



The Future of Retirement

Shifting sands

Australia Report

HSBC 



Foreword



Key findings

The changing
retirement
landscape

Planning for
retirement in
a volatile age

Millennials and
retirement

Retirement 2.0



Practical steps



The research

Foreword

We live in interesting times. Unprecedented political, social, economic and technological change means it has never been more challenging or more important to save for a good retirement.

Our latest report in The Future of Retirement series, *Shifting sands*, looks at how important issues like the ageing population, rising healthcare costs and long term low interest rates are affecting the retirement plans of people around the world.

The report investigates how people are making sacrifices, exploring new sources of funding and adjusting their retirement expectations for a world that is very different even to that of ten years ago.

I hope that the new insights and practical steps in this report will help you to plan for the best possible retirement.

Charlie Nunn
Group Head of Wealth Management, HSBC



Key findings

44%

of working age people think low interest rates mean they will need to work for longer



73%

of working age people believe levels of national debt mean there will be less support for the elderly



75%

of working age people believe retirees will have to spend more on healthcare costs in the future



21%

of working age people think they will be financially comfortable in retirement, based on how their retirement saving is progressing



51%

of working age people say they will continue working to some extent in retirement



46%

of working age people think property offers the best returns for retirement saving



[Read more](#) 

Key findings

11%

of people think Millennials are in the best position for a comfortable retirement, compared to **42%** who think Baby Boomers are



25

is the average age Millennials started saving for retirement



63

is the average age Millennials expect to retire



44%

of people believe that Millennials are paying for the economic consequences of previous generations



35%

of working age people believe new technology makes saving for retirement easier



41%

of working age people believe new technology will help give future retirees a better standard of living



The changing retirement landscape



A new world

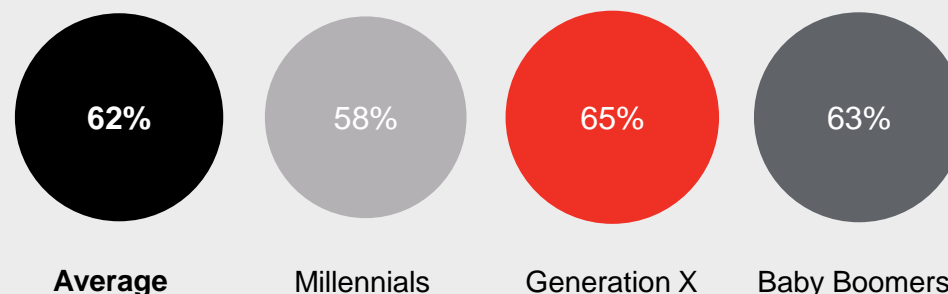
The world is changing and retirement is changing with it. Major political, social, economic and technological changes are having a significant impact on how people view their retirement prospects.

Ageing populations and rising national debts are sapping confidence in the ability of economies around the world to continue supporting older people. Overall, **62%** of working age people in Australia are concerned about declining state pensions/social provision and **62%** about the growing number of older people requiring retirement funding/support. Nearly three-quarters (**73%**) of working age people agree that levels of national debt mean there will be less support for the elderly.

Just under a third (**31%**) of working age people believe state pensions will no longer exist when they come to retire, and this view is more common among Millennials (**35%**) than Baby Boomers (**17%**).

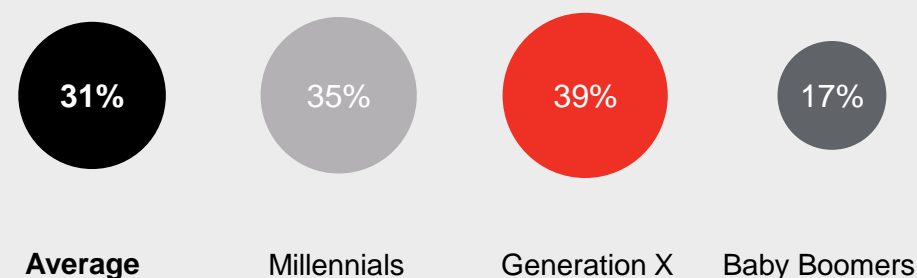


Working age people concerned about declining state pensions/social provision



Q. To what extent, if at all, are you concerned about the following affecting your retirement?
A. Declining state pensions/social provision (Base: Working age people)

Working age people who believe state pensions will no longer exist when they retire



Q. Do you think state pensions will still exist when you come to retire?
A. No (Base: Working age people)

Volatile economies

Sixty-one percent of working age people are concerned about the impact of economic uncertainty on their ability to save for retirement. **Fifty-two percent** say it will be more difficult to save for a comfortable retirement following the financial crisis of 2007/8.

'Lower for longer' interest rates are also making it harder to save for a comfortable retirement. More than two fifths (**44%**) of working age people think low interest rates will mean they will need to work for longer (compared to the global average of **50%**), while **36%** say they need interest rates to rise if they are to save enough to be comfortable in retirement.



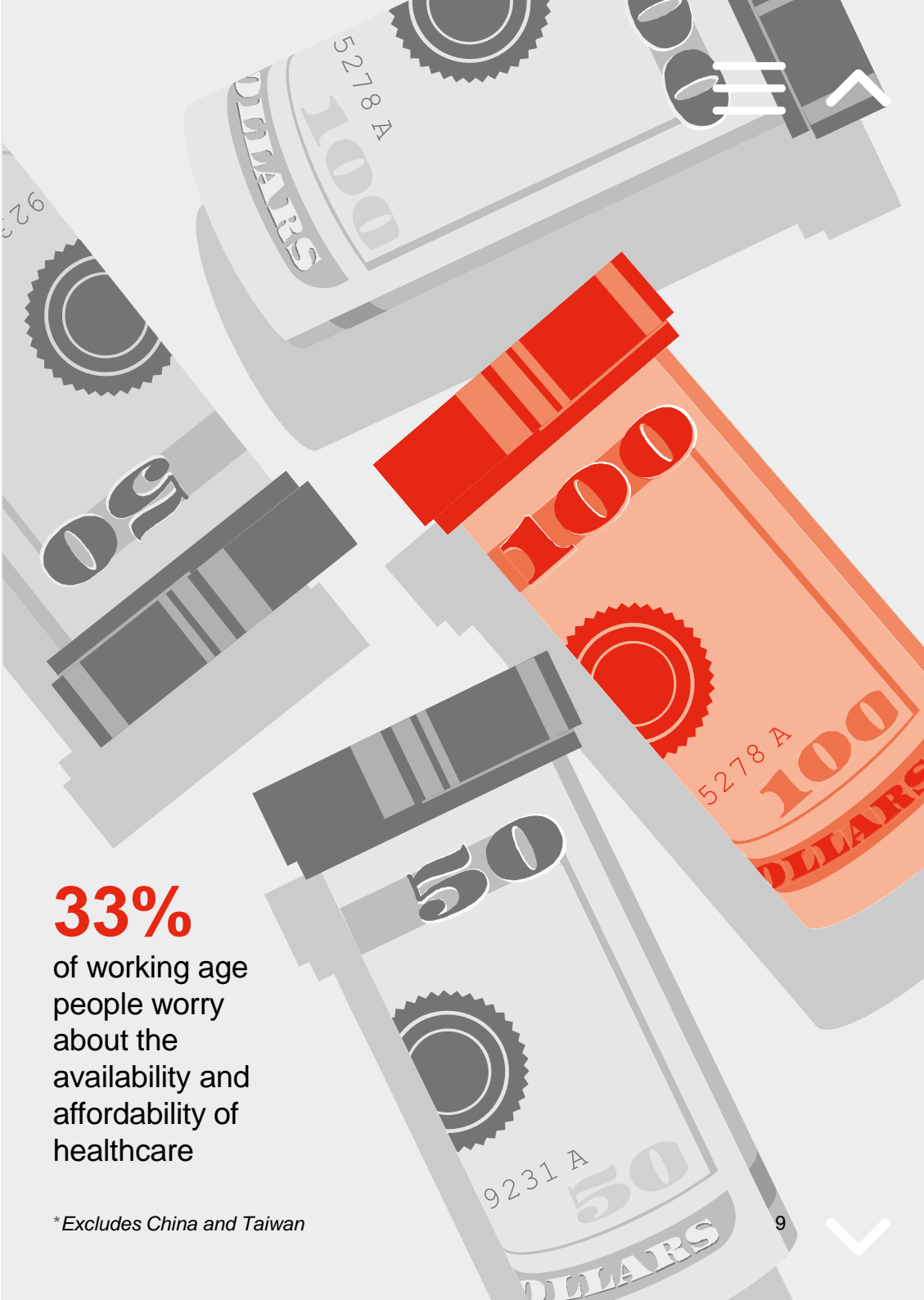
44%

of working age people
think low interest rates
mean they will need to
work for longer

