Many Factors Affect Receipt of Pension, Annuity Income

WASHINGTON—The likelihood of an American receiving pension and/or annuity income is affected by a variety of factors, including gender, age, education level, and the economic sector in which he or she worked, according to a new study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). Gender differences continue to be particularly significant.

The study, “Retirement Annuity and Employment-Based Pension Income Among Individuals Ages 50 and Over,” appears in the March EBRI Notes, available at www.ebri.org. Here are some study findings:

Percentage of those receiving pension, annuity income (2004):

- Men over age 65: 45.1 percent.
- Men over age 80: 47.0 percent.
- Women over age 65: 27.9 percent.
- Women over age 80: 30.8 percent.

Annual amounts for those receiving pension, annuity income (2004):

- Men over age 65: $17,041 mean (average); $12,000 median (mid-point, half above, half below).
- Men over age 80: $14,969 mean; $10,128 median.
- Women over age 65: $9,785 mean; $6,432 median.
- Women over age 80: $8,111 mean; $5,750 median.

Education level of those over age 50 receiving pension, annuity income (2004):

- Men with high school diploma to associate’s degree: 26.4 percent.
- Women with high school diploma to associate’s degree: 17.7 percent.
- Men with bachelor’s degree: 27.2 percent.
- Women with bachelor’s degree: 19.3 percent.
- Men with graduate degree: 27.9 percent.
- Women with graduate degree: 22.8 percent.

Percentage of those over age 50 receiving pension, annuity income by sector (2004):

- Men in private sector: 16.4 percent.
- Women in private sector: 10.3 percent.
- Men in public sector: 8.7 percent.
- Women in public sector: 6.6 percent.

Annual amounts for those over age 50 receiving pension, annuity income by sector (2004)

- Men, private sector: $14,134 mean; $10,080 median.
- Men, public sector: $25,612 mean; $21,600 median.
- Women, private sector: $8,227 mean; $4,800 median.
- Women, public sector: $15,801 mean; $13,128 median.

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