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IRA Contribution Flows Dwarfed by Rollovers

Rollovers overwhelmingly outweigh new contributions to individual retirement accounts (IRAs) in dollar terms, according to findings from the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

Almost 13 times the amount of dollars were added through rollovers compared with contributions in 2011, according to the most recent update from the EBRI IRA Database, which contains data collected from various IRA plan administrators on 20.5 million accounts owned by 16.6 million unique individuals with total assets of \$1.456 trillion. Based on comparisons with government data, the EBRI IRA database includes about 30 percent of the assets, and about 25 percent of individuals owning IRAs.

The average and median (mid-point) rollover amounts in 2011 were \$72,398 and \$19,632, respectively, compared with the average contribution of \$3,723.

Average and median rollover amounts increased with age, reaching \$121,106 and \$46,216, respectively, for those age 60–64, at which point the median rollover amount began decreasing, while the average rollover amount continued to rise until the owners reached age 70.

More information about “Individual Retirement Account Balances, Contributions, and Rollovers, 2011: The EBRI IRA Database” is available [online here](#).

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Distribution of Contributions and Rollovers to Traditional and Roth IRAs, 2011	
	Percent
Contributions	
All	100.0%
Less than \$1,000	17.0
\$1,000–\$1,999	12.3
\$2,000–\$3,999	15.1
\$4,000–\$4,999	5.2
\$5,000–\$6,000	50.4
Rollovers	
All	100.0
Less than \$2,000	16.2
\$2,000–\$4,999	14.2
\$5,000–\$9,999	8.8
\$10,000–\$24,999	15.2
\$25,000–\$49,999	13.4
\$50,000–\$74,999	7.7
\$75,000–\$99,999	5.0
\$100,000–\$149,999	6.5
\$150,000–\$249,999	6.2
\$250,000 or more	6.8
Source: EBRI IRA Database.	