

Military Finances Survey: Research Report

<u>Prepared for</u>: National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and Wells Fargo

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NFCC Financial Literacy among U.S. Military Survey – Research Method and Reading the Report

Research Method

The Financial Literacy among the U.S. Military Survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Poll on behalf of NFCC and Wells Fargo from March 20 to April 16, 2019 among 531 U.S. adults ages 18 and older who are currently active, enlisted members of the U.S. military, excluding reserve members and those in the National Guard (i.e., "servicemembers"), and 439 U.S. adults ages 18 and older who are spouses/partners of servicemembers.

A similar online survey was also conducted by the Harris Poll between April 7 and April 15, 2014, among 267 active servicemembers in the U.S. military.

Results were weighted for age, gender, marital status, education, and race/ethnicity where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population of active U.S. military servicemembers, based on targets developed from the 2012 and 2017 Department of Defense Demographics Report. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

Similar questions were also in a general population study conducted by The Harris Poll between March 8th and March 13th, 2019, among 2,086 U.S. adults ages 18+. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, The Harris Poll avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in the Harris Poll surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Poll panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

A Note about Reading the Report

The percentage of respondents has been included for each item.

- An asterisk (*) signifies a value of less than one-half percent.
- A dash represents a value of zero.
- Percentages may not always add up to 100% because of computer rounding or the acceptance of multiple responses.



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NFCC Financial Literacy among U.S. Military Survey – Key Findings

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND DECISION-MAKING

Active servicemembers are more likely than the general population to grade themselves an A/B on their knowledge of their personal finances—and 2 in 3 would welcome professional advice.

- Active servicemembers are more likely than the general population to grade themselves an A/B on their knowledge of their personal finances (62% vs. 55%). ^[Q900]
 - Spouses/partners are similar to the general population (54% vs. 55%).
- Current active servicemembers are less likely to give themselves an A/B than in 2014. (62% vs. 70%)
- Four in 5 (80%) active servicemembers who are married or living with a partner say they are the primary income earner (vs. 88% in 2014) and 16% say they are equal earners (vs. 9%).
 - About a third (32%) of spouses say they are the primary earner—about 3 in 10 (29%) spouse partners say they are equal earners. ^[Q700]
- Nearly 7 in 10 (69% vs. 83% in 2014) active servicemembers who are married or living with a partner say they are either the sole maker of financial decisions (26% vs. 29%) or have a major influence (43% vs. 54%). ^[Q702]
 - Twice as many servicemembers compared to 2014 (21% vs. 9%) say they have *some* influence.
- Nearly 7 in 10 (69%) spouses/partners say they have sole/major decision-making responsibility.
 - Nearly half of spouses (47%) say they have at least a major influence.
- Considering what they already know about personal finances, 2 in 3 servicemembers (67% vs. 80% in 2014) agree they could benefit from some advice and answers to everyday financial questions from a professional. ^[Q902]
 - \circ Among active servicemembers, about a quarter say the military (27%) or family (24%) has taught them the *most* about personal finances. ^[Q905]
 - Of note, active servicemembers in 2019 are less likely than in 2014 to have been taught the most from educational resources offered by the military (19% vs. 26%).
 - For spouses/partners of active servicemembers, family (39%) has, with military at just 16%.
 - About in 1 in 10 say a civilian financial professional has (10% and 11%, respectively).

If they were having problems related to debt, nearly 3 in 10 active servicemembers say they would turn to the military (29%) and over 1 in 5 (22%) active military spouses/partners would turn to their bank.

- Among spouses/partners, about 1 in 3 (33%) would turn to family and 1 in 4 (22%) would turn to their bank. ^[Q910]
- Among active servicemembers, about 3 in 10 (29%) say they would turn to the military overall, followed by family (26%).
 - Specifically, in 2014, a Military Relief Society was the #1 response for active servicemembers, and in 2019 (22% vs. 20%) this has fallen to second place, behind family/friends (26%).
- About 1 in 10 (8% and 7%) are most likely to turn to a non-profit counseling organization.



MONETARY HABITS

Nearly half of active servicemembers and spouses/partners of servicemembers keep a budget—and most pay their bills on time.

- About half of active servicemembers and spouse/partners say they keep a budget when managing their money (46% and 49%, respectively).
 - Although about half in each group say they <u>do not</u> keep a budget (54% and 51%), about 2 in 5 (37% and 43%) say they have some idea of what they spend. ^[Q715]
 - Spouses/partners of active servicemembers are more likely than the general population to keep a budget (49% vs. 42%).
- About half of married/partnered servicemembers (51%) say the way they and their spouses/partners manage their finances often leads to conflict. ^[Q810]

Majorities of both active servicemembers and spouses/partners are paying their bills on time—and are more likely than the general population to be saving.

Roughly 2 in 3 active servicemembers (63% vs. 83% in 2014) say they pay all their bills on time and only about 1 in 10 (11% vs. 3% in 2014) say they currently have debts in collection. ^[Q720]

- Nearly 7 in 10 (68%) spouses/partners of servicemembers say they pay their bills on time.
- Nearly 9 in 10 (87%) servicemembers and 75% of service member spouses/partners say they have some savings. ^[Q730]
 - Both groups are significant compared to just 70% of the general population who say they have some savings.

Active servicemembers are more likely than their spouse/partner counterparts to be saving for retirement, but both are more likely to save than the general population.

- Nearly 9 in 10 (89%) servicemembers and 75% of service member spouses/partners are saving for retirement compared to just 65% of the general population. ^[Q735]
- About 1 in 6 (17%) servicemembers say they save more than 20% for retirement, while about 1 in 10 (8%) say they are saving nothing.
 - Nearly twice as many spouses/partners are saving nothing (15%) and half are saving 20%+ (8%).



SENTIMENTS ABOUT FINANCES

Less than half of active servicemembers feel finances control their life.

- Less than half of servicemembers (46%) feel their finances control their life often or always. ^[Q718]
 - And this percentage is even lower among spouses/partners (36%).
- Majorities of active servicemembers say the following <u>do not</u> describe them *very well* or *completely*:
 - I am just getting by financially (57%);
 - I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last (58%); or that,
 - Because of their money situation, they will never have the things they want in life (64%).
 - These percentages are higher among spouses/partners (67%, 65%, 76%, respectively). ^[Q717]

Despite not being controlled by their personal finances, majorities of active servicemembers and spouses/partners of servicemembers have some worries.

