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#### Survey Objective & Methodology

#### **Objective**

U.S. Bank is partnering with Edelman to understand the behavior and attitudes shaping today's growing base of young wealth investors. The research will glean insights on the level of support needed and priorities when it comes to preparing for their financial future.

#### A 15-minute online survey of

N=3000 Active Investors, N=500 Active California Investors

N=1000 Aspiring Investors, N=500 Aspiring California Investors

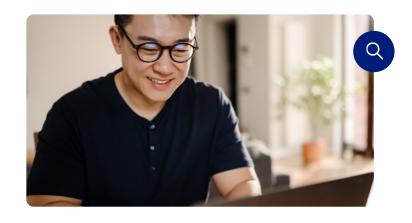
Survey samples are nationally representative for our U.S. audiences by age, gender, race/ethnicity, region, and income.

#### Interviewing for this study was conducted from May 12 – May 24, 2023

The margin of error for this study is ±1.83% for U.S. Active Investors, ±4.47% for California Active Investors, ±3.16% for U.S. Aspiring Investors, and ±4.47% for California Aspiring Investors.



#### Who We Survey



#### **Active Investors**

Must have a minimum of \$1,000 in investable assets

> Investable assets include: Stocks, bonds, mutual funds/ETFs, cryptocurrency, cash in an investment/brokerage account or robo-advisor, CDs, and IRAs (not employer-sponsored retirement plans).

OR make at least one investment per month, defined as:

Purchasing a stock, bond, ETF, mutual fund, or cryptocurrency.

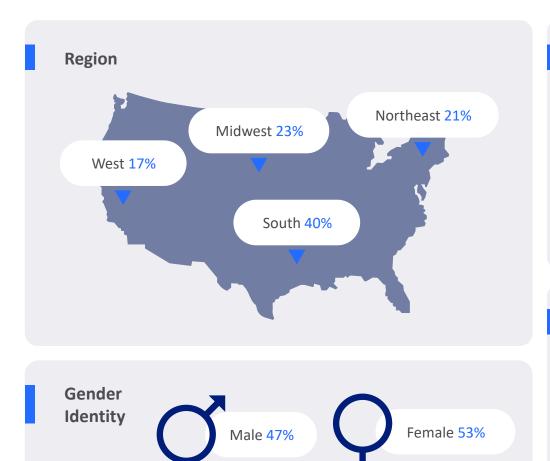


#### **Aspiring Investors**

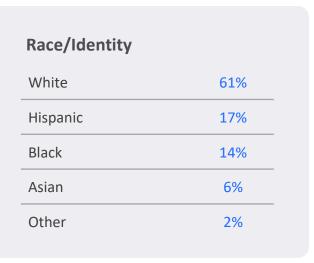
Those who plan to make an investment within the next year.

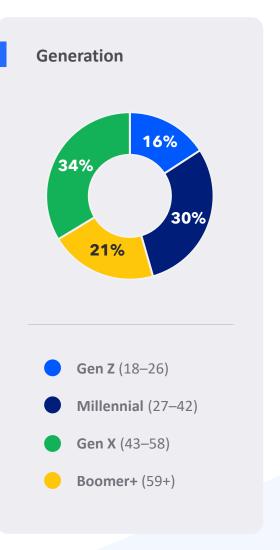
Investments can include: Stocks, bonds, mutual funds/ETFs, cryptocurrency, cash in an investment/brokerage account, CDs, and IRAs (not employer-sponsored retirement plans)

