

Summary of Selected Findings: California

	State	Nation	Region
Making Ends Meet			
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills			
Very difficult	16%	18%	16%
Somewhat difficult	42%	43%	42%
Not at all difficult	38%	36%	38%
Overdraw checking account occasionally	26%	26%	26% <small>Respondents with checking accounts</small>
Number of times mortgage payments have been late			
Once	8%	8%	7% <small>Respondents with mortgages</small>
More than once	9%	13%	9%
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	6%	10%	8% <small>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</small>
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	8%	8%	8%
Spending vs. saving			
Spending less than income	45%	42%	44%
Spending about equal to income	29%	35%	31%
Spending more than income	21%	20%	21%
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	41%	40%	41%
Planning Ahead			
Have emergency funds	37%	35%	37%
Do not have emergency funds	58%	60%	58%
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	36%	37%	37% <small>Non-retired households</small>
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	58%	58%	58%
Have set aside money for children's college education	38%	31%	37% <small>Respondents with financially dependent children</small>
Have not set aside money for children's college education	58%	66%	60%
Managing Financial Products			
<i>Banking</i>			
Have checking account	90%	91%	91%
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	79%	74%	80%

	State	Nation	Region	
Non-Bank Borrowing				
Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years				
Auto title loan	4%	6%	5%	
Short term 'payday' loan	8%	9%	8%	
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation loan)	3%	6%	4%	
Pawn shop	8%	12%	9%	
Rent-to-own store	3%	7%	4%	
Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	18%	24%	19%	
Credit Cards				
Number of credit cards				
No credit cards	18%	24%	19%	
1	12%	15%	14%	
2-3	36%	30%	34%	
4 or more	31%	28%	30%	
Credit card behaviors in past year				
Always paid credit cards in full	44%	41%	44%	
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	54%	56%	54%	
Paid the minimum payment only	37%	40%	37%	Respondents with credit cards
Charged a late fee for late payment	23%	26%	24%	
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	14%	15%	14%	
Used the cards for a cash advance	13%	13%	13%	
Mortgages				
Have mortgage	70%	66%	71%	Homeowners
Have home equity loan	24%	22%	24%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan, 401(k))	48%	52%	50%	Non-retired respondents
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	26%	24%	27%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	77%	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	40%	37%	41%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Less than half	26%	25%	25%	
None	3%	9%	4%	
Don't know	27%	26%	26%	
Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds				
Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account	39%	36%	39%	All except unbanked respondents

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Financial Knowledge & Decision-Making			
<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?			
More than \$102 (correct answer)	80%	78%	80%
Exactly \$102	5%	6%	5%
Less than \$102	5%	5%	5%
Don't know	9%	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	7%	7%	7%
Exactly the same	7%	7%	7%
Less than today (correct answer)	67%	65%	67%
Don't know	17%	19%	17%
If interest rates rise, what will typically happen to bond prices?			
They will rise	16%	18%	17%
They will fall (correct answer)	31%	28%	30%
They will stay the same	4%	5%	4%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	9%	10%	10%
Don't know	38%	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.			
True (correct answer)	74%	76%	75%
False	8%	9%	8%
Don't know	16%	15%	16%
Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund.			
True	6%	6%	6%
False (correct answer)	54%	53%	55%
Don't know	38%	40%	37%
Mean number of correct quiz answers	3.06	2.99	3.07
Mean number of incorrect quiz answers	0.68	0.73	0.69
Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers	1.17	1.21	1.16
<i>Comparison Shopping</i>			
Compared credit cards	31%	32%	31%
Did not compare credit cards	63%	62%	63%
Compared auto loans	42%	44%	44%
Did not compare auto loans	53%	53%	52%

Respondents with credit cards

Respondents with auto loans

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<i>Credit Reports and Credit Scores</i>			
Obtained a copy of credit report in past year	44%	42%	44%
Checked credit score in past year	43%	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