

Financial Health Pulse 2024 Survey

USC Center for Economic and Social Research's
Understanding America Study

*This survey focuses on you and **your household's** financial situation. "**Household**" includes you and others living with you who contribute financially to your home. As you answer these questions, please think about all of your household members' finances, taken as a whole. If you live alone, or do not consider anyone else to be a member of your household, please answer these questions as an individual. For all questions, please answer to the best of your ability, and if you are not sure about the answer to a question, your best guess will do.*

1. Household (Heading for internal use only)

First, we are going to ask some questions about your household.

QE003. Do you live with the following relatives?

| | | Yes | No |
|---|--|-----|----|
| a | Spouse, partner, or significant other | | |
| b | Adult children or step-children (over 18) who are NOT currently enrolled in school | | |
| e | Children or step-children (under 18) | | |
| c | Parent(s) or parent(s)-in-law | | |
| d | Other relatives (Please specify): | | |

[If live with parents or partners' parents in QE003c = 1)]

QD001. You indicated that you **live with a parent(s) or parent(s)-in-law**. Which of the following are reasons why you live with them?

| | | Yes | No |
|---|---------------------------|-----|----|
| a | To receive financial help | | |
| b | To help them financially | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| c | To receive help with childcare or medical care | | |
| d | To help them with childcare, medical care, or elder care | | |
| e | You prefer to live with others | | |
| f | Other (please specify): | | |

[If live with adult children who are not in school (QD003b = 1)]

QD002. You indicated that you **live with adult children or step-children**. Which of the following are reasons why you live with them?

| | | Yes | No |
|---|--|-----|----|
| a | To receive financial help | | |
| b | To help them financially | | |
| c | To receive help with childcare or medical care | | |
| d | To help them with childcare or medical care | | |
| e | You prefer to live with others | | |
| f | Other (please specify): | | |

QE105. Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] own the place where you live, either with or without a mortgage or loan?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[if QE105 is not "Yes"]

QE105A. Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] rent the place where you live?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QD004. What part, if any, do you play in making financial decisions for your household?

1. I make all the financial decisions myself
2. I make financial decisions with others in my household
3. Someone else in my household makes all the financial decisions [Terminate survey for those who select this item response]
4. Don't know

2. Life Events (Heading for internal use only)

The next few questions ask about events that may have happened to your household in the last 12 months. For these questions please think back to events that have occurred since [month] 2023.

Family Events (subheading for internal use only)

In the **last 12 months** (that is, since [month] 2023), have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following events?

- QE151. Divorce or separation
- QD152. Death of someone in the household
- QE153. Became the primary caregiver of a child under the age of 18 years old
- QE154. Became the primary caregiver of someone 18 years old or older

Response Options:

- Yes
- No

In the **last 12 months** (that is, since [month] 2023), have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following events?

- QD160. Purchased a home
- QD161. Began paying educational expenses for yourself or someone in your household
- QD163. Made an unexpected major repair to their house, appliance, or car
- QD164. Had an unexpected out-of-pocket medical expense
- QD165. Had fines, fees, or court expenses (*such as posting bail or paying a traffic ticket*) related to legal proceedings other than a divorce
- QA1. Moved to a new home, apartment, or residence

Response Options:

- Yes
- No

Shocks (subheading for internal use only)

In the **last 12 months** (that is, since [month] 2023), have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following events?

- QB161. Had a major change in health or physical ability that limits daily activities
- QE161. Had their identity stolen
- QE162. Was told to boil water for public health reasons
- QE163. Lost power, running water, or heat in your home for 6 hours or more
- QE164. Experienced a natural disaster or severe weather event (for example, a wildfire, hurricane, flood, extreme temperatures, or other natural event)

Response Options:

- Yes
- No

3. Spending and Expenses (Heading for internal use only)

*The next questions ask about your total household spending over the last 12 months. For each of these questions, please think about your personal spending, as well as how much other members of your household may have spent. **"Household" includes you and others living with you who contribute financially to your home.** As you answer these questions, please think about all of your household members' finances, taken as a whole. If you live alone, or do not consider anyone else to be a member of your household, please answer these questions as an individual.*

Q036. [Indicator 1] Which of the following statements best describes how your household's total spending compared to total income, over the **last 12 months**?

1. Spending was much less than income
2. Spending was a little less than income
3. Spending was about equal to income
4. Spending was a little more than income
5. Spending was much more than income

Q039. [Indicator 2] Which of the following statements best describes how your household has paid its bills over the **last 12 months**?

My household has been financially able to:

1. Pay all of our bills on time
2. Pay nearly all of our bills on time
3. Pay most of our bills on time
4. Pay some of our bills on time
5. Pay very few of our bills on time

QE003. In the **last 12 months**, have your household expenses changed?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[if QE003 = Yes]

QD003. In the **last 12 months**, how much have your household's expenses changed?

1. Expenses have increased a lot
2. Expenses have increased a little
3. Expenses have not changed
4. Expenses have decreased a little
5. Expenses have decreased a lot

QE040. Would an unexpected \$3,500 emergency expense impact your ability to pay your household's regular monthly bills?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

4. Savings and Assets (Heading for internal use only)

The next questions ask about your household's savings, retirement funds, and investments.

