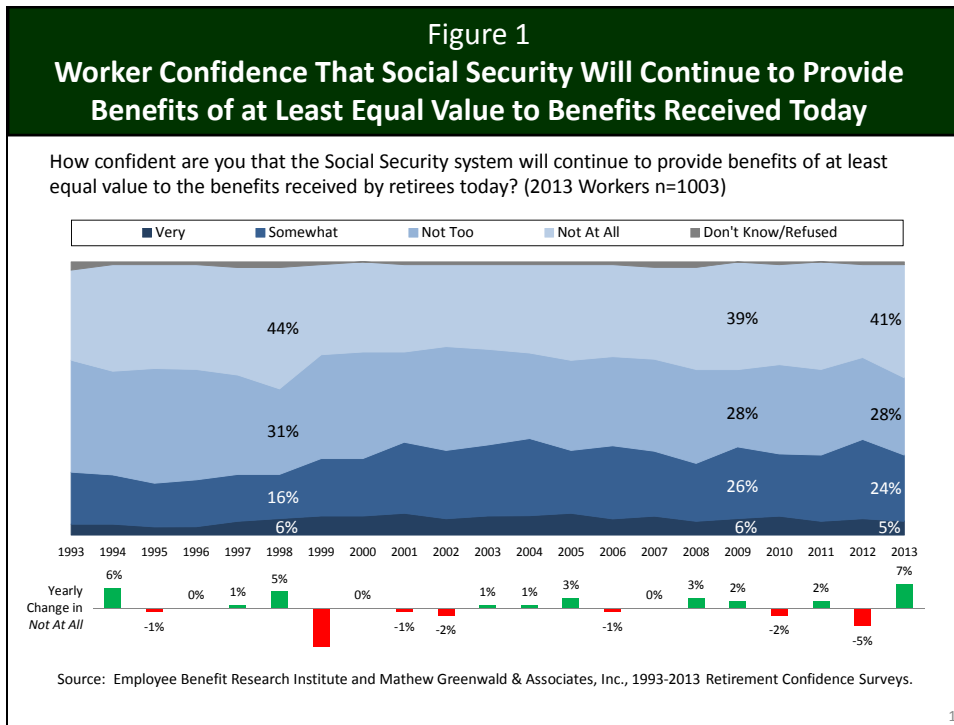


ATTITUDES ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

The confidence that workers and retirees have in the value of future benefits from Social Security and Medicare has gradually eroded over time. Nevertheless, Social Security remains a major source of income for many retirees and most workers are counting on receiving at least some income from Social Security when they retire.

