



# SURVEY OF CONSUMER FINANCES

**Federal Reserve Board  
Mail Stop K1-153  
Washington, DC 20551**

## **SUMMARY LISTING OF QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE 2019 SCF**

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## Household Listing

Confidentiality pledge

Institutions Card

Respondent's date of birth/age

Respondent's sex

Respondent's marital status

Live with partner?

Spouse/partner's age

Spouse/partner's sex

Partner's marital status

For remaining household members:

Relationship to Respondent

Age

Sex

Usually lives there?

Financially dependent

Confirm composition of the Primary Economic Unit (PEU)

## **Section A: Economic Expectations, Credit Attitudes and Financial Institutions**

Expectations for the economy (5 years/1 year)

Self-assessed financial knowledge and risk tolerance

Shopping for credit/investment decisions and sources of information

Attitudes about credit use

Application for different types of credit

Reasons for being turned down

Reasons for not applying for credit

Financial institutions (other than purely business accounts/up to 7)

Name of institution

Type of institution (commercial bank, S&L, credit union, brokerage, etc.)

## **Section B: Payment Methods and Credit Cards**

### Payment Methods/Interactions with Financial Institutions

- Paper Check
- Online Banking
- Automatic deposits/payments
- Reloadable prepaid debit cards
- Government benefit card?
- ATM/Debit card

### Credit/Charge cards

- Types (Bank Cards, Store-Branded Cards, Charge Cards)
- Number of cards
- Amount of new charges last month
- Balance after last payment
- Credit limit (Bank Cards)
- Interest rate (Bank Cards)
- Institution (Bank Cards)
- Usually pay off bill each month?

### Revolving store accounts

- Number of accounts
- Outstanding balance

## Section D: Principal Residence and Lines of Credit

### INTERVIEWER OBSERVATION:

Respondent lives on farm/ranch, in mobile home, or other type of home

#### **Respondent lives on farm/ranch (incl. mobile home on farm/ranch)**

Size of farm/ranch

Farm business?

Rent land out to others?

Part used for farming/ranching operation

Ownership arrangements

Own all, own part, sharecropper, rent/lease, owned by a business, other

Rent respondent pays for use of the property

Value of property owned

Purchase/inherited property

When purchased/moved to property

Purchase price of property for owners

#### **Respondent lives in mobile home**

Ownership arrangements

Own home and site, own home, own site, rent both, other

Value of property owned

Purchase/inherited property

When purchased/ moved in

Purchase price for owners

Rent paid

#### **Other types of homes (houses, apartment buildings, etc.)**

Ownership arrangements

Own/buying, condo, coop, townhouse, lifetime tenancy, rent, other

Rent paid

Association fees for owners

INTERVIEWER OBSERVATION: Multiple HU structure

Respondent owns whole building/own unit

Current value for owners

Purchased/inherited property

When purchased/moved in

Purchase price for owners

How long lived in area

How likely to move next year

## Section D: Principal Residence and Lines of Credit, Continued

### For owners

Real estate taxes paid

Have mortgage/home equity loan (up to 3)

FHA/VA

PMI (private mortgage insurance)

When took out mortgage

Refinanced/rolled over/assumed mortgage

How much borrowed

Amount still owed

Number of years agreed to for payment

Amount of payments

Includes taxes and insurance?

Balloon payment

Payments on schedule?

Current interest rate

Lending institution

Why chose lender

Variable interest rate mortgage

Terms of variable rate (index, how often change, max rate)

Other loans for purchase of property

Terms of loan (amount borrowed/owed, payments, institution, rate)

Lines of credit (up to 3)

Home equity line (for owners)

Borrowing now

Purpose

Amount borrowed/owed

Payments

Interest rate

Credit limit

Institution

Additions/improvements (for owners)

Amount of improvements

Loans for improvements and terms of loan (amount borrowed/owed, payments, institution, rate)

Rent out part of property to others (for owners)

## **Section E: Real Estate and Loans to Others**

Ever sold real estate to others and gave note/mortgage to buyer?

Ever gave note/mortgage to others for purchase of real estate?

    Loan still outstanding? (up to 2)

        Number of loans

        Land contract/mortgage/other type of note

        Loan for real estate sold to borrower?

        When loan made

        Amount of loan

        Amount still owed to respondent

        Payments on loan

        Respondent still owes money on property?

            Amount respondent owes

Own any investment real estate, second (or vacation) homes? (up to 2)

(Excludes properties owned by a business)

    Number of properties

    Type of property

    Type of ownership (Respondent/family own, partnership, timeshare, etc.)