#### **Active Investors**

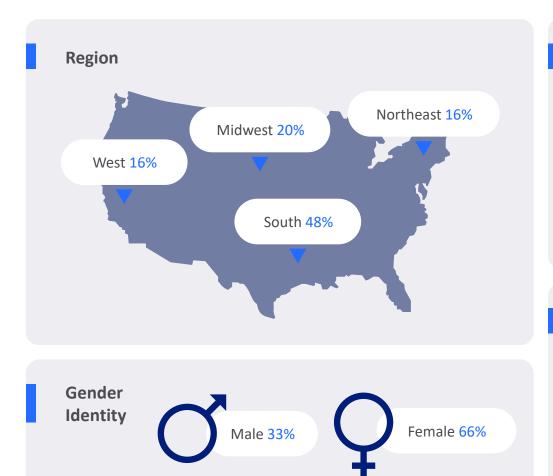


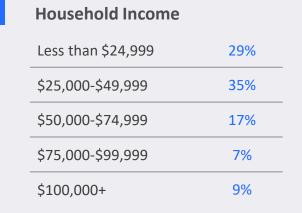


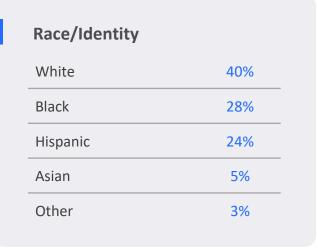


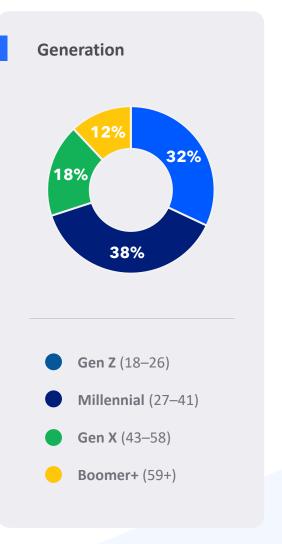


#### **Aspiring Investors**









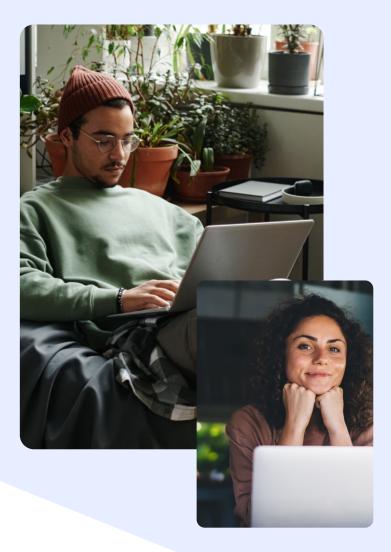




Gen Z Looks At Wealth Differently Than Boomers,

But Both See The Value Of Financial Security

#### **Key Findings**



Gen Z investors are highly motivated by experiences, passions, and the pursuit of personal interests and opportunities

Boomers primarily associate wealth with financial security and stability for their future

Investors across generations prioritize financial security as the top motivator

For Gen Z, the pursuit of a better quality of life, personal interests, and new experiences drive their investment decisions.

#### **U.S. ACTIVE INVESTORS** 52% Financial security A better quality of life 32% Being able to afford what 25% I want not just what I need 25% Living life how I want Having good health 24% 24% The freedom to do what I want 22% Being able to support a family 18% Owning a home Being surrounded by 17% people I love and care for 14% Being successful

38%	A better quality of life
36%	Financial security
28%	Living life how I want
27%	Being able to support a family
25%	Being successful
24%	Being able to afford what I want not just what I need
22%	The freedom to do what I want
21%	Owning a home
19%	Having good health
16%	Being able to retire early

**U.S. ACTIVE GEN Z INVESTORS** 

U.S. ACTIVE BOOMER INVESTORS		
61%	Financial security	
33%	Having good health	
28%	Being able to afford what I want not just what I need	
27%	Living life how I want	
27%	A better quality of life	
22%	Being surrounded by people I love and care for	
22%	The freedom to do what I want	
22%	Owning a home	
15%	Being able to support a family	
10%	Being able to retire early	

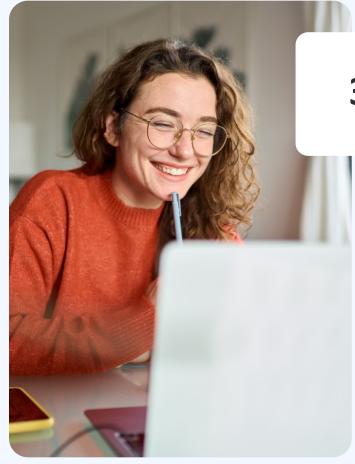
Which of the following makes you feel wealthy?

(Showing % selected – max of 3 selections)

Q12: Take a moment to think about what the word "wealth" means to you. Which of the following makes you feel wealthy? Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Boomer n=959



#### When asked what the word "wealth" means to them, Gen Z said...





38% of Gen Z say a better quality of life

Compare that with the more tangible definitions of wealth

24%

of Gen Z say being able to afford what they want

21%

of Gen Z say **owning** a home

Q12: Take a moment to think about what the word "wealth" means to you. Which of the following makes you feel wealthy? Base: US Active Investors Gen Z n=477



#### Delving deeper into their investment motivations, Gen Z's desire to invest is driven by experiences and passions.



## 2 4 in 5

Active Gen Z Investors are highly motivated to invest to pursue their interests / buy the things they really want

> 79% Gen Z vs. 70% U.S. Active Investors vs. 80% U.S Millennial Investors vs. 72% U.S. Gen X Investors vs. 54% U.S. Boomer Investors



## 4 in 5

Active Gen Z Investors are highly motivated to invest to open new opportunities / experiences

> 78% Gen Z vs. 63% U.S. Active Investors vs. 76% U.S Millennial Investors vs. 68% U.S. Gen X Investors vs. 42% U.S. Boomer Investors



White Active Investors are significantly less likely to be motivated to invest to pursue their interests / buy the things they really want (Hispanic: 75%, Black: 81%, Asian: 74%, white: 65%) and to open new opportunities / experiences compared to other races (Hispanic: 72%, Black: 79%, Asian: 70%, white: 57%).





For Gen Z, Investing Is Not Just About Generating Wealth

It Should Align With Their Values and Beliefs

#### **Key Findings**



Younger generations are willing to accept lower returns on their investments if it aligns with their values and beliefs

Separately, Gen Z and Millennials are not only motivated by financial gains but are also passionately invested in supporting causes they care about

When it comes to investing, Gen Z and Millennials are passionate about supporting causes they care about most.

OVER half of Gen Z + Millennial Active Investors

say they will only invest in businesses that take a public stance on certain issues.

53% Gen Z, 52% Millennials

vs. 38% Gen X vs. 28% Boomers

**Motivated to Invest to Support Causes They Care About** (% selected) Gen Z 65% 59% Millennials 45% Gen X 30% **Boomers** 



Hispanic Active Investors, Black Active Investors, and Active Investors with a \$140K+ income are significantly more likely to be motivated to invest to support causes they care about.

Q15: What motivates you to invest your money?

