

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910957927703321
Titolo	Pensions in the U.S. economy // edited by Zvi Bodie, John B. Shoven, and David A. Wise
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 1988
ISBN	9786611430788 9781281430786 1281430781 9780226062914 0226062910
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (214 p.)
Collana	A National Bureau of Economic Research project report
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Disciplina	331.2520973
Soggetti	Pension trusts - United States Individual retirement accounts - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographies and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Relation of the Directors to the Work and Publications of the National Bureau of Economic Research -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. The Determinants of IRA Contributions and the Effect of Limit Changes -- 2. Annuity Prices and Saving Behavior in the United States -- 3. Pension Funding and Saving -- 4. Poverty among the Elderly: Where Are the Holes in the Safety Net? -- 5. Defined Benefit versus Defined Contribution Pension Plans: What are the Real Trade-offs? -- 6. Pensions and Turnover -- List of Contributors -- Author Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	Pensions in the U.S. Economy is the fourth in a series on pensions from the National Bureau of Economic Research. For both economists and policymakers, this volume makes a valuable contribution to current research on pensions and the economics of the elderly. The contributors report on retirement saving of individuals and the saving that results from corporate funding of pension plans, and they examine particular aspects of the plans themselves from the employee's point of

view. Steven F. Venti and David A. Wise offer a careful analysis of who contributes to IRAs and why. Benjamin M. Friedman and Mark Warshawsky look at the reasons more retirement saving is not used to purchase annuities. Personal saving through pension contribution is discussed by B. Douglas Bernheim and John B. Shoven in the context of recent government and corporate pension funding changes. Michael J. Boskin and John B. Shoven analyze indicators of the economic well-being of the elderly, addressing the problem of why a large fraction of the elderly remain poor despite a general improvement in the economic status of the group as a whole. The relative merits of defined contribution versus defined benefit plans, with emphasis on the risk aspects of the two types of plans for the individual, are examined by Zvi Bodie, Alan J. Marcus, and Robert C. Merton. In the final paper, pension plans and worker turnover are the focus of the discussion by Edward P. Lazear and Robert L. Moore, who propose pension option value rather than the commonly used accrued pension wealth as a measure of pension value.

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