

# NEBRASKA ANNUAL SOCIAL SURVEY SNAPSHOT: HOW ARE NEBRASKANS FAIRING FINANCIALLY?

## Financial Satisfaction and Difficulty Differ by Age, Race, Education and More

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A survey of 1,725 Nebraskans conducted between July and November 2023 found substantial differences in financial satisfaction and difficulties paying bills within the past 12 months across various demographic groups. Overall, 50% of Nebraska adults are satisfied with their current financial situation, 26% are dissatisfied and 24% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. When asked how much difficulty they had paying their bills during the past 12 months, 55% reported having no difficulty, while 26% reported having a great deal of, quite a bit of, or some difficulty.

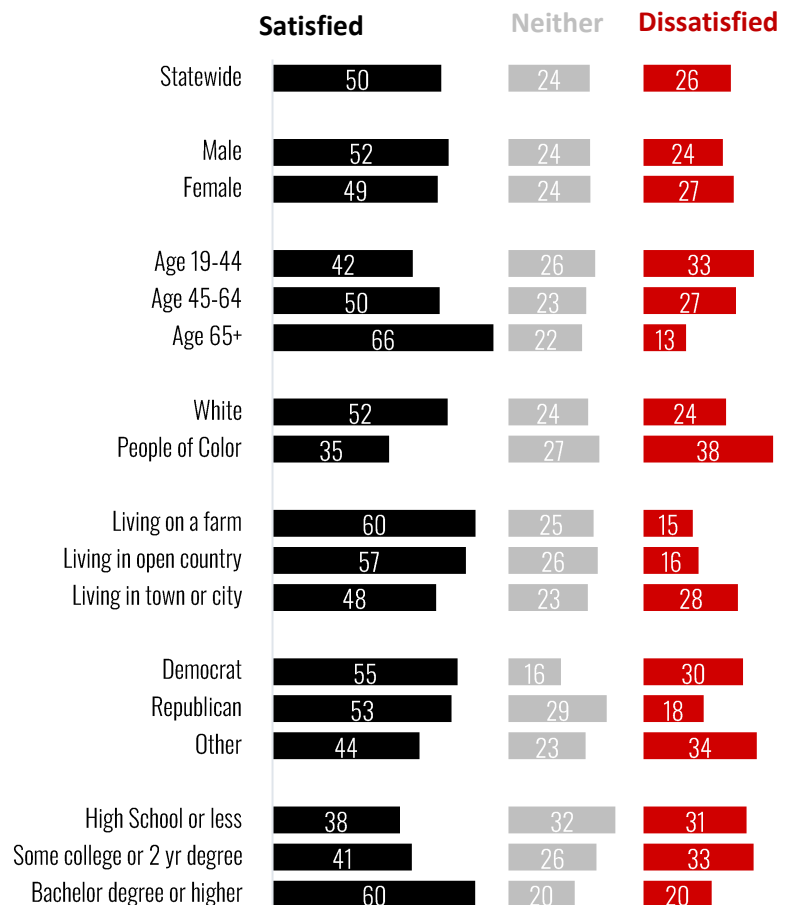
Men and women are similarly satisfied with their current financial situation, but differ in how much difficulty they have had paying their bills during the past 12 months. Around half of men (52%) and women (49%) feel satisfied with their current financial situation, while about one-in-four men (24%) and women (27%) feel dissatisfied, and about a quarter of both men (24%) and women (24%) feel neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Men (22%) are significantly less likely to report having some to a great deal of difficulty paying their bills than women (28%), with 61% of men and 51% of women facing no difficulty at all.

Older Nebraskans are more financially satisfied than younger adults, with seniors (65+) reporting the highest rate of financial satisfaction (66%), followed by those 45-64 (50%) and 19-44 (42%). Likewise, 70% of seniors had no trouble paying their bills in the past year, compared to 55% of 45 to 64-year-olds and 46% of 19 to 44-year-olds.

Significant differences in financial satisfaction and difficulty arise among racial groups. 52% of White respondents are satisfied financially, compared to 35% of People of Color (PoC), with 24% of White and 47% of PoC facing some to a great deal of difficulty paying bills. Furthermore, 58% of White respondents reported no difficulty, versus 37% of PoC.

Nebraskans who live on farms (60%) and open country (57%) report significantly higher financial satisfaction compared to those in towns or cities (48%). Bill-paying difficulty varies, with 28% of those who live on farms and 27% of those in towns or cities experiencing some to a great deal of difficulty paying bills during the past 12 months, as compared to only 20% of those who live in open country. However, 59% of adults who live on farms and 56% who live in town or cities report no difficulty paying bills, surpassing the 52% living in open country.

