

PERSONAL

FINANCIAL

SURVEY

2004

2004 JUMPSTART QUESTIONNAIRE

(Mean score=52.3%. Scores are in bold type. *Indicates correct answer)

1. If each of the following persons had the same amount of take home pay, who would need the greatest amount of life insurance?

- 2.4% a) a young single woman without children
- *67.5% b) a young single woman with two young children
- 4.0% c) a young married man without children
- 26.1% d) an elderly retired man, with a wife who is also retired

2. Kevin has saved \$9,000 for his college expenses by working part-time. He plans to start college next year and needs all of the money he saved. Which of the following is the safest place for his college money?

- *90.2% a) a bank savings account
- 5.2% b) corporate bonds
- 1.8% c) stocks
- 2.8% d) locked in his closet at home

3. Your take home pay from your job is less than the total amount you earn. Which of the following best describes what is taken out of your total pay?

- 17.8% a) federal income tax, property tax, and Medicare and social security contributions
- 6.0% b) social security and Medicare contributions
- *62.1% c) federal income tax, social security and Medicare contributions
- 14.0% d) federal income tax, sales tax, and social security contribution

4. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about most ATM (Automated Teller Machine) cards?

- 2.4% a) you can generally get cash 24 hours a day
- 5.5% b) you must have a bank account to have an ATM Card.
- *85.6% c) you can get cash anywhere in the world with no fee
- 6.6% d) you can generally obtain information concerning your bank balance at an ATM machine.

5. Jim just found a job with a take home pay of \$1,500 per month. He must pay \$750 for rent and \$125 for groceries each month. He also spends \$100 per month on transportation. If he budgets \$50 each month for clothing, \$75 for restaurants and \$50 for everything else, how long will it take him to accumulate savings of \$700.

- *59.3% a) 2 months
- 19.7% b) 4 months
- 14.4% c) 6 months
- 6.6% d) 8 months

6. Inflation can cause difficulty in many ways. Which group would have the greatest problem during periods of high inflation that last several years?

- 12.3% a) older, working couples saving for retirement
- *46.0% b) older people living on fixed retirement income
- 7.3% c) young couples with no children who both work
- 34.3% d) young working couples with children

7. Andrew worked his way through college earning \$15,000 per year. After graduation his first job pays \$30,000. The total dollar amount John will have to pay in Federal Income taxes in his new job will:

- *52.5% a) double, at least, from when he was in college
- 36.7% b) go up a little from when he was in college
- 7.1% c) stay the same as when he was in college
- 3.7% d) be lower than when he was in college

8. Many savings programs are protected by the Federal government against loss. Which of the following is not?

- 42.3% a) a certificate of deposit at the bank
- 14.4% b) a U. S. Treasury Bond
- *35.3% c) a Bond issued by one of the 50 States
- 8.1% d) a U. S. Savings Bond

9. Which of the following credit card users is likely to pay the GREATEST dollar amount in finance charges per year if they all charge the same amount per year on their cards?

- *65.8% a) Paula who only pays the minimum amount each month
- 11.8% b) Ellen who always pays off her credit card bill in full shortly after she receives it.
- 11.2% c) Barbara, who generally pays off her credit card in full but occasionally will pay the minimum when she is short of cash.
- 11.2% d) Nancy, who pays at least the minimum amount each month and more when she has the money.

10. If your credit card is stolen and the thief runs up a total of \$1,000, but you notify the issuer of the card as soon as you discover it is missing, what is the maximum amount that you can be forced to pay according to Federal law?

