

## Summary of Selected Findings: Washington

	State	Nation	Region	
<b>Making Ends Meet</b>				
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills				
Very difficult	18%	16%	14%	
Somewhat difficult	40%	42%	38%	
Not at all difficult	40%	40%	45%	
Spending vs. saving				
Spending less than income	39%	41%	44%	
Spending about equal to income	41%	36%	36%	
Spending more than income	17%	19%	16%	
Overdraw checking account occasionally	23%	22%	20%	<i>Respondents with checking accounts</i>
Have unpaid medical bills	25%	26%	17%	
Number of times mortgage payments have been late				
Once	7%	8%	8%	<i>Respondents with mortgages</i>
More than once	15%	13%	13%	
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	15%	14%	16%	<i>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</i>
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	13%	10%	11%	
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	29%	29%	31%	
<b>Planning Ahead</b>				
Have emergency funds	41%	40%	44%	
Do not have emergency funds	54%	56%	50%	
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	40%	37%	40%	<i>Non-retired households</i>
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	56%	59%	56%	
Have set aside money for children's college education	31%	34%	40%	<i>Respondents with financially dependent children</i>
Have not set aside money for children's college education	67%	63%	57%	
<b>Retirement Accounts</b>				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension plan,	49%	49%	50%	<i>Non-retired respondents</i>
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	26%	24%	29%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	76%	77%	73%	<i>Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan</i>

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*Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds*

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

36%	35%	41%
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*All except unbanked respondents*

**Managing Financial Products**

*Managing Money*

Payment methods used frequently

Cash	27%	33%	31%
Paper checks	11%	15%	13%
Credit cards	30%	30%	36%
Debit cards tied to bank account	47%	46%	45%
Pre-paid debit cards	5%	6%	6%
Online payments directly from bank account	31%	35%	34%
Money orders	5%	5%	5%

*Banking*

Have checking account	90%	89%	91%
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	78%	72%	78%

*Mortgages*

Have mortgage	64%	60%	65%	<i>Homeowners</i>
Have home equity loan	19%	18%	22%	

Home "underwater" (negative equity)	22%	14%	23%	<i>Homeowners</i>
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*Credit Cards*

Credit card behaviors in past year

Always paid credit cards in full	47%	49%	54%
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	50%	49%	46%
Paid the minimum payment only	37%	34%	32%
Charged a late fee for late payment	18%	16%	15%
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	11%	8%	8%
Used the cards for a cash advance	10%	11%	11%

*Respondents with credit cards*

*Other Debt*

Have student loan	18%	20%	18%
Have auto loan	28%	31%	29%

*Non-Bank Borrowing*

Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years

Auto title loan	8%	9%	10%
Short term 'payday' loan	15%	12%	14%
Advance on tax refund (refund anticipation check)	8%	8%	9%
Pawn shop	20%	18%	17%
Rent-to-own store	10%	10%	8%

Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	33%	30%	28%
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## 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)	75%	75%	75%
Exactly \$102	8%	7%	7%
Less than \$102	6%	6%	7%
Don't know	10%	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	7%	9%	8%
Exactly the same	6%	9%	7%
<u>Less than today</u> (correct answer)	67%	61%	65%
Don't know	19%	20%	19%

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

They will rise	16%	20%	18%
<u>They will fall</u> (correct answer)	29%	28%	32%
They will stay the same	7%	5%	5%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	8%	9%	7%
Don't know	40%	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%	75%	74%
False	8%	9%	7%
Don't know	13%	15%	18%

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

True	6%	9%	10%
<u>False</u> (correct answer)	53%	48%	48%
Don't know	40%	42%	41%

4 or 5 correct quiz answers

44% 39% 43%

3 or fewer correct quiz answers

56% 61% 57%

Mean number of correct quiz answers

3.03 2.88 2.95

Mean number of incorrect quiz answers

0.73 0.81 0.75

Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers

1.22 1.26 1.27

### Comparison Shopping

Compared credit cards

32% 33% 32%

Did not compare credit cards

61% 61% 62%

*Respondents with credit cards*

<i>Credit Reports and Credit Scores</i>	State	Nation	Region
Obtained a copy of credit report in past year	39%	39%	38%
Checked credit score in past year	43%	43%	44%

**Notes:**

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

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](http://usfinancialcapability.org/downloads/NFCS_2012_Full_Data_Tables.xls)