Summary of Selected Findings: Alabama

	State	Nation	Region	
Making Ends Meet				
Difficulty covering expenses and paying bills				
Very difficult	11%	11%	13%	
Somewhat difficult	46%	39%	43%	
Not at all difficult	41%	48%	43%	
Spending vs. saving				
Spending less than income	38%	40%	38%	
Spending about equal to income	41%	38%	42%	
Spending more than income	15%	18%	16%	
Overdraw checking account occasionally	17%	19%	19%	*Respondents with checking accounts*
Have unpaid medical bills	27%	21%	26%	
Number of times mortgage payments have been late				
Once	12%	7%	10%	*Respondents with mortgages*
More than once	11%	9%	10%	
Have taken a loan from retirement account in past year	11%	13%	12%	*Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan*
Have taken a hardship withdrawal from retirement account in past year	10%	10%	11%	
Have experienced large unexpected drop in income in past year	25%	22%	23%	
Planning Ahead				
Have emergency funds	43%	46%	42%	
Do not have emergency funds	54%	50%	54%	
Have tried to figure out retirement savings needs	38%	39%	38%	*Non-retired respondents*
Have not tried to figure out retirement savings needs	55%	56%	58%	
Have set aside money for children's college education	35%	41%	33%	*Respondents with financially dependent children*
Have not set aside money for children's college education	64%	56%	65%	
Retirement Accounts				
Have employer-provided retirement plan (e.g., pension, 401(k))	48%	53%	50%	*Non-retired respondents*
Have non-employer retirement plan (e.g., IRA, Keogh, SEP, etc.)	20%	28%	22%	
Regularly contribute to self-directed retirement account	83%	79%	82%	*Respondents with self-directed employer plan or non-employer plan*

	State	Nation	Region	
Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds				
Invest in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities outside of retirement account	22%	30%	23%	
Managing Financial Products				
Banking				
Have checking account	88%	91%	88%	
Have savings account, money market account, or CDs	68%	75%	68%	
Credit Cards				
Credit card behaviors in past year				
Always paid credit cards in full	48%	52%	51%	
Carried over a balance and was charged interest	51%	47%	48%	
Paid the minimum payment only	30%	32%	31%	*Respondents with credit cards*
Charged a late fee for late payment	13%	14%	13%	
Charged an over the limit fee for exceeding credit line	7%	8%	7%	
Used the cards for a cash advance	12%	11%	10%	
Other Payment Methods				
Use reloadable prepaid debit cards	28%	24%	27%	
Use mobile payment methods	23%	22%	21%	
Mortgages				
Have mortgage	53%	57%	54%	*Homeowners*
Have home equity loan	11%	16%	13%	
Home “underwater” (negative equity)	8%	9%	8%	*Homeowners*
Other Debt				
Have student loan	25%	26%	25%	
Have auto loan	30%	30%	29%	
Non-Bank Borrowing				
Non-bank borrowing methods used in past 5 years				
Auto title loan	14%	10%	12%	
Short term ‘payday’ loan	18%	12%	15%	
Pawn shop	22%	16%	21%	
Rent-to-own store	15%	10%	13%	
Used one or more non-bank borrowing methods in past 5 years	34%	26%	31%	

	State	Nation	Region
Financial Knowledge & Decision-Making			
Financial Literacy			
Suppose you had $100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much do you think you would have in the account if you left the money to grow?			
More than $102 (correct answer)	70%	75%	72%
Exactly $102	9%	8%	9%
Less than $102	7%	5%	6%
Don't know	13%	12%	12%
Imagine that the interest rate on your savings account was 1% per year and inflation was 2% per year. After 1 year, how much would you be able to buy with the money in this account?			
More than today	11%	10%	11%
Exactly the same	11%	10%	9%
Less than today (correct answer)	54%	59%	58%
Don't know	23%	20%	21%
If interest rates rise, what will typically happen to bond prices?			
They will rise	20%	19%	19%
They will fall (correct answer)	28%	28%	28%
They will stay the same	4%	5%	5%
There is no relationship between bond prices and the interest rate	11%	9%	10%
Don't know	37%	38%	38%
Suppose you owe $1,000 on a loan and the interest rate you are charged is 20% per year compounded annually. If you didn't pay anything off, at this interest rate, how many years would it take for the amount you owe to double?			
Less than 2 years	5%	4%	5%
At least 2 years but less than 5 years (correct answer)	32%	33%	31%
At least 5 years but less than 10 years	31%	29%	29%
At least 10 years	6%	8%	7%
Don't know	26%	25%	26%
A 15-year mortgage typically requires higher monthly payments than a 30-year mortgage, but the total interest paid over the life of the loan will be less.			
True (correct answer)	74%	75%	75%
False	9%	8%	8%
Don't know	16%	16%	16%
Buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a stock mutual fund.			
True	12%	10%	12%
False (correct answer)	41%	46%	42%
Don't know	45%	44%	46%
Mean number of correct quiz answers	2.98	3.16	3.05
Mean number of incorrect quiz answers	1.34	1.25	1.31
Mean number of "don't know" quiz answers	1.62	1.54	1.59

	State	Nation	Region	
Comparison Shopping				
Compared credit cards	36%	35%	36%	*Respondents with credit cards*
Did not compare credit cards	58%	58%	57%	

Notes:

Region = East South Central Census Division (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee).

State figures are weighted by age x gender, ethnicity and education.

National figures are weighted by age x gender, ethnicity, education and Census Division.

Census Division figures are weighted by age x gender, ethnicity, education and state.

Differences between groups may or may not be statistically significant.

Percentages may not add up to 100 because of missing or “don’t know” responses.

Survey was conducted June - October 2015.

For additional findings and details, full survey results are available for download at
http://usfinancialcapability.org/downloads/NFCS_2015_Full_Data_Tables.xls