

A 4-STEP CLARITY CHECK-IN

Retirement Readiness Snapshot: Are You On Track?

Ben Holzhauser and Jeremy Morris



Table of Contents

Let's Take a Snapshot...	2
Step 1: Estimate Your Monthly Spending in Retirement	3
Step 2: Tally What You've Saved	5
Step 3: Identify Your Income Streams	7
Step 4: Compare & Reflect	8
Next Steps	10

Let's Take a Snapshot...

Are you *actually* on track for retirement?

If you're 5-15 years out from retirement with \$500K-\$1M or more saved, you've probably wondered:

“Will what I've saved be enough?”

This quick worksheet won't give you a dollar-perfect answer (no single tool can).

But it will help you:

- 🔍 **Spot any obvious gaps** in your retirement savings
- 👁️ **Get clarity** on where you stand today
- ❓ **Identify the right questions** to ask yourself moving forward

Take 15 minutes to work through this. You might discover you're in better shape than you thought, or you might uncover some areas that need attention.

Either way, you'll have a clearer picture of your retirement readiness.




Step 1: Estimate Your Monthly Spending in Retirement

If you retired *today*, what would your monthly expenses actually be?

Many people assume they'll spend 70–80% of their current income in retirement, but your actual needs might be quite different. Some expenses disappear (work clothes, commuting), while others increase (healthcare, travel).

Break it down into three categories:

 **Essentials** (housing, food, utilities, insurance, minimum healthcare)

 **Lifestyle** (travel, hobbies, dining out, entertainment)

 **Unexpected** (additional medical costs, home maintenance, emergencies)

Write It Down: *Your Retirement Expenses*

Category	Monthly Amount
Essentials:	\$
Lifestyle:	\$
Unexpected:	\$
Total Estimated Monthly Spending:	\$

Reflect

What expenses might increase in retirement that you haven't considered?

What current expenses will likely disappear when you stop working?



Step 2: Tally What You've Saved

How much have you actually *accumulated* for retirement?

Include all accounts you plan to use in retirement. Don't forget about HSAs or taxable accounts that might bridge the gap before you can access retirement accounts!

Write It Down: *Your Current Retirement Savings*

Account Type	Current Value:
401(k)/403(b)/457/TSP:	\$
IRAs (Traditional and Roth):	\$
Taxable Investment Accounts:	\$
HSAs:	\$
CDs/Savings earmarked for retirement:	\$
Other:	\$
Total Retirement Savings:	\$

✓ Quick Reality Check

How does this number make you feel? Proud of your progress? Anxious that you're behind? Surprised it's higher/lower than you expected?

Your honest reaction:

The 4% Rule: *Your Starting Point*

The 4% Rule suggests you can withdraw 4% of your total invested assets annually with a reasonable chance of not running out of money over 30 years.

It's not perfect – it doesn't account for taxes, market downturns, or changing needs – but it's a useful starting point.

▲ **Example:** \$1 million saved x 4% = \$40,000 per year (or \$3,333 per month)

Important notes: This is a starting point, not a guarantee. Your actual safe withdrawal rate depends on market conditions, tax considerations, and your specific situation.

Step 3: Identify Your Income Streams

What money will be coming in *during* retirement (besides your investment income)?

These “guaranteed” income sources can significantly reduce the pressure on your portfolio.

Write It Down: *Your Non-Portfolio Income Streams*

Income Source	Monthly Amount
Social Security (your estimate):	\$
Spouse's Social Security:	\$
Pension:	\$
Annuity:	\$
Rental or business income:	\$
Part-time work (if planned):	\$
Other:	\$
Total Estimated Monthly Income:	\$



Don't know your Social Security estimate?

Create an account on <https://www.ssa.gov/prepare/get-benefits-estimate> to get your official projection. It takes 5 minutes and might surprise you.

Step 4: Compare & Reflect

Now for the moment of truth: How do the numbers *stack up*?

Let's see what your investments might need to cover and whether you're on track.

Your Retirement Income Gap Analysis

(Spending - Other Income = Gap)

	Amount
Your Estimated Monthly Spending (from Step 1):	\$
Your Non-Portfolio Monthly Income (from Step 3):	\$
Monthly Gap (what your portfolio needs to cover):	\$

What Your Portfolio Might Provide

Using the 4% Rule as a starting point:

	Amount
Your Total Retirement Savings (from Step 2):	\$
Annual 4% Withdrawal (Total x 0.04):	\$
Monthly Portfolio Income (Annual /12):	\$

The Bottom Line

Can your projected portfolio income cover your monthly gap?

Yes, with room to spare – you might be in great shape, or even able to retire earlier than planned

Yes, but it's close – you're on track but might want to fine-tune your plan

No, there's a gap – you have time to adjust your savings rate, timeline, or expectations

No, there's a significant gap – This analysis suggests you need a more comprehensive strategy

What is your biggest takeaway from this exercise?

What questions does this raise for you?

Next Steps

Congratulations – you now have a clearer picture of your retirement readiness than most people ever get.

Whether this exercise made you feel confident or concerned, you're ahead of the game simply by taking the time to run the numbers.

If your results raised more questions than answers...

That's completely normal. This worksheet is designed to give you a starting point, not a complete retirement plan. The real planning happens when you factor in:

 **Tax implications** of different withdrawal strategies

 **Healthcare** cost projections

 **Inflation** adjustments

 **Market volatility** planning

 **Estate and legacy** considerations

At Five Pine Wealth Management, we specialize in helping people within 10-15 years of retirement (especially those with \$250K-\$500K+ saved) turn these rough calculations into confident, comprehensive retirement plans.

Ready to get a complete picture?

Schedule your complimentary Retirement Readiness Review:

📞 Call us at: 877.333.1015

✉ Email us at: info@fivepinewealth.com

🌐 Visit our website: fivepinewealth.com

What to expect in your call:

- ⬆ A deeper dive into your specific situation
- ⬆ Professional insights on any gaps or opportunities you discovered
- ⬆ Clear next steps, whether you work with us or not
- ⬆ No sales pressure – just helpful guidance

We look forward to helping you feel truly confident about your retirement timeline.





Independent Fee-Only Advisors & Fiduciaries