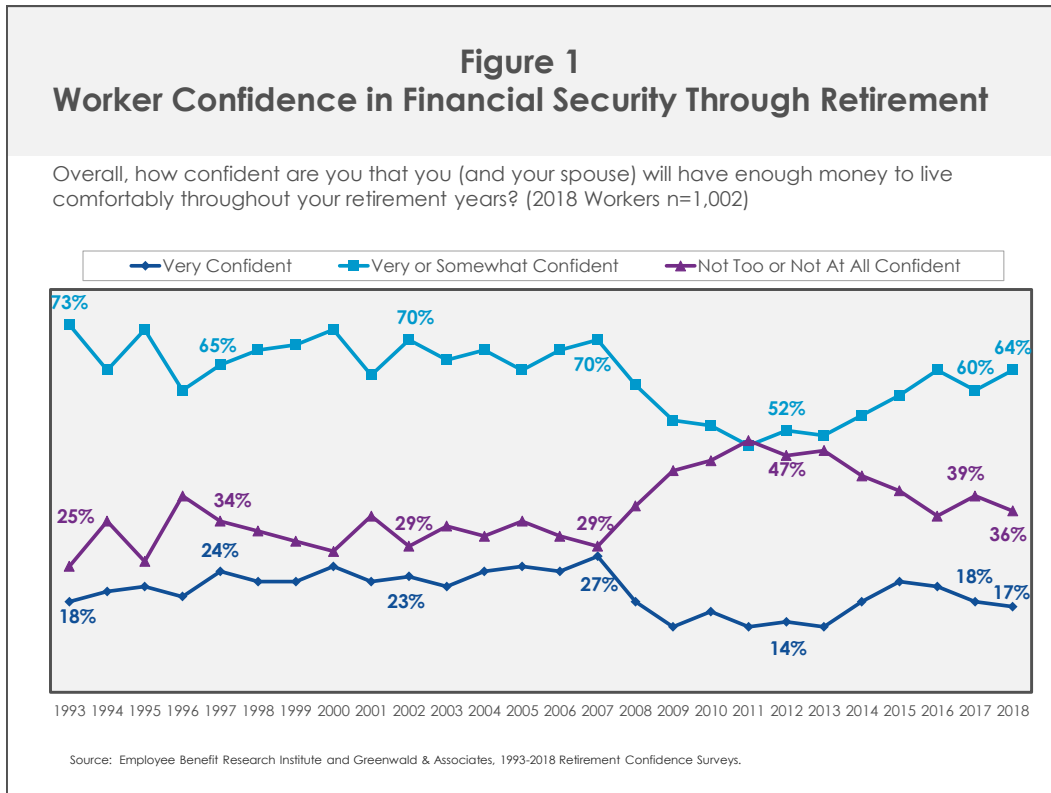


## 2018 RCS FACT SHEET #1 RETIREMENT CONFIDENCE

Few Americans feel very confident about their ability to have enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years. Workers who say debt is a problem are, not surprisingly, less confident, while those who have a retirement plan are remarkably more confident.

### Confidence in Having a Comfortable Retirement

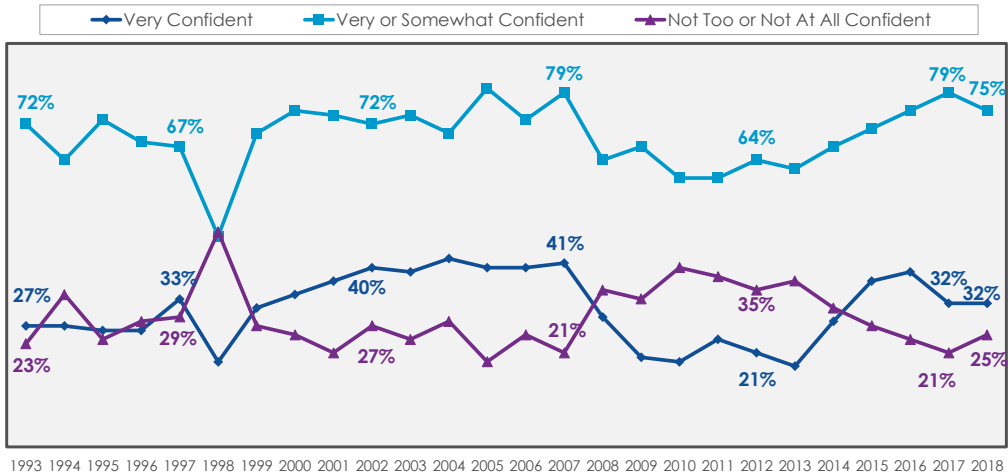
The 2018 Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) finds that six in ten American workers (64 percent) feel confident in their ability to retire comfortably, though few (17 percent) feel very confident. The share of workers reporting that they feel either very or somewhat confident has increased compared with last year (64 percent from 60 percent in 2017). Worker confidence now resembles the levels measured in 2016, matching the levels for both very or somewhat confident and not too or not at all confident (Figure 1).



