

An official U.S. Government agency

Making Ends Meet Survey

Want to take the survey online?

Mobile

Text your unique survey PIN number to 202-883-3381 to receive a link to directly connect to your survey or;

Web

Go to **www.CFPBMakingEndsMeet.com** and enter your unique survey PIN number and 5-digit zip code.

Questions? If you have any technical difficulties, including problems with the website or any questions about the survey,

please call 1-855-246-9457 M-F 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. CST. For TTY assistance, dial 711. For more information about the CFPB, visit www.consumerfinance.gov.



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What is the CFPB?

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is sponsoring this survey. The CFPB is a Federal agency created in 2010 to make mortgage, credit card, automobile, and other consumer loans work better and ensure that these markets are fair, transparent, and competitive.

What is the Making Ends Meet survey?

Many households run out of money at one time or another. This survey will help us understand your experiences and decisions when money gets tight. Because people's experiences can vary widely, please fill out the survey even if you have never run out of or borrowed money. The information you provide will help shape federal policies to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and respectfully when they borrow money to make ends meet.

How long will it take?

We expect the survey will take about 10-20 minutes, but the time may vary based on your experiences.

Who should complete this survey?

It is important that this survey is only completed by the person named on the enclosed letter.

Who will see my responses, and how will my responses be used?

Your responses will be used by researchers at the CFPB and others to understand consumers' experiences. Your responses will be kept private. Participation in the survey will not affect your credit or credit score.

How was I selected for this survey?

People were selected at random from across the United States.

Privacy Act Statement: This collection of information is authorized by Pub. L. No. 111-203, Title X, Sections 1013 and 1022, codified at 12 U.S.C. §§ 5493 and 5512. Participation in this study is voluntary and there are no penalties for refusing to answer any questions. However, your participation is extremely important to ensure the accuracy of the statistical results.

The information you provide will be used to help the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") understand people's experiences when money gets tight. You were randomly selected for this survey as part of a sample that is representative of consumers. Your responses will be combined with other data that we have collected to understand conditions in consumer credit markets in a way that you cannot be identified. The CFPB may make an anonymous version of the survey data publicly available in accordance with applicable federal law.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3170-0066. It expires on 10/31/2019. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average approximately 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing any instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation

A. Your General Financial Situation and Experiences

1	Harry reall do	these statements	describe man	or your situation?
1.	now well do	these statements	describe vou	or your situation:

	This statement describes my situation					
	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	
I know how to make complex financial decisions.						
I am just getting by financially.						
I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last.						
Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life.						

2. How often do these statements apply to you?

	This statement applies to me							
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never			
I have money left over at the end of the month.								
My finances control my life.								

3. What sources of information do you use to make decisions about borrowing, credit, savings, or investments?

Yes No

Family or friends	ш	ш
Financial planner, advisor, or broker		
Banker		
Internet, web service or application		
Internet search		
Lawyer or accountant		
Books, magazines, newspapers, or mail		
Dooks, magazines, newspapers, or man		

B. Your Household and its Finances

4.	Do you have a spouse or partner you share finances with?	9. What was your household's annual income in 2018 from all sources (wages, tips, interest,
	□ Yes □ No	child support, alimony, investment or rental income, retirement, Social Security, and government benefits such as food stamps)?
5.	Do you have any children, parents, relatives, or	□ \$15,000 or less
	other dependents that you share your finances	□ \$15,001 to \$20,000
	with or who are financially dependent on you?	□ \$20,001 to \$40,000
	□ Yes	□ \$40,001 to \$70,000
	□ No	□ \$70,001 to \$100,000
TL.	a mout avections are about your bounded Dr.	☐ More than \$100,000
	e next questions are about your household. By usehold, we mean you and anyone you share your	40.77
	ances with.	10. How did this total annual household income in
		2018 compare to what you would expect in a
	ou answered Yes to question 4, question 5, or both, ase answer the following questions for both you	"normal" year?
	the people you share your finances with.	☐ Higher than normal
		□ Normal
ο.	Who is responsible for making day-to-day	☐ Lower than normal
	decisions about money in your household?	11. Do you expect your income next year to be
	\square I make these decisions by myself	higher or lower than it was in the past?
	☐ I make these decisions along with someone else	□ Higher
	□ Someone else makes these decisions	☐ About the same
_		□ Lower
7.	Do you or anyone in your household currently	12. About how much do you think you and your
	have a checking account?	family need in savings for emergencies and
	□ Yes	other unexpected things that may come up?
	\square No	\$
		·
8.	How does your household pay for most bills	13. What is your current work status? Mark all that
	and purchases? Please mark all that apply.	apply including for your spouse or partner if you have one.
	□ Cash	Spouse/
	☐ Debit cards	You Partner
	□ Checks	Self-employed
	□ Credit cards	Work full time
	□ Pre-paid cards	Work part time Retired
	Automatic paymentsPay online	Temporarily laid off or on leave
	□ Money orders	Unemployed
	☐ Mobile app	Not working for pay (homemaker,
	☐ Other (please specify)	student, disabled, etc.)
		14. Are you actively looking for a job or another
		job if you already have one?
		□ Yes
		□ Yes

