



Supplemental Appendixes to the Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2018

May 2019



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Overview

This document contains supplemental information to the *Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2018*, which summarizes the results from the Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking (SHED) fielded in October and November 2018. This is the sixth year of the survey, conducted annually by staff in the Board’s Division of Consumer and Community Affairs each fall since 2013.

[Appendix A](#) of this supplement reflects the complete questionnaire used in administering the 2018 SHED. (For more details on the survey mode and sample,

see the “Description of the Survey” section of the full report, available at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerscommunities/shed.htm>.)

[Appendix B](#) presents the responses to all the 2018 survey questions in the order that the questions were asked of respondents, as well as a summary of the demographic statistics of survey respondents.

For additional details on the SHED, including data and reports of survey findings from all past years, see <https://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerscommunities/shed.htm>.

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

This appendix contains a reproduction of the survey instrument in its entirety. The bracketed texts are programming instructions such as custom text that will appear differently based on previous responses. Questions designated with an [S] indicate that the respondent can only select a single response and those designated with an [M] allow multiple responses. Not all questions are shown to all respondents, and the skip patterns used to reach each question are listed as the “Asked of” line above each question. The respondents only see the questions and response option; they do not see the program code. Question numbers are not always sequential in order to preserve continuity with question numbers from earlier surveys where possible. Questions are listed below in the order in which they are presented to respondents.

Introduction

Base: All respondents

[DISPLAY01]

Welcome

We want to learn more about your financial wellbeing and views on the economy. Your responses here will support research, analysis, and policymaking. **We appreciate your participation in this survey.**

This survey has been reviewed and is consistent with requirements from the Office of Management and Budget.

OMB Control Number: 7100-0374

Expiration Date: November 30, 2020.

[If “support” clicked above, display this text in a new tab or window]

A dataset with all the survey responses, but without your name or any other identifying information, will be released publicly on the Federal Reserve Board’s website.

[If “requirements” clicked above, display this text in a new tab or window]

The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and an organization is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 0.4 hours, including the time to gather data in the required form and to review instructions and complete the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (7100-0359), Washington, DC 20503.

Living Arrangements Section

Base: All respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY1 AND LO ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY1]

First, tell us a little about yourself.

Base: All respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

[SUPPRESS DEFAULT INSTRUCTIONS, INSTEAD SHOW: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

L0. Do each of the following types of people currently live with you in your household?

DOWN

- a. My spouse or partner
- b. My child(ren) *under age 18*
- c. My adult child(ren) *age 18 or older*
- d. My parent(s)
- e. Extended family
- f. Roommate(s) not related to me
- g. Other individuals

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: L0_c = 1

[SP]

L0A. Which of the following best describes the **adult children** (who are age 18 or older) who live with you?

1. All currently enrolled in school
2. One or more *not* currently enrolled in school

Base: (L0_d, e, f, or g=1) or (L0_c =1 and L0A=2)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

L1. You indicated that you live with **[IF L0_d=1, INSERT: your parents,] [IF L0_e=1, INSERT: extended family members,] [IF L0_f=1, INSERT: a roommate,] [IF L0A=2, INSERT: adult children who are not in school,] [IF L0 checked d, e, or f or L0A=2, INSERT: or]** someone outside of your immediate family.

Are each of the following reasons why you live with these individuals?

DOWN

- a. To save money
- b. To help those living with me financially
- c. To care for family member or friend
- d. To receive help with child care
- e. Prefer living with others
- f. Other

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

General Well-Being Section

Base: All respondents

[S]

B2. Overall, which one of the following best describes how well you are managing financially these days:

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

Base: B2 ne Refused

[Textbox, 500 characters]

[O]

B2a. In a sentence or two, please describe why you are **[IF B2=1 SHOW: living comfortably / IF B2=2 SHOW: doing okay / IF B2=3 SHOW: just getting by / IF B2=4 SHOW: finding it difficult to get by]**?

[Textbox, 500 characters]

Base: All respondents

[S]

B3. **Compared to 12 months ago**, would you say that you (and your family living with you) are better off, the same, or worse off financially?

5. Much better off
4. Somewhat better off
3. About the same
2. Somewhat worse off
1. Much worse off

Base: All respondents

[S]

B6. Think of your parents when they were your age. Would you say you (and your family living with you) are better, the same, or worse off financially than they were?

5. Much better off
4. Somewhat better off
3. About the same
2. Somewhat worse off
1. Much worse off

Base: All respondents

[S]

B8. Imagine a ladder showing where people stand in the United States. At the top are the people who are the best off—those who have the most money, the best education, and the most respected jobs. At the bottom are the people who are the worst off—those who have the least money, the least education, and the least respected jobs or no job. Where would you place yourself on this ladder?

10. Top of the ladder
- 9.
- 8.
- 7.
- 6.
- 5.
- 4.
- 3.
- 2.
1. Bottom of the ladder

Base: all respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

B7. How would you rate economic conditions today:

DOWN

- a. in your community
- b. in this country

ACROSS

4. Excellent
3. Good
2. Only fair
1. Poor

Base: all respondents

[S]

B11. And now a general question about trust. On a scale from zero to ten, where zero is not at all and ten is completely, in general how much do you trust most people?

- 0. Not at all
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10. Completely

Employment Section

Base: all respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY2 AND D1A ON THE SAME PAGE][DOUBLE PROMPT]

[DISPLAY 2]

This section will ask some questions about your recent work-related activities.

D1A. Last month, did you do **any** work for either pay or profit?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: all respondents

[S]

D1E. At any time during the past month, did you want to work [if D1A=1, INSERT: more]?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: D1A=0 or (D1A = 1 and DIE = 1)
(Not working or working and wanting to work more)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

D21. Did each of the following contribute to you **[IF D1A=0, INSERT: not working / IF D1A=1 and D1E=1, INSERT: not working as much as you wanted]** last month?

DOWN

- a. Could not find **[IF D1A=1 and D1E=1, INSERT: more]** work
- b. Child care
- c. Other family or personal obligations
- d. Health/medical limitations or disability
- e. Going to school or in training
- f. Retired
- g. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: D1A=1

[S]

D3A. Think about your main job (the job from which you earned the most income in the past month). In this job, were you working:

1. For a single company or employer
2. For yourself or your family business
3. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

Base: D1A=1

[S]

D3B. Still thinking about your main job, do you usually work:

1. Full-time (35 or more hours per week)
2. Part-time (less than 35 hours per week)

Base: D1A=1 and D3B=2
(Working part-time)

[S]

D20. You indicated that you did not work full-time at this job. Did you want a full-time job?

1. Yes
0. No
- 2. Don't know

Base: D3A = 1
(working, but not self-employed)

[S]

D30. Still thinking about your main job, do you normally start and end work around the same time each day that you work or does it vary?

1. Normally work the same hours
2. Schedule varies, primarily at my request
3. Schedule varies, primarily based on my employer's needs

Base: D30=3
(Schedule varies based on employer needs)

[S]

D31. Approximately how far in advance does your employer usually tell you the hours that you will need to work on any given day?

1. One day in advance or less (including on call)
2. 2 to 3 days in advance
3. 4 to 6 days in advance
4. 1 to 2 weeks in advance
5. 3 weeks in advance or longer

Base: D1A=1
(any work for pay or profit)

[S]

D33. A temporary job lasts for a limited time or until the end of a project. Is your main job a temporary job?

1. Yes
0. No
- 2. Don't know

**Base: D1A=1
working**

[S]

D4. In addition to your main job, did you have any other jobs last month?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: D4=1
Multiple jobs**

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

D6. In your additional job(s), were you working:

DOWN

- a. For a single company or employer
- b. For yourself or your family business
- c. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: all respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show all respondents: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

D44. [If D1A=1 Think about any job in the past 12 months not just your main job last month.] **In the past 12 months**, have you:

DOWN

- a. Asked for a raise or a promotion (display if D1A=1)
- b. Received a raise or a promotion (display if D1A=1)
- c. Applied for a new job
- d. Started a new job
- e. Voluntarily left a job
- f. Gotten laid off or fired from a job

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: PPMARIT = 1 or 6
(Married or living with partner)**

[S]

D5. Last month, did your [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: partner] do **any** work for either pay or profit?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Gig Economy Section

Base: All Respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Include activities even if you already told us about them. Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

GE1. In the past month, **have you been paid for** each of the following activities?

DOWN

- a. Child or elder care services
- b. Dog walking, feeding pets, or house sitting
- c. House cleaning, yard work, or other property maintenance work
- d. Driving or ride-sharing, such as with Uber or Lyft
- e. Paid tasks online, such as posting YouTube videos (do **not** include GfK surveys)
- f. Other personal tasks, such as deliveries, running errands, or helping people move

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: All respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

GE2. In addition, in the past month, **have you been paid for** each of the following activities?

DOWN

- a. Sold goods yourself at flea markets or garage sales
- b. Sold goods at consignment shops or thrift stores
- c. Sold goods on-line, such as on eBay or Craigslist
- d. Rented out property, such as your car or your house
- e. Any other paid activities that you have not already mentioned in the survey (do **not** include GfK surveys). Please specify: **[text box]**

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: Any Yes in GE1 or GE2 (does these activities)

[S]

GE10. In the past month, what were your reasons for doing these activities? *Check all that apply.*

- a. Earn money as main source of income
- b. Earn money in addition to main source
- c. Earn money to help family members
- d. Maintain or acquire job-related skills
- e. Sell items no longer needed
- f. Meet people, have a social activity or hobby
- g. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

Base: IF GE10 = MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE PROVIDED, IF GE10 = ONLY ONE RESPONSE AUTOPUNCH GE11 AS MAIN REASON

[S]

GE11. In the past month, what was your **main** reason for doing these activities? *Check one.*

- a. Earn money as main source of income
- b. Earn money in addition to main source
- c. Earn money to help family members
- d. Maintain or acquire job-related skills
- e. Sell items no longer needed
- f. Meet people, have a social activity or hobby
- g. Other (please specify)

Base: Any Yes in GE1 or GE2 (does these activities)

[S]

GE4. Were any of these activities the main job that you told us about already?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: Any Yes in GE1 or GE2 (does these activities)

[N]

GE20. How much time did you spend **last month** on any of these activities? (Do **not** include taking GfK Surveys.)

