

# WOMEN AND RETIREMENT

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Virtue Money

Both Aegon and Scottish Widows have recently conducted surveys to see where women are, regarding their pension provision.

Unfortunately, the findings of the surveys prove grim reading as both show that women are woefully under prepared for their retirement compared with men!

**Aegon's study found that 15% of women have no pension provision at all compared with 11% of men and that women are half as likely as men to be confident about their ability to have a comfortable retirement.**

Although, this year's **Scottish Widows** report findings are encouraging as they show that women are starting to save more for their retirement with auto-enrolment really helping to highlight to both women and men the need to save for retirement.

However, the report also shows that the narrowing gap is happening slowly and in part can be attributed to the fact that the number of men saving enough is in decline.

**Aegon's survey findings echo a 2017 AJ Bell survey which found that on average women are retiring with a pension pot of around £59,000 which is around two fifths of the average men's pension pot of £143,000.**

**Here are some of the reasons for this pension gender disparity -**

- > The gap between women's and men's pay mirrors the retirement savings gap, lower pay equals lower retirement savings.
- > Women may have breaks in their careers or reduce their working hours to have or look after children.
- > Women may also take breaks or reduce their working hours to care for elderly relatives.



**So, how can women concerned about their lack of retirement saving go about tackling this issue?**

**The best way is to have a plan and ask yourself questions like –**

- > How much do I need in retirement to cover my essential expenses?
- > Find out what your State Pension Entitlement is, you can do this by visiting the Government Pension Service website.
- > What pensions do you have? If you've had several employers throughout your working life you might have old pension schemes with them. Have a look through your paperwork or contact your old employers directly to find out what you have and where.
- > Do you want to consolidate all these old "pension pots" this may help you keep track of your pension savings and could save you money on charges? It's always a good idea to seek financial advice before doing this though to make sure it is actually the best option for you.
- > If you can then put a plan in place to begin increasing your pension contributions. If you are finding money tight then why not consider putting your bonus in as a one-off contribution

or increase monthly contributions if you get a pay rise!

- > If you're in your employer's pension scheme then check it out, what fund is the scheme's default. Remember this is your money and you do have a say in where it is invested.
- > What other assets do you have, do you have property or savings? These together with your pension pot(s) might mean you are in a better retirement position than you think.

**If you want guidance on pensions, then there are several websites you could look at -**

- > Pension Wise
- > The Pension Advisory Service
- > Unbiased

**If however you feel that you would like some financial advice on your pension (or investments or protection for that matter) then please either call me on 0345 034 3424 or email me at [susan@virtuemoney.com](mailto:susan@virtuemoney.com) and I can make an appointment with one of our advisers.**

**The first appointment is free of charge and no obligation, so you have nothing to lose.**

**FREE**  
CONSULTATION

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Information Sources – Scottish Widows Women in Retirement 2018 – the Barriers to Savings Report, AJ Bell's The Pensions Freedoms 'Engagement Gap' & Aegon's Article Pensions -the other gender pay gap

This article is intended to provide a general overview and opinion of certain topics and its purpose is to inform but not to recommend or support any specific investment or course of action.

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