

# Half of Britons retire on less than £9,000

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**Half of Britons will retire on less than £9,000 a year – a sum that fails to cover their living costs during the first year of retirement.**



Half of Britons retire on less than £9,000 Photo: GETTY

The latest research reveals the full extent of Britain's pensions' crisis and the vast numbers of people who are reaching retirement without having enough to cover their basic daily expenses.

Having enjoyed an average annual salary of £25,000 when they were working, the study by insurer Aviva suggests people retire on just £8,500 a year.

The survey of 1,000 adults who retired during the last two years also revealed 62 per cent of over 50s are worried that their pensions and savings will not see them through retirement.

A spokesman for Aviva said: "Today's retirees are living longer while annuity rates are lower which means that many are facing a 'double whammy' of financial difficulties.

"While many newly-retirees have an expectation of the retirement they would like to enjoy, the reality is that they often cannot afford this kind of lifestyle."

Hundreds of thousands of men and women above the state pension are delaying their retirement to continue working to earn an extra income.

Figures from the ONS revealed there are almost one million women over the age of 60 and just over 400,000 men over the age of 65 who are in work.

Ros Altmann, a pensions expert and governor at the London School of Economics, said: "It is essential that we wake up to what is going – the credit crisis has decimated people's pensions and their investments have not worked out."