- Nearly 9 in 10 (89%) active servicemembers and 84% of spouses/partners have worries about personal finances. ^[Q1010]
 - Active servicemembers are most worried about paying debts (20% vs. 13% of spouses/partners).
 For active servicemembers, this has doubled since 2014 (20% vs. 10%).
 - The spouses/partners are most likely to be worried about saving enough (29% vs. 16% of active servicemembers).
 - Roughly 3 in 10 to a third of active servicemembers are "more worried" than 12 months ago for each of the following saving for future goals (33%), covering unexpected expenses or emergencies (32%), meeting basic household needs (30%), how their finances will affect their future in the military (28%), and meeting debts (28%). ^[Q1020]
 - These percentages are up directionally since 2014 for meeting basic household needs (30% vs. 25%) and debt payments (28% vs. 22%).
 - About 2 in 5 spouses/partners of servicemembers are more likely than active servicemembers to say they are "more worried" about saving for future goals (43% vs. 33%) and covering unexpected expenses or emergencies (44% vs. 32%).

SOURCES OF MONEY

Active servicemembers today are 1.5 times more likely to have taken a loan in the past 12 months than they were in 2014.

- Three in four servicemembers (75% vs. 49% in 2014) say they have taken a loan in the past year, including 34% (vs. 18%) with their credit card, 28% (vs. 24%) using on-base banks/relief, 28% (vs. 20%) using off-base banks, 24% (vs. 13%) using family/friends, and 13% payday loans (vs. 6%). ^[Q805]
 About half of spouse/partners (52%) say they have taken a loan in the past year.
- That said, more than 3 in 4 (76%) servicemembers feel knowledgeable about the balances left on the loans they have taken. ^[Q901]
 - About 3 in 10 (29%) estimate their non-credit card debit at \$50K+. [Q803]
- More than 2 in 5 active servicemembers with personal debt (41%) are <u>very</u> confident they can pay
 off their loans according to schedule, thought about 1 in 4 (24%) don't feel confident they can. ^[Q804]



Active servicemembers are more likely than spouses of active servicemembers to use "tomorrow" to pay for "today".

- When it comes to sources ever used for getting money, spouses are more likely than servicemembers to have used traditional services like credit card (59% vs. 46%), checking account (52% vs. 39%), saving accounts (50% vs. 38%), and debit card (43% vs. 32%). ^[Q706]
- Servicemembers are more likely to have used off-base loans (19% vs. 9%), and future revenue streams like cashing in stocks (16% vs. 9%), cashing in bonds (10% vs. 4%), non-retirement investment funds (11% vs. 5%) as sources of money. ^[Q706]
- When it comes to use of financial sources *in the past 12 months*, spouses are more likely than their service member counterparts to use traditional banks/credit union (77% vs. 69%). That said, these are the most common sources for servicemembers as well. ^[Q710]
 - Active servicemembers are also twice as like as spouse/partners to use stocks (16% vs. 9%), a non-retirement investment accounts (10% vs. 4%), or a title loan (9% vs. 4%).
- About half in both groups have used credit cards in the past 12 months (49% vs. 53%).
- About 1 in 4 in both groups use online money transfers (e.g., PayPal, Venmo, WePay) (23% and 29%).

About half of active servicemembers and their spouses have turned to the gig economy for additional income.

• While majorities of both servicemembers and spouses/partners of servicemembers say military life makes it challenging to get and hold private sector employment (74% vs. 61%), about half say they have in fact had to get a job/second job for additional income (54% vs. 46%)— and about the same percentage say they've been able to use the gig economy to do so (54% and 48%). ^[Q807]

SPOUSES/PARTNERS' VIEW

About 3 in 4 (72%) spouses/partners of active servicemembers feel like they have had to put at least one life decision "on hold" due to their spouse's/partner's military service.

• Beyond vacation/travel (33%), about 1 in 4 say buying a house (25%), moving (24%), having a career (24%), and 20% say going back to school have had to wait due to the military lifestyle. ^[Q1100]

That said, many spouses/partners are optimistic about their financial situation in the next 5 years.

• Fifty-seven percent believe their financial situation will get better in the next 5 years; 36% say it will at least stay the same. ^[Q1105]



SCREENER

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q600 Are you currently an active, enlisted member of the U.S. military?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| Yes | 100 | - | 100 |
| No | - | 100 | - |

BASE: MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER

Q601. Is your spouse/partner currently an active, enlisted member of the U.S. military?

| | | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | N= | 344 | 439 |
| | | Α | В |
| Yes | | 38 | 100 |
| No | | 62 | - |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q602 What is your current rank?

What is your spouse/partner's current rank?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| E-1 | 8 <mark>B</mark> | 3 | 6 |
| E-2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| E-3 | 12 <mark>B</mark> | 8 | 13 <mark>B</mark> |
| E-4 | 12 | 19 <mark>A</mark> | 17 |
| E-5 | 22 <mark>BC</mark> | 11 | 15 |
| E-6 | 14 | 14 | 17 |
| E-7 | 8 | 11 | 15 <mark>A</mark> |
| E-8 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| E-9 | 4 | 3 | 8 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Other | 9 | 9 | - |
| Not sure | 3 | 14 <mark>A</mark> | - |



Q605 In which branch or component of the military are you currently enlisted? In which branch or component of the military is your spouse currently enlisted?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| Army | 46 | 40 | 48 <mark>B</mark> |
| Navy | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| Marine Corps | 12 | 22 <mark>A</mark> | 20 <mark>A</mark> |
| Air Force | 17 <mark>BC</mark> | 11 | 9 |
| Coast Guard | 5 <mark>C</mark> | 4 | 2 |
| Reserve member (including National Guard) | - | - | - |



MAIN SURVEY

BASE: MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER

Q700. Are you the primary income earner in your household, that is, the person with the largest income, whether from employment, pensions, state benefits, investments or any other source?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 | 183 |
| | Α | В | C |
| Yes, I am the primary income earner. | 80 <mark>B</mark> | 32 | 88 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Another member of my household and I are the primary income earners of about equal amounts. | 16 <mark>C</mark> | 29 <mark>AC</mark> | 9 |
| No, I am not the primary income earner. | 5 | 39 <mark>AC</mark> | 3 |

BASE: MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER

Q702. How involved are you in the decision-making for financial decisions in your household?

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 344 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 | Service Members 2014 % 183 |
|--|--|--|--|
| N= | <u> </u> | | 185 C |
| AT LEAST SOME INFLUENCE (NET) | 90 | 93 | 91 |
| MAJOR/SOLE DECISION-MAKER (SUB-NET) | 69 | 69 | 83 <mark>AB</mark> |
| I am the sole decision maker for finances. | 26 | 23 | 29 |
| I have a major influence in decisions regarding finances. | 43 | 47 | 54 <mark>A</mark> |
| I have some influence in decisions regarding finances. | 21 <mark>C</mark> | 23 <mark>C</mark> | 9 |
| I have little or no influence in decisions regarding finances. | 10 | 7 | 9 |



Q715. Which of the following best describes how you manage your money?

