

# Notes

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## A T A G L A N C E

**2015 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey: Most Workers Continue to Give Low Ratings to Health Care System, but Declining Number Report Health Care Cost Increases**, *by Paul Fronstin, Ph.D., EBRI, and Ruth Helman, Greenwald & Associates*

- The 2015 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey (WBS) finds that when asked to rate the U.S. health care system, many workers describe it as poor (25 percent) or fair (30 percent). Only a small minority rate it as excellent (4 percent) or very good (13 percent). Dissatisfaction with the health care system appears to be focused primarily on cost.
- In contrast to the ratings for the health care system overall, workers' ratings of their own health plans continue to be generally favorable. One-half of those with health insurance coverage are extremely or very satisfied. Only 9 percent are not satisfied with their current health plan.
- One-half of workers with health insurance coverage report having experienced an increase in health care costs in the past year, an historical low in the survey. The percentage reporting that they did not experience a change in health care costs increased from 36 percent to 47 percent between 2014 and 2015.

**IRA Asset Allocation, 2013, and Longitudinal Results, 2010–2013**, *by Craig Copeland, Ph.D., EBRI*

- The latest data from the EBRI IRA Database show that more than half of all IRA assets were allocated to equities, although this varied with age, account balance, and IRA type. Gender differences in asset allocations were minimal.
- Those older or owning a traditional IRA had, on average, lower allocations to equities. Individuals with the largest balances had the lowest combined exposure to equities (including the addition of the equity share of balanced funds to the pure equity funds).
- This study includes the first look at asset allocation longitudinally from 2010–2013 and finds that equity allocations in 2013 were higher than they were in 2010 and 2012. This result appears to be driven by the nearly 50 percent of accounts that remained at an extreme value (0 percent or 100 percent allocation) in both years and the higher probability of a positive change from 2010 to 2013 in the equity allocation.

# 2015 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey: Most Workers Continue to Give Low Ratings to Health Care System, but Declining Number Report Health Care Cost Increases

*By Paul Fronstin, Ph.D., Employee Benefit Research Institute, and Ruth Helman, Greenwald & Associates, Inc.*

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## 2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey Underwriters

AXA	MetLife
Cigna	Prudential Financial, Inc.
MassMutual	The Segal Group
Mercer	Unum Group

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### Introduction

Five years after passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA), implementation of many of its provisions and delay of others, a majority of workers continue to give low marks to the U.S. health care system.

This article examines public opinion with respect to various aspects of the United States health care system using data from the 2015 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey (WBS) as well as from the 1998–2012 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health Confidence Survey (HCS) and the 2013–2014 WBS. The WBS and HCS examine a broad spectrum of health care issues, including workers' satisfaction with health care today, their confidence in the future of the health care system and the Medicare program, and their attitudes toward benefits in the workplace.

### The U.S. Health Care System

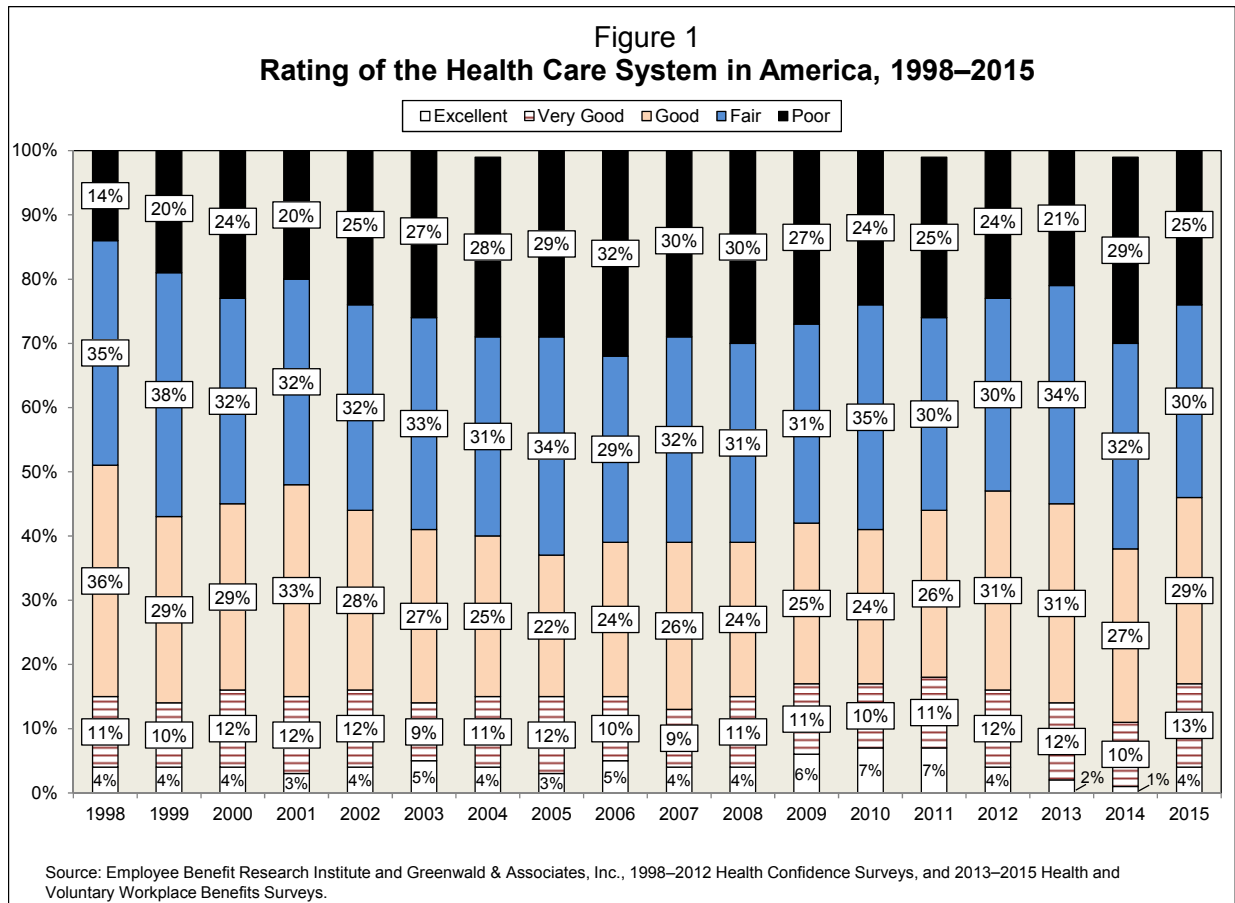
Health care is not the issue that the majority of workers consider to be the most pressing in the United States today. The 2015 WBS finds they are most likely to identify the economy (38 percent) when asked about the most critical issue; health care (20 percent) is the second-most critical issue named, followed by the federal budget deficit (13 percent), education (9 percent), and the environment (8 percent). Seven percent of workers consider immigration to be the most pressing issue, and 5 percent report it to be unemployment. Nevertheless, five years after passage of PPACA and implementation of a number of provisions in the legislation, dissatisfaction with the U.S. health care system remains widespread.

When asked to rate the health care system, a majority of workers (55 percent) continue to describe it as poor (25 percent) or fair (30 percent). Three in 10 (29 percent) consider it good, while only a small minority rate it as very good (13 percent) or excellent (4 percent) (Figure 1). The 2013–2015 WBS and the 1998–2012 HCS find that the percentage of workers rating the health care system as poor more than doubled between 1998 and 2006 (rising from 14 percent to 32 percent). While that percentage fell between 2006 and 2013, it jumped to 29 percent in 2014, and fell to 25 percent in 2015. Between 2006 and 2013, the percentage of workers reporting that the health care system was fair or poor fell from 61 percent to 55 percent, then increased to 61 percent in 2014, and fell again to 55 percent in 2015.

### Satisfaction With Employment-based Health Benefits

In contrast to the ratings for the health care system overall, workers' ratings of their own health plans continue to be generally favorable. One-half (50 percent) of those with health insurance coverage are extremely or very satisfied

with their current plans, and 41 percent are somewhat satisfied (Figure 2). Only 9 percent say they are not too (7 percent) or not at all (2 percent) satisfied.



Dissatisfaction with the health care system appears to be focused primarily on cost. Satisfaction with health care quality continues to remain fairly high, with 47 percent of workers saying they are extremely or very satisfied with the quality of the medical care they have received in the past two years, 35 percent somewhat satisfied, and 13 percent not too (8 percent) or not at all (5 percent) satisfied (Figure 3). In contrast, just 17 percent are extremely or very satisfied with the cost of their health insurance plan, and only 15 percent are satisfied with the costs of health care services not covered by insurance.

## Confidence in the Health Care System

Confidence about various aspects of today’s health care system has also remained fairly level before and after the passage of PPACA. According to the 2015 WBS, nearly one-half (47 percent) of workers report being extremely or very confident that they are able to get the treatments they need (Figure 4). Nearly 4 in 10 (37 percent) report being somewhat confident that they are able to get the treatments they need in 2015, and 17 percent are not too (11 percent) or not at all (6 percent) confident.

Confidence in having enough choices about who provides medical care also remains fairly steady. In 2015, 4 in 10 workers (42 percent) are extremely or very confident that they have enough choices about who provides their medical care. Thirty-seven percent are somewhat confident, and 22 percent are not too (17 percent) or not at all (5 percent) confident.

Figure 2

**Satisfaction With Current Health Plan, 1998–2015**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Extremely Satisfied	13%	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	13%	15%	15%	16%	14%	21%	22%	22%	17%	12%	11%	12%
Very Satisfied	36	38	34	40	40	36	33	38	34	35	37	36	35	37	36	39	39	38
Somewhat Satisfied	38	40	42	38	37	43	38	36	39	37	35	30	33	29	33	37	38	41
Not Too Satisfied	8	7	8	7	7	8	11	8	7	4	8	8	7	6	9	8	9	7
Not at All Satisfied	4	4	4	4	6	2	5	3	4	7	5	5	3	6	5	2	2	2

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 1998–2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013–2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

**Figure 3**  
**Satisfaction With Selected Aspects of Health Care Received in Past Two Years, 1998–2015**

	Quality of Medical Care Received																	
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Extremely Satisfied	14%	11%	10%	12%	12%	13%	13%	12%	16%	15%	15%	19%	20%	18%	17%	14%	11%	12%
Very Satisfied	35	35	36	39	39	38	40	39	34	35	33	38	40	38	40	36	35	35
Somewhat Satisfied	33	33	38	33	37	33	32	35	36	38	39	32	29	31	31	31	32	35
Not Too Satisfied	5	5	6	5	4	5	5	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	3	9	10	8
Not at All Satisfied	1	4	4	2	1	2	2	6	5	4	5	4	3	4	5	5	5	5
Not Applicable	12	13	7	9	7	10	9	4	5	5	4	3	4	5	4	7	7	5
	Cost of Health Insurance																	
Extremely Satisfied	19%	19%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Very Satisfied	15	15	13	17	16	14	14	17	9	10	11	16	13	12	13	9	9	11
Somewhat Satisfied	30	33	30	27	27	26	28	34	28	31	30	29	29	32	25	23	25	28
Not Too Satisfied	18	18	19	17	17	18	14	16	17	20	16	17	17	19	19	26	24	23
Not at All Satisfied	14	13	22	17	24	22	22	21	38	31	33	30	31	31	33	30	31	29
Not Applicable	14	16	10	12	8	14	13	6	4	3	5	3	4	2	5	8	7	3
	Health Costs Not Covered by Insurance																	
Extremely Satisfied	6%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	5%	7%	4%	5%	4%	6%	6%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%
Very Satisfied	13	13	12	15	13	14	10	13	9	8	9	11	11	11	9	8	7	10
Somewhat Satisfied	28	31	30	27	27	25	28	28	30	32	30	24	22	28	30	19	19	21
Not Too Satisfied	16	19	18	16	20	21	17	18	19	20	18	22	15	19	16	25	25	24
Not at All Satisfied	19	14	24	23	27	24	27	22	32	30	28	31	38	31	33	35	34	34
Not Applicable	17	18	12	13	9	13	13	12	7	6	10	7	8	7	10	10	12	7

