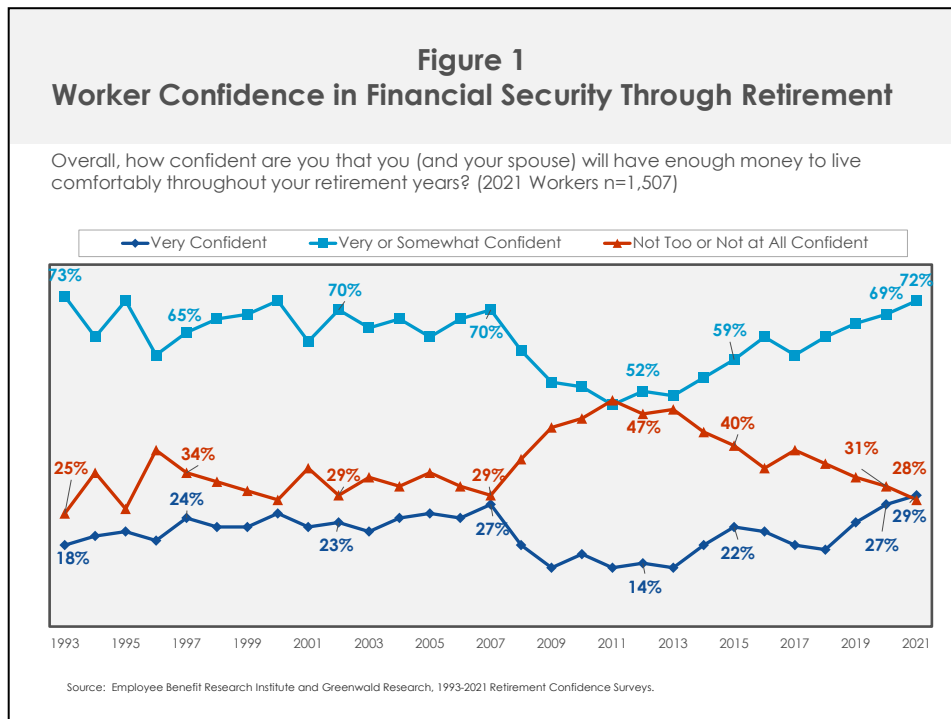


2021 RCS FACT SHEET #1 RETIREMENT CONFIDENCE

Nearly one-third of Americans feel very confident about their ability to have enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years. Workers who say debt is a problem are, not surprisingly, less confident, while those who have a retirement plan are remarkably more confident.

Confidence in Having a Comfortable Retirement

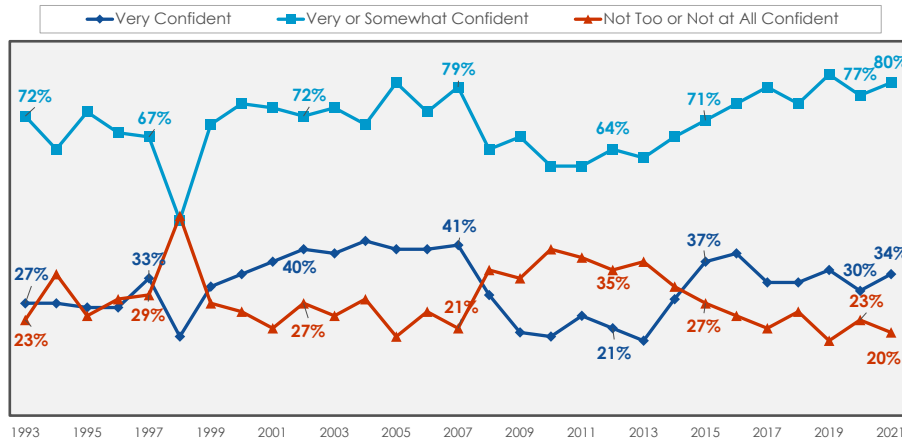
The 2021 Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) finds just under three-quarters of American workers (72 percent) feel confident in their ability to retire comfortably, though only 29 percent feel very confident. The share of workers reporting that they feel either very or somewhat confident has increased significantly since 2017 (72 percent vs. 60 percent in 2017). Worker confidence now has matched the levels measured in 2007 before the financial crisis of 2008 (Figure 1).