Q16: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: US Active Investors Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959, White n=1,815, Hispanic n=495, Black n=425, Less than \$140K n=2,772, \$140K+ n=198



# Return individuals would accept to invest in a company that aligns with their beliefs\* - compared to the S&P 500\*\*

**OVER** 

8 in 10

**Gen Z Active Investors** 

say they would accept a return below 11.9% on their investment—less than the average return of the S&P 500 for the past 10 years.\*\*

85% Gen Z vs. 83% Millennials vs. 73% Gen X vs. 65% Boomers

What return would you be willing to accept on an investment in a company that aligns with your beliefs?

(% selected)

Q18: If you made an investment based on your personal values and beliefs, would you accept a lesser return? The average return for the S&P 500 is 12% for the past 10 years. With that in mind, what return would you be willing to accept on an investment in a company that aligns with your beliefs?

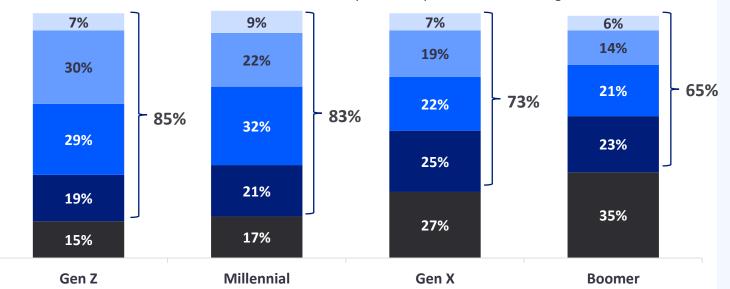
Base: US Active Investors n=3.000. Gen Z n=477. Millennial n=894. Gen X n=616. Boomer n=959

#### Dasc. o

#### **U.S. ACTIVE INVESTORS**

Return Individuals Would Accept to Invest in a Company that Aligns with their Beliefs\* Compared to the S&P 500 10-Year Average Return

- 2.9% or less return on my investment
- 3% to 5.9% return on my investment
- 6% to 8.9% return on my investment
- 9% to 11.8% return on my investment
- None. I would not make an investment in something that aligns with my beliefs if it yielded a less than average return



1

More than **one-third of Boomer Active Investors would NOT make an investment** in something that aligns with their beliefs if it yielded a less than average S&P return, significantly more than all other generations

(Gen Z: 15%, Millennials: 17%, Gen X: 27%, Boomers: 35%).

Note. \*\*The average return for the S&P 500 is 12% for the past 10 years.

Younger generations are ready to put their money where their mouths are — even if it means they'll have less of it as a result.

**OVER** 

8 in 10 Aspiring Investor
Gen Z + Millennials

say they would **accept a return below 11.9%** on their investment—<u>less than the average return of</u> the S&P 500.

79% Gen Z, Millennials

vs. 73% Gen X

vs. 65% Boomers

What return would you be willing to accept on an investment in a company that aligns with your beliefs?

(% selected)

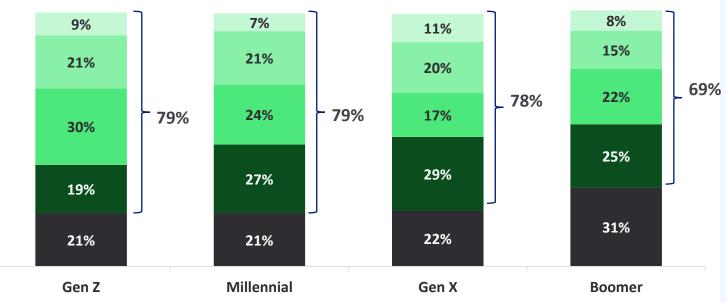
Q18: If you made an investment based on your personal values and beliefs, would you accept a lesser return?

The average return for the S&P 500 is 12% for the past 10 years. With that in mind, what return would you be willing to accept on an investment in a company that aligns with your beliefs?

#### **U.S. ASPIRING INVESTORS**

Return Individuals Would Accept to Invest in a Company that Aligns with their Beliefs\* Compared to the S&P 500 10-Year Average Return

- 2.9% or less return on my investment
- 3% to 5.9% return on my investment
- 6% to 8.9% return on my investment
- 9% to 11.8% return on my investment
- None. I would not make an investment in something that aligns with my beliefs if it yielded a less than average return





Key Finding 03 Q

**Investors Are Losing Faith** 

That This Too Shall Pass

#### **Key Findings**



Recent economic events have led many to lose trust in stable assets as investment options

Active investors are feeling less certain about the future of their investments and express doubts about meeting their investment goals compared to the previous year

Investors across generations are actively adapting their investment strategies in response to the economic climate

19

# Concerns about the current economic climate are not going away.

In addition to concerns around inflation and a recession, more than two-thirds of Active and Aspiring Investors fear the collapse of the U.S. dollar.



Active Boomers are more concerned about a significant financial market downturn and the stability of U.S. financial institutions than other generations.

Q1: Thinking about the current state of the economy, please indicate your level of concern for each of the following. Q19: To what extent do the following circumstances concern you right now compared to one year ago?

Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, US Aspiring Investors n=1,000

The overwhelming majority of Active and Aspiring Investors are concerned about the economy.

