

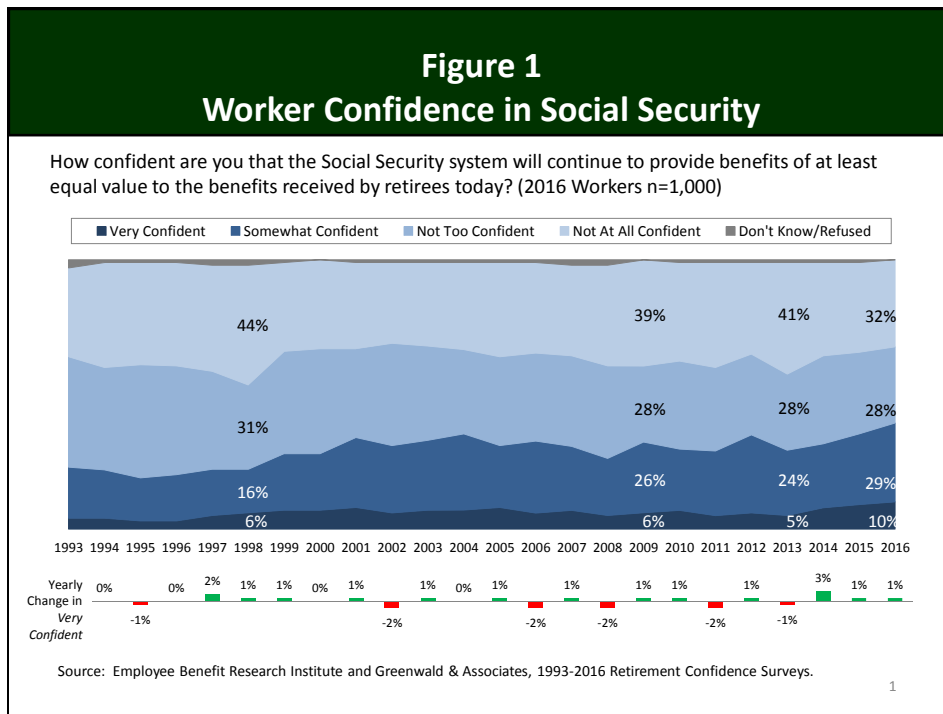
**2016 RCS FACT SHEET #6**

**ATTITUDES ABOUT CURRENT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE BENEFIT LEVELS**

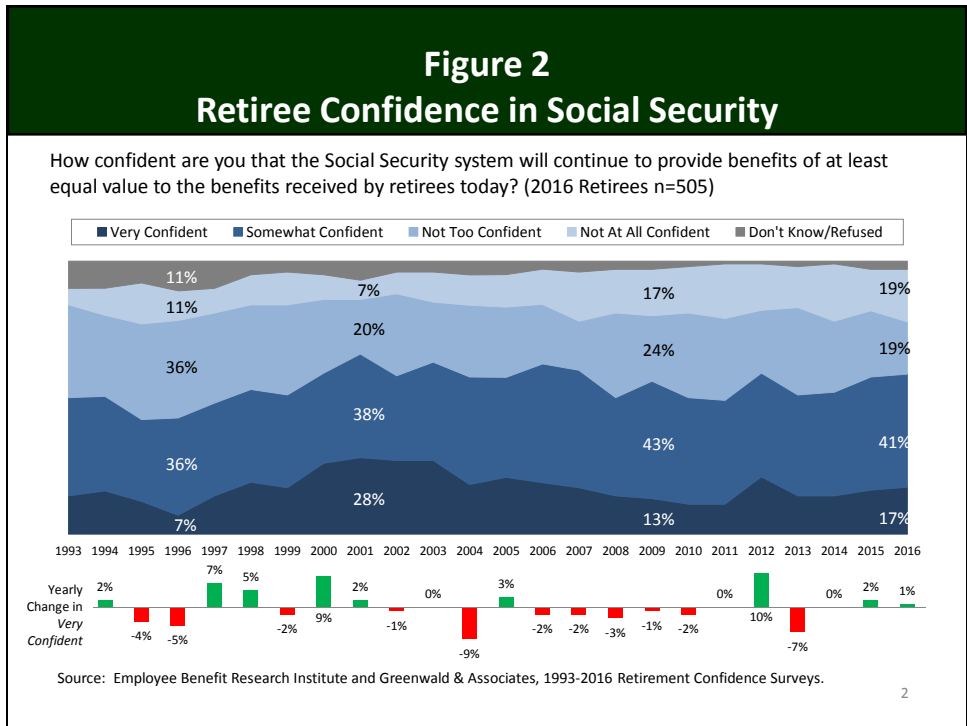
*Confidence about having enough money to live comfortably in retirement continued to increase this year for retirees and remained high among workers. Is worker and retiree confidence about the sustainability of the benefit levels of social insurance programs like Social Security and Medicare high as well? To what extent are workers planning to rely on Social Security in retirement, and how does that compare with the experience of current retirees?*

