

Participation in private retirement savings plans, 1997 to 2008

Karim Moussaly

Statistics Canada

6. March 2010

Online at http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/22711/ MPRA Paper No. 22711, posted 17. May 2010 13:43 UTC

Research paper

Pension and Wealth Research Paper Series

Participation in Private Retirement Savings Plans, 1997 to 2008

by Karim Moussaly

Income Statistics Division
Pension and Wealth Section
5 J.T. - Building, 170 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario

Telephone: 1-613-951-7355



Statistics Canada

Statistique Canada



How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca, e-mail us at infostats@statcan.gc.ca, or telephone us, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre

| Toll-free telephone (0 | Canada and the | United States): |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|

| Inquiries line | 1-800-263-1136 |
|---|----------------|
| National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired | 1-800-363-7629 |
| Fax line | 1-877-287-4369 |

Local or international calls:

| Inquiries line | 1-613-951-8116 |
|----------------|----------------|
| Fax line | 1-613-951-0581 |

Depository Services Program

| Inquiries line | 1-800-635-7943 |
|----------------|----------------|
| Fax line | 1-800-565-7757 |

To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 13F0026M, is available free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca and select "Publications."

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed *standards of service* that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on *www.statcan.gc.ca* under "About us" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Participation in Private Retirement Savings Plans, 1997 to 2008

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2010

All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

March 2010

Catalogue no. 13F0026M, no. 1

ISSN 1707-0783 ISBN 978-1-100-15197-7

Frequency: Occasional

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

User information

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- p preliminary
- r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

Acknowledgement

We thank the following people from Statistics Canada for their suggestions and support: Bruno Pépin, Karen Dorman, John Nicoletta and Brian Murphy from the Income Statistics Division, Michel Palardy and Francine Monette from the Small Area and Administrative Data Division and Grant Schellenberg from the Social Analysis Division. We would also like to thank Bob Baldwin for his useful comments. Any error remain our own.

Table of contents

| Abs | stract | 5 |
|-------|--|----|
| Intro | roduction | 6 |
| Higl | hlights | 7 |
| Part | ticipation in Private Retirement Savings Plans, 1997 to 2008 | |
| 1 | Tax treatment of private retirement savings plans in Canada | 8 |
| 2 | Data | 8 |
| 3 | Participation in private retirement savings plans | 9 |
| 4 | Conclusion | 17 |
| 5 | References | 17 |
| App | pendix | |
| I | Appendix | 19 |

Abstract

Amidst the financial crisis and changes in the labour market, retirement savings plans are subject to greater scrutiny. The retirement income system in Canada stands on both public and private retirement savings plans. This article describes the coverage of Canadian workers by private retirement savings plans. Using cross-sectional tax data from the T1 Family File, we describe the coverage of Canadian employed tax filers aged 15 or more by employer-sponsored pension plans (EPPs) and whether or not they contributed to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008. The share of employed tax filers participating in either type of plan declined from 54% in 1997 to 50% in 2008 and this is mainly driven by a decreasing share of employed tax filers contributing to a RRSP. The share of employed tax filers participating in an EPP remained fairly stable over the period.

Introduction

The population of Canada is ageing: the median age in Canada increased from 35.2 years old in 1996 to 39.3 years old in 2008. This results in a larger share of the population getting closer to retirement. How are Canadians getting financially prepared for retirement? Retirement income may come from what are commonly referred to as the 'three pillars' of retirement income protection (Baldwin, 2006). Pillar 1 consists of the federal Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income supplement (GIS) programs. Retirement income from pillar 2 consists of income from the Canada and Québec Pension Plans (C/QPP). Pillar 3 consists of income generated from private retirement savings plans, the most common being Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and employer-sponsored pension plans (EPPs).

This article focuses on savings habits in the third pillar. The tax system provides incentives to save for retirement in the plans that are part of the third pillar. By encouraging savings for retirement, these vehicles allow averaging income over one's lifetime. In this article employer-sponsored pension plans (EPPs) refers to Registered pension plans(RPPs) and deferred profit sharing plans(DPSPs).

Using the complete T1 Family File for the first time allows a cross-sectional descriptive analysis of employed tax filers who reported a pension adjustment (PA) amount, which reflects the benefits accrued for the employee in an EPP, and/or who contributed to a RRSP in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008.

Section 1 provides a brief description of the tax treatment of retirement savings plans in Canada, which is followed by a description of the data in section 2. Section 3 presents characteristics of employed tax filers participating in a private retirement savings plan as well as those who do not participate in any of the private retirement savings plan considered in our analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 051-0001.

The 'three pillars' classification comes from work conducted by the World Bank in the 1990's that has since been refined. Some authors use different definitions of the three pillars.

^{3.} Dividing the third pillar into workplace pension plans and RRSPs reflects distinction in the Canadian tax law (Baldwin 2006, p.384).

Highlights

- The share of employed Canadian tax filers participating in a private retirement savings plan was 50% in 2008, slightly down from 54% in 1997. This decline reflects mostly a drop in the share of employed tax filers contributing to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan from 41% in 1997 to 34% in 2008. The share of employed tax filers participating in an employer-sponsored pension plan remained stable at 32% over the period.
- The rate of participation in employer-sponsored pension plans increased for women from 32% in 1997 to 34% in 2008, while declining for men from 33% to 31% over the period. In 2008, the number of EPP members was higher for women than for men, while it was lower for the previous years.
- Participation in private retirement savings plan is the highest for 'prime-aged' workers (those aged between 35 and 54 years old): 63% of them participated in such a plan in 2008. However, the rate of participation in employer-sponsored pension plans declined slightly for this age group between 1997 and 2008, while it increased or remained fairly stable for the other age groups.
- The rate of participation in private retirement savings plans remained stable in the lowest income quintile between 1997 and 2008, while it declined within each of the other quintiles. The rate of participation in employer-sponsored pension plans increased for the three lowest income quintiles and decreased for the two highest income quintiles over the period. However, the increases in the lowest income quintiles were offset by decreases in participation rates in Registered Retirement Savings Plans, as all income quintiles registered decline.

Participation in Private Retirement Savings Plans, 1997 to 2008

by Karim Moussaly

1 Tax treatment of private retirement savings plans in Canada

The first legislation in Canada aimed at encouraging the establishment of pension plans was the *Pension Funds Societies Act* of 1887.¹ At that time, employer-sponsored pension plans (EPPs) were offered to certain employees of the federal public service, the railways and some commercial banks. In 1919, an amendment to the *Income War Tax Act* allowed employee contributions to EPPs to be claimed as a tax deduction. Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) were introduced in 1957 with the primary objective of providing self-employed tax filers and employees without an EPP with a means to save for retirement. Between 1965 and 1970, legislation regulating EPPs came into effect in many provinces and at the federal level. Since 1970, all provinces except Prince Edward Island have implemented legislation to regulate the operation of employer-sponsored pension plans.

The Canada Revenue Agency (formerly the Canada Customs Revenue Agency) established a set of rules governing pension plans registration and fiscal treatment that have been effective from 1972 to 1990.² Major changes were introduced in 1990 and shaped the fiscal treatment of retirement savings as we currently know it. Changes included implementing a comprehensive annual retirement savings limit of 18% of compensation, whether tax filers saved in an EPP,³ a RRSP or a combination of those plans. Those changes aimed to eliminate a significant advantage for those saving in a defined benefit registered pension plan versus those saving in a defined contribution registered pension plans or in RRSPs. To establish such a comprehensive limit, a pension adjustment amount (PA) is calculated for tax filers participating in an EPP. The individual's accrued retirement savings limit for a given year is reduced by the individual's previous year's PA. PAs were first calculated and reported for 1990, affecting 1991 RRSP contribution limits. Calculations of the PA for a Registered Pension Plan (RPP) depend on the type of benefits it provides. In the case of defined-contribution RPPs, the PA equals employee contributions plus employer contributions. In the case of defined-benefits RPP, the PA represents the amount of benefits accrued by the employee in the plan.⁴ It is determined by a formula calculated by the employer, following guidelines from the Canada Revenue Agency.