    Percent respondent owns

    Value of property

    Purchased/inherited

    Purchase price

    Outstanding loans/mortgages on property?

        When took out mortgage

        Refinanced/rolled over/assumed mortgage

        How much borrowed

        Amount still owed

        Number of years agreed to for payment

        Amount of payments

        Includes taxes and insurance?

        Balloon payment

        Payments on schedule?

        Current interest rate

        Lending institution

        Variable interest rate mortgage

        Receive income from property?

            Amount of income received

## Section F: Businesses

Have any businesses?

Active management interests? (up to 2)

Number of businesses

Type of business

Bought/invested/started/inherited/other

Year acquired

Number of employees

PEU members who work there

Form of organization: S-corporation, other corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.

Loans respondent has taken out/collateralized for the business

(Other) money business owes respondent

Money respondent owes the business

If fewer than 500 employees:

Sources of funds to start/acquire business

Sources of funds for operations/improvements in past year

Business' main financial institution one of households' institutions?

If yes: Which one

If no: Type of institution

Financial institution with which business does most business: type, types of financial services or products used

Percentage of business owned

If married/partner and <500 employees: What share owned personally

Net worth of business

Tax basis (original investment)

Gross receipts

Net income

If any business has fewer than 500 employees:

Business applied for loan/credit in past 5 years

Turned down or receive less than applied for

If yes: Why denied

Not apply because thought would be turned down in past 5 years

If yes: Why thought would be turned down

Non-active management interests?

Number of businesses

Types owned (limited partnerships, other partnerships, LLCs, S-corporations, other types of corporations, other types)

For each type: value of respondent's share

For each type: tax basis (original investment) for respondent's share

For each type: respondent's share of net income

Ever involved in active management of any of these businesses?



## Section G: Vehicles

Any vehicles provided by a business?

How many?

Any of them leased?

Respondent leasing any vehicles? (up to 2)

How many?

Year/make/model

Lease payments

Term of lease

Own any cars, trucks, vans, minivans, jeep-type (sport-utility) vehicles? (up to 4)

Number of vehicles

Year/make/model

Type: car, van, minivan, truck, jeep, sport-utility vehicle, other

Bought new or used

Year bought used car

Any money still owed?

Terms of loan (amount borrowed/owed, payments, institution, rate)

Own any motorhomes, RVs, motorcycles, boats, airplanes, helicopters? (up to 2)

Number of vehicles

Type: motorhome, RV, motorcycle, boat, airplane, other

Value of vehicle

Any money still owed?

Terms of loan (amount borrowed/owed, payments, institution, rate)

## Section H: Education Loans

Have education debt? (up to 6)

Number of loans

For whose education?

Amount borrowed (not counting the finance charges)

Federal loan?

Year last attended program

Completed program?

Yes/No/Still enrolled:

Making payments?

No:

Reason not paying

Loan partially forgiven/Grace period/  
Forbearance/Still enrolled:

How many payments?

When will start paying?

Accumulating interest?

Unable to pay:

Income-based repayment?

How many payments?

When will start paying?

Accumulating interest?

When make last payment?

Loan completely forgiven

Current Balance (Ends loop)

Yes:

How many payments?

When started paying?

Payment amount

Income-based repayment?

On/ahead/behind schedule

When expect to repay?

Interest rate

Servicer

Current Balance (Ends loop for all education loans)

## Section I: Other Loans

Have any loans not reported earlier? (up to 6)

Number of loans

Purpose of loan When loan taken out?

Amount borrowed (not including the finance charges)

Regular installment loan or another type?

Regular loan:

Years agreed upon

(No fixed term: skip to "Typical payment" for respondents with  
"Other type of loan")

Amount of payment

(No regular payment: skip to "Typical payment" for respondents  
with "Other type of loan")

Loan payments on schedule?

Ahead or behind:

Month and year expect to pay off loan?

How much still owed?

Other type of loan:

Typical payment on loan

Month and year expect loan to be repaid

How much still owed?

Interest rate

Institution

Any "payday" loans

Reason chose this type of loan

Behind in any payments over the past year?

Ever behind for two months or more?

Ever had a foreclosure proceeding brought against property?

When?

Lost property?

Still in foreclosure?

Ever filed for bankruptcy?

When?

## Section J: Attitudes About Saving and Investing

Reasons for saving

Any foreseeable major expenses over the next 5-10 years?

Education, home purchase, health care, other

Saving for it now?