- 52.8% a) none.
- *18.1% b) \$50
- 15.5% c) \$1000
- 13.6% d) \$500

11. Saul must borrow \$10,000 to complete his college education. Which of the following would NOT be likely to reduce the finance charge rate?
- 18.6%** a) if the loan was insured by the Federal Government
 - 21.2%** b) if his parents cosigned the loan
 - *28.9%** c) if he went to a state college rather than a private college
 - 31.3%** d) if his parents took out an additional mortgage on their house for the loan
12. If you went to college and earned a 4 year degree, how much more money could you expect to earn than if you only had a high school diploma?
- 5.8%** a) no more, I would make about the same either way
 - 15.9%** b) about 10 times as much
 - *58.8%** c) a lot more, about 70% more
 - 19.5%** d) a little more, about 20% more
13. Many people put aside money to take care of unexpected expenses. If Susan and Joe have money put aside for emergencies, in which of the following forms would it be of LEAST benefit to them if they needed it right away?
- 15.0%** a) savings account
 - *42.9%** b) invested in a down payment on the house
 - 33.5%** c) stocks
 - 8.6%** d) checking account
14. Which of the following is true about sales taxes?
- 16.4%** a) the federal government will deduct it from your paycheck
 - 27.1%** b) the national sales tax percentage rate is 6%
 - *51.6%** c) it makes things more expensive for you to buy
 - 5.0%** d) you don't have to pay the tax if your income is very low
15. Rebecca has a good job on the production line of a factory in her home town. During the past year or two, the state in which Rebecca lives has been raising taxes on its businesses to the point where they are much higher than in neighboring states. What effect is this likely to have on Rebecca's job?
- *60.3%** a) Rebecca's company may consider moving to a lower-tax state, threatening Heather's job
 - 15.4%** b) higher business taxes can't have any effect on Rebecca's job
 - 15.5%** c) higher business taxes will cause more businesses to move into Rebecca's state, raising wages
 - 8.9%** d) she is likely to get a large raise to offset the effect of higher taxes
16. Which of the following types of investment would best protect the purchasing power of a family's savings in the event of a sudden increase in inflation?
- 28.2%** a) a twenty five year corporate bond
 - 19.7%** b) a certificate of deposit at a bank
 - 19.3%** c) a 10 year bond issued by a corporation
 - *32.8%** d) a house financed with a fixed rate mortgage

17. Which of the following best describes the primary sources of income for most people age 20-35?

- *78.9%** a) salaries, wages, tips
- 8.5%** b) profits from business
- 6.9%** c) dividends & interest
- 5.6%** d) rents

18. Which of the following statements best describes your right to check your credit history for accuracy:

- 46.5%** a) your credit record can be checked at any time for free
- *35.9%** b) if you are turned down for credit based on a credit report, the record can be checked for free.
- 12.5%** c) all credit records are the property of the U.S. Government and access is only available to the FBI and Lenders.
- 5.1%** d) you cannot see your credit record.

19. Which of the following statements is true?

- 11.6%** a) if you missed a payment more than 2 years ago, it cannot be considered in a loan decision
- 8.5%** b) people have so many loans it is very unlikely that one bank will know your history with another bank
- *70.2%** c) banks and other lenders share the credit history of their borrowers with each other and are likely to know of any loan payments that you have missed
- 9.7%** d) your bad loan payment record with one bank will not be considered if you apply to another bank for a loan

20. Retirement income paid by a company is called:

- 37.9%** a) 401k
- *34.2%** b) pension
- 25.0%** c) Social Security
- 2.9%** d) rents & profits

21. If you are behind on your debt payments and go to a responsible credit counseling service such as the Consumer Credit Counseling Services, what help can they give you?

- 70.4%** a) they can work with those who loaned you money to set up a new payment schedule that you can meet
- 11.3%** b) they can cancel and cut up all of your credit cards without your permission
- 13.4%** c) they can get the federal government to apply your income taxes to pay off your debts
- 4.9%** d) they can force those who loaned you money to forgive all your debts

22. Carla and Sara work together in the finance department of the same company and earn the same pay. Carla spends her free time taking work related classes to improve her computer skills; while Sara spends her free time socializing with friends and working out at a fitness center. After five years what is likely to be true?

- 10.3% a) Carla and Sara will continue to make the same money
- *77.6% b) Carla will make more money because she is more valuable to her company
- 7.7% c) Sara will make more because Carla is likely to be laid off
- 4.5% d) Sara will make more because she is more social

23. Ed and Bob are young men. Each has a good credit history. They work at the same company and make approximately the same salary. Ed has borrowed \$2,500 to take a foreign vacation. Bob has borrowed \$2,500 to buy a car. Who is likely to pay the lowest finance charge?

- 15.7% a) they will both pay the same because the rate is set by law
- 21.9% b) they will both pay the same because they have almost identical financial background
- 14.1% c) Ed will pay less because people who travel overseas are better risks
- *48.4% d) Bob will pay less because the car is collateral for the loan

24. Which of the following instruments is NOT typically associated with spending.

- 4.7% a) credit card
- 5.1% b) cash
- *85.9% c) certificate of deposit
- 4.4% d) debit card

25. Hector and Maria just had a baby. They received money as baby gifts and want to put it away for the baby's education. Which of the following tends to have the highest growth over periods of time as long as 18 years?

- 45.9% a) a U.S. Govt. savings bond
- *17.2% b) stocks
- 33.6% c) a savings account
- 3.3% d) a checking account

26. If you had a savings account at a bank, which of the following would be correct concerning the interest that you would earn on this account?