#### Level of Concern with the Current State of the Economy (Showing % Extremely/Very Concerned)



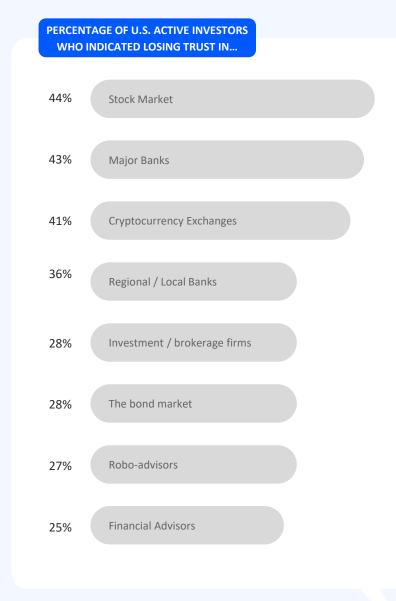
#### Extent Concerned Compared to One Year Ago (Showing % More Concerned)

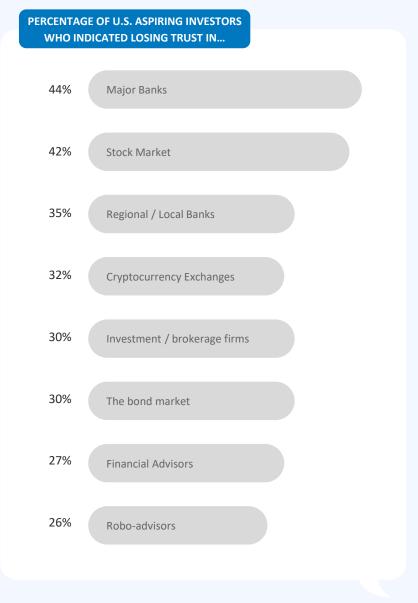






# Trust in financial services and other subsectors is waning.





Have recent economic events changed your level of trust in any of the following?

(Showing % of people who indicated trust decreased)

Q2: Have recent economic events changed your level of trust in any of the following? Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, US Aspiring Investors n=1,000

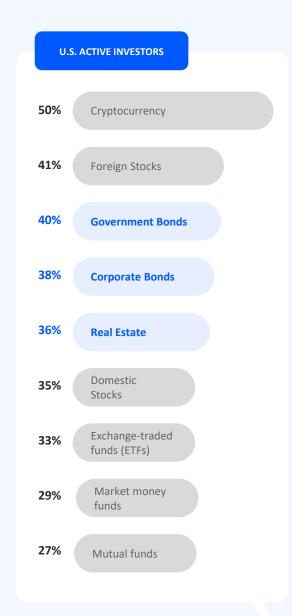


Even the most stable of investment options are losing the trust of American Investors.

Thinking about investment

options, has your trust in each of
the following increased,
decreased, or remained
unchanged due to recent
economic events?

(Showing % of people who indicated
trust decreased)





For active investors, trust in Cryptocurrency has declined primarily among Gen X (42% trust declined) and Boomers (50%), less so among Gen Z (36%) and Millennials (32%).

For aspiring investors, Boomers lost more trust in Corporate bonds (63%) and Cryptocurrency (62%) in comparison to younger generations. Gen Z (44% & 42%), Millennials (41% & 42%), and Gen X (43% & 43%)

Q3: Thinking about investment options, has your trust in each of the following increased, decreased, or remained unchanged due to recent economic events?

Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, US Aspiring Investors n=1,000

## Compared to last year, Active Investors are less certain about their investment futures and the ability to meet their investing goals.



1 in 3

of Active Investors say they are more pessimistic about the future of their investments.

34% U.S. Active Investors



**MORE THAN** 

1 in 4

of Active Investors say they are more doubtful that they can meet their investment goals.

30% U.S. Active Investors



White, Gen X, Boomer and Female Active Investors are more pessimistic about the future of their investments and more doubtful that they can meet their investment goals.

 ${\bf Q5:}$  Compared to one year ago, how have your feelings changed as an investor?

Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959, Female n=1,582, Male n=1,397, White n=1,815, Hispanic n=495, Black n=425, Asian n=184

## The days of set it and forget are over for American Investors.

They're watching their investments and looking for ways to mitigate risk and find stability in a tumultuous economic landscape.



**Boomers, Gen Xers, Female,** and **White Active Investors** made fewer changes to their investment strategies vs. others surveyed.

Nearly 4 in 5 Active (79%) Investors have responded to the economic climate by changing their investment strategies in some way in the past three months.



keeping assets in cash

Q4: Which changes, if any, have you made to your investment strategy and money habits in the past three months?

Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959, Female n=1,382, Male n=1,397, White n=1,815, Hispanic n=495, Black n=425, Asian n=184





Key Finding 04 Q

### **Economic Uncertainty Has Triggered**

Investor Fatigue

#### **Key Findings**



The current state of the economy is taking a mental toll on both Active and Aspiring Investors, leading to increased concerns about fatigue with economic news and events, as well as feeling overwhelmed

Aspiring Investors often feel negative emotions when contemplating starting their investing journeys

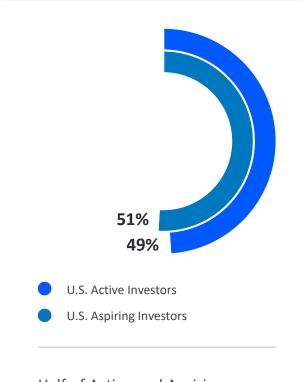
Boomers have learned the lesson of not comparing themselves to others, particularly in terms of wealth and investment goals unlike their younger peers

The implications of growing economic concerns go beyond individuals rethinking their investment strategies.

