average, where the bar is set at a mere 9%.

7. Hartford-New Haven

Preparation ranking: 7

Confidence ranking: 7

- When it comes to being financially prepared for retirement, local residents are in pretty good shape. More than three-quarters (77%) say they have set aside money for retirement and more than a third (35%) report they have turned to a financial professional for advice.
- Why didn’t they score higher? While financial preparation is important, Hartford-New Haven residents haven’t given much thought to how they’ll spend their spare time in retirement. In fact, only half (51%) have planned for more than one activity. Those who have are most likely to cite staying healthy and spending time with family.
- Get ready to pack those bags! Only slightly more than half (55%) of those surveyed say they’ll live in the Gateway to New England both prior to and during retirement.

8. Denver

Preparation ranking: 9

Confidence ranking: 8

- Perhaps it’s fitting that residents of the Mile-High City have an elevated sense of optimism about retirement. More than half (51%) of Denver residents feel optimistic about retirement – compared to only 38% of respondents nationwide. A somewhat higher number also report feeling “on track” for retirement.
- People in the Denver area say they are taking actionable steps to prepare for retirement. Survey responses indicate that more than three-quarters (77%) of residents are setting aside money for retirement and nearly two-thirds (64%) are taking advantage of employer-sponsored plans to do so.
- How do locals plan to spend their retirement years? The answer may be evident at Denver International Airport. A full 35% of those surveyed cite travel as an activity they’ve thought about a lot – compared to only 26% of their peers nationwide.

9. Baltimore

Preparation ranking: 2

Confidence ranking: 16

- Just behind Raleigh-Durham with regard to preparation, 83% of Baltimore residents say they have taken steps to prepare for retirement. In fact, a third (33%) report they have determined the amount of money they need to save for retirement, compared to only a fifth (20%) of respondents across the U.S.
- While they are relatively well prepared for retirement, Baltimore only ranks in middle of the pack with regard to confidence. What's driving this discrepancy? It is likely the economy. A mere 17% of Baltimore pre-retirees say that recent market conditions have had no impact on their planned retirement date, compared to more than a quarter (28%) of people across the country.
- Watch out for moving vans. Only slightly more than half (54%) of those surveyed plan to reside here both before and after retirement.

10. Boston

Preparation ranking: 8

Confidence ranking: 13

- Overall, Boston residents are doing well from a preparation standpoint. Three-fourths (76%) say they have set aside money for retirement, and the number who have determined the amount of income they'll need in retirement (35%) is well above the national average (25%).
- Perhaps knowledge is power. Home to an Ivy League university and a highly educated workforce, nearly a quarter (23%) of local residents say thinking about retirement makes them feel "empowered."
- What's another reason Bostonians might feel empowered? Nearly a third (32%) of those surveyed report they have turned to a financial professional for advice, compared to only 23% of people surveyed nationally.
- Compared to their east coast neighbors, Boston residents are significantly more likely to express positive feelings about retirement. For example, more than half (52%) of locals say thinking about retirement makes them feel "happy," compared to only 35% of New Yorkers.

11. Dallas-Ft. Worth

Preparation ranking: 17

Confidence ranking: 9

- How have recent economic conditions impacted the retirement plans of Dallas-Ft. Worth residents? While confidence levels are on par with the rest of the country, more than a third (35%) of those surveyed say they're planning to postpone their retirement.
- Waiting a few extra years to retire may be a good decision, but it could also mean locals are ignoring their true passions. More than a quarter (29%) of those surveyed hope to do more satisfying work during retirement.
- However, a majority (64%) of people in the Metroplex report they are taking advantage of employer sponsored plans to save for retirement – more than the national average (54%). Considering that many employers have restored matching programs (or plan to), maybe the trade-off is a smart one.

12. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose

Preparation ranking: 4

Confidence ranking: 18

- The San Francisco metro area's preparation and confidence levels may seem a bit out of sync. Recent economic conditions could be to blame. While employment figures for those surveyed are on par with the national average, other sources indicate a higher unemployment rate overall.
- More than a third (36%) of pre-retirees from the San Francisco area say they're planning to postpone retirement – compared to 26% across the U.S.
- Only an average number of San Francisco area residents say they have thought a lot about how they'd like to spend retirement. However, those who have are more likely than their peers across the U.S. to have considered traveling, volunteering and continuing their education.
- More than a third (35%) of local residents say they have given a lot of thought to where they want to live. Perhaps surprisingly, only half (53%) say they will call the San Francisco metro home both before and during retirement.

