

## ABOUT SCHWAB'S MODERN WEALTH SURVEY

Schwab's Modern Wealth Survey is an annual examination of how Americans think about saving, spending, investing and wealth. The online survey was conducted by Logica Research from February 2 to February 17, 2021.

## AMERICANS READY TO RESET THE 20s

As vaccination rates rise and restrictions ease, Chicago residents feel optimistic about the United States overall. Chicago residents are the most confident about:

- U.S. technological innovation (78%)
- U.S. stock market (64%)
- U.S. healthcare system (58%)
- U.S. as a global economic power (56%)
- U.S. economy (54%)
- U.S. job market (53%)

As the city begins to reopen, 50% of Chicago residents look to get back to living the way they did before the COVID-19 pandemic, and 20% plan to splurge to make up for lost time.

Chicagoans dream most about traveling (51%) and socializing (35%), with many planning to splurge on:

- Jetting off on a vacation (30%)
- Dining out at a fancy restaurant (22%)
- Hosting a party (15%)

## SPENDING VERSUS SAVING

Over two-thirds (68%) of Chicago residents surveyed say they were savers in 2020, as opposed to spenders. Hoping to double down on new savings habits in post-COVID life, 78% of Chicagoans plan to be bigger savers than spenders in the year ahead.

Specifically, Chicago residents plan to do the following after the pandemic has subsided:

- Save more in general (48%)
- Reduce total debt (34%)
- Build an emergency fund (28%)
- Invest more in the stock market (23%)

When it comes to their portfolios, Chicago investors take a measured approach:

- Consider emotional and financial risk tolerance when investing (69%)
- Invest to increase my savings in case of an emergency (62%)

## RECALIBRATING PRIORITIES

The financial stress imposed on all Americans, including Chicago residents, is clear. According to Schwab's survey, more than half of Chicagoans (55%) were financially impacted over the past year:

- The economic environment strained their finances (29%)
- They faced a salary cut or reduced hours (29%)
- They were laid off or furloughed (25%)

Over two-thirds (67%) of Chicago residents have reprioritized what matters most to them due to COVID-19. What's more important now?

- Mental health (65%)
- Relationships (62%)
- Physical health (54%)
- Financial health (52%)

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**CHICAGO AREA**

**WHAT IT TAKES TO BE WEALTHY AND FINANCIALLY HAPPY IN CHICAGO**

While refocusing their priorities, Chicagoans have also revised their perspectives on what it takes to be wealthy.

	2020	2021
Average net worth it takes to be “wealthy”	\$2.6 million	\$2.4 million
Average net worth needed for “financial happiness”	\$1.5 million	\$1.2 million
Average net worth it takes to be “financially comfortable”	\$1.1 million	\$790,000

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

As Chicago residents look beyond the pandemic and think about their futures, Schwab’s survey shows that 53% of Chicagoans who have a written financial plan feel “very confident” about reaching their financial goals, while only 15% of those without a plan feel the same level of certainty.

Those with a plan also maintain healthier money habits when it comes to saving and investing:

	Planners	Non-Planners
Feel financially stable	70%	48%
Have an emergency fund	72%	42%
Consider risk tolerance when investing	80%	63%
Aware of fees and investment costs	71%	44%
Regularly rebalance portfolio	87%	58%

Despite the benefits of planning, Schwab’s survey shows only a third (34%) of Chicagoans have a financial plan in writing. Among those without a written plan:

- 34% don’t think they have enough money to merit a formal plan
- 28% say it’s too complicated
- 18% say they don’t have enough time to develop one

**About the Survey**

The online survey was conducted by Logica Research from February 2 to February 17, 2021, among a sample of 750 Chicago residents aged 21 to 75. The geographical area of the sample is defined by the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin Metropolitan Statistical Area. Quotas were set to balance the sample on key demographic variables. Supporting documentation for any claims or statistical information is available upon request.

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**Disclosures**

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The logo for Charles Schwab, featuring the word "charles" in a lowercase, italicized serif font above the word "SCHWAB" in a bold, uppercase sans-serif font, all contained within a blue square.

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(0521-1TDH)