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 531 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 | Service Members 2014 % 267 | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % 2,086 |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| I have a budget and keep close track of how much I | Α | В | С | D |
| spend on such things as food, housing and entertainment. | 46 | 49 <mark>D</mark> | 55 <mark>AD</mark> | 42 |
| DON'T HAVE A BUDGET (NET) | 54 <mark>C</mark> | 51 | 45 | 58 <mark>BC</mark> |
| I have a somewhat good idea about how much I spend on such things as food, housing and entertainment, but I don't keep strict track of my spending on these things. | 37 | 43 | 36 | 47 <mark>AC</mark> |
| I don't have a good idea how much I spend on such things as food, housing and entertainment, but I keep track of my overall spending and try to stay within certain limits that I've set for myself. | 14 <mark>BCD</mark> | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| I don't have a good idea how much I spend on such things as food, housing and entertainment, and I often don't keep track of my overall spending. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 <mark>AB</mark> |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q720. Which of the following best describes your financial situation?

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 531 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 | Service Members 2014 % 267 | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % 2,086 |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Α | В | С | D |
| I pay all of my bills on time and have no debts in collection. | 63 | 68 | 83 <mark>ABD</mark> | 72 <mark>A</mark> |
| DON'T PAY ALL BILLS ON TIME (NET) | 34 <mark>CD</mark> | 29 <mark>C</mark> | 16 | 25 <mark>C</mark> |
| I sometimes miss a payment but have no debts in collection. | 14 | 18 <mark>CD</mark> | 10 | 12 |
| I struggle to pay my bills every month but have no debts in collection. | 9 <mark>BC</mark> | 4 | 3 | 7 <mark>BC</mark> |
| I am getting calls from collectors and struggle to pay my bills every month. | 8 <mark>CD</mark> | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| I am seriously considering filing for bankruptcy or have filed for bankruptcy in the past three years. | 3 <mark>BD</mark> | 1 | - | 1 |
| I am not involved at all in any financial decisions including how money is spent in my household. | 3 <mark>C</mark> | 4 <mark>C</mark> | 1 | 4 <mark>C</mark> |



Q706. Which of the following financial services, if any, have you ever used as a source for getting access to money? Please select all that apply.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| ANY (NET) | 97 <mark>B</mark> | 93 |
| Credit card | 46 | 59 <mark>A</mark> |
| Checking account at a bank or credit union | 39 | 52 <mark>A</mark> |
| Savings account at a bank or credit union | 38 | 50 <mark>A</mark> |
| Debit card connected to a checking account at a bank or credit union | 32 | 43 <mark>A</mark> |
| Online money transfer (e.g., Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay, WePay, 2CheckOut) | 20 | 27 |
| Friends or family | 20 | 24 |
| Check cashing store/ATM (e.g., supermarket check cashing service) | 17 | 19 |
| Military Relief Society (e.g., Army Relief, Air Force Aid) | 20 | 15 |
| On-base bank or credit union loan | 17 | 12 |
| Off-base consumer bank loan (e.g. Citibank, Bank of America) | 19 <mark>B</mark> | 9 |
| Overdraft from your checking account at a bank or credit union | 12 | 13 |
| Cashing in stocks | 16 <mark>B</mark> | 9 |
| Prepaid debit card, such as a non-credit Visa or MasterCard on which you can load your own funds or receive government or payroll funds | 13 | 11 |
| Non-retirement investment account such as mutual funds or other brokerage platform | 11 | 5 |
| Pawn shop | 7 | 9 |
| Cashing in bonds | 10 <mark>B</mark> | 4 |
| Cash advance or payday loan company (online or storefront) | 7 | 7 |
| Cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin, Litecoin, Zcash, Ethereum) | 7 | 5 |
| Cashing in retirement funds early | 7 | 6 |
| Title loan (e.g., placing my vehicle's title up as collateral for a loan) | 7 | 5 |
| Off-base community aid (e.g., churches, food cupboards, Salvation Army) | 7 | 4 |
| Off-base consumer finance company loan (i.e., installment loan) | 4 | 4 |
| Some other type of financial service | 1 | 1 |
| None | 3 | 7 <mark>A</mark> |



Q710. In the past 12 months, what financial services, if any, have you used? Please select all that apply.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | C |
| ANY (NET) | 86 | 88 | N/A* |
| BANK OR CREDIT UNION (SUB-NET) | 69 | 77 <mark>A</mark> | 92 <mark>AB</mark> |
| CHECKING/ SAVINGS ACCOUNT (SUB-SUB- NET) | 53 | 65 <mark>A</mark> | 86 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Checking account at a bank or credit union | 39 | 53 <mark>A</mark> | 77 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Savings account at a bank or credit union | 33 | 46 <mark>A</mark> | 73 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Debit card connected to a checking account at a bank or credit union | 42 | 46 | 71 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Overdraft from your checking account at a bank or credit union | 12 | 9 | 17 <mark>B</mark> |
| Credit card | 49 | 54 | 80 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Prepaid debit card, such as a non-credit Visa or MasterCard on which you can load your own funds or receive government or payroll funds | 17 B | 11 | 23 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Check cashing store | 8 | 10 | 15 <mark>A</mark> |
| Non-retirement investment account such as mutual funds or other brokerage platform | 10 <mark>B</mark> | 4 | 20 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Online money transfer (e.g., Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay, WePay, 2CheckOut) | 23 | 29 <mark>A</mark> | N/A |
| Stocks | 16 <mark>B</mark> | 9 | N/A |
| Pawn shop | 7 | 11 <mark>A</mark> | N/A |
| Bonds | 10 | 7 | N/A |
| Cash advance or payday loan company (online or storefront) | 9 | 7 | N/A |
| Title loan (e.g., placing my vehicle's title up as collateral for a loan) | 9 <mark>B</mark> | 4 | N/A |
| Cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin, Litecoin, Zcash, Ethereum) | 6 | 4 | N/A |
| Some other type of financial service | 2 | 1 | 9 <mark>AB</mark> |
| None | 5 | 8 | N/A* |

* New items added in 2019; therefore, no nets for "any" and "none" cannot be trended.



Q717. How well do each of the following statements describe you or your situation?

1. Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| COMPLETELY/VERY WELL (NET) | 36 <mark>B</mark> | 24 |
| Completely | 24 <mark>B</mark> | 12 |
| Very well | 13 | 12 |
| Somewhat | 28 | 27 |
| VERY LITTLE/NOT AT ALL (NET) | 35 | 49 <mark>A</mark> |
| Very little | 19 | 23 |
| Not at all | 16 | 26 <mark>A</mark> |

2. I am just getting by financially.

| | Service | Spouses/ |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Members | Partners |
| | 2019 | 2019 |
| | % | % |
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| COMPLETELY/VERY WELL (NET) | 43 <mark>B</mark> | 33 |
| Completely | 17 | 16 |
| Very well | 26 <mark>B</mark> | 17 |
| Somewhat | 28 | 29 |
| VERY LITTLE/NOT AT ALL (NET) | 29 | 37 |
| Very little | 17 | 18 |
| Not at all | 12 | 20 <mark>A</mark> |

3. I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| COMPLETELY/VERY WELL (NET) | 42 <mark>B</mark> | 35 |
| Completely | 22 | 19 |
| Very well | 19 | 16 |
| Somewhat | 33 | 31 |
| VERY LITTLE/NOT AT ALL (NET) | 26 | 34 <mark>A</mark> |
| Very little | 16 | 18 |
| Not at all | 10 | 16 <mark>A</mark> |



Q718. How often does this statement apply to you?

1. I have money left over at the end of the month

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| ALWAYS/OFTEN (NET) | 62 <mark>B</mark> | 52 |
| Always | 30 | 33 |
| Often | 32 <mark>B</mark> | 19 |
| Sometimes | 25 | 29 |
| NEVER/RARELY (NET) | 13 | 19 |
| Rarely | 9 | 16 <mark>A</mark> |
| Never | 4 | 3 |

2. My finances control my life.

| | Service Members 2019 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | % | % |
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| ALWAYS/OFTEN (NET) | 46 <mark>B</mark> | 36 |
| Always | 22 | 16 |
| Often | 25 | 20 |
| Sometimes | 30 | 32 |
| NEVER/RARELY (NET) | 24 | 32 <mark>A</mark> |
| Rarely | 15 | 20 |
| Never | 9 | 11 |



Q730. Do you have any savings, excluding retirement savings?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | Α | В | С | D |
| Yes | 87 <mark>BD</mark> | 75 <mark>D</mark> | 87 <mark>BD</mark> | 70 |
| No | 13 | 25 <mark>AC</mark> | 13 | 30 <mark>ABC</mark> |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q735. On average, what percentage of your household's income do you save every year for retirement?

| | Service | Spouses/ | Service | NFCC |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Members | Partners | Members | Gen Pop |
| | 2019 | 2019 | 2014 | 2019 |
| | % | % | % | % |
| | N= 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | A | В | С | D |
| 0 or nothing | 8 | 15 <mark>AC</mark> | 8 | 26 <mark>ABC</mark> |
| ANY (NET) | 89 <mark>BD</mark> | 75 <mark>D</mark> | 87 <mark>BD</mark> | 65 |
| 1 to 10 | 30 | 40 <mark>A</mark> | 47 <mark>AD</mark> | 37 <mark>A</mark> |
| 11 to 20 | 41 <mark>BCD</mark> | 26 <mark>D</mark> | 27 <mark>D</mark> | 19 |
| More than 20 | 17 <mark>BD</mark> | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| Decline to answer | 3 | 10 <mark>AC</mark> | 5 | 9 <mark>AC</mark> |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q740. How confident do you feel about your ability to meet your future financial obligations?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | Α | В | С | D |
| VERY/EXTREMELY CONFIDENT (NET) | 47 | 41 | 59 <mark>ABD</mark> | 52 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Extremely confident | 18 | 16 | 22 | 18 |
| Very confident | 29 | 24 | 37 <mark>AB</mark> | 34 <mark>AB</mark> |
| NOT AT ALL/SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT (NET) | 53 <mark>CD</mark> | 59 <mark>CD</mark> | 41 | 48 <mark>C</mark> |
| Somewhat confident | 43 <mark>CD</mark> | 45 <mark>CD</mark> | 35 <mark>D</mark> | 21 |
| Not at all confident | 10 <mark>C</mark> | 15 <mark>AC</mark> | 6 | 27 <mark>ABC</mark> |



Q745. How well prepared do you believe you are, financially speaking, for an emergency?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | C |
| VERY/COMPLETELY PREPARED (NET) | 49 <mark>B</mark> | 36 | 45 <mark>B</mark> |
| Completely prepared | 18 | 14 | 19 |
| Very prepared | 31 <mark>B</mark> | 23 | 26 |
| NOT AT ALL/SOMEWHAT PREPARED (NET) | 51 | 64 <mark>AC</mark> | 55 |
| Somewhat prepared | 38 | 44 | 45 |
| Not prepared at all | 13 | 20 <mark>AC</mark> | 10 |

SECTION 900 – KNOWLEDGE

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS Q900. On a scale from A to F, what grade would you give yourself in terms of your knowledge about personal finance?

| | Service | Spouses/ | Service | NFCC |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Members | Partners | Members | Gen Pop |
| | 2019 | 2019 | 2014 | 2019 |
| | % | % | % | % |
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | Α | В | С | D |
| A/B (NET) | 62 <mark>BD</mark> | 54 | 70 <mark>ABD</mark> | 55 |
| A | 20 | 19 | 27 <mark>ABD</mark> | 19 |
| В | 43 <mark>BD</mark> | 36 | 43 | 37 |
| С | 27 | 35 <mark>AC</mark> | 23 | 32 <mark>AC</mark> |
| D/F (NET) | 11 | 11 | 8 | 13 <mark>C</mark> |
| D | 9 <mark>C</mark> | 8 <mark>C</mark> | 3 | 9 <mark>C</mark> |
| F | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 <mark>A</mark> |



Q901. How knowledgeable would you say you are of each of the following?

1. My credit score

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 79 | 88 <mark>A</mark> |
| Very knowledgeable | 42 | 56 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat knowledgeable | 36 | 31 |
| NOT AT ALL/NOT VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 21 <mark>B</mark> | 12 |
| Not very knowledgeable | 14 <mark>B</mark> | 7 |
| Not at all knowledgeable | 8 | 5 |

2. The balance on the loans I have

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 76 | 87 <mark>A</mark> |
| Very knowledgeable | 49 | 57 |
| Somewhat knowledgeable | 27 | 30 |
| NOT AT ALL/NOT VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 24 <mark>B</mark> | 13 |
| Not very knowledgeable | 18 <mark>B</mark> | 9 |
| Not at all knowledgeable | 6 | 4 |

3. My household credit card debt

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 77 | 86 <mark>A</mark> |
| Very knowledgeable | 48 | 64 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat knowledgeable | 29 <mark>B</mark> | 22 |
| NOT AT ALL/NOT VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE (NET) | 23 <mark>B</mark> | 14 |
| Not very knowledgeable | 14 | 10 |
| Not at all knowledgeable | 9 | 5 |



