

Summary of Selected Findings: North Carolina

	State	Nation	Region
Making Ends Meet			
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills			
Very difficult	17%	18%	19%
Somewhat difficult	45%	43%	42%
Not at all difficult	36%	36%	36%
Overdraw checking account occasionally	24%	26%	25%
			<i>Respondents with checking accounts</i>
Number of times mortgage payments have been late			
Once	7%	8%	9%
More than once	17%	13%	14%
			<i>Respondents with mortgages</i>
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	12%	10%	11%
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	6%	8%	8%
			<i>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</i>
Spending vs. saving			
Spending less than income	43%	42%	42%
Spending about equal to income	37%	35%	35%
Spending more than income	17%	20%	20%
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	41%	40%	41%
Planning Ahead			
Have emergency funds	37%	35%	36%
Do not have emergency funds	59%	60%	60%
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	39%	37%	37%
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	58%	58%	58%
			<i>Non-retired households</i>
Have set aside money for children's college education	35%	31%	33%
Have not set aside money for children's college education	63%	66%	64%
			<i>Respondents with financially dependent children</i>
Managing Financial Products			
<i>Banking</i>			
Have checking account	90%	91%	91%
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	68%	74%	74%

	State	Nation	Region	
Non-Bank Borrowing				
Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years				
Auto title loan	6%	6%	6%	
Short term 'payday' loan	4%	9%	8%	
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation loan)	7%	6%	6%	
Pawn shop	16%	12%	14%	
Rent-to-own store	9%	7%	6%	
Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	27%	24%	24%	
Credit Cards				
Number of credit cards				
No credit cards	29%	24%	25%	
1	14%	15%	14%	
2-3	28%	30%	29%	
4 or more	26%	28%	28%	
Credit card behaviors in past year				
Always paid credit cards in full	41%	41%	40%	
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	55%	56%	57%	
Paid the minimum payment only	37%	40%	40%	Respondents with credit cards
Charged a late fee for late payment	23%	26%	25%	
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	13%	15%	16%	
Used the cards for a cash advance	12%	13%	13%	
Mortgages				
Have mortgage	67%	66%	68%	Homeowners
Have home equity loan	23%	22%	24%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan, 401(k))	50%	52%	49%	Non-retired respondents
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	20%	24%	23%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	72%	75%	75%	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	36%	37%	38%	Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan
Less than half	28%	25%	26%	
None	12%	9%	11%	
Don't know	23%	26%	22%	
Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds				
Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account	32%	36%	35%	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)	75%	78%	77%
Exactly \$102	8%	6%	6%
Less than \$102	5%	5%	5%
Don't know	10%	10%	10%
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	9%	7%	7%
Exactly the same	8%	7%	7%
<u>Less than today</u> (correct answer)	61%	65%	63%
Don't know	20%	19%	21%
If interest rates rise, what will typically happen to bond prices?			
They will rise	18%	18%	18%
<u>They will fall</u> (correct answer)	25%	28%	29%
They will stay the same	4%	5%	5%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	10%	10%	10%
Don't know	41%	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)	76%	76%	77%
False	10%	9%	9%
Don't know	14%	15%	14%
Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund.			
True	9%	6%	7%
<u>False</u> (correct answer)	49%	53%	53%
Don't know	41%	40%	39%
Mean number of correct quiz answers	2.86	2.99	2.98
Mean number of incorrect quiz answers	0.82	0.73	0.74
Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers	1.25	1.21	1.20
<i>Comparison Shopping</i>			
Compared credit cards	26%	32%	31%
Did not compare credit cards	67%	62%	63%
Compared auto loans	47%	44%	46%
Did not compare auto loans	48%	53%	50%

Respondents with credit cards

Respondents with auto loans

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

Notes:

Region = South Atlantic Census Division (Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia).

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