The 18% comprenhensive savings limit minus the pension adjustment amount gives the individual's RRSP contribution limit. In 2008, tax filers could contribute up to 18% of their earned income from 2007 in a RRSP, with a maximum contribution of \$20,000.⁵ The contribution ceiling for 1997 was \$13,500. These maximum RRSP contribution limits would be reduced by any pension adjustment amount applicable.

2 Data

Data used for this report is derived from individual tax and benefits returns from the T1 Family File for years 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008 provided by the Small Area and Administrative Data Division at Statistics

Source: Maser and Anderson (2006).

^{2.} Source: Morneau Sobeco (2006).

^{3.} Employer-sponsored pension plans include Registered Pension Plans (RPPs) and Deferred Profit Sharing Plans (DPSPs). A DPSP is an employer-sponsored retirement plan in which an employer makes contributions for the employees (who cannot contribute) based on profits. The amount accumulated in these plans can be paid out as a lump sum at retirement or termination of employment, transferred to a RRSP, received in installments over a period not to exceed ten years or used to purchase an annuity.

^{4.} Benefits accrued by the employee in a defined benefit plan in a given year are not necessarely equal to the sum of employer and employee contributions for that given year. Those accrued benefits represent a liability for the pension plan.

^{5.} Source: Canada Revenue Agency.

Canada.⁶ The T1 Family File is a cross-sectional dataset. Using the complete T1 Family File for those years allows us to include employed tax filers who filed a tax return in 1997 but not in 2008 as well as those who filed a tax return in 2008 but not in 1997.⁷ This avoids any variability that could arise from sampling.

Data for 2008 are preliminary. The number of tax filers and participants in private retirement savings plans is slightly lower compared to the final data. In 2006, missing tax filers in the preliminary data accounted for 1.5% of the tax filers in the final data. Nevertheless, the use of the 2008 preliminary data has no significant impact on the rates of participation in private retirement savings plans and the main conclusions of this study.

The information is as of December 31 of each reference year used. This report uses tax returns of living tax filers aged 15 or older⁸ which contain information on characteristics of individual tax filers, their total pension adjustment amount (PA) and on their total Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) contributions. Non-Canadian residents filing a tax return were excluded and only tax filers with non-zero employment income were considered.

The number of tax filers who reported a pension adjustment (PA) amount is used as a proxy for the number of participants in an employer-sponsored pension plan, including both Registered Pension Plans and Deferred Profit Sharing Plans.^{9,10} The number of RRSP contributors was derived from the number of tax filers who reported RRSP contributions in a given year.

The report looks at the following characteristics of participants in a private retirement savings plan: age, sex and total income. Total income is defined on line 150 on the T1 tax return and used to classify employed tax filers by income quintiles. The income quintile thresholds are provided in text table 1 in appendix.

3 Participation in private retirement savings plans

Participants in private retirement savings plans are defined as those who participate in an employer-sponsored pension plan (EPP), contribute to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or both. Since some individuals both participate in an EPP and contribute to a RRSP, the number of participants in private retirement savings plans is lower than the sum of EPP members and RRSP contributors (see text tables 2 to 4 in appendix).

The number of Canadian tax filers aged 15 years and older with employment income participating in a private retirement savings plan increased from 8.1 million in 1997 to 8.9 million in 2008 (see chart 1). This represents a 11% increase over the period, which is smaller in relative terms compared to the 19% increase in the number of tax filers with employment income. Therefore, the share of employed tax filers who participated in a private retirement savings plan declined from 54% in 1997 to 50% in 2008 (see chart 2).

The number of EPP members increased from 4.8 million in 1997 to 5.7 million in 2008, representing a 19% increase, while the number of RRSP contributors remained near 6.0 million. The share of workers participating in an EPP remained fairly constant (32%) while the share of employed tax filers contributing to a RRSP decreased from 41% in 1997 to 34% in 2008, the most significant part of the decrease occurring between 1997 and 2003.

^{6.} Townson (2006) notes that some researchers have suggested that workers in non-standard work arrangements might not be in a situation of financial vulnerability because many of them may be in a situation where a higher-earning spouse or partner is able to support them in old age. However, she argues that there is no guarantee that the higher-earning spouse will provide for the retirement of the lower-earning spouse and that given increasing instability of spousal relationships, the higher-earning spouse or partner may not be present to support the lower-earning spouse in old age. Schellenberg and Ostrovsky (2008) provide figures of the increasing marital instability for tax filers approaching 'usual' retirement age: 10.6% of men and 14.3% of women aged between 55 and 64 years old were separated or divorced in 2006, compared to 3.7% and 4.7% in 1976, respectively. We adopt Townson's views in our use of individual data, although acknowledging that aspects of retirement saving habits related to the family are interesting to analyze. Morissette and Ostrovsky (2006) note that increased coverage of individual women has helped to maintain coverage of couples as coverage of husbands declined.

On the latter point, data from the 2006 Census show that 1.9 million individuals immigrated to Canada between 1996 and 2006, representing 6% of the population in 2006.

^{8.} This is the same age threshold that is used in the Labor Force Survey.

^{9.} An individual may have participated in more than one RPP/DPSP in a given year. In this case, the total PA of the individual is the sum of the PAs calculated by each employer.

^{10.} According to Marshall (2003), the number of DPSP participants is relatively small. The number of persons having a PA is also consistent with membership data from the Pension Plans in Canada survey that don't include DPSP members (Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 280-0016).

^{11.} The Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings set by the CRA falls in the fourth income quintile for the years that we analyzed. See text table 1 in appendix for income quintiles thresholds.

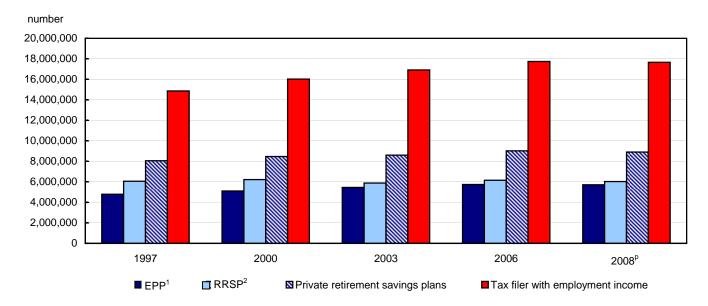
The share of workers participating in an EPP only increased from 13% to 16% while the share of workers participating in an EPP and contributing to a RRSP decreased from 19% to 16% over the period (table 1).

Table 1
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by type of plan

| | Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p | |
| _ | percent | | | | | |
| PA ¹ only RRSP ² contributions only PA and RRSP contributions PA (with and without RRSP contributions) RRSP contributions (with and without PA) | 13 22 19 32 41 | 14 21 18 32 39 | 16 19 16 32 35 | 16 18 16 32 35 | 16 18 16 32 34 | |

^{1.} Pension adjustment. The number of tax filers who reported a pension adjustment (PA) amount is used as a proxy for the number of participants in an employer-sponsored pension plan.

Chart 1
Private retirement savings plan participants



^{1.} Employer-sponsored pension plan

Registered retirement savings plans.

^{2.} Registered retirement savings plans

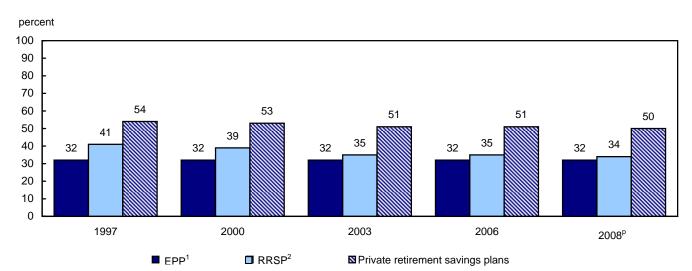


Chart 2
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans

- 1. Employer-sponsored pension plan
- 2. Registered retirement savings plans

The rate of participation in private retirement savings plans declined for both men and women from 1997 to 2008. However, the rate of participation for men remained higher than the one for women over the period. Table 2 shows that in 2008, 51% of men and 50% of women were participating in a private retirement savings plan, compared to 56% and 52% in 1997, respectively. There has been a reduction in the gap between the rates of participation in private retirement savings plans of men and women between 1997 and 2008. The number of employed tax filers aged 15 or more increased by 24% for women and 15% for men between 1997 and 2008, while the number of participants in private retirement savings plans increased by 19% for women and by 4% for men.