13. Chicago

Preparation ranking: 18

Confidence ranking: 10

- While no one would dare call Chicago average, its residents are on par with the rest of the nation with regard to their preparation and confidence towards retirement.
- So, what sets Chicagoans apart? For one, they are more likely than their peers across the U.S. to have thought a lot about how they'll stay healthy during retirement. Since healthcare costs can take a significant bite out of retirement savings, this is a smart thing to consider.
- With health comes the potential for a longer life – and a longer retirement. Residents of the Windy City may want to take a closer look at how much they're saving. Those surveyed said they're planning to live an average of 17 years on their retirement savings – significantly less than the 30 years most financial professionals recommend.

14. Houston

Preparation ranking: 13

Confidence ranking: 17

- Preparation helps provide options. More than a quarter (28%) of Houstonians say they decided to retire early due to recent economic conditions – far above the national average (9%). Meanwhile, only 6% of locals surveyed say a job setback or layoff forced them to retire early.
- Whether they reach this milestone on schedule or not, residents of Space City have spent a lot of time thinking about how they'll spend their retirement. While ensuring they remain healthy (61%) and spending time with family (48%) are their most common responses, nearly a third (31%) have also given serious thought to where they'll live.
- Is thinking about where to live tempting them to make a change? Maybe not. The number of people who say they plan to reside in Houston both before and after retirement is on par with the national average. However, a third (32%) have made plans to travel during retirement.

15. Atlanta

Preparation ranking: 12

Confidence ranking: 19

- Residents of Atlanta are doing relatively well from a planning standpoint. Three-quarters (74%) say they have set aside money for retirement, while 80% have given a lot of thought to at least one activity they'd like to pursue.
- While people in Georgia's capital city express mostly positive feelings about retirement – nearly a quarter (24%) admit to feeling anxious. Economic conditions are likely driving a lot of this anxiety. One in five (20%) retirees surveyed say they retired early due to a layoff or career setback – compared to only 14% nationwide.
- Many of those who are still employed are hoping to hang onto their jobs longer than originally planned. A third (33%) of pre-retirees surveyed expect to delay their retirement day.

16. Phoenix

Preparation ranking: 14

Confidence ranking: 20

- Given Phoenix's reputation as a warm weather hub for retirees, it's perhaps surprising that its residents rank below their northern neighbors in Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago in terms of retirement readiness.
- But a closer look at the numbers reveals that the citizens of Arizona's Urban Heart may simply be more attuned to the financial realities of retirement. More than a quarter (26%) of respondents report that they've determined the amount of money needed for retirement – which is above the national average.
- While confidence levels may not be skyrocketing, perhaps all that sunshine has an encouraging side effect: over three-quarters (76%) of respondents report feeling positive about retirement, compared to 66% nationally.
- What's more, people from the Phoenix area appear to be setting their sites on a more active retirement than most, and a third (32%) have thought about where they want to live during retirement. But, don't be surprised if you see some "for sale" signs – only 54% of people expect to live in the metro both prior to and during retirement.

17. St. Louis

Preparation ranking: 25

Confidence ranking: 11

- While St. Louis residents are on par with their peers across the U.S. when it comes to simply crunching the numbers, they're overlooking another important aspect of retirement planning – determining how all that extra time will be spent. Only 45% say they have given a lot of thought to more than one activity they'll pursue during retirement.
- What else are St. Louis residents overlooking? Their health – less than half (46%) say they've spent a lot of time considering how to remain healthy during retirement. Since healthcare costs can be a drain on retirement savings, this may be a significant oversight.
- Home sweet home... Seventy-one percent of residents say they plan to live in St. Louis both before and after retirement. However, city planners may not want to rely too much on this data. Only 13% of those surveyed say they have given it a lot of thought.

18. Pittsburgh

Preparation ranking: 20

Confidence ranking: 21

- While Pittsburgh ranks in the bottom half of this list, people are taking positive steps to become financially prepared. More than three-quarters (78%) of those surveyed say they've set aside money for retirement and nearly a third (29%) have determined the amount of money they need to save for retirement.
- What drove down this metro's preparation score? Only two-thirds (66%) of Steel City residents say they have planned for a single activity during retirement. Those who have are focused on staying healthy (49%) or spending more time with family (43%).
- Envisioning how they'll spend their free time may help Pittsburgh residents feel more "empowered" about retirement. Only 11% of local residents associate this emotion with leaving the workforce.
- Don't expect to see many moving trucks – or suitcases – in the streets of Pittsburgh. A whopping 80% of people surveyed plan to live here both before and during retirement, and only 18% say they have given a lot of consideration to traveling.

