



# SIMPLY PUT

## 5 STATISTICS THAT SHOULD FRIGHTEN YOU INTO SAVING MORE FOR RETIREMENT

Forget about monsters, ghosts and goblins. Some of the scariest things a person can face during Halloween and in their lifetime revolve around money, specifically running out of money in retirement! The scary truth is there are many frightening financial pitfalls that can occur during your lifetime, but the more you know, the better prepared you can be for retirement. Here are five chilling retirement savings statistics — specific to state of Missouri employees — that are sure to keep you up at night and, with any luck, startle you into saving more for retirement.



### About 30% of state employees<sup>1</sup> are NOT saving for retirement.<sup>2</sup>

If you fall within this statistic, there's no better time than the present to begin saving! To begin your contribution, call (800) 392-0925 or log in to your account at [www.modeferredcomp.org](http://www.modeferredcomp.org). No magic or spells needed!

### Roughly 61% of working state employees believe they will NOT be financially prepared for retirement.<sup>3</sup>



To look at this in a more positive way, 61% of people are aware they will not be prepared and can now take steps to change their financial trajectory. If you're feeling uncertain about your future retirement, schedule a meeting with your local financial education professional.

### Nearly 60% of state workers have NOT calculated how much they need to be saving for retirement.<sup>4</sup>



You might think calculating how much you should be saving for retirement would be hard and time-consuming. The truth is that it only takes a few minutes when you use the Grow Your Retirement Savings Calculator.

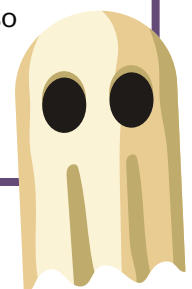
## SCARY-SMART RETIREMENT SAVINGS

National Retirement Security Month is knocking on your door. Will you answer? (Insert creepy Halloween music.) To keep with the frightening theme, during National Retirement Security Month, which is October, the MO Deferred Comp Plan will be highlighting scary retirement statistics, unmasking plan features, hosting thrilling online games, and bringing to life eerily short educational videos for participants. Visit the plan's website, [www.modeferredcomp.org](http://www.modeferredcomp.org), visit any of the plan's social media pages, and watch your email during October for more information on National Retirement Security Month.



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ANNUAL FEE DISCLOSURE

The Annual Fee Disclosure is an easy way to better understand the fees you are paying to participate in a retirement savings account and how much the investment options inside the plan cost. The disclosure will be available on the plan's website on the Investments page by Oct. 31, 2024. You may also request a paper copy by contacting our call center at (800) 392-0925.



## Paying off debt is the leading cause of financial stress for 40% of non-retired state employees.<sup>3</sup>

If you're not careful, your debt can become monster-sized in a hurry! Do yourself a favor and create a budget to help keep your spending on track and repay any debts you have before you enter into retirement.

## Only 34% of working state employees have a deferred comp account balance over \$5,000.<sup>2</sup>

\$5,000 may seem like a lot of money to some people, but that amount will be – **POOF** – gone in no time in retirement. Healthcare costs, unexpected expenses, routine bills, and insurance are just a few items that can be rather costly in retirement.

## It's not all gloom and doom when it comes to your retirement.

State of Missouri employees have been making small strides every year toward their retirement savings goals. In fact, the average monthly employee contribution increased 70% since 2007, jumping from \$123 to \$195.<sup>2</sup> Employee presentation attendance reached a high during fiscal year 2024, meaning more participants – 14,307 employees<sup>5</sup> to be exact – want to learn and do their best to prepare for the future.

Seriously, don't spook yourself when it comes to saving for retirement. The MO Deferred Comp Plan makes the process terrifyingly easy! Visit [www.modeferrredcomp.org](http://www.modeferrredcomp.org) to learn more.

## MEET JESSE STEWART

### Financial Education Professional Spotlight

Jesse is the education professional for the southwest portion of the state.

**Q:** What did you do before joining the deferred comp team?

**A:** I was an assistant principal. I also taught physical education and social studies and coached basketball and football.

**Q:** Describe yourself in three words.

**A:** Competitive, caring, and honest

**Q:** If you could snap your fingers and become an expert at anything, what would it be?

**A:** Health and fitness! I would love to know exactly what exercises to do to help me feel my best.

**Q:** Which deferred comp tool do you like the most?

**A:** The Grow Your Retirement Savings Calculator. It's great for everyone.

**Q:** What is your favorite scary movie?

**A:** I don't like scary movies.



1 – Percentage rate includes participating state universities;  
2 – As of July 2024; 3 – 2023 Financial Wellness Survey, Actives with less than \$50,000 saved; 4 – 2024 Retirement Readiness Survey; 5 – 2024 fiscal year; 6 – Date subject to change

## REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION REMINDER

Plan participants who are over the age of 73 and no longer working are required by law to begin receiving required minimum distributions, or RMDs. For those receiving an RMD who are not set up on installment payments, your annual check will be issued on Dec. 30, 2024.<sup>6</sup> You should receive the payment in 7-10 business days. As a general rule, RMD payments are subject to a 10% federal tax withholding. Please contact the Plan Information Line at (800) 392-0925 prior to Dec. 24, 2024<sup>6</sup> if you wish to make an alternative tax election.