Health cheque

The rising cost of healthcare is another important issue. **Seventy-five percent** of working age people believe that retirees will have to spend more on healthcare costs in the future, and **66%** are concerned about being able to fund their health care.

Thirty percent of working age people worry about the availability and affordability of healthcare compared to global average of **25%***.



33%
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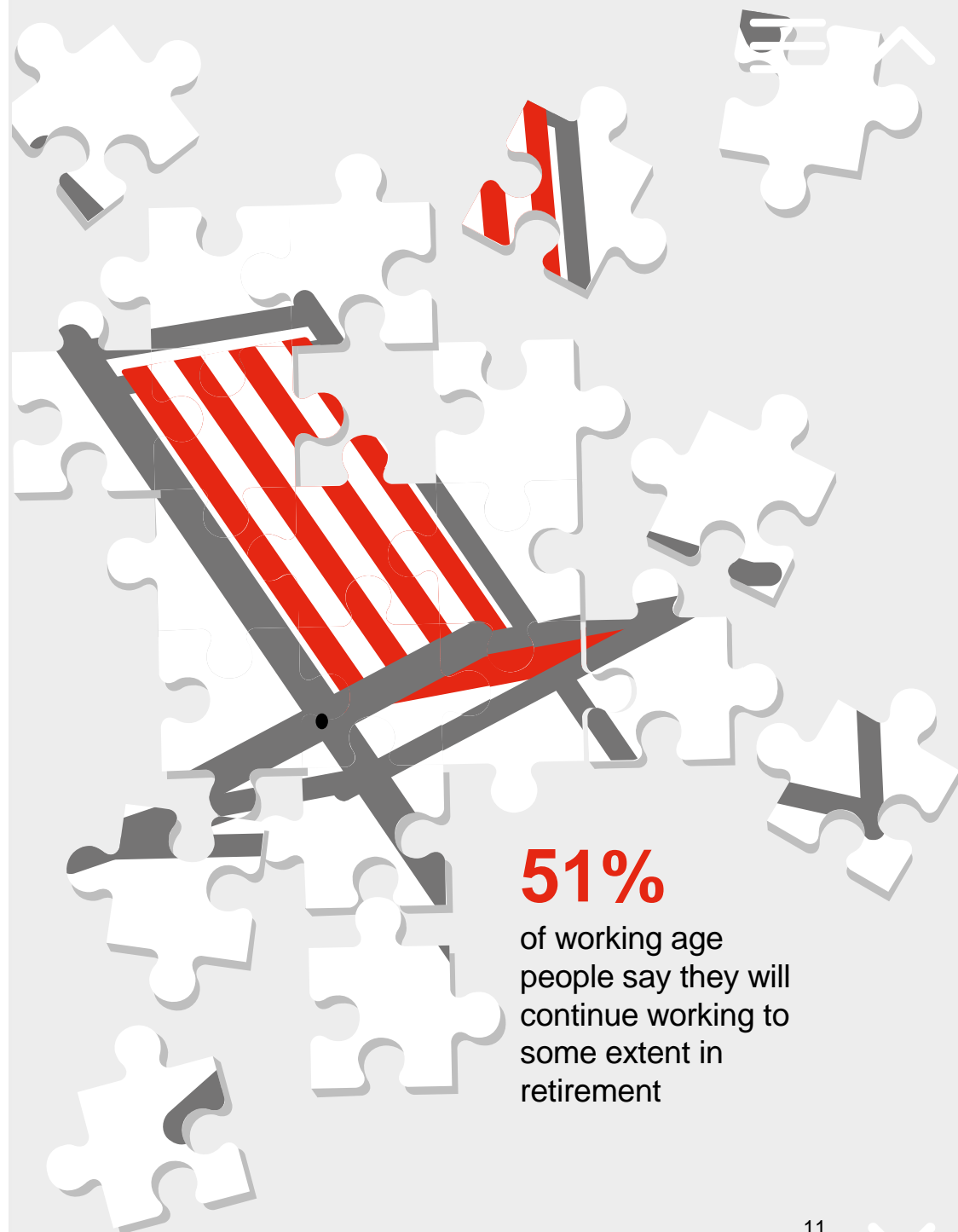
Planning for retirement in a volatile age

Expecting the worst

The changes in the retirement landscape are forcing people to adjust their expectations for retirement. Based on how their retirement saving is progressing, only **21%** of working age people think they will be financially comfortable when retired.

Meanwhile, constant change is making it difficult to plan ahead, with **43%** of working age people believing things change so much that their retirement plan won't be applicable by the time they retire. Nearly one third (**32%**) have not started saving for retirement.

In light of this, **51%** of working age people say they will continue working to some extent in retirement. **Sixty-eight percent** would be willing to defer their retirement for two years or more to have a better retirement income. **Thirty-four percent** would work for longer or get a second job to sustain their saving for retirement.



