

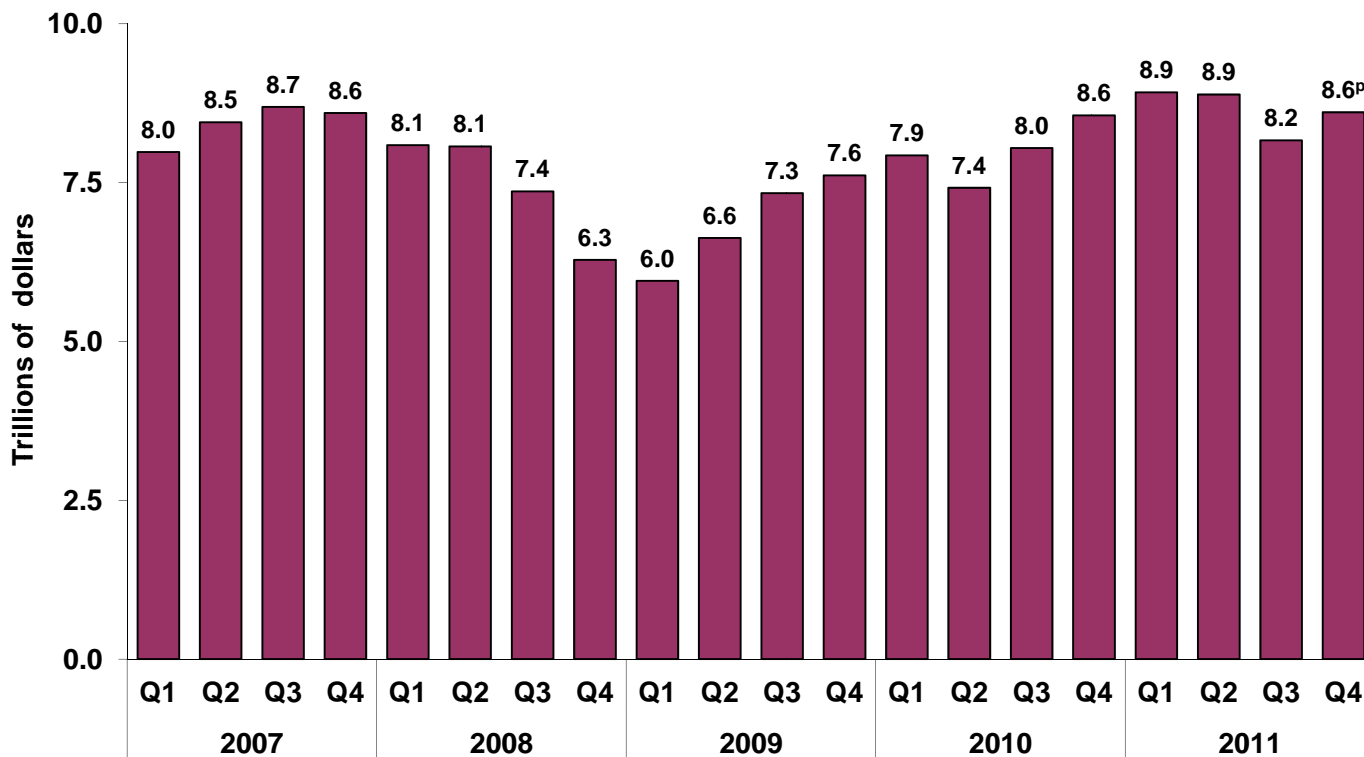


Retirement Account Balances

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Accumulations in Retirement Accounts, 2007 to 2011



Source: Authors' calculations using the 2011 Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States and the Russell 3000 Index.

Note: The chart shows balances at the end of each quarter in current year dollars. Numbers are revised as new or updated data are released.
p = preliminary

Key Points

- The 2008 stock market crash wiped out trillions of dollars in retirement accounts (defined contribution plans and IRAs). When the stock market eventually bottomed out in the first quarter of 2009, retirement accounts had lost about \$2.7 trillion (31 percent) of their peak 2007 value.
- Since then, retirement account balances have unevenly, yet gradually, rebounded.
- By the end of 2011, retirement account balances were \$8.6 trillion—their level at the end of 2010 and close to their peak 2007 value. Adjusted for inflation, however, they were still nine percent below the peak.

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