

**EBRI Databook on Employee Benefits
Chapter 16:
Individual Retirement Accounts and Keogh Assets**

UPDATED JUNE 2011

IRS Data on number of tax returns reporting an IRA deduction and total amount deducted. For data for years [1999-2009 see lines 107 and 108](#).

IRA Database

The Employee Benefit Research Institute[®] created the EBRI IRA Database[™] in order to more closely examine retirement savings behavior. The EBRI IRA Database[™] is able to link individuals within and across the data providers and will also be able to link the data with participants in 401(k) plans, allowing retirement funds to be tracked as they are generated, rolled over, and ultimately used. This *Issue Brief* is the first of a series of publications analyzing the EBRI IRA Database[™] and highlights the distribution of IRA owners by IRA type, average and median account balances, and contributions to IRAs. The data security techniques used by the data providers assure that EBRI[®] has no ability to identify individuals so that all privacy is assured.

Distribution of IRA Ownership

What is the distribution of IRA ownership by type of IRA and various demographics?

Figure 2 on page 5 in the September 2010 *Issue Brief*, [“IRA Balances and Contributions: An Overview of the EBRI IRA Database”](#).

Data is presented on the following demographics: age, gender, and account balance.

IRA Account Balances

What is the average and median account balance by type of IRA, 2008?

Figures 3 and 4 on page 7 in the September 2010 *Issue Brief*, [“IRA Balances and Contributions: An Overview of the EBRI IRA Database”](#).

Contributions to an IRA

What was the average amount contributed to an traditional IRA and to a Roth IRA in 2008?

Figure 12 on page 12 in the September 2010 *Issue Brief*, [“IRA Balances and Contributions: An Overview of the EBRI IRA Database”](#).

Asset Allocation

What was asset allocation of all IRA’s within the EBRI IRA Database in 2008?

Figure 1 on page 5 in the May 2011 *Notes* article, [“IRA Asset Allocation”](#).

Data is presented by gender, age, and account balance. See figure 6 on page 7 for data by gender and age. See figure 7 on page 8 for data by gender and account balance. See figure 8 on pages 12-13 for data by age and account balance.

What was asset allocation of IRA’s within the EBRI IRA Database by IRA type in 2008?

See the following figures in the May 2011 *Notes* article, [“IRA Asset Allocation”](#).

Figure 2 on page 5 for overall data by IRA type

Figure 3 on page 6 for data by IRA type and gender

Figure 4 on page 6 for data by IRA type and age

Figure 5 on page 7 for data by IRA type and account balance

IRA Wealth Accumulation

What is the average IRA wealth accumulation for Americans born 1931-1941, for years 1992, 1998, and 2002?

Figure 6 on pages 13 and 14 in the [January 2005 Issue Brief, “Changes in Wealth for Americans Reaching or Just Past Normal Retirement Age”](#).

Data is presented on the following demographics: birth year, gender, race/ethnicity, education, marital status, health status, retired status, work status, total income, earnings income, and pension/annuity income.

Contributions

What percentage of individuals made a tax deductible contribution to an IRA?

- For data from 1992, 1997, and 2002 see Figure 6 in [January 2006 Notes article, “IRA and Keogh Assets and Contributions”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2004 see Figure 5 on page 8 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2005 see Figure 4 on page 8 in [May 2008 Notes “Ownership of Individual Retirement Accounts and 401\(k\)-Type Plans”](#).

Data is presented on the following demographics: age, annual earnings, gender, and race.

What was the mean contribution of those making a tax deductible contribution?

- For data from 1996, 1998, and 2001 see Figure 6 on pages 13-14 in [August 2004 Notes article, “IRA and Keogh Assets and Contributions”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2004 see Figure 5 on page 8 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2005 see Figure 4 on page 8 in [May 2008 Notes “Ownership of Individual Retirement Accounts and 401\(k\)-Type Plans”](#).

Data is presented on the following demographics: age, family income, education level, marital status, gender, and work status.

Of those making a contribution, what percentage made the full \$2,000 contribution?

- For data from 1996, 1998, and 2001 see Figure 6 on pages 13-14 in [August 2004 Notes article, “IRA and Keogh Assets and Contributions”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2004 see Figure 5 on page 8 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2005 see Figure 4 on page 8 in [May 2008 Notes “Ownership of Individual Retirement Accounts and 401\(k\)-Type Plans”](#).