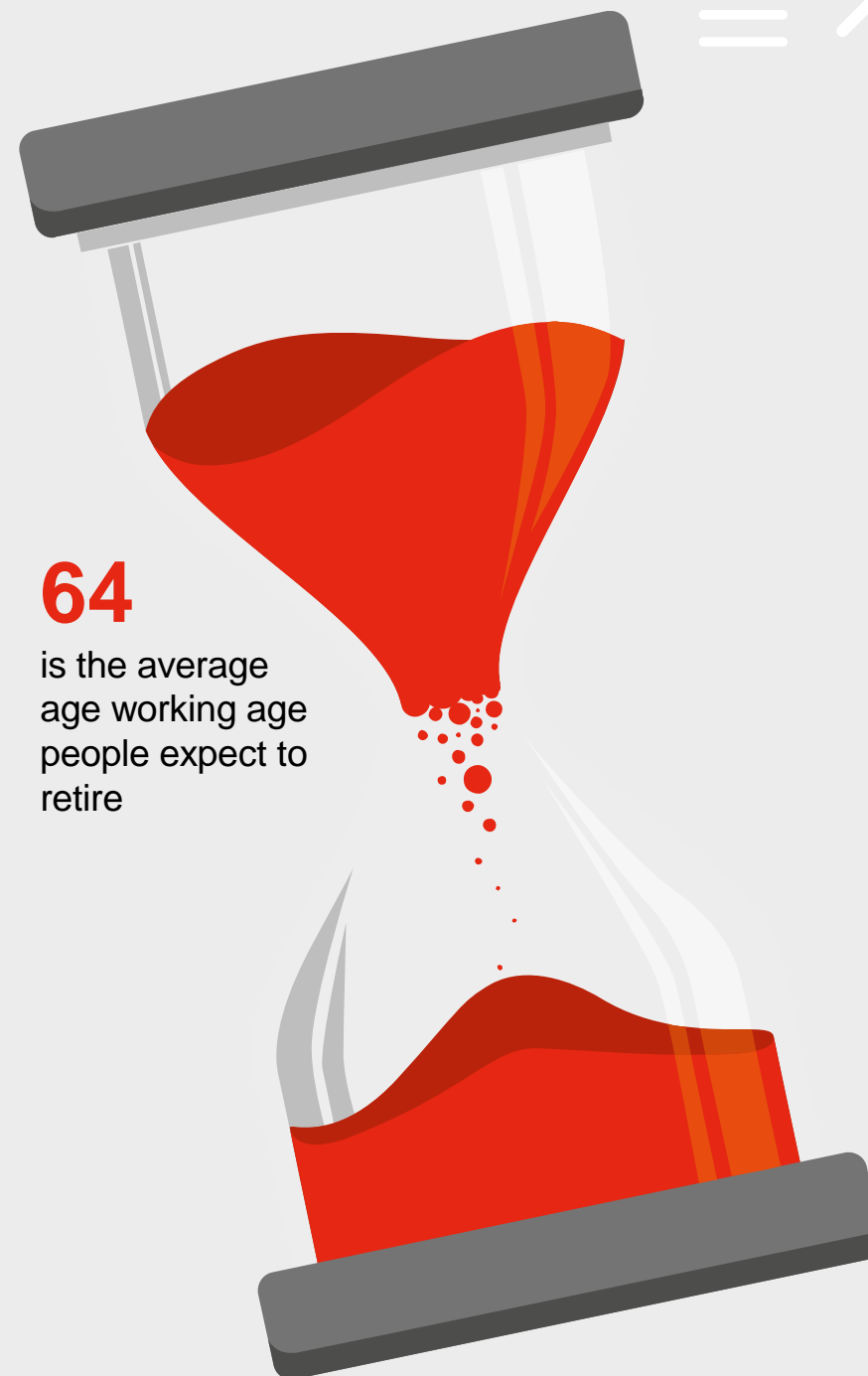
51%

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Length of retirement

On average, working age people expect to retire at age **64** (compared to the global average of **61**) and expect to live to age **85** (global average of **81**), resulting in a retirement of **21** years (global average of **20**).

There is little variation between generations' expectations of when they will retire and how long they will live. Millennials expect to retire at age **63**, Generation X at **64** and Baby Boomers at **65**. Millennials expect to live to age **85**, Generation X to **83** and Baby Boomers to **87**, resulting in expected retirements of **22**, **19** and **22** years respectively.



Funding retirement

In a time of continuing economic volatility, property is viewed as a good way of saving for retirement, with **46%** of working age people thinking it delivers the best returns. This compares to **26%** for stocks and shares, **23%** for cash savings, **7%** for government/corporate bonds and **5%** for buying business.

This is not yet fully reflected in retirement plans, with only **20%** of working age people expecting property to help fund their retirement. **Thirty-six percent** expect state pension/ social security to be a source of funding, cash savings **34%**, and their own income **24%**.

Property is viewed as offering the best returns for retirement saving



Risk appetite

With interest rates at historic lows, **37%** of working age people think they will need to move their money from savings into investments and **32%** actively move their money around to get the best return/deal.

Nonetheless, there is a relatively low appetite for risk, with only **21%** of working age people being very willing to make risky investments to ensure their financial stability and **21%** being willing to risk financial losses.

Forty-three percent of working age people say they actively seek information to guide their financial decisions.

32%

of working age people actively move their money around to get the best return/deal



Millennials & retirement

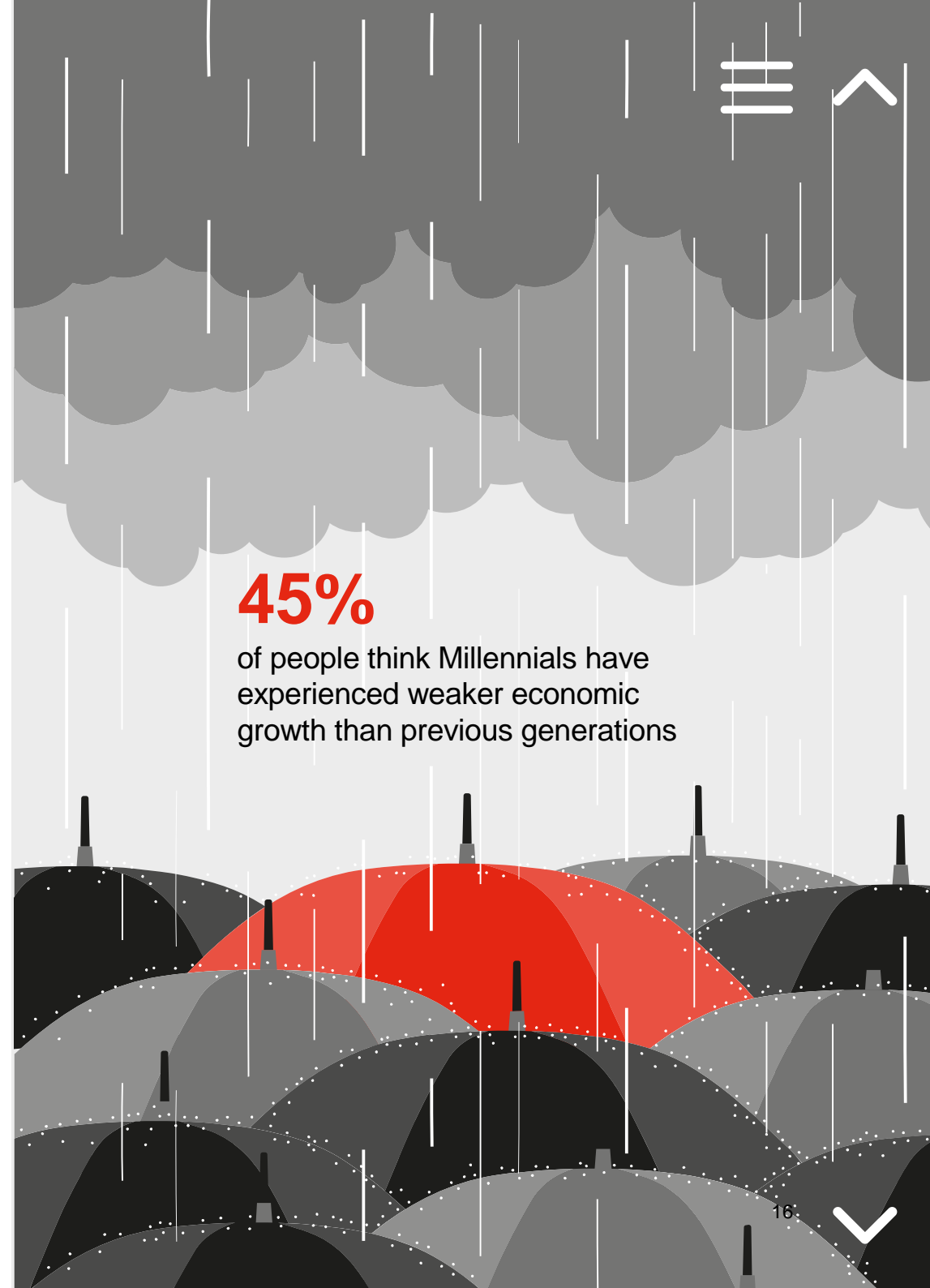


A perfect storm

The economic challenges facing the Millennial generation (those born between 1980 and 1997) are starkly reflected in their retirement prospects.