The level of confidence expressed by those already in retirement continues to be greater than those yet to retire. Retiree confidence about having enough money for a comfortable retirement remains high. Eighty percent of retirees report feeling either very or somewhat confident about having enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years (compared with 82 percent in 2019 and 77 percent in 2020). One-third of retirees feel very confident (34 percent), while 20 percent say they are not too or not at all confident. (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Retiree Confidence in Financial Security Through Retirement

Overall, how confident are you that you (and your spouse) will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years? (2021 Retirees n=1,510)

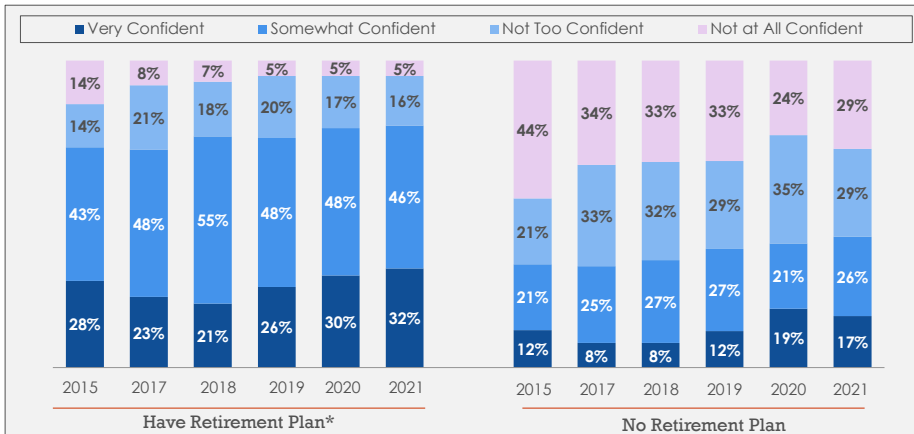


Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald Research, 1993-2021 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

Retirement confidence continues to be strongly related to retirement plan participation, whether in a defined contribution (DC) plan, defined benefit (DB) plan, or individual retirement account (IRA). Workers reporting they or their spouse have money in a DC plan or IRA or have benefits in a DB plan from a current or previous employer are nearly twice as likely as those without any of these plans to be at least somewhat confident (79 percent with a plan vs. 43 percent without a plan) (Figure 3).

