



THE COLLEGE DEBT/ RETIREMENT SAVINGS BIND

INVESTOR PROTECTION INSTITUTE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Overview of Key Findings (1)

Key findings of the *“Investor Protection Institute College Debt/Retirement Savings Bind”* of 1,016 millennials in April 2015 include the following:

- About half of millennials (49 percent) surveyed said they have college-related debt, including 20 percent with debt of \$1,000-\$20,000, 16 percent with \$20,000-\$50,000 in such debt, and 13 percent with \$50,000 or more in college debt.
- Fewer than two in five millennials (38 percent) are already saving and investing for retirement. A nearly equal number (34 percent) say that, as a result of college debt, “I have either delayed starting to save/invest for retirement or been able to save/invest much less than I had hoped.”
- 40 percent of millennials say they are “concerned” about their delay in saving and investing for retirement, compared to only 7 percent who say they are not concerned. Well over half (56 percent) of millennials worry “about having to work longer as a result of having a late start on saving/investing for retirement.”

Overview of Key Findings (2)

- Fewer than two in five millennials (36 percent) say that college-related debt has no impact on them. For the rest, college debt has influenced a wide range of personal decisions:
 - 29 percent have delayed the purchase of a home.
 - 26 percent have postponed a major purchase, such as an auto.
 - 22 percent have cancelled plans for additional education.
 - 19 percent have had to return home to live with their parents.
 - 17 percent (included married individuals) have put off starting a family.
 - 12 percent have delayed marriage.
- Only a third of millennials describe themselves as having “little or no” college and non-college debt, while 16 percent said they have a “large amount” of college and/or non-college debt. Another 24 percent said they had a “fair amount” of college and/or non-college debt.

Overview of Key Findings (3)

- More than two out of five millennials (43 percent) report having additional non-college debt of \$1,000-\$20,000.
- About half of millennials (52 percent) don't expect Social Security to be around when they retire and that they will bear the full weight of financing their retirement.
- More than a third (34 percent) expect to use a combination of financial professionals and their own planning aided by technology to save/invest for retirement.

What is your gender?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male.	49.07%	504
Female.	50.93%	523
Total		1,027

What is your marital status?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Single.	54.19%	556
Engaged.	7.02%	72
Married.	34.89%	358
Divorced.	3.90%	40
Total		1,026

What is your educational status?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Never graduated high school.	4.56%	46
Working on undergraduate/technical degree.	21.01%	212
Completed undergraduate/technical degree and not pursuing higher degree.	37.46%	378
Pursuing post-graduate degree.	13.08%	132
Completed post-graduate degree.	23.89%	241
Total		1,009

In rough terms, how much debt are you carrying from your college education?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Zero.	46.85%	476
\$1,000-\$10,000.	12.11%	123
\$10,000-\$20,000.	8.17%	83
\$20,000-\$30,000.	6.30%	64
\$30,000-\$40,000.	5.71%	58
\$40,000-\$50,000.	3.74%	38
\$50,000-\$75,000.	6.89%	70
\$75,000-\$125,000.	3.25%	33
More than \$125,000.	2.66%	27
Don't know/not sure.	4.33%	44
Total		1,016

In rough terms, how much non-college debt, such as credit cards, are you carrying?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Zero.	44.50%	445
\$1,000-\$10,000.	34.50%	345
\$10,000-\$20,000.	8.30%	83
\$20,000-\$30,000.	3.40%	34
\$30,000-\$40,000.	0.80%	8
\$40,000-\$50,000.	0.60%	6
\$50,000-\$75,000.	0.80%	8
\$75,000-\$125,000.	0.50%	5
More than \$125,000.	2.30%	23
Don't know/not sure.	4.30%	43
Total		1,000

Has your education-related debt had any of the following impacts? Feel free to choose more than one of the following:

Answer Choices	Responses
I have returned home to live with my parents.	19.20% 191
I have delayed getting married.	11.56% 115
I have delayed starting a family.	16.58% 165
I have delayed purchasing a home.	29.05% 289
I have delayed making other major purchases, such as an automobile.	25.93% 258
I have either delayed starting to save/invest for retirement or been able to save/invest much less than I had hoped.	33.97% 338
I have abandoned my plans for more education because I cannot afford them.	22.01% 219
I have not experienced any impacts.	35.68% 355
Don't know/not sure.	10.35% 103
Total Respondents: 995	

About saving/investing for retirement ... which of the following statements best describes you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am concerned about delaying saving/investing for retirement.	39.58%	395
I am not concerned about delaying saving/investing for retirement.	6.91%	69
I am already saving/investing for retirement.	37.47%	374
None of the above.	8.62%	86
Don't know/not sure.	7.41%	74
Total		998

Do you worry about having to work longer as a result of having a late start on saving/investing for retirement?

Answer Choices	Responses	
I worry about it a great deal.	21.91%	218
I worry about it somewhat.	33.87%	337
I worry about it very little.	18.69%	186
I don't worry about it at all.	19.50%	194
Don't know/not sure.	6.03%	60
Total		995

Do you currently rely on ... or expect to rely on ... a financial professional to assist you in saving/investing for retirement or will you use apps and other aids to handle retirement savings yourself? Which statement most closely matches your views:

Answer Choices	Responses
I plan to rely primarily on financial professionals.	12.00% 119
I plan to rely primarily on my own retirement planning aided by technology.	27.22% 270
I expect to use a combination of financial professionals and my own planning aided by technology.	34.07% 338
Don't know/not sure.	26.71% 265
Total	992

Do you expect to be able to rely on Social Security in your retirement years or will you have to finance most or all of your retirement expenses? Which statement most closely matches your views:

Answer Choices	Responses
I expect to have saved or invested little for retirement and rely primarily on Social Security.	5.07% 50
I expect to rely on a combination of Social Security and my saving/investing for retirement.	27.79% 274
I don't expect Social Security to be around when I retire and anticipate having to finance everything myself.	51.52% 508
Don't know/not sure.	15.62% 154
Total	986

How much total combined money did all members of your HOUSEHOLD earn last year?

Answer Choices	Responses	
\$0 to \$9,999	11.06%	111
\$10,000 to \$24,999	14.64%	147
\$25,000 to \$49,999	21.31%	214
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15.74%	158
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9.46%	95
\$100,000 to \$124,999	5.88%	59
\$125,000 to \$149,999	3.09%	31
\$150,000 to \$174,999	1.29%	13
\$175,000 to \$199,999	0.80%	8
\$200,000 and up	2.59%	26
Prefer not to answer	14.14%	142
Total		1,004

Methodology

- The Investor Protection Institute (IPI) survey was conducted in April 2015.
- The survey was conducted online using the SurveyMonkey platform. The process was overseen for IPI by The Hastings Group.
- A total of 1,016 pre-screen millennials completed the survey. Some survey questions reflect more or fewer answers based on those who opted in and out of certain questions.
- The survey findings reflect the views of those surveyed. Other than the screen for age (to ensure millennial status), no other demographic information was used to inform the make-up of the survey sample. Respondents were recruited from the diverse population of 30+ million people who complete SurveyMonkey surveys every month.
- Millennials are defined for the purposes of this survey as being born between 1980-2000.