Forty-five percent of people believe that Millennials have experienced weaker economic growth than previous generations, while **44%** agree that Millennials are paying for the economic consequences of older generations, such as the global financial crisis and rising national debt.

However, **55%** of people say that Millennials don't know how good they have it, enjoying a better quality of life than any generation before them.



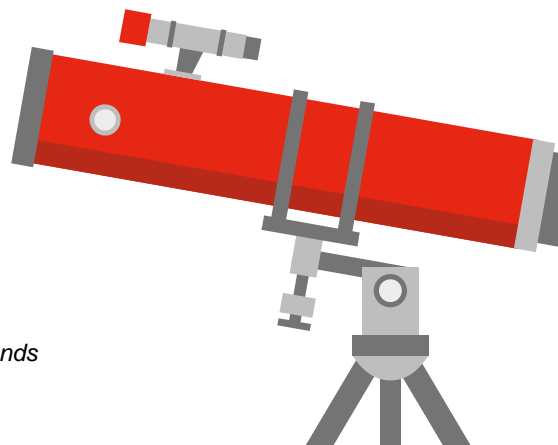
45%

of people think Millennials have experienced weaker economic growth than previous generations

Retirement prospects

When it comes to retirement, Millennials are seen as less fortunate than previous generations. Only **11%** of people think Millennials are in the best position for a comfortable retirement, compared to **42%** who think Baby Boomers are. **Forty-eight percent** of Baby Boomers believe that their own generation is in the best position to retire comfortably.

In terms of life expectancy and retirement planning, 64% of people – and **54%** of Millennials themselves – believe the Millennial generation will live much longer and will need to support themselves for longer.



Expected length of retirement

Average



Millennials



Generation X



Baby Boomers



■ Age expect to retire
■ Age expect to live to

Q. What age do you expect to retire? Q. What age do you expect to live to?
 (Base: Working age people)

Taking action

On average, Millennials started saving for retirement at age **25**. However, **39%** of Millennials have not yet started saving for retirement, compared to **29%** of Generation X and **25%** of Baby Boomers.

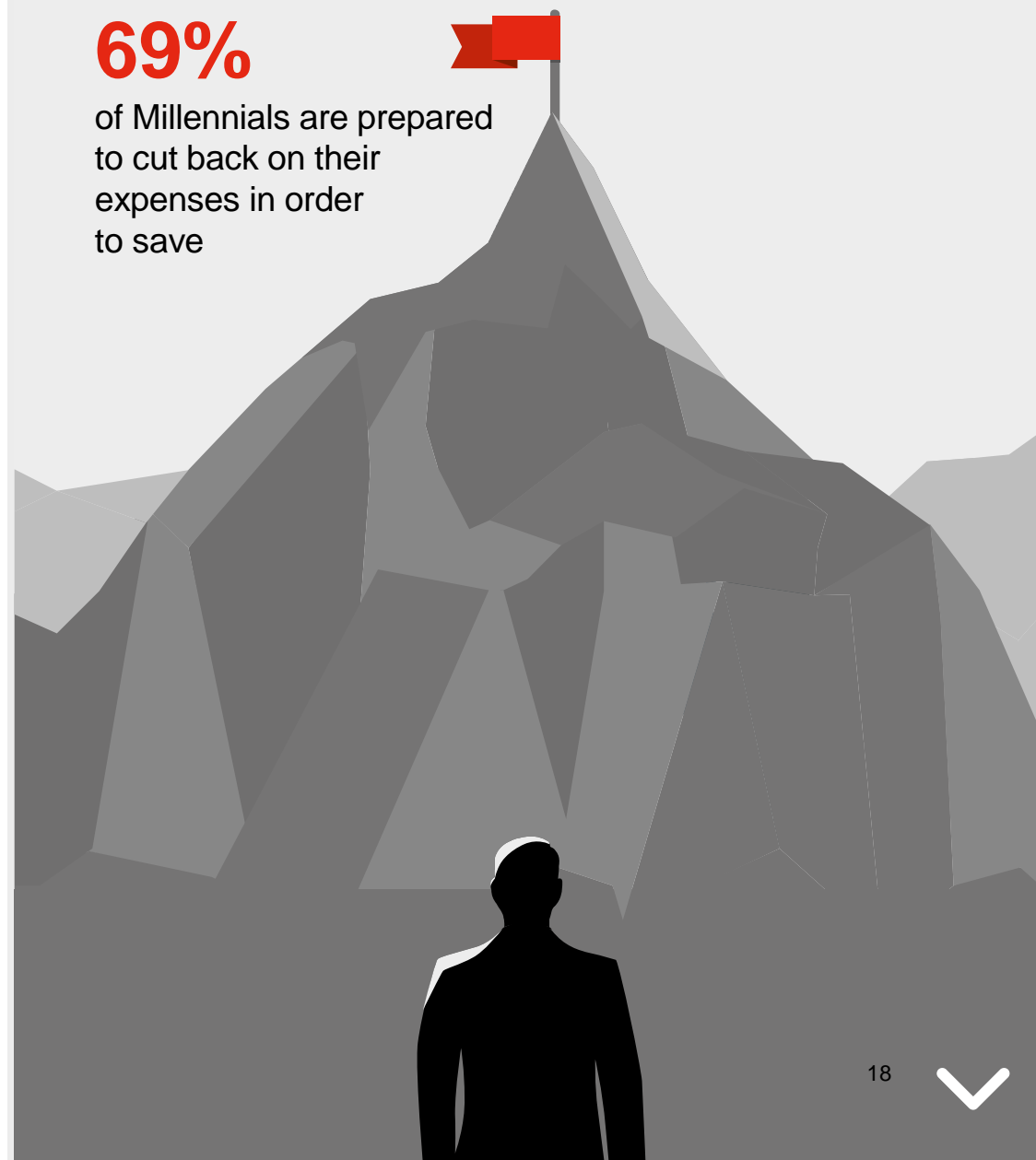
With **66%** of Millennials concerned about running out of money affecting their retirement, **69%** are prepared to cut back on their present expenses in order to save, compared to **66%** of Generation X and **62%** of Baby Boomers. **Sixty-five percent** of Millennials see saving as a difficult but necessary task (Generation X **68%**, Baby Boomers **63%**).

There is difference across generations in terms of financial risk aversion. **Twenty-eight percent** of Millennials are very willing to make risky investments to ensure their financial stability which is a higher proportion than Generation X (**17%**) and Baby Boomers (**13%**).

However, **50%** of Millennials actively seek information to guide their financial decisions compared to **39%** of Generation X and **38%** of Baby Boomers.