15. Which best describes your household's income from month to month?	□ No
☐ Income is about the same each month → Skip to question 17 ☐ Income varies somewhat from month to month ☐ Income varies a lot from month to month	20. Does your household have any stocks, bonds, or mutual funds outside of retirement accounts? Yes No
→ 16. Does your household's income vary from month to month for any of the following reasons?	21. In the past 12 months, have you or others in your household had an overdraft on a checking or savings account or had a payment turned down because the account balance was less
Bonuses, commissions, or tips Seasonal employment Variable work hours or irregular work Illness or injury affects my income Unemployment Investment income Tax refunds or unexpected taxes Number of paychecks varies Variable self-employment income Overtime 17. Do you expect your income from month to month to be more or less variable in the next six months than it was in the last year? More variable About the same Less variable	than the charge? No → Skip to question 25 Yes, had an overdraft Yes, payment turned down 22. In the past 12 months, how many times have you or others in your household had an overdraft on a checking or savings account or had a payment turned down? 1-3 times
18. Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your household's monthly savings habits?	the transaction? Surprised I thought it was possible Expected to overdraft
 Don't save – usually spend more than income Don't save – usually spend about as much as income Save whatever is left over at the end of the month – no regular plan Save regularly by putting money aside each month 	25. Please estimate the total amount of money your household has right now in your checking and savings accounts.
19. Does your household have IRAs, 401(k) accounts, a pension plan, or other retirement accounts?	□ \$501 to \$1,000 □ \$1,001 to \$3,000 □ \$3,001 to \$5,000 □ \$5,001 to \$10,000

	Yes – at a bank, credit union, or its mobile app or website
26. Do you or someone in your household own your current residence?	 □ Yes – at a grocery, convenience, or retail store □ Yes – at a check cashing or payday-lending store □ Yes – with a mobile phone or online □ Yes – at some other place □ No
27. If No, do you	C. Experiences with Credit
Rent your current residence Don't pay rent because residence owned by a family member Don't pay rent for another reason 28. How much does your household spend on rent or your mortgage each month?	 32. In the past year, have you been more than 90 days overdue on a loan or bill? Yes No 33. Have you applied for any type of credit or loan in the last year? Yes Yes Yes Yes
 □ 0 or not applicable □ Less than \$500 □ \$500 to \$1000 □ \$1001 to \$2000 □ \$2001 to \$4000 □ More than \$4000 	34. In the past year, were you turned down for a loan or not given as much credit as you applied for? □ Yes □ No 35. In the past year, did you think of applying for
29. Imagine your household had an unexpected emergency expense of \$2,000 that could not be avoided. How much of this expense could you pay within a week? None of it	credit or a loan but changed your mind because you thought you might be turned down? Yes No Solution No Solution No
□ Some of it, but less than \$1,000 □ \$1,000 or more, but less than \$2,000 □ All of the \$2,000	budgeting app or website? Yes No 37. In the past year, have you unexpectedly had a
30. If your household lost its main source of income, about how long could you cover expenses by, for example, borrowing, using savings, selling assets, or seeking help from family or friends?	credit card canceled or the limit reduced? Yes No Second
 □ Less than two weeks □ About one month □ About two months □ Three to six months □ More than six months 	39. Did you have an unpaid balance on any of your cards after making your last payment? See See See See See See See See See Se
31. In the past 12 months, did you or anyone in your household cash a check or pay to have funds immediately available? Please mark all that apply	40. Thinking of all your credit cards, how do you think the following will change in the next 6 months? Decrease Stay the Increase
that apply.	The balance you carry
	7