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 1998–2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013–2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

**Figure 4**  
**Confidence in Selected Aspects of Today's Health Care System, 2002–2015**

	Ability to Get Needed Treatments																
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015			
Extremely Confident	20%	17%	16%	22%	22%	20%	17%	22%	26%	22%	23%	14%	12%	13%			
Very Confident	33	34	36	37	31	32	32	36	32	35	33	32	35	34			
Somewhat	35	36	33	31	31	33	35	28	25	27	30	33	33	37			
Not Too Confident	7	7	9	4	7	6	6	8	7	9	8	14	14	11			
Not at All Confident	5	6	6	6	8	9	10	6	11	7	7	6	6	6			
	Enough Choice About Who Provides Medical Care																
Extremely Confident	18%	12%	12%	15%	14%	12%	13%	18%	21%	17%	15%	12%	10%	12%			
Very Confident	24	27	27	32	25	29	26	29	25	33	32	27	28	30			
Somewhat	38	40	40	36	41	38	36	33	32	32	32	35	35	37			
Not Too Confident	13	11	10	10	7	9	12	11	10	7	7	20	19	17			
Not at All Confident	8	10	10	8	13	12	12	9	12	11	13	7	8	5			
	Ability to Afford Health Care Without Financial Hardship																
Extremely Confident	14%	12%	11%	13%	10%	13%	10%	13%	18%	13%	13%	8%	7%	9%			
Very Confident	22	17	24	22	19	18	18	21	20	22	19	17	17	21			
Somewhat	33	34	34	34	33	32	29	29	25	29	33	29	34	33			
Not Too Confident	13	16	11	13	14	18	16	13	13	15	12	30	28	24			
Not at All Confident	18	21	19	19	23	20	26	23	25	21	23	17	14	13			

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2002–2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013–2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

Figure 5

**Confidence in Selected Aspects of the Health Care System, Today, During the Next 10 Years, and Once Eligible for Medicare, 2015**

Ability to Get Needed Treatments		Today	During Next 10 Years	Once Eligible for Medicare (among those not currently eligible)
Extremely Confident	13%	8%	5%	
Very Confident	34	25	21	
Somewhat Confident	37	41	41	
Not Too Confident	11	18	23	
Not at All Confident	6	8	10	
<b>Enough Choice About Who Provides Medical Care</b>				
		Today	During Next 10 Years	Once Eligible for Medicare (among those not currently eligible)
Extremely Confident	12%	7%	6%	
Very Confident	30	23	19	
Somewhat Confident	37	43	39	
Not Too Confident	17	19	26	
Not at All Confident	5	7	10	
<b>Ability to Afford Health Care Without Financial Hardship</b>				
		Today	During Next 10 Years	Once Eligible for Medicare (among those not currently eligible)
Extremely Confident	9%	8%	5%	
Very Confident	21	17	19	
Somewhat Confident	33	36	37	
Not Too Confident	24	24	28	
Not at All Confident	13	15	12	

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

Figure 6

**Confidence That Employer or Union Will Continue to Offer Health Insurance, Selected Years, 2000-2015**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Extremely Confident	31%	29%	28%	29%	37%	-	-	29%	-	32%	24%	30%	35%	28%	29%	29%
Very Confident	40	36	35	32	27	-	-	30	-	31	31	30	23	37	35	35
Somewhat Confident	24	25	27	25	24	-	-	30	-	24	31	23	27	28	27	27
Not Too Confident	3	5	7	8	7	-	-	6	-	5	8	9	10	6	7	5
Not at All Confident	2	4	3	6	5	-	-	6	-	8	7	8	6	2	2	4

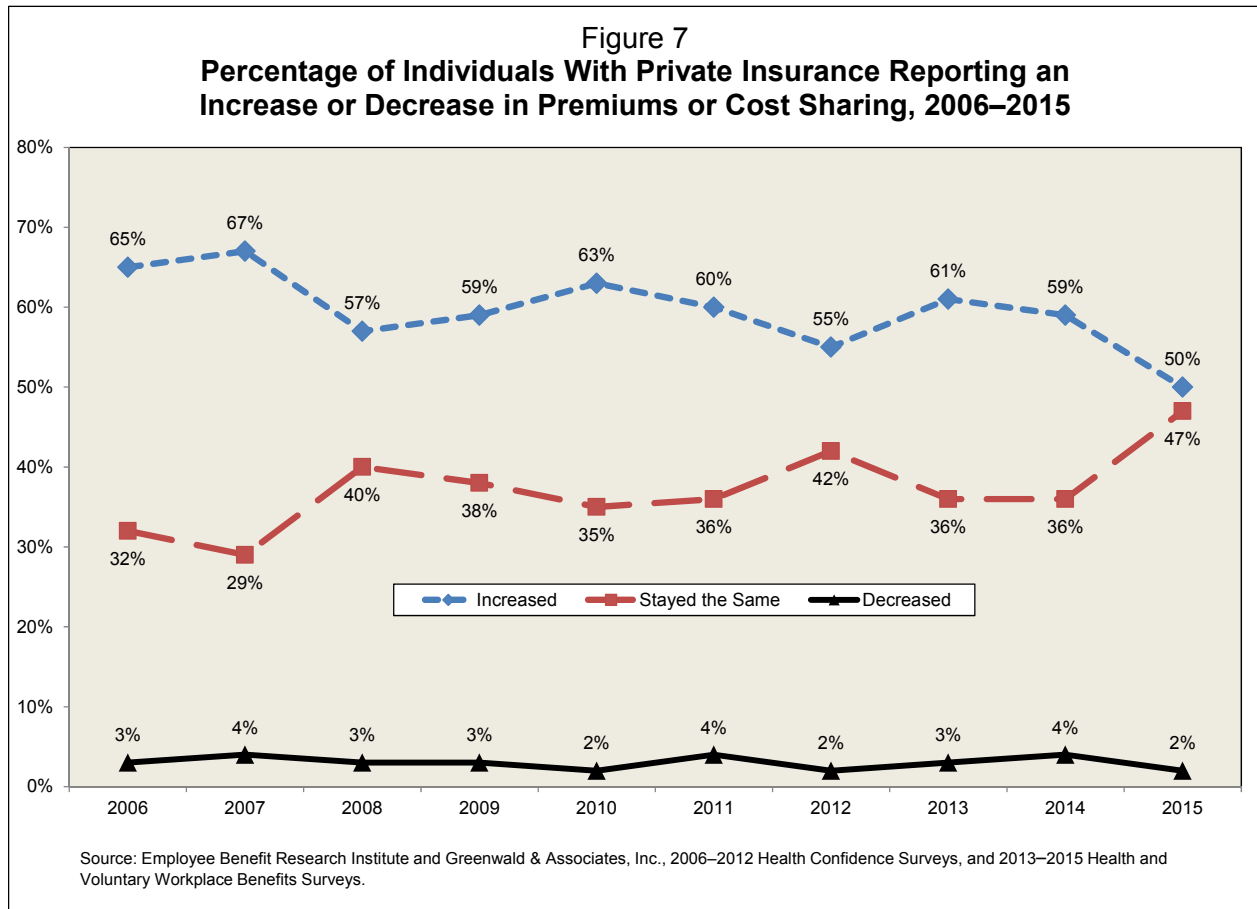
Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2000-2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013-2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

Confidence about the health care system decreases as workers look to the future. While 47 percent of workers indicate they are extremely or very confident about their ability to get the treatments they need today, only 33 percent are confident about their ability to get needed treatments during the next 10 years, and just 26 percent are confident about this once they are eligible for Medicare (Figure 5). Similarly, 42 percent are confident they have enough choices about who provides their medical care today, but only 30 percent are confident about this aspect of the health care system over the next 10 years, and just 25 percent are confident that they will have enough choices once they are eligible for Medicare. Finally, 30 percent of workers say they are confident that they are able to afford health care without financial hardship today, but this percentage decreases to 25 percent when they look out over the next 10 years and to 24 percent when they consider the Medicare years.

Workers are generally confident that their employers or unions will continue to offer health insurance in the future. In 2015, 29 percent of workers report that they are extremely confident their employers or unions will continue to offer coverage, 35 percent are very confident, and 27 percent are somewhat confident (Figure 6). The percentages of those who are not too or not at all confident their employer or union will continue to offer health insurance have been low historically, and 2015 is no exception. Only 5 percent are not too confident and 4 percent are not at all confident that their employers or unions will continue to offer health insurance.

### The Cost of Health Care

One-half of workers report having experienced an increase in health care costs in the past year, down from 61 percent in 2013 (Figure 7). The one-half experiencing an increase in health care costs is also a historical low for the survey. The percentage reporting that they did not experience a change in health care costs increased from 36 percent to 47 percent between 2014 and 2015.



Workers experiencing cost increases continue to report that they are changing the way they use the health care system. Nearly 7 in 10 (69 percent) say these increased costs lead them to try to take better care of themselves, and 52 percent indicate they choose generic drugs more often (Figure 8). One-half also say they go to the doctor only for more serious conditions or symptoms (49 percent) and about 4 in 10 delay going to the doctor (43 percent).

The rising cost of health care also causes many workers to encounter financial difficulties. Among those experiencing cost increases in their plans in the past year, 23 percent state they have decreased their contributions to retirement plans, and 4 in 10 (43 percent) have decreased their contributions to other savings as a result (Figure 9). Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) also report they have had difficulty paying for basic necessities such as food, heat, and housing, while 34 percent say they have had difficulty paying other bills. About one-quarter (23 percent) say they have used up all or most of their savings, 26 percent have increased their credit card debt, 13 percent report that they have borrowed money, 27 percent have delayed retirement, 15 percent have dropped other insurance benefits, 10 percent have taken a loan or withdrawal from a retirement account, and 5 percent have purchased additional insurance to help with expenses.

**Figure 8**  
**Changes in Health Care Usage Resulting from Cost Increases,**  
**Among Those Experiencing Increase in Costs, 2006–2015**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Try to take better care of yourself	78%	79%	80%	85%	82%	79%	84%	79%	73%	69%
Choose generic drugs more often	80	78	67	70	65	62	69	70	61	52
Go to the doctor only for more serious conditions or symptoms	59	69	57	60	55	57	53	61	55	49
Delay going to the doctor	48	57	43	41	40	42	48	53	49	43
Talk to the doctor more carefully about treatment options and costs	59	66	58	59	56	54	56	53	45	41
Switch to over-the-counter drugs	38	42	33	31	24	31	32	37	32	28
Obtained manufacturer coupons or discount cards for brand-name prescription medications									32	29
Look for cheaper health insurance	26	30	23	21	22	25	18	25	25	25
Not fill or skip doses of your prescribed medication	24	29	20	21	20	20	22	25	25	19
Look for less expensive health care providers	24	34	26	20	23	24	20	24	25	25

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2006–2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013–2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.



Figure 9  
**Shifts in Resources Resulting From Cost Increases,  
 Among Those Experiencing Increase in Costs, 2006–2015**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Decrease your contributions to a retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457 plan, or an IRA	38%	35%	34%	35%	34%	31%	37%	32%	27%	23%
Decrease your contributions to other savings	53	55	56	54	60	57	60	57	47	43
Have difficulty paying for basic necessities, like food, heat, and housing	27	27	23	27	24	21	27	22	21	23
Have difficulty paying for other bills	38	37	33	36	34	31	43	38	32	34
Increase your credit card debt	23	22	24	25	25	23	24	33	32	26
Delay retirement									28	27
Use up all or most of your savings	32	27	22	25	25	24	28	27	23	23
Drop other insurance benefits	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	15
Take a loan or withdrawal from a retirement plan, such as a 401(k) plan or IRA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10
Purchase additional insurance to help with expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5
Borrow money	21	14	16	21	19	11	15	16	16	13

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., 2006–2012 Health Confidence Surveys, and 2013–2015 Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Surveys.

