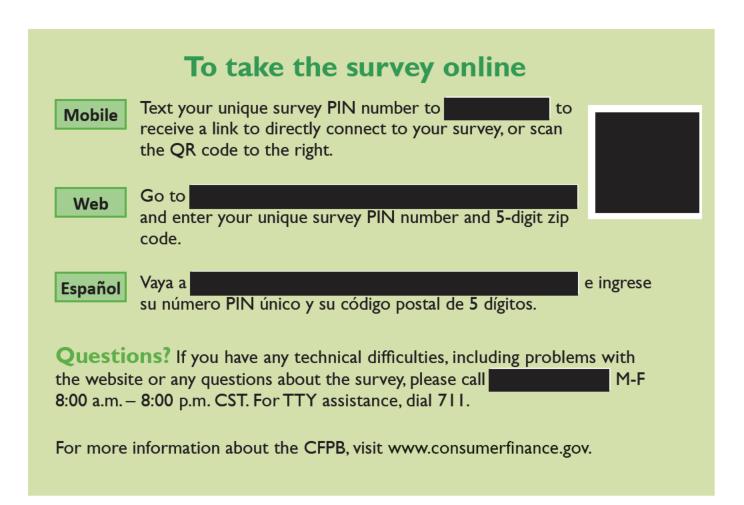


Consumer Financial Protection Bureau



An official U.S. Government agency

Student Loan Borrower Survey







Student Loan Borrower Survey



Why should I do this?

This survey will help us understand your experiences with student loans and paying for your or someone else's education. Because people's experiences can vary widely, please fill out the survey even if you do not have student loans. Learning about people's views and experiences is particularly important in developing policies to help consumers.



Who should complete this?

It is important that this survey is only completed by the person named on the enclosed letter. The survey will take around 20 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary. Please do not identify yourself in any way in your response.



How will responses be used?

Your responses will be used by researchers at the CFPB and others to understand consumers' experiences with student loans. Your responses will be kept confidential. Participation in the survey will not affect your credit or credit score.



What is the CFPB?

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is sponsoring this survey. The CFPB is a federal agency created in 2010 to make student loans, mortgages, credit cards, and other consumer loans work better and ensure that these markets are fair, transparent, and competitive.

Privacy Act Statement: 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau) uses an outside firm to obtain the names and addresses of a national list of consumers to contact you for the purpose of participating in this survey. The information you provide through your responses will assist the Bureau in understanding people's experiences with student loans.

The Bureau will only receive de-identified information. Only your de-identified information will be combined with other data that the Bureau has collected in a way that you cannot be identified.

Information collected on behalf of the Bureau will be treated in accordance with the System of Records Notice ("SORN"), CFPB.022, Market and Consumer Research Records, https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/11/14/2012-27582/privacy-act-of-1974-as-amended. Although the Bureau does not anticipate further disclosing the information provided, it may be disclosed as indicated in the Routine Uses described in the SORN. Direct identifying information will be kept private except as required by law. The Bureau may make an anonymous version of the survey data publicly available.

This collection of information is authorized by Pub. L. No. 111-203, Title X, Sections 1013 and 1022, codified at 12 U.S.C. §§ 5493 and 5512.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw participation at any time.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3170-0078. It expires on 10/31/2026. Comments regarding this collection of information, including the estimated response time, suggestions for improving the usefulness of the information, or suggestions for reducing the burden to respond to this collection should be submitted to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Attention: PRA Office), 1700 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20552, or by email to PRA_Comments@cfpb.gov.

Borrowing for your and others' education

	you borrowed or cosigned for?
1. Have you ever taken out a loan for your own education? Include loans which no longer have a balance.	.00
2. When you borrowed money for your education, did you expect to repay all your loans yourself, some of the loans yourself, or that someone else would repay all your loans? I expected to fully repay all my loans myself I expected someone else would help repay some of my loans I expected someone else would fully repay all my loans All have you ever taken out a loan or cosigned on a loan for someone else's education? Include loans	 8. Has someone else ever borrowed a student loan to help pay for your education? Do not include loans where someone cosigned on your loan. Yes No 9. Considering all the times someone borrowed for your education, did you expect you would help to repay some or all the money? I did not expect to help repay any of the money I expected to help repay some of the money I expected to repay all the money Don't know
which no longer have a balance. "Cosigning" is when you agree to be responsible for a loan jointly	Repaying student loans
with the primary borrower, often a family member.	
Yes No → Skip to Question 7 in the next column 4. Did you take out a loan or cosign a loan? Mark all that apply. Took out a loan Cosigned a loan	10. Has anyone else ever made payments on the student loans you took out (for your own or someone else's education)? No, I have made all the payments Yes, but I've made more than half of the payments Yes, but I've made about half of the payments Yes, but I've made less than half of the payments Yes, and I have not made any payments Not applicable, I have never had a student loan
 For whose education did you borrow? Mark all that apply. For my child For my grandchild For my spouse or partner For someone else not listed above 	11. Have you ever helped repay a student loan someone else took out for their education? Mark all that apply. Yes, for a spouse or partner Yes, for a child or grandchild Yes, for someone else not listed above No
6. When you most recently borrowed for someone else's education (including as a cosigner), who did you expect would repay the loans? I expected to fully repay the loans myself I expected someone else would help repay some of the loans I expected someone else would fully repay the loans	If you have not borrowed or cosigned a loan for your education or someone else's education (that is, you answered "no" to both Questions 1 and 3), skip to Question 41 on page 6. Otherwise, continue to Question 12.

