

Contact: Steve Blakely, EBRI, (202) 775-6341, blakely@ebri.org

The Sources of Income of Elderly Men and Women (Age 65 and Older)

WASHINGTON— How do the sources of income differ for elderly men and women (age 65 and older)?

A recent study by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) answers that and other questions about the sources of income of the elderly in 2009. Here are the results:

- **Social Security:** Elderly women derived a greater share of their income from Social Security and assets than elderly men in 2009. Social Security accounted for 49.0 percent of elderly women's income, compared with 35.9 percent of elderly men's income.
- **Assets:** Income from assets accounted for 12.8 percent of elderly women's income, compared with 10.1 percent of elderly men's. By comparison, elderly men derived a larger share of their income from employment-based sources, including pensions and annuities and earnings, than elderly women. Income from earnings accounted for 30.1 percent of the elderly men's income, compared with 19.8 percent of elderly women's.
- **Pensions:** In 2009, pensions and annuities accounted for 21.2 percent of elderly men's income, compared with 16.6 percent of elderly women's.

Note: Total income of men over age 65 is significantly higher than that of women the same age.

Distribution of Older Population's Average Annual Income, by Source and Gender, 2009

| Source | Men: Income | Men: Percentage | Women: Income | Women Percentage |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total income | \$37,509 | 100.0% | \$21,519 | 100.0% |
| Social Security | \$13,461 | 35.9% | \$10,552 | 49.0% |
| Pensions | \$7,948 | 21.2% | \$3,571 | 16.6% |
| Assets | \$3,798 | 10.1% | \$2,753 | 12.8% |
| Earnings | \$11,304 | 30.1% | \$4,269 | 19.8% |
| Other | \$998 | 2.7% | \$375 | 1.7% |

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute tabulations of data from the Current Population Survey, March 2010 Supplement. Income includes public assistance, Supplemental Security Income, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, veterans' benefits, nonpension survivors' benefits, nonpension disability benefits, educational assistance, child support, alimony, regular financial assistance from friends and relatives not living in the individual's household, and other sources of income.

The EBRI tabulations are based on the latest available data on the elderly population's income, from the U.S. Census Bureau's March 2010 Current Population Survey.

Fast Facts from EBRI is issued by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute to highlight benefits information that may be of current interest. Established in 1978, EBRI is an independent nonprofit organization committed exclusively to data dissemination, policy research, and education on economic security and employee benefits. EBRI does not take policy positions and does not lobby.