## Appendix—The 2015 WBS

These findings are part of the 2015 EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health and Voluntary Workplace Benefits Survey (WBS), which examines a broad spectrum of health care issues, including workers’ satisfaction with health care today, their confidence in the future of the health care system and the Medicare program, and their attitudes toward benefits in the workplace. The survey was conducted online June 10–19, 2015, using the Research Now consumer panel. A total of 1,500 workers in the United States ages 21–64 participated in the survey. The data are weighted by gender, age, and education to reflect the actual proportions in the employed population.

Previously published trend data from the EBRI/Greenwald & Associates Health Confidence Survey (HCS) may differ from those published in more recent reports as the prior data have been recut from the total adult population to match the survey population of the WBS: workers ages 21–64. In addition, comparisons of 2015 data with data from years prior to 2013 should be viewed with caution due to the move from telephone to online methodology in 2013.

No theoretical basis exists for judging the accuracy of estimates obtained from non-probability samples such as the one used for the WBS. However, there are possible sources of error in all surveys (both probability and non-probability) that may affect the reliability of survey results. These include imperfect sampling frames, refusals to be interviewed and other forms of nonresponse, the effects of question wording and question order, interviewer bias, and screening. While attempts are made to minimize these factors, it is impossible to quantify the errors that may result from them.

The WBS is co-sponsored by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, public-policy research organization, and Greenwald & Associates, Inc., a Washington, DC-based market research firm. The 2015 WBS data collection was funded by grants from eight private organizations. Staffing was donated by EBRI and Greenwald & Associates. WBS materials and a list of underwriters may be accessed at the EBRI website:

[www.ebri.org/surveys/hcs/](http://www.ebri.org/surveys/hcs/)

# IRA Asset Allocation, 2013, and Longitudinal Results, 2010–2013

*By Craig Copeland, Ph.D., Employee Benefit Research Institute*

## **Data Security**

The Employee Benefit Research Institute's (EBRI's) retirement databases (the EBRI/ICI Participant-Directed Retirement Plan Database, the EBRI IRA Database, and the EBRI Integrated Defined Contribution/IRA Database) have undergone multiple independent security audits and have been certified to be fully compliant with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) ISO/IEC 27002 Information Security Audit standard. Moreover, EBRI has obtained a legal opinion that the methodology used meets the privacy standards of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. At no time has any nonpublic, personal information that is personally identifiable, such as a Social Security number, been transferred to or shared with EBRI.

## **Introduction**

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are a vital component of U.S. retirement savings, representing approximately 25 percent of all retirement assets in the nation.<sup>1</sup> A substantial portion of these IRA assets originated in other tax-qualified retirement plans, such as defined benefit (pension) and 401(k) plans, and were moved to IRAs through rollovers. Thus, IRAs in many cases are a repository for assets built up in the employment-based retirement system, as individuals hold money in them until or during retirement.

Given IRAs' importance in the U.S. retirement system, the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) established and maintains the EBRI IRA Database, which links IRA owners within and across various IRA data administrators to determine the most comprehensive tabulation of IRA holdings. The database allows for both calendar-year and longitudinal tabulations.

This study is the fifth examination of asset allocation from the EBRI IRA Database.<sup>2</sup> It examines asset allocation on a dollar-weighted basis within IRAs by type and account balance, as well as by gender and age of the account owner.<sup>3</sup> In addition to presenting the average asset allocation across the accounts, this study includes a presentation of the percentage of accounts with "extreme" allocations—either less than 10 percent or more than 90 percent in a particular asset-category. This helps illustrate the distribution of the allocations to the various assets across all of the IRAs. Furthermore, a longitudinal component is added to this study to see how the asset allocations of those in the database have changed.

## **Data**

The EBRI IRA Database is an ongoing project that collects data from IRA plan administrators. For 2013, it contained information on 25.8 million accounts with total assets of \$2.46 trillion.<sup>4</sup> The number of IRAs in the database with complete asset-allocation data was lower, at 21.1 million accounts with \$2.11 trillion in assets.<sup>5</sup> For each account within the database, the IRA type, the account balance, any contributions during the year, the asset allocation, and certain demographic characteristics of the account owner are included (among other items). Furthermore, the accounts can be linked by the account owner to aggregate the accounts to the individual level both across and within data providers, which allows for behavioral studies at both the individual and account levels.

## **IRA Types**

Within the EBRI IRA Database, IRAs are classified into four types:

- Traditional-contributions (traditional IRAs originating from contributions).
- Roths.

- SEPs (Simplified Employee Pensions)/SIMPLEs (Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees).
- Traditional-rollovers (traditional IRAs originating from assets rolled over from other tax-qualified plans, such as employment-based pension or defined-contribution (DC) plans).<sup>6</sup>

The distribution of IRA accounts with full asset allocation in 2013 was 36.9 percent in Traditional-contributions, 30.8 percent Traditional-rollovers (combined Traditional IRAs, 67.7 percent), 25.2 percent Roths, and 7.1 percent SEPs/SIMPLEs.<sup>7</sup>

## Asset Categories

The assets in the EBRI IRA Database are divided into five categories.

- **Equities**—equity mutual funds, directly held individual stocks, and other 100 percent equity-investment vehicles;
- **Bonds**—bond mutual funds, directly held bonds, and other 100 percent bond-investment vehicles;
- **Money**—money market mutual funds, money market savings accounts, and certificates of deposit;
- **Balanced funds**—balanced, lifestyle/lifecycle, target-date funds, and any other funds that have a partial investment in both equities and bonds;
- **Other assets**—any remaining assets that do not fit into the above categories, such as stable-value funds, real estate (both investment trusts and directly purchased), fixed and variable annuities, etc.

## Overall Allocation

In the EBRI IRA Database for those accounts with complete asset-allocation data in 2013, 54.7 percent of the assets were in equities, 10.1 percent in balanced funds, 15.3 percent in bonds, 11.6 percent in money, and 8.4 percent in other assets (Figure 1).<sup>8,9</sup> When combining the equity share of balanced funds to the equity allocation, the total equity exposure of IRA owners was 60.7 percent of the assets.<sup>10</sup> IRAs owned by males and females had nearly equal average allocations to bonds, equities, and money. However, male-owned accounts were more likely to have assets in the other-assets category, while female-owned accounts had a higher percentage of assets in balanced funds.

For IRAs owned by those ages 25 or older, the percentage allocated to bonds increased with the age of the owner, while the percentage allocated to equities with the equity share from balanced funds decreased. The amount allocated to other assets increased and the amount allocated to balanced funds decreased as the age of the IRA owners increased from age 25 through age 84.

The percentage of IRA assets in equities had no clear pattern across the ages of the owners. For those IRAs owned by those under age 25, 58.8 percent of the assets were in equities. This percentage decreased to 58.6 percent for the accounts owned by those ages 25–44, then increased to 61.5 percent for owners ages 45–54. The percentage again decreased to 55.6 percent for owners ages 55–64, before falling to 51.7 percent for owners ages 65–69. The percentage remained at just over 51 percent for the accounts owned by those ages 70 or older.

The percentage of assets allocated to other assets and to bonds increased as the account balance increased from less than \$10,000 to \$250,000 or more (from 2.2 percent to 9.6 percent and from 5.2 percent to 18.0 percent, respectively). The percentage of assets in money decreased from 24.1 percent for accounts with less than \$10,000 to 15.2 percent for accounts with \$10,000–\$24,999, then continued a slow decline reaching 10.9 percent for accounts of \$250,000 or more. The percentage of assets allocated to balanced funds increased slightly from 19.4 percent for

**Figure 1**  
**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation,**  
**by Various Characteristics, 2013**

	Balanced Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Equity With Balanced <sup>c</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>d</sup>	Other
All	10.1%	54.7%	60.7%	15.3%	11.6%	8.4%
Gender						
Female	11.1	55.7	62.4	15.2	11.3	6.7
Male	8.6	56.4	61.5	15.1	11.9	8.1
Unknown	12.7	49.2	56.8	15.7	11.0	11.4
Age						
Less than 25	14.5	58.8	67.5	9.7	12.4	4.5
25–44	18.8	58.6	69.9	6.1	12.2	4.3
45–54	12.2	61.5	68.8	9.1	11.6	5.5
55–64	10.1	55.6	61.6	14.3	12.0	8.0
65–69	8.7	51.7	57.0	18.0	11.8	9.7
70–74	7.9	51.4	56.1	19.1	11.3	10.3
75–84	7.8	51.6	56.3	19.9	10.3	10.4
85 or older	8.1	51.2	56.0	21.2	10.2	9.4
Unknown	11.9	48.1	55.2	17.0	11.7	11.3
Account Balance						
Less than \$10,000	19.4	49.1	60.7	5.2	24.1	2.2
\$10,000–\$24,999	20.3	53.9	66.1	7.3	15.2	3.3
\$25,000–\$49,999	18.2	54.8	65.7	9.1	13.4	4.5
\$50,000–\$99,999	15.1	55.8	64.9	11.0	12.1	6.0
\$100,000–\$149,999	12.5	55.8	63.3	12.3	11.7	7.7
\$150,000–\$249,999	11.2	54.7	61.5	13.8	11.6	8.7
\$250,000 or more	7.1	54.4	58.7	18.0	10.9	9.6

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup>Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.

<sup>b</sup>Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>c</sup>Equity with balanced includes the equity allocation plus 60 percent of the balance fund allocation. This is for an estimation of the total percentage of assets in equities for IRA owners.

<sup>d</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).

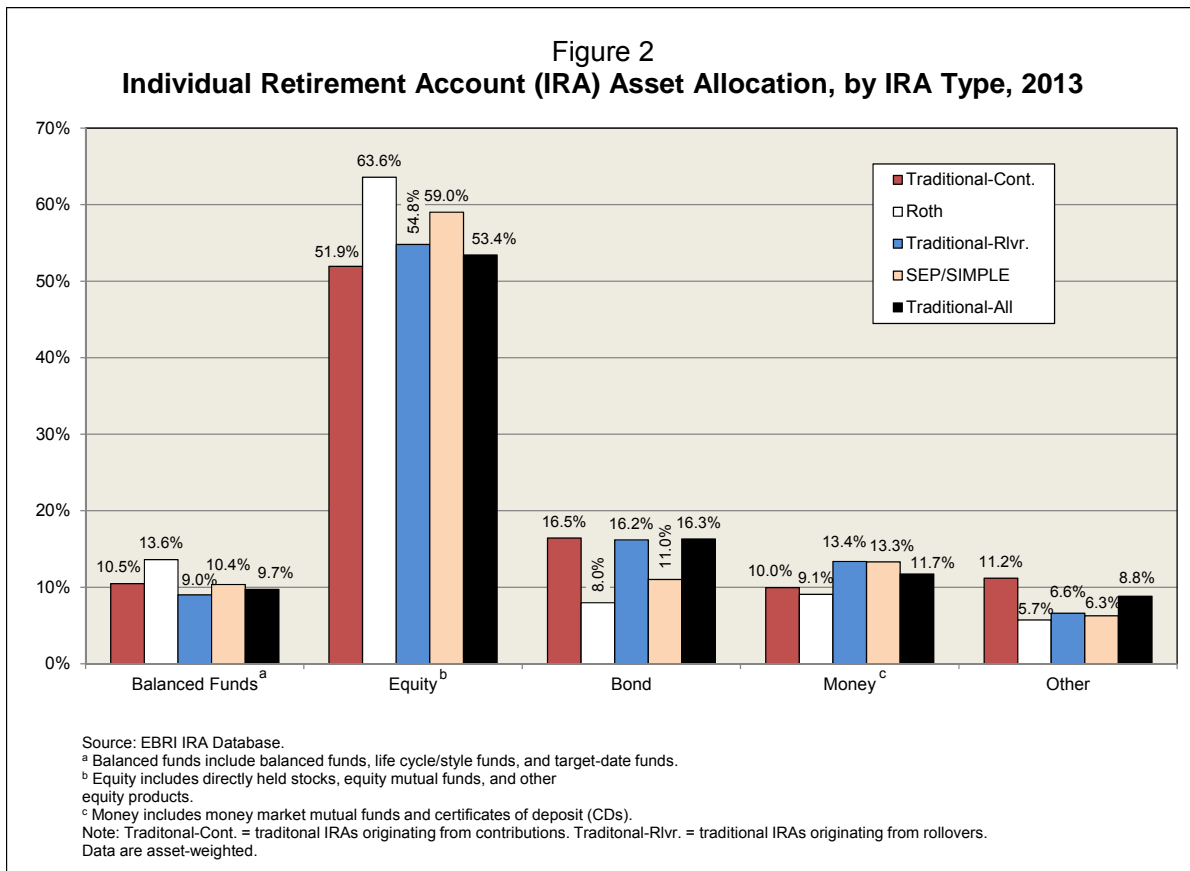
Note: Data are asset-weighted.

accounts with less than \$10,000 to 20.3 percent for accounts with \$10,000–\$24,999, after which they decreased as the account balance increased. The percentage of assets allocated to equities increased from 49.1 percent for accounts with less than \$10,000 to 55.8 percent for accounts with balances of \$50,000–\$149,999 and fell just below 55 percent for accounts of \$150,000 or more.

