

N.J. workers are not ready to retire: poll

NEWARK — Fewer than 20 percent of New Jersey workers say they are financially ready for retirement, according to a poll released Friday.

That's partly because people sense they're not prepared for decades of retirement, said Susan P. Ascher, president and CEO of the Roseland-based Ascher Group, which conducted the poll.

"They're looking into the future and saying, I am going to live longer," she said. "Maybe this is not just for the next 10 or 15 years, maybe this is for the next 30 years."

Another reason is because pensions are disappearing or shrinking, she said.

Ascher couldn't quantify "financially ready" with a dollar figure, but said it means sufficient resources to maintain a style of living that allows retirees to travel, eat and "still have a nice life," she said.

Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind Poll conducted the survey with the Ascher Group, interviewing a random sample of 600 New Jersey residents age 18 and older by telephone from Nov. 15 to 20. The sampling error margin is plus or minus 4 percentage points.