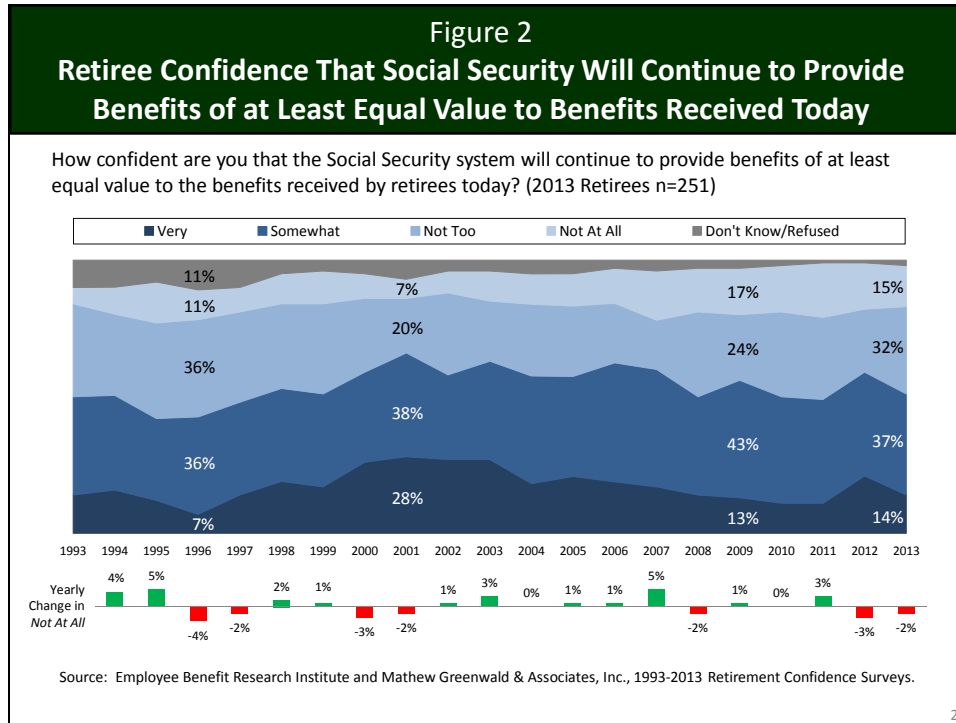
Confidence in Social Security

Sixty-nine percent of workers are not too or not at all confident that Social Security will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits retirees receive today. In particular, the percentage not at all confident has risen from 34 percent a year ago to 41 percent in 2013 (Figure 1).



Retirees are more likely than workers to express confidence about the future of Social