

FOR RELEASE: MARCH 27, 2019

**75% OF AMERICANS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FINANCIAL FUTURE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;  
ECONOMIC NEWS DOES NOT REFLECT REAL WORLD, THEY SAY 2-1**

With agreement across all age groups, 75 percent of Americans are optimistic about their financial future, as 19 percent are pessimistic, according to a Quinnipiac University National Poll released today. Optimism ranges from 69 percent among Americans over 65 years old to 82 percent among those 35 to 49 years old.

There are small gender and racial gaps, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University National Poll finds:

- 79 percent of men are optimistic, compared to 71 percent of women;
- 77 percent of whites are optimistic, compared to 69 percent of blacks and 75 percent of Hispanics;
- 82 percent of whites with a college degree are optimistic, compared to 74 percent of those without a degree.

Only 50 percent of Americans, however, think they will have enough savings when they retire to live comfortably. This includes 63 percent of people 18 to 34 years old.

There is a gender gap as 54 percent of men and 46 percent of women expect to have enough money to retire in comfort.

While 69 percent of Americans say they can afford to play an unexpected \$500 bill, 29 percent say they can't afford that emergency.

“This high level of optimism reflects the constant economic growth and decreasing levels of unemployment over the last decade. It also shows, however, the lack of savings, especially for retirement,” said Osman Kilic, PhD, chair of the Department of Finance at the School of Business at Quinnipiac University.

Americans say 45 – 32 percent they think Social Security will be able to pay a benefit once they are eligible. Confidence in Social Security ranges from 35 percent among those 35 to 49 years old to 62 percent among those 50 to 64 years old.

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/March 27, 2019 – page 2**

“Even though almost half of Americans are still expecting Social Security to make payments, Gen X’s and Millennial’s confidence in the viability of the Social Security system drops substantially compared to those 50 to 64 years old,” Dr. Kilic said.

### **Economic Reporting**

The way economic news is reported does not accurately reflect the reality of the economy for average Americans, adults say 60 – 27 percent. Skepticism about financial reporting is consistent among every listed party, gender, education, age and racial group.

For example, only 32 percent of white Americans with a college degree think economic news reflects their reality, compared to 33 percent of those without a degree.

While 60 percent of Americans, including 41 percent of those 18 to 34 years old say they have some retirement savings, only 28 percent say they rely on a financial advisor or retirement fund administrator to make most or all of their investment decisions.

### **Student Loans**

Some 22 percent say student loans have prevented them from making major purchases, such as a house or car.

And 17 percent of Americans regret taking on student loans to get a degree, while 28 percent do not regret it.

From March 21 – 25, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,590 adults nationwide with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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35. (Adults) In general, would you say that you are optimistic or pessimistic about your financial future?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Optimistic	75%	87%	67%	77%	79%	71%	82%	74%
Pessimistic	19	9	27	18	15	22	15	19
DK/NA	6	5	7	5	6	7	3	6

  

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Optimistic	73%	82%	76%	69%	81%	74%	77%	69%	75%
Pessimistic	20	14	21	21	15	20	18	25	16
DK/NA	7	4	4	10	4	6	5	6	9

36. (Adults) Would you be able to afford an unexpected bill or expense of \$500, or not?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes/Afford	69%	81%	66%	70%	74%	64%	88%	71%
No	29	17	32	28	22	35	11	27
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	4	1	1	2

  

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Afford	65%	69%	74%	72%	86%	71%	78%	44%	56%
No	35	29	25	25	13	28	20	52	42
DK/NA	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	4	2

37. (Adults) Do you think that the way that economic news is reported accurately reflects the reality of the economy for average Americans, or don't you think so?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes/Reflects reality	27%	38%	23%	26%	26%	28%	32%	33%
No	60	52	64	61	61	60	55	57
DK/NA	12	10	13	12	13	12	13	10

  

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Reflects reality	20%	29%	30%	30%	31%	33%	32%	18%	17%
No	65	62	61	55	57	55	56	71	69
DK/NA	14	9	9	14	11	12	11	11	14

38. (Adults) If you have student loans, would you say that your student loans have prevented you from making large purchases, such as a house or a car, or wouldn't you say that?

ADULTS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes/Have prevented	22%	17%	27%	22%	22%	22%	18%	15%
No	22	24	18	22	24	19	29	16
NO STDNT LOANS (VOL)	54	58	51	52	50	57	51	66
DK/NA	3	1	3	4	3	2	2	3

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Have prevented	39%	19%	17%	11%	16%	17%	16%	36%	30%
No	21	30	21	14	24	19	21	19	24
NO STDNT LOANS (VOL)	40	48	61	70	57	62	59	44	43
DK/NA	1	3	1	6	3	3	3	2	3

39. (Adults) If you have student loans, would you say that you regret taking on those loans to get your degree or degrees, or wouldn't you say that?

ADULTS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes/Regret	17%	12%	17%	19%	16%	17%	12%	12%
No	28	29	28	28	31	24	36	21
NO STDNT LOANS (VOL)	54	58	51	52	50	57	51	66
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	1

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Regret	26%	20%	13%	8%	12%	12%	12%	31%	23%
No	34	31	25	18	29	25	27	24	31
NO STDNT LOANS (VOL)	40	48	61	70	57	62	59	44	43
DK/NA	-	2	1	4	1	1	1	-	4

40. (Adults) Do you currently have any retirement savings, or not?

ADULTS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	60%	76%	61%	57%	62%	59%	87%	56%
No	37	22	36	41	35	39	11	41
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	41%	66%	68%	71%	72%	66%	69%	53%	36%
No	59	34	30	23	26	31	28	45	63
DK/NA	1	-	2	6	2	3	3	2	1

41. (Adults) Do you think that you will have enough savings by the time you retire to live comfortably, or don't you think so?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	50%	63%	45%	51%	54%	46%	65%	47%
No	33	23	40	32	30	36	21	32
ALRDY RETIRED (VOL)	8	8	9	9	7	10	8	13
DK/NA	8	6	6	9	9	7	5	8

  

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	63%	49%	47%	40%	59%	50%	54%	40%	47%
No	29	44	40	20	24	30	27	46	46
ALRDY RETIRED (VOL)	-	-	5	34	8	14	11	5	3
DK/NA	8	7	8	5	9	6	7	9	4

42. (Adults) Do you think the Social Security system will be able to pay you a benefit once you are eligible to receive it?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	45%	45%	47%	44%	46%	44%	52%	41%
No	32	29	33	31	32	31	33	27
ALRDY RECEIVING (VOL)	13	14	13	13	10	15	10	20
DK/NA	11	11	7	12	12	10	5	12

  

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	38%	35%	62%	41%	49%	42%	45%	38%	48%
No	49	50	20	4	30	29	29	35	36
ALRDY RECEIVING (VOL)	-	3	6	50	12	20	16	13	3
DK/NA	12	12	12	5	9	9	9	14	14

43. (Adults) Would you say that you rely on a financial advisor or retirement fund administrator to make most or all of your investment decisions for you, or wouldn't you say that?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	28%	30%	31%	27%	28%	28%	39%	25%
No	68	67	65	71	69	68	60	71
DK/NA	4	3	3	2	4	3	1	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht		
Yes	26%	32%	30%	27%	29%	33%	31%	25%	23%
No	71	67	67	67	68	64	66	73	71
DK/NA	3	2	3	6	3	3	3	2	6