

3 March 2023



Low confidence in meeting long term financial goals despite high investment activity amongst youths

More than half of youths surveyed want greater financial planning knowledge and skills.

In a survey of 500 youths conducted 4Q2022, 7 out of 10 youths are currently investing in shares, stocks, real estate and currencies, and close to 6 out of 10 of them are saving more than 20% of their salaries each month. Yet only 2 out of 10 youths are confident that they are currently on the right track to meet their long-term financial goals with nearly half of youths surveyed shared about difficulties in sticking to a budget, citing high costs of essential expenses such as food, transport, rent and mortgage and unplanned purchases for the lack of budget discipline. The survey however found that youths who are confident in their financial skills and knowledge are significantly much assured that they are on track to meet longer-term goals.

Investing Insights

2 Investment funds and stocks were the most popular form of investing among the 7 out of 10 youths currently investing their money. This was followed by fixed deposit plans and cryptocurrency. 16 to 19 year old youths are interested in stocks followed by fixed deposits, whereas youths 25 to 29 year old prefer investment funds. Stock investments are the top investment area for youths 30 to 34 years. Wealth building to supplement savings is the top reason across all demographics. The higher income and those married with children also looked to investing to beat rising inflation rates.

3 Third party platforms are the investing method of choice for youths 20 to 34 years, followed by broker services which are largely tapped on by males. Youths 16 to 19 year old are also likely to invest via their family or loved ones. The lack of knowledge was the top reason given for youths who are not investing their money.

Financial Aspirations

4 The need to meet basic needs for themselves or family, and being prepared for unforeseen emergencies are top aspirations amongst youths when it comes to financial planning. Even though close to 6 out of 10 youths exercise some form of financial planning, youths with families and those 30 to 34 years struggle most to maintain their financial plans. 3 out of 10 youths, particularly women and non-university graduates, do intend to start with their respective financial plans. The lack of income, financial planning skills and guidance however were their top blockers.

5 3 out of 5 youths believe that a one-stop portal of consolidated information would improve their financial literacy, whereas some of the other areas of improvement include increased support for workplaces to provide training and increased digital campaigns to raise awareness on financial literacy.

6 Chief Executive Officer for the National Youth Council, Mr David Chua said, "Increasingly we are seeing youths wanting to increase their financial planning skills and knowledge to address rising inflation whilst keeping an eye on building up their retirement

adequacy. The more confident our youths are in managing their money, the more confident they are of the future and the National Youth Council will be curating more opportunities to support our youths in this area.”

7 To help young Singaporeans way-find around resources relevant to them on financial literacy, the National Youth Council has developed a [Financial Literacy toolkit](#) on Youthopia.sg, providing resources to help youth be more financially savvy. A commissioned [podcast](#) with The Straits Times also features two Singaporean youths sharing their thoughts and concerns about financial literacy among youths in Singapore.

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Please refer to ANNEX for further information.

Interviews with youths are available on request. Do reach out to the media contacts below.

Media Contacts

Tan Jia Ling

Manager, Strategic Communications
National Youth Council Singapore

tan_jia_ling@nyc.gov.sg
+65 9863 1903

Suzanne Walker

Deputy Director
National Youth Council Singapore

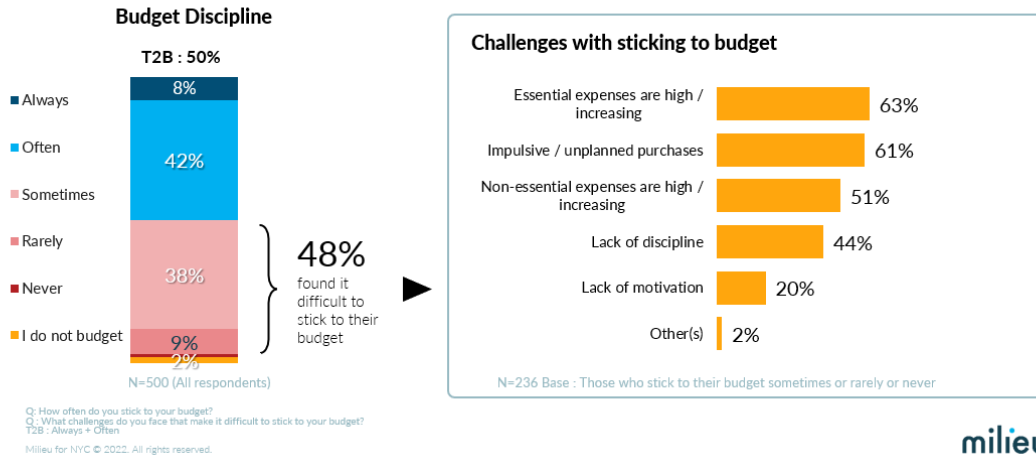
suzanne_walker@nyc.gov.sg
+65 9873 8181

About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience, and an enterprising spirit.