Roths had the highest share of assets in equities (63.6 percent) and balanced funds (13.6 percent) (Figure 2). Traditional IRAs had the lowest percentage in equities (at 51.9 percent to 54.8 percent). The higher allocation to equities in Roths compared with Traditional IRAs can be explained by two facts: Roth owners are younger, on average, and Roths tend to be supplemental savings funded by individual contributions only. Consequently, the asset allocation likely reflects the owner’s age and the share of the retirement savings that the accounts represent.

## Allocations Within IRA Type

**Gender**—Within each IRA type, the asset allocation differences between genders was minimal (Figure 3): The bond, equity, and money allocation differences were particularly trivial. For example, in Traditional IRAs, male-owned accounts had 16.2 percent of their assets in bonds and 55.2 percent in equities, while female-owned accounts had 16.5 percent and 54.4 percent, respectively. The one consistent difference across the three IRA types (Traditional, Roths, and SEPs/SIMPLEs) was that male-owned accounts had a higher share in other assets, while female-owned accounts had more in balanced funds.



**Age**—The average equity allocation was higher across all age groups for Roths than for the other IRA types, while Traditional IRAs had the lowest average equity allocations among owners of all ages except for those younger than age 25 (Figure 4). Correspondingly, SEPs/SIMPLEs and Traditional IRAs had higher average allocations to money and bonds among owners in each age group. Among IRAs owned by those younger than age 70, the highest average amounts allocated to balanced funds were found in Roths.

**Account Balance**—For each IRA type, the percentage allocated to bonds and other assets increased and the percentage allocated to balanced funds decreased (except in Traditional IRAs with less than \$25,000), as the account balance increased (Figure 5). Furthermore, as the account balance increased, the amount allocated to money decreased in Traditional IRAs and SEPs/SIMPLEs, but after an initial decrease in Roths the allocation increased when balances reached \$150,000.

The average allocation to equities increased with the size of the account balance through balances of \$100,000–\$149,999 for Traditional IRAs and Roths and for SEPs/SIMPLEs with balances of \$150,000–\$249,999. Above these amounts, a leveling off in the allocations for Traditional IRAs and SEPs/SIMPLEs and declines for Roths resulted.

## Allocations by Gender

**Age**—The average IRA asset allocation was very similar across genders and ages of their owners (Figure 6). For instance, IRAs owned by females and males ages 45–54 had 61.8 percent and 63.3 percent, respectively, in equities, while among those ages 75–84, female-owned had 51.7 percent and male-owned had 53.7 percent in equities. Furthermore, IRAs owned by both genders had average allocations to bonds and other assets that increased with age above age 25, while the allocation to money bounced around the 10 to 13 percent range as the age of the owner increased. The average amount allocated to balanced funds decreased as the age of the owner increased (for owners ages 25 or older) among each gender (except for males ages 85 or older). However, male-owned accounts

**Figure 3  
Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation,  
by IRA Type and Gender, 2013**

Type/Gender	Balanced Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Traditional</b>					
Female	10.6%	54.4%	16.5%	11.6%	7.0%
Male	8.2	55.2	16.2	12.2	8.3
Unknown	12.3	48.1	16.5	10.9	12.2
<b>Roth</b>					
Female	14.8	64.5	7.8	8.4	4.6
Male	11.5	64.3	8.2	9.0	7.0
Unknown	17.4	60.0	7.9	10.4	4.4
<b>SEP/SIMPLE</b>					
Female	12.5	58.1	11.5	12.6	5.3
Male	9.4	59.8	11.1	12.9	6.7
Unknown	11.2	55.6	8.1	19.4	5.6

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup> Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.

<sup>b</sup> Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>c</sup> Money includes money market mutual funds and certificate of deposits (CDs).

Note: Data are asset-weighted.

**Figure 4  
Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation,  
by IRA Type and Age, 2013**

Type/Age	Balanced Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Traditional</b>					
Less than 25	6.8%	56.5%	16.5%	14.9%	5.3%
25–44	17.8	56.6	7.2	13.9	4.5
45–54	12.0	60.5	9.8	11.9	5.8
55–64	9.9	54.6	15.1	12.1	8.3
65–69	8.7	50.7	18.7	11.9	10.0
70–74	7.9	50.4	19.9	11.3	10.5
75–84	7.8	50.8	20.5	10.3	10.5
85 or older	7.8	50.7	21.6	10.3	9.5
Unknown	10.1	48.2	16.9	12.5	12.3
<b>Roth</b>					
Less than 25	22.0	61.6	3.2	9.5	3.7
25–44	21.1	63.4	3.9	7.9	3.7
45–54	13.7	67.4	5.8	8.6	4.5
55–64	12.5	62.9	8.9	9.8	5.8
65–69	9.6	62.8	10.4	10.0	7.1
70–74	7.6	63.5	10.6	9.9	8.5
75–84	7.1	62.9	11.4	9.8	8.7
85 or older	11.8	56.6	15.1	8.4	8.1
Unknown	28.6	45.9	18.1	4.3	3.0
<b>SEP/SIMPLE</b>					
Less than 25	19.6	49.4	5.4	21.9	3.7
25–44	17.7	57.5	6.0	14.4	4.4
45–54	11.4	62.9	8.0	12.9	4.8
55–64	9.6	59.1	11.5	13.5	6.4
65–69	7.9	56.4	14.4	13.6	7.6
70–74	7.3	55.7	15.5	12.7	8.7
75–84	7.4	55.2	16.1	12.0	9.3
85 or older	7.4	54.4	16.0	10.6	11.6
Unknown	15.3	60.3	8.6	14.6	1.2

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup> Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.

<sup>b</sup> Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>c</sup> Money includes money market mutual funds and certificate of deposits (CDs).

Note: Data are asset-weighted.

Figure 5

### Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation, by IRA Type and Account Balance, 2013

Type/Account Balance	Balanced				
	Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Traditional</b>					
Less than \$10,000	17.3%	43.7%	6.0%	30.8%	2.2%
\$10,000–\$24,999	19.5	51.0	8.5	17.4	3.6
\$25,000–\$49,999	17.9	51.7	10.5	14.9	5.0
\$50,000–\$99,999	15.1	52.8	12.3	13.1	6.7
\$100,000–\$149,999	12.8	53.7	13.2	12.1	8.2
\$150,000–\$249,999	11.5	53.4	14.4	11.7	9.0
\$250,000 or more	7.2	53.8	18.5	10.9	9.6
<b>Roth</b>					
Less than \$10,000	22.0	57.0	4.3	14.4	2.4
\$10,000–\$24,999	21.6	59.0	5.5	10.9	3.0
\$25,000–\$49,999	19.2	61.3	6.5	9.3	3.6
\$50,000–\$99,999	15.3	65.3	7.4	7.8	4.3
\$100,000–\$149,999	9.9	69.4	7.5	7.6	5.6
\$150,000–\$249,999	7.8	67.4	8.8	9.0	7.0
\$250,000 or more	5.9	63.0	11.6	9.0	10.4
<b>SEP/SIMPLE</b>					
Less than \$10,000	21.1	45.8	4.9	26.8	1.4
\$10,000–\$24,999	19.8	52.5	6.2	19.4	2.0
\$25,000–\$49,999	17.5	56.1	7.3	16.4	2.7
\$50,000–\$99,999	15.0	58.1	8.6	14.6	3.8
\$100,000–\$149,999	12.8	59.0	9.8	13.5	4.9
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.8	60.2	10.5	12.7	5.8
\$250,000 or more	6.8	60.1	13.0	12.0	8.2

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup>Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.<sup>b</sup>Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.<sup>c</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).

Note: Data are asset-weighted.

had consistently not lower than or higher allocations for each owner's age to other assets, and female-owned accounts had higher average allocations to balanced funds.

**Account Balance**—For accounts owned by each gender, the average asset-allocation trends were very similar, as the account balance increased (Figure 7). The percentage allocated to bonds and other assets increased with the size of the account balance, and the percentage allocated to money and balanced funds (for accounts with balances of \$10,000 or more) decreased. The percentage allocated to equities initially increased with the account balance (through \$100,000–\$149,999 for female-owned accounts and \$50,000–\$99,999 for male-owned accounts). Above those account balances, the percentage allocated to equities declined.

Furthermore, as with age, the percentage allocated to balanced funds was consistently higher for female-owned accounts, and the percentage allocated to other assets was consistently higher for male-owned accounts for each account-balance category.

## Allocations by Age

**Account Balance**—The same general asset-allocation patterns noted above emerged for each age category and account-balance category, particularly for account balances of \$10,000 or more (Figure 8). In general, the percentage allocated to balanced funds decreased and to other assets and bonds increased for older IRA owners and those with higher balances. For accounts above \$10,000, the percentage allocated to money was relatively consistent for each age and account-balance category.

## "Extreme" Allocations

Having examined the tremendous variation around the average allocation among all IRAs depending on the characteristics of the IRA owners, this section investigates what percentage of IRAs have so-called "extreme" allocations, defined here as having less than 10 percent or more than 90 percent in a particular asset category.<sup>11</sup> Overall, 22.8 percent of IRAs have less than 10 percent in equities and 34.0 percent have more than 90 percent in equities (Figure 9).<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, almost 1 in 5 IRAs (18.9 percent) had more than 90 percent of their assets in bonds and money.

**Type**—Roths had the highest percentage with more than 90 percent in equities and the lowest percentage with more than 90 percent in money, while Traditional-rollovers had the lowest percentage with more than 90 percent in equities (Figure 9). Roths were more likely to have extremely low percentages of money and bonds combined

(49.1 percent). In contrast, Traditional-rollovers were much more likely to have less than 10 percent in equities and more than 90 percent in money.

**Gender**—The likelihood of extreme allocations was very similar across the gender of the owners. For instance, 35.4 percent of accounts owned by females had more than 90 percent in equities, compared with 35.9 percent for male-owned accounts. Similarly, 61.5 percent of female-owned accounts had less than 10 percent in bonds, while 64.4 percent of male-owned accounts did.

