



Student Loans are Keeping Illinois Millennials from Purchasing Homes, According to New Survey

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. (MARCH 25, 2019) -- Illinoisans are more focused on paying off debt than purchasing homes, according to the latest survey from COUNTRY Financial. Younger Illinoisans indicate that student loan debt is the biggest financial culprit; 67 percent of renters age 18 – 34 in Illinois said their student loans are the main financial reason they do not want to purchase a home, compared to only 9 percent of American renters nationwide.

In fact, not even a \$25,000 windfall of money would change most Illinoisans' minds. When asked what they would do if they received \$25,000 today, nearly one-quarter (24 percent) said they'd pay off student loan debt, and more than one in four (26 percent) said they would invest it. Only 7 percent of Illinoisans, compared to 18 percent of Americans, would use it for a down payment on a home.

"Today's young people are dealing with increasing student loan debt and a very competitive job market," said Jon Voegelé, Agency Vice President at COUNTRY Financial. "They may be feeling that a home purchase is just too much to add on to the burden of the debt they're dealing with."

Down Payments are Intimidating

Saving for a down payment is another leading concern for potential homebuyers in Illinois. One-third of respondents said they don't have enough saved, and many (41 percent) estimate it would take them between one and three years to save for a down payment. More than one-third (36 percent) think it could take more than 6 years.

However, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of current homeowners surveyed in Illinois said they put down 10 percent or less of their mortgage loan amount when they purchased their homes.

Homeownership is Still a Priority...Just Not Right Now

Even though many are delaying homeownership to achieve other financial goals, many Illinoisans still hope to buy a home down the road.

However, many feel settled in their current homes; 53 percent of those surveyed in Illinois said they never plan to own or purchase another home.

The Real Costs of Housing



More than half (55 percent) of Illinois renters say they spend less than 20 percent of their salary on their rent, and the majority (65 percent) of them believe their rent is less expensive than a mortgage payment would be.

Most Illinois homeowners (64 percent) are spending less than 30 percent of their salaries on their mortgage, with 16 percent of them estimating they can pay it off within the next 5 years.

“Potential homeowners should remember the down payment is only the beginning of paying for the cost of a home,” said Voegelé. “It’s important to factor in the cost of taxes, proper insurance coverages and maintenance to get a real picture of what they’ll be paying.”

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 and is compiled by Ipsos an independent research firm. Surveys were conducted using Ipsos' KnowledgePanel®, a national, probability-based panel designed to be representative of the general population and includes responses from approximately 1,006 U.S. adults for national surveys. The margin of sampling error for a survey based on this many interviews is approximately +/- 3 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence.

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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.

About Ipsos Public Affairs

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