19. Tampa-St. Petersburg

Preparation ranking: 27

Confidence ranking: 12

- A lack of preparation drove down the Tampa metro's overall ranking. While the number of locals who say they've set aside money for retirement is only slightly below the national average, only 43% have saved money in an employer sponsored plan. They may be missing out on important benefits like an employer match.
- In fact, this lack of preparation may be forcing some locals back into the workforce. Seven percent of Tampa area residents said that while they were once retired, they've since returned to the workforce – more than three times the national average (2%).
- What else sets Tampa apart? A higher than average rate of divorce and separation among those surveyed. This may be another reason some people from this area are rethinking retirement and returning to work.

20. Miami-Ft. Lauderdale

Preparation ranking: 24

Confidence ranking: 15

- While Miami ranks in the middle of the pack with regard to preparation, its residents may need to take a closer look at their savings habits. While the number who say they've set aside money for retirement is only slightly below the national average, a mere 43% say they've taken advantage of an employer sponsored plan.
- Even more shocking – a third (34%) of Miami area residents admit, when it comes to preparing financially for retirement, they "haven't thought much about it." Only a quarter (26%) of people across the U.S. shared this sentiment.
- Is there a bright spot for this sunny metro? Perhaps. Two-thirds (67%) of its residents say they've given a lot of thought to how they'll stay healthy during retirement. Since health care costs can take a significant bite out of retirement savings, this is an important consideration.

21. Detroit

Preparation ranking: 26

Confidence ranking: 14

- Despite having been hit by the highest jobless rate in the country, the Motor City outranks fellow U.S. metros like Indianapolis and L.A. on confidence and preparedness for retirement.
- So just what impact has the beleaguered auto industry – generally considered Detroit's economic engine – had on people's retirement schedules? Surprisingly, relatively little. Just 14% of those surveyed indicated that they chose to retire early due to market conditions, a figure that matches the national average.
- If there's any correlation between local economic conditions and residents' perceptions about retirement, Detroit may be a case in point. Thirteen percent of respondents in this economically-depressed region report feeling "sad" about retirement – compared to only 7% nationally.
- Whether due to, or in spite of, local economic conditions, Detroit residents say they are taking proactive steps to manage their finances. Thirty-one percent of those surveyed report they have consulted with a professional financial advisor – well above the national average.

22. Philadelphia

Preparation ranking: 23

Confidence ranking: 22

- Philadelphia lags behind many other major metropolitan areas in terms of confidence and preparation for retirement, but there are some bright spots in the report. Nearly four out of five respondents (78%) report that they've saved some money for retirement – slightly above the national average.
- And perhaps living in the City of Brotherly Love has buoyed residents' feelings towards retirement. Just 29% of respondents report any negative feelings about retirement, a figure which is much lower than Northeast neighbors like New York City (41%) and Boston (36%).
- So where does Philly fall short? Despite reporting higher average incomes and investable assets than most of the nation, only 14% of respondents report feeling very prepared for retirement.

23. Washington D.C.

Preparation ranking: 6

Confidence ranking: 29

- Residents of Washington D.C. are doing a lot of things right when it comes to preparing for retirement. Eighty percent of its residents say they are setting money aside for retirement – second only to Minneapolis-St. Paul.
- Despite this, confidence is really lagging in the nation's capital. Forty percent of those surveyed express negative feelings when they think about retirement, including more than a quarter (27%) who experience feelings of anxiety.
- What might be driving these discrepancies? Possibly the economy or housing values, although it could simply be that D.C. residents are more realistic. After all, when asked how they're planning financially for retirement, only 18% replied they haven't thought much about it – compared to more than a quarter (26%) of people nationwide.
- Maybe the grass is greener elsewhere – or at least locals think it is. Only half (51%) of those surveyed say they'll live in the nation's capital both before and during retirement.

24. Portland

Preparation ranking: 15

Confidence ranking: 26

- When it comes to retirement preparedness, the City of Roses falls below the middle of the pack. However, it's not all bad news. For example, 62% say they have set aside money in an employer-sponsored plan, which is above the national average (54%).
- Another interesting fact? Portlanders' reputation for being laid back apparently applies to their attitudes about retirement. Just over one in ten (11%) report feeling "anxious" about it, compared with 17% nationwide.
- And, if the desire to stay put for retirement is any measure of how much residents enjoy their local surrounding, Portlanders are a satisfied bunch. Nearly three quarters (72%) plan to reside here both before and during retirement.
- Why aren't confidence levels higher? For one, it appears many locals feel retirement is a bit out of their grasp. Thirty percent of pre-retirees surveyed say they're planning to postpone retirement due to market conditions. And among those who have already retired, 14% claim they worked longer than planned – a figure which represents seven times the national average.

