



10 Years After the Crisis: Middle-Income Boomers Rebounding But Not Recovered

Key findings

Highlights

- Middle-income Boomers remain unconvinced about a nationwide recovery from the financial crisis and are unsure about their chances for a secure retirement.
- Since the start of the financial crisis, middle-income Boomers have taken steps to manage their spending, savings and investments.
- Middle-income Boomers are still planning to retire, but they are adjusting their retirement expectations.

Middle-income Boomers remain unconvinced about a nationwide recovery from the financial crisis.

- While half (51%) of middle-income Boomers feel the economy has recovered somewhat from the financial crisis, only 2% feel the economy has fully recovered, and nearly half (47%) do not believe the economy has recovered at all.
- Two-thirds (65%) of middle-income Boomers do not feel they have personally benefitted from any economic recovery since 2007.
- Among middle-income Boomers who have not felt a personal benefit from any economic recovery, half (52%) report that their savings are lower today than before the financial crisis.

Middle-income Boomers are unsure about their chances for a secure retirement.

- Only about one-third (31%) of middle-income Boomers feel well prepared or very well prepared for retirement, down from four in 10 (41%) before the financial crisis.
- Just over one-third (37%) of middle-income Boomers are confident that they will have a personally satisfying retirement, down from more than four in 10 (44%) before the financial crisis.

- More than half (57%) of middle-income Boomers feel confident in meeting their daily financial obligations, down from two-thirds (67%) before the crisis.
- Nearly half (47%) of middle-income Boomers are confident in their ability to make smart investment decisions, just below its precrisis level of half (50%).

Middle-income Boomers have taken steps to manage their spending, savings and investments.

- Two-thirds (68%) of middle-income Boomers are worried about another financial crisis in their lifetime.
- More than eight in 10 (84%) middle-income Boomers have taken actions to manage their spending behavior since the start of the financial crisis, such as reducing their discretionary expenses (54%), reducing their recurring monthly expenses (47%) or creating and maintaining a household budget (35%).
- Nearly three in 10 (28%) middle-income Boomers have built up an emergency fund since the start of the financial crisis, and nearly two in 10 (17%) now save a larger percentage of their paycheck than before the crisis.
- Three-quarters (74%) of middle-income Boomers have changed their investment behavior as a result of the financial crisis, most often taking defensive measures, such as making more conservative investment choices (28%) or regularly reviewing and adjusting investments (18%). One in four (26%) no longer invest at all.

Middle-income Boomers are still planning to retire, but they are adjusting their retirement expectations.

- Nearly all (92%) of middle-income Boomers still plan to retire.
- Four in 10 (38%) middle-income Boomers expect to rely on Social Security for their primary source of retirement income.
- Before the crisis, about a third (34%) of middle-income Boomers expected to work full-time or part-time in retirement, but today half (48%) expect to work at least part-time.
- Before the crisis, nearly half (45%) of middle-income Boomers expected to retire debt-free, but today only about one-third (34%) do. One-quarter (23%) expected to have savings to pass along to heirs, while today only about one in six (16%) expect to leave an inheritance.

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