Security. Nevertheless, the share of retirees very confident about future benefits from Social Security has slipped to 14 percent (from 21 percent in 2012).

Forty-seven percent of retirees are not too or not at all confident that Social Security will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value (Figure 2).



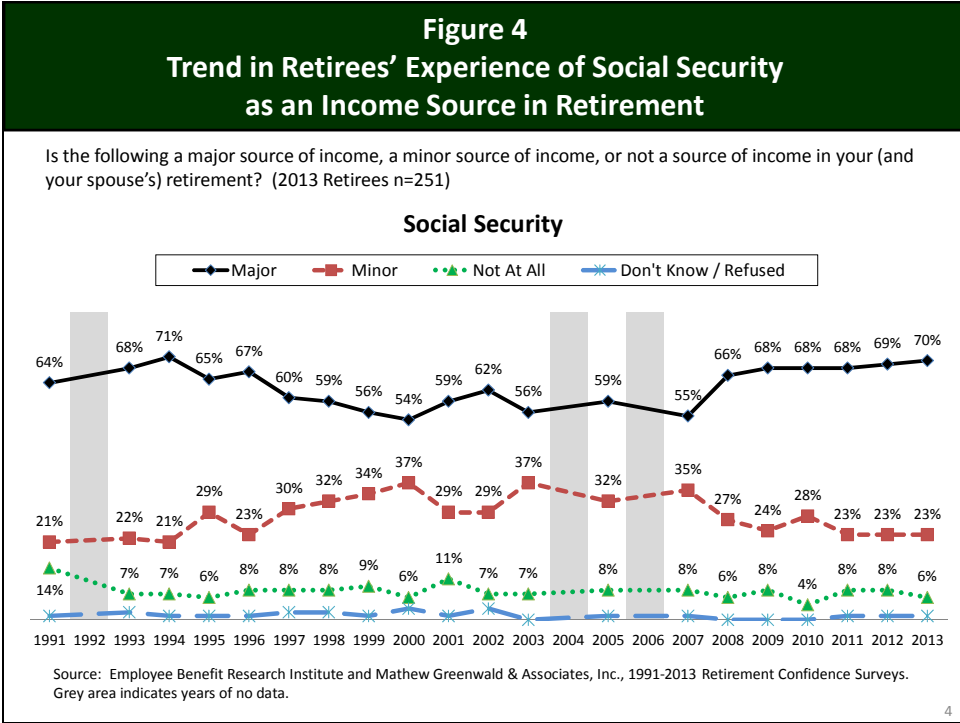
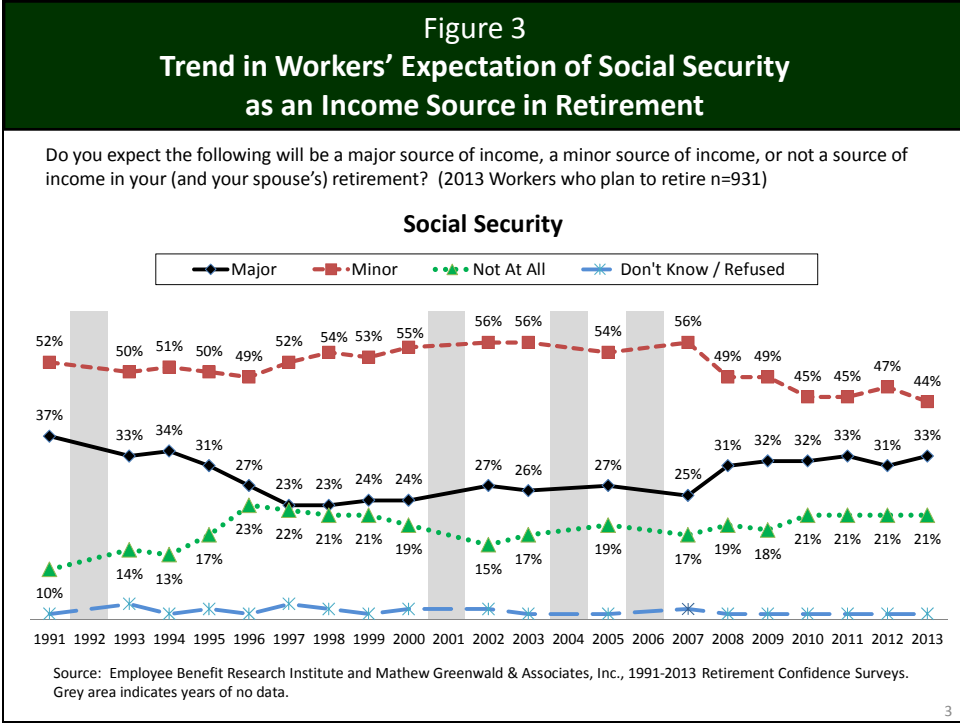
Expected Retirement Income from Social Security

