

Which States Have the Highest Retirement Plan Participation?

It's often said that in real estate, it's all about "location, location, location." But physical location also appears to have an impact on participation in an employment-based retirement plan, according to a new report from the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

The report explains that while various demographic factors affect the probability of workers participating in an employment-based retirement plan, their geographic location also has an impact.

Wage and salary workers ages 21–64 living in New Mexico had the lowest probability (32.1 percent) of participating in a plan in 2012, while those living in Iowa had the highest probability (54.1 percent) (see figure, pg. 2).

For other work-force definitions that included private-sector workers, Wisconsin workers had the highest probability (64.2 percent) of participation among full-time, full-year wage and salary workers. Minnesota workers had the highest level for private-sector wage and salary workers ages 21–64 (50.0 percent), and District of Columbia workers had the highest participation levels for all workers (49.7 percent).

At the bottom of the rankings, full-time, full-year wage and salary workers in Nevada had the lowest probability (39.7 percent) of participation. New Mexico workers also had the lowest probability for private-sector wage and salary workers ages 21–64 (22.1 percent) and for all workers (28.1 percent). Among public-sector wage and salary workers, Maryland workers had the highest percentage of participation (80.4 percent), while the lowest level of participation among these public-sector workers was for those living in New Mexico (56.4 percent).

More information on these findings can be found in the *EBRI Issue Brief*, "Employment-Based Retirement Plan Participation: Geographic Differences and Trends, 2012," is available online at http://www.ebri.org/publications/ib/index.cfm?fa=ibDisp&content_id=5292

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Percentage of Various Work Forces Who Participated in an Employment-Based Retirement Plan, by State, 2012

