

ICI Defined Contribution Plan Recordkeeper Data Show Continued Commitment to Retirement Saving

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Washington, DC, April 23, 2014 - ICI's latest study of retirement plan savers' actions, based on defined contribution (DC) plan recordkeeper data covering nearly 24 million DC plan participant accounts, shows Americans' continuing commitment to putting away money for retirement.

The study, "[Defined Contribution Plan Participants' Activities, 2013](#)," includes data through year-end 2013. Assets in all DC plans represented more than one-quarter of assets in the total retirement market and accounted for almost one-tenth of U.S. households' aggregate financial assets at the end of 2013.

DC Plan Participants Continued to Save, Withdrawal Activity Remained Low

The study finds that participants continued to save in their retirement plans at work in 2013. Findings include:

- The vast majority of DC plan participants continued contributing to their plans in 2013. Only 2.7 percent of DC plan participants stopped contributing, compared with 2.6 percent in 2012.
- DC plan withdrawals in 2013 remained low and were in line with the prior year's activity; participants generally did not tap their accounts. Only 3.5 percent of DC plan participants took withdrawals in 2013, compared with 3.4 percent in 2012. Only 1.7 percent took hardship withdrawals during 2013, the same pace as in 2012.
- Loan activity remained about the same throughout 2013, although it continues to remain elevated compared with five years ago. At the end of December 2013, 18.2 percent of DC plan participants had loans outstanding, the same level seen at year-end 2012, compared with 18.5 percent at year-end 2011 and 15.3 percent at year-end 2008.
- As stock values generally rose throughout 2013, most DC plan participants stayed the course in their asset allocations. In 2013, 10.7 percent of DC plan participants changed the asset allocation of their account balances and 7.4 percent changed the asset allocation of their contributions—similar reallocation levels as observed in 2012.

ICI has been tracking participant activity through recordkeeper surveys since 2008. This update reports results from ICI's survey of a cross section of recordkeeping firms representing a broad range of DC plans. Please visit ICI's 401(k) [resource page](#) for more information.