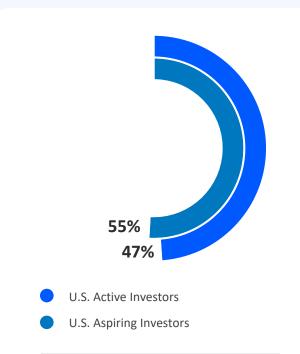
The current state of the economy is taking a mental toll on Active and Aspiring Investors.

1

Both Active and Aspiring Investing females are significantly more fatigued by economic news and current events and are more overwhelmed by the news than men.



Half of Active and Aspiring
Investors are more fatigued with
economic news and current
events than they were a year
ago.



Half of Active and Aspiring Investors are more **overwhelmed by everything going** on than they were a year ago.

Q19: To what extent do the following circumstances concern you right now compared to one year ago?

Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Male n=1,397, Female n=1,582, US Aspiring Investors n=1,000, Male n=329, Female n=663

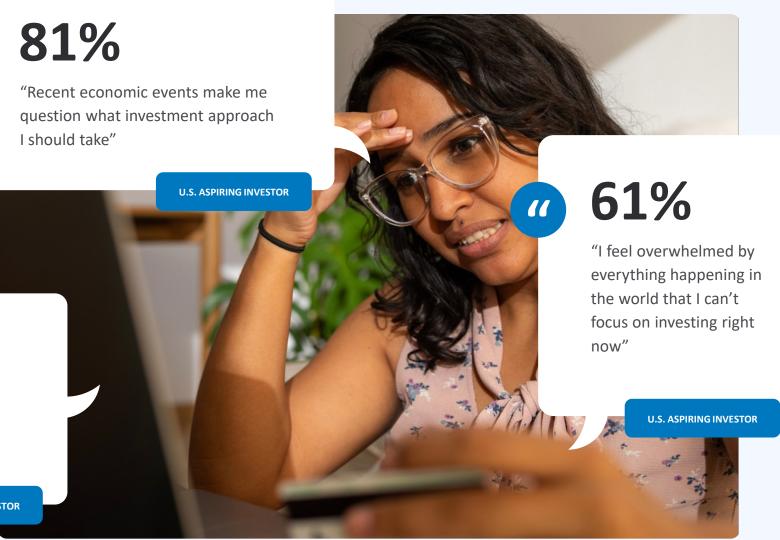
And this anxiety and seemingly perpetual uncertainty taints the perspective of Aspiring Investors and leaves them feeling dejected.

More than two-thirds (69%) of Aspiring Investors feel negative emotions when thinking of beginning their investing journeys.

**84%** 

"I wish investing / financial planning was less overwhelming"

**U.S. ASPIRING INVESTOR** 

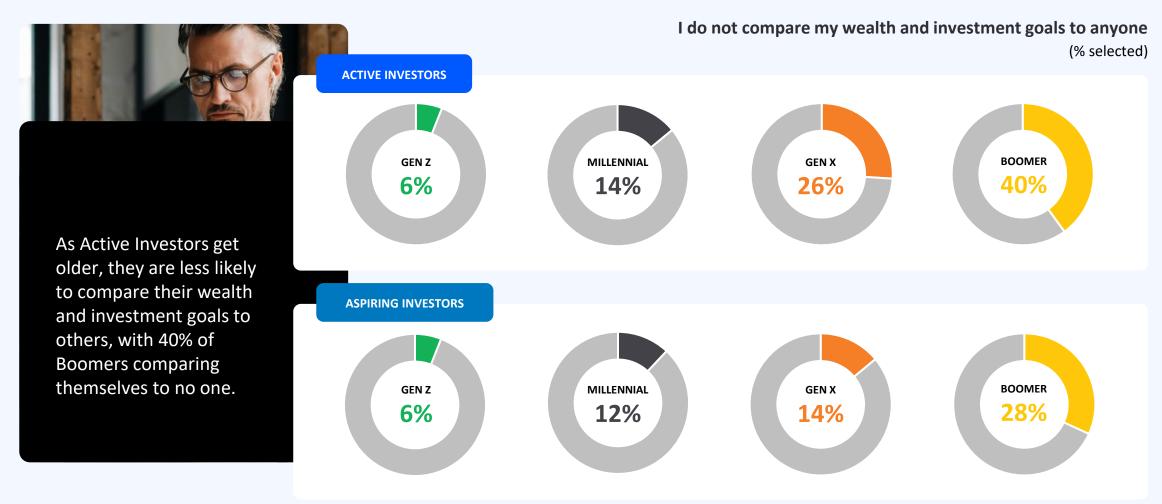


Q8: When thinking about getting started with investing, what emotions come to mind? Please select no more than three choices.

Q10: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: US Aspiring Investors n=1,000

## However, with age comes (financial) wisdom. Boomers have learned a vital lesson—comparing themselves to others is the thief of joy.



Q13: When thinking about your own wealth and investment goals, who, if anyone, do you compare yourself to? This can include using others' achievements or milestones to set up goals for yourself or measuring your own progress against someone else's.

