

1 in 4 in Illinois say stock market growth does not help their personal financial situation

The COUNTRY Financial Security Index survey shows Illinoisans see jobs and debt as bigger factors than investments

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Sept. 5, 2017 – As the stock market has reached new heights in 2017, over one in four Americans feel they are being left behind.

The latest [COUNTRY Financial® Security Index survey](#) asked Illinoisans about the connection between the stock market, the economy, and their personal financial well-being.

The survey posed the question: *Is the stock market growth over the past five years representative of your own financial growth?*

A quarter (26 percent) of Illinoisans responded the growth of the stock market was not reflected in the state of their personal financial security. Half of Illinoisans (51 percent) did find the rising tide of the market was improving their fortunes. Yet there was no consensus on what was in store for the next three years.

Investments under Trump administration

Illinoisans were divided as to the effect that the current administration would have on their investments. Considering the future of their investments under the Trump administration: 36 percent said their investments would do better, 31 percent said investments would do worse, and 33 percent were simply unsure.

According to the survey there is no consensus on the impact that financial regulations under the current administration will have on their finances. The survey revealed responses of 34 percent negative impact, 31 percent positive impact, and 37 percent were either unsure or expected no impact from the Trump administration's approach toward financial regulation.

“As Americans look at their personal situation in relation to what is happening on Wall Street, we are finding a sense of self-reliance,” said Doyle Williams, an executive vice president at COUNTRY Financial. “A key finding of the national Index survey was that the vast majority of Americans feel that they, personally, have the biggest impact on their financial security. Only seven percent said the president had the greatest impact on their financial security, whereas 63 percent said that they personally had the greatest impact on their own financial situation.”

Job picture and national debt worry Illinoisans

The Index survey revealed Illinoisans saw the state of the job market (37 percent) and the size of the national debt (29 percent) as economic factors that needed to improve in order to feel more financially secure. Only 22 percent of respondents said the stock market needed to be stronger in order to improve their personal financial position.

“It's great to see a strong and healthy market. But of course, an individual's position in relationship to the market is only part of the picture,” added Williams. “The stock market is out of

an individual's control. But taking some simple steps, like setting up an emergency fund or identifying retirement goals to secure your financial future is something we all can do.”

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About The COUNTRY Financial Security Index®

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 and on Twitter at @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, Missouri 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) serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States. It offers a wide range of financial products and services from auto, home, business and life insurance to retirement planning services, investment management and annuities.