_____hours [range: 0-720]

Base: all respondents

[S]

GE22. **Relative to a year ago**, did you spend more, the same, or less time on these activities last month?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
- <insert space>
4. Does not apply, have not done these activities

Base: Any Yes in GE1 or GE2 (does these paid activities)

[S]

GE40A. In the past 12 months, how much of your income was from these activities?

1. under 10%
 2. 10 to 19%
 3. 20 to 29%
 4. 30 to 39%
 5. 40 to 49%
 6. 50 to 59%
 7. 60 to 69%
 8. 70 to 79%
 9. 80 to 89%
 10. 90% or more
- <insert space>
- 2. Don't know

GE40B. In the past 12 months, have you regularly earned money from these activities?

1. Yes, in all or most months
2. No, only in some or a few months

Base: Any Yes in GE1 or GE2 (does these activities)

[S]

GE5. Some people doing these activities use companies that connect them directly with customers using a website or mobile app. For example, Uber and Lyft help drivers find riders. Last month did you find any paid work or customers using a company like this?

1. Yes
0. No

General Housing Section

Base: All respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY3 AND GH1 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY3]

This section will ask some questions about your housing situation.

[S]

GH1. Please describe the housing arrangement where you currently live. Do **[if PPMARIT=1, insert: (you and/or your spouse) / if PPMARIT=6, insert: (you and/or your partner)] / IF PPMARIT=2-5: you:**

1. Own home with a mortgage or loan
2. Own home free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)
3. Pay rent
4. Neither own home nor pay rent

Base: All respondents

[S]

GH2N. Did you move into your current home after October 2016?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: All respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

GH3. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your housing situation?

DOWN

- a. Overall quality of neighborhood
- b. Quality of local schools
- c. Safety of neighborhood
- d. Quality of other neighborhood amenities
- e. Overall quality of your housing
- f. **[IF GH1= 1, 2, 3]** Cost of your housing

ACROSS

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Somewhat dissatisfied
3. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
4. Somewhat satisfied
5. Very satisfied

Base: all respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

GH10. In deciding where to live, how important is it to you to have convenient access to each of the following places in your local community?

DOWN

- a. Park or playground
- b. Library
- c. Bank or credit union
- d. Grocery store
- e. Shops and restaurants
- f. Church or place of worship
- g. Public transportation

ACROSS

- 1. Not important
- 2. Slightly important
- 3. Moderately important
- 4. Very important

Rent Section

Base: GH1 = 3

[M]

[RANDOMIZE a-f]

R1. Please select all the reasons below for why you rent your home rather than own your home.

- a. Cheaper to rent
- b. Owning is a bigger financial risk
- c. More convenient to rent
- d. Plan to move soon
- e. Can't qualify for mortgage to buy
- f. Can't afford down payment to buy
- g. Prefer to rent
- h. Currently looking to buy
- i. Other

Base: (GH1 = 3 or GH1 = 4) AND (GH2N = 1)
(Non-homeowners who moved recently)

[S]

R4. Before your recent move, did you own your previous home?

- 0. No
- 1. Yes, and I still own that home
- 2. Yes, and I no longer own that home

Base: (GH2N=1) AND (R4=0 or refused)
(Non-homeowners who moved recently and did not own previous home)

[M]

R5A. An eviction is when your landlord forces you to move when you don't want to. Were you, or a person you were staying with, evicted from your home?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: (GH2N=1) AND (R4=0 or refused) AND (R5A=0 or refused)
(Non-homeowners who moved recently and did not own previous home)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

R5B. Did each of the following contribute to your moving from your previous home?

DOWN

- a. Received an eviction notice
- b. Landlord told you, or a person you were staying with, to leave
- c. You missed a rent payment and thought you would be evicted
- d. City condemned the property and forced you to leave

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: (GH2N=1) AND (R4=2)
(Non-homeowners who moved recently and owned previous home)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

R5C. Did each of the following contribute to your moving from your previous home?

DOWN

- a. Bank took possession of your home in foreclosure
- b. Received a notice from bank that they planned to foreclose
- c. Missed mortgage payments and thought bank would foreclose
- d. City condemned the property and forced you to leave

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: (GH1 = 3)
(Renters)

[S]

R7. In the past 12 months, have you experienced any problems with your house or apartment that you felt needed to be fixed, such as a leak or a broken appliance?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: (GH1 = 3) and (R7=1)
(Renters who had a problem with their housing unit)

[S]

R8. Did you contact your landlord about the problem with your house or apartment that needed to be fixed?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: (GH1 = 3) and (R8=1)
(Renters who had a problem with their housing unit that they contacted landlord about)

[S]

R8A. After you contacted your landlord about the problem with your house or apartment, how much difficulty did you have getting them to fix the problem?

3. Substantial difficulty
2. Moderate difficulty
1. A little difficulty
0. None

Base: GH1 = 3
(Renters)

[S]

R3. About how much do you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and/or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and/or your partner]** pay for rent each month?

1. less than \$250
2. \$250 to \$499
3. \$500 to \$749
4. \$750 to \$999
5. \$1,000 to \$1,249
6. \$1,250 to 1,499
7. \$1,500 to \$1,749
8. \$1,750 to \$1,999
9. \$2,000 or above
- <insert space>
- 2. Don't know

Mortgage Section

Base: GH1 = 1
(Homeowners with a mortgage)

[S]

M4. About how much is your total monthly mortgage payment (i.e. the amount you send to the bank)?

1. less than \$500
 2. \$500 to \$749
 3. \$750 to \$999
 4. \$1000 to \$1,249
 5. \$1,250 to 1,499
 6. \$1,500 to \$1,749
 7. \$1,750 to \$1,999
 8. \$2,000 to \$2,499
 9. \$2,500 or above
- <insert space>
 -2. Don't know

Banking Section

Base: All respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY4 AND BK1 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY4]

This section will ask some questions about your experiences with banks and credit.

[S]

BK1. Do you [**if PPMARIT=1, insert:** and/or your spouse / **if PPMARIT=6, insert:** and/or your partner] currently have a checking, savings or money market account?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: All respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

BK2. In the past 12 months, did you [if PPMARIT=1, insert: and/or your spouse / if PPMARIT=6, insert: and/or your partner]:

DOWN

- a. Purchase a money order from a place other than a bank
- b. Cash a check at a place other than a bank
- c. Take out a payday loan or payday advance
- d. Take out a pawn shop loan or an auto title loan
- e. Obtain a tax refund advance to receive your refund faster

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: BK1 = 1

(Has a bank account)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

[RANDOMIZE a-e]

BK11. In the past 12 months, did you [if PPMARIT=1, insert: and/or your spouse / if PPMARIT=6, insert: and/or your partner] access a bank account in any of the following ways?

DOWN

- a. Visiting a bank teller
- b. Using an ATM or bank kiosk
- c. Calling the bank
- d. Using a computer or tablet
- e. Using a mobile phone, including an app
- f. In any other way

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: all respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

BK20. In the past 12 months, have you [if PPMARIT=1, insert: and/or your spouse / if PPMARIT=6, insert: and/or your partner] used your **mobile phone** to:

DOWN

- a. Deposit a check using your phone's camera
- b. Pay for something in a store, such as with Apple Pay or Google Pay instead of cash or a physical card
- c. Send money to a person, such as with Venmo, Cash App, or Zelle

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No
3. Do not own a mobile phone

Base: BK1 = 1

(Has a bank account)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

[RANDOMIZE a-c]

BK40. In the past 12 months, have you had difficulty getting money out of your bank account for any of the following reasons? (Please check all that apply.)

DOWN

- a. Delay in when you could use your money (deposit hold)
- b. Your account was locked or frozen
- c. Bank's website or mobile app didn't work
- d. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: BK40 = 1 for more than one option (auto punch if only one reply to BK40)

(Has bank account; had more than one funds availability problem in the past 12 months)

[S]

BK42. Which of these would you say was your **most serious** problem?

1. Delay in when you could use your money (deposit hold)
2. Your account was locked or frozen
3. Bank's website or mobile app didn't work
4. Other

**Base: BK40 = 1 for any option
(Has bank account; had problem in the past 12 months)**

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

BK44. Did you contact your bank about this problem?

DOWN

- a. By phone, by going to the bank, or via the bank's website or app
- b. Using social media, such as by tweeting at the bank or posting on the bank's Facebook page
- c. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: BK44a = 1 or BK44b = 1 or BK44c = 1
(Has bank account; had problem in the past 12 months; contacted bank)**

[Textbox, 500 characters]

[O]

BK46A. Can you tell us briefly how the bank responded when you contacted them?

[Textbox, 500 characters]

**Base: BK44a = 0 and BK44b = 0 and (BK44c = 0 or BK44c = Refused)
(Has bank account; had problem in the past 12 months; did not contact bank)**

[Textbox, 500 characters]

[O]

BK46B. Can you tell us briefly why you did not contact the bank about the problem?

[Textbox, 500 characters]

Credit Application Section

Base: all respondents

[S]

A6. If you were to apply for a credit card today, how confident are you that your application would be approved?

