

France



Self-Employment in France

Around one-in-ten (11.5 percent) of the French work for themselves, compared to an EU average is 17 percent. In 2015, France introduced new laws to reduce the taxes and costs of being self-employed.¹ Self-employed workers are expected to make contributions to the social security system depending on the legal and tax status of their business. The self-employed are also expected to pay around €2,000 to €2,500 per year into a private pension fund. Plan d'Epargne Retraite Populaire or PERPs was also introduced in 2003 to provide additional tax sheltered opportunities to save privately. Life insurance policies are also widely used to provide additional income in retirement.² The French self-employed are only too aware of the need to plan financially for retirement (76 percent aware compared to 72 percent globally). However the French are somewhat slow to take action on their intentions. A relatively low proportion (22 percent) say they have very or somewhat well-developed plans (compared to 38 percent globally) and just 27 percent say that they always make sure that they are saving for retirement.

Key country indicators



9.7%³ of workers are self-employed



64%⁴ of self-employed are men



65 years official retirement age (when full entitlements are payable)

Profile of French self-employed



\$23.0k median personal income



85% cite positive reasons for becoming self-employed



74% are sole-proprietors



16% will sell their business to prepare for retirement

What attitudes and expectations do the self-employed hold toward retirement?



Confident you will be able to fully retire with a lifestyle you consider comfortable

France: **9%**

Global: **26%**



Proportion that expect to retire at over 65 (includes never)

France: **42%**

Global: **40%**



Envision a flexible transition to retirement

France: **61%**

Global: **69%**

How are the self-employed planning and saving for retirement?



Habitual savers

France: **27%**

Global: **34%**



Have a written retirement strategy

France: **9%**

Global: **13%**



Have a backup plan

France: **26%**

Global: **38%**

This country profile is part of the report “Retirement Preparations in a New Age of Self-Employment” and contains research findings from the fifth annual Aegon Retirement Readiness Survey. To read the full report and view videos and infographics, please visit: aegon.com/Self-Employed

Sources:

¹ <https://www.frenchentree.com/news/new-autoentrepreneur-system-for-small-businesses/>

² <https://www.justlanded.com/english/France/Articles/Business/Pensions>

³ [OECD Self Employment rate \(2011\)](#)

⁴ [OECD Self-Employment, proportion male \(2011\)](#)

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