25. Cleveland-Akron

Preparation ranking: 21

Confidence ranking: 23

- While Cleveland rounds out the bottom 10 with regard to retirement preparedness, its residents are doing a few things right. Seventy-eight percent say they've set aside money for retirement, a rate slightly above the national average (69%).
- What could locals be doing better? Simple things like determining the amount of money they need to save for retirement. While local residents are just as likely to do this as people across the U.S., the bar isn't set high at only 20%.
- Recent economic turmoil hasn't left Cleveland unscathed, however a significant number of pre-retirees aren't letting this detour their retirement plans. Forty-three percent of people from the Cleveland area say the economy will have no impact on their retirement date – compared to only 28% nationwide who share this sentiment.
- And if the desire to stay put for retirement is any measure of how much residents enjoy their surroundings, locals are very satisfied. Nearly three quarters (74%) plan to reside in the Cleveland area both before and during retirement.

26. New York

Preparation ranking: 22

Confidence ranking: 25

- Compared to their peers across the U.S., New Yorkers are significantly more likely to say they feel "worried" (29%) and "anxious" (25%) about retirement. In fact, only a third (35%) associate feelings of "happiness" with this major milestone.
- Why all the negativity? It's quite possible some people left the workforce before they were ready. Twenty-two percent of retirees surveyed say they retired early due to a career setback or layoff.
- Another issue for residents of the Big Apple? While nearly three-quarters (73%) are setting aside money for retirement, only an abysmal 17% have determined how much they need to save. It's hard to know what you're working toward without a realistic goal.

27. Charlotte

Preparation ranking: 19

Confidence ranking: 27

- When it comes to retirement, Charlotte residents put their loved ones first. Over half (53%) cite spending more time with family as an activity they're planning for once they exit the workplace.
- The unfortunate reality for many local residents is that retirement may arrive sooner than they've planned. One in three (30%) of those surveyed report they've experienced a career setback or layoff in the last 18 months – an alarming statistic, especially given that only one in five (21%) of people in nearby Raleigh-Durham conveyed the same.
- However, by another comparison, the Queen City triumphs. Almost half (49%) of respondents report feeling “happy” about retirement. The same is true for only 42% of those surveyed in Raleigh-Durham, and 44% for those surveyed nationally.

28. Orlando-Dayton Beach-Melbourne

Preparation ranking: 28

Confidence ranking: 24

- Orlando is a city known for magic, but unfortunately, retirement may deal many of its residents a harsh dose of reality. Only 20% of those surveyed say they've determined the income needed in retirement and a full 30% claim they haven't thought much about it.
- This lack of planning could leave many ill-prepared to fund their retirement. In fact, while financial professionals recommend planning for a 30 year retirement, survey respondents in Orlando envision their retirement lasting only 17 years.
- How are local residents making up the difference? Some are deciding to return to work, as is reported by 5% of respondents – a rate more than two times the national average (2%).
- Wondering where the residents of sunny Orlando are going to be seeking shade in retirement? Elsewhere, it appears. Only half (52%) of respondents say they're going to reside in the same city after they leave the workforce. And a significant number (33%) list traveling as one of the activities they're planning for in retirement.

29. Indianapolis

Preparation ranking: 29

Confidence ranking: 28

- In a city known for fast races, Indy residents lag the nation in preparing for retirement. Just 42% of those surveyed say they have set aside money into their own savings or investments and only 48% report they have planned for at least two activities during retirement.
- Indy also ties for last place with the residents of Los Angeles when asked how they feel about reaching this stage of life. In both cities, only 60% of people associate emotions like “happiness” and “optimism” with retirement.
- It's easy to understand why people are feeling less than optimistic. Nine percent of retirees claim they have postponed retirement due to market conditions – while another 10% say they retired early due to a layoff. In fact, a third (31%) of retirees say the economy had an impact on their retirement plans, compared to a quarter (25%) of retirees nationwide.

30. Los Angeles

Preparation ranking: 30

Confidence ranking: 30

- When it comes to retirement, things aren't looking very sunny in Los Angeles. An astonishing 37% of its residents admit that they haven't given much thought to preparing for retirement – and only 57% say they have set aside any money at all.
- What's their excuse? It is quite possible the economy and housing market have forced many to focus on more immediate financial concerns. More than a third (36%) of those surveyed say they've experienced a career set-back or layoff in the past 18 months and 22% report that are currently unemployed but planning to return to work.
- What can those in Tinseltown and surrounding neighborhoods do? For one, start taking a more realistic look at retirement. Locals believe their savings will only need to last 16 years – nearly half the length of time most financial professionals recommend.

About the survey

The *New Retirement Mindscape* 2010 City Pulse index was created by Ameriprise Financial utilizing survey responses from 10,028 U.S. adults ages 40-75. The survey was commissioned by Ameriprise Financial, Inc. and conducted online by Harris Interactive from September 28 to October 11, 2010. The national average sample and the 30 U.S. metropolitan areas were each weighted independently to best represent each area. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' likelihood to be online.

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