



Fast Facts from EBRI

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EBRI Publications for the Month of July 2005

WASHINGTON—New publications from the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) during July 2005:

EBRI Issue Brief—“The Influence of Automatic Enrollment, Catch-Up, and IRA Contributions on 401(k) Accumulations at Retirement.” Automatically enrolling new workers appears to be a significant factor in increasing account balances in 401(k) plans, with lower-income individuals benefiting the most, according to a new model developed by EBRI and the Investment Company Institute (ICI). The finding is important because employment-based 401(k) plans have become the dominant retirement savings option for millions of American workers, and the amount of retirement income many Americans will have when they reach 65 will depend to a large degree on how long they participate in a 401(k) plan, how much they contribute to the plan, and how they invest their 401(k) assets.

www.ebri.org/pdf/EBRI_IB_07-20052.pdf

EBRI Notes—“Social Security Reform: The Importance of Disability Insurance and Annuities in Individual Accounts.” Although most of the debate over Social Security has focused on retirement benefits, the program also pays disability and survivor benefits as well. According to this EBRI study, retirement benefits would have to be cut substantially or taxes increased if federal policymakers agreed to protect disability benefits as part of any overhaul of Social Security, if disability benefits are to be preserved at the level provided in current law – as many policymakers say they should.

www.ebri.org/pdf/EBRI_Notes_07-2005.pdf

Fast Facts from EBRI #04 – “Who Is More Likely to Save: Men or Women?” A survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute and Mathew Greenwald & Associates shows that men are slightly more likely than women to say they have saved for retirement. The difference appears to be driven largely by differences in household income between men and women, the survey said, since men earn more than women. www.ebri.org/pdf/publications/facts/fastfacts/fastfact072005.pdf

Previous issues of ***Fast Facts from EBRI*** are available at www.ebri.org/publications/facts/index.cfm?fa=fastfacts

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