- 10.1% a) you cannot earn interest until you pass your 18th birthday
- *23.9% b) income tax may be charged on the interest if your income is high enough
- 14.0% c) sales tax may be charged on the interest that you earn
- 52.0% d) earnings from savings account interest may not be taxed

27. Ron and Molly are the same age. At age 25 Rob began saving \$2,000 a year while Molly saved nothing. At age 50, Molly realized that she needed money for retirement and started saving \$4,000 per year while Rob kept saving his \$2,000. Now they are both 75 years old. Who has the most money in his or her retirement account?

- 10.5%** a) Molly, because she saved more each year
- 14.7%** b) Ron, because he has put away more money
- *51.2%** c) Ron, because his money has grown for a longer time at compound interest
- 23.6%** d) they would each have the same amount because they put away exactly the same

28. If you have caused an accident, which type of automobile insurance would cover damage to your own car?

- *47.1%** a) collision
- 34.8%** b) liability
- 6.6%** c) term
- 11.5%** d) comprehensive

29. Marie has just applied for a credit card. She is an 18 year old high school graduate with few valuable possessions and no credit history. If Maria is granted a credit card, which of the following is the most likely way that the credit card company will reduce ITS risk?

- *55.0%** a) it will start Marie out with a small line of credit to see how she handles the account
- 16.6%** b) it will charge Marie twice the finance charge rate it charges older cardholders
- 22.5%** c) it will require Marie to have both parents co-sign for the card
- 5.8%** d) it will make Marie 's parents pledge their home to repay Maria's credit card debt.

30. Under which of the following circumstances would it be financially beneficial to you to borrow money to buy something now and repay it with future income?

- 32.3%** a) when the interest on the loan is greater than the interest you get on your savings
- 10.5%** b) when some clothes you like go on sale
- 9.1%** c) when you really need a two-week vacation
- *48.0%** d) when you need to buy a car to get a much better paying job

31. Many young people receive health insurance benefits through their parents.
Which of the following statements is true about health insurance coverage?
- 19.0%** a) you are covered by your parents' insurance until you marry, regardless of your age
 - 8.7%** b) young people don't need health insurance because they are so healthy
 - 39.2%** c) you continue to be covered by your parents' insurance as long as you live at home, regardless of your age
 - *33.1%** d) if your parents become unemployed, your insurance coverage may stop, regardless of your age

32. What is your gender?

- 52.4%** 47.6% a) Male
- 52.2%** 52.4% b) Female

33. Does your family rent or own your home?

- 48.4%** 16.9% a) Rent
- 53.3%** 83.1% b) Own

34. What are your educational plans after high school?

- 41.9%** 2.4% a) No further education is planned
- 48.0%** 15.9% b) Attend a 2-year college or junior college
- 55.0%** 68.6% c) Attend a 4-year college or university
- 48.8%** 8.4% d) Other plans for training or education
- 43.0%** 4.7% e) Don't know

35. What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year? Consider annual income from all sources before taxes.

- 49.5%** 10.1% a) Less than \$20,000
- 51.3%** 18.8% b) \$20,000 to \$39,999
- 54.1%** 30.1% c) \$40,000 to \$79,999
- 55.9%** 22.9% d) \$80,000 or more
- 48.5%** 18.1% e) Don't know

36. How do you describe yourself?

- 55.5%** 68.2% a) White or Caucasian
- 44.0%** 14.3% b) Black or African-American
- 48.3%** 9.5% c) Hispanic American
- 48.3%** 2.8% d) Asian-American
- 46.7%** 1.4% e) Native American or American Indian
- 46.4%** 3.9% f) Other

37. What is the highest level of schooling your father or mother completed?

- 44.6%** 7.7% a) Neither completed high school
51.5% 23.7% b) Completed high school
52.6% 21.6% c) Some college
55.4% 42.8% d) College graduate or more than college
48.2% 4.2% e) Don't know

38. What type of work do you intend to do when you finish school?

- 40.0%** 3.4% a) Manual work such as truck driver, laborer, farm worker
47.1% 6.1% b) Skilled trade such as plumber, electrician
49.0% 9.2% c) Service worker such as secretary, food service worker, office worker, police officer, firefighter
55.2% 63.9% d) Professional worker such as nurse, computer programmer, lawyer, doctor, teacher, engineer
47.5% 17.3% e) Other or don't know

39. When you start to work full-time, after you finish your education, how much do you expect to make per year before deductions for taxes and other items?