State	All Workers		Wage and Salary Workers Ages 21–64		Private-Sector Wage and Salary Workers Ages 21–64		Public-Sector Wage and Salary Workers Ages 21–64		Full-Time, Full-Year Wage and Salary Workers Ages 21–64	
	Number	Participating	Number	Participating	Number	Participating	Number	Participating	Number	Participating
	(millions)	(%)	(millions)	(%)	(millions)	(%)	(millions)	(%)	(millions)	(%)
All	156.5	39.4%	130.4	44.2%	110.0	39.1%	20.5	71.5%	92.2	53.5%
Alabama	2.3	42.1	1.9	46.5	1.6	40.1	0.4	74.8	1.4	55.8
Alaska	0.4	42.0	0.3	49.0	0.2	40.1	0.1	74.0	0.2	62.3
Arizona	3.1	34.0	2.6	37.9	2.3	32.2	0.4	72.7	1.9	45.0
Arkansas	1.3	34.3	1.1	39.2	0.9	33.3	0.2	67.5	0.8	47.6
California	18.8	36.0	15.6	40.2	13.1	34.7	2.4	70.4	10.4	49.6
Colorado	2.8	41.5	2.3	46.6	2.0	42.8	0.3	70.1	1.6	56.3
Connecticut	1.9	44.7	1.5	50.7	1.3	47.4	0.2	69.9	1.0	61.1
Delaware	0.4	40.8	0.4	46.0	0.3	41.1	0.0	78.5	0.3	54.7
District of Columbia	0.4	49.7	0.3	53.3	0.2	44.3	0.1	77.6	0.2	60.9
Florida	9.3	30.7	7.8	34.0	6.7	28.8	1.1	64.8	5.8	40.8
Georgia	4.6	40.8	3.9	45.1	3.2	39.9	0.7	67.6	2.9	54.7
Hawaii	0.6	45.2	0.5	50.2	0.4	44.3	0.1	73.2	0.4	59.8
Idaho	0.8	38.3	0.6	45.3	0.5	37.7	0.1	74.4	0.4	56.5
Illinois	6.5	41.9	5.5	46.4	4.7	43.0	0.7	68.5	3.9	55.4
Indiana	3.1	43.8	2.5	49.6	2.2	45.7	0.3	74.9	1.8	61.4
Iowa	1.7	46.0	1.4	54.1	1.2	49.7	0.2	77.0	1.0	63.4
Kansas	1.5	42.4	1.2	48.9	1.0	43.8	0.2	70.1	0.9	58.6
Kentucky	2.2	38.2	1.8	43.1	1.5	37.2	0.3	70.0	1.3	53.2
Louisiana	2.1	34.9	1.7	39.5	1.4	34.1	0.3	65.1	1.3	46.7
Maine	0.8	40.8	0.6	48.3	0.5	44.2	0.1	70.7	0.4	59.2
Maryland	3.2	47.5	2.7	52.3	2.1	44.4	0.6	80.4	2.0	61.1
Massachusetts	3.5	44.1	2.9	49.8	2.4	44.6	0.5	75.7	2.1	59.6
Michigan	4.7	40.6	3.9	45.0	3.4	41.3	0.5	71.1	2.7	54.9
Minnesota	3.0	47.1	2.5	53.6	2.2	50.0	0.3	77.1	1.8	63.3
Mississippi	1.3	35.8	1.0	41.4	0.8	35.5	0.2	63.9	0.7	50.4
Missouri	3.0	40.9	2.5	45.1	2.1	40.9	0.4	68.4	1.8	54.9
Montana	0.5	37.5	0.4	43.8	0.3	36.3	0.1	72.3	0.3	54.9
Nebraska	1.1	41.2	0.8	48.4	0.7	43.9	0.1	70.8	0.6	56.5
Nevada	1.3	31.1	1.1	34.0	1.0	28.6	0.1	70.4	0.8	39.7
New Hampshire	0.8	44.4	0.6	51.1	0.5	48.0	0.1	71.4	0.4	61.1
New Jersey	4.6	42.3	3.9	46.3	3.3	41.6	0.5	74.9	2.7	56.4
New Mexico	1.0	28.1	0.8	32.1	0.6	22.1	0.2	56.4	0.5	42.1
New York	9.5	40.6	8.1	45.2	6.7	38.7	1.3	77.5	5.8	54.3
North Carolina	4.5	36.5	3.8	41.6	3.2	35.9	0.6	70.2	2.7	51.5
North Dakota	0.4	43.4	0.3	52.1	0.3	47.6	0.1	69.6	0.2	63.1
Ohio	5.8	41.5	4.7	47.0	4.0	41.8	0.7	77.3	3.2	57.7
Oklahoma	1.8	37.9	1.5	42.9	1.2	37.7	0.3	65.6	1.1	52.2
Oregon	1.9	39.6	1.6	44.8	1.4	40.9	0.2	68.2	1.0	58.0
Pennsylvania	6.6	44.1	5.6	49.7	4.9	45.7	0.7	77.2	3.9	59.2
Rhode Island	0.5	42.7	0.4	47.6	0.4	42.8	0.1	75.6	0.3	58.6
South Carolina	2.2	40.6	1.9	45.1	1.6	39.8	0.3	71.6	1.4	53.5
South Dakota	0.5	38.7	0.4	47.9	0.3	43.1	0.1	72.7	0.3	58.4
Tennessee	3.1	37.9	2.5	42.5	2.2	37.8	0.3	74.8	1.8	53.4
Texas	13.1	33.9	11.0	37.6	9.4	32.5	1.6	67.1	8.2	45.1
Utah	1.4	38.2	1.2	43.4	1.0	38.4	0.2	67.7	0.8	53.7
Vermont	0.4	40.0	0.3	49.0	0.2	42.7	0.1	76.7	0.2	61.4
Virginia	4.2	44.9	3.6	50.5	2.9	44.5	0.7	76.2	2.6	59.9
Washington	3.6	42.7	3.1	47.8	2.6	43.7	0.4	71.7	2.0	59.4
West Virginia	0.8	46.3	0.7	51.9	0.5	46.0	0.2	70.5	0.5	60.7
Wisconsin	3.1	45.5	2.6	52.8	2.2	49.7	0.4	70.3	1.7	64.2
Wyoming	0.3	40.8	0.3	48.8	0.2	41.3	0.1	71.2	0.2	58.8

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute estimates from the 2013 March Current Population Survey.