

FACTS from EBRI

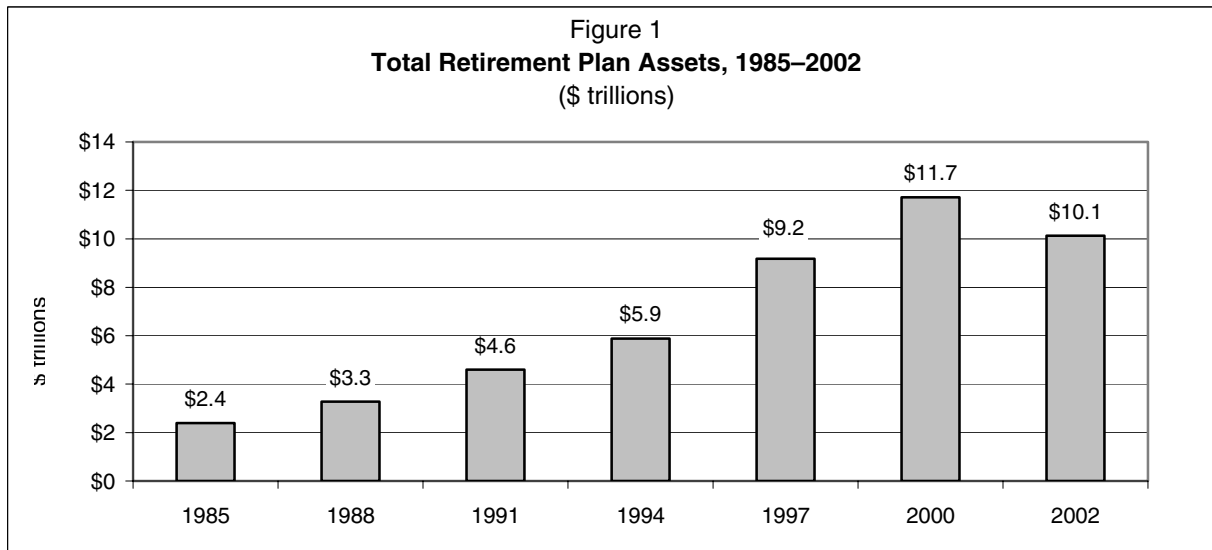
Employee Benefit Research Institute ■ 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 600 ■ Washington, DC ■ 20037

September 2004

Assets in Qualified Retirement Plans, 1985–2002: Revised

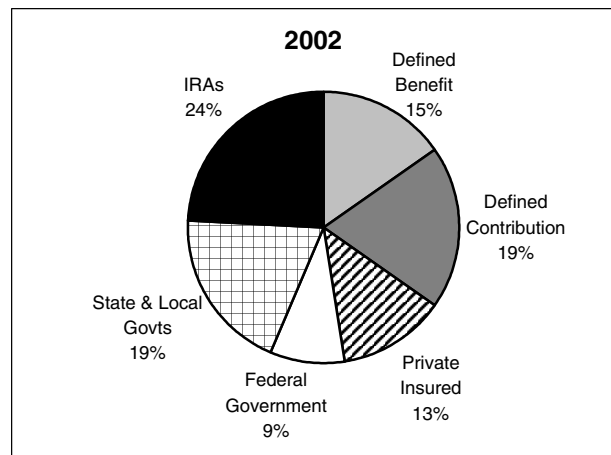
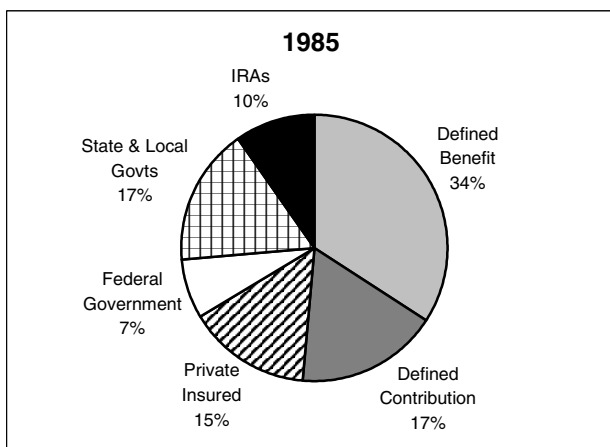
(This Fact Sheet updates previous year-end 2002 data with new information released by the Federal Reserve in June 2004.)

- As of year-end 2002, total assets in qualified U.S. retirement income plans was \$10.129 trillion. This is down 13.5 percent from \$11.711 trillion at year-end 2000 (Figure 1).



- As of year-end 2002, assets held in individual retirement accounts (IRAs) were the largest component of total retirement assets in the United States. IRAs accounted for \$2.445 trillion or 24.1 percent of total retirement plan assets. This is a significant increase from 1985, when IRAs accounted for 10 percent of total retirement plan assets (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Retirement Plan Assets, 1985 and 2002



- Private trustee defined benefit plans have experienced a significant decline as a percentage of assets in the U.S. retirement income system. In 1985, private trustee defined benefit plans accounted for 34.0 percent of all retirement plan assets; by 2002, that percentage had declined to 15.2 percent (Figure 3).

Figure 3
Total Retirement Plan Assets in the United States: 1985–2002
(\$ in billions)

	Total	Private Trustee		Private Insured	Federal Government Retirement	State and Local Government	IRA & Keogh
		Defined Benefit	Defined Contribution				
1985	\$ 2,392	\$ 814	\$ 417	\$ 355	\$172	\$ 399	\$ 235
1988	3,285	883	549	525	268	609	451
1991	4,594	1,048	829	691	382	868	776
1994	5,883	1,276	1,158	794	512	1,088	1,056
1997	9,181	1,747	1,943	1,288	659	1,817	1,728
2000	11,711	1,958	2,465	1,571	799	2,290	2,629
2002	10,129	1,542	1,971	1,310	897	1,964	2,445

For more information, contact EBRI at (202) 659-0670, or see EBRI's Web site at www.ebri.org.

Source: *EBRI Pension Investment Report: First Quarter 2003*, and Federal Reserve Board, *Flow of Funds Accounts: First Quarter 2004*.

FS-185

9/04