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## How Much Confidence Do Americans Have in Financial Institutions?

WASHINGTON—How much confidence do American workers and retirees have in various financial institutions?

The 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) reports that just one-quarter of workers (24 percent) are *very* confident that they are investing their retirement savings wisely (down from 45 percent in 1998). Another 54 percent are *somewhat* confident that their savings are wisely invested.

Part of the reason for this lack of confidence may be that both workers and retirees lack confidence in some types of financial institutions, according to the RCS. Just 3 percent of workers and 2 percent of retirees report they are *very* confident about investment companies, compared with 21 percent of workers and 27 percent of retirees who are *very* confident about banks. This lack of confidence in investment companies is widespread, the RCS reports, but is particularly apparent among those age 55 and older.

**Confidence in Various Types of Institutions**

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not too Confident	Not at all Confident
<b>Banks</b>				
Workers	21%	56%	14%	9%
Retirees	27	51	12	9
<b>Insurance companies</b>				
Workers	14	53	20	13
Retirees	11	56	20	12
<b>The federal government</b>				
Workers	11	48	21	18
Retirees	11	45	22	22
<b>Investment companies</b>				
Workers	3	34	34	26
Retirees	2	31	24	37

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)

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