Q044. [Indicator 3] At your current level of spending, how long could you and your household afford to cover expenses, if you had to live only off the money you have readily available, without withdrawing money from retirement accounts or borrowing?

1. 6 months or more
2. 3-5 months
3. 1-2 months
4. 1-3 weeks
5. Less than 1 week

Q045. [Indicator 4] Thinking about your household's longer term financial goals such as saving for a vacation, starting a business, buying or paying off a home, saving up for education, putting money away for retirement, or making retirement funds last... How confident are you that your household is currently doing what is needed to meet your longer term goals?

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident
3. Somewhat confident
4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident

Next we will ask whether you or anyone in your household has any of the following financial assets or accounts. Include all accounts that **you** [if QE03a == yes or QE03b == yes or QE03c == yes or QE03d == yes, then pipe "**or other members of your household**"] have access to.

Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or does anyone in your household"] have any of the following financial assets or accounts?

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|-------|--|-----|----|------------|
| QD046 | Checking or savings account | | | |
| QE052 | Savings in cash not held in an account | | | |
| QD054 | Bonds or certificates of deposits (CDs) | | | |
| QD055 | Educational savings plans (such as 529 or Coverdell) | | | |

Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or does anyone in your household"] have any of the following financial assets or accounts?

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|--------|--|-----|----|------------|
| QE048 | Employer-provided retirement account, or pension (such as a 401k, 403(b) or Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)) | | | |
| QE049 | Individual retirement account not provided by an employer (such as a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, or other retirement fund) | | | |
| QE052a | Other non-retirement investment accounts that allow you to invest in the stock market (such as a traditional or online brokerage account, mutual fund, or annuity) | | | |
| QD056 | Cryptocurrencies or other digital assets | | | |
| QD053 | Other financial assets or accounts. Please do not include real estate or housing. (Please specify) | | | |

[if QE052a=yes]

QE057. You indicated that you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] had a **non-retirement** investment account. How long have you had this account? If you have more than one, please think about the account you've had the longest.

1. Less than one year
2. Between 1 and 3 years
3. Between 4 and 10 years
4. More than 10 years
5. Don't know

[if QD046 == yes]

QE51. How many **checking and savings accounts** do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "and other members of your household"] have?

1. 1 account
2. 2 accounts
3. 3 or more accounts
4. Don't know

[if QD046 == yes]

QE54. Please estimate the current value of all of your **checking and savings accounts**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$300
2. \$301 - \$2,000
3. \$2,001 - \$8,000
4. \$8,001 - \$25,000
5. \$25,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QE052 == yes]

QE59. Please estimate the current value of all of your **savings in cash not held in an account**. Just U.S. Financial Health Pulse 2024 Survey

your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$100
2. \$101 - \$400
3. \$401 - \$1,000
4. \$1,001 - 4,000
5. 4,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD054 == yes]

QE55. Please estimate the current value of all of your **bonds or certificates of deposits (CDs)**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$200
2. \$201 - \$1,500
3. \$1,501 - \$6,000
4. \$6,001 - \$25,000
5. \$25,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QE048 == yes]

QE56. Please estimate the current value of all of your **employer-provided retirement account, or pension (such as a 401k, 403(b) or Thrift Savings Plan (TSP))**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$2,000
2. \$2,001 - \$20,000
3. \$20,001 - \$60,000
4. \$60,001 - \$200,000
5. \$200,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QE049 == yes]

QE57. Please estimate the current value of all of your **individual retirement account not provided by an employer (such as a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, or other retirement fund)**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$3,000
2. \$3,001 - \$20,000
3. \$20,001 - \$60,000
4. \$60,001 - \$200,000
5. \$200,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QE052a == yes]

QE59a. Please estimate the current value of all of your **other non-retirement investment accounts that allow you to invest in the stock market (such as a traditional or online brokerage account, mutual fund, or annuity)**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$10,000
3. \$10,001 - \$50,000
4. \$50,001 - \$200,000
5. \$200,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD056 == yes]

QE58. Please estimate the current value of all of your **cryptocurrencies or other digital assets**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$1000
2. \$1,001 - \$10,000
3. \$10,001 - \$50,000
4. \$50,001 - \$100,000
5. \$100,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD055 == yes]

QE52. Please estimate the current value of all of your **educational savings plans (such as 529/Coverdell)**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$10,000
3. \$10,001 - \$50,000
4. \$50,001 - \$200,000
5. \$200,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD053 == yes]

QE60. Please estimate the current value of all of your **other financial assets or accounts. Please do not include real estate or housing**. Just your best guess will do.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$10,000
3. \$10,001 - \$50,000
4. \$50,001 - \$200,000
5. \$200,001 or more
6. Don't know

Please indicate if [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] has saved in any of your financial assets or accounts in the **last 12 months**. If so, did you save regularly (for example, monthly or from each paycheck) or irregularly (adding savings whenever you could), or not at all?