**Age**—As the age of the IRA owner increased above age 54, the less likely the accounts were to have more than 90 percent in equities (Figure 9). The percentage of accounts with more than 90 percent in money decreased with the age of IRA owner for those owners ages 45–84. However, the share of IRAs with more than 90 percent in bonds and money combined remained in the 16.0–18.0 percentage range among those owned by individuals ages 45–84, while it increased to 21.3 percent for accounts with owners ages 85 or older, driven by the increase in the share of accounts with more than 90 percent in bonds within that owner-age category.

**Account Balance**—In general, IRAs with higher account balances were less likely to have extreme allocations (Figure 9). For instance, while 41.7 percent of accounts with balances of \$10,000–\$24,999 had more than 90 percent of their assets in equities, only 18.5 percent of those with balances of \$250,000 or more did. Furthermore, for IRAs with balances of \$10,000 or above, the proportion of them that had less than 10 percent or more than 90 percent in money and bonds combined decreased as the account balance increased.

**Figure 6**  
**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation, by Gender and Age, 2013**

Gender/Age	Balanced				
	Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Female</b>					
Less than 25	13.4%	61.3%	8.1%	12.9%	4.1%
25–44	20.0	58.7	6.3	11.5	3.5
45–54	12.9	61.8	9.7	10.9	4.6
55–64	10.9	56.1	14.9	11.6	6.5
65–69	9.5	52.9	18.4	11.6	7.6
70–74	8.7	52.4	19.4	11.2	8.3
75–84	8.5	51.7	20.5	10.6	8.6
85 or older	7.5	50.5	22.0	11.2	8.8
Unknown	7.9	64.5	12.0	14.5	1.1
<b>Male</b>					
Less than 25	12.0	61.6	9.9	12.4	4.1
25–44	16.0	61.4	6.3	11.3	5.0
45–54	10.3	63.3	8.9	11.6	5.9
55–64	8.6	57.1	14.2	12.5	7.7
65–69	7.5	53.4	17.8	12.5	9.0
70–74	6.7	53.0	18.8	11.9	9.5
75–84	6.7	53.7	18.9	11.0	9.6
85 or older	7.5	53.5	19.1	10.2	9.7
Unknown	35.7	35.9	23.0	4.0	1.5
<b>Unknown</b>					
Less than 25	19.1	52.6	11.1	11.9	5.3
25–44	22.7	52.7	5.6	15.2	3.9
45–54	16.0	56.4	8.7	12.8	6.1
55–64	13.1	50.6	14.0	11.4	11.0
65–69	11.1	45.9	18.2	10.4	14.4
70–74	10.1	45.7	19.7	9.6	14.9
75–84	9.5	46.2	21.6	8.2	14.5
85 or older	10.0	46.6	24.8	8.9	9.7
Unknown	10.4	48.7	16.7	12.2	12.0

Source: EBRI IRA Database.  
<sup>a</sup>Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.  
<sup>b</sup>Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.  
<sup>c</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).  
 Note: Data are asset-weighted.

## Longitudinal 2010–2013

Each year’s data is a unique snapshot (cross section) of that year’s IRA asset allocation. However, the changes in asset allocation over time provide pertinent information about the behavior of IRA owners. Two types of comparisons are presented to examine the changes in asset allocation:

- 1) Each year’s annual snapshot.
- 2) A consistent sample of individual IRA owners who have a Traditional, Roth, or SEP/SIMPLE IRA with a positive balance in the database and complete asset allocation data for each year from 2010–2013.

The first comparison gives an overall look at the asset allocation in IRAs in each year, but is affected by additions and subtractions to the database that can also affect the distribution of assets, whereas the second comparison shows



**Figure 7**  
**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation, by Gender and Account Balance, 2013**

Gender/Account Balance	Balanced				
	Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Female</b>					
Less than \$10,000	19.4%	50.0%	5.9%	23.1%	1.7%
\$10,000–\$24,999	20.5	54.6	7.7	14.9	2.2
\$25,000–\$49,999	19.2	55.6	9.2	13.1	2.9
\$50,000–\$99,999	16.0	57.1	11.1	11.8	4.0
\$100,000–\$149,999	13.4	57.2	12.7	11.4	5.4
\$150,000–\$249,999	11.8	56.0	14.5	11.2	6.5
\$250,000 or more	6.8	55.1	19.0	10.3	8.8
<b>Male</b>					
Less than \$10,000	16.3	53.2	5.2	23.0	2.3
\$10,000–\$24,999	17.5	58.1	6.8	14.5	3.1
\$25,000–\$49,999	16.1	58.4	8.2	13.3	3.9
\$50,000–\$99,999	13.4	59.0	9.9	12.6	5.1
\$100,000–\$149,999	11.1	58.8	11.1	12.5	6.5
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.1	57.3	12.6	12.5	7.5
\$250,000 or more	6.5	55.4	17.4	11.4	9.2
<b>Unknown</b>					
Less than \$10,000	23.9	41.8	4.4	27.0	2.9
\$10,000–\$24,999	24.2	46.7	7.4	16.8	4.9
\$25,000–\$49,999	20.1	48.0	10.6	13.9	7.5
\$50,000–\$99,999	16.7	48.9	12.7	11.5	10.2
\$100,000–\$149,999	13.7	48.9	13.9	10.7	12.8
\$150,000–\$249,999	12.7	48.2	15.1	10.4	13.6
\$250,000 or more	9.4	50.2	18.5	10.0	12.0

Source: EBRI IRA Database.  
<sup>a</sup>Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.  
<sup>b</sup>Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.  
<sup>c</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).  
Note: Data are asset-weighted.

the changes for the same individuals over the four-year period from 2010–2013.

**Snapshot Comparison**—The percentage allocated to equities decreased from 45.7 percent in 2010 to 44.4 percent in 2011 before a sharp increase in 2012 to 52.1 percent and another to 54.7 percent in 2013 (Figure 10). The amount allocated to balanced funds was constant from 2010 to 2011 before a slight decline in 2012 and an even smaller uptick in 2013, while the percentage in money increased in 2011 and fell through 2013. The percentages allocated to other assets decreased through 2013 and for bonds through 2012 before a slight uptick in 2013.

The equity allocation followed this trend of decrease then significant increase for each gender and IRA type except for Traditional-rollovers, where the equity allocation increased each year. However, across ages and account balances, this pattern was not found for account balances of less than \$50,000; for owners under age 25, where the equity allocation declined in 2013; or for owners ages 65 or older where the equity allocation increased each year from 2010–2013.

Furthermore, the allocation to bonds trended downward before increasing in 2013. The allocation for each gender followed this pattern, as well as the allocations in Traditional-rollovers and SEPs/SIMPLEs, for account balances of less than \$10,000, and for those younger than age 25 and between ages 55 and 84. For balances of \$10,000 or more or for those ages 25–54 and 85 or older, the allocation to bonds continued downward or flattened out in 2013. The percentage allocated to balanced funds increased overall and across virtually all demographic groups in 2013, except for those younger than age 25 and between ages 75–84. Allocations to both money and other assets declined in 2013 like they had in 2012.

**Consistent Sample Comparison**—In order to compare the same account owners longitudinally, only the individuals who owned an IRA with a positive account balance and who had complete asset allocation data in the database in each year (2010–2013) are included to form a consistent sample of individuals.<sup>13</sup> Each individual’s total asset allocation is compared to determine the change in asset allocation from 2010 to 2013, with particular focus on the equity allocation. This comparison provides results on how the same individuals’ asset allocation changed during this period, which allows for a better understanding of how the allocation changes for those maintaining IRAs.<sup>14</sup>

In general, the changes in the asset allocation from 2010 to 2012 were very small. For instance, the share of assets allocated to equities in 2010 was 46.3 percent, as it was in 2012, with a decline in 2011 (Figure 11). The largest percentage-point change was a decrease of 2.3 percentage points for the allocation to other assets from 2010 to 2012. The bond and balanced-fund percentages experienced small increases, while the money allocation was virtually unchanged from 2010 to 2012.

However, in 2013, the percentage allocated to equities increased substantially by nearly 5 percentage points to 51.0 percent, and the percentage allocated to bonds decreased by almost 4 percentage points from 16.1 percent in 2012 to 12.4 percent in 2013. The amount allocated to money also decreased by 1.6 percentage points in 2013,<sup>15</sup> while the percentages allocated to balanced funds was unchanged and to other assets was slightly increased.

The amount allocated to equities increased across all demographic groups and IRA types in 2013, driving an overall increase allocated to equities in each of these groups from 2010–2013. The bond allocation decreased across all groups in 2013 to levels below that in 2010. Money allocations decreased across all groups, except for account balances of less than \$5,000. With the exception of accounts with less than \$50,000, the allocations to balanced funds were unchanged or had a less than 1.8 percentage point change in 2013 from 2010. The allocations to balanced funds were all higher in 2013 than in 2010, except for SEPs/SIMPLEs. The allocations to other assets increased in 2013 for each gender, IRA type, and for ages below 85. Among the account-balance categories, other asset allocations decreased for account balances below \$25,000 and increased for account balances of \$50,000 or more. Despite the increases of other assets in many categories in 2013, the levels for each category were below the levels in 2010, except for SEPs/SIMPLEs.

The overall direction can mask what happens at the individual level, so given that the sample consists of the same individuals, the distribution of the changes in the allocations from 2010 to 2013 can be determined. First, since in the extreme allocation section above, a significant percentage of individuals were shown to have allocations at the extremes,<sup>16</sup> a comparison of the individuals' initial equity-allocation grouping (0 percent, 100 percent, or something in between in 2010) with its 2013 grouping was conducted. Nearly 30 percent (29.6 percent) of IRA owners in the consistent sample had 0 percent allocated to equities in 2010 and 2013, while 18.0 percent had 100 percent allocated to equities in both years (Figure 12). Just over 4 percent had a 0 percent allocation to equities in 2010 but something greater than 0 percent in 2013, which means that 13 percent of those with a 0 percent allocation in 2010 changed to something larger than 0 percent in 2013.<sup>17</sup> Similarly, 13 percent of those who had a 100 percent allocation in 2010 changed the allocation to something less than 100 percent in 2013.<sup>18</sup> After accounting for those individuals who moved to 0 percent (2.8 percent) and to 100 percent (1.1 percent), 41.4 percent had an allocation of more than 0 percent but less than 100 percent in both years.

The majority of individuals across all categories had either a 0 percent or 100 percent equity allocation in at least one year, except for those with balances of \$100,000 or more. Furthermore, as the account balance increased, the more likely it was that an individual did not have an allocation at the extremes, reaching 74.5 percent for those with balances of \$250,000 or more not having an extreme equity allocation. There was also a reduced likelihood of having an extreme equity allocation for older IRA owners through ages 70–74.

Going one step further and examining the distribution of changes in each grouping provides another level of information on how IRA owners allocate assets to equities over time. First, for the individuals in the sample, the middle 50 percent (25th percentile to 75th percentile) of changes were small or equal to zero (Figure 13). The largest changes were among those individuals with account balances of \$50,000 or more. Among those who started out at an extreme allocation in 2010, between 10 percent and 25 percent moved to the other extreme in 2013, shown by the 100-percentage point (or close to 100-percentage point) change in the allocation from 2010 to 2013 in Figure 13 (middle two panels). This change was the percentage point difference from the percentage in 2013 minus the percentage in 2010, so that either a 100 percentage point change or a –100 percentage point change represented a movement from one extreme to the other from 2010 to 2013. This group was small (approximately 7 percent of the total) as shown in Figure 12, but a significant portion of the IRA owners who did make the change from an extreme value switched completely to the other extreme.

Looking at the group of individuals who did not have an extreme value in either year, the distribution of the changes was relatively symmetrical, albeit with a higher likelihood of an increase in the equity allocation percentage, with the 10th percentile change at –16.8 percentage points, the median at 2.0 percentage points, and the 90th percentile at 22.5 percentage points. This held true for each gender, age, and account balance.

