

ICI Defined Contribution Plan Recordkeeper Data Show Continued Commitment to Retirement Saving

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Washington, DC; February 21, 2019—Defined contribution (DC) plan participants generally kept contributing to their retirement savings during the first three quarters of last year, according to ICI's "[Defined Contribution Plan Participants' Activities, First Three Quarters of 2018](#)." 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 savers remain committed to saving for their futures by continuing to contribute to their DC plans. Almost all plan participants continued contributing to their plans, with only 2.2 percent of DC plan participants stopping their contributions in the first three quarters of 2018.

Other findings include:

- **Withdrawal activity for DC plans remained low in the first three quarters of 2018, similar to the activity in the first three quarters of 2017.** In the first three quarters of 2018, 2.9 percent of DC plan participants took withdrawals, compared with 2.8 percent in the first three quarters of 2017. Levels of hardship withdrawal activity also were low, with only 1.4 percent of DC plan participants taking hardship withdrawals during the first three quarters of 2018, compared with 1.3 percent in the first three quarters of 2017.
- **Most DC plan participants stayed the course in their asset allocations, as stock values rose during the first nine months of the year.** In the first three quarters of 2018, 8.4 percent of DC plan participants changed the asset allocation of their account balances, and 4.4 percent changed the asset allocation of their contributions. These levels of activity are similar to activity observed in the same time frame a year earlier.
- **DC plan participants' loan activity was little changed at the end of September 2018.** At the end of September 2018, 16.4 percent of DC plan participants had loans outstanding, compared with 16.7 percent at year-end 2017.

ICI has been tracking DC plan participant activity through recordkeeper surveys since 2008. This update provides results from ICI's survey of a cross section of recordkeeping firms representing a broad range of DC plans. Please visit ICI's [401\(k\) Resource Center](#) for more information.