

## ICI VIEWPOINTS

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# Data Show Americans' Commitment to Retirement Saving

Despite the financial ups and downs of recent years, 401(k) participants have proven themselves both steady and committed to retirement saving.

ICI has a window into this commitment thanks to our surveys, conducted since 2008, of a cross section of recordkeeping firms representing a broad range of defined contribution (DC) plans and covering more than 23 million employer-based DC retirement plan participant accounts as of December 2010.

[Our latest report](#), which includes DC participants' plan activity through year-end 2010, shows the following:

- The share of participants that stopped making contributions in 2010 was significantly lower than the share that stopped contributing in 2009.
- DC plan withdrawal activity in 2010 remained low and was similar to the prior year's activity.
- As stock values wandered down and up during the year, most DC plan participants stayed the course with their asset allocations.

### Defined Contribution Plan Participant Activities in 2010

Summary of recordkeeper data, percentage of participants

Note: The samples include more than 22 million DC plan participants for data covering full-year 2008; nearly 24 million DC plan participants for data covering full-year 2009; and more than 23 million DC plan participants for data covering full-year 2010.

Source: ICI Survey of DC Plan Recordkeepers (January–December 2008; January–December 2009; January–December 2010)

- One negative development evident in the data is that loan activity edged up throughout 2010. At year-end 2010, 18.2 percent of DC plan participants had loans outstanding, compared with 16.5 percent at year-end 2009. This pattern of activity, however, is similar to that observed in the wake of the bear market and recession earlier in the decade.
  - Learn more about [401\(k\) plans](#).

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