

# Dim Employment Outlook Kills Benefit Package Concerns

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<http://retirement-wisdom.com/>

It used to be that the benefits package an employer would offer made a difference in whether or not you would take one job over another. The American worker; however, no longer has that luxury. When it comes down to taking a job with a lower salary and good benefits versus the job with a higher salary, but lousy benefits, most of under- and unemployed workers today would take the higher salary, at least according to the 2012 report on [retirement](#) from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies.

## *No money earned means no money to save*

Benefits really are part of the total compensation package and can easily tack on tens of thousands of dollars more in short and long term gain, but workers now seems to be more concerned about the short-term goals of putting food on the table, paying utilities and catching up on bills, than the long-term, which is not here so they can't worry about it right now.

Unfortunately, the best way to have enough disposable income to be comfortable enough to save for retirement is through the [employment](#) at your skill and training level. Being an underemployed worker carries a better chance of getting back to the highest level of pay and responsibility for you.

## *The underemployed and unemployed challenge*

If you're underemployed or overemployed, consider some of the following strategies for getting back to "your normal" in employment:

- Taking on a part-time job to help cover expenses while seeking full-time employment; if you're looking for that perfect full-time job and you can receive more on unemployment than at a part-time job outside your field, you may be selling yourself short. Employers like to see people that have made the choice to work, even if it's not the ideal situation.
- Continually updating and improving job skills to stay current with prospective employers' needs – free training classes add to your skill set. If yours need updating, hunt around for a free class through your local unemployment or [family services](#) agency.
- For those with only a [high school diploma](#) or some college, seeking a college education may help broaden career prospects and access to jobs with retirement benefits; there are plenty of grants for unemployed and even underemployed people. And remember, grants are free money – you do not have to pay it back.
- Relentlessly identifying ways to cut costs to reduce living expenses. Examine everything from the grocery bill to cable and cell phone and data packages. If you calculate the

amount of money saved over the balance of your [cell phone plan](#) versus the early termination fee, you might come out thousands ahead by cancelling and going to a no-contract phone. One nurse did and after cutting her cable bill and home phone, saved \$4,500 in two years.



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