How long is respondent's planning horizon for saving and spending

Feelings about investment return and risk

Usual saving habits

Adequacy of pension and Social Security income for retirement

Over the past year, spending more, less, or about the same as income?

More or about the same: includes spending on home, car, investments?

Yes: putting that aside, spending more, less, or about same as income?

More than income: how made up difference (borrowed, spent savings, other)

Dealing with a financial emergency (borrow/spend/postpone  
payment/cut back)

Amount spent on food: at home, carry-out/delivery, restaurants

Overall expenses in past year unusually high relative to "normal" year, unusually low, or about normal?

Amount need to have in savings for emergencies

When things respondent owns increase in value, how likely to spend more

When things respondent owns decrease in value, how likely to spend more

In an emergency, could borrow \$3000 or more from friends or relatives

Buying a single company's stock safer than stock mutual fund?

How much in savings account with \$100 after 5 years at 2% interest rate?

If interest rate is 1% and inflation is 2%, after one year can buy more or less than today?

## Section N: Financial Assets

Have any checking accounts? (up to 6)

If no: why not/ever had one

If yes:

Number of accounts

Institution

Bank in person?

Amount in account

Money market type account?

Form of ownership (joint account, respondent's/spouse's/partner's account, other)

Why chose institution?

How long banked there?

Amount in all prepaid debit card accounts

Have any IRA/Keogh accounts?

Who has accounts (respondent, spouse/partner/other family member)

For each person ask:

How many accounts

Types of accounts: Roth IRA, Roll-over IRA, Regular IRA, Keogh, etc.

Amount in each type

How invested (bank accounts, stock, bonds, etc.)

What percent in stocks

Make any contributions last year?

How much?

Made withdrawals last year?

How much?

Institution

Have any certificates of deposit?

How many CDs?

Value

Institution

Form of ownership (joint account, respondent's/spouse's/partner's account, other)

Have any savings or money market accounts? (up to 5)

How many accounts?

Institution

Bank in person?

Amount in account

Form of ownership (joint account, respondent's/spouse's/partner's account, other)

Type: Regular savings, state-sponsored education savings, money market account, etc.

If money market or other: Does the account have check-writing privileges?

## Section N: Financial Assets, Continued

Have any mutual funds, ETFs, or hedge funds?

Types: stocks, tax-free bonds, government and government-backed bonds, other bonds, combination funds, other types + hedge funds

For each type: total market value

Number of different funds

Institution that manages funds

Gains and losses on mutual funds

Have any savings bonds?

Total face value

Have any bonds?

Types: Mortgage-backed bonds (Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac), U.S. government bonds or bills, state or municipal bonds, foreign bonds, corporate bonds, other

For each type:

Face value

Market value

Number of bonds

Any publicly traded stock?

Number of companies

Total market value

Any stock in company where work/worked?

If yes: included before/market value

Any stock in company headquartered overseas?

If yes: included before/market value

Gains and losses on stocks

Have a brokerage account?

Institution

How often traded last year?

Have call account?

Amount in account

Have loan on margin account?

Amount owed

Have any annuities?

Purchased annuities with proceeds of a pension settlement from a past job?

Have annuities with an equity interest?

Amount of equity

Amount received last year

Have annuities without an equity interest?

Amount received in past year

Institution

How invested?

## Section N: Financial Assets, Continued

Have any trusts or managed investment accounts?

Trusts, managed investment account, or both?

If trust: PEU set up trust or receive from someone else?

Includes assets recorded earlier?

Which ones

Other such assets, but not reported earlier?

Have an equity interest?

If yes: Amount of equity

Amount received last year

Have accounts with no equity interest?

Amount received last year

If no: Current value of parts to which have rights

Amount received last year

Institution

How invested

Have life insurance?

Any term insurance?

Total face value of policies

Any whole life/cash value insurance

Total face value of policies

Total cash value of policies

Currently borrowing against policies?

Tell about these earlier?

If no: amount, payments, and interest rate

Total premiums

Loans to people outside the PEU?

How much owed to R? What type of loan/investment?

Any other important assets? (up to 3)

Types of assets

Value of assets

Owe any other money not already mentioned?

How much owe? What type of debt?

Any accounts in foreign currency?

If R added any institutions since "Economic Expectations and Financial Institutions" section

Type of institution (commercial bank, S&L, credit union, brokerage, etc.)

## Section R: Work and Pensions

### INTERVIEWER CHECKPOINT: WHO IS PROVIDING INFORMATION (RESPONDENT/SPOUSE/PARTNER)?

Working now? (ask for respondent and spouse/partner)

No:

Any work for pay?

