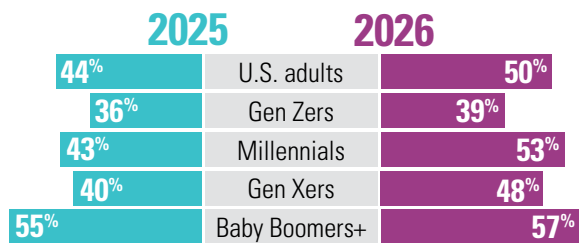


quick look

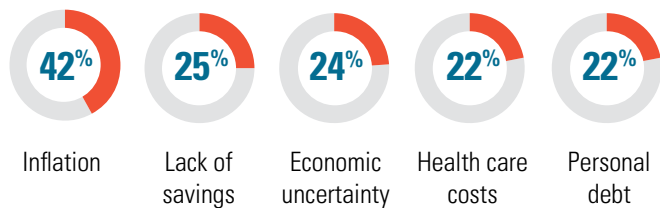
financial security

The percentage of U.S. adults who feel financially secure increased to 50% this year, with the biggest gains reported by Millennials and Gen Xers, a recent survey from Northwestern Mutual shows. However, more are considering investing in higher risk investments in the belief that these investments will help them better reach their financial goals. These are among the highlights of the *2026 Planning & Progress Study: Wave I—The Financial States of America*. Survey highlights include the following.

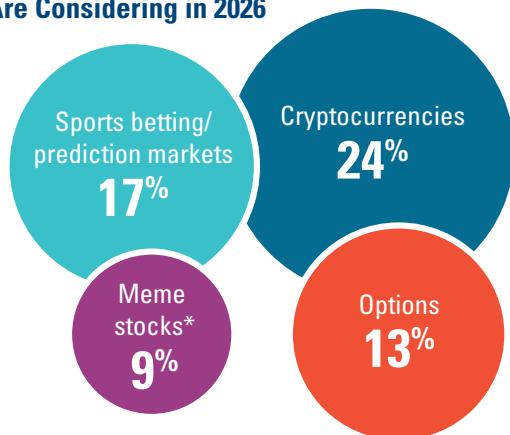
Feel Financially Secure



Top Five Greatest Obstacles to Financial Security



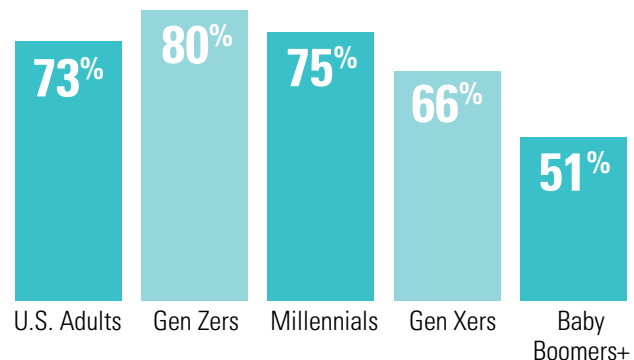
Categories That U.S. Adults Currently Invest in or Are Considering in 2026



*Investopedia defines *meme stocks* as shares of companies around which online communities have formed to promote and build narratives.

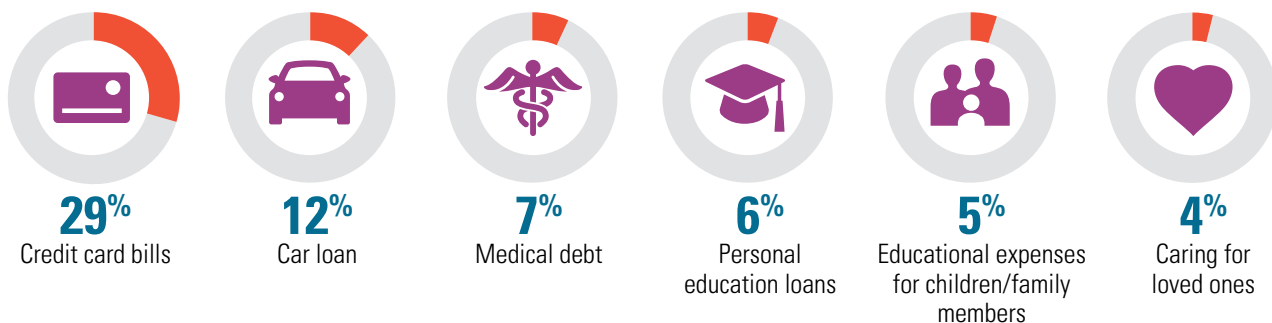
Financial Nihilism*

Percentage who feel financially behind and believe that high-risk/speculative investments will help reach financial goals more effectively than traditional methods.



*Among those who are invested in high-risk/speculative investments.

Main Sources of Debt (Exclusive of Mortgages) Among U.S. Adults



Source: Northwestern Mutual. *2026 Planning & Progress Study: Wave I—The Financial States of America*.