Data is presented on the following demographics: age, family income, education level, marital status, gender, and work status.

What is the distribution of IRA contributions by plan type 2000-2002?

See Figure 7 on page 10 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).

Of those Americans, age 21 and older, who own an IRA, what is the average number of years which contributions were made, 1997-2001?

Figure 3 on page 9 in the [May 2004 Notes article, “Retirement Accounts and Wealth”](#).

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: age, family income, education level, race/ethnicity, gender, work status.

Earnings

What were the average IRA earnings in?

- For data from 1996, 1998, and 2002 see Figure 6 on pages 13-14 in [August 2004 Notes article, “IRA and Keogh Assets and Contributions”](#).

- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2004 see Figure 5 on page 8 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).
- For data from 1996, 2001, and 2005 see Figure 4 on page 8 in [May 2008 Notes “Ownership of Individual Retirement Accounts and 401\(k\)-Type Plans”](#)

Data is presented on the following demographics: age, family income, education level, marital status, gender, and work status.

Assets/Balances

What were IRA asset levels from 1981 to 2007?

Figure 1 on page 2 in [September 2008 Notes article, “IRA Assets and Contributions, 2007”](#).

What were the median balances of IRA/Keogh accounts for families with an IRA/Keogh, 1992, 2004, 2007, and 2009?

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

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, working status of family head, housing status, and net worth percentile.

What were the mean balances of IRA/Keogh accounts for families with an IRA/Keogh?

For 2001 data see figure 9a data on page 16 in [May 2006 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances”](#).

For 2004 data see figure 9a on page 17, for 2007 data see figure 9b on page 18, and for 2009 data see figure 9c on page 19 in [August 2009 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances, with Market Adjustments to June 2009”](#).

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, working status of family head, housing status, and net worth percentile.

What were the mean balances of IRA accounts by type of IRA, 2004?

Figure 12b on page 21, in [May 2006 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances”](#).

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, working status of family head, housing status, and net worth percentile.

What were the mean balances of IRA accounts by type of IRA, 2007 and 2009?

For 2007 data see figure 12b on page 24 and for 2009 data see figure 12c on page 25, in [August 2009 Issue Brief, “Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances, with Market Adjustments to June 2009”](#).

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, working status of family head, housing status, and net worth percentile.

What is the distribution of IRA assets by plan type 2000-2002?

Figure 3 on page 6 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).

What is the distribution of IRA assets by plan type 2000-2002?

See Figure 7 on page 10 in [October 2007 Notes “401\(k\)-Type Plan and Individual Retirement Accounts”](#).

Of those workers with an IRA, what were the average or mean balance and the median balance in 1996 and 2002?

Figure 2 on page 4 in the [January 2005 Notes article, “401\(k\)-Type Plan and IRA Ownership”](#)

Data is available for the following demographic characteristics: age, family income, education level, race/ethnicity, gender, and years contributing.

What was the asset allocation of IRA participants by various demographic characteristics, in 2004?

See Figure 3 on page 5 in [February 2007 Notes](#) article, "[Retirement Plan Participation and Asset Allocation, 2004](#)" Data is presented for the following demographics, family income, age of family head, education of family head, race, net worth percentile.

Past EBRI Reports on IRA Assets

- [January 2004 Notes](#) article, "[Retirement Plan Participation and Asset Allocation](#)" presents data on asset allocation in IRAs for 1992 and 2001 by family income, age, education level, race and net worth.
- [February 2004 Notes](#) article "[IRA and Keogh Assets](#)" presents data on percentage of IRA assets by type or combination of types.
- [May 2004 Notes](#) article "[Retirement Accounts and Wealth, 2001](#)" presents data on average number of years contributing to an IRA, mean and median account balance, for 1998, 2000, and 2001.
- [December 2007 Notes](#) article "[IRA Assets and Contributions, 2006; and Income of the Elderly Population Age 65 and Over, 2006](#)"
- [May 2006 Issue Brief](#), "[Individual Account Retirement Plans: An Analysis of the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances](#)".