7. In total, including loans for your own and others' education, about how much in student loans have



(as the only borrower or as a cosigner on the loan)? Mark all that apply.	16.	you most recently had difficulty making Mark all that apply.		•
☐ Stafford federal student loan (subsidized or		☐ I had unexpected expenses		
unsubsidized)		☐ My income was less than my expenses		
PLUS federal student loan for graduate students		☐ I had an unexpected drop in income		
PLUS federal student loan for parents		☐ I didn't know how to make payments		
Perkins federal loan		☐ I didn't know I needed to make payme	nts	
Federal consolidation loan		☐ I didn't want to make payments		
Loan from my school		■ None of the above		
Loan from a friend or family member				
Private student loan from a bank or other finance company	17.	When you <u>most recently</u> had difficulty student loan payments, did you do any		g
Other		following to get help?		
☐ Don't know			Yes	No
13. Thinking of all the student loans you've		I contacted or talked to my servicer or lender		
taken out, about what share of the total dollar amount were private loans?		I contacted the U.S. Department of Education		
☐ 100% ☐ 67-99%		I asked friends or family for financial assistance		
□ 34-66% □ 1-33%		I paid a company to help (for example, with consolidating loans or lowering my student loan payments)		
0 %		I contacted some other company or organization		
The next questions ask about your experience making payments on student loans you took out or cosigned		I researched options online		
for. Your student loan "servicer" is the company assigned by the Department of Education or your private lender to handle the billing and other details of your student loans.	18.	Did you <u>ever</u> experience any of the follocollect money owed on your student loa		to
			Yes	No
14. Have you <u>ever</u> had difficulty making payments on your student loans, that is, loans you took out for		My student loans were assigned to a debt collector or collection agency		
your own or someone else's education?		My federal income tax refund was withheld by the IRS		
\square No \longrightarrow Skip to Question 19 on page 3		My Social Security retirement or disability benefits were withheld		
↓ 15. Did you miss any required payments?		My wages were garnished		
☐ Yes ☐ No				

19.	Have any of your federal student loans	gone in	to	23	. Thinking of the <u>most recent</u> time you		ed
	default?				with your servicer(s), did you enroll i		
	Yes —				repayment plan, forbearance, or defe reduce your payments?	rment to)
_	-□ No				_		
	\downarrow				I never interacted with my servicer		
	20. Thinking of the most recent time ye	ou had	9		Yes		
	student loan in default, how did yo				□ No ¬		
	loan out of default?	8 7 -			\downarrow		
	☐ I haven't my loop is still in defaul	l4			24. If you did not make any changes	to your	
	I haven't, my loan is still in defaul				payments after the most recent ti	•	ting
	I voluntarily paid off my loan in fo	111			with your servicer(s), why not?		
	Rehabilitation or consolidation				☐ I decided I didn't need to make	a change	
	Through the Fresh Start program				☐ Enrolling was too difficult or too	_	
	My loan was forgiven, cancelled,		_		☐ I was told I was not eligible for	_	carca
	My loan was paid off through invo	oluntary			Available payment plans didn't	_	
	collections or garnishment				payments enough	lower	
1	☐ I don't know				☐ I received incorrect information	or had	
\downarrow					difficulty with my servicer	OI Hau	
21.	In the past year, have you done any of	the follo	wing		☐ I was not trying to change my pa	zmente	
	regarding your student loans?				I was not a ying to change my pa	iyincins	
		Yes	No	¥	H 1		c
	Contacted my loan servicer	П	П	25	 Have you <u>ever</u> done any of the follow your or your household's student loan 	_	
	•				your or your nousehold's student loan	п рауше	щът
	Logged into my loan servicer's website				Carried a balance on a credit card	Yes	No
	Logged into Federal Student Aid's website				I otherwise would not have		
	Submitted a complaint about my				Went without food, medicine, or		
	servicer				other necessities	_	
	Made a student loan payment				Borrowed from family or friends		
	made a statem roan payment				Deferred payments on bills, loans, or other financial obligations		
22	Have you ever contacted or talked to yo	our stu	lont		Delayed starting a family		
22.	loan servicer(s) for any of the following						
	regarding your student loans?	,			Delayed buying a home		
		3 7	NI.				
	I was not able to make my monthly	Yes	NO				
	payment on time						
	I wanted to lower my monthly						
	payments or enroll in a different repayment plan						
	I wanted to temporarily pause my						
	payments (usually referred to as a						
	forbearance or deferment)	ш	ш				
	I wanted to dispute my debt						
	I wanted information about my	_					
	account, repayment options, or	П					
	loan forgiveness		_				
	I wanted to make some other change						
	1 wanted to make some offer change	Ц	ш				

