



EBRI News

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Sept. 22, 2006
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EBRI Publishes Detailed Look at U.S. Retirement System

WASHINGTON—With the oldest of the nation’s baby boomers turning 60 this year, the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) has published an in-depth book on the U.S. retirement system and how it may change in the future.

The book, *Retirement Security in the United States: Current Sources, Future Prospects, and Likely Outcomes of Current Trends*, documents how long-term restructuring has affected the nation’s retirement programs. Among other things, it examines the changing pattern of retiree income across the age spectrum, the additional amounts that today’s workers need to save to retire with sufficient funds to meet basic living expenses, and the amounts that workers with pensions would need to set aside to compensate the benefit loss if their pensions were frozen.

In addition, the book underscores the complexity of these issues and the degree to which income, age, and tenure of workers affect participation in the retirement system, the probabilities of successful outcomes, and the implications of system change for individuals. For retirees, the book presents the relative role of Social Security and other retirement income sources, and it presents a picture of the changes that take place in this mix as retirees age.

Citing demographic trends, the report notes that as baby boomers begin moving to retirement the share of the U.S. population over age 65 will climb from just over 13 percent today to nearly 22 percent. “This shift will bring with it a progressive increase in attention to issues related to delaying retirement, retiree health care availability and affordability, long term care, and how to produce income in retirement,” the report says. “There will be a tendency to rely upon generalizations or hypotheticals as opposed to detailed analysis. This report is intended to show the inherent risk in not undertaking detailed analysis for concerned parties.”

The 150-page book was written by Jack VanDerhei, Temple University and research director of the EBRI fellows program; Craig Copeland, senior EBRI research associate; and Dallas Salisbury, EBRI president and chief executive officer. Mail orders with \$25 payment per book may be sent to EBRI Publications, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20037. Bulk orders and credit card payments may be directed to Alicia Willis, EBRI Publications, at (202) 659-0670 or publications@ebri.org. The book will be posted on the EBRI Web site at www.ebri.org/publications/books/

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