
ICI releases first-half 2017 participant behavior data

By Editorial Staff *Thu, Nov 23, 2017*

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Americans continued to save for retirement through defined contribution (DC) plans during the first half of this year, according to the Investment Company Institute's "[Defined Contribution Plan Participants' Activities, First Half 2017.](#)"

The study tracks contributions, withdrawals, and other activity, based on DC plan recordkeeper data covering more than 30 million participant accounts in employer-based DC plans.

The latest recordkeeper data indicate that nearly all plan participants continued contributing to their plans in the first half of 2017. Only 1.6% of DC plan participants stopped contributing during this period.

Other findings include:

- Most DC plan participants left their asset allocations unchanged. In the first half of 2017, only 6.8% of DC plan participants changed the asset allocation of their account balances, and only 4.3% changed the asset allocation of their contributions.
- Withdrawals from DC plans remained low in the first half of 2017, as in 2016. In the first half of 2017, 2.2% of DC plan participants took withdrawals, about the same share as in the first half of 2016. Only 0.9% of DC plan participants took hardship withdrawals during the first half of the year, similar to the first half of 2016.
- DC plan participants' loan activity was little changed at the end of the first half of 2017. At the end of June 2017, 16.7% of DC plan participants had loans outstanding, compared with 16.6% at the end of the first quarter of 2017. Loan activity continues to remain higher than at the end of 2008, when 15.3% of DC plan participants had loans outstanding.