



Overview of private pension system by type of financing vehicle and type of plan, and coverage of the OECD Global Pension Statistics data

United States

The inventory of metadata pertaining to pension statistics by country was identified as a prerequisite of the Global Pension Statistics' project. It is a precondition for being acquainted with each country funded pension system and for developing a good knowledge of the coverage of the OECD Global Pension Statistics (GPS) database, its completeness and limits.

The following table gives a detailed description of the coverage and the statistical data coverage of the various funded pension plans found in the United States. The information, based on metadata collected from national sources, has been collected from Pension Authorities, National Statistical Offices, Central Banks and/or Ministries of Finance. Information provided in this document refers to December 2011 or to the latest year available.

The first column of the table provides information about the data availability in the OECD Global Pension Statistics (GPS) database: “Y” means that the pension plan/fund category is included in the Global Pension Statistics database, unlike “N” meaning data for this plan/fund are not collected in the OECD exercise.

Under the column heading “Administrative national specifications”, information gathered from national sources can be found:

- Source: name of the organisation in charge of the data compilation and source from which the information was collected.
- Category: gives the categories and sub-categories of existing funded pension plans available at a national level.
- Description: describes the plans.

Under the last headings “Type of fund” and “Type of plan” is given the correspondence of each pension plan with the OECD classification by funding vehicle and by type. For a definition, see the “Private Pensions: OECD Classification and Glossary”, available at www.oecd.org/dataoecd/0/49/38356329.pdf.

More information on the OECD GPS project can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/pensions/gps>.

Further readings: "Pension Markets in Focus", available online at the following link: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/pensions/pensionmarkets>.

"Y" means data exist in GPS, unlike "N"	ADMINISTRATIVE NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS			OECD CLASSIFICATION		
	SOURCE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF FUND	TYPE OF PLAN	
Y	FRB, Flow of Funds Accounts, Treasury, Department of Labour	Private pension fund: defined benefit plans	Assets of defined benefit private pension plans, including those held at life insurance companies (e.g. GICs, variable annuities).	Pension fund	Occupational pension plan	Voluntary
Y		Private pension fund: defined contribution plans	401(K) type plans and assets of defined contribution private pension plans, including those held at life insurance companies (e.g. GICs, variable annuities).	Pension fund	Occupational pension plan	Voluntary
Y		Individual retirement accounts (IRAs)	All IRAs, including Keogh accounts at depositories and Roth IRAs	Bank / Inv. co. managed fund	Personal pension plan	Voluntary
Y		State and local government employee retirement funds	Defined benefit pension funds sponsored by states and municipalities.	Pension fund	Occupational pension plan	Voluntary
Y		Federal government retirement funds: defined benefit plans	National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, and non-marketable government securities held by the civil service retirement and disability fund, Railroad Retirement Board, judicial retirement fund, military retirement fund, and foreign service retirement and disability fund.	Pension fund	Occupational pension plan	Voluntary
Y		Federal government retirement funds: defined contribution plans	Federal Employees Thrift Savings Plan.	Pension fund	Occupational pension plan	Voluntary

"Y" means data exist in GPS, unlike "N"	ADMINISTRATIVE NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS			OECD CLASSIFICATION		
	SOURCE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF FUND	TYPE OF PLAN	
Y		Annuity reserves at life insurance companies	Excludes unallocated insurance company contracts which are included with private pension plans.	Pension insurance contract	Personal pension plan	Voluntary