

Summary of Selected Findings: Connecticut

	State	Nation	Region	
Making Ends Meet				
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills				
Very difficult	19%	18%	20%	
Somewhat difficult	43%	43%	43%	
Not at all difficult	37%	36%	36%	
Overdraw checking account occasionally	24%	26%	25%	Respondents with checking accounts
Number of times mortgage payments have been late				
Once	7%	8%	7%	Respondents with mortgages
More than once	14%	13%	12%	
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	11%	10%	11%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	7%	8%	6%	
Spending vs. saving				
Spending less than income	43%	42%	40%	
Spending about equal to income	31%	35%	36%	
Spending more than income	21%	20%	21%	
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	40%	40%	38%	
Planning Ahead				
Have emergency funds	39%	35%	39%	
Do not have emergency funds	57%	60%	58%	
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	44%	37%	37%	Non-retired households
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	53%	58%	59%	
Have set aside money for children's college education	38%	31%	36%	Respondents with financially dependent children
Have not set aside money for children's college education	59%	66%	62%	
Managing Financial Products				
Banking				
Have checking account	93%	91%	92%	
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	78%	74%	79%	

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Non-Bank Borrowing				
Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years				
Auto title loan	4%	6%	4%	
Short term 'payday' loan	5%	9%	4%	
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation loan)	5%	6%	4%	
Pawn shop	10%	12%	9%	
Rent-to-own store	7%	7%	6%	
Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	19%	24%	18%	
Credit Cards				
Number of credit cards				
No credit cards	20%	24%	20%	
1	12%	15%	15%	
2-3	33%	30%	32%	
4 or more	32%	28%	30%	
Credit card behaviors in past year				
Always paid credit cards in full	41%	41%	41%	
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	56%	56%	55%	
Paid the minimum payment only	37%	40%	37%	Respondents with credit cards
Charged a late fee for late payment	24%	26%	24%	
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	13%	15%	14%	
Used the cards for a cash advance	13%	13%	12%	
Mortgages				
Have mortgage	72%	66%	68%	Homeowners
Have home equity loan	29%	22%	29%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan, 401(k))	54%	52%	54%	Non-retired respondents
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	29%	24%	26%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	78%	75%	77%	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%	38%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Less than half	28%	25%	25%	
None	8%	9%	8%	
Don't know	26%	26%	28%	
Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds				
Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account	41%	36%	38%	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?

<u>More than \$102</u> (correct answer)	78%	78%	82%
Exactly \$102	6%	6%	5%
Less than \$102	6%	5%	4%
Don't know	9%	10%	8%

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	9%	7%	7%
<u>Less than today</u> (correct answer)	65%	65%	67%
Don't know	18%	19%	17%

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

They will rise	17%	18%	17%
<u>They will fall</u> (correct answer)	33%	28%	30%
They will stay the same	5%	5%	4%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	10%	10%	9%
Don't know	35%	37%	39%

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)	76%	76%	78%
False	8%	9%	7%
Don't know	15%	15%	15%

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

True	8%	6%	5%
<u>False</u> (correct answer)	51%	53%	53%
Don't know	40%	40%	42%

Mean number of correct quiz answers	3.02	2.99	3.10
Mean number of incorrect quiz answers	0.76	0.73	0.66
Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers	1.17	1.21	1.20

Comparison Shopping

Compared credit cards	33%	32%	34%	<i>Respondents with credit cards</i>
Did not compare credit cards	60%	62%	60%	
Compared auto loans	34%	44%	44%	<i>Respondents with auto loans</i>
Did not compare auto loans	60%	53%	53%	

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<i>Credit Reports and Credit Scores</i>			
Obtained a copy of credit report in past year	45%	42%	43%
Checked credit score in past year	44%	41%	40%

Notes:

Region = New England Census Division (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont).

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