

CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale

The CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale is a free tool to measure an individual's level of financial well-being. The scale consists of 10 questions and a scoring method.

Financial well-being: a state wherein a person can fully meet current and ongoing financial obligations, can feel secure in their financial future, and is able to make choices that allow them to enjoy life.

How was it developed?

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) developed this scale with input from experts and consumers. The questions in the scale were selected through a rigorous testing process to ensure their quality and reliability.

How can I use the scale?

The CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale can be used to

1. assess a person's financial well-being before providing a service,
2. track changes in an individual's financial well-being over time, and
3. measure the extent to which programs are improving the financial well-being of the individuals that they serve.

How do I interpret the score?

CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale score is a number between 0 and 100. A higher score indicates a higher level of measured financial well-being, but there is not a specific cut-off for a "good" or "bad" financial well-being score. Most people's scores will fall somewhere in the middle—extremely low or extremely high scores will be uncommon.

What else do I need to know?

In order for the scale to work properly, you must not change the wording of questions or responses and the respondent must answer every question in the questionnaire. In order to produce a final score, you must know the respondent's age and whether the respondent read the questions by him/herself or someone else read the questions to the respondent.

Where can I find more information about the scale?

consumerfinance.gov/financial-well-being

How to score:

Once the individual has completed the questionnaire:

CFPB FINANCIAL WELL-BEING SCALE

Scoring worksheet

NAME OR NUMBER

1. Select the person's answers, record the response value in the right hand column and add up the total values for each part of the questionnaire.

This statement describes me	Completely	Very well	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Response value
1. I could handle a major unexpected expense	4	3	2	1	0	1
2. I am securing my financial future	4	3	2	1	0	2
3. Because of my money situation, I feel like I will never have the things I want in life	0	1	2	3	4	1
4. I can enjoy life because of the way I'm managing my money	4	3	2	1	0	1
5. I am just getting by financially	0	1	2	3	4	3
6. I am concerned that the money I have or will save won't last	0	1	2	3	4	1
Part 1 subtotal:						9

This statement applies to me	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Response value
7. Giving a gift for a wedding, birthday or other occasion would put a strain on my finances for the month	0	1	2	3	4	1
8. I have money left over at the end of the month	4	3	2	1	0	1
9. I am behind with my finances	0	1	2	3	4	0
10. My finances control my life	0	1	2	3	4	1
Part 2 subtotal:						3
Total response value:						12

1. Determine the total response value (or raw total): Using the scoring worksheet, add the person's responses to find the "total response value."

2. Find the financial well-being score

How old is the person?
 18-61 62+

How did the person take the questionnaire?
 Self administered
 Administered by someone else

Because scores vary based on age and how the questionnaire was administered, you must convert the total response value to a financial well-being score.

a. Find the row that corresponds to the total response value.

b. Follow that row across to the column that corresponds to the person's age and how the questionnaire was administered.

c. Record the final score.

Financial well-being score: 40

Total response value	Questionnaire self-administered		Questionnaire administered by someone else	
	18-61	62+	18-61	62+
0	14	14	16	18
1	17	20	21	23
2	22	24	24	26
3	25	26	27	28
4	27	29	29	30
5	29	31	31	32
6	31	33	33	33
7	32	35	34	35
8	34	36	36	36
9	35	38	38	38
10	37	39	39	39
11	38	41	40	40
12	40	42	42	41
13	41	44	43	43
14	42	45	44	44
15	44	46	45	45
16	45	48	47	46
17	46	49	48	47
18	47	50	49	48
19	49	52	50	49
20	50	53	52	50
21	51	54	53	52
22	52	56	54	53
23	54	57	55	54
24	55	58	57	55
25	56	60	58	56
26	58	61	59	57
27	59	63	60	58
28	60	64	62	60
29	62	66	63	61
30	63	67	65	62
31	65	69	66	64
32	66	71	68	65
33	68	73	70	67
34	69	75	71	68
35	71	77	73	70
36	73	79	76	72
37	75	82	78	75
38	78	84	81	77
39	81	88	85	81
40	86	95	91	87

Learn more at consumerfinance.gov/financial-well-being

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2. Convert the total response value to a final score: On part two of the scoring worksheet, locate the total response value in the first column, then follow the row across to the appropriate column based on the respondent's age group and how the questionnaire was administered.

This will give you the respondent's CFPB Financial Well-Being Scale score.

The final scores are comparable across individuals and over time for the same individual, regardless of the respondent's age and how the questionnaire was administered.