Table 2
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by sex

| | Tax filers with employment income | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|--|--|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p | | |
| | percent | | | | | | |
| Men Women | 56 52 | 55 51 | 52 50 | 52 50 | 51 50 | | |

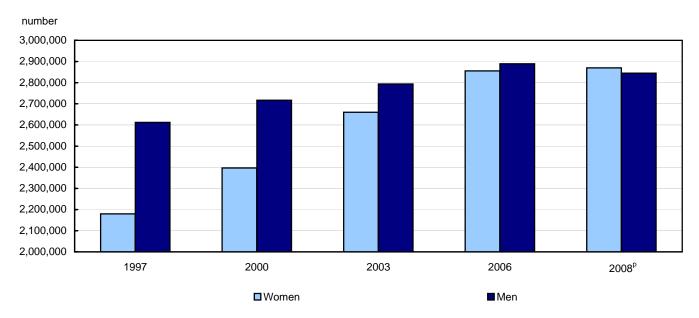
In 2008, the number of women participating in an EPP exceeds the number of men (chart 3). The share of women participating in an EPP increased from 32% in 1997 to 34% in 2008 while the share of men declined from 33% to 31%. A larger share of women was participating in an EPP in 2003, 2006 and 2008 compared to men. The share of both men and women contributing to a RRSP both declined over the period, from 43% to 35% and from 39% to 33% respectively.

Data on registered pension plans (RPPs) from the *Pension Plans in Canada* survey also show that the number of female members increased at a faster pace than the number of male members. RPP male membership increased by 7% between 1997 and 2007, while RPP female membership increased by 28% over the same period.¹²

^{12.} Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM. Table 280-0010.

In fact, the increase in female RPP membership accounted for 76% of the total increase in RPP membership between 1997 and 2007.

Chart 3
Number of employer-sponsored pension plan members, by sex



Although consideration is given to the complete population aged 15 years and older, focus in this analysis is on the coverage of 'prime-aged' workers (i.e those between 35 and 54 years old): 63% of them were participating in a private retirement savings plan in 2008, compared to 66% in 1997. These shares are the highest when compared to other age groups (see chart 4).

Both the number of private retirement savings plan participants and the number of employed tax filers in this age group increased over the period, with growth of 4% and 10% respectively. However, those increases occurred solely in the 45 to 54 year old age group. Participation in private retirement savings plans is higher for those between 45 and 54 years old than for those between 35 and 44 years old (see text table 3 in appendix).

The 'prime-aged' workers age group is also the one with the highest number of EPP participants (3.3 million in 2008) and with the highest rate of participation in an EPP (42% in 2008). Charts 5 and 6 show the rate of participation in EPPs and RRSPs by age group.

Important increases in both the number of employed tax filers and the number of private retirement savings plan participants occurred for the age group 55 to 64 years old and the 65 years old or older age group. The number of employed tax filers in the former age group increased from 1.4 million in 1997 to 2.6 million in 2008 while the number of private retirement savings plan participants increased from 0.9 million to 1.5 million over the same period. Those aged 65 and over also saw an important increase in the number of tax filers over the period (from 495,000 to 968,000) but the number of private retirement savings plan participants increased at a slower pace (from 124,000 to 195,000).

Chart 4
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by age group

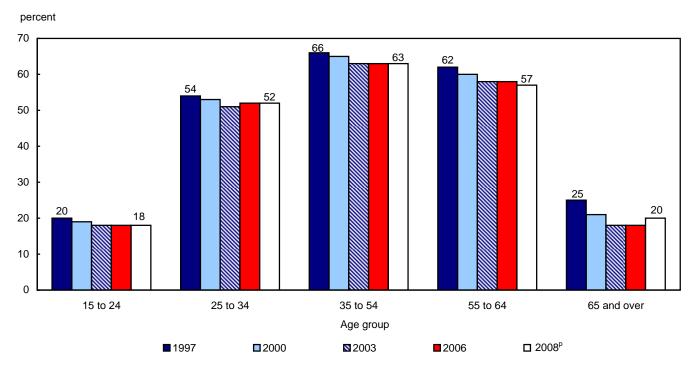
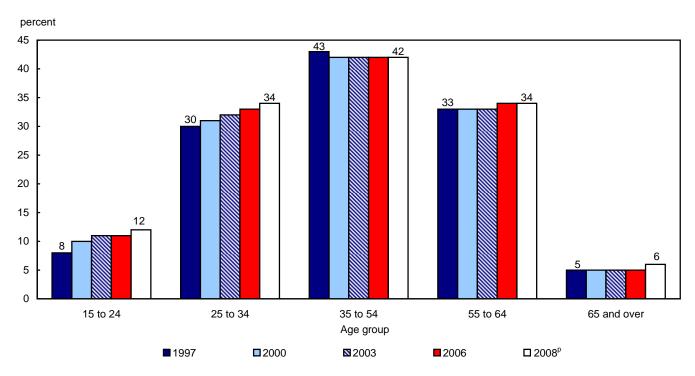


Chart 5
Rate of participation in employer-sponsored pension plans, by age group



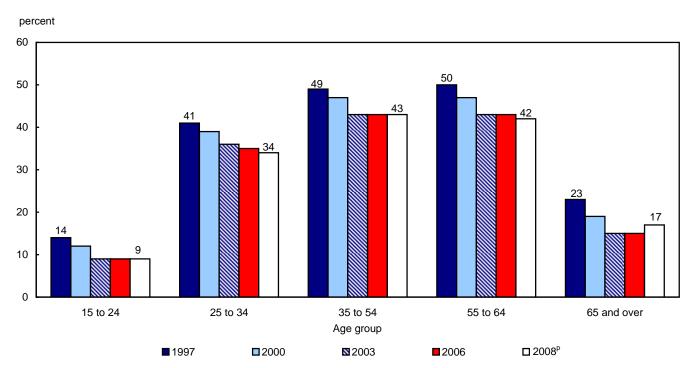


Chart 6
Rate of participation in registered retirement savings plans, by age group

Participation in private retirement savings plans increases with income: 9% of employed tax filers in the lowest income quintile participated in a private retirement savings plan in 2008, while that share stood at 86% for those in the highest quintile. Not surprisingly, the highest number of private retirement savings plan members are found in the highest income quintiles. The number of private retirement savings plan members increased within each income quintile. However, due to the increase in the number of employed tax filers within each income quintile, the share of employed tax filers participating in a private retirement savings plan remained fairly stable for the lowest income quintile and declined for the four other quintiles between 1997 and 2008.

Charts 7 to 9 provide rates of participation in private retirement savings plans by income quintile. The two lowest income quintiles were subject to significant relative increases in the number of EPP members between 1997 and 2008, although they represent a small share of EPP members. The number of EPP members increased in the three other quintiles, although at a pace that is closer to the growth in the number of employed tax filers.

As seen in chart 1, the total number of RRSP contributors remained fairly stable between 1997 and 2008. However, there were different variations within each income quintile. The three lowest income quintiles saw a decline in the number of RRSP contributors, while that number grew at a slower pace than the increase of the number of employed tax filers for the two highest income quintiles.

^{13.} The two lowest income quintiles represented 40% of employed tax filers aged 15 or more but only 13% of EPP members in 2008.

