

# Fast Facts from EBRI

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## IRAs Continue to Dominate U.S. Retirement Assets

WASHINGTON—As of year-end 2005, individual retirement accounts (IRAs) continued to account for the largest component of total retirement assets in the United States. IRAs accounted for \$3.667 trillion (or 25.5 percent) of total retirement plan assets. This is a significant increase from 1985, when IRAs accounted for 9.8 percent of total retirement plan assets. The numbers appear in the August 2007 *EBRI Notes*, available at [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org).

As earlier EBRI research has shown, IRAs became the dominant source of U.S. retirement assets in 1998, fueled primarily by rollovers from other types of retirement plans (such as defined benefit pensions and defined contribution 401(k)-type plans). Defined contribution (primarily 401(k) plans) ranked second in assets, state and local government retirement plans ranked third, and “traditional” defined benefit pensions ranked fourth. See Feb. 3, 2006, *Fast Facts from EBRI*:

<http://www.ebri.org/pdf/publications/facts/fastfacts/fastfact020306.pdf>

### Total Retirement Plan Assets in the United States: 1985–2005 (\$ in billions)

Year	Total	Private Trusteed		Private Insured	Federal Government	State and Local	IRA & Keogh
		Defined Benefit	Defined Contribution				
1985	\$ 2,396	\$ 814	\$ 417	\$ 355	\$ 172	\$ 402	\$ 235
1986	2,778	885	478	418	202	477	319
1987	3,028	883	523	467	233	532	390
1988	3,272	883	549	525	268	597	451
1989	3,746	942	672	582	304	700	546
1990	3,928	896	676	649	340	730	637
1991	4,577	1,048	829	691	382	852	776
1992	4,878	1,043	892	706	426	937	873
1993	5,437	1,170	1,014	750	468	1,042	993
1994	5,722	1,193	1,076	794	512	1,092	1,056
1995	n/a	1,444	1,312	n/a	541	1,327	1,288
1996	7,524	1,542	1,520	880	606	1,509	1,467
1997	9,105	1,783	1,853	1,288	659	1,795	1,728
1998	10,365	1,948	2,102	1,418	716	2,031	2,150
1999	11,754	2,116	2,355	1,532	774	2,326	2,651
2000	11,634	2,003	2,342	1,571	797	2,293	2,629
2001	10,969	1,843	2,109	1,331	860	2,207	2,619
2002	10,139	1,615	1,857	1,310	894	1,931	2,533
2003	12,247	2,010	2,370	1,574	959	2,344	2,991
2004	13,525	2,158	2,670	1,765	1,024	2,572	3,336
2005	14,388	2,177	2,996	1,772	1,075	2,702	3,667

Source: *EBRI Pension Investment Report: Fourth Quarter 2006*; American Council of Life Insurers, *Life Insurers Fact Book*, and *ACLI Product Line Report: Annuities* (various years); Federal Reserve Board, *Flow of Funds Account*; U.S. Census Bureau, *State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems*, [www.census.gov/govs/www/retire.html](http://www.census.gov/govs/www/retire.html); Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income Division*; and Investment Company Institute, *U.S. Retirement Market, 2005*.

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