Your federal student loans

The next set of questions are about your federal student loans, including loans you borrowed for someone else and loans that no longer have a balance. If you have never had a federal student loan, skip to **Question 41** on page 6.

Were any of your student loan payments paused because of the federal student loan payment pause?			
☐ Yes ☐ No → Skip to Question 30 in the next	colum' colum	ın	
Did the payment pause allow or cause yo of the following?	u to d	o any	
	Yes	No	
Pay down other debt (credit cards, other loans, collections)			
Make a major purchase			
Save or invest money			
Delay consolidating or refinancing my student loans			
Start or expand my family			
Relocate to a new city			
Attend more school			
Change jobs or careers			
Over the next few months, will you have of the following so that you can make yo loan payment(s)?		-	
of the following so that you can make yo		-	
of the following so that you can make yo	ur stu	dent	
of the following so that you can make you loan payment(s)?	ur stud Yes	No	
of the following so that you can make you loan payment(s)? Cut back on large purchases Cut back on food, medicine,	Yes	No	
of the following so that you can make you loan payment(s)? Cut back on large purchases Cut back on food, medicine, or other necessities	Yes	No □	
	☐ Yes ☐ No → Skip to Question 30 in the next Did the payment pause allow or cause you of the following? Pay down other debt (credit cards, other loans, collections) Make a major purchase Save or invest money Delay consolidating or refinancing my student loans Start or expand my family Relocate to a new city Attend more school	☐ Yes ☐ No → Skip to Question 30 in the next column Did the payment pause allow or cause you to do of the following? Yes Pay down other debt (credit cards, other loans, collections) Make a major purchase Save or invest money Delay consolidating or refinancing my student loans Start or expand my family Relocate to a new city Attend more school	

For federal student loans, borrowers can pick a repayment plan like extended repayment or a repayment plan (sometimes called income-based or income-driven repayment (IDR) plans) for which their monthly payment amount depends on their income and family size.

30.	fed	ve you <u>ever</u> chosen a repayment plan eral student loans, or have you only ndard repayment plan?	
		Yes No, I've only been on the standard plan No, I've never been in repayment I don't know	n Skip to Question 36 on page 5
ال	≯ 31.	Why haven't you chosen a differen repayment plan?	t
		☐ I prefer the standard repayment pla ☐ I didn't know I could choose my repayment plan ☐ I need help or more information to choose my plan	Skip to Question 35 on
		☐ I haven't given it serious thought	page 5
	rep	ve you <u>ever</u> enrolled in an income-di payment (IDR) plan? Yes No -> Skip to Question 35 on page How long ago did you most recentl	5
		IDR plan? ☐ Within the last year	•
		1-2 years ago	
		☐ 3-5 years ago ☐ More than 5 years ago	
	34.	Have you ever had difficulty with a following when trying to enroll in a Mark all that apply.	•
		☐ Difficulty certifying my income ☐ Difficulty completing my enrollme application	ent
		Difficulty getting information from my servicer	n
		☐ Missed a recertification deadline	