Chart 7
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by income quintile

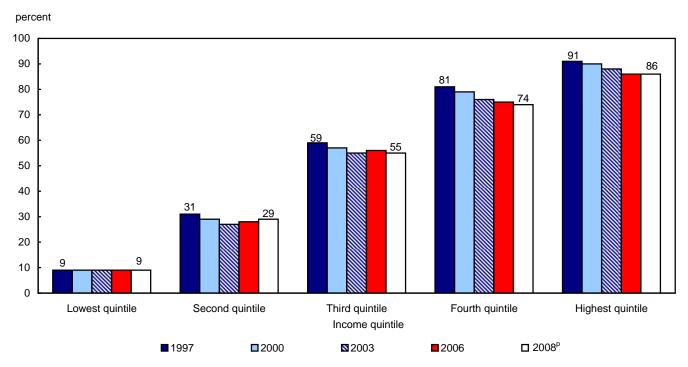
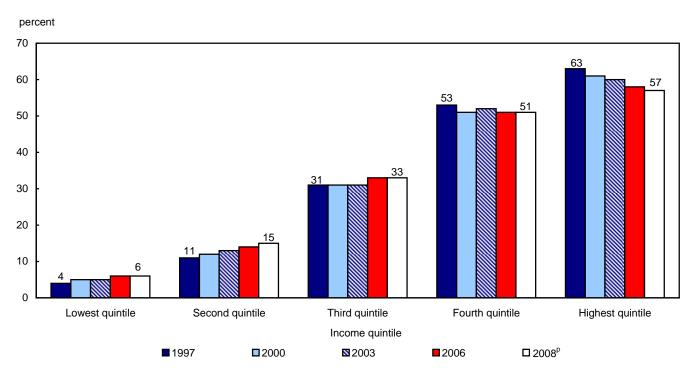


Chart 8
Rate of participation in employer-sponsored pension plans, by income quintile



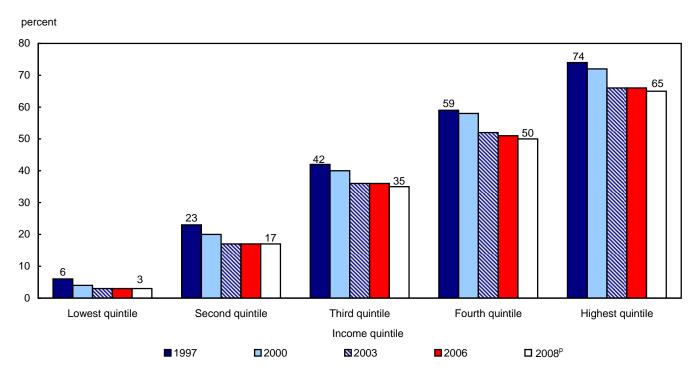


Chart 9
Rate of participation in registered retirement savings plans, by income quintile

In order to assess if variations in participation in private retirement savings plans within income quintiles are linked with variations in participation within age groups, it is useful to look at the rates of participation within each combination of income quintile and age group considered previously. Text table 9 (see appendix) presents the participation rates within each combination of age group and income quintile for 1997 and 2008. For simplicity, the two lowest income quintiles were lumped in a single category, as well as the two highest income quintiles.

The share of employed tax filers participating in an EPP increased or remained stable between 1997 and 2008 within each combination of age group and income quintile, except for those who are in the two highest income quintiles and aged between 35 to 54 or between 55 to 64 years old. The share of RRSP contributors within each combination of age group and income quintile declined for all sub-groups considered between 1997 and 2008. The combined effect of the variations in participation rates in EPPs and in RRSPs resulted in a decline in the participation rate in private retirement savings plans within almost each age-income subgroup (see text table 13 in appendix).

Who does not participate in a private retirement savings plan?

Nearly 50% of Canadian employed tax filers were participating in a private retirement savings plan in 2008. What are the characteristics of the other half of the population studied that do not participate in any private retirement savings plan?

As reported previously, 63% of tax filers aged between 35 and 54 years old were participating in a private retirement savings plan in 2008. The 37% who did not participate in any plan in this age group accounted for 34% of employed tax filers who did not participate in any private retirement savings plan in 2008.

As seen in chart 7, non-participants are mostly found in the lowest income quintile: 91% of employed tax filers in this income quintile did not participate in any private retirement savings plan in 2008 and they accounted for 37% of all non-participants. However, the two highest income quintiles represented 12% of non-participants in 1997 and that share increased to 16% in 2008.

4 Conclusion

Participation in private retirement savings plans declined between 1997 and 2008. The share of employed tax filers participating in an employer-sponsored pension (EPP) plan is higher for those between 35 and 54 years old than for any other age group, although it is the only age group for which the participation rate has declined from 1997 to 2008. The decline in participation in private retirement savings plans is mainly driven by a lower share of workers contributing to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP). The share of workers participating in an EPP remained stable over the period: about one third of workers participate in such a plan. Participation in EPPs is higher for employed tax filers in the two highest income quintiles. However, participation rates in EPPs have been declining in these quintiles compared to the three lowest quintiles for which rates of participation have risen between 1997 and 2008. A declining share of tax filers with employment income contributing to a RRSP is found within each age category, each income quintile and within each combination of the two variables previously mentionned.

Individuals may decide to accumulate savings by investing in other classes of assets than those presented in this report. The 2005 Survey of Financial Security shows that Canadian families hold other assets besides private pension savings. Private pension savings represented 29% of family units' assets while non-financial assets (including principal residence and other real estate) represented nearly 50% of their wealth.

Further research could be conducted to assess if some groups of employed tax filers with a declining share of participation in private retirement savings plans were able to save in other classes of assets. The causes of the declining share of 'prime-aged' tax filers (i.e 35 to 54 years old) participating in a private retirement savings plan, either through participation in an EPP or by contributing to a RRSP, are also grounds for more research.

5 References

Baldwin, Bob. 2006. 'A Shaky Third Pillar'. *New Frontiers of Research on Retirement*. Ottawa. Leroy O. Stone Editor. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 75-511-XPE.

Canada Revenue Agency. Money Purchase limits, RRSP limits, YMPE, DPSP limits and Defined Benefits limits. URL: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/rgstrd/papspapar-fefespfer/lmts-eng.html. Accessed on March 27, 2009.

Laidler, David and William B.P. Robson. 2007. *Ill-Defined Benefits: The Uncertain Present and Brighter Future of Employeee Pensions in Canada*. The Pension Papers. Toronto. C.D. Howe Institute. June 2007.

Marshall, Katherine. 2003. 'Benefits of the job'. *Perspectives on Labour and Income*. Ottawa. Statistics Canada. URL: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/00503/6515-eng.html. Accessed on October 26, 2009.

Maser, Karen and Robert Anderson. 2006. 'An Introduction to Canada's Retirement Income Programs'. Canada 's Retirement Income Programs. Ottawa. CD-ROM. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 74-507XCB.

Morneau Sobeco. 2005. *Morneau Sobeco Handbook of Canadian Pension and Benefit Plans*. 13th edition. CCH Canadian Limited.

Morissette, René and Xuelin Zhang. 2004. 'Retirement plan awareness'. *Perspectives*. Ottawa. Statistics Canada. January 2004. Catalogue no. 75-001-XIE. URL: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/10104/6757-eng.pdf. Accessed on October 26, 2009.

Morissette, René and Yuri Ostrovsky. 2006. *Pension Coverage and Retirement Savings of Canadian Families*, 1986-2003. Ottawa. Statistics Canada. September 2006. Catalogue no. 11F0019. URL: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2006286-eng.pdf. Accessed on November 30, 2009.

Schellenberg, Grant and Yuri Ostrovsky. 2008. 'Retiring together, or not'. *Perspectives*. Statistics Canada. April 2008. Catalogue no. 75-001-XIE. URL: *http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2008104/pdf/10558-eng.pdf*. Accessed on October 26, 2009.

^{14.} MARR, Gerry. "Homemade' savings the new RRSPs; Nearly 40% of wealth tied up in real estate". CalgaryHerald. October 24, 2009. P.C9.

Statistics Canada. 2006. The Wealth of Canadians: An Overview of the Results of the Survey of Financial Security. Pension and Wealth Surveys Section. Statistics Canada. Ottawa. December 2006. URL: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/13f0026m/13f0026m2006001-eng.pdf. Accessed on October 26, 2009.

Statistics Canada. 2006. Canada 's Retirement Income Programs. Ottawa. CD-ROM. Catalogue no. 74-507XCB.