Figure 3
Confidence in Financial Security in Retirement, by Plan

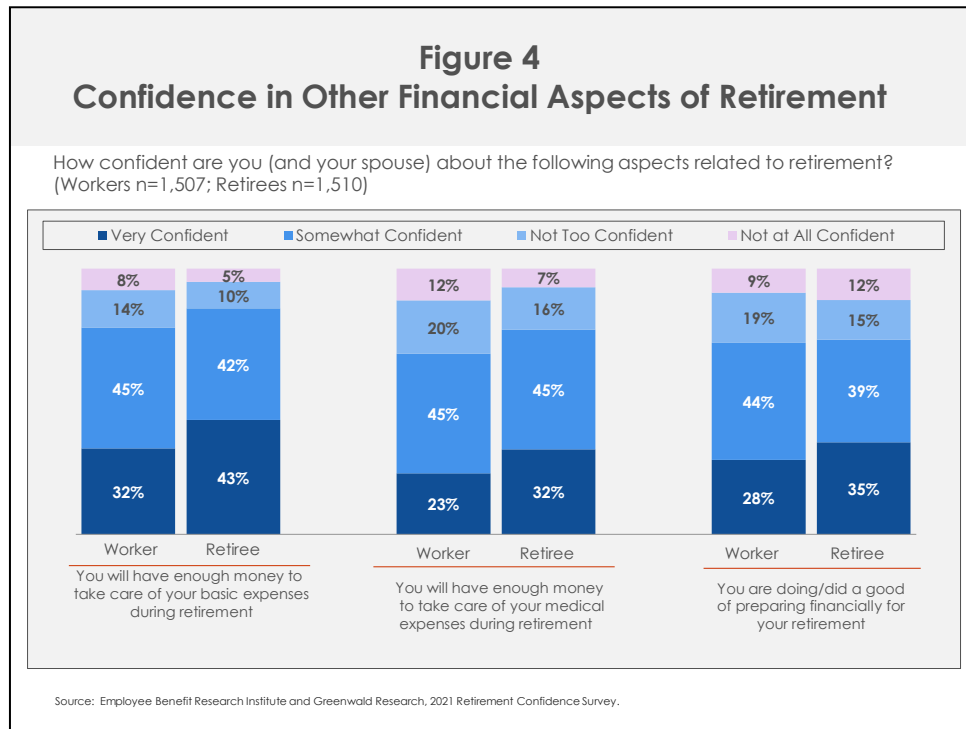
Overall, how confident are you that you (and your spouse) will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years? (2021 Workers n=1,507)



*Have Retirement Plan defined as respondent or spouse having at least one of the following: IRA, DC plan, or DB plan
 Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald Research, 2015 and 2017-2021 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

Confidence in Other Financial Aspects of Retirement

Three in four workers (77 percent) report feeling very or somewhat confident about being able to afford basic expenses in retirement, including 32 percent who feel very confident. Workers' confidence in their ability to afford basic expenses is higher than the confidence they report regarding their ability to pay for medical expenses in retirement. Almost 1 in 3 workers (32 percent) are not too or not at all confident they will have enough money for medical expenses in retirement. A similar share is not too or not at all confident in believing that they are doing a good job in preparing financially for retirement (28 percent) (Figure 4).