**Figure 8**  
**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation,**  
**by Age and Account Balance, 2013**

Age/Account Balance	Balanced Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>Less Than 25</b>					
Less than \$10,000	28.8%	46.3%	2.0%	20.4%	2.5%
\$10,000–\$24,999	24.7	57.0	3.4	11.6	3.3
\$25,000–\$49,999	17.3	62.6	5.5	10.7	3.9
\$50,000–\$99,999	9.7	67.7	7.7	10.5	4.5
\$100,000–\$149,999	8.0	61.5	13.9	10.2	6.4
\$150,000–\$249,999	6.0	60.0	15.0	11.1	7.9
\$250,000 or more	2.2	60.2	21.2	10.8	5.7
<b>25–44</b>					
Less than \$10,000	23.5	44.6	2.9	27.2	1.9
\$10,000–\$24,999	26.2	53.1	3.9	14.3	2.5
\$25,000–\$49,999	24.3	56.3	4.6	11.7	3.0
\$50,000–\$99,999	19.6	60.7	5.6	10.3	3.7
\$100,000–\$149,999	15.7	61.5	6.8	11.0	4.9
\$150,000–\$249,999	13.9	61.4	7.9	11.1	5.7
\$250,000 or more	9.9	63.0	9.6	10.4	7.2
<b>45–54</b>					
Less than \$10,000	17.4	53.2	4.4	23.2	1.9
\$10,000–\$24,999	19.0	58.1	5.4	14.9	2.6
\$25,000–\$49,999	18.0	59.2	6.5	13.1	3.2
\$50,000–\$99,999	15.6	61.2	7.6	11.6	4.1
\$100,000–\$149,999	13.0	62.1	8.4	11.3	5.1
\$150,000–\$249,999	11.9	61.7	9.3	11.3	5.8
\$250,000 or more	8.4	62.7	11.2	10.6	7.1
<b>55–64</b>					
Less than \$10,000	17.3	51.2	6.5	22.7	2.3
\$10,000–\$24,999	18.5	54.0	8.1	16.1	3.2
\$25,000–\$49,999	17.2	54.6	9.5	14.4	4.3
\$50,000–\$99,999	14.9	55.7	11.0	12.8	5.6
\$100,000–\$149,999	12.6	56.4	11.8	12.1	7.1
\$150,000–\$249,999	11.4	55.5	13.0	12.1	8.0
\$250,000 or more	7.5	55.7	16.4	11.3	9.1

(cont'd.)

Figure 8 (cont'd.)

Age/Account Balance	Balanced				
	Funds <sup>a</sup>	Equity <sup>b</sup>	Bond	Money <sup>c</sup>	Other
<b>65–69</b>					
Less than \$10,000	15.5	51.6	8.4	21.6	2.8
\$10,000–\$24,999	16.7	51.9	10.6	16.7	4.1
\$25,000–\$49,999	15.4	51.5	12.3	15.1	5.6
\$50,000–\$99,999	13.6	51.3	14.0	13.6	7.5
\$100,000–\$149,999	11.6	51.7	14.7	12.7	9.3
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.7	50.6	16.1	12.3	10.2
\$250,000 or more	7.0	52.0	19.6	11.2	10.2
<b>70–74</b>					
Less than \$10,000	14.4	52.3	9.9	20.0	3.4
\$10,000–\$24,999	15.4	52.1	12.0	15.7	4.9
\$25,000–\$49,999	14.3	50.7	13.8	14.3	6.8
\$50,000–\$99,999	12.5	50.0	15.4	12.9	9.1
\$100,000–\$149,999	11.0	50.0	16.1	11.9	10.9
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.4	49.6	17.1	11.5	11.4
\$250,000 or more	6.4	51.9	20.4	10.8	10.5
<b>75–84</b>					
Less than \$10,000	13.8	50.1	12.9	19.1	4.1
\$10,000–\$24,999	14.9	49.3	15.1	14.5	6.1
\$25,000–\$49,999	13.9	48.2	16.9	12.7	8.4
\$50,000–\$99,999	12.6	48.4	17.6	11.3	10.1
\$100,000–\$149,999	11.2	49.5	17.6	10.6	11.1
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.2	49.6	18.7	10.4	11.1
\$250,000 or more	6.1	52.7	20.8	10.0	10.4
<b>85 or Older</b>					
Less than \$10,000	13.4	41.3	20.2	21.2	3.9
\$10,000–\$24,999	14.6	43.1	21.6	14.9	5.8
\$25,000–\$49,999	14.4	44.8	21.9	11.9	7.0
\$50,000–\$99,999	12.7	46.9	21.6	10.7	8.2
\$100,000–\$149,999	10.8	48.5	21.0	10.5	9.2
\$150,000–\$249,999	9.3	49.6	21.2	10.6	9.3
\$250,000 or more	6.1	53.2	21.1	9.6	10.0
<b>Unknown</b>					
Less than \$10,000	20.7	41.5	6.0	29.1	2.7
\$10,000–\$24,999	22.0	45.4	9.8	17.6	5.1
\$25,000–\$49,999	17.0	48.4	13.5	13.1	8.1
\$50,000–\$99,999	13.5	49.3	15.1	10.7	11.3
\$100,000–\$149,999	11.1	49.1	16.0	10.0	13.8
\$150,000–\$249,999	10.1	48.1	16.7	10.0	15.1
\$250,000 or more	11.2	47.8	18.3	12.1	10.6

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup> Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.

<sup>b</sup> Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>c</sup> Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).

Note: Data are asset-weighted.

## Conclusion

This study provides the latest look at asset allocation in IRAs from the EBRI IRA Database. More than half of all IRA assets were found to be allocated to equities, although this varied with age, account balance, and IRA type. Gender differences in asset allocations were minimal. Those older or owning a Traditional-contributions IRA had, on average, lower allocations to equities. Furthermore, those individuals with the largest balances had the lowest combined exposure to equities (including the equity share of balanced funds to the pure equity funds).

This study also includes an examination of the asset allocation longitudinally from 2010–2013. The equity allocations in 2013 were higher than the values in 2010. This result appeared to be driven by the almost 50 percent that remained at an extreme value (0 percent or 100 percent allocation) in both years; for those who were not at an extreme value in either year, the distribution of the asset allocation changes between 2010 and 2013 was more likely to be positive, resulting in the increase in the equity allocation in 2013.

**Figure 9**  
**Percentage of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) With Extreme Allocations,<sup>a</sup> by Various Characteristics, 2013**

	Less than 10% in Bonds <sup>b</sup>	More than 90% in Bonds <sup>b</sup>	Less than 10% in Equities <sup>c</sup>	More than 90% in Equities <sup>c</sup>	Less than 10% in Money <sup>d</sup>	More than 90% in Money <sup>d</sup>	Less than 10% in Bonds <sup>b</sup> & Money <sup>d</sup>	More than 90% in Bonds <sup>b</sup> & Money <sup>d</sup>
<b>All</b>	62.2%	2.8%	22.8%	34.0%	72.6%	15.4%	38.3%	18.9%
<b>Type</b>								
Traditional-Cont.	59.2	3.9	21.8	32.4	76.8	11.0	39.5	15.9
Roth	67.3	2.1	15.2	45.5	79.5	10.1	49.1	12.6
Traditional-Rlvr.	61.2	2.1	30.1	24.4	62.4	24.4	28.2	27.2
SEP/SIMPLE	64.7	2.2	23.0	34.6	70.1	17.9	37.9	20.6
All Traditional	60.1	3.1	25.6	28.8	70.3	17.1	34.4	21.0
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	61.5	3.1	21.6	35.4	73.7	15.2	38.8	18.9
Male	64.4	2.6	21.7	35.9	72.9	15.0	40.7	18.1
Unknown	59.6	2.7	26.2	26.5	70.6	16.4	33.8	20.1
<b>Age</b>								
Less than 25	67.9	1.0	25.0	37.5	71.0	21.3	40.4	22.6
25–44	67.1	1.2	25.6	34.9	68.4	22.1	37.8	23.6
45–54	67.0	1.9	20.9	38.7	72.9	16.1	42.3	18.4
55–64	61.0	2.9	21.3	33.2	73.4	13.8	38.2	17.4
65–69	56.9	3.8	22.5	28.8	73.5	12.1	35.5	16.9
70–74	55.4	4.4	22.5	28.1	75.3	10.2	36.0	15.7
75–84	53.7	5.9	23.4	28.0	77.4	8.6	36.6	15.9
85 or older	51.9	9.7	28.2	27.0	76.7	9.5	34.7	21.3
Unknown	55.6	2.8	25.8	22.7	71.3	14.8	30.9	19.0
<b>Account Balance</b>								
Less than \$10,000	77.3	2.9	41.1	34.6	58.3	35.3	37.1	38.5
\$10,000–\$24,999	64.0	3.5	17.9	41.7	77.8	11.0	45.0	15.2
\$25,000–\$49,999	59.5	3.1	15.7	37.2	78.6	8.3	41.9	12.1
\$50,000–\$99,999	55.6	2.6	14.6	33.0	79.5	6.5	39.2	10.0
\$100,000–\$149,999	53.6	2.3	14.6	29.5	79.4	5.5	37.5	8.7
\$150,000–\$249,999	50.1	2.1	14.2	25.3	78.6	4.9	33.9	7.9
\$250,000 or more	43.4	1.9	12.5	18.5	77.0	3.5	27.1	6.3

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup>Extreme allocations refer to almost no assets (less than 10 percent) or almost all (more than 90 percent) in a particular asset category.

<sup>b</sup>Bonds include the bond portion of the balanced funds.

<sup>c</sup>Equities include the equity portion from balanced funds, directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>d</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificates of deposit (CDs).

Note: Traditional-Cont. = traditional IRAs originating from contributions. Traditional-Rlvr. = traditional IRAs originating from rollovers.

Data are account-weighted.

Figure 10

**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Asset Allocation, Full Samples, by Various Characteristics, 2010-2013**