Statistics Canada 2001. Pension Plans in Canada: Statistical Highlights and Key Tables. Ottawa. Catalogue no. 74-401-SPB.

Townson, Mary. 2006. 'New vulnerable groups and living standards in the retirement years'. *New Frontiers of Research on Retirement*. Leroy O. Stone Editor. Statistics Canada. 2006. Catalogue no. 75-511-XPE.

World Bank. 'The World Bank Pension Conceptual Framework'. World Bank Pension Reform Primer. URL: http://site resources.worldbank.org/INTPENSIONS/Resources/395443-1121194657824/PRPNoteConcept_Sept2008.pdf.pdf. Accessed on April 24, 2009.

Appendix I — Appendix

Assumption 1:

We assume that there is no under-reporting (nor over-reporting) of employment income and total income. These assumptions imply that employed tax filers contributing to a RRSP do so with respect to a RRSP contribution limit that is calculated based on accurate employment income and that the reported total income currently reflects the income flow of an individual in a given year.

Methodological note 1:

Observations pertaining to imputed spouses and imputed children were excluded, as they do not contain any information on RRSP contributions nor on PA.

Methodological note 2:

The T1 Family File does not allow us to make a distinction for contributions made in an individual RRSP from those made in a group RRSP. Morissette and Zhang (2004) report that 1.6 million private-sector employees working in firms offering group RRSP reported participating in a group RRSP in 2001. Data come from the 2001 Workplace and Employee Survey.

Text table 1 Income thresholds of income quintiles

| | Lowest | Lowest Secon | | Third | | Fourth | | Highest |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min |
| | | | | dolla | rs | | | |
| 1997 2000 2003 2006 2008 P | 10,009 10,741 11,394 12,947 14,368 | 10,009 10,741 11,394 12,947 14,368 | 19,827 21,533 23,189 26,000 28,546 | 19,827 21,533 23,189 26,000 28,546 | 31,094 33,785 36,244 40,288 43,405 | 31,094 33,785 36,244 40,288 43,405 | 46,898 51,506 55,259 61,836 66,505 | 46,898 51,506 55,259 61,836 66,505 |

Text table 2 Tax filers with an employment income, by sex

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| _ | | | number | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 14,869,733 | 16,026,051 | 16,914,123 | 17,742,903 | 17,663,665 |
| PA 1 only | 2,004,971 | 2,249,628 | 2,717,676 | 2,864,158 | 2,878,924 |
| RRSP ² contribution only | 3,271,722 | 3,358,714 | 3,149,671 | 3,280,788 | 3,196,410 |
| PA | 4,792,024 | 5,113,695 | 5,453,873 | 5,744,515 | 5,714,705 |
| RRSP contribution | 6,058,775 | 6,222,781 | 5,885,868 | 6,161,145 | 6,032,191 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 8,063,746 | 8,472,409 | 8,603,544 | 9,025,303 | 8,911,115 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 2,787,053 | 2,864,067 | 2,736,197 | 2,880,357 | 2,835,781 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 6,805,987 | 7,553,642 | 8,310,579 | 8,717,600 | 8,752,550 |
| Men | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 7,989,252 | 8,461,428 | 8,836,485 | 9,230,663 | 9,154,080 |
| PA only | 1,084,973 | 1,191,057 | 1,377,867 | 1,417,200 | 1,414,685 |
| RRSP contribution only | 1,870,887 | 1,906,507 | 1,792,762 | 1,865,730 | 1,808,594 |
| PA | 2,612,279 | 2,716,973 | 2,793,619 | 2,889,064 | 2,844,960 |
| RRSP contribution | 3,398,193 | 3,432,423 | 3,208,514 | 3,337,594 | 3,238,869 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 4,483,166 | 4,623,480 | 4,586,381 | 4,754,794 | 4,653,554 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 1,527,306 | 1,525,916 | 1,415,752 | 1,471,864 | 1,430,275 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 3,506,086 | 3,837,948 | 4,250,104 | 4,475,869 | 4,500,526 |
| Women | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 6,880,481 | 7,564,623 | 8,077,638 | 8,512,240 | 8,509,585 |
| PA only | 919,998 | 1,058,571 | 1,339,809 | 1,446,958 | 1,464,239 |
| RRSP contribution only | 1,400,835 | 1,452,207 | 1,356,909 | 1,415,058 | 1,387,816 |
| PA | 2,179,745 | 2,396,722 | 2,660,254 | 2,855,451 | 2,869,745 |
| RRSP contribution | 2,660,582 | 2,790,358 | 2,677,354 | 2,823,551 | 2,793,322 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 3,580,580 | 3,848,929 | 4,017,163 | 4,270,509 | 4,257,561 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 1,259,747 | 1,338,151 | 1,320,445 | 1,408,493 | 1,405,506 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 3,299,901 | 3,715,694 | 4,060,475 | 4,241,731 | 4,252,024 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 3 Tax filers with employment income, by age group

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^r |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | number | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 14,869,733 | 16,026,051 | 16,914,123 | 17,742,903 | 17,663,665 |
| PA ¹ only | 2,004,971 | 2,249,628 | 2,717,676 | 2,864,158 | 2,878,924 |
| RRSP ² contribution only | 3,271,722 | 3,358,714 | 3,149,671 | 3,280,788 | 3,196,410 |
| PA | 4,792,024 | 5,113,695 | 5,453,873 | 5,744,515 | 5,714,705 |
| RRSP contribution | 6,058,775 | 6,222,781 | 5,885,868 | 6,161,145 | 6,032,191 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 8,063,746 | 8,472,409 | 8,603,544 | 9,025,303 | 8,911,115 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 2,787,053 | 2,864,067 | 2,736,197 | 2,880,357 | 2,835,781 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 6,805,987 | 7,553,642 | 8,310,579 | 8,717,600 | 8,752,550 |
| 15 to 24 years old | | | | / | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 2,273,100 | 2,605,586 | 2,663,505 | 2,778,594 | 2,778,625 |
| PA only | 125,264 | 186,244 | 224,624 | 247,920 | 268,014 |
| RRSP contribution only | 258,594 | 234,616 | 184,091 | 185,068 | 171,848 |
| PA | 187,879 | 259,037 | 291,633 | 313,818 | 336,663 |
| RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution | 321,209 446.473 | 307,409 493,653 | 251,100 475.724 | 250,966 498.886 | 240,497 508.511 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 62,615 | 493,653 72,793 | 475,724 67,009 | 490,000 65,898 | 68,649 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 1,826,627 | 2,111,933 | 2,187,781 | 2,279,708 | 2,270,114 |
| | 1,020,021 | 2,111,955 | 2,107,701 | 2,219,100 | 2,270,114 |
| 25 to 34 years old | 0.504.500 | 0.000.040 | 0.447.004 | 0.400.550 | 0.450.000 |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 3,521,563 | 3,390,918 | 3,417,901 | 3,482,550 | 3,450,208 |
| PA only RRSP contribution only | 462,097 835,684 | 465,031 765,829 | 540,109 672,292 | 581,138 669,309 | 607,108 635,893 |
| PA | 1.056.668 | 1,037,580 | 1,087,788 | 1.138.830 | 1,160,264 |
| RRSP contribution | 1,430,255 | 1,338,378 | 1,219,971 | 1,227,001 | 1,189,049 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 1,892,352 | 1,803,409 | 1,760,080 | 1,808,139 | 1,796,157 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 594.571 | 572.549 | 547.679 | 557.692 | 553.156 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 1,629,211 | 1,587,509 | 1,657,821 | 1,674,411 | 1,654,051 |
| 35 to 54 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 7,137,765 | 7,754,685 | 8,046,573 | 8,206,846 | 7,843,072 |
| PA only | 1.234.786 | 1,362,122 | 1.621.147 | 1.638.961 | 1.563.938 |
| RRSP contribution only | 1,663,357 | 1,798,851 | 1,691,578 | 1,734,842 | 1,641,791 |
| PA | 3,039,644 | 3,237,823 | 3,350,888 | 3,415,983 | 3,262,396 |
| RRSP contribution | 3,468,215 | 3,674,552 | 3,421,319 | 3,511,864 | 3,340,249 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 4,703,001 | 5,036,674 | 5,042,466 | 5,150,825 | 4,904,187 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 1,804,858 | 1,875,701 | 1,729,741 | 1,777,022 | 1,698,458 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,434,764 | 2,718,011 | 3,004,107 | 3,056,021 | 2,938,885 |
| 35 to 44 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 4,068,659 | 4,260,871 | 4,226,007 | 4,073,336 | 3,709,960 |
| PA only | 698,767 | 730,205 | 826,429 | 794,627 | 723,345 |
| RRSP contribution only | 943,272 | 983,228 | 876,096 | 845,372 | 760,606 |
| PA | 1,639,845 | 1,674,786 | 1,656,299 | 1,599,515 | 1,471,763 |
| RRSP contribution | 1,884,350 | 1,927,809 | 1,705,966 | 1,650,260 | 1,509,024 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 2,583,117 | 2,658,014 | 2,532,395 | 2,444,887 | 2,232,369 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 941,078 | 944,581 | 829,870 | 804,888 | 748,418 |
| | 1,485,542 | 1,602,857 | 1,693,612 | 1,628,449 | 1,477,591 |

See notes at the end of the table.