Please remember to include automatic savings, contributions that were taken out of your paycheck by your employer, and automatic transfers to investment accounts.

| | | Saving regularly | Saving whenever possible | Did not save |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| [if QD046 == yes] QE061 | Checking account or savings account | | | |
| [if QE052 == yes] Q067 | Savings in cash not held in an account | | | |
| [if QD054 == yes] Q066 | Bonds or certificates of deposits (CDs) | | | |
| [if QE048 == yes] Q063 | Employer-provided retirement account, or pension (such as a 401k, | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | 403(b) or Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)) | | | |
| [if QE049 == yes] Q064 | Individual retirement account not provided by an employer (such as a Roth IRA, Keogh, SEP, or any other retirement fund) | | | |
| [if QE052a == yes] Q067a | Other non-retirement investment accounts that allow you to invest in the stock market (such as a traditional or online brokerage account, mutual fund, or annuity) | | | |
| [if QD056 == yes] QE056 | Cryptocurrencies or other digital assets | | | |
| [if QD055 == yes] QE055 | Educational savings plans (such as 529/Coverdell) | | | |
| [if QD053 == yes] Q068 | Other financial assets or accounts. Please do not include real estate or housing. | | | |

5. Borrowing and Debts (Heading for internal use only)

The next questions ask about your household's credit and debts.

QC180. In the **last 12 months**, have you checked your credit score?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q004. [Indicator 6] How would you rate your credit score? Your credit score is a number that tells lenders how risky or safe you are as a borrower.

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
6. Don't know

[If Q004 = 6 (Don't know) or Q004 = .e (skipped)]

QE004. Do you have a credit score?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[If Q004 = 6 & QE004 = 1 (R says they have a credit score)]

QE005. You indicated you weren't sure how you would rate your own credit score. Which of the following best describes your situation?

1. I don't know my credit score
2. I know my credit score, but I don't know if it's good or bad
3. Some other reason (please specify)

[If R rated their credit score (Q004 = 1:5), or has a credit score (QE004 = 1), or has checked their score in the last year (QC180 = 1)]

QE006. Where was the last place you checked or saw your credit score?

1. My bank account or credit card's website
2. A credit bureau website (Experian, TransUnion, or Equifax)
3. A personal finance website or app (such as Credit Karma or Nerd Wallet)
4. Someone checked it for me
5. Some other place (please specify)
6. Don't know

QE007. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

"I generally know what makes someone's credit score go up or down."

1. Agree strongly

2. Agree somewhat
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree somewhat
5. Disagree strongly

QE008. Which of the following statements most closely matches your situation? "My credit score is..."

1. Entirely within my control
2. Mostly within my control
3. Partly within my control and partly outside my control
4. Mostly outside my control
5. Entirely outside my control

Q077. [Indicator 5] Now thinking about all of your household's current debts, including mortgages, bank loans, student loans, money owed to people, medical debt, past-due bills, and credit card balances that are carried over from prior months ...

As of today, which of the following statements describes how manageable your household debt is?

1. Have a manageable amount of debt
2. Have a bit more debt than is manageable
3. Have far more debt than is manageable
4. Do not have any debt

Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, pipe "or someone in your household"] have one or more of the following types of credit cards?

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|-------|---|-----|----|------------|
| QD076 | A general purpose credit card that has a Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover logo and can be used at multiple merchants, not just a single store. These cards will always have a credit card company logo. | | | |
| QD077 | A store credit card is a card <u>without</u> a Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover logo that can only be used at the store that issues them (for example, JCPenney or Target) or a related set of stores. | | | |

[If R's household has general purpose [QD076] or store credit card [QD077]]

QE76. How many **general purpose and store credit cards** do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "and other members of your household"] have all together?

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3 or more
4. Don't know

[If R's household has general purpose [QD076] or store credit card [QD077]]

QE189. In the **last 12 months**, how often did you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] carry a balance on one [if QE0000 on number of credit cards = 2 or 3 or more, then pipe "or more"] of your credit cards and pay interest on that balance?

1. Every month
2. Most months
3. Some months
4. Never - the balance is paid off every month

Do you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] currently have any of the following types of debt?

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|-------|---|-----|----|------------|
| QD078 | Auto loans | | | |
| QD079 | Student loans | | | |
| QD080 | Small business loans | | | |
| QD081 | Mortgages | | | |
| QD175 | Home equity line of credit with a balance | | | |
| QD082 | Past-due medical bills | | | |
| QD083 | Outstanding credit card balances carried over from previous months | | | |
| QD083 | Loan from a retirement plan [if QE048 QE049 = yes] | | | |
| QE094 | Personal loans | | | |
| QD084 | Other debts or loans not listed (such as payday loans, auto title loans, other past due bills, and money borrowed from family or friends) | | | |

[If QD083 = Yes]

QE083. You mentioned you have [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or someone in your household has"] an outstanding balance on one or more credit cards. Over the **last 12 months**, how has the total outstanding balance on those cards changed?

1. Increased a lot
2. Increased a little

3. No change
4. Decreased a little
5. Decreased a lot

[if QD078 = yes]

QE086. How much does your household currently owe in **auto loans**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all auto loans.

1. \$0 - \$5,000
2. \$5,001 - \$10,000
3. \$10,001 - \$15,000
4. \$15,001 - \$30,000
5. \$30,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD079 = yes]

QE087. How much does your household currently owe in **student loans**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all student loans.