The level of confidence expressed by those already in retirement continues to be greater than those yet to retire. Retiree confidence about having enough money for a comfortable retirement remains high. Seventy-five percent of retirees report feeling either very or somewhat confident about having enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years (compared with 79 percent in 2017). One-third of retirees feel very confident (32 percent), while 25 percent say they are not too or not at all confident. (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
**Retiree Confidence in Financial Security Through Retirement**

Overall, how confident are you that you (and your spouse) will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years? (2018 Retirees n=1,040)

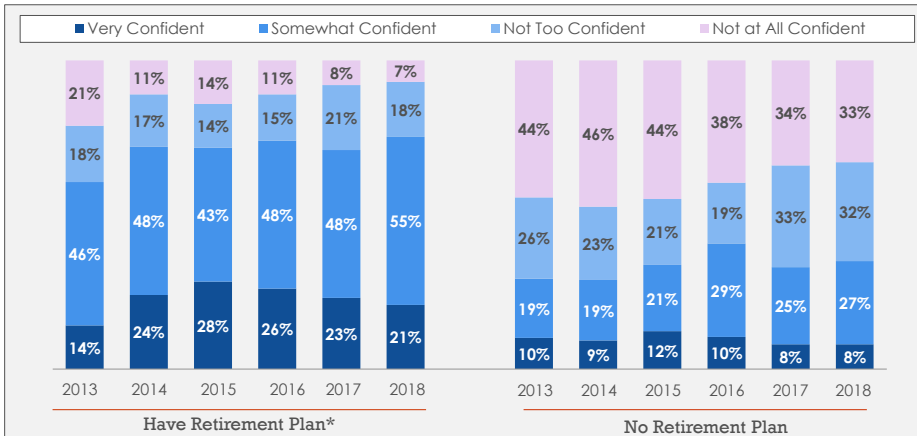


\*The 2018 value for very or somewhat confident is down significantly from 2017 at 93% confidence.  
 Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, 1993-2018 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

Retirement confidence continues to be strongly related to retirement plan participation, whether in a defined contribution (DC) plan, defined benefit (DB) plan, or individual retirement account (IRA). Workers reporting they or their spouse have money in a DC plan or IRA or have benefits in a DB plan from a current or previous employer are more than twice as likely as those without any of these plans to be at least somewhat confident (75 percent with a plan vs. 34 percent without a plan) (Figure 3).