Your credit card limit	 □ A peer-to-peer or personal lender (such as Prosper, SoFi, or LendingClub) □ A payday lender □ A bank or credit union □ Some other source (please specify)
Go to question 4:52 Have you taken out a payday loan in the past 6 months? (A payday loan is a loan that you must repay, make a payment on, or rollover on your	52. How likely do you think it is that you will get
next payday.) □ Yes □	one of the following in the next 6 months? Very Likely Un- Very
☐ Yes ☐ No	likely likely unlikely
42. Have you rolled over a payday loan in	New credit card
the last 6 months? □ Yes □ No	Mortgage to buy
43. Do you still owe money on any	Loan to buy a car
payday loan?	Pawn shop loan
↓ □ Yes □ No	Auto-title loan
\square N ₀ 44. Have you taken out a pawn shop loan in the	Payday loan
past 6 months?	
Yes 45. Do you still owe money on any pawn shop loan? Yes No 46. Have you taken out a new loan to buy a car in the past 6 months?	53. When was the last time you checked your credit score or credit report? ☐ Never → Skip to question 56 ☐ At least one year ago ☐ Within the last year 54. The last time you checked your score or credit report, how did you check it?
Yes No 47. Do you still owe money on any auto loan? Yes	A free website like AnnualCreditReport.com A paid website A credit monitoring service Your credit card statement Some other way 55. How do you think your credit score has
↓ □ No48. Have you taken out an auto-title loan in the	changed since the last time you checked
past 6 months? (An auto-title loan uses the car's	it?
value to borrow money for a short period of time.)	Gone up
☐ Yes ☐ No	Stayed about the same
49. Do you still owe money on any autotitle loan?	Gone down 56. Have you ever tried to improve your credit score?
□ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
50. Have you taken out a loan from an online	1 110
lender in the past 6 months?	
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐	
51. Were any of these online loans from	
8	3

57. Do you think the following statements are mostly true or mostly false?

	Mostly True	Mostly False
All lenders give about the same rates for the same type of loan.		
Having a low credit score may keep you from getting a job.		
Checking your credit score is bad for your credit.		
Applying for a lot of credit in a short time harms your credit score.		

D. Running Out of Money

58. Do you expect to have difficulty paying for a bill or expense in the next six months?	
□ Yes ¬ □ No	
59. Do you expect to borrow to meet this bill or expense?	
↓ □ No	
60. At any time in the past 12 months have you or your household had difficulty paying for a bill or	
expense?	
☐ Yes	
\square No \Longrightarrow Skip to section E.	
61. How often did you have trouble in the last 12 months?	
□ Only once in the last 12 months	
□ 2 times	
□ 3 or 4 times □ 5 to 12 times	
☐ More than 12 times	
62. When was the most recent time that you or your household had trouble paying a bill or expense?	
□ 1-3 months ago	
4-6 months ago	
□ 7-9 months ago	
□ 10-12 months ago	
63. Thinking about the most recent time you had trouble, was there an event that caused this difficulty?	
☐ Yes ¬	
r No ↓	
64. What was that event? Please mark all that apply.	
☐ Medical expenses or fees ☐ Loss of income from illness	
☐ Loss of income from illness☐ Loss of job	
□ Other loss of income	
☐ Home repair	
☐ Auto repair	
☐ Taxes or fees ☐ Legal bills	
□ Death or funeral costs	
☐ Helping children, parents, or other family members	
Student loan, school, or tuition costs	
☐ Moving costs ☐ Fraud or theft	
☐ Other (please specify) ☐	
65. About how large was the bill, expense, or loss of income from this event?	
\$00	
66. Was this event expected or unexpected?	
Ψ Expected	
Skip to 67 on □ Unexpected the next page	

