

2020 Follow-Up Survey

U.S. Financial Health Pulse

This survey focuses on you and your household's financial situation. "Household" includes you and others living with you who contribute financially to your home. As you answer these questions, please think about all of your household members' finances, taken as a whole. If you live alone, or do not consider anyone else to be a member of your household, please answer these questions as an individual.

For all questions, please answer to the best of your ability, and if you are not sure about the answer to a question, just your best guess will do.

[Randomize block order of this section and the Shortened Index section]

Financial Health Indicators Section

These first few questions ask about your household's financial situation over the past 12 months. As you answer these questions, please think about your financial situation since July 2019.

Q036. Which of the following statements best describes how your household's total spending compared to total income, over the last 12 months?

1. Spending was much less than income
2. Spending was a little less than income
3. Spending was about equal to income
4. Spending was a little more than income
5. Spending was much more than income

Q039. Which of the following statements best describes how your household has paid its bills over the last 12 months?

My household has been financially able to:

1. Pay all our bills on time
2. Pay nearly all our bills on time
3. Pay most of our bills on time
4. Pay some of our bills on time
5. Pay very few of our bills on time

Q044. At your current level of spending, how long could you and your household afford to cover expenses, if you had to live on only the money you have readily available, without withdrawing money from retirement accounts or borrowing?

1. 6 months or more
2. 3-5 months

3. 1-2 months
4. 1-3 weeks
5. Less than 1 week

Q045. Thinking about your household's longer-term financial goals, such as saving for a vacation, starting a business, buying or paying off a home, saving up for education, putting money away for retirement, or making retirement funds last...

How confident are you that your household is currently doing what is needed to meet your longer-term goals?

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident
3. Somewhat confident
4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident

Q077. Thinking about all of your household's current debts, including mortgages, bank loans, student loans, money owed to people, medical debt, past-due bills, and credit card balances that are carried over from prior months...

As of today, which of the following statements describes how manageable your household debt is?

1. Have a manageable amount of debt
2. Have a bit more debt than is manageable
3. Have far more debt than is manageable
4. Do not have any debt

Q004. How would you rate your credit score? Your credit score is a number that tells lenders how risky or safe you are as a borrower.

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
6. I don't know

Q112. Thinking about all of the types of insurance you and others in your household currently might have, including health insurance, vehicle insurance, home or rental insurance, life insurance, and disability insurance...

How confident are you that those insurance policies will provide enough support in case of an emergency?

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident

3. Somewhat confident
4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident
6. No one in my household has any insurance

Q113. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“My household plans ahead financially.”

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree somewhat
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree somewhat
5. Disagree strongly

Shortened Indicators Section

Si001. In the last 12 months, my household **spent**...

1. Much less than our income
2. A little less than our income
3. About equal to our income
4. A little more than our income
5. Much more than our income

Si002. In the last 12 months, my household **paid**...

1. All bills on time
2. Nearly all bills on time
3. Most bills on time
4. Some bills on time
5. Very few bills on time

Si003. If our household stopped earning money today, the cash we have now would support us for...

1. 6 months or more
2. 3-5 months
3. 1-2 months
4. 1-3 weeks
5. Less than 1 week

Si004. My household is doing what's needed to meet our long-term financial goals.

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident
3. Somewhat confident

4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident

Si005. My household has...

1. No debt
2. A manageable amount of debt
3. A bit more debt than is manageable
4. Far more debt than is manageable

Si006. My credit score is...

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
6. I don't know

Si007. My household's insurance policies will provide enough support in an emergency.

1. Very confident
2. Moderately confident
3. Somewhat confident
4. Slightly confident
5. Not at all confident
6. No one in my household has any insurance

Q194. Are you currently setting aside money for an emergency?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Si008. My household plans ahead financially.

1. Agree strongly
2. Agree somewhat
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree somewhat
5. Disagree strongly

Covid-19 / Coronavirus Section

These next few questions ask about your experience with the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19), a disease with flu-like symptoms that has spread across the world. As you

answer these questions, please think about your financial situation since March of this year, when the outbreak began in the United States.

QA042. How much financial stress, if any, has the coronavirus outbreak caused you?

1. High financial stress
2. Moderate financial stress
3. Some financial stress
4. No financial stress

Cv001. Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19?

1. Yes, I have
2. Yes, someone in my household has
3. No, no one in my household has

QA032. Have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following issues since March **due to the coronavirus outbreak**? Please select all that apply. (Yes/No)

1. Laid off from a job
2. Furloughed, on temporary leave from a job, or employer temporarily closed
3. Employer reduced hours or pay
4. Employer closed or permanently went out of business
5. Worked less because of lower demand for services offered
6. Worked less due to childcare responsibilities or other personal constraints
7. A business that I or someone in my household owns earned less revenue or closed
8. Was unable to get to work due to childcare responsibilities or other personal constraints
9. Other (please specify)

Cv002. Have you or anyone in your household lost access to health insurance as a result of being laid off, furloughed, or terminated from your job?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

Please indicate if your household's total income and expenses have changed since March, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. *As you're thinking about your household's total income, please consider wages from employment, as well as government payments or income from other sources.*

1. Cv003a. My household's **income** has ... [increased/decreased/stayed the same]
2. Cv003b. My household's **expenses** have ... [increased/decreased/stayed the same]

QA034. Have you or anyone in your household taken any of the following actions since March to help you cope with the effects of the coronavirus outbreak? Please select all that apply. (yes/no)

1. Applied for a new job
2. Applied for unemployment benefits
3. Cut back on my expenses
4. Spent down savings
5. Carried a balance on a credit card
6. Overdrew my checking account
7. Withdrew money from my retirement account
8. Borrowed money from friends and family
9. Applied for a loan from a financial institution or online lender
10. Applied for other government benefits (SNAP, WIC, etc.)
11. Borrowed using a payday loan, deposit advance, or pawn shop loan
12. Sold something

These next few questions ask about financial hardships you may have experienced since the coronavirus outbreak began in March. For each of these questions, please indicate whether the statements were often, sometimes, or never true for you since March.

