DO YOUNGER WORKERS BELIEVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WILL BE A SOURCE OF INCOME IN THEIR (AND THEIR SPOUSE’S) RETIREMENT?

The 2015 Retirement Confidence Survey finds that younger workers (age 45 and below) have sharply different views about the role Social Security will play in their retirement, based on various factors—chief among them whether they have tried to figure out what their projected Social Security benefits will be.

Social Security as a Source of Income in Retirement by Age

Twice as many of today’s workers who are 45 and younger expect Social Security not to be a source of income in their retirement (26 percent) as workers who are over age 45 (13 percent) (Figure 1).

Twenty-nine percent of males ages 45 and under believe that Social Security benefits will not be a source of income for them, compared with 21 percent of females ages 45 and under (Figure 2).
Forty-one percent of workers ages 45 and under who believe Social Security benefits will not be a source of income for them talked with a professional financial advisor about retirement planning, compared with 35 percent of those who thought Social Security would be a minor source and only 19 percent of those who thought it would be a major source (Figure 3).

Young Workers’ Expectations of Social Security Income, by Gender

Young Workers’ Expectations of Social Security Income, by Having Consulted A Financial Planner

Twenty-eight percent of workers ages 45 and under who stated that they did not estimate the amount of Social Security benefit at their retirement age believe Social Security benefits will not be a source of income for them, compared with 20 percent of those who stated that they had made such an estimate (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Younger Workers' Expectations of Social Security Income, by Having Estimated the Benefit

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