Text table 3 - continued Tax filers with employment income, by age group

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| | | | number | | |
| 45 to 54 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 3,069,106 | 3,493,814 | 3,820,566 | 4,133,510 | 4,133,112 |
| PA only | 536,019 | 631,917 | 794,718 | 844,334 | 840,593 |
| RRSP contribution only | 720,085 | 815,623 | 815,482 | 889,470 | 881,185 |
| PA | 1,399,799 | 1,563,037 | 1,694,589 | 1,816,468 | 1,790,633 |
| RRSP contribution | 1,583,865 | 1,746,743 | 1,715,353 | 1,861,604 | 1,831,225 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 2,119,884 | 2,378,660 | 2,510,071 | 2,705,938 | 2,671,818 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 863,780 | 931,120 | 899,871 | 972,134 | 950,040 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 949,222 | 1,115,154 | 1,310,495 | 1,427,572 | 1,461,294 |
| 55 to 64 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 1,441,862 | 1,687,447 | 2,076,710 | 2,436,395 | 2,623,681 |
| PA only | 171,889 | 222,023 | 312,983 | 372,459 | 408,882 |
| RRSP contribution only | 415,447 | 463,857 | 507,595 | 583,630 | 610,344 |
| PA | 482,817 | 551,436 | 689,381 | 832,465 | 896,751 |
| RRSP contribution | 726,375 | 793,270 | 883,993 | 1,043,636 | 1,098,213 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 898,264 | 1,015,293 | 1,196,976 | 1,416,095 | 1,507,095 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 310,928 | 329,413 | 376,398 | 460,006 | 487,869 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 543,598 | 672,154 | 879,734 | 1,020,300 | 1,116,586 |
| 65 years old or more | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 495,443 | 587,415 | 709,434 | 838,518 | 968,079 |
| PA only | 10,935 | 14,208 | 18,813 | 23,680 | 30,982 |
| RRSP contribution only | 98,640 | 95,561 | 94,115 | 107,939 | 136,534 |
| PA | 25,016 | 27,819 | 34,183 | 43,419 | 58,631 |
| RRSP contribution | 112,721 | 109,172 | 109,485 | 127,678 | 164,183 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 123,656 | 123,380 | 128,298 | 151,358 | 195,165 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 14,081 | 13,611 | 15,370 | 19,739 | 27,649 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 371,787 | 464,035 | 581,136 | 687,160 | 772,914 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 4 Tax filers with employment income, by income quintile

| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| _ | | | number | | |
| Total Tax filers with employment income with PA 1 only RRSP 2 contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 14,869,733 | 16,026,051 | 16,914,123 | 17,742,903 | 17,663,665 |
| | 2,004,971 | 2,249,628 | 2, 717 676 | 2 864 158 | 2,878,924 |
| | 3 271 722 | 3 358 714 | 3, 149 671 | 3 280 788 | 3,196,410 |
| | 4,792,024 | 5,113,695 | 5,453,873 | 5,744,515 | 5,714,705 |
| | 6,058,775 | 6,222,781 | 5,885,868 | 6,161,145 | 6,032,191 |
| | 8,063,746 | 8,472,409 | 8,603,544 | 9,025,303 | 8,911,115 |
| | 2,787,053 | 2,864,067 | 2,736,197 | 2,880,357 | 2,835,781 |
| | 6,805,987 | 7,553,642 | 8,310,579 | 8,717,600 | 8,752,550 |
| Lowest quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,973,946 | 3,205,210 | 3,382,824 | 3,548,580 | 3,532,732 |
| | 104,832 | 151,217 | 177,478 | 204,321 | 189,481 |
| | 156,508 | 120,549 | 104,455 | 106,383 | 107,833 |
| | 114,866 | 160,145 | 185,782 | 213,589 | 199,280 |
| | 166,542 | 129,477 | 112,759 | 115,651 | 117,632 |
| | 271,374 | 280,694 | 290,237 | 319,972 | 307,113 |
| | 10,034 | 8,928 | 8,304 | 9,268 | 9,799 |
| | 2,702,572 | 2,924,516 | 3,092,587 | 3,228,608 | 3,225,619 |
| Second quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,973,947 | 3,205,210 | 3,382,825 | 3,548,581 | 3,532,733 |
| | 234,945 | 284,134 | 338,682 | 392,855 | 405,938 |
| | 590,073 | 551,428 | 487,201 | 501,138 | 483,268 |
| | 334,439 | 383,093 | 437,272 | 507,232 | 524,143 |
| | 689,567 | 650,387 | 585,791 | 615,515 | 601,473 |
| | 924,512 | 934,521 | 924,473 | 1,008,370 | 1,007,411 |
| | 99,494 | 98,959 | 98,590 | 114,377 | 118,205 |
| | 2,049,435 | 2,270,689 | 2,458,352 | 2,540,211 | 2,525,322 |
| Third quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,973,946 | 3,205,210 | 3,382,824 | 3,548,580 | 3,532,733 |
| | 507,825 | 559,284 | 641,494 | 699,924 | 715,891 |
| | 838,962 | 860,143 | 785,725 | 804,987 | 766,829 |
| | 911,001 | 979,065 | 1,064,893 | 1,165,919 | 1,183,309 |
| | 1,242,138 | 1,279,924 | 1,209,124 | 1,270,982 | 1,234,247 |
| | 1,749,963 | 1,839,208 | 1,850,618 | 1,970,906 | 1,950,138 |
| | 403,176 | 419,781 | 423,399 | 465,995 | 467,418 |
| | 1,223,983 | 1,366,002 | 1,532,206 | 1,577,674 | 1,582,595 |
| Fourth quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,973,947 | 3,205,210 | 3,382,825 | 3,548,581 | 3,532,733 |
| | 646,529 | 689,106 | 822,783 | 857,979 | 860,217 |
| | 839,246 | 888,471 | 831,117 | 855,765 | 829,368 |
| | 1,564,857 | 1,646,941 | 1,745,495 | 1,815,473 | 1,795,869 |
| | 1,757,574 | 1,846,306 | 1,753,829 | 1,813,259 | 1,765,020 |
| | 2,404,103 | 2,535,412 | 2,576,612 | 2,671,238 | 2,625,237 |
| | 918,328 | 957,835 | 922,712 | 957,494 | 935,652 |
| | 569,844 | 669,798 | 806,213 | 877,343 | 907,496 |
| Highest quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,973,947 | 3,205,211 | 3,382,825 | 3,548,581 | 3,532,734 |
| | 510,840 | 565,887 | 737,239 | 709,079 | 707,397 |
| | 846,933 | 938,123 | 941,173 | 1,012,515 | 1,009,112 |
| | 1,866,861 | 1,944,451 | 2,020,431 | 2,042,302 | 2,012,104 |
| | 2,202,954 | 2,316,687 | 2,224,365 | 2,345,738 | 2,313,819 |
| | 2,713,794 | 2,882,574 | 2,961,604 | 3,054,817 | 3,021,216 |
| | 1,356,021 | 1,378,564 | 1,283,192 | 1,333,223 | 1,304,707 |
| | 260,153 | 322,637 | 421,221 | 493,764 | 511,518 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 5
Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by sex

| | | Tax filers wit | h employment incon | ne | |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
| | | | percent | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA ¹ only | 13 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| RRSP ² contribution only | 22 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 18 |
| PA | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| RRSP contribution | 41 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 34 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 54 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 50 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 19 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 46 | 47 | 49 | 49 | 50 |
| Men | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 14 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 15 |
| RRSP contribution only | 23 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| PA | 33 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 |
| RRSP contribution | 43 | 41 | 36 | 36 | 35 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 56 | 55 | 52 | 52 | 51 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 19 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 44 | 45 | 48 | 48 | 49 |
| Women | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 13 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| RRSP contribution only | 20 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| PA | 32 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 34 |
| RRSP contribution | 39 | 37 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 52 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 18 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 48 | 49 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