1. \$0 - \$5000
2. \$5,001 - \$15,000
3. \$15,001 - \$30,000
4. \$30,001 - \$75,000
5. \$75,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD080 = yes]

QE088. How much does your household currently owe in **small business loans**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all small business loans.

1. \$0 - \$2,000
2. \$2,001 - \$15,000
3. \$15,001 - \$30,000
4. \$30,001 - \$120,000
5. \$120,000 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD081 = yes]

QE089. How much does your household currently owe on your **mortgage(s)**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all mortgages.

1. \$0 - \$50,000
2. \$50,001 - \$100,000
3. \$100,001 - \$150,000
4. \$150,001 - \$300,000
5. \$300,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD175 = yes]

QE177. How much does your household currently owe in **home equity line(s) of credit**? Please



provide the total amount currently owed across all home equity lines of credit.

1. \$0 - \$3,000
2. \$3,001 - \$15,000
3. \$15,001 - \$30,000
4. \$30,001 - \$60,000
5. \$60,000 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD082 = yes]

QE090. How much does your household currently owe in **past-due medical bills**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all past-due medical bills.

1. \$0 - \$500
2. \$501 - \$1,000
3. \$1,001 - \$3,000
4. \$3,001 - \$7,000
5. \$7,000 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD083 = yes]

QE091. How much does your household currently owe in **outstanding credit card balances** carried over from previous months? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all outstanding credit card balances carried over from previous months.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$3,000
3. \$3,001 - \$6,000
4. \$6,001 - \$12,000
5. \$12,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD83 = yes]

QE093. How much does your household currently owe in **loans from a retirement plan**? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all loans from a retirement plan.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$4,000
3. \$4,001 - \$8,000
4. \$8,001 - \$15,000
5. \$15,001 or more
6. Don't know

[if QD084 = yes]

QE093. How much does your household currently owe in **other types of debt or loans not listed** (such as payday loans, auto title loans, personal loans, other past due bills, and money borrowed from family or friends)? Please provide the total amount currently owed across all other types of debt.

1. \$0 - \$1,000
2. \$1,001 - \$3,000



3. \$3,001 - \$7,000
4. \$7,001 - \$15,000
5. \$15,001 or more
6. Don't know

6. Alternative Financial Services (Heading for internal use only)

*The next set of questions will ask about activities that you or someone in your household did at some place other than a bank or a credit union **since [month] 2023**.*

In the **last 12 months**, did you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] do any of the following activities at **some place other than a bank or credit union**? [Randomize question order.]

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|-------|--|-----|----|------------|
| QD070 | Purchased a money order or cashier's check at a location that was not a bank or credit union | | | |
| Q071 | Cashed a check using a check-cashing service at a location that was not a bank or credit union | | | |
| Q072 | Sent money to friends or family living outside the US at a location that was not a bank or credit union | | | |
| Q073 | Took out a payday loan or received a payday advance loan | | | |
| Q074 | Used a pawn shop loan | | | |
| Q075 | Used rent-to-own services | | | |
| Q076 | Took out a tax refund anticipation loan | | | |
| QE076 | Took out an auto title loan, which is a loan that requires a borrower to provide the title of their car in exchange for borrowing money for a short period of time | | | |

7. Insurance (Heading for internal use only)

The next few questions ask about the different types of insurance that you and your household might have.

Q106. Do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or does anyone in your household"] have car insurance on all your automobiles?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know
4. Not applicable (we don't own a car)

[ask if housing type (QE105) = "Yes" (1)]

Q107. Is your household currently covered by homeowner's insurance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

[ask if housing type (QE105A) = "Yes" (1)]

Q108. Is your household currently covered by renter's insurance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

Q109. Do you currently have life insurance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

QD111. Do you currently have health insurance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

[if QD111 = 1]

QD134. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage?

1. A plan through your or your partner's employer
2. A plan through your parent or guardian
3. Medicare
4. Medicaid
5. Through an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace that you purchased yourself (including Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans)
6. TRICARE or other military health benefits
7. Other (Please Specify)
8. Don't know

Q112. [Indicator 7] Thinking about all of the types of personal and household insurance you and others in your household have, how confident are you that those insurance policies will provide enough support in case of an emergency?

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident
3. Somewhat confident
4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident

[if Q107 = 1]

QE107. In the **last 12 months**, did you experience any changes to your homeowner's insurance policy?

1. Yes
2. No

[if question above is Yes]

QE108a/b/c. In the **last 12 months**, did you experience any of the following related to your homeowner's insurance policy?

1. Temporary loss of coverage
2. Reduction in coverage
3. Increase in the cost of coverage

Response Options:

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

[if Q109 = 1]

QE109. Which of the following is a source of life insurance coverage? Please select all that apply.

1. A plan through your [if QD003a == yes, then pipe "or your partner's"] employer
2. A plan through a union or other professional association
3. A plan purchased through an insurer or insurance provider
4. Other, please specify:
5. Don't know

[if Q106 = Yes]

QE106a/b. Does your auto insurance include the following types of coverage?