Q903. Which of the following best describes your personal credit score range?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| 300-579 (very poor) | 4 | 6 |
| 580-669 (fair) | 11 | 11 |
| 670-739 (good) | 28 | 27 |
| 740-799 (very good) | 36 | 29 |
| 800-850 (exceptional) | 17 | 21 |
| Don't know | 4 | 4 |
| Decline to answer | 1 | 3 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q800. Roughly how much credit card debt, if any, does your household carry from month to month?

| | | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|-----------------------------|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | | Α | В | С | D |
| None | | 18 | 29 <mark>A</mark> | 26 <mark>A</mark> | 37 <mark>ABC</mark> |
| ANY (NET) | | 63 <mark>BD</mark> | 49 <mark>D</mark> | 58 <mark>BD</mark> | 22 |
| LESS THAN \$2,500 (SUB-NET) | | 46 <mark>BD</mark> | 36 <mark>D</mark> | 39 <mark>D</mark> | 10 |
| \$1 - \$499 | | 30 <mark>BCD</mark> | 18 <mark>D</mark> | 23 <mark>D</mark> | 5 |
| \$500 - \$999 | | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| \$1,000 - \$2,499 | | 11 | 12 | 9 | 15 <mark>AC</mark> |
| \$2,500 OR MORE (SUB-NET) | | 17 <mark>D</mark> | 14 <mark>D</mark> | 20 <mark>BD</mark> | 3 |
| \$2,500 - \$4,999 | | 4 | 4 | 8 <mark>AB</mark> | 5 |
| \$5,000 - \$9,999 | | 5 <mark>B</mark> | 2 | 5 <mark>B</mark> | 7 <mark>B</mark> |
| \$10,000 or more | | 8 | 8 | 7 | 46 <mark>ABC</mark> |
| Decline to answer | | 19 | 22 <mark>C</mark> | 16 | 18 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q802. Compared to 12 months ago, does your household now carry more, less, or about the same amount of credit card debt from month to month?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| More | 18 <mark>B</mark> | 10 | 14 |
| About the same | 59 <mark>C</mark> | 61 <mark>C</mark> | 45 |
| Less | 23 | 29 | 41 <mark>AB</mark> |



Q803. Not including credit card debt, which of the following best describes the TOTAL current balance you personally owe on any outstanding loans you may have (e.g., car loan, student loan, personal loans)?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| LESS THAN \$50K+ | 49 | 50 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 18 | 24 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 9 | 9 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 12 | 9 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 10 | 8 |
| \$50K OR MORE | 29 | 25 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 7 | 9 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 7 | 6 |
| \$100,000 to \$124,999 | 8 <mark>B</mark> | 3 |
| \$125,000 to \$149,999 | 2 | 2 |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 2 | 3 |
| \$250,000 or more | 4 | 2 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 |
| N/A- I have no personal debt | 18 | 23 |

BASE: RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE PERSONAL DEBT

Q804. How confident are you in your ability to repay your outstanding loans according to their schedules and interest rates (e.g., car, student loan (s), personal loans)?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT (NET) | 76 | 79 |
| Very confident | 41 | 37 |
| Somewhat confident | 36 | 42 |
| NOT AT ALL/NOT VERY CONFIDENT (NET) | 24 | 21 |
| Not very confident | 19 | 16 |
| Not at all confident | 5 | 5 |



Q805. From which of the following sources, if any, have you taken a loan in the past 12 months? Please select all that apply.

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 531 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 | Service Members 2014 % 267 |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Α | В | С |
| TAKEN A LOAN IN PAST 12 MONTHS (NET) | 75 <mark>BC</mark> | 52 | 49 |
| A credit card | 34 <mark>C</mark> | 27 <mark>C</mark> | 18 |
| OFF-BASE BANK/FINANCE COMPANY (SUB- NET) | 28 <mark>BC</mark> | 17 | 20 |
| Off-base consumer bank (e.g. Citibank, Bank of America) | 16 | 11 | 14 |
| Off-base consumer finance company (i.e., installment loan) | 15 <mark>BC</mark> | 6 | 9 |
| MILITARY RELIEF SOCIETY/ON-BASE BANK (SUB-NET) | 28 <mark>B</mark> | 16 | 24 <mark>B</mark> |
| On-base bank or credit union | 17 <mark>B</mark> | 7 | 15 <mark>B</mark> |
| Military Relief Society (e.g. Army Relief, Air Force Aid) | 15 | 10 | 11 |
| Friends or family | 24 <mark>BC</mark> | 15 | 13 |
| Cash advance or payday loan company (online or storefront) | 13 <mark>BC</mark> | 7 | 6 |
| Other | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| I have not taken a loan in the past 12 months. | 25 | 48 <mark>A</mark> | 51 <mark>A</mark> |



Q807 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. I have had to get a job (or a second job) in order to bring in more income.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 54 | 46 |
| Strongly agree | 19 | 18 |
| Somewhat agree | 35 | 28 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 46 | 54 |
| Somewhat disagree | 22 | 22 |
| Strongly disagree | 25 | 32 |

2. A military lifestyle makes it challenging to get and hold jobs for additional income in the private sector.

| | Service Members 2019 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | <u>%</u> 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 74 <mark>B</mark> | 61 |
| Strongly agree | 31 <mark>B</mark> | 23 |
| Somewhat agree | 42 | 38 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 26 | 39 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat disagree | 17 | 21 |
| Strongly disagree | 9 | 18 <mark>A</mark> |

3. The local job market makes it difficult to find jobs for additional income.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 53 | 53 |
| Strongly agree | 17 | 12 |
| Somewhat agree | 36 | 40 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 47 | 47 |
| Somewhat disagree | 33 | 28 |
| Strongly disagree | 14 | 19 |



Q807 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? [CONTINUED]

4. I have been able to make good use of the "gig economy" (i.e., short-term jobs that often use the internet to set up, such as rideshare service, freelancing, and day labor) to make additional income.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 54 | 48 |
| Strongly agree | 18 | 14 |
| Somewhat agree | 36 | 35 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 46 | 52 |
| Somewhat disagree | 24 | 20 |
| Strongly disagree | 23 | 31 <mark>A</mark> |

BASE: MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER

Q810. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. I am honest with my spouse/partner about my use of household finances.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 82 | 86 |
| Strongly agree | 47 | 62 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat agree | 34 <mark>B</mark> | 24 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 18 | 14 |
| Somewhat disagree | 13 | 7 |
| Strongly disagree | 6 | 7 |

2. My spouse/partner is honest with me about their use of household finances.

| | Service Members 2019 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 81 | 85 |
| Strongly agree | 53 | 55 |
| Somewhat agree | 29 | 30 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 19 | 15 |
| Somewhat disagree | 12 | 9 |
| Strongly disagree | 7 | 6 |



BASE: MARRIED OR LIVING WITH PARTNER

Q810. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? [CONTINUED]