**Figure 3**  
**Confidence in Financial Security in Retirement, by Plan**

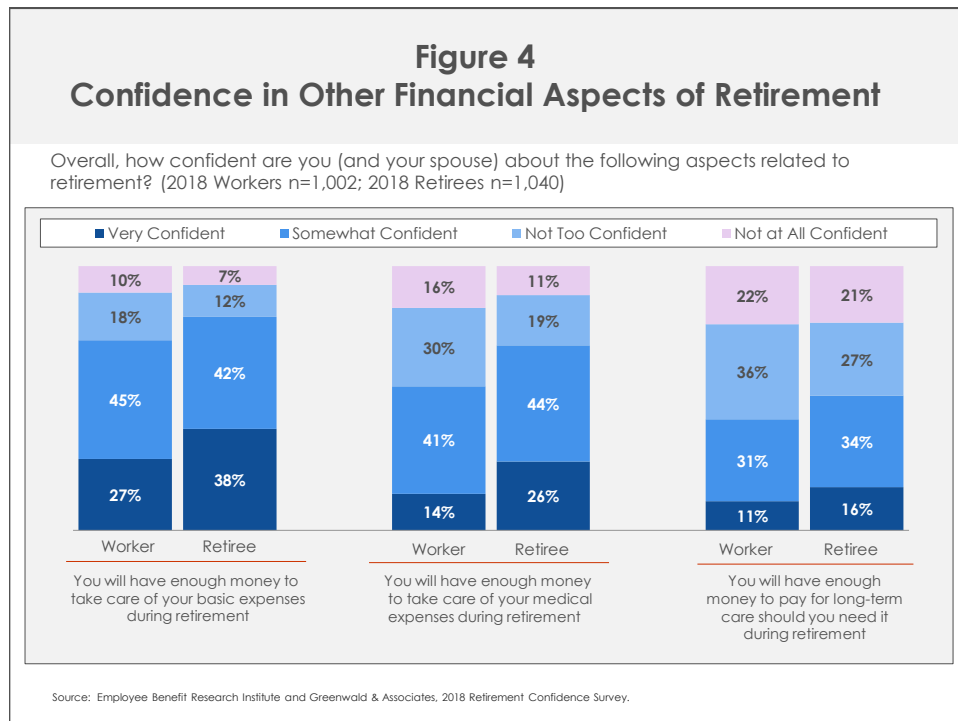
Overall, how confident are you that you (and your spouse) will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years? (Workers)



\*Have Retirement Plan defined as respondent or spouse having at least one of the following: IRA, DC plan, or DB plan  
 Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, 2013-2018 Retirement Confidence Surveys.

## Confidence in Other Financial Aspects of Retirement

Almost three in four workers (72 percent) report feeling very or somewhat confident about being able to afford basic expenses in retirement, including 27 percent who feel very confident. Workers' confidence in their ability to afford basic expenses is higher than the confidence they report regarding their ability to pay for medical expenses in retirement. Forty-six percent of workers are not too or not at all confident they will have enough money for medical expenses in retirement. An even greater share is not too or not at all confident in their ability to pay for long-term care expenses: nearly six in ten (58 percent) do not feel confident about having enough money for long-term care in retirement (Figure 4).



