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## **Financial Fears: affording healthcare and unexpected expenses**

*The COUNTRY Financial Security Index<sup>®</sup> survey asked “what are your financial concerns?”*

**BLOOMINGTON, IL (March 29, 2017)** – Financial fears come in many forms. According to a new survey, the cost of medical care is near the top of the list.

The COUNTRY Financial<sup>®</sup> Security Index survey asked Americans about their financial present and future. Survey respondents revealed their concerns over financial security topics including health care costs, retirement savings and affording a child’s tuition.

For many respondents, a common concern was being able to afford healthcare costs. Forty-one percent of respondents said healthcare expenses were the top worry. That concern was paired with a fear of unexpected expenses (44 percent).

“No one wants a disruption in their financial house,” said Troy Frerichs, director of wealth management at COUNTRY Financial. “Rising health care costs, a depleted ‘emergency fund,’ or an unplanned delay in retirement are just some of the concerns that might be looming in the background. On the bright side, taking an assessment of your financial fears can help in planning for those concerns.”

Some of the uncertainty respondents expressed may have been prompted by the latest headlines. Sixty-seven percent of survey respondents agreed with the statement “current events are making me concerned about my financial future.”

On the topic of financial worries, the survey found women slightly more concerned about healthcare costs than men (43 percent to 40 percent).

The numbers also show that “unexpected expenses” are the biggest concerns for Millennials and GenXers (49 percent and 42 percent), while for Baby Boomers the biggest concern is the cost of healthcare (56 percent).

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### **About The COUNTRY Financial Security Index<sup>®</sup>**

Since 2007, the COUNTRY Financial Security Index has measured Americans' sentiments of their personal financial security. The Index also delves deeper into individual personal finance topics to better inform Americans about the issues impacting their finances. Survey data, videos and analysis are available at [www.countryfinancial.com/newsroom](http://www.countryfinancial.com/newsroom) and on Twitter at [@helloCOUNTRY](https://twitter.com/helloCOUNTRY).



The COUNTRY Financial Security Index was created by COUNTRY Financial. This survey was conducted by EMC Research, Inc., an independent research firm, commissioned by COUNTRY Financial. Surveys were conducted using a national online research panel designed to be representative of the general population and includes responses from 1,000 U.S. adults over the age of 18 for national surveys with additional interviews completed in Georgia, Illinois, and Oregon to bring the total in each of those states to 500 completed surveys.

**About COUNTRY Financial®**

The COUNTRY Financial® group ([www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com)) serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States. It offers a full range of financial products and services from auto, home, business and life insurance to retirement planning services, investment management and annuities.