- 45.1%** 3.0% a) Under \$15,000
48.8% 7.1% b) \$15,000 to \$19,999
51.3% 14.0% c) \$20,000 to \$29,999
53.8% 22.5% d) \$30,000 to \$39,999
54.1% 40.0% e) \$40,000 or more
49.3% 13.5% f) Don't know

40. Whose credit card do you use?

- 50.6%** 11.4% a) My own
50.2% 15.7% b) My parents'
51.3% 4.8% c) Both my own and my parents'
53.3% 68.2% d) None, I don't use a credit card

41. How do you use your debit (or ATM) card?

- 53.6%** 26.5% a) For getting cash from an ATM and for buying things directly
52.6% 16.8% b) For getting cash from an ATM only
51.7% 56.7% c) I don't have a debit card

42. Which of the following best describes your automobile driving?

- 48.5%** 15.9% a) I don't have a driver's license.
43.5% 3.8% b) I have a driver's license but no car in the family that I can drive.
48.3% 5.2% c) I drive the family car, which is used by others, and help pay for the insurance.
53.6% 14.9% d) I drive the family car, which is used by others, and don't help pay for the insurance.
55.0% 30.6% e) I drive my own car and help pay for the insurance.
52.8% 29.6% f) I drive my own car and don't help pay for the insurance.

43. How would you describe your employment history?
53.1% 30.3% a) I work full time in the summers and part time during the school year
52.1% 7.4% b) I work full time in the summers and don't work during the school year
52.9% 34.1% c) I work part time in the summers and part time during the school year
50.9% 11.1% d) I work part time in the summers and don't work during the school year
51.0% 17.1% e) I have never been formally employed outside the home

44. What kind of bank account do you have?
47.4% 22.1% a) I don't have a bank account.
53.3% 39.9% b) I have a savings account but no checking account.
50.2% 9.4% c) I have a checking account but no savings account.
55.5% 28.6% d) I have both a savings and a checking account.

45. Which of the following is true about your ownership of stocks and mutual funds (circle **all** that apply)?
52.6% 67.9% a) I own no stocks or mutual funds
52.4% 10.1% b) I own stocks in my own name
53.2% 9.9% c) I own stocks in my parents' name
53.3% 5.7% d) I own mutual funds in my own name
54.0% 6.9% e) I own mutual funds in my parents' name

46. What is your high school class level?
52.3% 100% a) Senior
b) Junior
c) Sophomore
d) Freshman

47. How sure do you feel about your ability to manage your own finances?
46.3% 11.5% a) Not sure at all – I wish I knew a lot more about money management
51.3% 22.3% b) Not too sure – I wish I knew more about money management
53.8% 47.6% c) Somewhat sure – I understand most of what I'll need to know
53.9% 18.6% d) Very sure – I understand money management very well

48. Where did you learn most about managing your money?
52.7% 58.3% a) At home from my family
52.1% 19.5% b) At school in class
41.3% 2.4% c) From talking with my friends
46.7% 2.2% d) From magazines, books, TV and the radio
53.3% 17.6% e) From experience in managing my own funds

49. How would you describe the allowance you received when growing up?
52.4% 59.0% a) I did not receive a regular (weekly or monthly) allowance; I was given money only when I needed it
53.2% 30.4% b) I received a regular allowance that depended on the completion of some household chores
50.0% 10.6% c) I received a regular allowance and did not have to perform chores for it

50. Some people tend to be very thrifty, saving money whenever they have the chance, while others are very spending-oriented, buying whenever they can and even borrowing to consumer more. How would you classify yourself?

50.0% 15.3% a) Very thrifty, saving money whenever I can

54.0% 36.8% b) Somewhat thrifty, often saving money

54.1% 22.6% c) Neither thrifty not spending-oriented

51.9% 18.8% d) Somewhat spending-oriented, seldom saving money

43.6% 6.5% e) Very spending-oriented, hardly ever saving money

51. Comparing yourself to your parents, would you say that you are:

47.7% 10.8% a) Much more thrifty and likely to save what I can

51.8% 19.2% b) Somewhat more thrifty and likely to save what I can

55.3% 31.5% c) About as thrifty

52.9% 28.6% d) Somewhat less thrifty and more likely to spend what I can

48.9% 9.9% e) Much less thrifty and much more likely to spend what I can

52. Which of the following classes have you had in high school (circle **all** that apply)?

53.5% 20.1% a) An entire course in money management or personal finance

52.7% 29.9% b) A portion of a course where at least a week was focused on money management or personal finance

53.0% 43.4% c) An entire course in economics

53.2% 23.2% d) A portion of a course where at least a week was focused on economics

55.8% 28.9% e) A course in which we played a stock market game