

Summary of Selected Findings: North Carolina

	State	Nation	Region	
Making Ends Meet				
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills				
Very difficult	16%	16%	16%	
Somewhat difficult	42%	42%	41%	
Not at all difficult	38%	40%	40%	
Spending vs. saving				
Spending less than income	41%	41%	43%	
Spending about equal to income	35%	36%	35%	
Spending more than income	19%	19%	18%	
Overdraw checking account occasionally	22%	22%	21%	<i>Respondents with checking accounts</i>
Have unpaid medical bills	36%	26%	27%	
Number of times mortgage payments have been late				
Once	5%	8%	8%	<i>Respondents with mortgages</i>
More than once	16%	13%	14%	
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	17%	14%	17%	<i>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</i>
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	12%	10%	12%	
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	32%	29%	32%	
Planning Ahead				
Have emergency funds	37%	40%	40%	
Do not have emergency funds	60%	56%	55%	
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	35%	37%	38%	<i>Non-retired households</i>
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	61%	59%	57%	
Have set aside money for children's college education	34%	34%	36%	<i>Respondents with financially dependent children</i>
Have not set aside money for children's college education	64%	63%	60%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan,	43%	49%	45%	<i>Non-retired respondents</i>
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	19%	24%	23%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	79%	77%	79%	<i>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</i>

	State	Nation	Region
--	-------	--------	--------

Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account

30%	35%	35%
-----	-----	-----

All except unbanked respondents

Managing Financial Products

Managing Money

Payment methods used frequently

Cash	29%	33%	30%
Paper checks	15%	15%	14%
Credit cards	27%	30%	31%
Debit cards tied to bank account	49%	46%	46%
Pre-paid debit cards	8%	6%	6%
Online payments directly from bank account	34%	35%	38%
Money orders	9%	5%	6%

Banking

Have checking account	89%	89%	90%
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	76%	72%	73%

Mortgages

Have mortgage	61%	60%	61%	<i>Homeowners</i>
Have home equity loan	20%	18%	18%	

Home "underwater" (negative equity)	12%	14%	17%	<i>Homeowners</i>
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------------------

Credit Cards

Credit card behaviors in past year

Always paid credit cards in full	42%	49%	48%
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	55%	49%	49%
Paid the minimum payment only	35%	34%	33%
Charged a late fee for late payment	16%	16%	15%
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	6%	8%	7%
Used the cards for a cash advance	12%	11%	11%

Respondents with credit cards

Other Debt

Have student loan	19%	20%	18%
Have auto loan	30%	31%	31%

Non-Bank Borrowing

Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years

Auto title loan	8%	9%	10%
Short term 'payday' loan	10%	12%	12%
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation check)	11%	8%	9%
Pawn shop	23%	18%	21%
Rent-to-own store	14%	10%	11%

Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	34%	30%	31%
---	-----	-----	-----

Financial Knowledge & Decision-Making

Financial Literacy

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)	76%	75%	75%
Exactly \$102	7%	7%	8%
Less than \$102	5%	6%	5%
Don't know	11%	11%	11%

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%	9%	9%
Exactly the same	10%	9%	10%
<u>Less than today</u> (correct answer)	60%	61%	59%
Don't know	20%	20%	20%

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

They will rise	19%	20%	21%
<u>They will fall</u> (correct answer)	28%	28%	30%
They will stay the same	5%	5%	5%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	9%	9%	9%
Don't know	39%	37%	34%

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)	73%	75%	75%
False	11%	9%	9%
Don't know	16%	15%	15%

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

True	9%	9%	10%
<u>False</u> (correct answer)	47%	48%	48%
Don't know	43%	42%	41%

4 or 5 correct quiz answers

36% 39% 38%

3 or fewer correct quiz answers

64% 61% 62%

Mean number of correct quiz answers

2.84 2.88 2.87

Mean number of incorrect quiz answers

0.83 0.81 0.86

Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers

1.28 1.26 1.21

Comparison Shopping

Compared credit cards

36% 33% 34%

Did not compare credit cards

57% 61% 60%

Respondents with credit cards

<i>Credit Reports and Credit Scores</i>	State	Nation	Region
Obtained a copy of credit report in past year	41%	39%	41%
Checked credit score in past year	44%	43%	46%

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

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

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 July - October 2012.

For additional findings and details, full survey results are available for download at
http://usfinancialcapability.org/downloads/NFCS_2012_Full_Data_Tables.xls