^{1.} Pension adjustment

^{2.} Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 6 Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by age group

| | | lax filers wit | h employment incon | ne | |
|---|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
| | | | percent | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| with PA ¹ only | 100 13 | 100 14 | 100 16 | 100 16 | 100 16 |
| RRSP ² contribution only | 22 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 18 |
| PA | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| RRSP contribution | 41 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 34 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution | 54 19 | 53 18 | 51 16 | 51 16 | 50 16 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 46 | 47 | 49 | 49 | 50 |
| 15 to 24 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| with PA only | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 100 |
| RRSP contribution only | 11 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| PA | 8 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 |
| RRSP contribution | 14 | 12 19 | 9 18 | 9 18 | 9 18 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution | 20 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 80 | 81 | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| 25 to 34 years old | | | | | |
| Fax filers with employment income with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 13 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| RRSP contribution only | 24 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 18 |
| PA | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| RRSP contribution | 41 54 | 39 53 | 36 51 | 35 52 | 34 52 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution | 54 17 | 53 17 | 16 | 52 16 | 52 16 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 46 | 47 | 49 | 48 | 48 |
| 35 to 54 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 17 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| RRSP contribution only | 23 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| PA | 43 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution | 49 66 | 47 65 | 43 63 | 43 63 | 43 63 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 25 | 24 | 21 | 22 | 22 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 34 | 35 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| 35 to 44 years old | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 17 | 100 | 20 | 20 | 100 |
| RRSP contribution only | 23 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| PA | 40 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 40 |
| RRSP contribution | 46 | 45 | 40 | 41 | 41 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution | 63 23 | 62 22 | 60 20 | 60 20 | 60 20 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 23 37 | 38 | 40 | 40 | 40 |

See notes at the end of the table.

Text table 6 - continued Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by age group

| | | Tax filers wit | h employment incor | ne | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p |
| | | | percent | | |
| 45 to 54 years old Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 17 23 46 52 69 28 31 | 100 18 23 45 50 68 27 32 | 100 21 21 44 45 66 24 34 | 100 20 22 44 45 65 24 35 | 100 20 21 43 44 65 23 35 |
| 55 to 64 years old Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 12 29 33 50 62 22 38 | 100 13 27 33 47 60 20 40 | 100 15 24 33 43 58 18 42 | 100 15 24 34 43 58 19 | 100 16 23 34 42 57 19 43 |
| 65 years old or more Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 2 20 5 23 25 3 75 | 100 2 16 5 19 21 2 | 100 3 13 5 15 18 2 82 | 100 3 13 5 15 18 2 | 100 3 14 6 17 20 3 80 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 7 Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by income quintile

| | | lax filers wit | h employment incon | ne | |
|---|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 |
| | | | percent | | |
| Total . | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| with PA ¹ only | 100 13 | 100 14 | 100 16 | 100 16 | 100 16 |
| RRSP ² contribution only | 22 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 18 |
| PA | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| RRSP contribution | 41 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 34 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 54 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 50 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 19 46 | 18 47 | 16 49 | 16 49 | 16 50 |
| Lowest quintile | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | 400 | 400 | 100 | 400 | 100 |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only RRSP contribution only | 4 5 | 5 4 | 5 3 | 6 3 | 5 3 |
| PA | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| RRSP contribution | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 91 | 0 91 | 0 91 | 0 91 | 0 91 |
| Second quintile | | | | | |
| Tax filers with employment income | 400 | 400 | 100 | 400 | 400 |
| with PA only | 100 8 | 100 9 | 100 10 | 100 11 | 100 11 |
| RRSP contribution only | 20 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| PA | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| RRSP contribution | 23 | 20 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 31 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 3 69 | 3 71 | 3 73 | 3 72 | 3 71 |
| Third quintile | 03 | , , | 73 | 12 | , , |
| Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 17 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 20 |
| RRSP contribution only PA | 28 31 | 27 31 | 23 31 | 23 33 | 22 33 |
| RRSP contribution | 42 | 40 | 36 | 36 | 35 35 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 59 | 57 | 55 | 56 | 55 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 14 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 41 | 43 | 45 | 44 | 45 |
| Fourth quintile Tax filers with employment income | | | | | |
| with | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| PA only | 22 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| RRSP contribution only | 28 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 23 |
| PA RRSP contribution | 53 59 | 51 58 | 52 52 | 51 51 | 51 50 |
| Either PA or RRSP contribution | 59 81 | 56 79 | 52 76 | 75 | 50 74 |
| Both PA and RRSP contribution | 31 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 26 |
| No PA and no RRSP contribution | 19 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

See notes at the end of the table.

Text table 7 – continued

Rate of participation in private retirement savings plans, by income quintile

| | Tax filers with employment income | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2008 ^p | | |
| | | | percent | | | | |
| Highest quintile Tax filers with employment income with PA only RRSP contribution only PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution Both PA and RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 17 28 63 74 91 46 | 100 18 29 61 72 90 43 | 100 22 28 60 66 88 38 | 100 20 29 58 66 86 38 | 100 20 29 57 65 86 37 | | |

^{1.} Pension adjustment

^{2.} Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 8 Tax filers with employment income, by income quintile and age group

