



Do you know the value of your pension savings?

We are constantly told we are all living longer and if true this means we need to provide income of some kind for more years than we first thought, so basically, we all need to save more. But because there's always something more urgent to pay or save for, it's something that many of us rarely address.

It is thought that some 75% of people aged 45 or over are longing for the day when their life is no longer constrained by their working environment. Yet despite this desire to retire, many people who are over 45 with a pension have no idea how much it is currently worth and that more women than men don't know the value of their own pension savings. Additionally, a high proportion of people aged over 45

still don't have a pension in place yet, other than perhaps the beginning of auto enrolment.

HOPING FOR A SHIFT IN LIFESTYLE

Many people who are now over 45 are hoping for a nice shift in lifestyle, keen to retire early before the State Pension age kicks in. But without taking proactive steps by increasing how much they are investing in their pension when they've been able to in order to help make this happen, a bump down to earth is more likely.

Once people reach the age of 55 (age 57 from 2028), they can benefit from pension freedoms which allow them to begin the process of withdrawing money from their pension savings if they should wish to. It's a point at which some key decisions can be made, and the importance of knowing the value of their pension ensures they don't get it wrong. But even among this group of people aged 55–64, some 45% still have their eyes pretty much closed by not knowing what their pension savings are worth.

FUTURE LIFE AFTER WORK

Retirement is always being reformed and is constantly changing, and life after work in the future will not look the same as it did for our parents or even their parents.

But while many of us dream of what we're going to do when we retire, without a plan in place, these dreams are likely to be less than expected.

Once you stop working, income from employment stops and it now becomes very difficult to boost your savings than it was when you worked. So, everyone needs to really understand how they are progressing and make plans for building up their life savings while they are best able which will make a real difference to their retirement lifestyles. Almost all employers now have workplace pensions which include an employer contribution, which is a very good place to start.

Please contact us if you'd like to discuss your pension with an adviser.

The value of your investment and the income from it can go down as well as up and you may not get back the original amount invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator for future results. Levels, bases and reliefs from taxation are subject to change and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor. Please contact us for further information or if you are in any doubt as to the suitability of an investment.