	Equity <sup>a</sup>				Balanced <sup>b</sup>				Bonds				Money <sup>c</sup>				Other				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	
All	45.7%	44.4%	52.1%	54.7%	10.7%	10.7%	9.5%	10.1%	19.9%	18.0%	15.1%	15.3%	8.9%	13.0%	12.8%	11.6%	14.8%	13.9%	10.6%	8.4%	
Gender																					
Female	45.6	43.9	53.7	55.7	11.6	13.2	10.9	11.1	18.1	16.3	13.1	15.2	11.3	15.4	14.1	11.3	13.4	11.2	8.2	6.7	
Male	44.7	43.9	53.5	56.4	8.8	9.4	7.9	8.6	18.8	16.7	13.5	15.1	11.3	15.2	14.5	11.9	16.4	14.8	10.6	8.1	
Unknown	46.9	45.8	47.2	49.2	12.4	11.0	11.7	12.7	21.9	21.7	20.5	15.7	5.1	7.1	7.5	11.0	13.7	14.4	13.2	11.4	
Age																					
Less than 25	52.1	47.9	59.2	58.8	19.4	14.0	15.1	14.5	18.6	13.3	6.8	9.7	8.4	12.4	13.2	12.4	1.5	12.4	5.7	4.5	
25-44	58.6	49.0	56.6	58.6	18.6	14.9	16.2	18.8	7.9	9.7	6.5	6.1	8.6	15.0	13.9	12.2	6.3	11.4	6.9	4.3	
45-54	55.4	50.1	58.4	61.5	13.3	12.0	11.0	12.2	12.1	11.8	9.1	9.1	9.9	14.2	13.5	11.6	10.3	11.9	8.1	5.5	
55-64	45.8	44.6	52.4	55.6	10.8	10.8	9.4	10.1	18.7	17.2	14.2	14.3	9.1	13.5	13.5	12.0	15.6	13.9	10.5	8.0	
65-69	41.0	41.2	49.2	51.7	9.1	9.7	8.3	8.7	22.9	21.2	17.6	18.0	9.5	12.6	13.0	11.8	17.6	15.3	11.9	9.7	
70-74	39.8	40.7	49.1	51.4	8.7	9.3	7.8	7.9	24.5	22.8	18.7	19.1	9.6	11.7	12.2	11.3	17.5	15.5	12.2	10.3	
75-84	40.3	41.4	49.6	51.6	8.5	9.3	7.9	7.8	25.3	24.0	19.6	19.9	9.1	10.5	11.1	10.3	16.8	14.8	11.9	10.4	
85 or older	40.7	42.1	49.0	51.2	8.0	8.7	7.8	8.1	28.2	26.1	21.8	21.2	9.3	9.4	10.3	10.2	14.0	13.7	11.1	9.4	
Unknown	48.8	44.2	46.5	48.1	9.4	6.3	9.0	11.9	26.2	19.1	22.4	17.0	1.5	17.0	8.3	11.7	14.1	13.4	13.8	11.3	
Account Balance																					
Less than \$10,000	56.8	48.2	52.3	49.1	21.2	20.5	17.9	19.4	6.9	5.3	5.0	5.2	12.4	20.5	20.5	24.1	2.7	5.5	4.2	2.2	
\$10,000-\$24,999	56.7	50.2	55.3	53.9	19.6	20.2	18.1	20.3	10.1	8.2	7.3	7.3	8.7	14.6	14.2	15.2	4.9	6.8	5.2	3.3	
\$25,000-\$49,999	55.2	49.9	55.4	54.8	16.6	17.6	16.0	18.2	12.6	10.6	9.1	9.1	8.3	13.6	13.1	13.4	7.3	8.3	6.4	4.5	
\$50,000-\$99,999	51.5	48.5	55.1	55.8	13.9	14.1	12.9	15.1	15.2	13.3	11.3	11.0	8.4	13.4	12.7	12.1	11.0	10.7	8.0	6.0	
\$100,000-\$149,999	48.4	46.5	53.7	55.8	12.1	12.2	11.0	12.5	16.8	15.3	12.8	12.3	8.6	13.4	12.9	11.7	14.1	12.6	9.6	7.7	
\$150,000-\$249,999	45.8	44.8	52.5	54.7	11.0	10.9	9.9	11.2	18.7	17.2	14.2	13.8	8.7	13.3	13.0	11.6	15.8	13.8	10.4	8.7	
\$250,000 or more	41.1	41.5	50.4	54.4	7.7	7.5	6.8	7.1	24.2	22.2	18.0	18.0	9.2	12.3	12.4	10.9	17.8	16.5	12.4	9.6	
Type																					
Traditional-Cont.	45.5	43.9	49.6	51.9	10.5	11.1	10.2	10.5	20.5	17.6	17.8	16.5	7.7	13.7	12.8	10.0	15.8	13.7	9.6	11.2	
Roth	59.1	52.5	60.4	63.6	15.5	14.5	12.5	13.6	9.8	8.8	8.0	8.0	7.2	12.3	8.6	9.1	8.4	11.9	10.5	5.7	
Traditional-R1vr.	41.3	42.1	52.2	54.8	9.9	9.8	8.3	9.0	19.8	17.1	13.7	16.2	12.8	17.3	9.5	13.4	16.2	13.7	16.3	6.6	
SEP/SIMPLE	51.1	46.8	56.2	59.0	12.2	4.2	9.7	10.4	13.5	11.1	9.7	11.0	12.6	21.2	8.2	13.3	10.6	16.7	16.2	6.3	
All Traditional	43.8	42.8	51.0	53.4	10.3	10.3	9.2	9.7	20.2	17.3	15.6	16.3	9.7	15.8	11.0	11.7	16.0	13.8	13.2	8.8	

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup>Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>b</sup>Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target-date funds.

<sup>c</sup>Money includes money market mutual funds and certificate of deposits (CDs).

Note: Traditional-Cont. = traditional IRAs originating from contributions. Traditional-R1vr. = traditional IRAs originating from rollovers. Data are asset-weighted.

Figure 11

**Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Average Asset Allocation, Asset-Weighted, Consistent Sample, by Various Characteristics, 2010-2013**

	Equity <sup>a</sup>				Balanced <sup>b</sup>				Bonds				Money <sup>c</sup>				Other				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	
All	46.3%	44.7%	46.3%	51.0%	11.7%	12.3%	12.6%	12.6%	14.7%	16.0%	16.1%	12.4%	14.3%	14.8%	14.3%	12.7%	13.1%	12.1%	10.8%	11.3%	
Gender																					
Female	45.2	43.7	45.5	50.3	16.3	17.0	17.5	17.5	13.9	15.3	15.2	11.9	14.9	15.1	14.4	12.5	9.7	9.0	7.5	7.8	
Male	45.0	43.3	45.2	49.8	11.5	12.1	12.4	12.5	15.1	16.6	16.7	12.7	14.3	15.0	14.6	13.3	14.0	13.0	11.1	11.8	
Unknown	50.4	49.2	49.6	54.3	7.4	7.7	7.8	7.7	14.3	15.4	15.7	12.3	13.6	14.2	13.4	11.8	14.4	13.5	13.5	13.9	
Age (in 2013)																					
Less than 25	52.1	51.5	52.4	56.2	19.4	21.0	21.8	21.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	5.0	13.0	12.8	11.5	9.5	8.8	8.0	7.5	7.7	
25-44	51.3	50.4	52.1	54.9	19.3	20.0	20.2	20.2	5.6	6.3	6.4	4.9	14.6	14.4	13.6	11.6	9.3	9.0	7.6	8.3	
45-54	53.6	52.2	53.6	57.3	13.2	13.7	13.9	13.7	8.3	9.4	9.5	7.4	14.2	14.6	14.2	12.2	10.7	10.2	8.8	9.4	
55-64	48.4	46.3	47.4	51.7	11.3	11.9	12.1	12.0	13.1	14.6	15.0	11.7	14.5	15.2	14.8	13.2	12.8	12.0	10.8	11.4	
65-69	43.6	41.8	42.9	47.8	9.9	10.5	10.7	10.7	17.4	19.1	19.4	15.2	14.6	15.3	14.7	13.5	14.5	13.4	12.3	12.9	
70-74	41.8	40.1	41.7	47.1	9.9	10.5	10.9	10.8	19.0	20.7	21.0	16.4	14.6	15.1	14.3	13.0	14.7	13.6	12.2	12.7	
75-84	40.9	39.5	41.6	47.2	11.5	12.2	12.6	12.6	19.9	21.6	21.6	16.8	13.5	13.8	12.9	11.8	14.2	13.0	11.3	11.6	
85 or older	39.6	38.4	40.6	46.2	13.1	13.6	14.1	14.2	21.0	22.7	22.5	17.8	11.9	12.3	11.5	10.7	14.4	13.0	11.3	11.2	
Unknown	52.6	51.5	53.6	58.9	9.6	9.7	10.7	10.1	17.0	18.0	18.4	14.2	11.8	12.8	11.2	10.1	9.0	8.0	6.1	6.7	
Account Balance (2013\$)																					
Less than \$5,000	38.2	37.7	39.0	39.5	11.4	11.4	11.8	17.1	9.3	10.6	10.8	3.3	28.7	29.5	29.2	36.3	12.4	10.8	9.2	3.7	
\$5,000-\$9,999	44.1	43.8	45.9	50.9	18.5	19.8	21.4	22.7	7.1	7.9	7.8	4.9	22.5	22.0	19.8	17.3	7.9	6.6	5.1	4.3	
\$10,000-\$24,999	46.1	45.2	47.1	51.8	19.1	20.3	21.7	22.6	7.6	8.7	8.4	5.8	20.1	19.7	17.8	15.2	7.2	6.2	5.0	4.7	
\$25,000-\$49,999	47.1	45.9	47.6	52.2	19.1	20.3	21.4	22.0	8.3	9.2	9.1	6.6	18.2	18.2	16.5	14.0	7.3	6.4	5.4	5.4	
\$50,000-\$99,999	48.6	47.2	48.9	53.6	17.3	18.2	18.8	19.0	9.7	10.8	10.7	7.9	16.3	16.6	15.4	13.2	8.1	7.3	6.1	6.3	
\$100,000-\$149,999	48.7	47.0	48.6	53.5	15.2	15.9	16.4	16.5	11.1	12.3	12.3	9.2	15.8	16.4	15.5	13.4	9.3	8.5	7.2	7.5	
\$150,000-\$249,999	47.7	45.9	47.4	52.1	14.0	14.6	15.0	15.1	12.6	13.8	13.8	10.5	15.3	16.0	15.5	13.6	10.4	9.6	8.3	8.7	
\$250,000 or more	45.5	43.8	45.3	50.0	8.9	9.4	9.6	9.6	17.3	18.9	18.8	14.6	12.6	13.3	13.1	12.1	15.7	14.7	13.2	13.7	
Type																					
Traditional-Cont.	46.6	44.7	45.9	50.7	12.3	12.8	13.3	13.3	15.7	17.1	17.3	13.3	12.7	13.5	12.6	11.4	12.8	12.0	11.0	11.3	
Roth	54.4	53.1	54.5	58.0	14.2	15.2	15.5	15.3	7.6	8.5	8.9	6.4	11.6	11.8	11.2	9.9	12.2	11.4	10.1	10.5	
Traditional-Rivr.	44.3	42.9	44.6	49.4	10.5	10.8	11.2	11.2	15.4	16.9	17.2	13.5	16.1	16.6	16.1	14.3	13.8	12.8	11.0	11.7	
SEP/SIMPLE	50.4	47.1	48.0	52.5	17.4	21.4	15.9	15.8	13.6	14.8	13.1	9.8	11.0	10.6	14.2	12.8	7.6	6.1	8.8	9.1	
All Traditional	45.2	43.6	45.1	49.9	11.2	11.6	12.0	12.1	15.5	17.0	17.2	13.4	14.7	15.3	14.7	13.1	13.4	12.4	11.0	11.5	

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

<sup>a</sup> Equity includes directly held stocks, equity mutual funds, and other equity products.

<sup>b</sup> Balanced funds include balanced funds, life cycle/style funds, and target date funds.

<sup>c</sup> Money includes money market mutual funds and certificate of deposits (CDs).

Note: Traditional-Cont. = traditional IRAs originating from contributions. Traditional-Rivr. = traditional IRAs originating from rollovers.

Figure 12

**Distribution of Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Owners by Level of Equity Allocation, Consistent Sample, by Various Characteristics, 2010 and 2013**

	0% Allocation Both Years	0% in 2010 to Greater Than 0% in 2013	100% Allocation Both Years	100% in 2010 to Less Than 100% in 2013	100% in 2010 to Less Than 100% in 2013*	Greater Than 0% in 2010 to Less Than 100% in 2013	Greater Than 0% and Less Than 100% in Both Years
All	29.6%	4.4%	18.0%	2.7%	2.8%	1.1%	41.4%
<b>Gender</b>							
Female	34.3	4.3	20.5	2.6	2.4	1.0	34.9
Male	28.4	4.8	17.9	2.8	3.3	1.1	41.6
Unknown	25.8	4.0	15.3	2.5	2.7	1.3	48.4
<b>Age</b>							
Less than 25	43.9	7.7	23.6	3.0	1.3	1.1	19.5
25-44	37.8	5.2	18.4	2.6	2.2	1.0	32.8
45-54	27.5	4.0	20.9	2.8	2.5	1.1	41.2
55-64	26.3	4.3	17.3	3.0	3.2	1.1	44.9
65-69	25.1	4.5	14.0	2.6	3.6	1.1	49.0
70-74	25.1	4.2	14.1	2.3	3.5	1.4	49.4
75-84	28.9	3.6	17.1	1.8	3.0	1.6	44.0
85 or older	38.2	3.2	19.9	1.6	2.9	1.6	32.6
Unknown	21.8	2.9	33.3	3.0	2.3	1.7	35.1
<b>Account Balance</b>							
Less than \$5,000	59.1	2.3	18.5	1.3	4.3	1.2	13.4
\$5,000-\$9,999	39.0	4.1	28.1	2.0	2.2	1.3	23.3
\$10,000-\$24,999	33.7	4.8	25.9	2.5	2.3	1.3	29.6
\$25,000-\$49,999	28.3	5.0	21.8	3.0	2.4	1.3	38.2
\$50,000-\$99,999	21.8	4.8	17.9	3.3	2.6	1.2	48.4
\$100,000-\$149,999	17.2	4.9	13.5	3.3	2.8	1.1	57.2
\$150,000-\$249,999	14.5	5.1	9.3	3.3	2.9	0.9	64.0
\$250,000 or more	9.6	5.1	4.5	3.1	2.6	0.6	74.5
<b>Type</b>							
Roth	23.6	5.2	20.7	3.6	2.6	1.2	43.1
All Traditional	29.2	4.4	14.4	2.5	3.0	1.0	45.4

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

\* Not 100 percent.