3. The way my spouse and I manage our money/finances often leads to conflict.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 |
| | А | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 51 <mark>B</mark> | 34 |
| Strongly agree | 20 <mark>B</mark> | 12 |
| Somewhat agree | 30 <mark>B</mark> | 22 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 49 | 66 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat disagree | 26 | 28 |
| Strongly disagree | 24 | 38 <mark>A</mark> |

4. My spouse/partner has had to get a job (or a second job) in order to bring in more income.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 53 <mark>B</mark> | 39 |
| Strongly agree | 22 | 15 |
| Somewhat agree | 31 | 23 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 47 | 61 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat disagree | 21 | 19 |
| Strongly disagree | 25 | 42 <mark>A</mark> |

5. I worry we will not be able to make ends meet if I am wounded or disabled.

I worry we will not be able to make ends meet if my spouse/partner is wounded or disabled.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 344 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| AGREE (NET) | 63 | 59 |
| Strongly agree | 27 | 32 |
| Somewhat agree | 37 <mark>B</mark> | 27 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 37 | 41 |
| Somewhat disagree | 23 | 20 |
| Strongly disagree | 14 | 21 |



SECTION 900 - FINANCIAL LITERACY

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q902. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Considering what I already know about personal finance, I could still benefit from some advice and answers to everyday financial questions from a professional.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | Α | В | С | D |
| AGREE (NET) | 67 | 79 <mark>A</mark> | 80 <mark>A</mark> | 76 <mark>A</mark> |
| Strongly agree | 31 | 33 <mark>D</mark> | 31 | 27 |
| Somewhat agree | 37 | 47 <mark>A</mark> | 49 <mark>A</mark> | 49 <mark>A</mark> |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 33 <mark>BCD</mark> | 21 | 20 | 24 |
| Somewhat disagree | 22 <mark>BCD</mark> | 12 | 16 | 16 <mark>B</mark> |
| Strongly disagree | 11 <mark>CD</mark> | 8 <mark>C</mark> | 4 | 8 <mark>C</mark> |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q905. Of the following sources, which one do you think has taught you the most about personal finance?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | C |
| Family members | 24 | 39 <mark>AC</mark> | 21 |
| MILITARY (NET) | 27 <mark>B</mark> | 16 | 31 <mark>B</mark> |
| Educational resources offered by the military (e.g. Military One Source, Family Readiness Center) | 19 <mark>B</mark> | 13 | 26 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Chain of Command | 7 <mark>B</mark> | 2 | 5 <mark>B</mark> |
| Self-help books, websites or other resources | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| A civilian financial professional | 10 | 11 | 14 |
| High school and/or college courses | 12 <mark>BC</mark> | 8 | 7 |
| Friends | 11 <mark>BC</mark> | 4 | 6 |
| Other | 4 | 8 <mark>A</mark> | 6 |



Q910. If you were having a problem related to debt, which one of the following would be the first place you turn to for help?

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 531 A | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 B | Service Members 2014 % 267 C |
|---|---|---|---|
| WOULD TURN FOR HELP (NET) | 94 | 90 | 91 |
| Friends and family | 26 | 33 <mark>C</mark> | 21 |
| MILITARY (SUB-NET) | 29 <mark>B</mark> | 10 | 29 <mark>B</mark> |
| A Military Relief Society (e.g. Army Relief, Air Force Aid) | 20 <mark>B</mark> | 7 | 22 <mark>B</mark> |
| Chain of Command | 9 <mark>B</mark> | 3 | 7 <mark>B</mark> |
| My primary bank | 19 | 22 | 22 |
| A do-it yourself tool to pay down debt | 11 | 15 <mark>C</mark> | 10 |
| A professional non-profit credit counseling agency | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Other | 1 | 4 <mark>A</mark> | 2 |
| Would not turn for help | 6 | 10 | 9 |



SECTION 1000 - CONFIDENCE AND JOB SECURITY

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS Q1010. Which of the following areas of personal finance, if any, currently worries you most?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 | 2,086 |
| | A | В | C | D |
| HAVE FINANCIAL WORRIES (NET) | 89 <mark>CD</mark> | 84 <mark>CD</mark> | 77 <mark>D</mark> | 71 |
| NOT ENOUGH SAVINGS (SUB-NET) | 16 | 29 <mark>A</mark> | 25 <mark>A</mark> | 30 <mark>A</mark> |
| Retiring without having enough money set aside | 10 | 13 | 14 | 17 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Not enough "rainy day" savings for an | 6 | 16 <mark>A</mark> | 12 <mark>A</mark> | 14 <mark>A</mark> |
| emergency | - | | 12 🗛 | |
| NOT BEING ABLE TO PAY (SUB-NET) | 20 <mark>BCD</mark> | 13 <mark>D</mark> | 10 | 9 |
| Not being able to pay my credit card debt | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Not being able to repay my student loan debt | 4 <mark>D</mark> | 4 <mark>D</mark> | 5 <mark>D</mark> | 2 |
| Not being able to make my monthly vehicle | 6 BCD | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| payments | | | 2 | • |
| Not being able to pay my existing medical debt | 5 <mark>CD</mark> | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| JOB-RELATED (SUB-NET) | 18 <mark>BD</mark> | 12 | 17 <mark>D</mark> | 10 |
| Losing my job | 10 <mark>D</mark> | 6 | 10 <mark>D</mark> | 5 |
| Not being able to find a good-paying job | 9 <mark>D</mark> | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| CREDIT SCORE/ACCESS (SUB-NET) | 15 <mark>BCD</mark> | 8 | 10 <mark>D</mark> | 6 |
| My credit score | 11 <mark>BD</mark> | 5 | 8 <mark>D</mark> | 4 |
| My lack of access to credit | 4 <mark>D</mark> | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Feeling as though my personal financial situation is out of control | 5 <mark>D</mark> | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Not being able to afford to send my child(ren) to college | 3 | 5 <mark>D</mark> | 4 | 2 |
| Not being able to afford health insurance | 3 <mark>C</mark> | 5 <mark>C</mark> | 1 | 5 <mark>AC</mark> |
| Losing my home to foreclosure | 3 CD | 4 <mark>CD</mark> | 1 | 1 |
| Not having a good, overall understanding of personal finance | 1 | 4 <mark>D</mark> | 4 <mark>AD</mark> | 1 |
| That I may have to file for bankruptcy | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 2 | 1 | * | 3 <mark>B</mark> |
| None - I do not have any financial worries. | 9 | 13 | 19 <mark>AB</mark> | 24 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Not sure | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <mark>AB</mark> |



Q1015. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. I am very worried about the potential loss of income and job security resulting from defense cuts and downsizing.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| AGREE (NET) | 50 | 44 | 57 <mark>B</mark> |
| Strongly agree | 16 | 14 | 29 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Somewhat agree | 35 | 30 | 29 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 50 | 56 <mark>C</mark> | 43 |
| Somewhat disagree | 30 | 32 <mark>C</mark> | 25 |
| Strongly disagree | 20 | 24 <mark>C</mark> | 17 |