1. Collision insurance, which helps pay for damage to your car from colliding with another car or with an object like a pothole or a tree
2. Comprehensive insurance, which helps to cover the value of a stolen car or the cost of damages from anything other than a car accident, such as a hitting an animal or from storms, earthquakes, or floods

Response Options:

- Yes
- No



- Don't know

QE110. Do you have natural disaster insurance (such as flood insurance, earthquake insurance, or other types of insurance meant to protect against damages from a natural disaster)?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

8. Financial Planning (Heading for internal use only)

The next question asks about the extent to which your household plans ahead financially, that is, to cover upcoming expenses, or to save up for long-term goals or to cover emergencies.

Q113. [Indicator 8] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My household plans ahead financially."

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree somewhat
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree somewhat
5. Disagree strongly

QE111. Do you have a will?

1. Yes
2. No

QD113. In planning your household's saving and spending, which of the following time periods is most important?

1. Next few months
2. Next year
3. Next few years
4. Next 5 to 10 years
5. Longer than 10 years

QD114. Which of the following are your most important financial goals right now? Please select up to three. [Randomize response order other than item responses 12/13]

1. Saving for my own education or the education of someone in my household
2. Paying off student debt for myself or another person in my household
3. Purchasing a house
4. Paying off a mortgage on a house
5. Paying off other debt (credit card, car loan, etc.)
6. Saving for other large purchase (car, appliances, furnishings, wedding, or vacation)
7. Starting or growing a business
8. Saving for an emergency
9. Saving for retirement
10. Building or safeguarding an inheritance to pass on to my loved ones
11. Just getting by - covering basic living expenses
12. Other (please specify):
13. None of the above

9. Wealth (Heading for internal use only)

The next set of questions will ask you to consider all of your major assets and investments together with your debts.

QE010. Suppose you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, the pipe "and your household"] were to sell all of your major possessions (your car, your home, etc.), turn all of your major investments and other assets into cash (including any financial assets such as your retirement accounts, savings and checking accounts, etc.) and pay all of your debts (including your mortgage, any other loans, medical debt, and credit cards). Would your household have money left over or be in debt?

1. Have money left over
2. About break even
3. Be in debt
4. Don't know

[If have money left over, QE010 = 1]

QD011. You mentioned that you'd have money left over – how much would you have?

1. \$1 to \$5,000
2. \$5,001 to \$10,000
3. \$10,001 to \$25,000
4. \$25,001 to \$50,000
5. \$50,001 to \$75,000
6. \$75,001 to \$100,000
7. \$100,001 to \$150,000
8. \$150,001 to \$250,000
9. \$250,001 to \$500,000
10. More than \$500,000
11. Don't know

[If be in debt, QE010 = 3]

QD012. You mentioned that you'd be in debt – how much debt would you have?

1. \$1 to \$2,500
2. \$2,501 to \$5,000
3. \$5,001 to \$10,000
4. \$10,001 to \$25,000
5. \$25,001 to \$50,000
6. More than \$50,000
7. Don't know

10. Health (Heading for internal use only)

The next two questions will ask about your health.

QC002. Would you say **your health** in general is...

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor

QD202. Would you say **your mental well-being** in general is...

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor

11. Financial Hardships (Heading for internal use only)

For each of the next questions, please indicate whether or not the statements were true for your household's financial situation in the **last 12 months**.

QD019. In the **last 12 months**, have you ever worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QE020. In the **last 12 months**, have you ever skipped paying your rent or mortgage or paid late because you could not afford it?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QE023. In the **last 12 months**, have you ever skipped paying a utility bill or paid it late because you did not have enough money?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QD021. In the **last 12 months**, have you or someone in your household ever had to go without healthcare because you couldn't afford it?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QD022. In the **last 12 months**, have you or someone in your household ever stopped taking a medication or taken less than directed due to the costs?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

QE024. In the **last 12 months**, have you or someone in your household ever had to go without dental care because you couldn't afford it?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12. Financial Stress (Heading for internal use only)

Q013. How much stress, if any, do your finances cause you?

1. High stress
2. Moderate stress
3. Some stress
4. No stress

13. Income and Benefits (Heading for internal use only)

The next set of questions will ask about your household income and whether you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] received government benefits since [month] 2023.

In the **last 12 months**, did you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] receive any of the following government benefits?

| | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|-------|--|-----|----|------------|
| QD027 | Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | | | |
| QD029 | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | | | |
| QD028 | Programs that provide support based on a disability status or health condition (such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)) | | | |
| QD030 | Women, Infants and Children (WIC) | | | |
| QD032 | Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps) | | | |
| QD031 | Section 8 or other housing programs | | | |
| QE031 | Unemployment insurance benefits | | | |
| QD035 | Other government benefits not listed here (Please specify) | | | |

QD034. In the **most recent tax year (2023)**, did you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] receive any federal tax credits for working or supporting children, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Child Tax Credit (CTC)?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[If age >=62]

QD036. Are you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] receiving income from social security?

1. Yes
2. No

3. Don't know

Q025. In the **last 12 months**, which of the following statements best describes how frequently your household's income varied from month to month, if at all? My household's income:

1. Was roughly the same each month
2. Occasionally varied from month to month
3. Varied quite often from month to month

QE032. Which one of the following best describes the income in your household in the **last 12 months**? *Please include retirement income when answering.*

1. I have been the **only contributor** to the income in my household.
2. Somebody else has been the **only contributor** to the income in my household.
3. There has been **more than one contributor** to the income in my household.
4. No household income in the last 12 months.
5. Don't know.