^ Not 0 percent.



**Figure 13**  
**Distribution of the Percentage Point Change in the Equity**  
**Allocation of Individual Retirement Account Owners, by Initial**  
**Allocation and Various Characteristics, 2010 to 2013**

	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
<b>All Allocations in 2010</b>					
All	-11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	16.7%
Female	-6.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	13.8
Male	-13.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	19.2
Less than age 45	-6.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	15.5
Ages 45–64	-12.7	0.0	0.0	2.5	15.7
Age 65 or older	-13.1	0.0	0.0	4.2	18.8
Acct. balance <\$50,000	-2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9
Acct. balance \$50,000 or more	-18.5	-1.3	0.0	6.2	22.8
<b>0% Allocation in 2010 to Greater Than 0% in 2013</b>					
All	10.3	25.7	54.9	88.7	100.0
Female	10.4	25.3	53.5	86.8	100.0
Male	9.3	23.9	52.5	85.4	100.0
Less than age 45	13.7	31.1	61.9	93.9	100.0
Ages 45–64	9.9	25.4	55.2	87.5	100.0
Age 65 or older	8.0	20.9	45.9	78.9	100.0
Acct. balance <\$50,000	17.3	36.1	69.3	99.1	100.0
Acct. balance \$50,000 or more	6.8	18.1	43.0	71.2	94.9
<b>100% Allocation in 2010 to Less Than 100% in 2013</b>					
All	-100.0	-86.5	-34.0	-11.1	-1.5
Female	-100.0	-90.7	-38.9	-14.5	-3.8
Male	-100.0	-89.3	-38.1	-14.2	-3.4
Less than age 45	-100.0	-76.1	-28.4	-9.9	-1.7
Ages 45–64	-100.0	-86.2	-33.6	-10.7	-1.4
Age 65 or older	-100.0	-97.7	-42.3	-14.5	-1.5
Acct. balance <\$50,000	-100.0	-100.0	-39.6	-11.0	-0.5
Acct. balance \$50,000 or more	-100.0	-70.4	-30.7	-11.1	-2.9
<b>Greater Than 0% and Less Than 100% Allocation in Both 2010 and 2013</b>					
All	-16.8	-2.7	2.0	8.3	22.5
Female	-14.3	-2.0	2.6	8.5	22.4
Male	-17.8	-3.4	2.3	9.3	24.8
Less than age 45	-17.0	-2.4	1.5	7.9	23.8
Ages 45–64	-17.2	-2.5	1.9	7.7	21.5
Age 65 or older	-15.9	-3.3	2.6	9.7	23.2
Acct. balance <\$50,000	-13.3	-0.7	1.6	7.1	20.8
Acct. balance \$50,000 or more	-18.3	-3.8	2.2	9.0	23.1

Source: EBRI IRA Database.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> See Figure A in Craig Copeland, "Individual Retirement Account Balances, Contributions, and Rollovers, 2013; With Longitudinal Results 2010–2013: The EBRI IRA Database," *EBRI Issue Brief*, no. 414 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, May 2015).

<sup>2</sup> See Craig Copeland, "IRA Asset Allocation" *EBRI Notes*, no. 5 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, May 2011): 2–14; Craig Copeland, "IRA Asset Allocation, 2010;" *EBRI Notes*, no. 10 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, October 2012): 8–20; Craig Copeland, "IRA Asset Allocation, 2011" *EBRI Notes*, no. 10 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, October 2013): 8–22; and Craig Copeland, "IRA Asset Allocation, 2012, and Longitudinal Results, 2010–2012" *EBRI Notes*, no. 10 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, October 2014): 8–26.

<sup>3</sup> See Copeland (May 2015) for results from the database for 2013 on balances, rollovers, and contributions.

<sup>4</sup> Below is a comparison of the EBRI IRA Database with numbers from the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Reserve's *Financial Accounts* report:

	EBRI IRA Database 2010	EBRI IRA Database 2013	IRS 2010 Data	Flow of Funds 2013 Data
Total Assets	\$1.00 trillion	\$2.46 trillion	\$5.03 trillion	\$6.97 trillion
Percentage Traditional Assets	85.9%	85.3%	86.3%	
Average Rollover Amount	\$69,012	\$90,912	\$68,123	
Average Account Balance	\$89,427	\$118,185	\$92,404	

The above percentage of traditional assets is adjusted for known assets. With the unknown assets included, the Traditional IRA asset percentage is 82.5 percent. Based on this asset comparison, the database includes about 35 percent of the 2013 assets. The number of individuals owning IRAs in the database represents about one-third of all IRA owners, accounting for growth from the 54.5 million individuals the Internal Revenue Service reported owning an IRA in 2010. See Victoria L. Bryant and Jon Goyer, "Accumulation and Distribution of Individual Account Arrangements, 2010." *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, Fall 2013, pp. 1-18 for complete IRS tabs of IRAs and see Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Financial Accounts of the United States: *Flow of Funds, Balance Sheets, and Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts.*" Fourth Quarter 2014 for the Federal Reserve numbers.

<sup>5</sup> The distributions between the overall database and the portion with complete asset allocation by age and gender of the owner and the account balance and type are very similar. See Figure A for a comparison of these distributions.

<sup>6</sup> Traditional IRAs are broken down into categories based on how the accounts originated with the data providers either through

**Figure A**  
**Distribution of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs),  
by Asset Allocation Data and Various Characteristics, 2013**

	Longitud- Complete inal All Accounts				Longitud- Complete inal All Accounts		
	Asset Allocation	Asset Allocation	Asset Allocation		Asset Allocation	Asset Allocation	Asset Allocation
All	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	All	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Gender				Account Balance			
Female	31.8	34.2	32.7	Less than \$10,000	33.0	29.0	24.4
Male	38.9	41.0	37.8	\$10,000–\$24,999	16.6	17.4	15.9
Unknown	29.3	24.9	29.5	\$25,000–\$49,999	14.2	15.1	15.3
Age				\$50,000–\$99,999	13.6	14.7	15.7
Less than 25	1.2	1.1	0.6	\$100,000–\$149,999	6.7	7.1	7.9
25–44	22.8	22.7	24.1	\$150,000–\$249,999	6.5	7.0	8.1
45–54	21.9	22.3	24.2	\$250,000 or more	9.4	9.8	12.7
55–64	25.7	25.9	25.9	Type*			
65–69	11.0	11.0	10.6	Traditional-Cont.	37.0	36.9	41.0
70–74	7.2	7.2	6.9	Roth	24.6	25.2	36.0
75–84	6.9	6.9	6.2	Traditional-Rlvr.	31.1	30.8	40.1
85 or older	1.9	1.7	1.5	SEP/SIMPLE	7.3	7.1	7.2
Unknown	1.5	1.3	0.1	All Traditional	68.1	67.8	76.7

Source: EBRI IRA Database.  
\* The type for the longitudinal data adds to more than 100% due to the individuals potentially having more than one IRA.  
Note: Traditional-Cont. = traditional IRAs originating from contributions. Traditional-Rlvr. = traditional IRAs originating from rollovers.

contributions or through rollovers from other tax-qualified vehicles. Both types of these accounts could have received contributions or rollovers after their origination, so these are **NOT** proxies for employment-based dollars vs. IRA-only dollars. The Traditional-rollovers do provide an estimate of the dollars that have been moved into a new IRA, regardless of their original holding place. The remainder of this article will use the simplified labels of “traditional” and “rollover” to refer to the origination of the account. A category with all Traditional IRAs combined is also presented.

<sup>7</sup> See Figure A cited in endnote 5 for a comparison with the full database, where the percentages are within one percentage point of the full database.

<sup>8</sup> These percentages are asset weighted. The remaining results will all be asset weighted until the section on “extreme allocations,” which is account weighted.

<sup>9</sup> The one government data source, the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), which has significant detail of all U.S. families’ wealth, including IRA and defined contribution plan wealth, only reports an allocation between equity and interest-bearing assets. As this database shows, there is a significant amount of assets in balanced funds and other assets that are not strictly equities or interest bearing but are being represented as such in the data. See Craig Copeland, “Retirement Plan Participation and Asset Allocation, 2010,” *EBRI Notes*, no. 4 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, April 2013): 9–18 for results on asset allocation from the survey; and Jesse Bricker et al. “Changes in U.S. Family Finances from 2010 to 2013: Evidence from the Survey of Consumer Finances,” *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, Vol. 100, no. 4 (September 2014): 1–41 [www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/2014/pdf/scf14.pdf](http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/2014/pdf/scf14.pdf) (last reviewed July 2015) for more information on the Survey of Consumer Finances.

<sup>10</sup> The total equity allocation is estimated by assuming that all balanced funds have 60 percent in equities and 40 percent in bonds. However, target date funds are included in the balanced funds, so while this estimation methodology is not likely to hold across ages, on an overall basis it remains a workable indicator of the average allocation between the two asset classes.

<sup>11</sup> The allocations to bonds and equities include the portion of balanced funds that come from each asset type. The assumed percentage, like above, is that 60 percent of the balanced assets are from equities and 40 percent are from bonds.

<sup>12</sup> The full distribution of the allocations to equities, bonds, and money are included as an online appendix available at <http://bit.ly/1M2EWQL>

<sup>13</sup> This sample includes 9.2 million individuals with \$1.14 trillion (2013 value) in assets. See Figure A for comparison of the consistent sample with the asset allocation sample from 2013.

<sup>14</sup> These individuals could have added rollovers or opened new accounts since 2010, as this sample includes all of the individuals’ IRAs from each year. The action of rolling over or opening new accounts may cause the individuals to reassess their asset allocation. This is outside the scope of this study, but will be examined more closely to determine if some other action such as opening a new account is more likely to cause a change in asset allocation than for those who do not take such action.

<sup>15</sup> This decrease in the amount allocated to money from 2010 to 2013 in the consistent sample is reflective of the experience of individuals that have maintained IRAs over this period, where the increase in equity allocations along the decreased money allocations is due to changes made by the individuals or because of the relative rates of return between the two asset types. In contrast, the increase in money allocations found in the snapshot comparisons where accounts/individuals can come and go appears to be a result of the changes in the sample. In particular, the tremendous growth in money allocations among the small (less than \$10,000) accounts (in many instances new accounts) in the snapshot comparison is more than offsetting the decreases among the established individuals.

<sup>16</sup> In this section the extreme allocations will refer to the endpoints of the possible allocations—0 percent and 100 percent.

<sup>17</sup> This is calculated by taking the percentage that changed from 0 percent (4.4 percent) and dividing it by the sum of those who had a 0 percent allocation in 2010 (29.6 percent in both years plus the 4.4 percent that changed).

<sup>18</sup> This uses the same calculation as described in the previous endnote (17).



# Notes

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