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Income from Pensions and Annuities: Gender Differences

WASHINGTON —Does gender play a role in the prospect of receiving annuity and/or employment-based pension income in retirement?

The short answer is yes, according to a recent study by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI)—in fact, it’s a “particularly strong factor,” the study says.

For example, 24.1 percent of men age 50 and over received pensions and/or annuities in 2008, compared with 18.1 percent of women of the same age. In 2008, the mean annual income for men age 50 and over receiving pensions and/or annuities from private-sector employers was \$15,888, compared with \$9,700 for women. The chart below also has data on the percentage of men and women age 50 and older receiving public-sector pensions and annuities and the 2008 mean and median annual amounts.

**Mean and Median Pension and Annuity Income Reciprocity,
Men and Women Over Age 50, 2008**

	Percentage Receiving Pensions and Annuities	<i>Mean</i> Annual Income for Those Receiving Income From Pensions, Annuities	<i>Median</i> Annual Income for Those Receiving Income From Pensions, Annuities
Total Men Age 50 and Over	24.1%	\$21,155	\$15,106
Total Men Private Sector	14.7	15,888	10,800
Total Men Public Sector	8.4	29,374	24,243
Total Women 50 and Over	18.1	13,742	9,600
Total Women Private Sector	10.0	9,700	6,000
Total Women Public Sector	7.2	18,697	14,941

Source: Employee Benefit Research estimates from the 2009 Current Population Survey, March Supplement.

On average, younger women today spend less time in the work force than men of similar ages and tend to have lower-paying jobs, a situation due in large part to leave taken from work to provide family care-giving. However, on average, today's younger women will likely spend more time in the work force than did women who were age 50 and over in 2008. As other EBRI research has shown, women’s participation in retirement plans has risen significantly in recently years.

The full details of study appear in the May 2010 *EBRI Notes*, available at www.ebri.org

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