3. Not confident
2. Somewhat confident
1. Very confident
- 2. Don't know

Base: all respondents

[S]

A0. In the past 12 months, have you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** applied for any credit (such as a credit card, higher credit card limit, mortgage, refinance, student loan, personal loan, or other loan)?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: A0=0
(Those who did not apply for credit)

[S]

A0B. Was there a time in the past 12 months that you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** desired credit but chose not to submit a credit application?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: A0=1 OR -1 (Refused)
(Those who applied for credit)

[GRID, S ACROSS]

A1. In the past 12 months, please tell us if each of the following has or has not happened to you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]**:

DOWN

- a. You **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** were turned down for credit
- b. You **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** were approved for credit, but were not given as much credit as you applied for
- c. You **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** put off applying for credit because you thought you might be turned down

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: A0B=1
(Those who did not apply for credit but desired credit)

[S]

A2. You indicated that you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: or your partner]** desired credit in the past 12 months but did not submit a credit application. Was this because you thought that you might be turned down or denied credit?

1. Yes
0. No

Credit Condition Section

Base: all respondents

[S]

C2A. Do you have at least one credit card?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: C2A=1 or refused
(Has a credit card)

[S]

C3. Do you currently have any outstanding unpaid credit card debt?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: C3=1 or refused
(Has outstanding credit card debt)

[S]

C3A. Do you [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and your partner] currently have more, less, or about the same amount of credit card debt than you had 12 months ago?

3. More debt now
2. About the same
1. Less debt now

Base: C2A=1 or refused
(Has a credit card)

[S]

C4A. In the past 12 months, how frequently have you carried an unpaid balance on one or more of your credit cards?

0. Never carried an unpaid balance (always pay in full)
1. Once
2. Some of the time
3. Most or all of the time

Education Section

Base: all respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY5 AND ED0 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY5]

This section will ask some questions about your education and experiences with student loans.

[S]

ED0. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

1. Less than high school degree
2. High school degree or GED
3. Some college but no degree (including currently enrolled in college)
4. Certificate or technical degree
5. Associate degree
6. Bachelor's degree
7. Master's degree
8. Professional degree (e.g. MBA, MD, JD)
9. Doctoral Degree

CREATE [DOV_ED]:

IF ED0 = 5 DOV_ED = "Associate Degree"

IF ED0 >= 6 DOV_ED = "Bachelor's Degree"

Base: All respondents

[S]

D1G. Are you currently **enrolled as a student**?

2. Yes, as a full-time student
1. Yes, as a part-time student
0. No

**Base: D1G=1 or 2
(Current student)**

[S]

ED0B. What type of program are you currently pursuing?

1. High school or GED program
2. Non-degree training program
3. Certificate or technical degree
4. Associate degree
5. Bachelor's degree
6. Master's degree
7. Professional degree (e.g. MBA, MD, JD)
8. Doctoral Degree

**Base: (ED0=2) and (D1G=0)
(High school only and not enrolled in college)**

[S]

ED0D. Have you ever enrolled in an educational degree program beyond high school?

1. Yes
0. No

**Base: ED0 = (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, OR 9) OR (D1G=1 or 2) OR ED0D=1
(All who attended college, are enrolled in college, or started but did not finish an educational program)**

[S]

ED1. Which one of the following broad categories best describes your [IF D1G=1 or D1G=2, INSERT: current / IF D1G=0 OR D1G=REFUSED, INSERT: most recent] educational program?

1. Humanities/arts
2. Social/behavioral sciences
3. Life sciences
4. Physical sciences/math
5. Computer/information sciences
6. Engineering
7. Education
8. Business/management
9. Health
10. Law
11. Vocational/technical training
12. Undeclared
13. Other (please specify): [text box]

Base: (ED0=3 or 4) or (ED0=2 and (D1G=1 or 2)) or (ED0=2 and ED0D=1)
([Some college or certificate] OR [high school degree and either enrolled in college or dropped out])

[DROPDOWN]

ED2A. In what state is the school that you **[IF D1G=1 OR D1G=2, INSERT: currently attend / IF D1G=0 OR D1G=REFUSED, INSERT: attended for your most recent educational program]** located? If the school is not located in the United States, please select “International” from the bottom of the list.

[DROPDOWN BOX with 50 states + DC + the term “international”]

Base: if ED2A is answered

ED2B. What is the name of the school you **[IF D1G=1 OR D1G=2, INSERT: currently attend / D1G=0 OR D1G=REFUSED, INSERT: attended for your most recent educational program]**?

School name: **[State-specific drop-down list]**

If you do not see the school you attended in the list above, please type it into the text box provided.

Other school not listed: **[text box]**

Base: ((ED0=3 or 4) and (D1G=0)) or (ED0=2 and ED0D=1)
(Some college or certificate, not enrolled)

[Q]

ED4. In what year did you **last** attend this educational program?

_____ **[Num Box, Range (2018-PPAGE) – 2018]**

Base: (ED0 =3 or 4) or (ED0=2 and (D1G=1 or 2)) or (ED0=2 and ED0D=1)
(Started educational program, but less than associate degree)

[S]

ED5. Overall, how would you say the lifetime financial benefits of your **[IF D1G=1 or D1G=2, INSERT: current / IF D1G=0 OR D1G=REFUSED, INSERT: most recent]** educational program compare to its financial costs?

1. Financial benefits are much larger
2. Financial benefits are somewhat larger
3. About the same financial benefits and financial costs
4. Financial costs are somewhat larger
5. Financial costs are much larger

**Base: ((ED0=3 or 4) and (D1G=0)) or (ED0=2 and ED0D=1)
([Some college or certificate], not currently enrolled)**

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

ED6. If you could go back and make your education decisions again, would you have done any of these things:

DOWN

- a. Chosen a different field of study
- b. Attended a different school
- c. Completed less education
- d. Completed more education
- e. Chosen not to attend college

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: (ED0 = 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9)
(Associate degree or above)**

[DROPDOWN]

ED7A. In what state is the school that you received your **[DOV_ED]** located? If the school is not located in the United States, please select “International” from the bottom of the list.

[DROPDOWN BOX with 50 states + DC + the term “international”]

Base: If ED7A is answered

[DROPDOWN]

ED7B. What is the name of the school from which you received your **[DOV_ED]**?

School name: **[State-specific drop-down list]**

If you do not see the school you attended in the list above, please type it into the text box provided.

Other school not listed: **[text box]**

Base: EDO = 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9
(Associate degree or above)

[Q]

ED9. In what year did you receive your **[DOV_ED]**?

[Num Box, Range 2018-PPAGE – 2018]

Base: EDO = 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9
(Associate degree or above)

[S]

ED10. Overall, how would you say the lifetime financial benefits of your **[DOV_ED]** program compare to its financial costs?

1. Financial benefits are much larger
2. Financial benefits are somewhat larger
3. About the same financial benefits and financial costs
4. Financial costs are somewhat larger
5. Financial costs are much larger

Base: EDO = 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9
(Associate degree or above)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

ED11. If you could go back and make decisions regarding your **[DOV_ED]** again, would you have done any of these things:

DOWN

- a. Chosen a different field of study
- b. Attended a different school
- c. Completed less education
- d. Completed more education
- e. Chosen not to attend college

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: PPAGE<=30 and (ED0=4 or ED0=5) and (D1G=0)
(Certificate or associate degree and not currently enrolled)

[S]

ED0C. Have you ever enrolled in a 4-year bachelor's degree program?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: PPAGE<=30 and (ED0=4 or 5) and (EDOC=1)
(Started educational program but did not complete; Certificate/Technical and Associate degree only)

[S]

ED4A. In what year did you **last** attend the bachelor's degree program that you were enrolled in?

_____ [Num Box, Range (2018-PPAGE) – 2018]

Base: (PPAGE<=30) AND (ED0C=1 OR ED0D=1 OR ED0=3) AND D1G=0
(Started an educational program but did not complete it and not currently enrolled)

[S]

ED4B. How likely is it that you will return to school and complete the program that you started but did not complete?

1. Definitely will return and complete program
2. Probably will return and complete program
3. Not sure
4. Probably will not return and complete program
5. Definitely will not return and complete program

Base: (ED0 = 2) and (D1G=0 and ED0D=0)
(Completed high school. Did not attend college)

[M, RANDOMIZE A-I]

ED13. Which of the following are reasons why you did not attend college?

- a. Too expensive
- b. Had to take care of child(ren)
- c. Supported or cared for parents or siblings
- d. Needed to earn money
- e. Wanted to work
- f. Simply was not interested in college
- g. Was not admitted
- h. Did not think benefits of attending college were worth the cost
- i. Illness or health issues
- j. Other (please specify): [text box]

**Base: (ED0 = 3 or (ED0=2 and ED0D=1)) and (D1G=0) and (ED4>=2004)
(Attended college. Did not complete)**

[M, RANDOMIZE A-I]

ED14. Which of the following are reasons why you did not complete your college degree?

- a. Too expensive
- b. Had to take care of child(ren)
- c. Supported or cared for parents or siblings
- d. Needed to earn money
- e. Wanted to work
- f. Simply not interested in continuing in college
- g. Low grades
- h. Did not think the benefits of continuing college were worth the cost
- i. Illness or health issues
- j. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

Student Loans Section

Base: All respondents

[S]

SL1. Do you currently have student loan debt or owe any money used to pay for **your own education**?

Please include any loans on which you are a co-signer that were used to pay for your education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: SL1 = 1

[GRID, S ACROSS]

SL2. Think about the money you currently owe for **your own education**. Is the money you owe for that education a student loan, a home equity loan, a credit card debt, or some other type of loan? If you have multiple loans, please select all that apply.

DOWN

- a. Student loan
- b. Home equity loan
- c. Credit card
- d. Other loan

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: SL1 = 1

[S]

SL3. Thinking specifically about the money that you owe for **your own education**, please tell us the total amount that you **currently** owe on these loans.

