

Contact: John MacDonald, EBRI, (202) 775-6349, [macdonald@ebri.org](mailto:macdonald@ebri.org)

## What Are Workers' Expected Major Sources of Retirement Income?

WASHINGTON—What are American workers' expected major sources of income in retirement?

The 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) shows that an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan, such as a 401(k) plan, is mentioned most frequently by workers, followed by Social Security and a traditional pension. Here are the details from the RCS:

- Forty-two percent of workers expect an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan to be a major source of income in retirement. Almost a third of workers expect Social Security (32 percent) and a pension (28 percent) to be major sources of retirement income.
- Workers who have saved for retirement are more likely than nonsavers to expect major retirement income from work-place savings, pensions, and IRAs. Conversely, nonsavers are more likely to say Social Security and employment will be major sources of retirement income.

The chart below shows the breakdown of expected major sources of retirement income for all workers as well as those who have and have not saved for retirement.

**Expected Major Sources of Retirement Income**

	All Workers	Have Saved for Retirement	
		Yes	No
An employer-sponsored retirement savings plan, such as a 401(k)	42%	49%	20%
Social Security	32	26	51
An employer-provided traditional pension or cash balance plan	28	31	20
Employment	26	20	42
Other personal savings or investments, not in a work-related retirement plan	25	27	20
An individual retirement account (IRA)	24	28	13

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Mathew Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey.

Full details of the 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey appear in the April 2009 *EBRI Issue Brief*, available at [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org)

*Fast Facts from EBRI* is issued by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute to highlight benefits information that may be of current interest. Established in 1978, EBRI is an independent nonprofit organization committed exclusively to data dissemination, policy research, and education on economic security and employee benefits. EBRI does not take policy positions and does not lobby.

EBRI is now on Twitter! Name: @EBRI

URL: <http://twitter.com/EBRI>

Sign up for our RSS feeds!