35. Did you make different choices for any of the following because of IDR plan options? If you didn't know about those options when you were in school, would you have made different choices if you had known about IDR? Mark all that apply. I chose or would have chosen to attend a different school a different major or field of study to complete less school a different career There are several programs available (such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness or Total and Permanent Disability Discharge) where borrowers can have part or all their student loans forgiven, discharged, or cancelled. 36. Have you ever applied for any of the following loan	38. Have you ever had any of your student loans discharged, cancelled, or forgiven (meaning that your balance on the loans was reduced, potentially to \$0) through any of the following programs? Mark all that apply. Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Teacher Loan Forgiveness Borrower Defense to Repayment Closed School Discharge Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Discharged in bankruptcy Income-Driven Repayment Another program or law No Skip to Question 41 on page 6 39. In total, about how much debt did you have discharged, cancelled, or forgiven?
cancellation, discharge, or forgiveness programs? Mark all that apply. □ Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) □ Teacher Loan Forgiveness □ Borrower Defense to Repayment □ Closed School Discharge □ Total and Permanent Disability Discharge □ Bankruptcy discharge □ The one-time debt relief overruled by the Supreme Court in June 2023 □ None of the above → 37. Did you choose your major, career, or employer at least in part because of the PSLF or Teacher Loan Forgiveness program?	\$
Yes No I chose a different major I chose a different career I chose a different employer	

Vour household and its finances

10	our nousenoid and its ima	inces			from all sources (wages ting interest shild suppo			
41.	. What is your current work status? Mark all that apply including for your spouse or partner if you have one.				from all sources (wages, tips, interest, child suppor alimony, investment or rental income, retirement, Social Security, and government benefits such as food stamps)?			
		3 7	Spouse/		\$20,000 or less			
	Self-employed	You	Partner		\$20,001 to \$35,000			
					\$35,001 to \$50,000			
	Work full time	ㅁ			\$50,001 to \$65,000			
	Work part time	ᆜ			\$65,001 to \$80,000			
	Retired				\$80,001 to \$100,000			
	Temporarily laid off or on leave				\$100,001 to \$125,000			
	Unemployed				\$125,001 to \$175,000			
	Not working for pay (homemaker, student, disabled, etc.)				☐ \$175,001 to \$250,000 ☐ More than \$250,000			
par	ou are not self-employed, working ful t time, skip to Question 45 .		_		47. As best as you can remember, when you first star working after leaving school, what was your annuincome from all sources?			
42.	Do you currently work mostly in-p		•		\$20,000 or less			
	or about equally in-person and remotely?				\$20,001 to \$35,000			
	Mostly in-person				\$35,001 to \$50,000			
Mostly remotely (such as from home)		\$50,001 to \$65,000						
	About equally in-person and remo	otely			\$65,001 to \$80,000			
42	Harry march datas warm arranged march	le mala é a	4		\$80,001 to \$100,000			
43.	How much does your current work education?	k reiate	to your		More than \$100,000			
	☐ It relates closely to my education				☐ I don't know			
	☐ It relates somewhat to my education				☐ I haven't worked after leaving school			
	☐ It relates somewhat to my education ☐ It is unrelated to my education							
	It is differenced to my education				48. In the past year, did you provide financial supportamily members who do not live in your househol			
44.	How satisfied are you with your jopath?	b or ca	reer		Yes No	.		
	☐ Very satisfied							
	Somewhat satisfied				49. Approximately how much did you provide			
	Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied				to them in total in the last year?			
	Somewhat unsatisfied				.00			
	☐ Very unsatisfied							
45.	How much do you agree or disagre				50. In the past year, did you receive financial suppor			
	following statement? My student l	oans w	ere		from someone who does not live in your househol	d?		
	a good investment.				Yes			
	Strongly agree				☐ No → Skip to Question 52 on page 7			
	Somewhat agree				N51 Ammunimataluska mas 1 221 mm a 1 4 4			
	Neither agree nor disagree				→51. Approximately how much did you get in total last year?	I		
	Somewhat disagree				and jour			
	☐ Strongly disagree				00			