- 1. Less than \$5,000
- 2. \$5,000 to \$9,999
- 3. \$10,000 to \$14,999
- 4. \$15,000 to \$19,999
- 5. \$20,000 to \$24,999
- 6. \$25,000 to \$29,999
- 7. \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 8. \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 9. \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 10. \$75,000 to \$99,999
- 11. \$100,000 or above
- <insert space>
- 2. Don't know

Base: SL1 = 1

[S]

SL4. Approximately how much is the total monthly payment that you are required to make on the loans from your education?

Please only include the amount that you are paying, and not money that is paid by others on your behalf.

1. I am currently not required to make any payments on these loans
 2. \$1 to \$49
 3. \$50 to \$99
 4. \$100 to \$199
 5. \$200 to \$299
 6. \$300 to \$399
 7. \$400 to \$499
 8. \$500 to \$749
 9. \$750 to \$999
 10. \$1,000 or above
- <insert space>
- 2. Don't know

Base: SL1 = 1

[S]

SL6. Are you behind on payments or in collections for one or more of the loans from your own education?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: SL1 = 0 or refused

[S]

SL7. Did you borrow money or take out any loans to pay for your own education that you have since repaid?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: SL1 = 1 or SL7=1

[GRID, S ACROSS]

SL8. Still thinking about the money you borrowed to pay for **your own education**, did you borrow money for each of the following educational programs (including any loans which you have completely repaid or for education you did not complete)?

DOWN

- a. Certificate or technical training
- b. Associate degree
- c. Bachelor's degree
- d. Professional degree (e.g. MBA, MD, JD)
- e. Master's degree or Doctoral Degree

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: IF PPMARIT=1 OR 6

[S]

SL10. Do you currently owe any money used to pay for **your [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: spouse's / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: partner's] education?**

Please only include any loans on which *you* are a co-signer that were used to pay for their education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: IF PPAGE>=30

[S]

SL11. Do you currently owe any money used to pay for **your child or grandchild's education?**

Please only include any loans on which *you* are a co-signer that were used to pay for their education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

- 1. Yes
- 0. No
- 999. Do not have children or grandchildren

Base: IF SL11=1

[GRID, S ACROSS]

SL12. Is the money you owe for your child or grandchild's education a student loan, home equity loan, credit card debt, or some other type of loan? If you have multiple loans, please select all that apply.

DOWN

- a. Student loan
- b. Home equity loan
- c. Credit card
- d. Other loan

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Retirement Planning Section

Base: (D11 ne 1)

[SHOW DISPLAY6 AND D11 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY6]

This section will ask some questions about your planning and savings for retirement.

Base: All respondents

D1I. Do you consider yourself to be retired?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: (D11 ne 1)
(Not Retired)**

[S]

K0. Do you think that your retirement savings plan is currently on track?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No
- 2. Don't know

**Base: (D11 ne 1)
(Not Retired)**

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

K2. Do you currently have each of the following types of retirement savings?

DOWN

- a. 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, or other defined contribution plan through an employer
- b. Pension with a defined benefit through an employer
- c. IRA or Roth IRA
- d. Savings outside a retirement account
- e. Real estate or land that will provide income in retirement
- f. Ownership of a business
- g. Other retirement savings (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

**Base: (K2_a, K2_c, K2_d, or K2_g=1)
(Not retired, Has self-directed retirement savings)**

[S]

K20. Approximately how much money do you currently have saved for retirement?

1. Less than \$10,000
2. \$10,000 to \$24,999
3. \$25,000 to \$49,999
4. \$50,000 to \$99,999
5. \$100,000 to \$249,999
6. \$250,000 to \$499,999
7. \$500,000 to \$999,999
8. Over \$1,000,000
- 2. Don't know

**Base: (K2_a, K2_c, K2_d, or K2_g=1)
(Not retired, Has self-directed retirement savings)**

[S]

DC4. How comfortable are you with making your own investment decisions in your retirement accounts?

1. Very comfortable
2. Mostly comfortable
3. Slightly comfortable
4. Not comfortable

**Base: D11 NE 1
(Not Retired)**

[S]

K5A. In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money from or cashed out (permanently withdrawn) money from any of your retirement savings accounts?

1. Yes, borrowed money
2. Yes, cashed out
3. Yes, both
0. No

**Base: (D11 = 1)
(Retired)**

[Q with S, RANGE 17 to PPAGE]

[ALLOW RESPONDENT TO EITHER TYPE ANSWER IN NUMBER BOX OR CHECK DON'T KNOW, PROMPT WITH THE FOLLOWING IF BOTH: Please enter an answer in the number box OR check Not Sure.]

K8A. At what age did you retire?

[Num box 17-PPAGE]

<INSERT SPACE>

-2 Not Sure [S]

**Base: (D11 = 1)
(Retired)**

[GRID, S ACROSS]

K9. How important were each of the following in your decision to retire at the age that you did?

DOWN

- a. Poor health
- b. Wanted to do other things
- c. Didn't like the work
- d. Family responsibilities
- e. Wanted to spend more time with family
- f. Forced to retire or lack of available work

ACROSS

3. Very important
2. Somewhat important
1. Not important

Income and Consumption Section

Base: All respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY7 AND I0 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY7]

This section will ask some questions about your savings, expenses, and sources of income.

Base: All respondents

[S]

I0. In the past 12 months, did you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and/or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and/or your partner]** receive any income from the following sources:

DOWN

- a. Wages or salaries
- b. Self-employment
- c. Other paid activities (do not include GfK surveys)
- d. Interest, dividends, or rental income
- e. Social Security (including old age, SSI and DI)
- f. Unemployment income
- g. Pension
- h. Any other income

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: if ALL I0_a through I0_h =0 or refused
(No income sources listed)**

[S]

I0A. Did you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and/or your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and/or your partner]** receive any income from any source in the past 12 months?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: I0=1 for any response OR IOA=1 or refused
(Report having any income)**

[S]

[If refused, prompt once: “We ask for information about your income because it is extremely important for our understanding of household finances in the United States. We greatly appreciate your response and your answer will remain completely anonymous.”]

I40. Which of the following categories best describes the total income that you [**IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT:** and your spouse / **IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT:** and your partner] received from all sources, before taxes and deductions, in the past 12 months?

1. \$0 to \$4,999
2. \$5,000 to \$14,999
3. \$15,000 to \$24,999
4. \$25,000 to \$39,999
5. \$40,000 to \$49,999
6. \$50,000 to \$74,999
7. \$75,000 to \$99,999
8. \$100,000 to \$149,999
9. \$150,000 to \$199,999
10. \$200,000 or higher

Base: All respondents

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

I41. In the past 12 months, have you [**IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT:** and/or your spouse / **IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT:** and/or your partner] received any of the following?

DOWN

- a. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps)
- c. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program benefits
- d. Housing assistance from government program
- e. Free or reduced price school lunches
- f. Cash assistance from a welfare program, such as TANF

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: All respondents

[S]

I9. In the past 12 months, which one of the following best describes your [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and your spouse's / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and your partner's] **income**?

1. Roughly the same amount each month
2. Occasionally varies from month to month
3. Varies quite often from month to month

Base: (I9 = 2 or 3)

[S]

I12. Because your income varies, have you [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and your partner] struggled to pay your bills in the past 12 months?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: All respondents

[S]

I20. In the past month, would you say that your [IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and your spouse's / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and your partner's] total spending was:

3. More than your income
2. The same as your income
1. Less than your income

Financial Support from Outside the Home Section

Base: All respondents

[S]

FS10. Does anyone living outside of your household (such as a parent, child, other relatives, or friends) provide you with regular financial support? This may include cash or help with rent, groceries, education expenses, student loans, car payments, or other expenses.

1. Yes
0. No

Base: FS10=1
(Receive financial support)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

FS20. Do you receive each of the following types of financial support from people living outside of your household?

DOWN

- a. Help with rent or mortgage
- b. Help with education expenses or student loans
- c. Help with car payment
- d. Help with other bills
- e. Money for general expenses or anything else

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: FS10=1
(Receive financial support)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

FS30. Who outside of your household provides you with regular financial support or helps you with bill payments?

DOWN

- a. Parent(s)
- b. My adult child
- c. Other relatives
- d. Friends
- e. Other

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: All respondents

[S]

FS40. **Do you provide** regular financial support to anyone living outside of your household (such as a parent, child, other relatives, or friends)? This may include cash or help with rent, groceries, education expenses, student loans, car payments, or other expenses.

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

Emergency Fund Section

[SHOW DISPLAY8 AND EF1 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY8]

This section will ask some questions about your emergency savings, insurance, and economic hardships.

Base: All respondents

[S]

EF1. Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Base: EF1 = 0 or refused
(Does not have 3 months emergency fund)**

[S]

EF2. If you were to lose your main source of income (e.g. job, government benefits), could you cover your expenses for 3 months by borrowing money, using savings, selling assets, or borrowing from friends/family?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: All respondents

[M][SUPPRESS DEFAULT INSTRUCTION]

EF3. Suppose 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 to cover this expense, please select all that apply.

- a. Put it on my credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement
- b. Put it on my credit card and pay it off over time
- c. With the money currently in my checking/savings account or with cash
- d. Using money from a bank loan or line of credit
- e. By borrowing from a friend or family member
- f. Using a payday loan, deposit advance, or overdraft
- g. By selling something
- h. I wouldn't be able to pay for the expense right now
- i. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

Base: All respondents

[S]

EF5A. Which best describes your ability to pay all of your bills **in full** this month?

1. Able to pay all bills
0. Can't pay some bills

Base: EF5A=1

[S]

EF5B. How would a \$400 emergency expense that you had to pay impact your ability to pay your other bills this month?

1. Would still be able to pay all bills
0. Could not pay some bills

Base: EF5A=0 (unable to pay all bills this month)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

EF6A. Are you expecting to be unable to pay or only make a partial payment on each of the following bills this month?