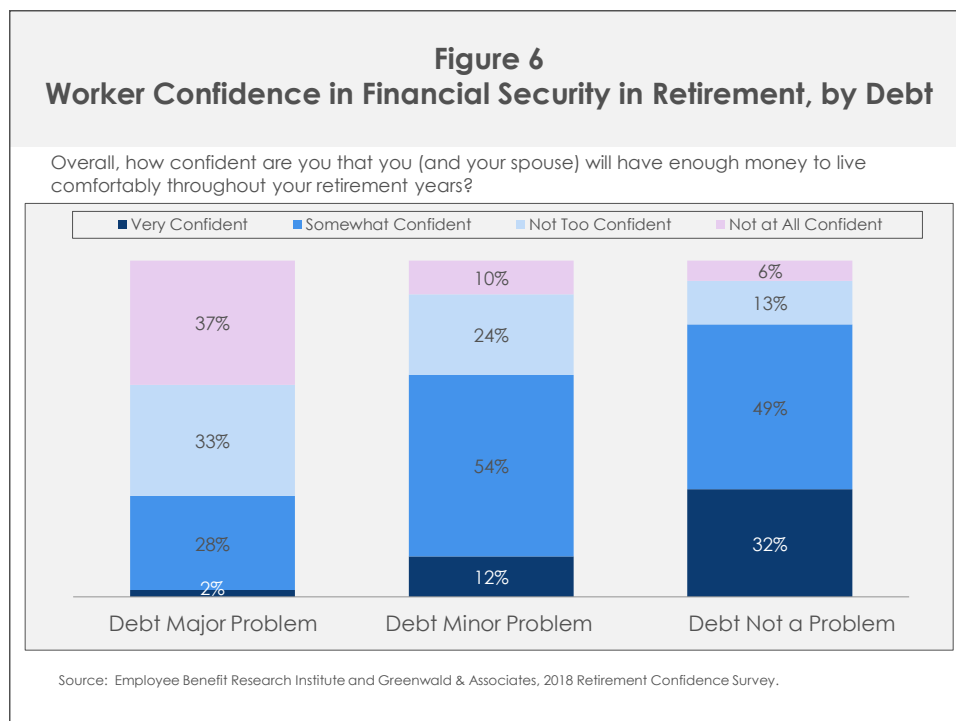
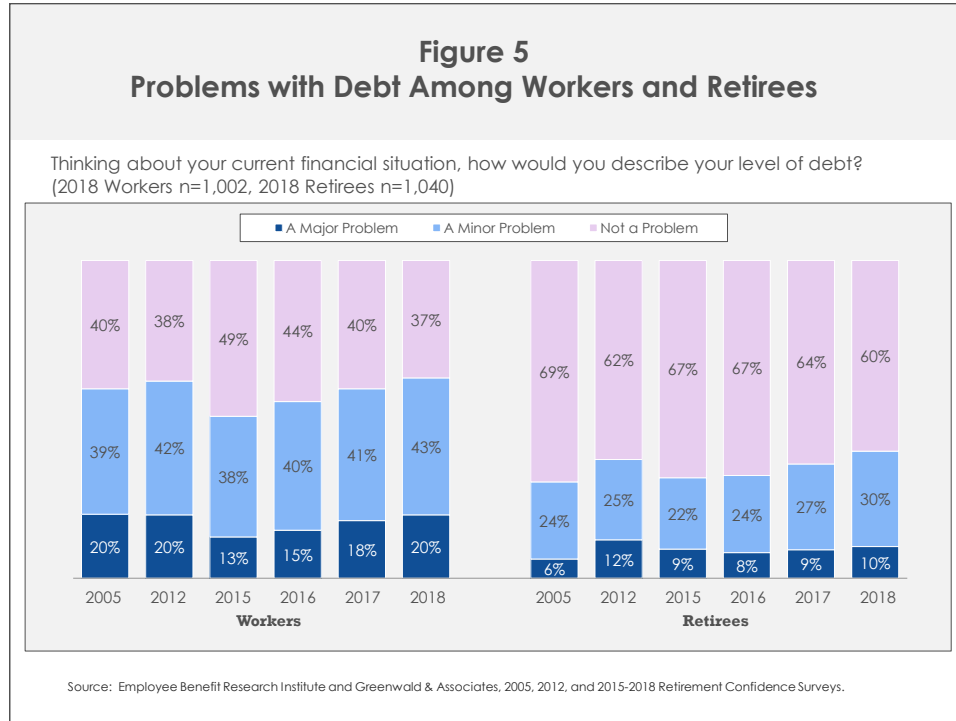
Retirees, who are already in that life stage, express higher levels of confidence than workers in each of these financial aspects of retirement. Four out of five retirees (80 percent) feel at least somewhat confident in their ability to afford basic expenses throughout their retirement years. Seventy percent are very or somewhat confident about having enough money to cover medical expenses, and half feel very or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for long-term care (Figure 4).

## Influence of Debt on Confidence

Workers are more likely to say that debt is a problem for them than retirees. Nearly two in three workers (63 percent) say debt is a problem for them, while 37 percent say debt is not a problem. In contrast, just 40 percent of retirees say that debt is a problem for them. Workers are twice as likely to say that debt is a major problem as retirees (20 percent versus 10 percent) (Figure 5).

The RCS has consistently found a relationship between debt levels and retirement confidence. In 2018, just 2 percent of workers with a major debt problem say they are very confident about having enough money to live comfortably in retirement,

compared with 32 percent of workers who indicate debt is not a problem. On the other hand, 37 percent of workers with a major debt problem are not at all confident about having enough money for a financially secure retirement, compared with 6 percent of workers without a debt problem (Figure 6).



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