# Enduring Confidence IN THE 401(k) SYSTEM 

Investor Attitudes and Actions

National Press Club<br>Washington, DC<br>January 8, 2010

## Americans Hold Favorable Impression OF 401(k)



[^0]Source: ICI tabulation of GfK OmniTel survey data (November and December 2009)
Base: 2,069 U.S. households

## Savers Value Key 401(k) Features

PERCENTAGE OF DC-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS AGREEING THAT:
Investment choice and control are important
My account helps me think about the long term
Payroll deduction makes it easier to save
Immediate tax savings are a big incentive
My employer plan offers a good lineup of investment options

Source: ICI tabulation of GfK OmniTel survey data (November and December 2009)
Base: 1,627 U.S. households

## Americans Are Confident 401(k)s Can Help Meet Retirement Goals

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT" CONFIDENT THAT 401(k) AND SIMILAR PLANS CAN HELP PEOPLE MEET RETIREMENT GOALS:


Source: ICI tabulation of GfK OmniTel survey data (November and December 2009)
Base: 2,913 U.S. households

## Americans Disagree with Suggested 401(k) CHANGES

PERCENTAGE OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS DISAGREEING THAT:
The government should:
Take away DC account tax advantages
Reduce DC contribution limits
Replace all retirement accounts with a government bond

Source: ICI tabulation of GfK OmniTel survey data (November and December 2009)
Base: 3,000 U.S. households

## Americans Want Retirees to Control Their Own Accounts

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PERCENTAGE OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS AGREEING THAT:
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Retirees should make their own decisions about managing retirement assets and income

Source: ICI tabulation of GfK OmniTel survey data (November and December 2009)
Base: 3,000 U.S. households

## Americans Reject Annuity Mandates

## PERCENTAGE OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS DISAGREEING WITH THE STATEMENT:

The government should require retirees to trade a portion of their retirement plan accounts for a fair contract that promises to pay them income for life:

From an insurance company

## 72

From the government

## Savers Are Sticking WITH 401(k)

PERCENTAGE OF DC PLAN PARTICIPANTS IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2009 WHO:


Source: ICI survey of DC plan recordkeeper data, January-September 2009
Base: 24 million DC plan participants

## Most Account Balances Are Up Despite Market



## Investing for the Future

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| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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## Keeping Savings Intact



## Adding It All Up

## AVERAGE 401(k) ACCOUNT BALANCE FOR <br> EMPLOYEES EARNING \$30,000-\$59,999



Source: The Ariel/Hewitt Study, 2009

## Strengthening Retirement Security (I)

THE FUND INDUSTRY SUPPORTS MEASURES TO:

1. Improve disclosure about all investment options in 401(k)s.
2. Enhance understanding of target date funds by highlighting key information.
3. Increase opportunities for small employers to offer plans by making them less complex and expensive.
4. Increase opportunities for workers who lack plans to save in IRAs via payroll deduction.

## Strengthening Retirement Security (il)

THE FUND INDUSTRY SUPPORTS MEASURES TO:
5. Redouble efforts by educators, employers, financial firms, and government to provide financial and investor education to all Americans from elementary school through adulthood.
6. Put Social Security on sound financial footing.
7. Relax required minimum distribution rules.
8. Remove obstacles to let employers automatically diversify near-retirees out of company stock.


[^0]:    Note: "No opinion" responses excluded