DOWN

- a. Rent or mortgage
- b. Credit card
- c. Water, gas, or electric bill
- d. Phone or cable bill
- e. Car payment
- f. Student loan
- g. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: EF5B=0 (unable to pay all bills this month if faced with a \$400 expense)

[Suppress default instructions, instead show: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

[GRID, S ACROSS]

EF6B. Which of the following bills would you likely skip paying, or make only a partial payment on, if you had a \$400 emergency expense that you had to pay?

DOWN

- a. Rent or mortgage
- b. Credit card
- c. Water, gas, or electric bill
- d. Phone or cable bill
- e. Car payment
- f. Student loan
- g. Other (please specify): **[text box]**

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Health and Insurance Section

Base: all respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

[SHOW THIS TEXT INSTEAD OF DEFAULT INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

E1. During the past 12 months, was there a time when you needed any of the following, but went without because you couldn't afford it?

DOWN

- a. Prescription medicine
- b. Seeing a doctor
- c. Mental health care or counseling
- d. Dental care
- e. Seeing a specialist
- f. Follow-up care

ACROSS

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

Base: all respondents

[S]

E2. During the past 12 months, have you had any **unexpected major medical expenses** that you had to pay out of pocket because they were not completely paid for by insurance?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: E2=1
(Had major medical expense)

[Q][SP]

E2A. Approximately how much did you pay out of pocket for unexpected major medical expenses in the past 12 months?

1. \$1 to \$499
2. \$500 to \$999
3. \$1,000 to \$4,999
4. \$5,000 to \$9,999
5. \$10,000 or higher
- 2. Don't know

Base: E2=1
(Had major medical expense)

[S]

E2B. Do you currently have any debt from the unexpected major medical expenses that you had in the past 12 months?

1. Yes
0. No

Base: all respondents

[GRID, S ACROSS]

[SHOW THIS TEXT INSTEAD OF DEFAULT INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer yes or no to each option.]

E4. Are you **currently** covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans?

DOWN

- a. Insurance through an employer or union
- b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company
- c. Medicare for people 65 or older
- d. Medicaid or other programs for those with low incomes or disability
- e. TRICARE or other military health care
- f. VA or other veteran's health care
- g. Insurance purchased through a health insurance exchange
- h. Any other

ACROSS

1. Yes
0. No

Base: all respondents

[S]

E5. Do you personally know someone who has been addicted to opioids or prescription painkillers?

1. Yes
0. No

Childhood Background Section

[SHOW DISPLAY9 AND CH0 ON THE SAME PAGE. IF CH0 NOT ASKED, DISPLAY ON CH5 PAGE IF CH5 IS ASKED OR ON CH2 PAGE IF CH5 IS ALSO NOT ASKED]

[DISPLAY9]

Base: if x2017 =2 (did not participate in 2017 survey)

We are interested in a few characteristics of your family when you were growing up.

Base: if x2017 =2 (did not participate in 2017 survey)

[text box]

CH0. Where did you live **when you started high school**?

- a. City [text box]
- b. State
- c. Zip Code [text box]
- d. Country (if not in U.S.) [text box]

Base: if x2017 =2 (did not participate in 2017 survey)

[GRID, S ACROSS]

CH1. **When you were growing up** (under age 17), how frequently did you worry about each of the following?

DOWN

- a. Your family's finances
- b. Having enough food to eat
- c. Crime and personal safety
- d. Having a stable caregiver

ACROSS

- 1. Never worried
- 2. Rarely worried
- 3. Sometimes worried
- 4. Regularly worried

Base: if x2017 =2 (did not participate in 2017 survey)

[S]

CH2. What is the highest level of education that your mother completed?

- 1. Less than high school degree
- 2. High school degree or GED
- 3. Some college but no degree
- 4. Certificate or technical degree
- 5. Associate degree
- 6. Bachelor's degree
- 7. Graduate degree
- 2. Don't know

Base: if x2017 =2 (did not participate in 2017 survey)

[S]

CH3. What is the highest level of education that your father completed?

1. Less than high school degree
2. High school degree or GED
3. Some college but no degree
4. Certificate or technical degree
5. Associate degree
6. Bachelor's degree
7. Graduate degree
- 2. Don't know

Financial Literacy Section

Base: all respondents

[SHOW DISPLAY10 AND FL1 ON THE SAME PAGE]

[DISPLAY10]

Finally, we have a few questions about your views on finances and the economy.

Base: all respondents

[S, VERTICAL SCALE]

FL0. Some people are fully prepared to take financial risks when they save or make investments, while others try to avoid taking financial risks.

On a scale from zero to ten, where zero is not at all willing to take risks and ten is very willing to take risks, what number would you **[IF PPMARIT=1, INSERT: and your spouse / IF PPMARIT=6, INSERT: and your partner]** be on the scale?

0. Not at all willing to take risks
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. Very willing to take risks

Base: all respondents

[S]

FL1. Do you think the following statement is true or false?

“Housing prices in the US can never go down.”

1. True
2. False
- 2. Don't know

Base: all respondents

[S]

FL2. Do you think the following statement is true or false?

“Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund.”

1. True
2. False
- 2. Don't know

Base: all respondents

[S]

[RANDOMIZE 1-4]

FL3. Considering a long time period (for example 10 or 20 years), which asset described below normally gives the highest returns?

1. Stocks
2. Bonds
3. Savings accounts
4. Precious metals
- 2. Don't know [Anchor]

Base: all respondents

[S]

FL4. Imagine that the interest rate on your savings account was 1% per year and inflation was 2% per year. After 1 year, how much would you be able to buy with the money in this account?

1. More than today
2. Exactly the same
3. Less than today
- 2. Don't know

Base: all respondents

[S]

FL5. Suppose you had \$100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much do you think you would have in the account if you left the money to grow?

1. More than \$102
2. Exactly \$102
3. Less than \$102
- 2. Don't know

[INSERT STANDARD CLOSE]

Appendix B: Consumer Responses to Survey Questions

Questions are listed below in the order in which they were presented to respondents. Questions with fewer than 11,316 respondents were not asked to the full sample, and the question-specific screening criteria are available in [appendix A](#). All data are weighted to yield estimates for the U.S. adult population.

Living Arrangements Section

Question L0. Do each of the following types of people currently live with you in your household?

Response	Percent
My spouse or partner	65
My child(ren) under age 18	26
My adult child(ren) age 18 or older	15
My parent(s)	12
Extended family	7
Roommate(s) not related to me	5
Other individuals	4

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question L1. You indicated that you live with (your parents, extended family members, a roommate, adult children who are not in school, or) someone outside of your immediate family. Are each of the following reasons why you live with these individuals?

Response	Percent
To save money	57
To help those living with me financially	43
To care for family member or friend	28
To receive help with child care	7
Prefer living with others	22
Other	22

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,905.

Question L0A. Which of the following best describes the adult children (who are age 18 or older) who live with you?

Response	Percent
All currently enrolled in school	31
One or more not currently enrolled in school	69
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,650.

General Well-Being Section

Question B2. Overall, which one of the following best describes how well you are managing financially these days:

Response	Percent
Living comfortably	34
Doing okay	41
Just getting by	18
Finding it difficult to get by	7
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question B3. Compared to 12 months ago, would you say that you (and your family living with you) are better off, the same, or worse off financially?

Response	Percent
Much better off	7
Somewhat better off	24
About the same	55
Somewhat worse off	11
Much worse off	2
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question B6. Think of your parents when they were your age. Would you say you (and your family living with you) are better off, the same, or worse off financially than they were?

Response	Percent
Much better off	26
Somewhat better off	30
About the same	25
Somewhat worse off	14
Much worse off	5
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question B8. Imagine a ladder showing where people stand in the United States. At the top are the people who are best off—those who have the most money, the best education, and the most respected jobs. At the bottom are the people who are worst off—those who have the least money, the least education, and the least respected jobs or no job. Where would you place yourself on this ladder?

Response	Percent
10. Top of the ladder	1
9	3
8	13
7	24
6	20
5	18
4	10
3	6
2	2
1. Bottom of the ladder	2
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question B7. How would you rate economic conditions today:

Response	Percent				
	Poor	Only fair	Good	Excellent	Refused
In your community	7	29	53	11	0
In this country	10	37	44	7	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question B11. And now a general question about trust. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is completely, in general how much do you trust most people?

Response	Percent
0. Not at all	4
1	3
2	6
3	10
4	10
5	24
6	15
7	18
8	9
9	1
10. Completely	0
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Employment Section

Question D1A. Last month, did you do any work for either pay or profit?

Response	Percent
Yes	62
No	38
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question D3B. Still thinking about your main job, do you usually work:

Response	Percent
Full time (35 or more hours per week)	74
Part time (less than 35 hours per week)	25
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,440.

Question D1E. At any time during the past month did you want to work (more)?

Response	Percent
Yes	32
No	67
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question D20. You indicated that you did not work full time at this job. Did you want a full-time job?

Response	Percent
Yes	24
No	64
Don't know	12
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,736.

Question D21. Did each of the following contribute to you not working or not working as much as you wanted last month?

Response	Percent
Could not find (more) work	24
Child care	9
Other family or personal obligations	21
Health/medical limitations or disability	24
Going to school or in training	8
Retired	34
Other (please specify)	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 7,039.

Question D30. Still thinking about your main job, do you normally start and end work around the same time each day that you work or does it vary?

Response	Percent
Normally work the same hours	74
Schedule varies, primarily at my request	10
Schedule varies, primarily based on my employer's needs	17
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,447.

Question D3A. Think about your main job (the job from which you earned the most income in the past month). In this job, were you working:

Response	Percent
For a single company or employer	87
For yourself or your family business	13
Other (please specify)	0
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,440.

Question D31. Approximately how far in advance does your employer usually tell you the hours that you will need to work on any given day?