67. Which of the following did you do when you had difficulty paying that bill or expense? Please mark all that apply. Did not pay all of this expense Negotiated a lower or delayed payment for this expense Cut back on other expenses Paid another bill late or skipped a payment Increased income, for example, by working overtime or taking an extra job Sold something Pawned something Took money from a savings, investments, or a retirement account Borrowed from an IRA, 401k, or retirement account Used a credit card Took out or used a home equity line of credit	69. Paying for one major expense may make it harder to pay other bills or expenses. When you ran out of money, what did you have difficulty paying for? Please mark all that apply. A medical expense A car or vehicle repair A home repair Food Mortgage or rent Utilities Other regular household expenses Another major expense Other (please specify)
Took out a loan from a bank, credit union, or other financial institution □ Borrowed from friends or family	E. Household Events
☐ Took out a payday loan ☐ Took out an auto-title loan ☐ Borrowed from an unlicensed lender who charges interest	70. In the past 12 months, has your household experienced a significant drop in income from any of the following?
Other (please specify)	Period of unemployment Yes No
68. If you borrowed money, why did you choose this way of borrowing money over another option? Please mark all that apply.	Changed to a lower-paying job Loss of government benefits Worked less because of illness or injury
☐ It was the lowest cost option☐ It was familiar; I had used it before☐ The terms, like price or repayment	Retired Could not work because someone in your household was in jail
options, were easy to understand ☐ It was convenient ☐ It was the only option I could qualify for ☐ I could get the money quickly	Other significant drop in income 71. In the past 12 months, have any of the following happened to your household?
☐ There was no credit check ☐ It was available online ☐ Family or friends recommended it to me ☐ I did not want anybody to know that I	Someone in your household got married Someone in your household divorced or separated
needed money Other (please specify)	Someone in your household died, including a parent
- Outer (preuse specify)	Someone was born, adopted, or moved into your household
	Someone left your household Someone in your household went to jail Natural disaster affected your home,

employer, or business					i i ci cuit c			
You moved to a new residence						om a bank or cre		
72. In the past 12 months, has your household					_	uity line of credi g from friends o		
experienced a significant unexpected						oan or auto-title		
expense from						or selling somet		
•	Yes	No			_	_		
A major medical or dental expense				: D	orenac	etivos		
Giving a gift or loan to a family member or friend outside your household					erspec			
A major vehicle repair or replacement						s section ask al w you make de		
A major house or appliance repair			_	_	ight answer	-	213131131 2116. 0	
A TV, computer, or mobile phone repair or replacement				6. Wh	en making	major decision		
Legal expenses or fines						for the best te		
Taxes or fees							ollowing comes	
Theft or robbery							ch you search	
Increase in child care or dependent care				whe	n borrowir	ng or getting c	redit?	
expenses					Not at all			
Some other major unexpected expense	Ш				A little A moderate	amount		
73. In the next 6 months, do you expect to.	•••			☐ A great deal 77. Generally speaking, would you say that				
, ,	Yes	s No	7					
Move to a new residence						n be trusted o		
Be unemployed for some period				need peop		careful in de	aling with	
Lose income for some other reason					-			
Have a major medical expense						e can be trusted		
Get a promotion			_	0.0	Need to be	•	1 91	
Go on vacation			7	_		ere offered se	_	
Pay a large education related expense					-		se only one. In l B are equally	
Buy a house					-	ne of these th		
Buy a car					ıld you pref		rec lotteries	
Have a major home renovation or repair				***************************************	au you pres	Outcome A	Outcome B	
Have an addition to your household from						50% chance	50% chance	
birth, adoption, or some other reason Have someone in your household get					Lottery 1	Get \$26	Get \$2	
married	Ш				Lottery 2	Get \$18	Get \$6	
74. If you answered yes to any of the event	s in				Lottery 3	Get \$10	Get \$10	
question <mark>73</mark> , do you expect to need to					J			
borrow to cover any of these expenses? Yes No						n prize and con et the amount.		
75. If your household absolutely had to pay large expense after using savings, investment, or retirement accounts, who other sources would you turn to? Pleas mark all that apply.	ıat				uld you rat \$1000 in <u>on</u> \$1050 in <u>siz</u> uld you rat \$1000 in <u>on</u>	te month or k months her get:		