14. Employment and Gig Economy (Heading for internal use only)

The following questions ask about your employment.

QD120. Which of the following best describes your **current** employment status?

1. Working for pay
2. Not working for pay at all but looking for paid work
3. Not working for pay and NOT looking for paid work (e.g., retired, disabled, student, homemaker)

[ask if QD120=1]

QD122. Do you **currently** have more than one job?

1. Yes
2. No

[ask if QD122 = No]

QE121. Which of the following best describes your current job?

1. I am an employee (I receive a W-2 at tax time)
2. I am an independent contractor, 'gig' worker, freelancer, consultant, work odds jobs or have a side hustle (I receive a 1099 at tax time)
3. I work for a business that I own

[if QE121 = 2]

QE122. How much do you agree with the following statement: I would quit my current job if I were offered a similar paying job where I was a permanent employee.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree

[if QE121 = 1 or QE121 = 2]

QE123. Is your job considered 'full-time'? Full-time means you routinely work at least 35 hours every week at that one job.

1. Yes, I routinely work at least 35 hours or more each week at my job
2. No, I work fewer than 35 hours a week at my job

[if QD120 = 1 & QD122 = 2]

QE125a. Thinking about the company or organization where you work, how many employees **other than yourself** work for the business? Please consider all employees who may work remotely or in different office locations from yourself.

1. No one else
2. 1 to 9 employees
3. 10 to 24 employees
4. 25 to 99 employees

5. 100 to 499 employees
6. 500 to 999 employees
7. 1000 or more employees
8. Don't know

[ask if QD122 = Yes]

QE126. How many jobs do you currently have?125b
[drop down of '2' through '6 or more']

[ask if QD122 = Yes]

QE127. Which of the following best describes your current **PRIMARY** job? Your primary job is the one where you work the most hours.

1. I am an employee (I receive a W-2 at tax time)
2. I am an independent contractor, 'gig' worker, freelancer, consultant, work odds jobs or have a side hustle (I receive a 1099 at tax time)
3. I work for a business that I own

[if primary job is NOT working for a business I own qe127 != 3]

QE128. Is your **PRIMARY** job considered 'full-time'? Full-time means you routinely work at least 35 hours every week at that one job.

1. Yes, I routinely work at least 35 hours or more each week at my job
2. No, I work fewer than 35 hours a week at my job

[ask if QD120=1]

QE125b. Thinking about the company or organization where you work at your **PRIMARY** job, how many employees **other than yourself** work for the business? Please consider all employees who may work remotely or in different office locations from yourself.

1. No one else
2. 1 to 9 employees
3. 10 to 24 employees
4. 25 to 99 employees
5. 100 to 499 employees
6. 500 to 999 employees
7. 1000 or more employees
8. Don't know

[ask if QD122 = Yes]

QE129. Which of the following best describes your current **SECONDARY** job? [if number of jobs > 2, then "Your secondary job is the one where you work the next most hours, after your primary job."]

1. I am an employee (I receive a W-2 at tax time)
2. I am an independent contractor, 'gig' worker, freelancer, consultant, work odds jobs or have a side hustle (I receive a 1099 at tax time)
3. I work for a business that I own

[if secondary job is NOT working for a business I own QE129 != 3]

QE130. Is your **SECONDARY** job considered 'full-time'? Full-time means you routinely work at least 35 hours every week at that one job.

1. Yes, I routinely work at least 35 hours or more each week at my job

2. No, I work fewer than 35 hours a week at my job

[ask if QD122 = YES]

QE125c. Thinking about the company or organization where you work at your **SECONDARY** job, how many employees **other than yourself** work for the business? Please consider all employees who may work remotely or in different office locations from yourself.

1. No one else
2. 1 to 4 employees
3. 5 to 19 employees
4. 20 to 49 employees
5. 50 to 99 employees
6. 100 to 499 employees
7. 500 or more employees
8. Don't know

[if didn't select business that I own in any job above]

QE132. In addition to the [if QD122 = 2, then pipe "job" if QD122 = 1, then pipe "jobs"] you listed above, do you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "or someone in your household"] own a business?

1. Yes
2. No

[if selected own business anywhere above]

QE133. What percentage of your household's total income comes from the business(es) that [if QD003a == no and QD003b == no and QD003c == no and QD003d == no, then pipe "you own?" [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003d == yes, then pipe "you or someone in your household owns?"]]

1. Less than 25%
2. Between 26% and 50%
3. Between 51% and 75%
4. More than 75%
5. Don't know

[ask if selected own a business anywhere above]

QE126. How frequently do you mix your personal finances with business finances? For example, how frequently do you do things like use your personal credit to purchase things for the business, or use business funds to pay for something personal?