Response	Percent
One day in advance or less (including on call)	36
2-3 days in advance	12
4-6 days in advance	12
1-2 weeks in advance	23
3 weeks in advance or longer	16
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 933.

Question D33. A temporary job lasts for a limited time or until the end of a project. Is your main job a temporary job?

Response	Percent
Yes	8
No	90
Don't know	2
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,440.

Question D4. In addition to your main job, did you have any other jobs last month?

Response	Percent
Yes	15
No	85
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,440.

Question D6. In your additional job(s), were you working:

Response	Percent
For a single company or employer	63
For yourself or your family business	43
Other (please specify)	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 998.

Gig Economy Section

Question GE1. In the past month, have you been paid for each of the following activities?

Response	Percent
Child or elder care services	5
Dog walking, feeding pets, or housesitting	3
House cleaning, yard work, or other property maintenance work	6
Driving or ride-sharing, such as with Uber or Lyft	3
Paid tasks online, such as posting YouTube videos (do not include GfK surveys)	2
Other personal tasks, such as deliveries, running errands, or helping people move	4

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question D44. Think about any job in the past 12 months not just your main job last month. In the past 12 months, have you:

Response	Percent
Asked for a raise or a promotion	14
Received a raise or a promotion	44
Applied for a new job	21
Started a new job	13
Voluntarily left a job	8
Gotten laid-off or fired from a job	3

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,440 (asked for or received a raise) and 11,316 (all others).

Question D5. Last month, did your spouse or partner do any work for either pay or profit?

Response	Percent
Yes	65
No	35
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,807.

Question GE2. In the past month, have you been paid for each of the following activities?

Response	Percent
Sold goods yourself at flea markets or garage sales	5
Sold goods at consignment shops or thrift stores	3
Sold goods online, such as on eBay or Craigslist	10
Rented out property, such as your car or your house	4
Any other paid activities that you have not already mentioned in the survey (do not include GfK surveys). Please specify.	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question GE10. In the past month, what were your reasons for doing these activities? Check all that apply.

Response	Percent
Earn money as main source of income	21
Earn money in addition to main source	50
Earn money to help family members	10
Maintain or acquire job-related skills	5
Sell items no longer needed	35
Meet people, have a social activity or hobby	8
Other (please specify)	4
Refused	9

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

Question GE11. In the past month, what was your *main* reason for doing these activities? Check one.

Response	Percent
Earn money as main source of income	18
Earn money in addition to main source	37
Earn money to help family members	4
Maintain or acquire job-related skills	1
Sell items no longer needed	23
Meet people, have a social activity or hobby	3
Other	5
Refused	9

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

Question GE4. Were any of these activities the main job that you told us about already?

Response	Percent
Yes	26
No	74
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

Question GE20. How much time did you spend last month on any of these activities? (Do not include taking GfK Surveys.)

Statistic	Value
Mean hours	21
Median hours	5
Refused (percent)	5

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,203.

Question GE22. Relative to a year ago, did you spend more, the same, or less time on these activities last month?

Response	Percent
More	9
Less	10
About the same	40
Does not apply, have not done these activities	40
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question GE40a. In the past 12 months, how much of your income was from these activities?

Response	Percent
Under 10%	55
10–19%	9
20–29%	5
30–39%	3
40–49%	2
50–59%	2
60–69%	1
70–79%	1
80–89%	1
90% or more	6
Don't know	14
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

Question GE40b. In the past 12 months, have you regularly earned money from these activities?

Response	Percent
Yes, in all or most months	30
No, only in some or a few months	69
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

Question GE5. Some people doing these activities use companies that connect them directly with customers using a website or mobile app. For example, Uber and Lyft help drivers find riders. Last month, did you find any paid work or customers using a company like this?

Response	Percent
Yes	10
No	89
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,152.

General Housing Section

Question GH1. Please describe the housing arrangement where you currently live. Do you and/or your spouse/partner:

Response	Percent
Own home with a mortgage or loan	43
Own home free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)	21
Pay rent	27
Neither own home nor pay rent	9
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question GH2N. Did you move into your current home after October 2016?

Response	Percent
Yes	22
No	78
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question GH3. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your housing situation?

Response	Percent					Refused
	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	
Overall quality of your neighborhood	4	8	12	34	42	0
Quality of your local schools	5	8	29	28	30	1
Safety of neighborhood	4	8	13	35	38	0
Quality of other neighborhood amenities	4	9	26	33	26	0
Overall quality of your housing	4	9	14	37	36	0
Cost of your housing	7	12	18	33	29	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 10,555 (cost of housing) and 11,316 (all others).

Question GH10. In deciding where to live, how important is it to you to have convenient access to each of the following places in your local community?

Response	Percent				
	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Refused
Park or playground	32	25	27	15	1
Library	26	25	29	20	1
Bank or credit union	14	20	35	30	1
Grocery store	3	9	30	58	1
Shops and restaurants	8	17	38	37	1
Church or place of worship	34	18	23	25	1
Public transportation	41	22	19	18	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Rent Section

Question R1. Please select all the reasons below for why you rent your home rather than own your home.

Response	Percent
Cheaper to rent	26
Owning is a bigger financial risk	22
More convenient to rent	31
Plan to move soon	19
Can't qualify for mortgage to buy	28
Can't afford down payment to buy	50
Prefer to rent	18
Currently looking to buy	13
Other	10
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,071.

Question R4. Before your recent move, did you own your previous home?

Response	Percent
No	86
Yes, and I still own that home	3
Yes, and I no longer own that home	10
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,267.

Question R5A. An eviction is when your landlord forces you to move when you don't want to. Were you, or a person you were staying with, evicted from your home?

Response	Percent
Yes	6
No	94
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,048.

Question R5B. Did each of the following contribute to your moving from your previous home?

Response	Percent
Received an eviction notice	1
Landlord told you, or a person you were staying with, to leave	4
You missed a rent payment and thought you would be evicted	2
City condemned the property and forced you to leave	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 975.

Question R5C. Did each of the following contribute to your moving from your previous home?

Response	Percent
Bank took possession of your home in foreclosure	9
Received a notice from bank that they planned to foreclose	9
Missed mortgage payments and thought bank would foreclose	9
City condemned the property and forced you to leave	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 171.

Question R7. In the past 12 months, have you experienced any problems with your house or apartment that you felt needed to be fixed, such as a leak or a broken appliance?

Response	Percent
Yes	52
No	48
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,071.

Question R8. Did you contact your landlord about the problem with your house or apartment that needed to be fixed?

Response	Percent
Yes	90
No	9
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,639.

Question R8A. After you contacted your landlord about the problem with your house or apartment, how much difficulty did you have getting them to fix the problem?

Response	Percent
Substantial difficulty	17
Moderate difficulty	16
A little difficulty	21
None	45
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,484.

Question R3. About how much do you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner) pay for rent each month?

Response	Percent
Less than \$250	6
\$250–\$499	14
\$500–\$749	20
\$750–\$999	19
\$1,000–\$1,249	13
\$1,250–\$1,499	8
\$1,500–\$1,749	6
\$1,750–\$1,999	4
\$2,000 or above	7
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,071.

Mortgage Section

Question M4. About how much is your total monthly mortgage payment (i.e., the amount you send to the bank)?

Response	Percent
Less than \$500	7
\$500–\$749	13
\$750–\$999	14
\$1,000–\$1,249	16
\$1,250–\$1,499	13
\$1,500–\$1,749	8
\$1,750–\$1,999	6
\$2,000–\$2,499	9
\$2,500 or above	9
Don't know	4
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 4,653.

Banking Section

Question BK1. Do you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner) currently have a checking, savings, or money market account?

Response	Percent
Yes	93
No	6
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question BK2. In the past 12 months, did you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner):

Response	Percent
Purchase a money order from a place other than a bank	12
Cash a check at a place other than a bank	8
Take out a payday loan or payday advance	3
Take out a pawn shop loan or an auto title loan	3
Obtain a tax refund advance to receive your refund faster	1
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question BK11. In the past 12 months, did you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner) access a bank account in any of the following ways?

Response	Percent
Visiting a bank teller	74
Using an ATM or bank kiosk	76
Calling the bank	33
Using a computer or tablet	75
Using a mobile phone, including an app	62
In any other way	4
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 10,646.

Question BK20. In the past 12 months, have you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner) used your mobile phone to:

Response	Percent
Deposit a check using your phone's camera	37
Pay for something in a store, such as with Apple Pay or Google Pay instead of cash or a physical card	19
Send money to a person, such as with Venmo, Cash App, or Zelle	27
Do not own a mobile phone	6
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question BK40. In the past 12 months, have you had difficulty getting money out of your bank account for any of the following reasons? (Please check all that apply.)

Response	Percent
Delay in when you could use your money (deposit hold)	6
Your account was locked or frozen	3
Bank's website or mobile app didn't work	7
Other (please specify)	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 10,646.

Question BK42. Which of these would you say was your most serious problem?

Response	Percent
Delay in when you could use your money (deposit hold)	38
Your account was locked or frozen	17
Bank's website or mobile app didn't work	38
Other	6
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,345.

Question BK44. Did you contact your bank about this problem?

Response	Percent
By phone, by going to the bank, or via the bank's website or app	62
Using social media, such as by tweeting at the bank or posting on the bank's Facebook page	4
Other (please specify)	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,357.

Credit Application Section

Question A6. If you were to apply for a credit card today, how confident are you that your application would be approved?

Response	Percent
Very confident	60
Somewhat confident	19
Not confident	15
Don't know	6
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question A1. In the past 12 months, please tell us if each of the following has or has not happened to you (or your spouse/or your partner):

Response	Percent
You (or your spouse or your partner) were turned down for credit	23
You (or your spouse/or your partner) were approved for credit, but were not given as much credit as you applied for	17
You (or your spouse/or your partner) put off applying for credit because you thought you might be turned down	15
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,860.