**Confidence in Current Social Security Benefit Levels**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Retirement Confidence Survey (RCS) shows that 10 percent of workers are very confident and 29 percent are somewhat confident that the Social Security system will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits received by retirees today, levels statistically unchanged with those in the 2015 RCS. However, a third (32 percent) of workers are not at all confident that future Social Security benefits will match or exceed the value of today’s benefits (Figure 1).

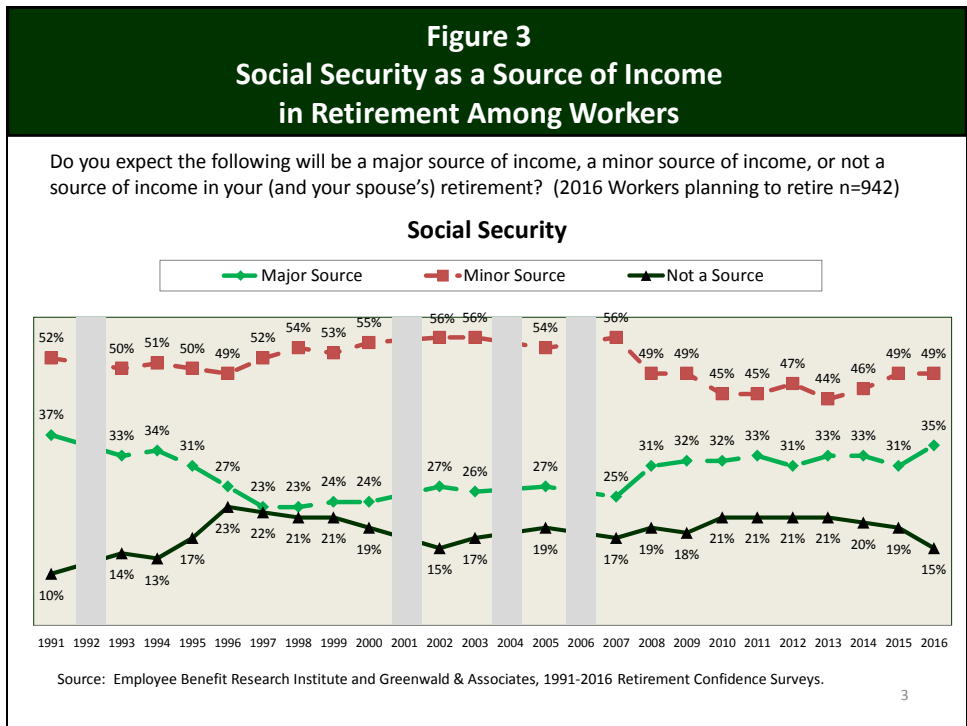


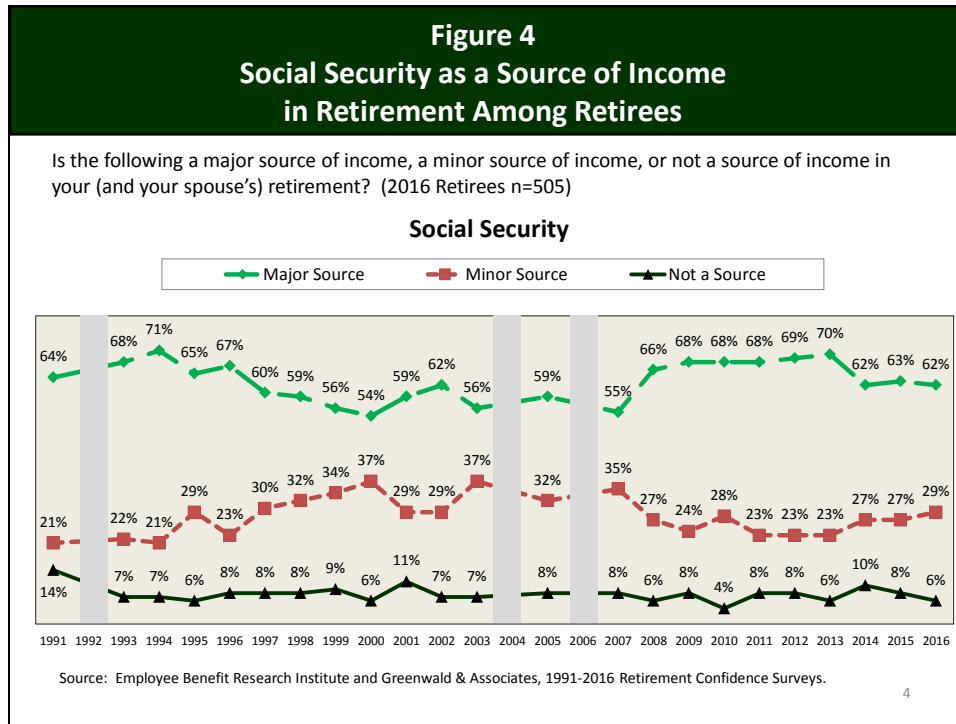