Unemployed and looking for work last year?

Skip to “Employment History, Not Working Now”

Yes:

Unemployed and looking for work last year?

Work for self/someone else/other?

Self-employed: Work connected with a personal business not reported earlier?

Yes: value of business, share, tax basis,

Industry and occupation

Normal hours/weeks worked

Pay (wages and other compensation)

Offered stock options?

Number of workers in business

Years in job

Years expect to continue in job

Covered by union/professional association contract?

Have disability insurance?

Included in any pensions?

No: Employer offers plans?/Eligible to be included?/Types offered

Yes:

How many different plans? (up to 2)

Currently receiving any retirement payments?

Plans not receiving benefits from?



## Section R: Work and Pensions, Continued

### Respondent employer-provided pension

General type of plan: regular payment in retirement, account, combination, something else

More specific type

How long in the plan

When expect to receive benefits from plan

Choice about how to receive benefits?

Lump sum, regular payments, payment R decides, something else

What type of benefit expect to receive

How much expect to receive

What type of benefit would get if left job now

Amount of benefit

Allowed to borrow against the plan?

Currently have loan?

Current loan balance

Amount of payments on the loan

Purpose of loan

Allowed to make withdrawals in an emergency?

For account-type plans: Current balance in account

Net of any loan reported?

Have choices about how funds are invested?

How funds invested

What percent in stocks?

Stock in company where work?

Make contributions to plan?

Amount of contribution

Employer makes contributions?

Amount of contribution

Doing any other work for pay?

What kind?

Hours/weeks work on job

How much earn?

Respondent thinks all current work together is full-time/part-time?

Skip to work history questions in boxes below:

## Section R: Work and Pensions, Continued

### Employment History, Working Full-Time Now

Total years worked full-time since age 18  
Number of employers for jobs lasting one year or more  
Ever had job different from current job that lasted three years or more?  
    Worked for self/someone else/other?  
    Industry/occupation  
    Year started/stopped work on job  
    How much earned when left job?  
Since age 18, ever worked only part-time?  
    How many years?  
When expect to stop full-time work?  
Expect to work part-time after that?  
When expect to stop working altogether?

### Employment History, Working Part-Time Now

Total years worked part-time for all or most of year since age 18  
Ever worked full-time since age 18?  
    Years worked full-time  
        Less than five years:  
            When last worked full-time?  
            How much earned when left job?  
        Five years or more:  
            Number of employers for jobs lasting one year or more  
            Last job: worked for self/someone else/other?  
            Last job: industry/occupation  
            Last job: when started/stopped work on job?  
            Last job: how much earned when left job?  
            Last job: last time worked full-time?  
            When last worked full-time?  
Expect to work full-time in the future?  
    Yes: when expect to start/stop full-time work?  
When expect to stop working altogether?

## Section R: Work and Pensions, Continued

### Employment History, Not Working Now

Ever done any full-time work since age 18?

Total years worked full-time for all or most of year since age 18

Less than five years:

When last worked full-time?

How much earned with left job?

Five years or more:

Number of employers for jobs lasting one year or more

Last job: worked for self/someone else/other?

Last job: industry/occupation

Last job: when started/stopped work on job?

Last job: how much earned when left job?

When last worked full-time?

Since 18, ever worked only part-time?

Number of years worked part-time since age 18

Expect to work in the future?

When expect to start working?

Any of this work full-time?

When start/stop full-time work?

When expect to stop working altogether?

END OF CURRENT/PAST JOB QUESTIONS:

**Repeat job questions for spouse/partner**

Respondent or spouse/partner currently receives Social Security?

Who receives income: respondent and/or spouse/partner?

Retirement, survivors, dependent, SSI, or disability payments?

Other family members currently receiving Social Security?

Retirement, survivors, dependent, SSI, or disability payments?

## Section R: Work and Pensions, Continued

Respondent or spouse/partner currently receiving pension payments or making withdrawals from pension account? (up to 4 plans)

How many different plans?

Who receives benefit: respondent or spouse/partner

Benefit from past job, military, etc.

When started receiving?

Is plan an account type where possible to receive lump-sum payment?

Balance in account

How invested

What percent in stocks?

Stock in company where worked?

Amount taken in the past year

Not an account type of plan

How much receive?

Increased in the past for cost of living?

How much spouse (R) would get if R (spouse/partner) died

Respondent or spouse/partner ever received a payout or rollover from a pension plan? (up to 4) Number of payouts or rollovers

Who received payout or rollover, respondent or spouse/partner?