Question A0. In the last 12 months, have you (or your spouse/or your partner) applied for any credit (such as a credit card, higher credit card limit, mortgage, refinance, student loan, personal loan, or other loan)?

Response	Percent
Yes	35
No	64
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question A2. You indicated that you (or your spouse/or your partner) desired credit in the past 12 months but did not submit a credit application. Was this because you thought that you might be turned down or denied credit?

Response	Percent
Yes	57
No	42
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 663.

Question A0B. Was there a time in the past 12 months that you (or your spouse/or your partner) desired credit but chose not to submit a credit application?

Response	Percent
Yes	9
No	91
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 7,456.

Credit Condition Section

Question C2A. Do you have at least one credit card?

Response	Percent
Yes	81
No	18
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question C3. Do you currently have any outstanding unpaid credit card debt?

Response	Percent
Yes	45
No	55
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 9,400.

Question C3A. Do you (and your spouse/and your partner) currently have more, less, or about the same amount of credit card debt than you had 12 months ago?

Response	Percent
Less debt now	30
About the same	40
More debt now	30
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 4,272.

Question C4A. In the past 12 months, how frequently have you carried an unpaid balance on one or more of your credit cards?

Response	Percent
Never carried an unpaid balance (always pay in full)	47
Once	6
Some of the time	20
Most or all of the time	27
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 9,400.

Education Section

Question ED0. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

Response	Percent
Less than high school degree	7
High school degree or GED	28
Some college but no degree (including currently enrolled in college)	17
Certificate or technical degree	5
Associate degree	9
Bachelor's degree	19
Master's degree	9
Professional degree (e.g., MBA, MD, JD)	3
Doctoral degree	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question D1G. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Response	Percent
No	91
Yes, as a part-time student	3
Yes, as a full-time student	5
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question ED0B. What type of program are you currently pursuing?

Response	Percent
High school or GED program	7
Non-degree training program	3
Certificate or technical degree	10
Associate degree	15
Bachelor's degree	43
Master's degree	12
Professional degree (e.g., MBA, MD, JD)	4
Doctoral degree	6
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 680.

Question ED0D. Have you ever enrolled in an educational degree program beyond high school?

Response	Percent
Yes	12
No	88
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,670.

Question ED1. Which one of the following broad categories best describes your current/most recent educational program?

Response	Percent
Humanities/arts	9
Social/behavioral sciences	7
Life sciences	3
Physical sciences/math	4
Computer/information sciences	8
Engineering	7
Education	9
Business/management	20
Health	12
Law	3
Vocational/technical training	8
Undeclared	6
Other (please specify)	0
Refused	3

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 8,575.

Question ED4. In what year did you last attend this educational program?

Statistic	Value
Mean year	1996
Median year	1998
Refused (percent)	6

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,778.

Question ED5. Overall, how would you say the lifetime financial benefits of your current/most recent educational program compare to its financial costs?

Response	Percent
Financial benefits are much larger	18
Financial benefits are somewhat larger	14
About the same financial benefits and financial costs	36
Financial costs are somewhat larger	10
Financial costs are much larger	16
Refused	5

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,110.

Question ED6. If you could go back and make your education decisions again, would you have done any of these things?

Response	Percent
Chosen a different field of study	40
Attended a different school	34
Completed less education	5
Completed more education	72
Chosen not to attend college	11

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,778.

Question ED9. In what year did you receive your most recent degree?

Statistic	Value
Mean year	1996
Median year	2000
Refused (percent)	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,436.

Question ED10. Overall, how would you say the lifetime financial benefits of your associate degree/bachelor's degree program compare to its financial costs:

Response	Percent
Financial benefits are much larger	40
Financial benefits are somewhat larger	22
About the same financial benefits and financial costs	21
Financial costs are somewhat larger	9
Financial costs are much larger	7
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,436.

Question ED4B. How likely is it that you will return to school and complete the program that you started but did not complete?

Response	Percent
Definitely will return and complete program	17
Probably will return and complete program	21
Not sure	32
Probably will not return and complete program	9
Definitely will not return and complete program	21
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 246.

Question ED11. If you could go back and make decisions regarding your most recent education program again, would you have done any of these things:

Response	Percent
Chosen a different field of study	36
Attended a different school	23
Completed less education	4
Completed more education	40
Chosen not to attend college	4

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,436.

Question ED13. Which of the following are reasons why you did not attend college?

Response	Percent
Too expensive	33
Had to take care of child(ren)	14
Supported or cared for parents or siblings	4
Needed to earn money	32
Wanted to work	35
Simply was not interested in college	39
Was not admitted	1
Did not think benefits of attending college were worth the cost	16
Illness or health issues	4
Other (please specify)	3
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,334.

Question EDOC. Have you ever enrolled in a 4-year bachelor's degree program?

Response	Percent
Yes	23
No	77
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 156.

Question ED4A. In what year did you last attend the bachelor's degree program that you were enrolled in?

Statistic	Value
Mean year	2014
Median year	2014
Refused (percent)	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 35

Question ED14. Which of the following are reasons why you did not complete your college degree?

Response	Percent
Too expensive	37
Had to take care of child(ren)	23
Supported or cared for parents or siblings	5
Needed to earn money	45
Wanted to work	25
Simply not interested in continuing in college	20
Low grades	10
Did not think the benefits of continuing college were worth the cost	18
Illness or health issues	13
Other (please specify)	6
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 699.

Student Loans Section

Question SL1. Do you currently have student loan debt or owe any money used to pay for your own education? Please include any loans on which you are a co-signer that were used to pay for your education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

Response	Percent
Yes	16
No	84
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question SL2. Think about the money you currently owe for your own education. Is the money you owe for that education a student loan, a home equity loan, a credit card debt, or some other type of loan? If you have multiple loans, please select all that apply.

Response	Percent
Student loan	93
Home equity loan	7
Credit card	24
Other loan (please specify)	12

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,640.

Question SL3. Thinking specifically about the money that you owe for your own education, please tell us the total amount that you currently owe on these loans.

Response	Percent
Less than \$5,000	15
\$5,000–\$9,999	12
\$10,000–\$14,999	10
\$15,000–\$19,999	8
\$20,000–\$24,999	7
\$25,000–\$29,999	7
\$30,000–\$39,999	8
\$40,000–\$49,999	7
\$50,000–\$74,999	9
\$75,000–\$99,999	4
\$100,000 or above	7
Don't know	5
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,640.

Question SL4. Approximately how much is the total monthly payment that you are required to make on the loans from your education? Please only include the amount that you are paying, and not money that is paid by others on your behalf.

Response	Percent
I am currently not required to make any payments on these loans	28
\$1–\$49	4
\$50–\$99	9
\$100–\$199	15
\$200–\$299	11
\$300–\$399	8
\$400–\$499	4
\$500–\$749	6
\$750–\$999	2
\$1,000 or above	4
Don't know	8
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,640.

Question SL6. Are you behind on payments or in collections for one or more of the loans from your own education?

Response	Percent
Yes	19
No	81
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,640.

Question SL7. Did you borrow money or take out any loans to pay for your own education that you have since repaid?

Response	Percent
Yes	17
No	83
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 9,676.

Question SL8. Still thinking about the money you borrowed to pay for your own education, did you borrow money for each of the following educational programs (including any loans which you have completely repaid or for education you did not complete)?

Response	Percent
Certificate or technical training	14
Associate degree	21
Bachelor's degree	62
Professional degree (e.g., MBA, MD, JD)	9
Master's degree or doctoral degree	18

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 3,503.

Question SL11. Do you currently owe any money used to pay for your child's or grandchild's education? Please only include any loans on which you are a co-signer that were used to pay for their education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

Response	Percent
Yes	6
No	75
Do not have children or grandchildren	19
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 9,895.

Question SL10. Do you currently owe any money used to pay for your spouse's/partner's education? Please only include any loans on which you are a co-signer that were used to pay for their education beyond high school (including student loans, home equity loans, or credit cards paid off over time).

Response	Percent
Yes	5
No	94
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 6,807.

Question SL12. Is the money you owe for your child's or grandchild's education a student loan, home equity loan, credit card debt, or some other type of loan? If you have multiple loans, please select all that apply.

Response	Percent
Student loan	81
Home equity loan	11
Credit card	15
Other loan (please specify)	9

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 543.

Retirement Planning Section

Question D1I. Do you consider yourself to be retired?

Response	Percent
Yes	27
No	73
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question K0. Do you think that your retirement savings plan is currently on track?

Response	Percent
Yes	36
No	44
Don't know	19
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 7,306.

Question K2. Do you currently have each of the following types of retirement savings?

Response	Percent
401(k), 403(b), Keogh, or other defined contribution plan through an employer	54
Pension with a defined benefit through an employer	22
IRA or Roth IRA	33
Savings outside a retirement account	42
Real estate or land that will provide income in retirement	14
Ownership of a business	7
Other retirement savings (please specify)	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 7,306.

Question K20. Approximately how much money do you currently have saved for retirement?

Response	Percent
Less than \$10,000	19
\$10,000–\$24,999	10
\$25,000–\$49,999	9
\$50,000–\$99,999	11
\$100,000–\$249,999	14
\$250,000–\$499,999	10
\$500,000–\$999,999	7
Over \$1,000,000	5
Don't know	13
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,064.

Question DC4. How comfortable are you with making your own investment decisions in your retirement accounts?

Response	Percent
Very comfortable	13
Mostly comfortable	27
Slightly comfortable	35
Not comfortable	25
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,064.

Question K5A. In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money from or cashed out (permanently withdrawn) money from any of your retirement savings accounts?

Response	Percent
Yes, borrowed money	5
Yes, cashed out	4
Yes, both	1
No	90
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 7,306.

Question K8A. At what age did you retire?

Statistic	Value
Mean age	59
Median age	62
Not sure (percent)	14
Refused (percent)	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 4,010.