Confidence that Social Security will continue to provide benefits that are at least equal to today’s value is higher among workers ages 55 and older than among younger workers. Seventeen percent of retirees say they are very confident about the future value of Social Security benefits (Figure 2).



## Social Security as a Source of Income in Retirement

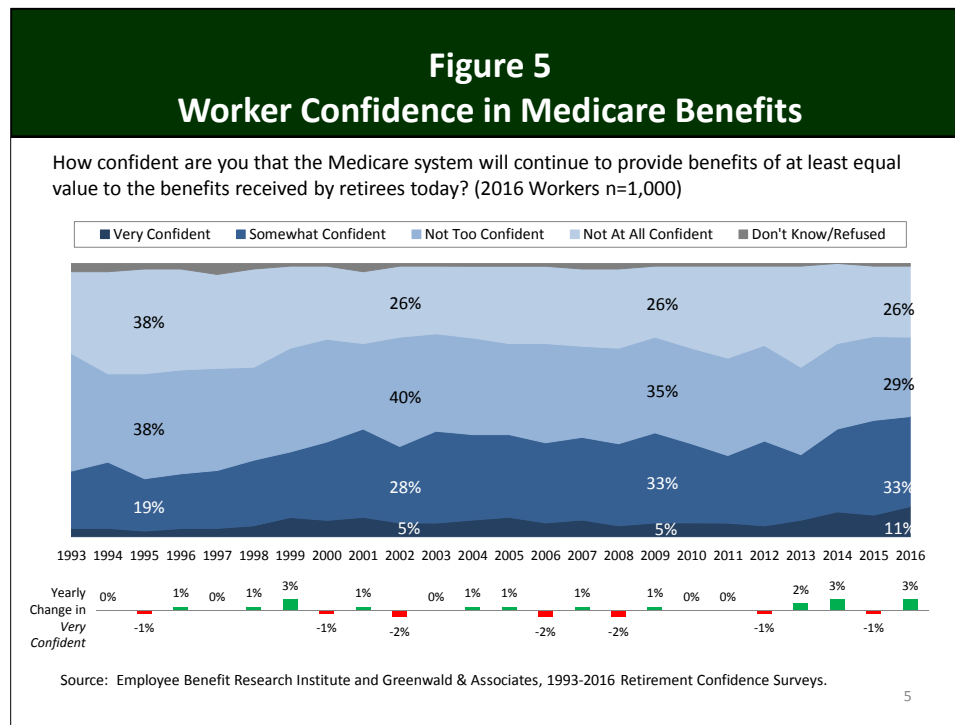
Today's *workers* are almost half as likely to *expect* Social Security to be a major source of income in retirement (35 percent) as today's *retirees* are to *report* that Social Security is currently a major source of income (62 percent) (Figure 3 and 4).





