

Contact: John MacDonald, EBRI, (202) 775-6349, macdonald@ebri.org

Medicare: How Much Confidence Among Workers, Retirees?

WASHINGTON—How much confidence do American workers and retirees have in Medicare?

The 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey finds that current *retirees* are more confident about Medicare than current *workers*. Here are the details:

Worker Confidence in Medicare

- Thirty-eight percent of workers are *very confident* or *somewhat confident* that Medicare will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits that retirees receive today. This compares with 61 percent of workers who are *not too* or *not at all* confident about Medicare providing this level of benefits. These proportions have remained relatively constant in recent years, although confidence has increased somewhat since the early 1990s.

Worker Confidence That the Medicare System Will Continue to Provide Benefits of at Least Equal Value to the Benefits Received by Retirees Today, 1992–2009

	1992	1994	1999	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Very confident	1%	3%	7%	6%	7%	5%	6%	4%	5%
Somewhat confident	26	24	24	31	30	29	30	30	33
Not too confident	45	32	38	35	33	36	33	35	35
Not at all confident	25	37	30	26	28	28	28	29	26

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Mathew Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 1992–2009 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

Retiree Confidence in Medicare

- Fifty-nine percent of current retirees say they are *very confident* or *somewhat confident* about receiving benefits in the future that are at least equal in value to those provided now. At the same time, 39 percent of retirees are *not too* or *not at all* confident in the future of Medicare benefits, a slight decline from 2008 (45 percent). Retiree confidence in Medicare is significantly higher in 2009 than it was in the early 1990s.

Retiree Confidence That the Medicare System Will Continue to Provide Benefits of at Least Equal Value to the Benefits Received by Retirees Today, 1992–2009

	1992	1994	1999	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Very confident	10%	13%	12%	16%	20%	12%	15%	8%	9%
Somewhat confident	28	30	39	37	42	50	44	44	50
Not too confident	39	26	36	31	24	26	22	32	26
Not at all confident	17	21	12	11	9	10	13	13	13

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Mathew Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 1992–2009 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

Full results of the 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey appear in the April 2009 *EBRI Issue Brief*, available at www.ebri.org

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