2. Concerns about the stability of my future income have led me to cut back on personal spending. Concerns about the stability of my spouse/partner's future income have led me to cut back on personal spending.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| AGREE (NET) | 66 <mark>B</mark> | 53 | 65 <mark>B</mark> |
| Strongly agree | 20 | 17 | 22 |
| Somewhat agree | 46 <mark>B</mark> | 36 | 42 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 34 | 47 <mark>AC</mark> | 35 |
| Somewhat disagree | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| Strongly disagree | 14 | 22 <mark>AC</mark> | 16 |

3. Concerns about the stability of my future income have led me to put away less money in long-term savings.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| AGREE (NET) | 52 <mark>C</mark> | 44 | 44 |
| Strongly agree | 16 | 12 | 15 |
| Somewhat agree | 36 <mark>C</mark> | 31 | 29 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 48 | 56 <mark>A</mark> | 56 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat disagree | 31 | 30 | 32 |
| Strongly disagree | 17 | 27 <mark>A</mark> | 24 <mark>A</mark> |



Q1015. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? [CONTINUED]

4. I expect to still have a job in the military two years from now.

I expect my spouse/partner to still have a job in the military two years from now.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | A | В | C |
| AGREE (NET) | 73 <mark>B</mark> | 63 | 79 <mark>B</mark> |
| Strongly agree | 42 <mark>B</mark> | 33 | 40 |
| Somewhat agree | 31 | 30 | 38 <mark>B</mark> |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 27 | 37 <mark>AC</mark> | 21 |
| Somewhat disagree | 17 <mark>C</mark> | 18 <mark>C</mark> | 9 |
| Strongly disagree | 10 | 20 <mark>AC</mark> | 12 |

5. I would have difficulty finding an adequate lending/loan option in the event of an emergency or unexpected expense.

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| AGREE (NET) | 50 <mark>BC</mark> | 39 | 41 |
| Strongly agree | 15 | 13 | 13 |
| Somewhat agree | 35 <mark>BC</mark> | 26 | 27 |
| DISAGREE (NET) | 50 | 61 <mark>A</mark> | 59 <mark>A</mark> |
| Somewhat disagree | 26 | 33 <mark>A</mark> | 27 |
| Strongly disagree | 24 | 29 | 32 <mark>A</mark> |



Q1020. Compared to 12 months ago, are you more worried or less worried about each of the following, or has there been no change?

1. Being able to make debt payments on time

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| MORE WORRIED (NET) | 28 | 32 <mark>C</mark> | 22 |
| Much more worried | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| Somewhat more worried | 20 <mark>C</mark> | 22 <mark>C</mark> | 14 |
| No more or less worried | 39 | 39 | 45 |
| LESS WORRIED (NET) | 33 | 30 | 33 |
| Somewhat less worried | 17 <mark>C</mark> | 12 | 10 |
| Much less worried | 16 | 18 | 23 <mark>A</mark> |

2. Meeting my basic household expenses (e.g., groceries, transportation)

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| MORE WORRIED (NET) | 30 | 32 <mark>C</mark> | 25 |
| Much more worried | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Somewhat more worried | 21 <mark>C</mark> | 21 <mark>C</mark> | 15 |
| No more or less worried | 34 | 37 | 42 <mark>A</mark> |
| LESS WORRIED (NET) | 36 | 32 | 33 |
| Somewhat less worried | 19 <mark>C</mark> | 15 | 13 |
| Much less worried | 17 | 16 | 20 |

3. Having enough money to cover unexpected expenses or emergencies

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| MORE WORRIED (NET) | 32 | 44 <mark>AC</mark> | 31 |
| Much more worried | 12 | 20 <mark>AC</mark> | 10 |
| Somewhat more worried | 20 | 24 | 21 |
| No more or less worried | 32 | 32 | 35 |
| LESS WORRIED (NET) | 36 <mark>B</mark> | 24 | 33 <mark>B</mark> |
| Somewhat less worried | 20 | 15 | 17 |
| Much less worried | 16 <mark>B</mark> | 9 | 17 <mark>B</mark> |



Q1020. Compared to 12 months ago, are you more worried or less worried about each of the following, or has there been no change? [CONTINUED]

4. Being able to save for future goals

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| MORE WORRIED (NET) | 33 | 43 <mark>A</mark> | 37 |
| Much more worried | 12 | 17 | 14 |
| Somewhat more worried | 21 | 26 | 23 |
| No more or less worried | 35 | 32 | 31 |
| LESS WORRIED (NET) | 31 | 25 | 32 <mark>B</mark> |
| Somewhat less worried | 20 <mark>B</mark> | 13 | 16 |
| Much less worried | 11 | 11 | 16 |

5. How my financial situation will affect my future in the military How my financial situation will affect my spouse/partner's future in the military

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| MORE WORRIED (NET) | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| Much more worried | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| Somewhat more worried | 19 | 19 | 18 |
| No more or less worried | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| LESS WORRIED (NET) | 33 | 33 | 30 |
| Somewhat less worried | 16 | 13 | 12 |
| Much less worried | 17 | 20 | 17 |



SECTION 1100 – SPOUSE SPECIFIC ATTITUDES

BASE: SPOUSE/PARTNER OF SERVICEMEMBER

Q1100. Have you put any of the following life choices "on hold" as a result of your spouse/partner serving in the military? Please select all that apply.

| | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 439 |
| | 72 |
| ANY (NET) Going on vacation/travelling | 33 |
| Buying a house | 25 |
| Moving to your ideal location | 24 |
| Having a career (i.e., not just "jobs" to earn an income) | 24 |
| Going back to school to continue your education | 20 |
| Getting a job | 15 |
| Having a child/children | 14 |
| Buying a car (e.g., new, upgrade, first) | 12 |
| Starting your own business | 11 |
| Pay off a debt (e.g., college loan, credit card) | 11 |
| Something else | 1 |
| None | 28 |

BASE: SPOUSE/PARTNER OF SERVICEMEMBER

Q1105. Thinking about the current state of your finances, do you think your and your spouse's financial situation will be better, worse, or stay about the same in the next five years?

| | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 439 |
| | Α |
| MUCH/SOMEWHAT BETTER (NET) | 57 |
| Much better | 22 |
| Somewhat better | 35 |
| About the same | 36 |
| MUCH/SOMEWHAT WORSE (NET) | 6 |
| Somewhat worse | 5 |
| Much worse | 1 |



SECTION:

DEMOGRAPHICS

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2045. Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| Urban | 34 <mark>B</mark> | 22 |
| Suburban | 56 | 59 |
| Rural | 10 | 20 <mark>A</mark> |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2000. Which of the following best describes your current primary residence?

| I/We live in… | | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | NFCC Gen Pop 2019 % |
|---|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | N= | 531 | 439 | 2,086 |
| | | Α | В | С |
| OWN (NET) | | 52 | 53 | 70 <mark>AB</mark> |
| A house that I/we own | | 43 | 47 | 63 <mark>AB</mark> |
| An apartment or condominium that I/we own | | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Another type of home that I/we own | | 4 <mark>C</mark> | 2 | 1 |
| RENT (NET) | | 41 <mark>C</mark> | 44 <mark>C</mark> | 29 |
| A house that I/we rent or lease | | 19 <mark>C</mark> | 27 <mark>A</mark> | 14 |
| An apartment or condominium that I/we rent or lease | | 15 | 13 | 13 |
| Another type of home that I/we rent or lease | | 7 <mark>C</mark> | 4 <mark>C</mark> | 2 |
| None of these | | 6 <mark>C</mark> | 3 <mark>C</mark> | 1 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2010. Do you currently live on-base or off-base?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| On-base | 38 <mark>B</mark> | 12 |
| Off-base | 59 | 78 <mark>A</mark> |
| Something else | 4 | 9 <mark>A</mark> |



Q2020. Which of the following income categories best describes your personal income before taxes last year?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 |
| | Α | В |
| LESS THAN \$35K (NET) | 32 | 26 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 4 | 9 <mark>A</mark> |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 13 | 9 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 15 <mark>B</mark> | 8 |
| \$35K TO LESS THAN \$75K (NET) | 33 | 32 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 13 | 11 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 20 | 21 |
| \$75K OR MORE (NET) | 33 | 26 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 14 | 12 |
| \$100,000 to \$124,999 | 9 | 6 |
| \$125,000 to \$149,999 | 4 | 3 |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 3 | 3 |
| \$250,000 or more | 4 | 2 |
| Decline to answer | 2 | 3 |
| N/A- I do not have any personal income | 1 | 13 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

GENDER: What is your gender?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| Male | 71 <mark>B</mark> | 9 | 83 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Female | 28 <mark>C</mark> | 90 <mark>AC</mark> | 17 |
| Other | * | - | N/A |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 | 1 | N/A |



AGE: What is your age?

| | | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | | Α | В | С |
| 18-24 | | 33 <mark>BC</mark> | 20 | 26 |
| 25-34 | | 43 | 37 | 45 <mark>B</mark> |
| 35-44 | | 17 | 23 <mark>A</mark> | 20 |
| 45-54 | | 4 | 6 | 8 <mark>A</mark> |
| 55+ | | 3 C | 14 <mark>AC</mark> | 1 |
| MEAN | | 29.6 | 36 <mark>AC</mark> | 30.8 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

MARITAL STATUS: What is your marital status?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| Never married | 34 | - | 40 |
| MARRIED / LIVING WITH PARTNER (NET) | 58 | 100 <mark>AC</mark> | 53 |
| Married or civil union | 49 | 90 <mark>AC</mark> | 50 |
| Living with partner | 9 <mark>C</mark> | 10 <mark>C</mark> | 4 |
| Divorced | 4 | - | 3 |
| Separated | 3 | - | 3 |
| Widow / Widower | 1 | - | 1 |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

EMPLOYMENT: Which of the following best describes your employment status?

| N= | Service Members 2019 % 531 | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % 439 | Service Members 2014 % 267 |
|---|--|--|--|
| | <u> </u> | B | C |
| EMPLOYED (NET) | 95 <mark>B</mark> | 56 | 98 <mark>B</mark> |
| Employed full time | 82 <mark>B</mark> | 39 | 94 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Employed part time | 8 <mark>C</mark> | 11 <mark>C</mark> | 3 |
| Self-employed | 5 <mark>C</mark> | 6 <mark>C</mark> | 1 |
| Not employed, but looking for work | * | 2 | - |
| Not employed and not looking for work | - | 2 | * |
| Not employed, unable to work due to a disability or illness | * | 1 | - |
| Retired | 1 | 8 <mark>A</mark> | * |
| Student | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Stay-at-home spouse or partner | * | 27 <mark>AC</mark> | - |



US REGION: U.S. regional break

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | C |
| Northeast | 13 | 15 | 20 <mark>A</mark> |
| Midwest | 17 <mark>C</mark> | 18 <mark>C</mark> | 10 |
| South | 45 | 39 | 43 |
| West | 25 | 28 | 23 |
| Non-US state | N/A | N/A | 4 |
| No answer | N/A | N/A | * |

BASE: QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS EDUCATION: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS (NET) | 30 <mark>C</mark> | 25 | 21 |
| Less than high school | * | * | 3 |
| Completed some high school | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| High school graduate | 20 <mark>C</mark> | 17 | 13 |
| Job-specific training program(s) after high school | 6 <mark>C</mark> | 4 | 3 |
| SOME COLLEGE (NET) | 40 | 37 | 51 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Some college, but no degree | 22 | 21 | 36 <mark>AB</mark> |
| Associate degree | 18 | 16 | 15 |
| COLLEGE GRAD + (NET) | 29 | 38 <mark>AC</mark> | 28 |
| Bachelor's degree (such as B.A., B.S.) | 15 | 23 <mark>AC</mark> | 17 |
| Some graduate school, but no degree | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Graduate degree (such as MBA, MS, M.D., Ph.D.) | 11 <mark>C</mark> | 12 <mark>C</mark> | 6 |



INCOME: Which of the following income categories best describes your total 2018 household income before taxes?

| | Service Members 2019 % | Spouses/ Partners 2019 % | Service Members 2014 % |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N= | 531 | 439 | 267 |
| | Α | В | С |
| LESS THAN \$35K (NET) | 26 <mark>B</mark> | 18 | 22 |
| Less than \$15,000 | 4 <mark>C</mark> | 5 <mark>C</mark> | 1 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 11 <mark>B</mark> | 5 | 13 <mark>B</mark> |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 11 | 8 | 8 |
| \$35K-LESS THAN \$75K (NET) | 34 | 39 | 38 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 15 | 16 | 20 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 19 | 23 | 18 |
| \$75K OR MORE (NET) | 38 | 39 | 34 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 14 | 15 | 21 <mark>AB</mark> |
| \$100,000 to \$124,999 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| \$125,000 to \$149,999 | 7 <mark>C</mark> | 7 <mark>C</mark> | 3 |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 3 | 6 <mark>AC</mark> | 2 |
| \$200,000 or more | 7 <mark>BC</mark> | 4 <mark>C</mark> | 1 |
| Prefer not to answer | 2 | 4 | 5 <mark>A</mark> |