1. All the time
2. Very often
3. Sometimes
4. Rarely
5. Never
6. Don't know

[ask if QD120 = 1]

QE123. Which of the following benefits do you have access to through [if QD122=2 "your employer"] [if QD122=1 "any of your employers"] (even if you do not personally use the benefit)? Please select all that apply. [Randomize item response order other than 13/14]

1. Paid sick leave or vacation/personal leave

2. Paid parental leave
3. Student loan repayment
4. Health insurance
5. Disability insurance
6. Life insurance
7. Retirement plans (such as a 401k, 403(b), or Thrift Savings Plan (TSP))
8. Pension or cash balance plan
9. Subsidies to pay for childcare
10. Ability to work from home
11. Access to earned wages in advance of payday (*Employers typically partner with a provider like One, Payactiv, Dailypay, Branch, or Instant Financial to offer such a service*)
12. Access to an emergency savings account or employer contributions toward emergency savings
13. Other (please specify)
14. None of these

[ask if QD120 = 1 & an employee or gig worker at any one of the jobs above]

QE134. Through [if QD122=2 "your employer"] [if QD122=1 "any of your employers"], do you have access to a type of benefit plan that lets employees own a part of the business, sometimes called an Employee Shared Ownership Plan (ESOP)?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[ask if QD120 = 1 & an employee or gig worker at any one of the jobs above]

QE135. Through [if QD122=2 " your employer"] [if QD122=1 "any of your employers"], are you a member of a worker cooperative, meaning that you own a portion of the company you work for and could participate in decision making about the company?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[ask if QD120 = 1 & an employee or gig worker at any one of the jobs above]

QE127. Are you a member of a labor union or of an employee association similar to a union?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

15. Student Loans (Heading for internal use only)

[if R has student loan in household (QD079 = 1)]

QD215. You indicated that someone in your household has student loans. Do you personally have a student loan?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[If R personally has student loan QD215 = 1]

QC210. There are two types of loans we are interested in:

Federal student loans are issued or guaranteed by the federal government. They can be subsidized or unsubsidized and never require a co-signer.

Private student loans are borrowed from a private lender, such as a bank, institution, credit union, or state, and usually require a co-signer.

Do you currently have a **federal student loan**, a **private student loan**, or both?

1. Federal student loan only
2. Private student loan only
3. Both federal and private student loans
4. Don't know

[If R personally has student loan QD215 = 1]

QE210. How easy or difficult has it been for you to afford your monthly student loan payments [if R has federal student loan (QC210 = 1,3), then pipe in "since federal payments restarted on October 1, 2023?"] since October 2023?

1. Very difficult
2. Somewhat difficult
3. Neither difficult nor easy
4. Somewhat easy
5. Very easy

[If R personally has student loan QD215 = 1]

QD216. Is your student loan on an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan?

With IDR plans your monthly payment is determined based on your annual income. They include the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan (formerly known as Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE)), Pay as You Earn (PAYE), Income-Based Repayment (IBR), and Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR).

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

[If R has student loan and is not on IDR or doesn't know (QD215 = 1 & QD216 = 2,3)]

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QE211. Have you tried switching your payment plan to the SAVE plan? (The Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan is the newest income-driven repayment (IDR) plan. Like other IDR plans, the SAVE Plan calculates your monthly payment amount based on your income and family size.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

16. Miscellaneous (Heading for internal use only)

The next questions ask you to read a statement and tell us how well that statement describes your situation.

SHED General Wellbeing Question (subheading for internal use only)

QB01. Overall, which one of the following best describes how well you are managing financially these days?

1. Finding it difficult to get by
2. Just getting by
3. Doing okay
4. Living comfortably

Consumer Confidence Index (subheading for internal use only)

QE190. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that in comparison to **a year ago**, your household is financially...?

1. A lot better off now
2. Slightly better off now
3. About the same now
4. Slightly worse off now
5. A lot worse off now
6. Don't know

QE191. Now looking ahead, do you think that **a year from now** your household will be financially...?

1. A lot better off now
2. Slightly better off now
3. About the same now
4. Slightly worse off now
5. A lot worse off now
6. Don't know

QD094. About the big things people buy for their homes such as furniture, a refrigerator, a stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking do you think...?

1. Now is a good time to buy major household items
2. Now is neither a good nor a bad time for people to buy major household items
3. Now is a bad time for people to buy major household items
4. Don't know

Experience with Natural Disasters (subheading for internal use only)

In this next section, we will ask questions about your experience with natural disasters.

QE301. Thinking about the area you live in, how likely would it be for a natural disaster to impact you in the **next 12 months**?

1. Very likely
2. Likely
3. Unlikely
4. Don't know

QE302. Have you [if QD003a == yes or QD003b == yes or QD003c == yes or QD003 == yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] considered moving to get away from natural disasters or severe weather events (for example, a wildfire, hurricane, flood, extreme temperatures, or other natural event)?

1. Yes
2. No

Financial Experiences (subheading for internal use only)

In this next section, we will ask questions about your personal financial experiences.

QD220. In general, how much do you personally trust financial institutions such as banks or credit unions?

1. Completely trust
2. Mostly trust
3. Somewhat trust
4. Trust very little
5. Trust not at all

QD221. If you needed it, how much financial help could you expect from **your family**?

1. All the help I need
2. Most of the help I need
3. Very little of the help I need
4. No help at all

QD222. If you needed it, how much financial help could you expect from **your friends**?

1. All the help I need
2. Most of the help I need
3. Very little of the help I need
4. No help at all

QD223. Have you already filed taxes for 2023?