.00

52. About how much money does your household currently have in IRA, 401(k), pension plans, or		You and your household			
	other retirement savings accounts?	56. What sex were you assigned at birth?			
	☐ Don't have a retirement savings account	☐ Male			
	Less than \$10,000	Female			
	\$10,000 to \$29,999	☐ Don't know or prefer not to answer			
	■ \$30,000 to \$59,999				
	■ \$60,000 to \$99,999	57. What is your current gender identity?			
	\$100,000 to \$149,999	Mark all that apply.			
	\$150,000 or more	Male			
		Female			
53.	About how much total money does your household	Transgender			
	have in non-retirement savings and investment	☐ I use a different term			
	accounts?	☐ Don't know or prefer not to answer			
	Don't have a non-retirement savings				
	or investment account	58. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?			
	Less than \$500	Yes			
	\$500 to \$999	No			
	\$1,000 to \$2,999 \$3,000 to \$4,999				
		59. What is your race? Mark all that apply.			
	\$5,000 to \$9,999	White			
	\$10,000 to \$19,999	Black or African American			
	\$20,000 or more	American Indian or Alaska Native			
54	How much are your household's total expenses in a	Asian			
٠	typical month, including all debt payments, housing	■ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander			
	payments, utilities, and daily living expenses?				
	Less than \$250	60. How old are you?			
	■ \$250 to \$499	Less than 30 years			
	\$500 to \$749	30 to 49 years			
	□ \$750 to \$999	50 to 61 years			
	\$1,000 to \$1,999	62 years or older			
	\$2,000 to \$4,999	61 De you have any long town physical montal or			
	\$5,000 or more	61. Do you have any long-term physical, mental, or emotional conditions that make it difficult to carry			
		out your day-to-day activities?			
55.	Did you receive flexibility or assistance from any	Yes			
	of the following coronavirus-specific programs? Mark all that apply.	□ No			
	Private student loan forbearance	_			
	Federal student loan forbearance	62. What is your current marital status?			
	Other loan forbearance (such as mortgage,	Married			
	auto, or credit card)	Living with a partner			
	Rent payment deferment or flexibility	Never married			
	□ Eviction protection	☐ Previously married (for example: divorced			
	Additional child tax credit	or widowed)			
	Paycheck protection loan	(2 H			
	Unemployment insurance payments	63. How many children under 18 live in your household?			
	Stimulus or Economic Impact Payment				

64. If you helped any of your children or younger relatives pay for college, how did you do so? Mark all that apply.	69. For your highest level of education, which of the following <u>best</u> describes your major or field of study?
 □ Paid money out of savings (including a retirement account) □ Took out or cosigned a student loan □ Used a home equity loan or refinanced a mortgage □ Took out another loan □ Not applicable 	☐ Liberal arts, humanities, law, social sciences ☐ Biological sciences and health related programs ☐ Technical, vocational, or trade program ☐ Business ☐ Engineering, physical sciences, and mathematics ☐ General studies and multi/interdisciplinary studies
 65. Did any of your parents attend college? ☐ Yes ☐ No 66. Are you currently attending school? 	70. Have you ever received a Pell Grant for your education? Yes No Not sure
G8. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? Less than a high school degree High school degree or GED Some college, but no degree or certificate Certificate program or vocational certificate Associate's degree (such as AA, AS) Bachelor's degree (such as BA, BS) Postgraduate degree (such as Master's, MD, JD, or Doctorate degree)	71. Thinking of all the costs of your education after high school, have your parents or other family members paid for: They paid most or all of the costs They paid some of the costs They paid little or none of the costs 72. What is the name of the college or technical school you attended for the longest amount of time? 73. Overall, how satisfied are you with the school(s) and program(s) you attended for your college or other post-high school education? Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied Somewhat unsatisfied Very unsatisfied Very unsatisfied

Ex	epectations for the future						
74.	Over the next 12 months, do you expect Increase Decrease Stay about the same	your total hou	isehold incom	e to increase,	decrease, or s	tay about the same?	
75.	75. Over the next two years, how likely do you think it is that you will?						
		Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Equally likely as unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely	
	Return to school						
	Move						
	Buy a home						
	Buy a car						
	Have your student loans cancelled, discharged, or forgiven						
	Pay off your student loans						
Yo	our general financial situation						
76.	How well do these statements describe y	ou or your sit	uation?				
		Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	
	Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life						
	I am just getting by financially						
	I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last						
77.	How often do these statements apply to	you?					
		Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
	I have money left over at the end of the month						
	My finances control my life						
78.	Which of the following statements comes today to get a bigger benefit in the future. Willing to give up a lot today to get more willing to give up some today to get more willing to give up a little today to get more willing to give up anything today to get more willing to give up anything today to	e? re later ore later nore later	-	nuch you are	willing to give	up something	

yo	Te have provided the space below if you wish to share additional comments or further explain any of our responses. Please do not share any Personally Identifiable Information (PII), including, but not limited your name, address, phone number, email address, Social Security number, etc.

Thank you for completing our survey!

Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire to:

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

To take the survey online

Text your unique survey PIN number to to Mobile receive a link to directly connect to your survey.

Go to and Web enter your unique survey PIN number and 5-digit zip code.

Vaya a Español e ingrese su número PIN único y su código postal de 5 dígitos.

Questions? If you have any technical difficulties, including problems with the website or any questions about the survey, please call M-F 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. CST. For TTY assistance, dial 711.

For more information about the CFPB, visit www.consumerfinance.gov.