

Table 552. Private Pension Plans—Summary by Type of Plan: 1990 to 2008

[712.3 represents 712,300. "Pension plan" is defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) as "any plan, fund, or program which was heretofore or is hereafter established or maintained by an employer or an employee organization, or by both, to the extent that such plan (a) provides retirement income to employees, or (b) results in a deferral of income by employees for periods extending to the termination of covered employment or beyond, regardless of the method of calculating the contributions made to the plan, the method of calculating the benefits under the plan, or the method of distributing benefits from the plan." A **defined benefit** plan provides a definite benefit formula for calculating benefit amounts—such as a flat amount per year of service or a percentage of salary times years of service. A **defined contribution** plan is a pension plan in which the contributions are made to an individual account for each employee. The retirement benefit is dependent upon the account balance at retirement. The balance depends upon amounts contributed, investment experience, and, in the case of profit sharing plans, amounts which may be allocated to the account due to forfeitures by terminating employees. Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP) and 401(k) plans are included among defined contribution plans. Data are based on Form 5500 series reports filed with the U.S. Department of Labor and exclude (1) most pension plans qualified under sections 403(b), 457(b) and 457(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, (2) most SARSEP, SEP and SIMPLE IRA plans, (3) unfunded excess benefit plans, (4) most church plans, (5) top hat plans, (6) individual retirement accounts, and (7) governmental plans]

Item	Unit	Total				Defined contribution plan				Defined benefit plan			
		1990	2000	2005	2008	1990	2000	2005	2008	1990	2000	2005	2008
Number of plans ¹	1,000	712.3	735.7	679.1	717.5	599.2	686.9	631.5	669.2	113.1	48.8	47.6	48.4
Total participants ²	Million	76.9	103.3	117.4	124.9	38.6	61.7	75.5	82.5	38.8	41.6	41.9	42.3
Active participants ³	Million	61.5	73.1	82.7	86.2	35.6	50.9	62.4	67.3	26.2	22.2	20.3	19.0
Assets ⁴	Bil. dol	1,674	4,203	5,062	4,704	834	2,216	2,808	2,663	962	1,986	2,254	2,041
Contributions ⁵	Bil. dol	98.8	231.9	341.4	419.0	80.9	198.5	248.8	311.7	24.7	33.4	92.7	107.3
Benefits ⁶	Bil. dol	129.4	341.0	354.5	431.1	64.0	213.5	218.0	265.1	66.4	127.5	136.6	166.0

¹ Excludes all plans covering only one participant. ² Includes active, retired, and separated vested participants not yet in pay status. Also includes double counting of workers in more than one plan. ³ Includes any workers currently in employment covered by a plan and who are earning or retaining credited service under a plan. Also includes any nonvested former employees who have not yet incurred breaks in service. ⁴ Asset amounts shown exclude funds held by life insurance companies under allocated group insurance contracts for payment of retirement benefits. These excluded funds make up roughly 10 to 15 percent of total private fund assets. ⁵ Includes both employer and employee contributions. ⁶ Includes benefits paid directly from trust and premium payments made from plans to insurance carriers. Excludes benefits paid directly by insurance carriers.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, *Private Pension Plan Bulletin*. See also <<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/pdf/1975-2008historicaltables.pdf>>.

Table 553. Defined Benefit Retirement Plans—Selected Features: 2009

[In percent. Covers full-time employees in private industry. Based on National Compensation Survey, a sample survey of 3,227 private industry establishments of all sizes, representing over 102 million workers; see Appendix III. For definition of defined benefit, see headnote, Table 552. See also Table 656]

Feature	All workers	Goods producing	Service producing	1 to 99 workers	100 workers or more	Union	Nonunion
Benefit formula:							
Percent of terminal earnings	35	27	37	38	33	22	42
Percent of career earnings	11	3	(NA)	15	(NA)	6	14
Dollar amount formula	24	39	19	17	27	45	(NA)
Percent of contribution formula	6	15	(NA)	11	(NA)	13	(NA)
Cash balance	23	13	27	18	25	11	31
Pension equity	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in Private Industry in the United States* and unpublished data.