Base: US Active Investors Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959, US Aspiring Investors Gen Z n=324, Millennial n=877, Gen X n=184, Boomer n=110

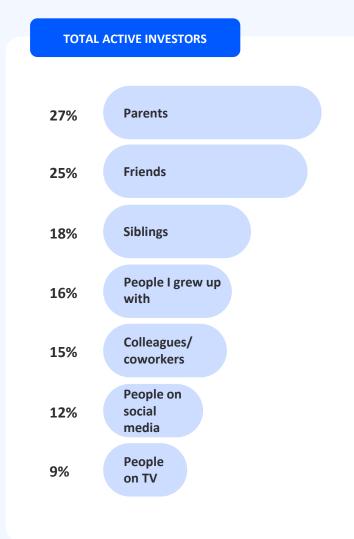


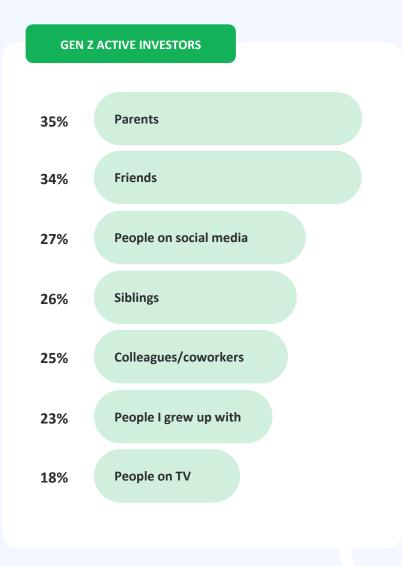
29

Conversely, Gen Z
Active Investors are
significantly more likely
to compare
themselves to:

When thinking about your own wealth and investment goals, who, if anyone, do you compare yourself to?

(% Selected)





Q13: When thinking about your own wealth and investment goals, who, if anyone, do you compare yourself to? Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477







Aspiring Investors Aren't Sure What

Steps to Take Next

#### **Key Findings**



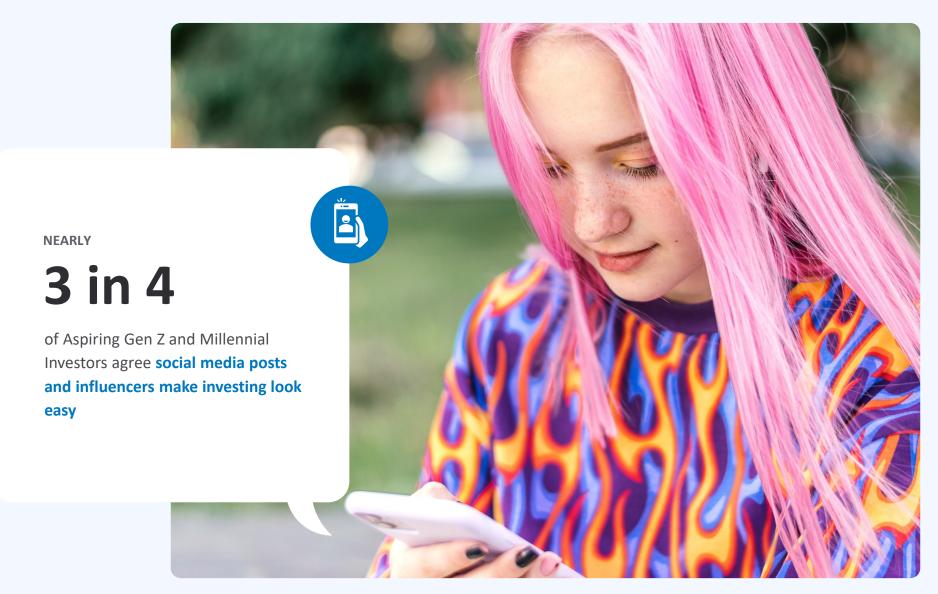
+ Gen Z and Millennials often compare their wealth and financial dreams to social media standards

Many Aspiring Investors feel they are behind where they want to be with their financial goals, particularly when comparing themselves to their own aspirations

Aspiring investors face investing paralysis due to a lack of knowledge, concerns about risk and losses, fear of making mistakes, and a need for more guidance and support

# Young Investors gauge their wealth and financial dreams against social media standards.

Of those who compare themselves to individuals they see on social media and TV, more than three in five
Aspiring Millennials and Gen Z
Investors state that they are behind with respect to wealth and investment goals.\*



Q6: : To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: US Aspiring Investors Gen Z n=324, Millennial n=377

Q14: How would you compare your own wealth and investment goals against each of the following groups of people?

Base: US Aspiring Investors who compare themselves to: people they see on social media Gen Z n=106, Millennial n=91, people they see on TV: Gen Z n=73, Millennial n=55) \*Small sample sizes, use directionally



#### And the majority of Aspiring Investors feel they are behind where they want to be with their financial goals.



#### 1 in 3

say that they compare their wealth and investment goals to their own idea of who they want to be



And of those who compare their wealth and investment goals to their own version of who they want to be...