Q019. Since March, I worried whether our food would run out before I got money to buy more.

1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

Q020. Since March, I worried about being able to afford my rental or mortgage payment.

1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

Q021. Since March, I or someone in my household did not get healthcare we needed because we couldn't afford it.

1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

Q022. Since March, I or someone in my household stopped taking a medication or took less than directed due to the costs.

1. Often
2. Sometimes
3. Rarely
4. Never

These next questions ask about stimulus payments (also known as “economic impact payments,” “recovery rebates,” or “stimulus checks”) that you may have received from the federal government to help you make ends meet during the coronavirus outbreak.

QA038. Have you or anyone in your household received a stimulus payment from the federal government since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in March?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I’m not sure

If QA038 = yes

QA044. How did you or someone in your household receive this stimulus payment? Please select all that apply.

1. Direct deposit into a bank account
2. Paper check sent in the mail
3. Prepaid card from the government sent in the mail (also known as an EIPCard)
4. Direct deposit onto my Direct Express card or other prepaid card
5. I’m not sure

Ask if QA044 = 2 (“paper check sent in the mail”)

Q045. You indicated that you or someone in your household received your stimulus payment as a paper check sent in the mail. Where did you cash or deposit this check?

1. At a branch of a bank or credit union
2. At an ATM
3. At a check casher (Ace Check Express, Americash, Currency Exchange, etc.)
4. At a retail or convenience store (a grocery store, drug store, WalMart, etc.)
5. Using mobile deposit on my phone
6. I haven’t cashed or deposited the check yet
7. Other (please specify)

Ask if QA044 = 2 (“paper check in the mail”) AND Q045 does not equal = 6 (“I haven’t cashed or deposited the check”)

Q046. Did you pay any fees to cash or deposit this stimulus check?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don’t know

Ask if QA046 = 1

QA47. You indicated you paid fees to cash or deposit your stimulus payment check. How much did you pay? If you're not sure, your best guess will do. [Input a number]

Ask if QA038 = 1

Cv004. At the time you received your stimulus payment, was your primary checking account overdrawn or did the account have a negative balance?

1. Yes, my primary checking account was overdrawn
2. No, my primary checking account was not overdrawn
3. Does not apply (I don't have a checking account)

These next few questions ask about other types of assistance you might have received in response to the coronavirus crisis. As you answer these questions, please think about your experience since March of this year.

Cv005. You indicated that you or someone in your household applied for unemployment benefits from the federal or state government. Did you receive these benefits?

1. Yes
2. No, our application was rejected
3. No, our application is still being processed
4. No, some other reason
5. I'm not sure

If Cv005 = 1

Cv006. Are you or is anyone in your household still receiving unemployment benefits from the federal or state government?

1. Yes, we are currently receiving unemployment benefits
2. No, we are no longer receiving unemployment benefits
3. I'm not sure

If Cv005 = 1

Cv007. Approximately how much money did you receive, or are you currently receiving, in federal and state unemployment benefits each week? [Insert number]

Cv008a-e. Have you or anyone in your household applied for **relief** (such as deferral, forbearance, or forgiveness) on any of the following payments since March?

1. Student loans
2. Mortgage or rent
3. Credit cards
4. Auto loans
5. Other loans (Please Specify)

Response Options:

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- Does not apply to my situation

For every endorsed answer in previous question:

Cv009a-e. You indicated that you or someone in your household applied for relief on: [list debt]. Have you received this relief?

1. Yes
2. No, my application was rejected
3. No, my application is still being processed
4. I'm not sure
5. Other (please specify)

Cv010. Have you or anyone in your household received **financial support** (e.g. cash grants or direct payments) from any of the following non-government sources since March? Please check all that apply.

1. Non-profit organizations
2. Banks or credit unions
3. Online or mobile app
4. Friends and family
5. Other (please specify)

Cv011. Have you or anyone in your household received **financial advice** to help you cope with the coronavirus outbreak from any of the following sources since March? Please check all that apply.

1. Government
2. Non-profit organizations
3. Bank or credit union
4. Online or mobile app
5. Friends and family
6. Articles or online resources
7. Other (please specify)

For every endorsed answer in the question above:

Cv012a-g. On a scale from 1 – 5 with 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest, please rank how helpful you found the financial advice you received from each of the following sources: [present each endorsed answer]

These last questions ask about events related to the coronavirus outbreak that may happen in the future.

QA043. For each of the following potential problems that could result from the coronavirus outbreak, please indicate how worried or not worried you are that you or your household will experience that issue in the future.

1. I or someone in my household will lose our job or our hours will be cut
2. My household will struggle to pay our rent, mortgage, or utility bills
3. My household will struggle to afford basic necessities (like food and healthcare)
4. Someone in my household will become sick with the coronavirus
5. My health insurance won't provide enough financial support for healthcare if I or someone in my family were to become seriously ill with the coronavirus
6. I will lose my health insurance
7. I or someone in my household will struggle to pay student loans
8. My household will use up all of our savings
9. My automobile will be repossessed
10. My household will be evicted from our home

Response Options:

- Very worried
- Somewhat worried
- A little worried
- Not at all worried
- Does not apply to my household's situation
- Already happened to me or someone in my household

Cv013. Over the next year, do you expect the US economy as a whole to perform better, worse, or about the same as it is performing currently?

1. Better
2. About the same
3. Worse