

At a Glance | February 14, 2019

Consistent IRA Ownership: Findings From the EBRI IRA Database

Examining trends in IRA balances, contributions, and withdrawals from 2010-2016.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

The average IRA balance for consistent owners¹ increased 57 percent from 2010 to 2016. This compares with the 35 percent increase from 2010 to 2016 across all IRAs in the database (including new accounts).

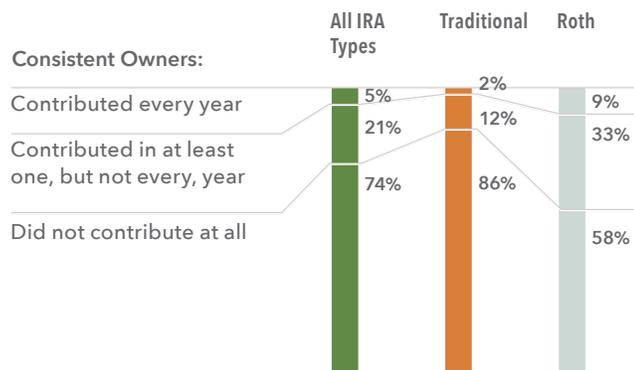
Growth of IRA Balances Between 2010 and 2016



CONTRIBUTIONS

Consistent owners of traditional IRAs rarely made a contribution to them; owners of Roth IRAs were more likely to do so.

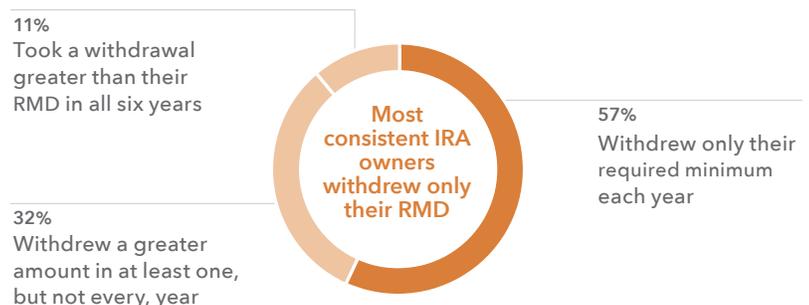
Number of Years Consistent Owners Contributed to Their IRAs Between 2010 and 2016



WITHDRAWALS

The majority of consistent owners of traditional IRAs who were ages 71 or older did not take a withdrawal larger than their required minimum distribution (RMD) during the 2011-2016 period.

Percentage of Consistent Owners of Traditional IRAs Who Withdrew an Amount Equal to or Greater Than Their Required Minimum Distribution²



¹ Of the 19.1 million unique individuals with accounts in the EBRI IRA database in 2016, 8.9 million had accounts for each year of the database going back to 2010. These 8.9 million individuals constitute the consistent sample, which provides insight into IRA usage over time when an account is maintained.

² Distribution of the number of years traditional IRA owners ages 71 or older in 2010 took an amount larger than their required minimum distribution.

Source: Craig Copeland, "Individual Retirement Account Balances, Contributions, Withdrawals, and Asset Allocation Longitudinal Results 2010-2016: The EBRI IRA Database," EBRI Issue Brief, no. 462 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, October 22, 2018).