

## Survey: Americans reboot retirement goals since recession

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According to a national survey by SunAmerica Financial Group, Americans age 55 and older are retuning their retirement plans since the recession.

Retirement has taken on a whole new meaning for Americans since the recession, according to a study by SunAmerica Financial Group, the parent company of Houston-based American General Life Cos.

Those reaching traditional retirement age in the next 10 years are rethinking their strategies — but in general, three of five Americans age 55 or older are hopeful for the future.

Fifty-four percent view retirement as a “new chapter” in life rather than a winding down — a significant increase from the 38 percent that held that view 10 years ago, while many pre-retirees say they will likely delay retirement until age 69, four years later than the typical age 65.

“Americans are emerging from the experience (of the recession) with new knowledge, new discipline and have reset their vision of an ideal retirement,” said Jay Wintrob, SunAmerica Financial Group president and CEO, in a statement. “They are course-correcting: intending to work longer, save more, spend less, be more disciplined and adjust their lifestyle expectations.”

Other findings:

- 65 percent said they would ideally like to remain productive and include some work in retirement;
- 82 percent said financial peace of mind is more important than accumulating wealth, while 84 percent said they are much more cautious in their investments post-recession;
- One-third said their financial assets have yet to recover from the recession, with 46 percent saying their home is worth less than before the financial crisis.

The national U.S. telephone survey was conducted by Harris Interactive for Los Angeles-based SunAmerica between April 11-25 among a cross-section of 1,001 adults age 55 and older.

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