Today’s workers are less likely to expect Social Security income in retirement (77 percent) than today’s retirees are to report having Social Security income (93 percent) (Figures 3 and 4).

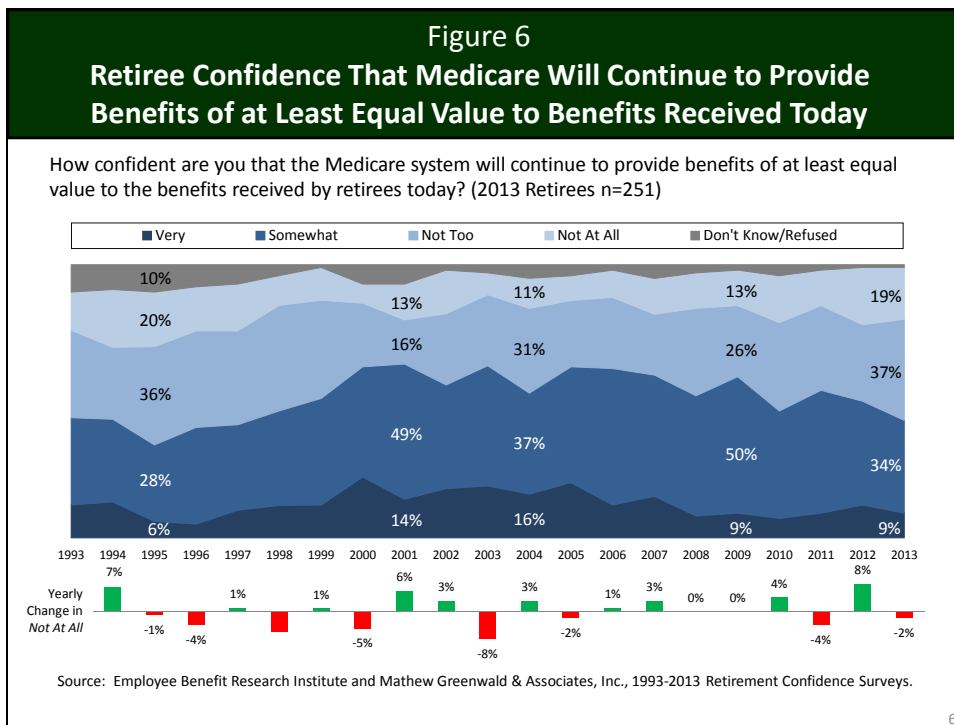
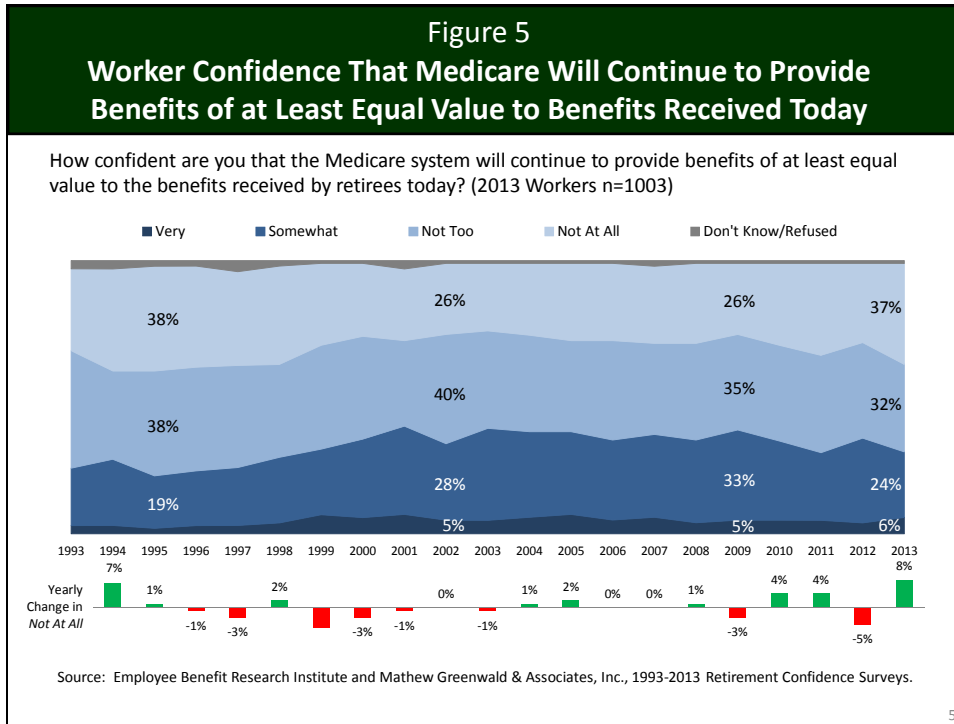
Workers are also half as likely to expect Social Security to provide a major share of their income in retirement (33 percent) as retirees are to say Social Security makes up a major share of their income (70 percent). EBRI research found in 2010 that 60 percent of those 65 or older received at least 75 percent of their income from Social Security (see *EBRI Databook on Employee Benefits*, Chapt. 7, www.ebri.org/pdf/publications/books/databook/DB.Chapter%2007.pdf).

Confidence in Medicare

Workers are just as likely to feel uncertain about Medicare’s future. Once again, 69 percent of workers are not too or not at all confident that Medicare will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits retirees receive today, a return to confidence levels measured in 2011. However, the percentage very confident (6 percent in 2013) has remained relatively stable over the last decade (Figure 5).



Fifty-six percent of retirees say they are not too or not at all confident in the future value of Medicare benefits, up from 49 percent in 2012. The percentage of retirees reporting they are very confident remained at 9 percent (Figure 6).



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