69%

of Millennials are prepared to cut back on their expenses in order to save



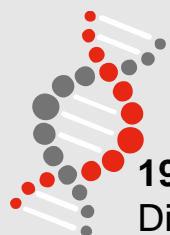
Defining the generations

Baby Boomers

Born 1945 to 1965



1945
End of WWII



1953
Discovery
of DNA



1957
European Common
Market established

Generation X

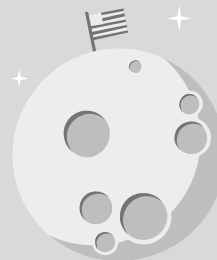
Born 1966 to 1979



1960s
US Civil Rights
movement



1969
Woodstock
festival



1969
Moon landing

Millennials

Born 1980 to 1997



1989
Fall of Berlin Wall



1991
Launch of
Internet



1997
First Harry
Potter book



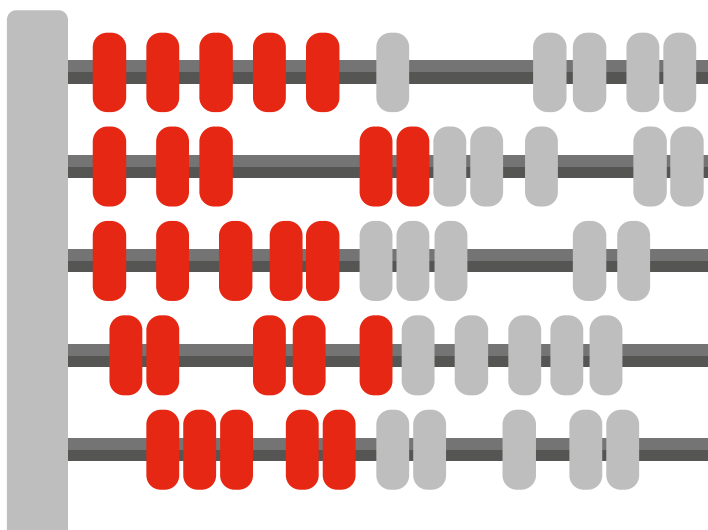
Retirement 2.0

Saving time and money

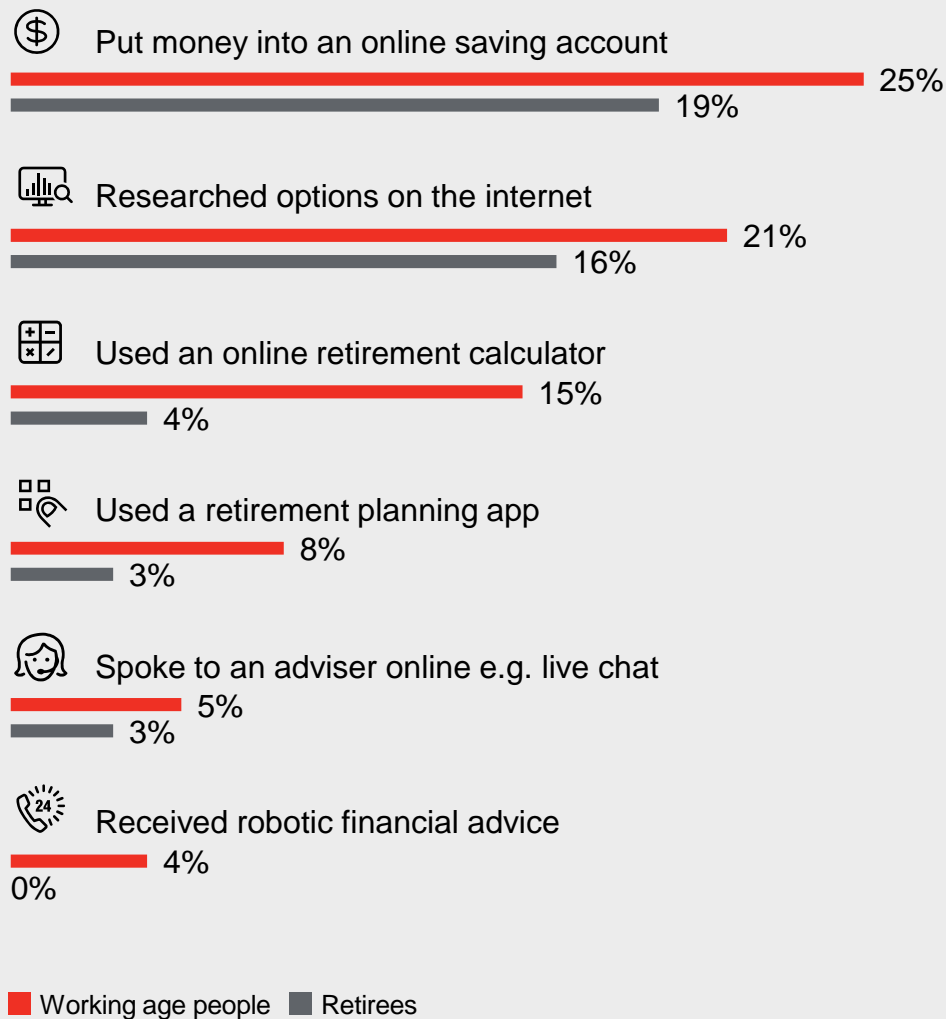
Technology is changing the way people save for retirement.

Over a third (**35%**) of working age people agree that new technology makes it easier to save for their retirement.

People are using new technology in different ways to plan for and manage their retirement.



How new technologies help people plan for retirement

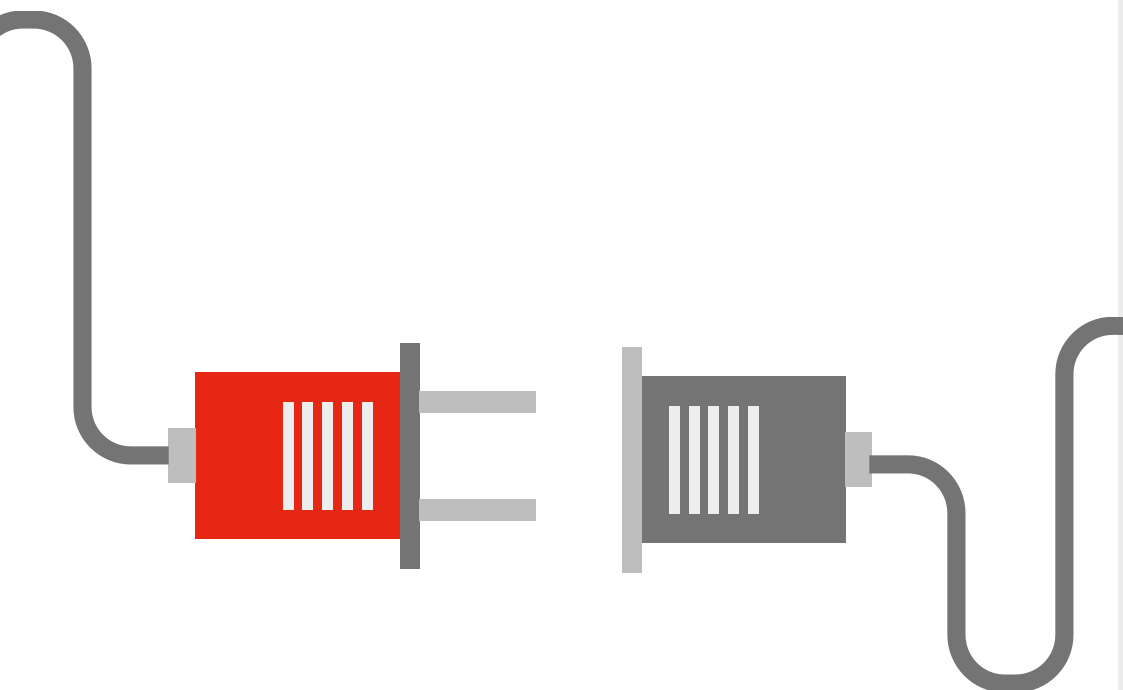


Q. What role, if any, has new technology played in helping you plan for your retirement? (Base: All)

Stay connected

Additionally, over a third (**41%**) of working age people believe that new technology will help give future retirees a better standard of living.

People are using or think they will use new technologies in different ways in retirement.