| Age group | | | | Income | quintile | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| | | 199 | 97 | | | 200 | 8 p | |
| | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total |
| | | | | num | ber | | | |
| 15 to 24 Tax filers with employment income with PA 1 RRSP 2 contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 1,936,381 | 242,881 | 93,838 | 2,273,100 | 2,337,513 | 283,393 | 157,719 | 2,778,625 |
| | 103,356 | 50,871 | 33,652 | 187,879 | 193,964 | 78,457 | 64,242 | 336,663 |
| | 164,288 | 100,463 | 56,458 | 321,209 | 95,101 | 79,201 | 66,195 | 240,497 |
| | 250,259 | 127,528 | 68,686 | 446,473 | 273,697 | 133,064 | 101,750 | 508,511 |
| | 1,686,122 | 115,353 | 25,152 | 1,826,627 | 2,063,816 | 150,329 | 55,969 | 2,270,114 |
| 25 to 34 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 1,390,531 | 887,012 | 1,244,020 | 3,521,563 | 1,378,951 | 824,160 | 1,247,097 | 3,450,208 |
| | 121,952 | 263,943 | 670,773 | 1,056,668 | 169,697 | 296,479 | 694,088 | 1,160,264 |
| | 213,959 | 377,721 | 838,575 | 1,430,255 | 162,903 | 304,900 | 721,246 | 1,189,049 |
| | 305,978 | 523,344 | 1,063,030 | 1,892,352 | 299,647 | 482,087 | 1,014,423 | 1,796,157 |
| | 1,084,553 | 363,668 | 180,990 | 1,629,211 | 1,079,304 | 342,073 | 232,674 | 1,654,051 |
| 35 to 54 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 2,040,496 | 1,423,048 | 3,674,221 | 7,137,765 | 2,308,274 | 1,594,266 | 3,940,532 | 7,843,072 |
| | 188,137 | 510,299 | 2,341,208 | 3,039,644 | 278,788 | 621,057 | 2,362,551 | 3,262,396 |
| | 369,587 | 607,259 | 2,491,369 | 3,468,215 | 330,343 | 612,955 | 2,396,951 | 3,340,249 |
| | 507,501 | 898,782 | 3,296,718 | 4,703,001 | 548,801 | 987,730 | 3,367,656 | 4,904,187 |
| | 1,532,995 | 524,266 | 377,503 | 2,434,764 | 1,759,473 | 606,536 | 572,876 | 2,938,885 |
| 55 to 64 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 433,478 | 291,409 | 716,975 | 1,441,862 | 754,424 | 565,131 | 1,304,126 | 2,623,681 |
| | 33,683 | 81,014 | 368,120 | 482,817 | 75,518 | 175,784 | 645,449 | 896,751 |
| | 97,070 | 134,093 | 495,212 | 726,375 | 116,636 | 206,642 | 774,935 | 1,098,213 |
| | 119,248 | 174,810 | 604,206 | 898,264 | 173,624 | 308,724 | 1,024,747 | 1,507,095 |
| | 314,230 | 116,599 | 112,769 | 543,598 | 580,800 | 256,407 | 279,379 | 1,116,586 |
| 65 years old or more Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 147,007 | 129,596 | 218,840 | 495,443 | 286,303 | 265,783 | 415,993 | 968,079 |
| | 2,177 | 4,874 | 17,965 | 25,016 | 5,456 | 11,532 | 41,643 | 58,631 |
| | 11,205 | 22,602 | 78,914 | 112,721 | 14,122 | 30,549 | 119,512 | 164,183 |
| | 12,900 | 25,499 | 85,257 | 123,656 | 18,755 | 38,533 | 137,877 | 195,165 |
| | 134,107 | 104,097 | 133,583 | 371,787 | 267,548 | 227,250 | 278,116 | 772,914 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 9 Rate of participation, by income quintile and age group

| Age | | 199 | 7 | | | 2008 | , p | |
|---|---------------|-------|----------------|----------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| group | | | | Income q | uintile | | | |
| | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total |
| | | | | perce | nt | | | |
| 15 to 24 Tax filers with employment income PA 1 RRSP 2 contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | 5 | 21 | 36 | 8 | 8 | 28 | 41 | 12 |
| | 8 | 41 | 60 | 14 | 4 | 28 | 42 | 9 |
| | 13 | 53 | 73 | 20 | 12 | 47 | 65 | 18 |
| | 87 | 47 | 27 | 80 | 88 | 53 | 35 | 82 |
| 25 to 34 Employed Tax Filers With PA With RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | 9 | 30 | 54 | 30 | 12 | 36 | 56 | 34 |
| | 15 | 43 | 67 | 41 | 12 | 37 | 58 | 34 |
| | 22 | 59 | 85 | 54 | 22 | 58 | 81 | 52 |
| | 78 | 41 | 15 | 46 | 78 | 42 | 19 | 48 |
| 35 to 54 Employed Tax Filers With PA With RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | 9 | 36 | 64 | 43 | 12 | 39 | 60 | 42 |
| | 18 | 43 | 68 | 49 | 14 | 38 | 61 | 43 |
| | 25 | 63 | 90 | 66 | 24 | 62 | 85 | 63 |
| | 75 | 37 | 10 | 34 | 76 | 38 | 15 | 37 |
| 55 to 64 Employed Tax Filers With PA With RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | 8 | 28 | 51 | 33 | 10 | 31 | 49 | 34 |
| | 22 | 46 | 69 | 50 | 15 | 37 | 59 | 42 |
| | 28 | 60 | 84 | 62 | 23 | 55 | 79 | 57 |
| | 72 | 40 | 16 | 38 | 77 | 45 | 21 | 43 |
| 65 years old or more Employed Tax Filers With PA With RRSP contribution With either PA or RRSP contribution With no PA and no RRSP contribution | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| | 8 | 17 | 36 | 23 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 17 |
| | 9 | 20 | 39 | 25 | 7 | 14 | 33 | 20 |
| | 91 | 80 | 61 | 75 | 93 | 86 | 67 | 80 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 10 Variation in participation rates, by income quintile and age group

| Age | | Income quintile, 1997 to | 2008 p | _ |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Group | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total |
| <u> </u> | | percentage point var | iation | |
| 15 to 24 Tax filers with employment income with PA 1 RRSP 2 contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| | -4 | -13 | -18 | -5 |
| | -1 | -6 | -9 | -1 |
| | 1 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 25 to 34 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| | -4 | -6 | -10 | -6 |
| | 0 | -1 | -4 | -2 |
| | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 35 to 54 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 3 | 3 | -4 | -1 |
| | -4 | -4 | -7 | -6 |
| | -1 | -1 | -4 | -3 |
| | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 55 to 64 Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2 | 3 | -2 | 1 |
| | -7 | -9 | -10 | -9 |
| | -4 | -5 | -6 | -5 |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 65 years old or more Tax filers with employment income with PA RRSP contribution Either PA or RRSP contribution No PA and no RRSP contribution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | -3 | -6 | -7 | -6 |
| | -2 | -5 | -6 | -5 |
| | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 |

Pension adjustment
 Registered retirement savings plans

Text table 11
Variation in participation rates in Employer-Sponsored Pension Plan, by income quintile and age group

| Age | Income quintile, 1997 to 2008 P | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|--|--|--|
| Group | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total | | | |
| _ | percentage point variation | | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 25 to 34 | 3 | 7 6 | 5 | 4 | | | |
| 35 to 54 | 3 | 3 | -4 | -1 | | | |
| 55 to 64 65 years old or more | 2 0 | 3 1 | -2 2 | 1 1 | | | |

Text table 12 Variation in participation rates in RRSP, by income quintile and age group

| Age | Income quintile, 1997 to 2008 P | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| group | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total | | |
| _ | percentage point variation | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 54 55 to 64 65 years old or more | -4 -4 -4 -7 -3 | -13 -6 -4 -9 -6 | -18 -10 -7 -10 -7 | -5 -6 -6 -9 -6 | | |

Text table 13
Variation in participation rates in private retirement savings plans, by income quintile and age group

| Age | | Income quintile, 1997 to | 2008 p | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| group | Two lowest | Third | Two highest | Total | | |
| _ | percentage point variation | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 54 55 to 64 65 years old or more | -1 0 -1 -4 -2 | -6 -1 -1 -5 -5 | -9 -4 -4 -6 -6 | -1 -2 -3 -5 -5 | | |

Text table 14 Tax filers with employment income not participating in any private retirement savings plan, by age group and income quintile

| | 1997 | | 2000 | | 2003 2006 | | | 2008 P | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent | number | percent |
| Age group 15 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 54 55 to 64 65 years old or more Total | 1,826,627 1,629,211 2,434,764 543,598 371,787 6,805,987 | 27 24 36 8 5 | 2,111,933 1,587,509 2,718,011 672,154 464,035 7,553,642 | 28 21 36 9 6 100 | 2,187,781 1,657,821 3,004,107 879,734 581,136 8,310,579 | 26 20 36 11 7 | 2,279,708 1,674,411 3,056,021 1,020,300 687,160 8,717,600 | 26 19 35 12 8 100 | 2,270,114 1,654,051 2,938,885 1,116,586 772,914 8,752,550 | 26 19 34 13 9 100 |
| Income quintile Lowest Second Third Fourth Highest Total | 2,702,572 2,049,435 1,223,983 569,844 260,153 6,805,987 | 40 30 18 8 4 100 | 2,924,516 2,270,689 1,366,002 669,798 322,637 7,553,642 | 39 30 18 9 4 100 | 3,092,587 2,458,352 1,532,206 806,213 421,221 8,310,579 | 37 30 18 10 5 | 3,228,608 2,540,211 1,577,674 877,343 493,764 8,717,600 | 37 29 18 10 6 | 3,225,619 2,525,322 1,582,595 907,496 511,518 8,752,550 | 37 29 18 10 6 100 |

Note(s): Percentage might not add to totals due to rounding.