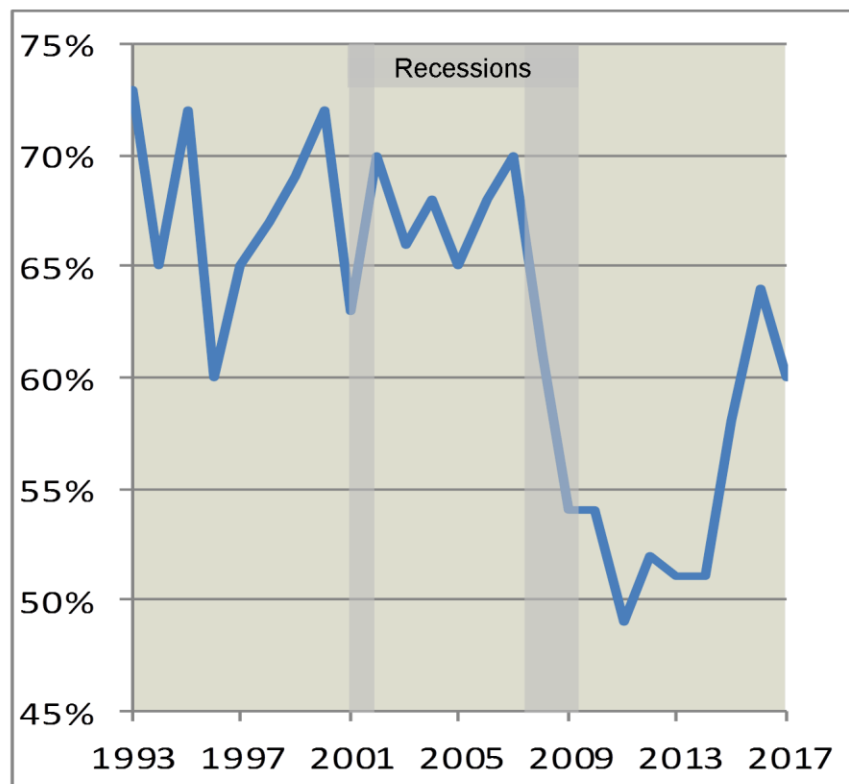


Worker Retirement Confidence Waning

The Retirement Confidence Survey

The Retirement Confidence Survey® is the longest-running annual retirement survey of its kind. The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) released their 27th edition of the survey on March 21st and the results were surprising.

Conducted in January, the survey polled 1,671 workers and retirees to judge their confidence in their ability to retire comfortably. Even with the stock market soaring to record highs and the economy showing signs of strength, the percentage of workers saying they are “Very or Somewhat Confident” in their retirement prospects fell to only 60% from last year’s 64%.



Percentage of workers who are very or somewhat confident in attaining comfortable retirement

The Great Recession took a terrible toll on workers’ confidence in attaining a comfortable retirement. The 2008 financial crisis and the reduction in company contributions battered workers’ psyche with their retirement confidence dropping from 70% to an all-time, demoralizing low of 52% in 2012. The current Bull Market and slow economic growth has instilled a little more confidence, but the current level of 60% is far below where it stood before the 2008 recession.

The Retirement Confidence Survey® demonstrates that retirement confidence is strongly related to retirement plan participation whether in a 401(k) plan or individual retirement account. 71% of workers with a retirement plan responded to being “Very or Somewhat Confident” while only 33% of workers without a plan were as confident.¹ Retirement plans give workers peace of mind that their employers are looking out for their future.

¹ The 2017 Retirement Confidence Survey: Many Workers Lack Retirement Confidence and Feel Stressed About Retirement Preparations, <https://www.ebri.org/surveys/rcs/2017>