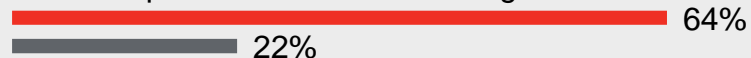
The role of technology in retirement



Helps me stay connected with family and friends



Helps me to continue working



Helps me stay active and mobile



Monitors and maintains my health

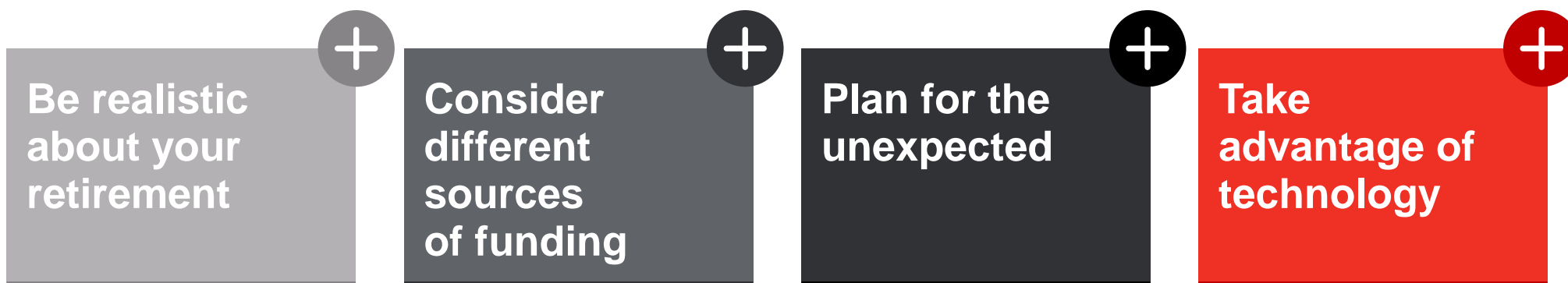


■ Working age people ■ Retirees

Q. Do you think you will use/are you using any of the following new technologies in your retirement? (Base: All)

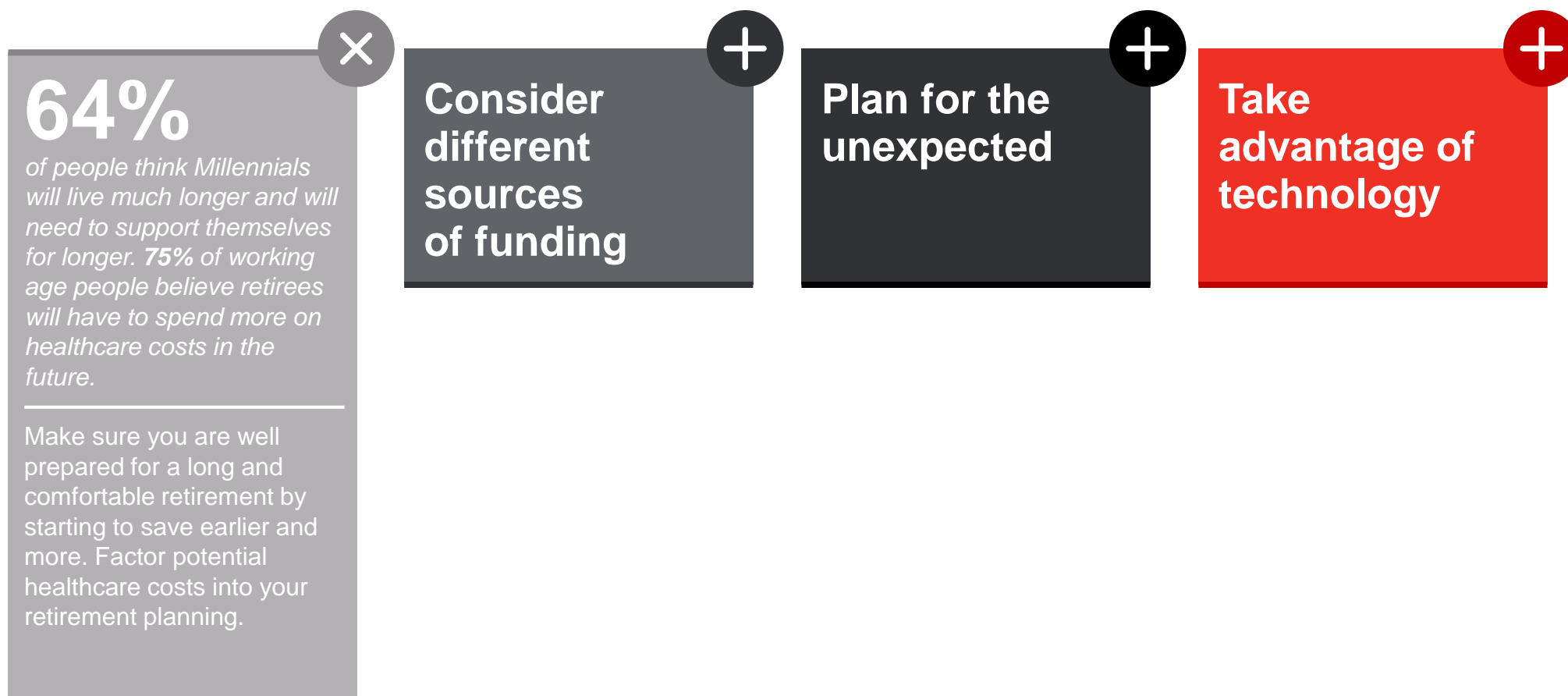
Practical steps

Here are some important insights and practical actions drawn from the research findings, which may help today's retirement savers plan a better financial future for themselves.