Amount received

When received payout or rollover?

How used money from payout or rollover: rolled over, investment, durables, etc.

R or spouse expect any (other) pension benefits in the future? (up to 4)

How many benefits expect?

Who will receive benefit, respondent or spouse/partner?

Have an option how to receive benefits?

Type of pension plan: formula-type or account-type?

Account-type:

How expect to receive benefit: lump sum, etc.

Amount in account now

Expect to receive payments (other than lump sum)?

How much expect to receive in benefits?

When expect to receive benefit?

Account-type:

How much expect benefits to be?

When expect to receive payments?

Any of these benefits part of IRA/Keogh reported earlier?

## Section T: Income, Taxes, Income Expectations, and Support

Any wage and salary income in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income or losses from a professional practice or business in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any tax-exempt income in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any interest income in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any dividend income in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any gains or losses on stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income from rent, trusts, royalties, or other investment or business in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income from unemployment or worker's compensation in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income from child support or alimony in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income from Social Security, pensions, annuities, or disability/retirement programs in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any income from TANF, food stamps, or other forms of welfare or assistance in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Any other sources of income in *last calendar year*?

What sources?

How much?

## Section T: Income, Taxes, Income Expectations, and Support, Continued

*Last calendar year* income unusually high, unusually low, about normal?

High/low:

Why is that?

About what would normal be?

Past five years: income up more/less/same as inflation

Next year: expect income up more/less/same as inflation

Good idea of income next year?

Usually have a good idea of income?

Pay any child support or alimony *in last calendar year*?

How much?

Provide any (other) support in *last calendar year*?

How much?

To whom given?

Filed/expect to file tax return for *last calendar year*?

Filed jointly/separately?

Ask for joint return or respondent's/spouse's/partner's as appropriate:

File schedules C, E, or F?

Itemized deductions?

## Section X: Inheritances and Charity

Ever received an inheritance, substantial gift, or trust? (up to 3)

How many received?

Inheritance, trust, or something else?

Amount received

Year received

From whom received?

Type of assets received

Expect to receive substantial inheritance or transfer in the future?

About how much?

How important to leave an inheritance?

Expect to leave an inheritance?

Contributed \$500 or more to charity in *last calendar year*?

How much?

Have a personal trust or foundation?

Current value?

Volunteered one hour or more a week to charity?

## Section Y: Demographics, Health, and Independent HH Members

Respondent's highest level of education

High school graduate: high school degree/GED?

Some college: years of college credit

Respondent ever in military service?

Respondent's race/ethnicity

Number of respondent's/spouse's/partner's children living elsewhere

Number 25 or older

Number less than 18

Marital history for respondent:

Start of current marriage

Married before?

Year previous marriage started/ended

Age at first marriage

Respondent's mother/father still living?

Current age of mother/father

Respondent's mother's/father's highest degree earned?

Respondent currently smokes?

How healthy is respondent?

How old respondent thinks will live to be?

Spouse's/partner's highest level of education

High school graduate: high school degree/GED?

Some college: years of college credit

Spouse's/partner's date of birth

Spouse/partner ever in military service?

Marital history for spouse/partner:

Married before?

Year previous marriage started/ended

Age at first marriage

Spouse's/partner's mother/father still living?

Current age of mother/father

Spouse's/partner's mother's/father's highest degree earned?

Spouse/partner currently smokes?

How healthy is spouse/partner?

How old respondent thinks spouse/partner will live to be?



## **Section Y: Demographics, Health, and Independent HH Members, Continued**

**If there are independent household members, here CAPI will tell Respondent to include them for rest of the interview**

Anyone have government or private health insurance?

Type of insurance

How is insurance paid for?

Everyone covered by insurance?

If No: Who is not covered?

Most important reason not covered?

### **Finances of independent household members**

Independent HH members have any wage/salary income in last calendar year?

How much?

Included earlier/where?

Independent HH members have any other income in last calendar year?

What kind?

How much?

Included earlier/where?

Independent HH members have any vehicles?

How much worth?

Included earlier/where?

Independent HH members have any bank accounts?

How much in the accounts?

Included earlier/where?

Independent HH members have any other assets?

What kind?

How much worth?

Included earlier/where?

Independent HH members have any debts?

How much?

Included earlier/where?

### **Section Z: Wrap-up**

Most important positive events for finances in past 2 years?

Most important negative events for finances in past 2 years?

Biggest financial challenge right now?

Any problems or omitted asset or debts during interview?

Anything respondent wishes to say?

**END OF INTERVIEW**