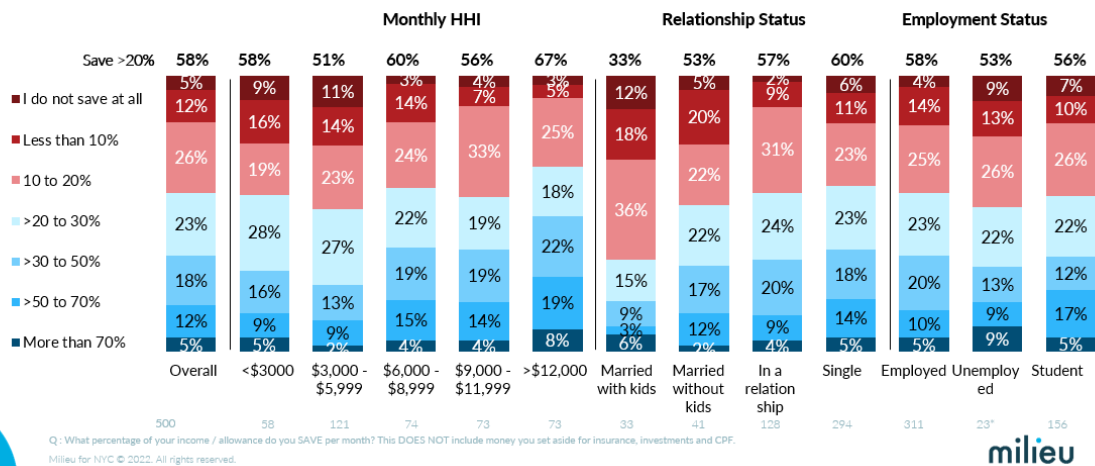
Close to half of young adults find it difficult to stick to a budget; increasing essential expenses coupled with impulsive buys are top reasons

- Unplanned / impulsive purchases and impulsive / unplanned purchases are top two challenges



Young adults married with kids are struggling hard to save

- Only 33% of those married with kids reported to be saving more than 20% of their monthly income / allowance



Confidence in meeting long-term financial goals analysed by confidence in financial skills

- Those who are confident in their financial skills/knowledge are significantly much more confident that they are currently doing what is needed to meet longer-term goals.
- Similarly, those who don't believe that they have the right financial skills/knowledge are significantly much less confident that they are currently doing what is needed to meet their longer-term goals.

"I have the skills/ knowledge needed to manage my finances and meet my financial goals."

Long-term financial goals "How confident are you that you are currently doing what is needed to meet your longer-term goals?"	Overall	Strongly agree + agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree + Strongly disagree
Sample Size (N)	500	204	231	65
Extremely confident	2%	4%	1%	0%
Quite confident	18%	35%	8%	3%
Somewhat confident	42%	45%	49%	9%
Not really confident	29%	12%	35%	57%
Not confident at all	8%	3%	7%	31%

Q : Thinking about your longer-term financial goals such as saving for a vacation, getting married, having children, starting a business, buying or paying off a home, saving up for education, putting money away for retirement, etc... How confident are you that you are currently doing what is needed to meet your longer-term goals?

Q : To what extent do you agree or disagree : "I have the skills/ knowledge needed to manage my finances and meet my financial goals"

T2B - Always - Often

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At 90% confidence level

Significantly lower vs overall

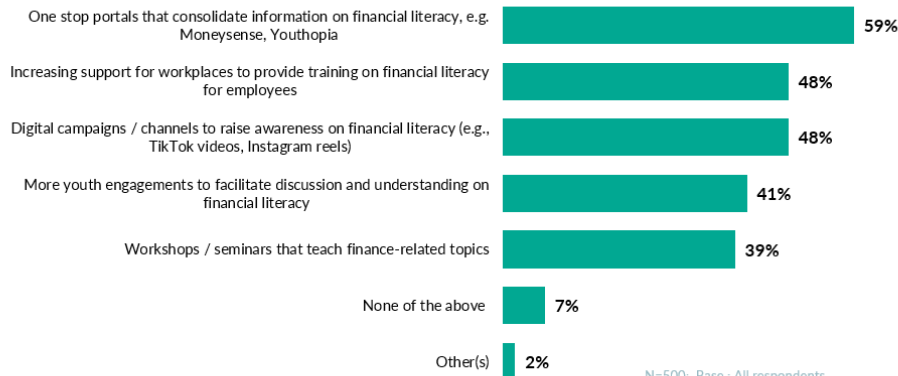
Significantly higher vs overall

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Factors That Improve Financial Literacy

- Majority believe having a one-stop portal that consolidates information would help them with financial literacy
- There is also strong support for training conducted at workplaces and digital campaigns to raise awareness



Q : What do you think would improve your financial literacy?

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