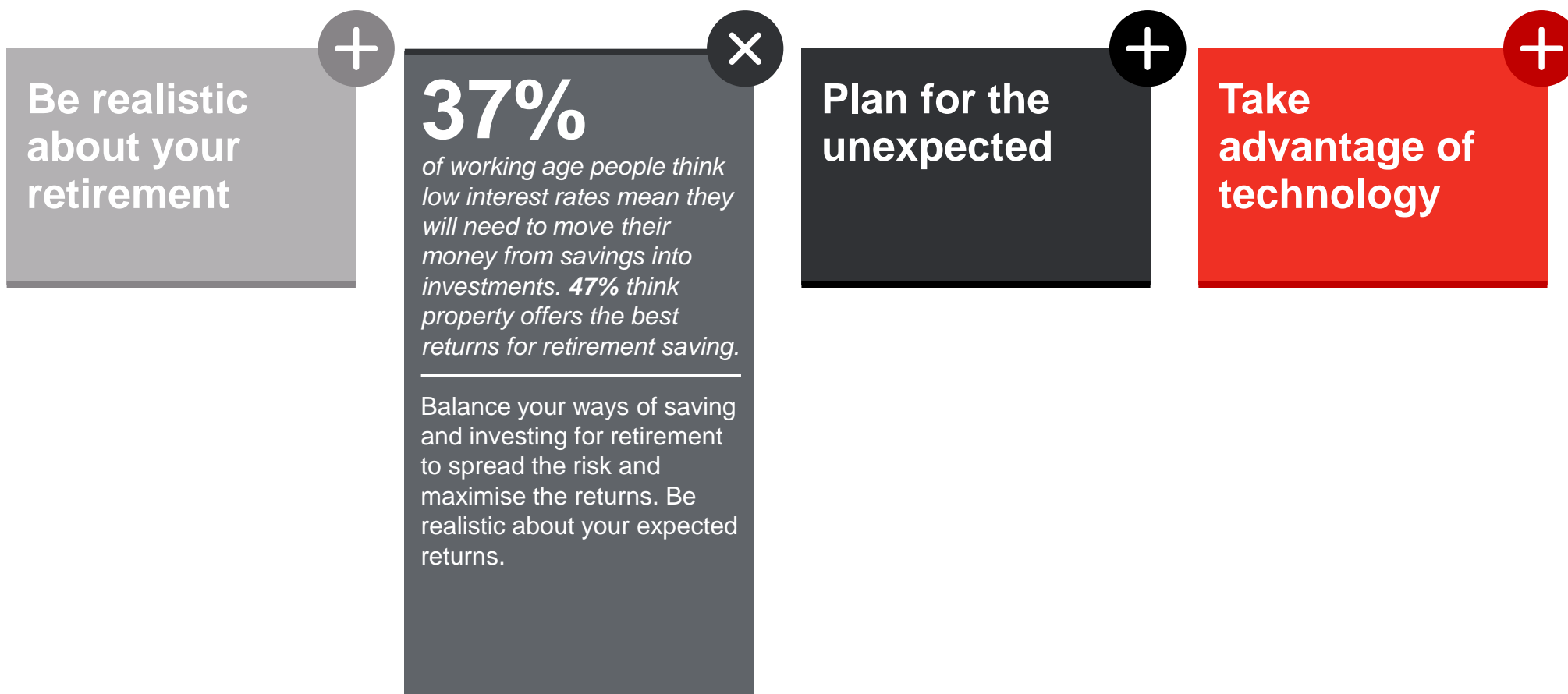
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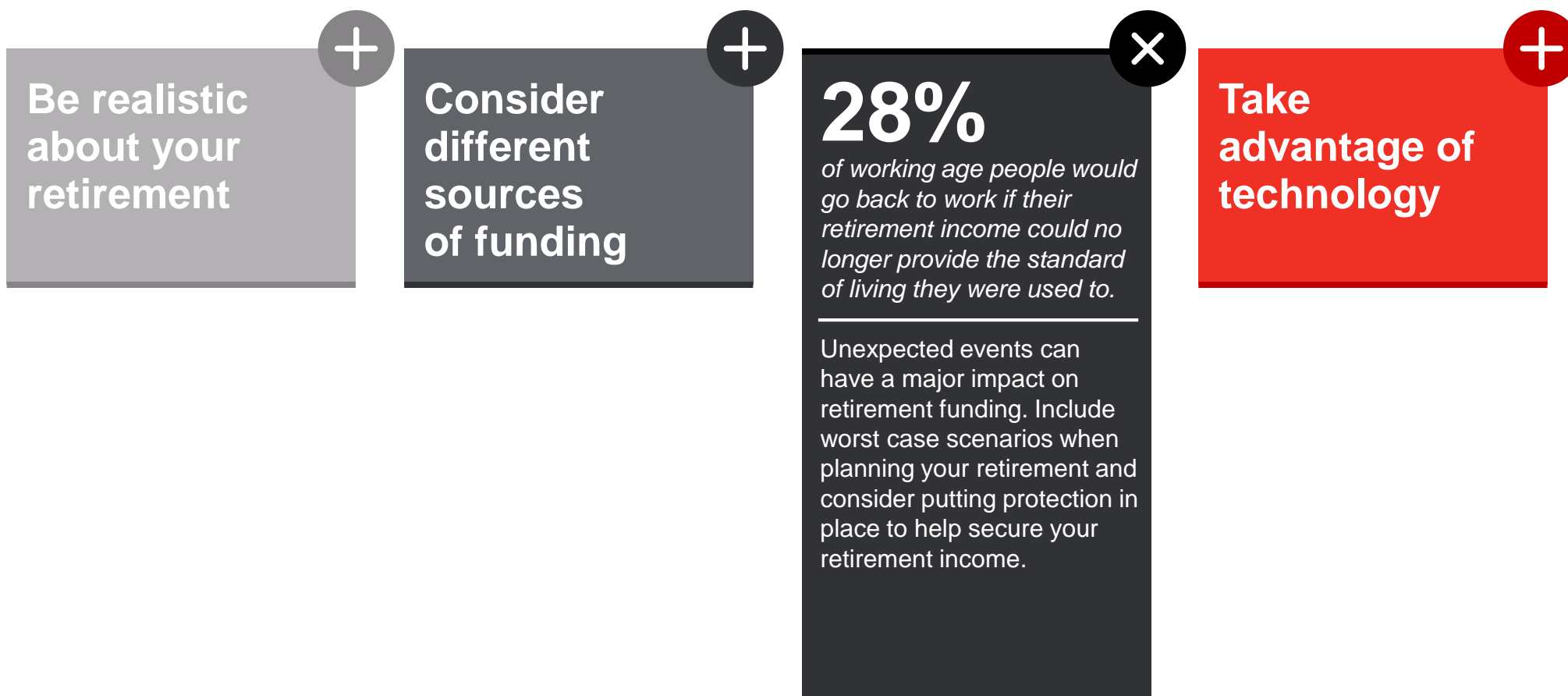
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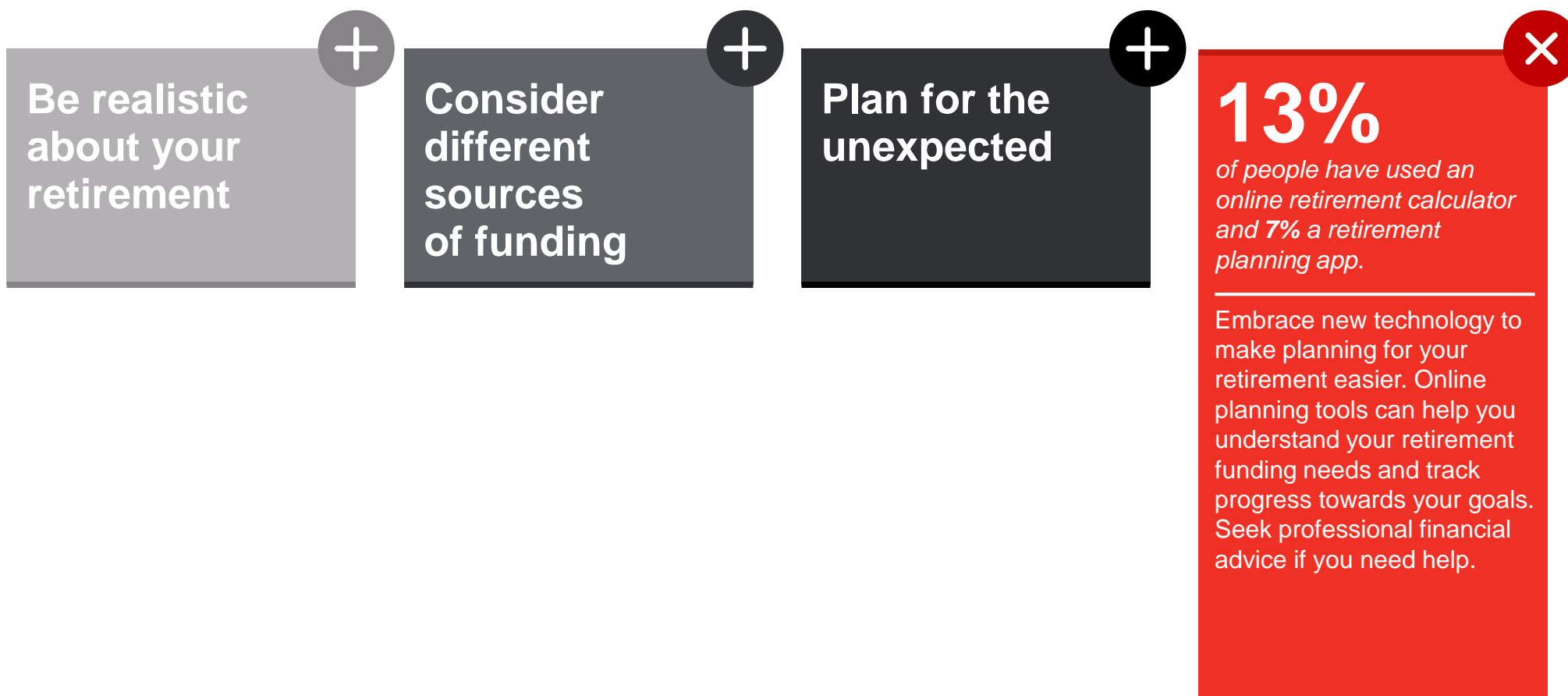
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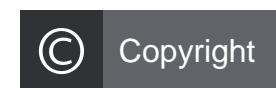
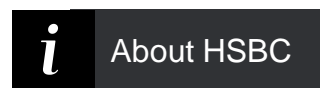
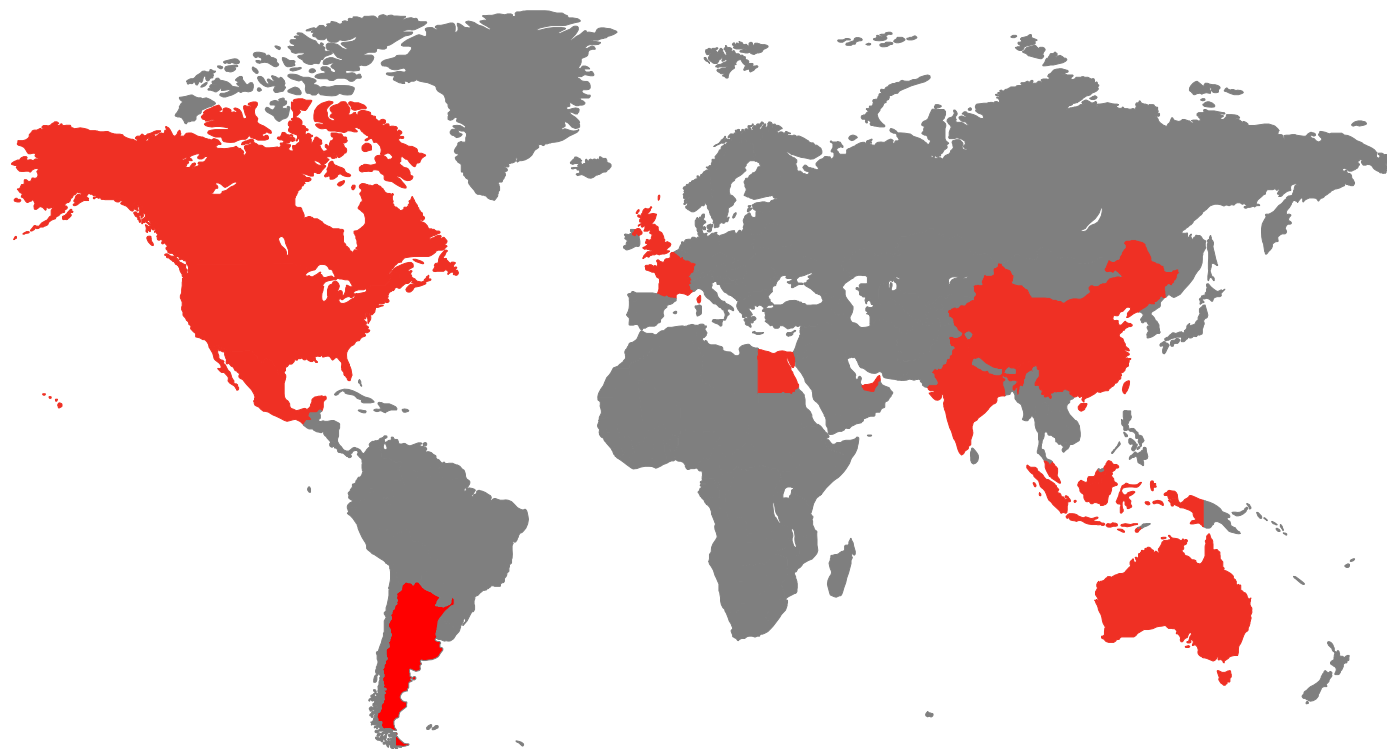