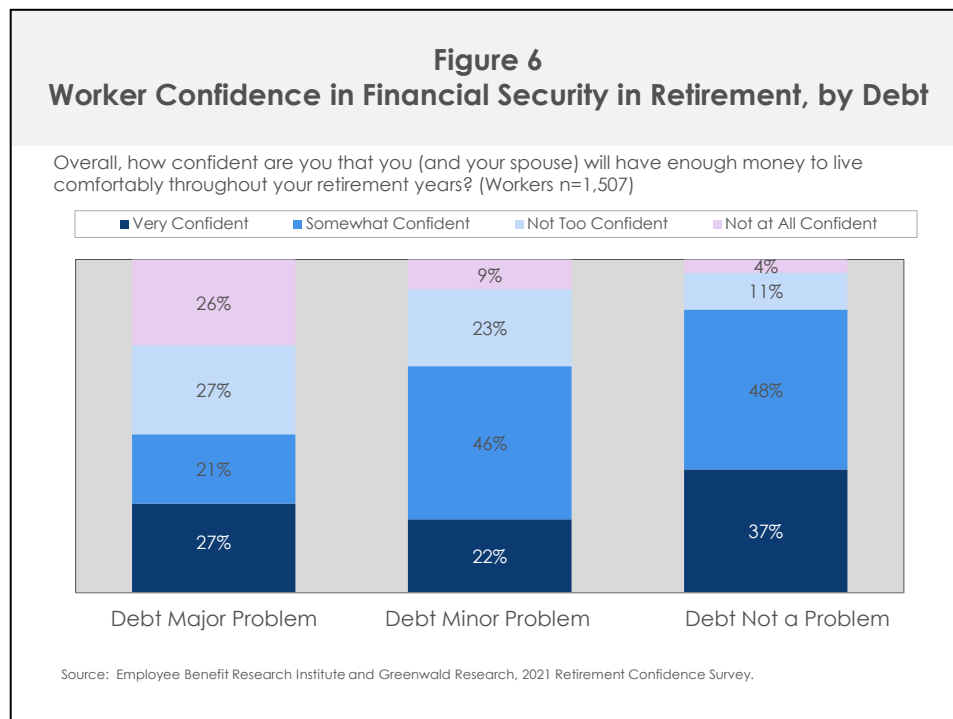
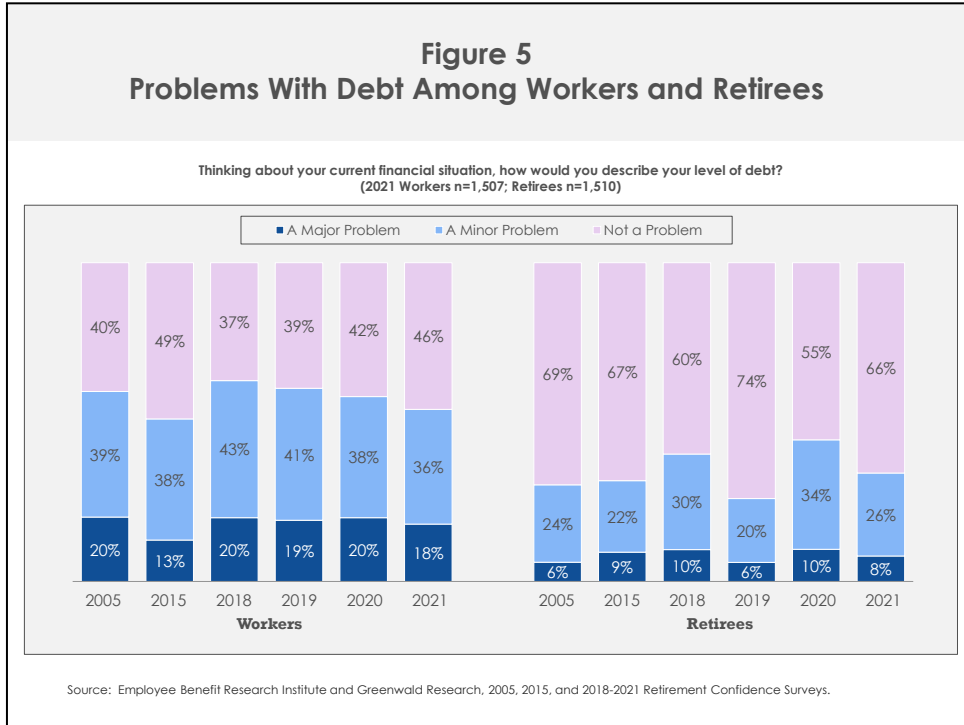
Retirees, who are already in that life stage, express higher levels of confidence than workers in having enough money to take care of expenses (basic and medical) during retirement. More than 4 out of 5 retirees (85 percent) feel at least somewhat confident in their ability to afford basic expenses throughout their retirement years. Seventy-seven percent are very or somewhat confident about having enough money to cover medical expenses, and 73 percent feel they did a good job preparing financially for retirement (Figure 4).

Influence of Debt on Confidence

Workers are more likely to say that debt is a problem for them than retirees. Fifty-four percent of workers say debt is a problem for them, while 46 percent say debt is not a problem. In contrast, just 34 percent of retirees say that debt is a problem for them. Workers are more than twice as likely to say that debt is a major problem as retirees (18 percent vs. 8 percent) (Figure 5).

The RCS has consistently found a relationship between debt levels and retirement confidence. In 2021, 47 percent of workers with a major debt problem say they are very or somewhat confident about having enough money to live comfortably in retirement,

compared with 85 percent of workers who indicate debt is not a problem. On the other hand, 26 percent of workers with a major debt problem are not at all confident about having enough money for a financially secure retirement, compared with 4 percent of workers without a debt problem (Figure 6).



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