Question K9. How important were each of the following in your decision to retire at the age that you did?

Response	Percent			
	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important	Refused
Poor health	60	15	23	2
Wanted to do other things	42	30	25	3
Didn't like the work	70	19	8	4
Family responsibilities	64	16	17	3
Wanted to spend more time with family	45	26	26	3
Forced to retire or lack of available work	73	10	13	3

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 4,010.

Income and Consumption Section

Question I0. In the past 12 months, did you (and/or your spouse/partner) receive any income from the following sources:

Response	Percent
Wages or salaries	68
Self-employment	16
Other paid activities (do not include GfK surveys)	12
Interest, dividends, or rental income	28
Social Security (including old age, SSI, and DI)	28
Unemployment income	3
Pension	18
Any other income	9

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question I0A. Did you (and/or your spouse/partner) receive any income from any source in the past 12 months?

Response	Percent
Yes	19
No	74
Refused	7

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 661.

Question I40. Which of the following categories best describes the total income that you (and your spouse/and your partner) received from all sources, before taxes and deductions, in the past 12 months?

Response	Percent
\$0	5
\$1–\$4,999	6
\$5,000–\$14,999	7
\$15,000–\$24,999	8
\$25,000–\$39,999	11
\$40,000–\$49,999	8
\$50,000–\$74,999	15
\$75,000–\$99,999	11
\$100,000–\$149,999	13
\$150,000–\$199,999	8
\$200,000 or higher	6
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question I41. In the past 12 months, have you (and/or your spouse and/or your partner) received any of the following?

Response	Percent
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	9
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps)	9
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program benefits	2
Housing assistance from government program	3
Free or reduced price school lunches	5
Cash assistance from a welfare program, such as TANF	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question I9. In the past 12 months, which one of the following best describes your (and your spouse's/partner's) income?

Response	Percent
Roughly the same amount each month	71
Occasionally varies from month to month	19
Varies quite often from month to month	9
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question I12. Because your income varies, have you (and your spouse/partner) struggled to pay your bills in the past 12 months?

Response	Percent
Yes	33
No	67
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,975.

Question I20. In the past month, would you say that your (and your spouse's/partner's) total spending was:

Response	Percent
Less than your income	51
The same as your income	32
More than your income	16
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Financial Support from Outside the Home Section

Question FS10. Does anyone living outside of your household (such as a parent, child, other relatives, or friends) provide you with regular financial support? This may include cash or help with rent, groceries, education expenses, student loans, car payments, or other expenses.

Response	Percent
Yes	11
No	89
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FS30. Who outside of your household provides you with regular financial support or helps you with bill payments?

Response	Percent
Parent(s)	64
My adult child	13
Other relatives	19
Friends	9
Other	8

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 985.

Question FS20. Do you receive each of the following types of financial support from people living outside of your household?

Response	Percent
Help paying rent or mortgage	35
Help with education expenses or student loans	24
Help with car payment	20
Help with other bills	45
Money for general expenses or anything else	59

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 985.

Question FS40. Do you provide regular financial support to anyone living outside of your household (such as a parent, child, other relatives, or friends)? This may include cash or help with rent, groceries, education expenses, student loans, car payments, or other expenses.

Response	Percent
Yes	15
No	84
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Emergency Fund Section

Question EF1. Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?

Response	Percent
Yes	51
No	48
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question EF2. If you were to lose your main source of income (e.g., job, government benefits), could you cover your expenses for 3 months by borrowing money, using savings, selling assets, or borrowing from friends/family?

Response	Percent
Yes	39
No	59
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 5,339.

Question EF3. Suppose 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 to cover this expense, please select all that apply.

Response	Percent
Put it on my credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement	33
Put it on my credit card and pay it off over time	16
With the money currently in my checking/savings account or with cash	45
Using money from a bank loan or line of credit	3
By borrowing from a friend or family member	10
Using a payday loan, deposit advance, or overdraft	2
By selling something	6
I wouldn't be able to pay for the expense right now	12
Other (please specify)	0
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question EF5A. Which best describes your ability to pay all of your bills in full this month?

Response	Percent
Able to pay all of bills	82
Can't pay some bills	17
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question EF5B. How would a \$400 emergency expense that you had to pay impact your ability to pay your other bills this month?

Response	Percent
Would still be able to pay all bills	85
Could not pay some bills	14
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 9,353.

Question EF6A. Are you expecting to be unable to pay or only make a partial payment on each of the following bills this month?

Response	Percent
Rent or mortgage	22
Credit card	42
Water, gas, or electric bill	33
Phone or cable bill	32
Car payment	19
Student loan	12
Other (please specify)	3

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,891.

Question EF6B. Which of the following bills would you likely skip paying, or make only a partial payment on, if you had a \$400 emergency expense that you had to pay?

Response	Percent
Rent or mortgage	11
Credit card	45
Water, gas, or electric bill	23
Phone or cable bill	49
Car payment	14
Student loan	24
Other (please specify)	4

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 1,351.

Health and Insurance Section

Question E1. During the past 12 months, was there a time when you needed any of the following, but went without because you couldn't afford it?

Response	Percent
Prescription medicine	10
Seeing a doctor	12
Mental health care or counseling	6
Dental care	17
Seeing a specialist	8
Follow-up care	7

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question E2. During the past 12 months, have you had any unexpected major medical expenses that you had to pay out of pocket because they were not completely paid for by insurance?

Response	Percent
Yes	21
No	78
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question E2A. Approximately how much did you pay out of pocket for unexpected major medical expenses in the past 12 months?

Response	Percent
\$1–\$499	23
\$500–\$999	22
\$1,000–\$4,999	39
\$5,000–\$9,999	9
\$10,000 or higher	3
Don't know	4
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,523.

Question E2B. Do you currently have any debt from the unexpected major medical expenses that you had in the past 12 months?

Response	Percent
Yes	39
No	61
Refused	0

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 2,523.

Question E4. Are you currently covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans?

Response	Percent
Insurance through an employer or union	57
Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company	11
Medicare for people 65 or older	22
Medicaid or other programs for those with low incomes or disability	11
TRICARE or other military health care	3
VA or other veteran's health care	4
Insurance purchased through a health insurance exchange	4
Any other	4

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question E5. Do you personally know someone who has been addicted to opioids or prescription painkillers?

Response	Percent
Yes	21
No	79
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Childhood Background Section

Question CH1. When you were growing up (under age 17), how frequently did you worry about each of the following?

Response	Percent				
	Never worried	Rarely worried	Sometimes worried	Regularly worried	Refused
Your family's finances	42	19	25	13	1
Having enough food to eat	65	16	11	6	1
Crime and personal safety	56	24	14	5	1
Having a stable caregiver	73	13	8	4	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,196.

Question CH2. What is the highest level of education that your mother completed?

Response	Percent
Less than high school degree	18
High school degree or GED	35
Some college but no degree	10
Certificate or technical degree	5
Associate degree	6
Bachelor's degree	13
Graduate degree	7
Don't know	5
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question CH3. What is the highest level of education that your father completed?

Response	Percent
Less than high school degree	20
High school degree or GED	29
Some college but no degree	9
Certificate or technical degree	5
Associate degree	4
Bachelor's degree	13
Graduate degree	9
Don't know	10
Refused	2

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Financial Literacy Section

Question FL0. Some people are fully prepared to take financial risks when they save or make investments, while others try to avoid taking financial risks. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all willing to take risks and 10 is very willing to take risks, what number would you (and/or your spouse/partner) be on the scale?

Response	Percent
0. Not at all willing to take risks	13
1	5
2	8
3	12
4	10
5	22
6	11
7	10
8	4
9	1
10. Very willing to take risks	2
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FL1. Do you think the following statement is true or false? "Housing prices in the U.S. can never go down."

Response	Percent
True	17
False (*correct response*)	61
Don't know	22
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FL2. Do you think the following statement is true or false? "Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund."

Response	Percent
True	3
False (*correct response*)	47
Don't know	49
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FL3. Considering a long time period (for example, 10 or 20 years), which asset described below normally gives the highest returns?

Response	Percent
Stocks (*correct response*)	42
Bonds	9
Savings accounts	3
Precious metals	6
Don't know	39
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FL4. Imagine that the interest rate on your savings account was 1% per year and inflation was 2% per year. After 1 year, how much would you be able to buy with the money in this account?

Response	Percent
More than today	5
Exactly the same	8
Less than today (*correct response*)	59
Don't know	27
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Question FL5. Suppose you had \$100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much do you think you would have in the account if you left the money to grow?

Response	Percent
More than \$102 (*correct response*)	70
Exactly \$102	6
Less than \$102	5
Don't know	18
Refused	1

Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.

Respondent Demographics

Summary statistics for demographics		
Demographic characteristic	Weighted percent	Unweighted percent
Gender		
Male	48	49
Female	52	51
Age¹		
18–29	20	13
30–44	25	21
45–59	26	27
Ages 60+	29	39
Education		
Less than high school	7	4
High school degree	28	24
Some college, certificate, or technical school	22	24
Associate degree	9	10
Bachelor's degree or higher	34	38
Race and ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	64	70
Black, non-Hispanic	12	11
Other, non-Hispanic	6	4
Hispanic	16	12
2+ races, non-Hispanic	1	3
Family income		
Family income less than \$40,000	37	41
Family income \$40,000–\$100,000	34	33
Family income greater than \$100,000	28	25
Household income		
Household income less than \$40,000	26	38
Household income \$40,000–\$100,000	38	32
Household income greater than \$100,000	36	30
Marital status		
Married	55	54
Not married	45	46
Region		
Northeast	18	19
Midwest	21	23
South	37	35
West	24	23
Note: Number of unweighted respondents = 11,316.		
¹ Mean weighted age = 48. Mean unweighted age = 53.		

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