

## Summary of Selected Findings: Alaska

	State	Nation	Region	
Making Ends Meet				
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills				
Very difficult	16%	18%	16%	
Somewhat difficult	43%	43%	42%	
Not at all difficult	40%	36%	38%	
Overdraw checking account occasionally	34%	26%	26%	Respondents with checking accounts
Number of times mortgage payments have been late				
Once	10%	8%	7%	Respondents with mortgages
More than once	11%	13%	9%	
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	10%	10%	8%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	11%	8%	8%	
Spending vs. saving				
Spending less than income	39%	42%	44%	
Spending about equal to income	38%	35%	31%	
Spending more than income	20%	20%	21%	
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	36%	40%	41%	
Planning Ahead				
Have emergency funds	33%	35%	37%	
Do not have emergency funds	63%	60%	58%	
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	46%	37%	37%	Non-retired households
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	49%	58%	58%	
Have set aside money for children’s college education	27%	31%	37%	Respondents with financially dependent children
Have not set aside money for children’s college education	69%	66%	60%	
Managing Financial Products				
Banking				
Have checking account	91%	91%	91%	
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	86%	74%	80%	

	State	Nation	Region	
Non-Bank Borrowing				
Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years				
Auto title loan	7%	6%	5%	
Short term 'payday' loan	10%	9%	8%	
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation loan)	6%	6%	4%	
Pawn shop	14%	12%	9%	
Rent-to-own store	5%	7%	4%	
Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	29%	24%	19%	
Credit Cards				
Number of credit cards				
No credit cards	22%	24%	19%	
1	17%	15%	14%	
2-3	30%	30%	34%	
4 or more	29%	28%	30%	
Credit card behaviors in past year				
Always paid credit cards in full	38%	41%	44%	
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	63%	56%	54%	
Paid the minimum payment only	42%	40%	37%	Respondents with credit cards
Charged a late fee for late payment	29%	26%	24%	
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	18%	15%	14%	
Used the cards for a cash advance	16%	13%	13%	
Mortgages				
Have mortgage	66%	66%	71%	Homeowners
Have home equity loan	16%	22%	24%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan, 401(k))	58%	52%	50%	Non-retired respondents
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	27%	24%	27%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	76%	75%	76%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Portion of retirement portfolio invested in stocks or mutual funds that contain stocks				
More than half	37%	37%	41%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Less than half	21%	25%	25%	
None	7%	9%	4%	
Don't know	33%	26%	26%	
Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds				
Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account	33%	36%	39%	All except unbanked respondents

	State	Nation	Region
<b>Financial Knowledge &amp; Decision-Making</b>			
<i>Financial Literacy</i>			

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?

<u>More than \$102</u> (correct answer)	82%	78%	80%
Exactly \$102	6%	6%	5%
Less than \$102	3%	5%	5%
Don't know	8%	10%	9%

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?

More than today	8%	7%	7%
Exactly the same	4%	7%	7%
<u>Less than today</u> (correct answer)	74%	65%	67%
Don't know	12%	19%	17%

If interest rates rise, what will typically happen to bond prices?

They will rise	19%	18%	17%
<u>They will fall</u> (correct answer)	25%	28%	30%
They will stay the same	4%	5%	4%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	7%	10%	10%
Don't know	44%	37%	37%

A 15-year mortgage typically requires higher monthly payments than a 30-year mortgage, but the total interest paid over the life of the loan will be less.

<u>True</u> (correct answer)	79%	76%	75%
False	9%	9%	8%
Don't know	11%	15%	16%

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

True	5%	6%	6%
<u>False</u> (correct answer)	55%	53%	55%
Don't know	39%	40%	37%

Mean number of correct quiz answers	3.15	2.99	3.07
Mean number of incorrect quiz answers	0.64	0.73	0.69
Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers	1.14	1.21	1.16

*Comparison Shopping*

Compared credit cards	32%	32%	31%	<i>Respondents with credit cards</i>
Did not compare credit cards	62%	62%	63%	
Compared auto loans	51%	44%	44%	<i>Respondents with auto loans</i>
Did not compare auto loans	46%	53%	52%	

	State	Nation	Region
<i>Credit Reports and Credit Scores</i>			
Obtained a copy of credit report in past year	49%	42%	44%
Checked credit score in past year	47%	41%	42%

**Notes:**

Region = Pacific Census Division (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington).

State figures are weighted by age x gender, ethnicity and education.

National figures are weighed by age x gender, ethnicity, education and Census Division.

Census Division figures are weighted by age x gender, ethnicity and education.

Differences between groups may or may not be statistically significant.

Percentages may not add up to 100 because of missing or “don’t know” responses.

Survey was conducted June - October 2009.

For additional findings and details, full survey results are available for download at  
[http://www.usfinancialcapability.org/table\\_pdf/full\\_data\\_tables.xls](http://www.usfinancialcapability.org/table_pdf/full_data_tables.xls)