**NEARLY** 

2 in 3

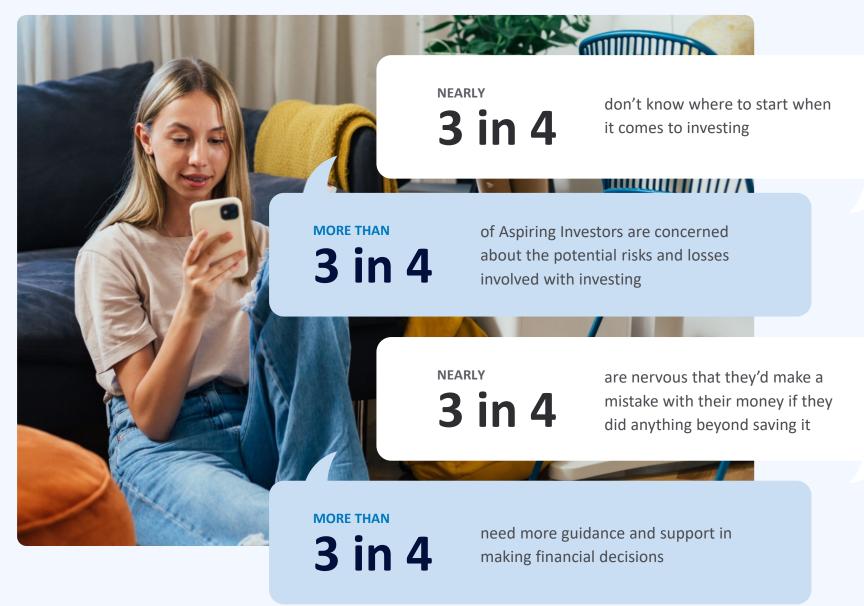
feel they are behind where they'd like to be with their financial goals



Q13: When thinking about your own wealth and investment goals, who, if anyone, do you compare yourself to? Q14: How would you compare your own wealth and investment goals against each of the following groups of people? Base: US Aspiring Investors n=1,000, US Aspiring Investors who compare their wealth and investment goals to their own idea of who they want to be n=374

#### Despite this, Aspiring Investors are struggling with investing paralysis.

They want to begin their investing journeys but won't do it until they feel they can guarantee substantial returns.



Q10: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: US Aspiring Investors n=1,000





### Relationships Hold The Key To Building Trust

#### **Key Findings**



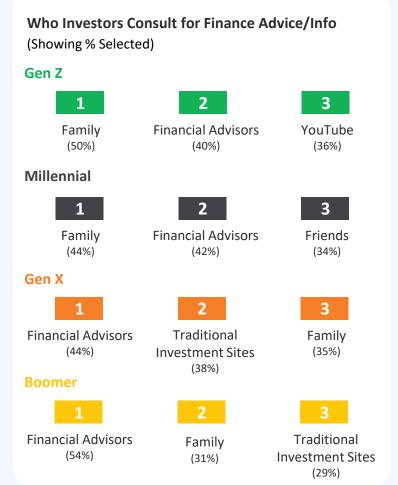
Gen Z exhibits a higher level of trust in financial advisors and family compared to other generations

Across generations, key desired traits for ideal financial advisor relationships include expertise, attentiveness, understanding of priorities and being results oriented

Gen Z and Millennials prioritize diversity and shared values when choosing a financial advisor. They value advisors who understand their cultural background and reflect the ethnic diversity of their clients

## When it comes to giving financial advice, financial advisors are among the most trusted, with investors turning to them for finance queries more than most sources.





Q20: How would you rate the following on their trustworthiness in giving financial advice/information?
Q21. Who do you currently consult for information or advice on finances?
Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959

The ideal financial advisor relationship may take different forms. Expertise, attentiveness, and experience emerge as key desires across generations for ideal financial advisor relationships.

How important or unimportant are the following traits/aspects when considering what an ideal relationship with a financial advisor looks like?

(Showing % extremely/somewhat important)

Results Takes time to **Understands** and **Financial** Years of Experience listen to me respects my priorities Oriented planning expertise **ACTIVE INVESTOR ACTIVE INVESTOR ACTIVE INVESTOR ACTIVE INVESTOR ACTIVE INVESTOR** 92% 90% 93% 91% 91% GEN Z GEN Z GEN Z GEN Z GEN Z 86% 87% 83% 85% 84% **MILLENNIALS MILLENNIALS** MILLENNIALS MILLENNIALS MILLENNIALS 92% 91% 90% 91% 90% GEN X GEN X GEN X GEN X GEN X 93% 92% 92% 92% 90% **BOOMERS BOOMERS BOOMERS BOOMERS BOOMERS** 93% 96% 93% 95% 95%



Female Active Investors consider all 5 traits as being more important than their male counterparts.

Q24: How important or unimportant are the following traits/aspects when considering what an ideal relationship with a financial advisor looks like? Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959

Gen Z and Millennials seek representation, placing an emphasis on financial advisor diversity and shared values.

> How important or unimportant are the following traits/aspects when considering what an ideal relationship with a financial advisor looks like?

(Showing % extremely/somewhat important)

Has shared personal values **ACTIVE INVESTOR** 66% GEN Z 71% MILLENNIALS **72%** GEN X 63% **BOOMERS 59%** 

Shares/displays the same social values as me **ACTIVE INVESTOR 61%** GEN Z 68% MILLENNIALS 69% GEN X **57% BOOMERS** 54%

Has marketing efforts that reflects ethnic diversity of clients **ACTIVE INVESTOR 57%** GEN Z 71% **MILLENNIALS** 71% **GEN X** 54%

**BOOMERS** 

40%

background **ACTIVE INVESTOR** 49% GEN Z 61% MILLENNIALS 61% GEN X 48% **BOOMERS** 34%

Gets my cultural

Looks like me **ACTIVE INVESTOR 25%** GEN Z 36% **MILLENNIALS** 36% GEN X

**BOOMERS** 

24%

10%



Black, Hispanic and Asian Active Investors are significantly more likely to consider the following traits as being more important than White Investors: Has shared personal values, looks like me, gets my cultural and background, and has marketing that reflects ethnic diversity of clients. This is especially true for Black Investors who feel more strongly about the importance of these traits than all other races.