1. Yes
2. No

3. Don't know

[If filed 2023 taxes (QD223 = 1)]

QD224. After filing your 2023 taxes, did you or do you expect to...?

1. Receive a refund
2. Have to pay
3. Neither receive a refund nor have to pay
4. Don't know

Q043. Suppose now that you have an emergency expense that costs \$400. Based on your current financial situation, how would you pay for this expense? If you would use more than one method, please select all that apply.

1. Put it on my credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement
2. Put it on my credit card and pay it off over time
3. With the money currently in my checking/savings account or with cash
4. Using money from a bank loan or line of credit
5. By borrowing from a friend or family member
6. Using a payday loan, deposit advance, or overdraft
7. By selling something
8. I wouldn't be able to pay for the expense right now
9. Other (please specify)

Q003. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current financial situation?

1. Extremely satisfied
2. Very satisfied
3. Somewhat satisfied
4. Not very satisfied
5. Not at all satisfied

The next questions ask about where you get information about personal finances.

QE401. Which of the following have you used in the **last 12 months** to get information about personal finances? Please select all that apply.

[randomize options except for None of the above and Other]

1. Social media (Reddit, Facebook, X)
2. General chatbots (ChatGPT, Bard)
3. Financial professionals (advisor, planner)
4. Personal finance websites (Credit Karma, Nerd Wallet)
5. My bank or other financial institution
6. A money management app not affiliated with a bank (Bettermint, Wally)
7. Automated investing or roboadvisor apps (SoFi, Wealthfront, Vanguard Go)
8. Other (please specify)
9. None of these

[if General Chatbot not selected in question above]

QE402. You indicated that you have not used general chatbots (like ChatGPT or Bard) to get

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information about personal finances in the **last 12 months**. Which of the following are reasons you do not get information from chatbots? Please select all that apply. *[randomize response options except for Other and None of the above]*

1. I have never heard of it
2. I don't have access to it
3. I don't trust the information
4. I don't know how to use it
5. I don't find the information useful
6. I didn't know chatbots could provide this information
7. Some other reason (please specify)
8. None of these

[if Automated investing or roboadvisor not selected in question above]

QE403. You indicated that you have not used automated investing or roboadvisor apps (like SoFi, Wealthfront, Vanguard Go) to get information about personal finances in the **last 12 months**. Which of the following are reasons you do not get information from these apps? Please select all that apply. *[randomize response options except for Other and None of the above]*

1. I have never heard of it
2. I don't have access to it
3. I don't trust the information
4. I don't know how to use it
5. I don't find the information useful
6. Some other reason (please specify)
7. None of these

QE404. Whether you use them or not, how much do you trust or distrust the following sources for information on personal finances?

[randomly select three from the following list to present in a grid]

[Response options: Trust completely; Trust somewhat; Neither trust nor distrust; Distrust somewhat; Distrust completely]

1. Social media (Reddit, Facebook, X)
2. General chatbots (ChatGPT, Bard)
3. Financial professionals (advisor, planner)
4. Personal finance websites (Credit Karma, Nerd Wallet)
5. My bank or other financial institution
6. A money management app not affiliated with a bank (Bettermint, Wally)
7. Automated investing or roboadvisor apps (SoFi, Wealthfront, Vanguard Go)

17. Demographics (Heading for internal use only)

The next six questions ask more specifically about physical, mental, or emotional conditions that can cause serious difficulty with daily activities. You may have answered the following questions before recently, but we want to make sure we have the most up-to-date information.

QD138. Are you or anyone in your household deaf or does anyone have serious difficulty hearing?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD138 = yes (1)]

QD138a. Who in your household is deaf or has serious difficulty hearing? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

QD139. Are you or anyone in your household blind or does anyone have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD139 = yes (1)]

QD139a. Who in your household is blind or has serious difficulty seeing? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

QD140. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you or anyone in your household have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD140 = yes (1)]

QD140a. Who in your household has serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

QD141. Do you or anyone in your household have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD141 = yes (1)]

QD141a. Who in your household has serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

QD142. Do you or anyone in your household have difficulty dressing or bathing?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD142 = yes (1)]

QD142a. Who in your household has serious difficulty dressing or bathing? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

QD143. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you or anyone in your household have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

1. Yes
2. No

[if QD143 = yes (1)]

QD143a. Who in your household has serious difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? Please select all that apply.

1. Myself
2. Another adult in my household age 18-65
3. Another adult in my household over the age of 65
4. A child under 18

The next few questions are about you.

QB12. What is your race or ethnicity? Mark all that apply. Note, you may report more than one race or ethnicity.

1. White
2. Hispanic, Latino, Spanish, or Latinx



3. Black or African American
4. Asian or Asian American
5. American Indian or Alaska Native
6. Middle Eastern or North African
7. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
8. Some other race or ethnicity (please specify):

QB10. How do you define your gender identity?

1. Man
2. Woman
3. Non-binary, gender non-conforming, or genderqueer
4. Other (please specify)

QE501. Are you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] a U.S. veteran?

1. Yes
2. No

QE502. Are you [if QD003a = yes or QD003b = yes or QD003c = yes or QD003d = yes, then pipe "or anyone in your household"] currently an active duty member of the armed services or a member of the national guard or reserves?

1. Yes
2. No