□ \$1100 in <u>six months</u>

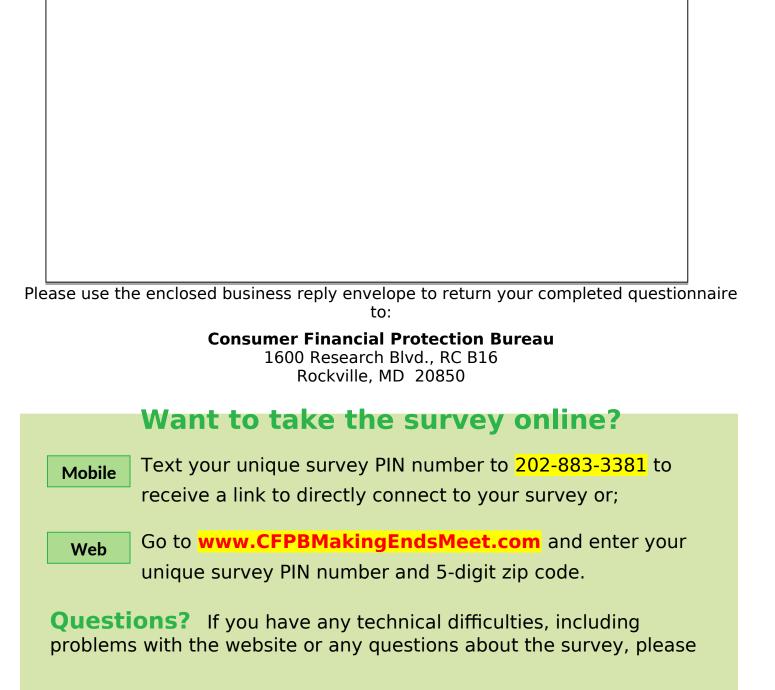
81. Would you rather get:\$1000 in one month or

\$1150 in six months

G. You and Your Household

82.	What is your sex?	90. Besides you and your spouse/partner, how many
	□ Male	other adults over 18 live in your household?
	□ Female	□ No others □ 1 other
83.	How old are you?	□ 2 or more
	☐ Less than 25 years ☐ 25–34 years	91. How many children live in your household?
	□ 25–34 years □ 35–44 years	□ No children
	□ 45–54 years	□ 1 □ 2 or more
	□ 55–61 years □ 62 years or older	92. How many children do you currently have in
84.	What is your highest level of education?	college?
	☐ Less than a high school degree	□ None or not applicable
	☐ High school degree☐ Technical or vocational degree	\square 1 \square 2 or more
	□ Some college, but no degree	→ 93. Thinking of the child who most
	□ Two-year college degree□ Four-year college degree	recently started college, in what year
	□ Postgraduate degree (for example, MA, PhD, JD,	did that person first enroll in college?
	MBA, MD)	
85.	Are you currently attending school?	
	Yes	94. If you helped any of your children pay for college, how did you do so?
	□ No	☐ Took money out of savings (including a
86.	Is English your preferred language?	retirement account)
	□ Yes	Took out a parental education loanUsed a home equity loan or refinanced a
	□ No	mortgage
87.	Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?	\Box Took out another loan
	□ Yes	95. What is your military status?
	□ No	Spouse/
88.	What is your race? Mark all that apply.	No military service $\overline{\square}$ Partner
	□ White	On active duty
	□ Black or African American□ American Indian or Alaska Native	Reserve or National Guard \Box
	☐ Asian	Veteran or retired
	□ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	96. Do you have a mobile phone?
89.	What is your current marital status?	□ Yes □ No
	☐ Married	
	□ Living with a partner□ Never married	97. How do you access the internet? Yes No
	□ Separated	Your phone
	□ Divorced	A computer at home
	□ Widowed	A computer at work
		A tablet or similar portable device — —
		or a relative's home)

We have provided the space below if you wish to share additional comments or further explain any of your responses. Please do not put your name or address on the questionnaire.		



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