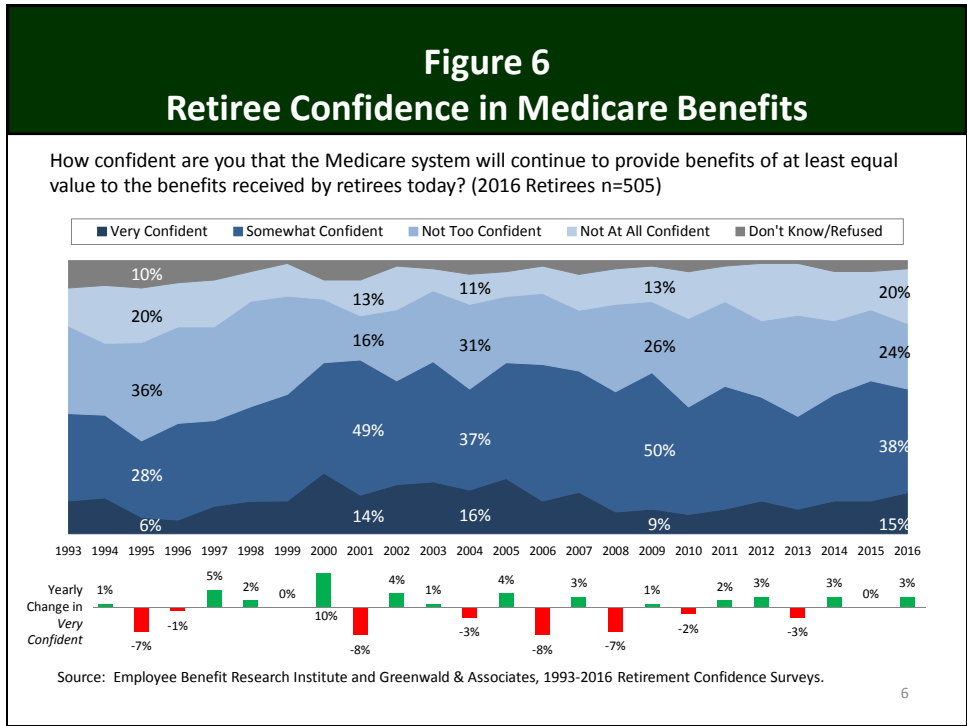
Workers are also less likely to expect Social Security will provide them with a source of income in retirement (84 percent) than retirees are to indicate they have Social Security income (91 percent).

### Confidence in Current Medicare Benefit Levels



Workers and retirees also have a low level of confidence in the continuation of current Medicare benefit levels. Eleven percent of workers are very confident that the Medicare system will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits received by retirees today, while 33 percent are somewhat confident. Most workers are pessimistic, as 55 percent are not confident in the future value of Medicare benefits (Figure 5).

Worker confidence about the future value of Medicare benefits is higher among those ages 55 and older, even slightly higher than confidence in Medicare benefits among current retirees. Just 15 percent of retirees are very confident in the value of the future benefits paid by Medicare, while 20 percent report they are not at all confident (Figure 6).



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