

measures of income adequacy, it was found that little or no improvement in the adequacy of aged income (from pensions and assets) can be expected relative to the rising incomes of the rest of the U.S. population.

TABLE 1.—PROJECTED TOTAL PENSION INCOME DISTRIBUTION FOR RETIRED COUPLES AND UNMARRIED INDIVIDUALS, 1980¹

[In percent]		
Total pension income	Couples	Unmarried units
Less than \$1,000 ²	5	32
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	16	19
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	28	31
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	25	11
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	14	5
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	12	3
\$10,000 and over.....	(³)	(³)
Total.....	100	100

¹ Pension income includes benefits from social security, private pensions (including State and local plans), and Federal retirement programs.

² Includes units without pensions.

³ Less than 1 percent.

⁴ Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 2.—INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF RETIRED COUPLES, 1962 AND 1980 PROJECTIONS

Couples	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$2,999	\$3,000 to \$3,999	\$4,000 and over	Total
1962 ¹	7	32	31	13	16	100
1980 money pension plus asset income ²	4	11	20	26	40	100
Real pension plus asset income ³	11	29	31	18	11	100

¹ Based on data from U.S. Social Security Administration, 1963 Survey of the Aged.

² Simulation projection run 2 assumptions.

³ Assumes average price level rise in future will be at the same rate which occurred during the 1955-65 period (1.6 percent yearly).

The projected asset picture for older people was somewhat better. Given strong saving behavior, aged units in 1980 could be expected to have accumulated substantially greater total assets than aged units possessed in 1962. Whether personal savings behavior for retirement will change significantly for a large segment of the population still remains to be seen. The research results summarized above indicate a possible need for additional action to improve the incomes of future aged persons.

There is a rapidly accumulating body of data which indicates a significant rise in early retirement (i.e., before age 65) among male workers in the United States. Data from the current population survey, for example, show that nonparticipation in the labor force among men aged 55 to 64 rose from 11.5 to 15.5 percent between 1956 and 1966.

The reasons for this trend are not definitely known. A 1963 survey of salary and wage workers, aged 62 to 64 (retiring since 1967), found, however, that only 9 percent reported retiring because they preferred leisure. Almost 75 percent reported retiring because of poor health (53 percent) or involuntary loss of job (22 percent). Whether poor health was the real reason for those who gave it as an explanation for retirement or just a rationalization by some unable to find work is not known. Using a rather stringent disability definition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found only 30 percent of men, aged 60 to 64, who