Social Security—Modest Expectations, an Important Reality

For the past two decades, workers haven’t expected much of Social Security as a retirement income source—and yet, retirees continue to cite it as a major source of their retirement income, according to a recent survey.

The 2013 Retirement Confidence Survey reveals that workers today are less likely to expect Social Security income in retirement (77 percent) than today’s retirees are to report having this income (93 percent). They are also half as likely to expect Social Security to be a major share of their income in retirement (33 percent) as retirees are to say that Social Security is a major share of their income (70 percent).

In fact, EBRI research has shown that 60 percent of Americans age 65 or older received at least 75 percent of their income from Social Security.

Additional findings from the 2013 Retirement Confidence Survey, including expanded information regarding worker and retiree sentiments and experience regarding Social Security and Medicare, are available online here.

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