

EBRI Databook on Employee Benefits

Chapter 11: Retirement Plan Finances

Data for Table 11.1, Private Pension Financial Trends, are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefit Security Administration (EBSA) tabulations of the Form 5000. These tabulations are published when available and posted on the [EBSA Web page publications and reports](#). To locate the document desired on this Web page, see section titled "Pension Reports." The title of the specific document is *Private Pension Plan Bulletin*. The several documents with that title differ only by the year, corresponding to the year of data in that report. Section E of each bulletin contains historical data. The first year of data in the historical section is 1975, the first year of Form 5500 filings. The 1995 bulletin is the last bulletin that contains historical data back to 1975.

UPDATED MAY 2005

Table 11.2a
Funded Ratios of Surveyed Private Single Employer Pension Plans

Surveyed Firms' Funded Ratios, by Percentage of All Defined Benefit Pension Plans, Selected Years, 1981–2002

	1981	1985	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Ratio of Assets over Accrued Benefits													
Less than 75%	34%	9%	4%	3%	3%	4%	6%	2%	2%	3%	2%	6%	11%
75%–99%	21	13	11	12	15	15	24	17	14	19	20	40	51
100%–124%	23	21	20	26	30	35	34	37	37	32	37	29	23
125%–149%	11	19	20	27	26	23	20	24	23	22	22	13	8
150% or more	11	38	45	32	26	18	16	20	24	24	19	12	7
Number of Plans ^a	575	912	787	695	723	663	619	588	540	528	521	445	472

Source: The Wyatt Company, *Survey of Actuarial Assumptions and Funding: Pension Plans with 1,000 or More Active Participants, 1983, 1988, and 1994* (Washington, DC: The Wyatt Company, 1984, 1989, and 1994); Watson Wyatt Worldwide, *Survey of Actuarial Assumptions and Funding: Pension Plans with 1,000 or More Active Participants, 2002* (Washington, DC: Watson Wyatt Worldwide, 2002); unpublished data from The Wyatt Company's Survey of Actuarial Assumptions and Funding: Pension Plans with 1,000 or More Active Participants, 1981–1995

Note: Data from The Wyatt Company are based on a survey of pension plans covering 1,000 or more active employees. The 1994 survey contained single-employer plans (91 percent) and multiemployer plans (9 percent).

^aThe number of plans surveyed is greater than the actual number of plans providing complete funding information.

UPDATED AUGUST 2009

Table 11.2b
Funded Ratios of Surveyed Private Single Employer Pension Plans

Surveyed Firms' Funded Ratios, by Percentage of All Defined Benefit Pension Plans, Selected Years, 2003–

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ratio of Assets over					

Accrued Benefits

Less than 75%	29%	10%	8%	6%
75%–99%	48	49	44	47
100%–124%	18	35	37	38
125%–149%	2	4	8	6
150% or more	3	2	3	3
Number of Plans ^a	516	432	412	478

Source: Watson Wyatt Worldwide, *Survey of Actuarial Assumptions and Funding: Pension Plans with 1,000 or More Active Participants, 2006* (Washington, DC: Watson Wyatt Worldwide, 2007).

^aThe number of plans surveyed is greater than the actual number of plans providing complete funding information.

UPDATED APRIL 2009

[Table 11.3](#) [Nominal and Real Private Trusteed Pension Assets](#)

Total Nominal and Real Assets^a of Private Trusteed Pension Funds, by Plan Type and Asset Type, Year End, 1985–2008

Other EBRI Research on Retirement Plan Finances – Updated December 2009

► Defined Benefit Plan Changes

What is the impact of PPA on minimum funding contributions?

See figures 6 and 7 on page 16 in the [July 2007 Issue Brief, “Retirement Income Adequacy After PPA and FAS 158: Part One—Plan Sponsors’ Reactions”](#)

What percentage of DB sponsors indicate they will make specific DB plan investment changes?

See figure 11 on page 22 in the [July 2007 Issue Brief, “Retirement Income Adequacy After PPA and FAS 158: Part One—Plan Sponsors’ Reactions”](#)

► Asset Allocation

What is the asset allocation for the following plan types?

All private trusteed plans

Table 3 in the [Pension Investment Report](#).

Table 4 presents data on the net flow of funds

Private trusteed defined benefit

Tables 5 and 6 in the [Pension Investment Report](#).

Table 7 presents data on the investment allocation of net contributions

Table 8 presents data on earnings

Private trusteed defined contribution

Tables 9 and 10 in the [Pension Investment Report](#).

Table 11 presents data on the investment allocation of net contributions

Table 12 presents data on earnings

Private insured plans

Table 16 in the [Pension Investment Report](#).

What percentage of the value of all assets in the U.S. are held by pension funds?

- Of equities, in the [Pension Investment Report](#). Table 19 for all pension funds and Table 20 for data by plan type.
- Of bonds, in the [Pension Investment Report](#). Table 19 for all pension funds and Table 21 for data by plan type.

► Account Balance

Data-set used is the Federal Reserve Board’s Survey of Consumer Finance. The unit of observation in the SCF is the family. Data is percentage of family heads.

Among families with a current employer defined contribution plan, what was the median account balance?

See Figure 7 on page 13 in [May 2006 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances”](#) for years 1992, 1998, 2001, and 2004.

See Figure 7 on page 13 in the [August 2009 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finance, with Adjustments to June 2009”](#) for years 2007 and 2009.

Data is presented for the following demographics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, housing status, and net worth percentile.

Among families with a current employer defined contribution plan and an account with a previous employer, what was the mean account balance, 2001?

See Figure 9a on page 16 in [May 2006 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances”](#)

Data is presented for the following demographics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, housing status, and net worth percentile.

Among families with a current employer defined contribution plan and an account with a previous employer, what was the mean account balance, 2004?

See Figure 9b on page 17 in [May 2006 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances”](#)

Data is presented for the following demographics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, housing status, and net worth percentile.

Among families with a current employer defined contribution plan and an account with a previous employer, what was the mean account balance, 2007?

See Figure 9b on page 18 in [August 2009 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finance, with Adjustments to June 2009”](#)

Data is presented for the following demographics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, housing status, and net worth percentile.

Among families with a current employer defined contribution plan and an account with a previous employer, what was the mean account balance, 2009?

See Figure 9c on page 19 in [August 2009 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finance, with Adjustments to June 2009”](#)

Data is presented for the following demographics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, housing status, and net worth percentile.

► **401(k) Plans**

For information on asset allocation in 401(k) plans see [chapter 13](#)

► **Individual Retirement Accounts**

For information on asset allocation in Individual Retirement Accounts see [chapter 16](#)