The research

The Future of Retirement is a world-leading independent research study into global retirement trends, commissioned by HSBC. It provides authoritative insights into the key issues associated with ageing populations and increasing life expectancy around the world.

This report, *Shifting sands*, is the fourteenth in the series and represents the views of 18,414 people in 16 countries and territories.

Since The Future of Retirement programme began in 2005, more than 177,000 people have been surveyed worldwide.



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The findings are based on a representative sample of people of working age (21+) and in retirement, in each country or territory. The research was conducted online by Ipsos MORI between November 2016 and January 2017, with additional face-to-face interviews in Egypt and the UAE.

The 16 countries and territories are:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Canada
- China
- Egypt
- France
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States

This country report represents the views of 1,000 people in Australia.

Retirees are people who are semi or fully retired. Working age people are those who have yet to semi or fully retire. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



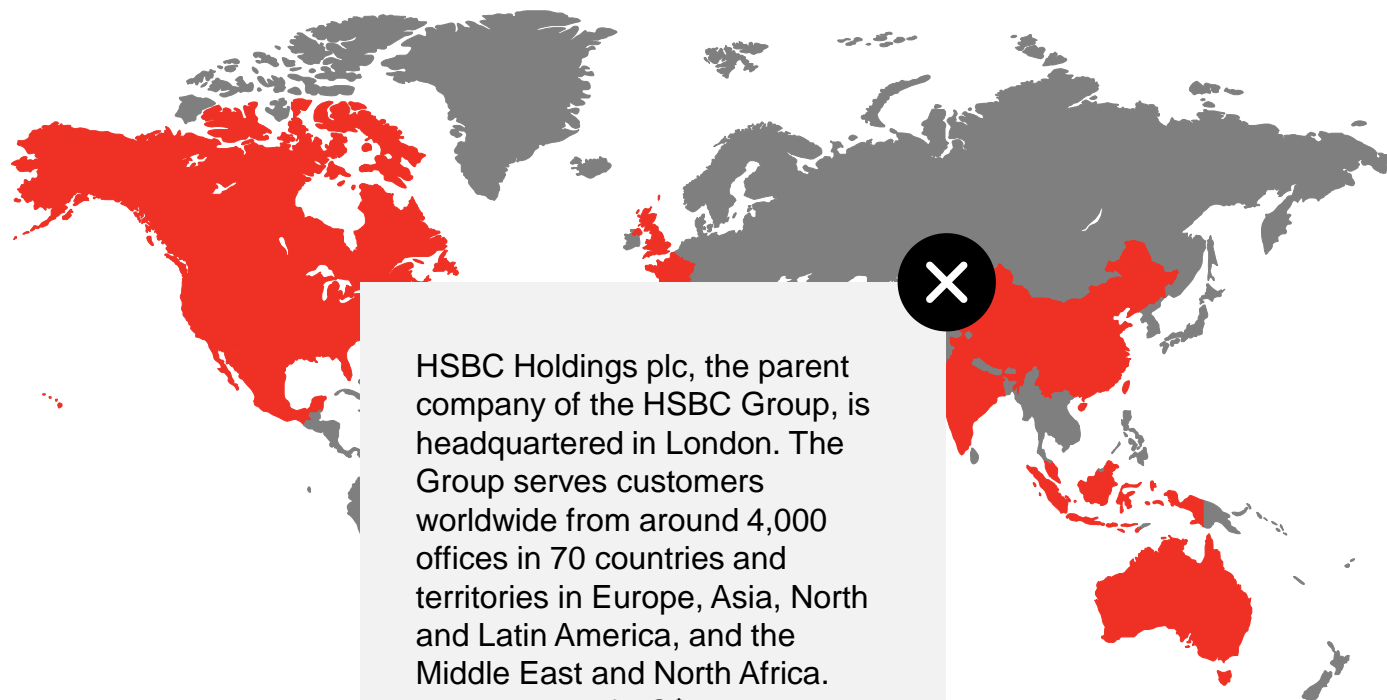
Survey

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About HSBC

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