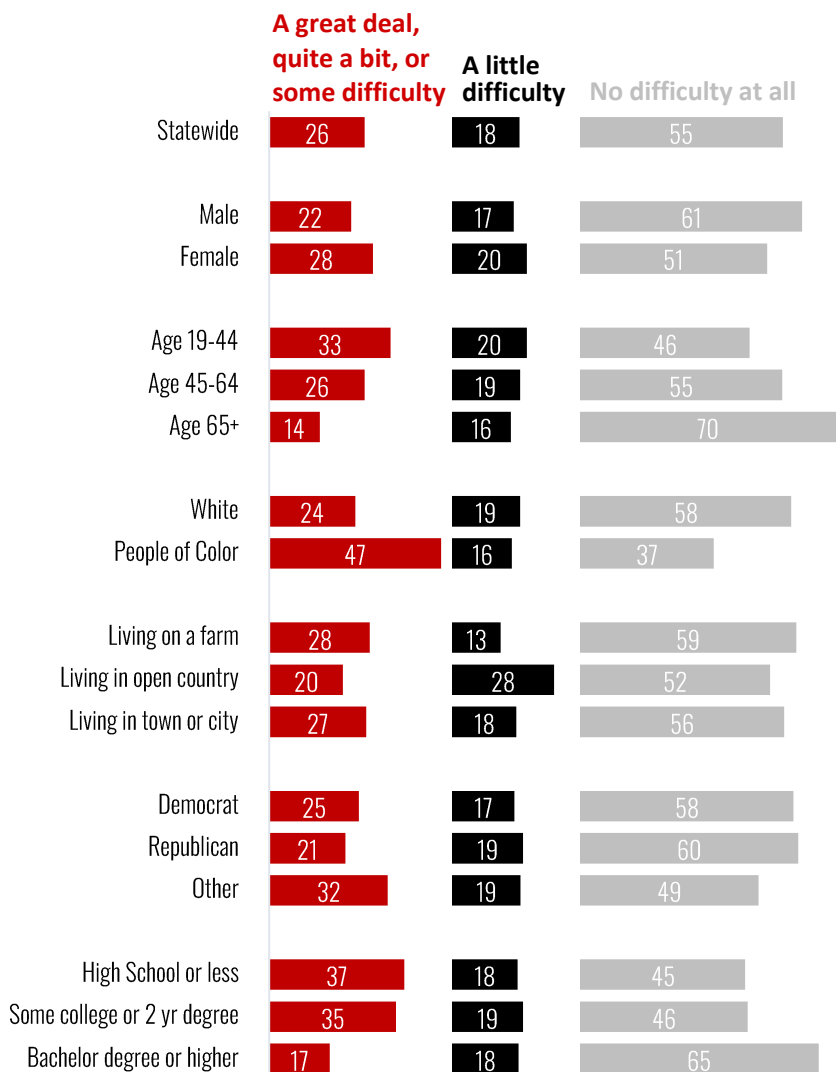
### Overall, how satisfied are you with your current financial situation?



Democrats and Republicans report similar rates of financial satisfaction and difficulty in paying bills, contrasting significantly with other voters. Over half of Democrats (55%) and Republicans (53%) are satisfied financially versus 44% of other voters. Similarly, Democrats (58%) and Republicans (60%) report that they had no difficulty paying bills during the past 12 months as compared to only 49% of other voters.

Financial satisfaction and difficulty paying bills differ significantly across education levels. Financial satisfaction rises with education level, with 38% of adults with a high school diploma or less, 41% of adults with some college or a two-year degree, and 60% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher feeling financially satisfied. Similarly, those with a bachelor's degree or higher report experiencing some to a great deal of difficulty in paying bills at a much lower rate (17%) than those with a high school diploma or less (37%) and those with some college or a two-year degree (35%). Those with a bachelor's or higher also report the least difficulty with paying bills (65%), while less than half of those with some college (46%) or a high school diploma or less (45%) report the same.

### During the past 12 months, how much difficulty have you had paying your bills?



#### Data Source and Methodology

The Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) is an annual statewide concurrent mail and web survey conducted by BOSR with multiple clients. NASIS uses an address-based sample of adults aged 19 and older (Nebraska's age of majority), and asks adults with the next birthday to participate in the survey. The 2023 NASIS consisted of a 16-page paper questionnaire that was administered by mail with an option to complete by web to a sample of 8,000 Nebraska households. Data were collected from July to November 2023 with an AAPOR Response Rate 2 of 21.6% (n=1,725). Overall estimates have a margin of error of ±4%. Significantly different groups are reported from statistical tests with p<.05. The full methodology report can be found at <https://bosr.unl.edu/nasis>.

#### WHO ARE WE?

BOSR has been conducting survey research and providing research assistance to University of Nebraska–Lincoln faculty, departments, administrative units, students, and various government agencies and non-profit organizations since 1964. Operating as a 'one-stop research shop,' BOSR develops and manages mail, web, telephone, in-person, and mixed-mode surveys with academic rigor.