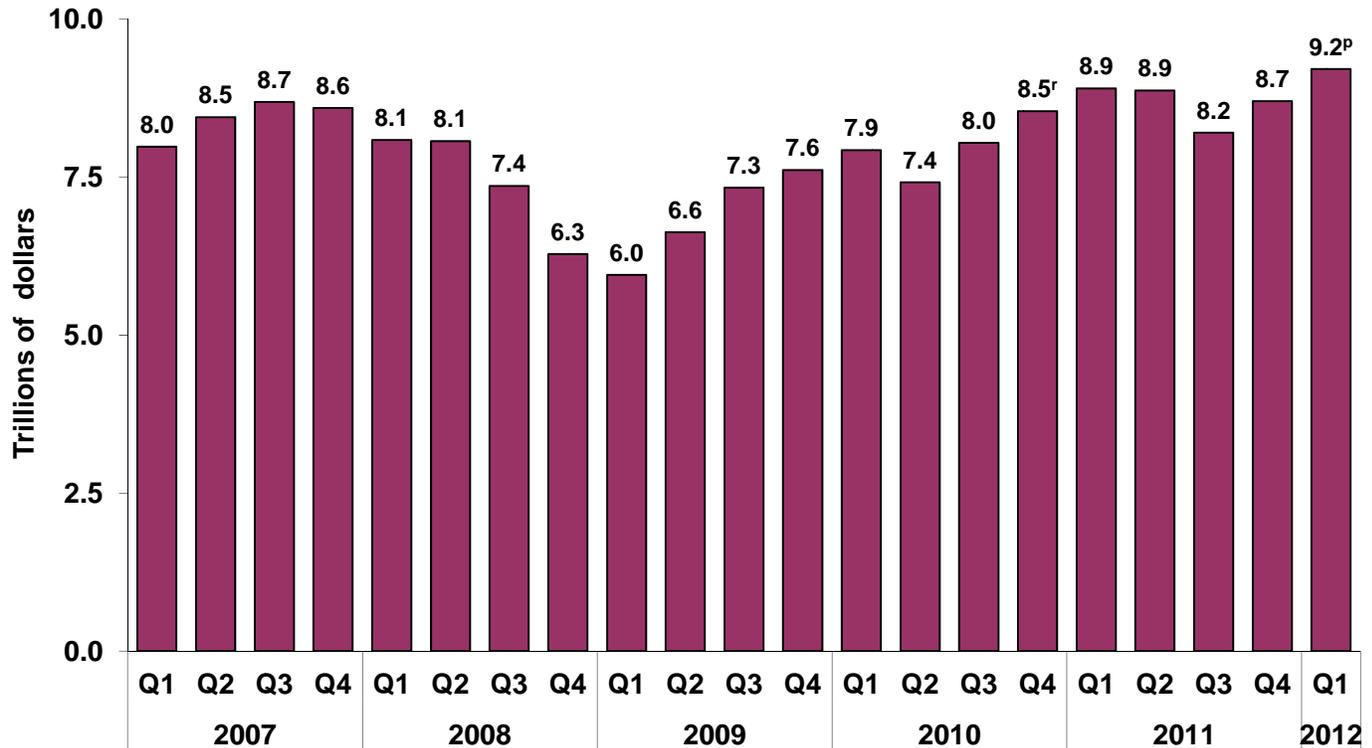


**Retirement Account Balances**

April 2012

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Accumulations in Retirement Accounts, 2007 to 2012

Source: Authors' calculations using the 2012 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; r = revised

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.
- With the stock market rallying for the last two consecutive quarters, retirement account balances are steadily increasing once again.
- At the end of the first quarter of 2012, retirement account balances reached \$9.2 trillion—their highest level ever. They are now just 3 percent below their peak when adjusted for inflation, but investors have lost four years of growth.

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