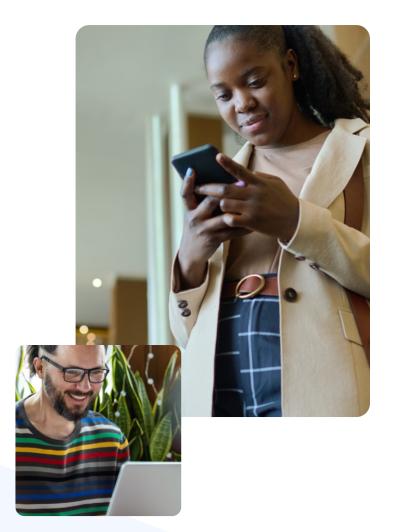
Q24: How important or unimportant are the following traits/aspects when considering what an ideal relationship with a financial advisor looks like? Base: US Active Investors n=3,000, Gen Z n=477, Millennial n=894, Gen X n=616, Boomer n=959





### **APPENDIX**

#### **Key Findings**

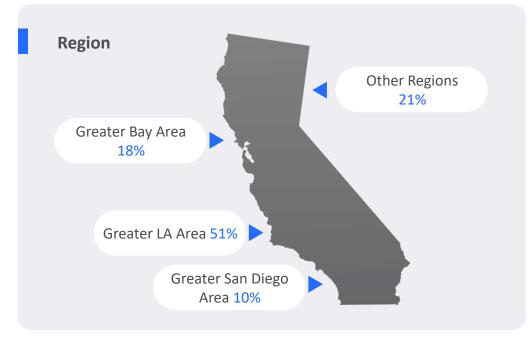


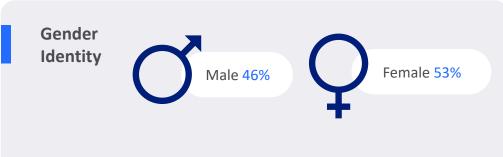
- Boomers have a singular definition of wealth, not so much for Gen Z
- + Investing means more than just generating wealth for Gen Z
- + Investors are losing faith that this too shall pass

+ Economic uncertainty has trigged investor fatigue among Americans

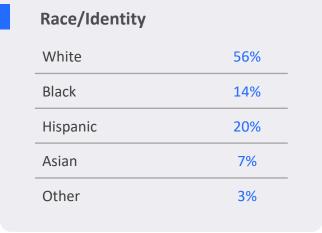
- + Aspiring Investors feel stuck with the next step(s) they should take
- + Relationships rather than institutions hold the keys to building trust

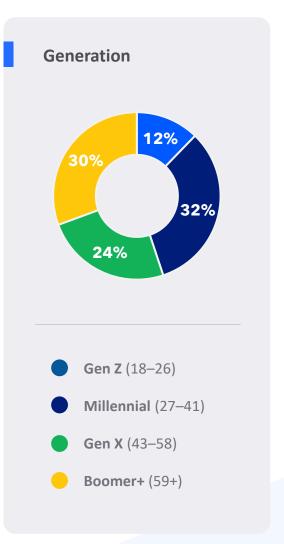
#### **CA** Active Investors





# Household Income Less than \$24,999 12% \$25,000-\$49,999 35% \$50,000-\$74,999 21% \$75,000-\$99,999 12% \$100,000+ 19%

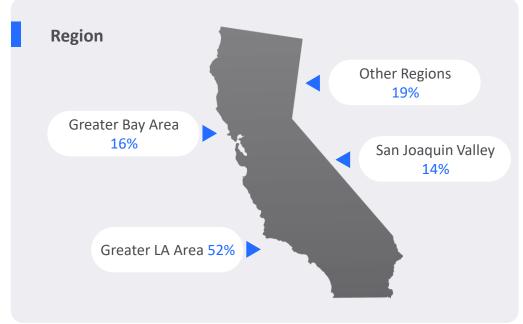


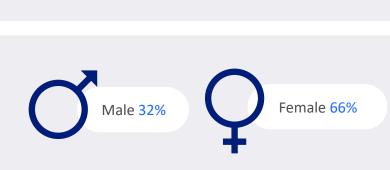


Gender

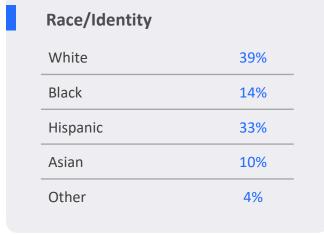
Identity

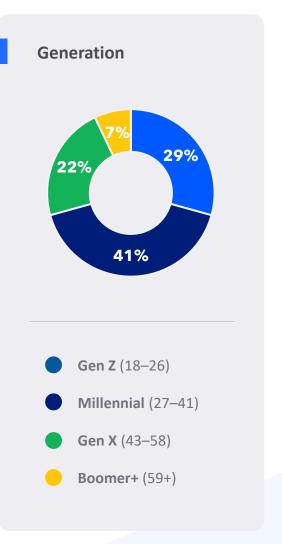
#### **CA** Aspiring Investors





# Household Income Less than \$24,999 29% \$25,000-\$49,999 31% \$50,000-\$74,999 19% \$75,000-\$99,999 7% \$100,000+ 11%







Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

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