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This report looks at the following areas:

- Top consumer channels for financial information
- Responses to financial marketing across channels
- Most desired product features
- Preferred advertising themes in financial marketing
- Preferred incentive types
- Attitudes toward financial marketing

Reputation of financial services brands is paramount, as it surpassed the ability to save money as the most sought after feature that consumers consider in a new financial product. This shift coincides with a broader consumer prioritization of customer service and security rather than simple quantitative upgrades to their existing products.

Much of the trend toward reputation and safety can be traced to the banking crisis of early 2023, which caused more than half of consumers to grow concerned about the safety of their deposits. In an environment in which consumers were already re-strategizing due to inflation, this added stimulus caused even more consumers to consider shifts in financial services providers, particularly if a lucrative incentive could tempt them away.

The reluctance to sacrifice in brand reputation in order to obtain quantitative upgrades provides an obstacle to challenger brands looking to position themselves against the traditional players in the financial space. Serious approaches that establish the brand quickly as dependable and trustworthy may be safer marketing plays than tonally disruptive ads, which are broadly met by skepticism from consumers.

Despite that threat, opportunities abound as consumer response rate has increased throughout a time period when marketers have scaled back acquisition activity. The blooming digital presence of Gen Z on financial channels allows for financial brands to capture a wider audience whose



"A continued state of economic turbulence brought on by the banking crisis of early 2023 has caused young financial services consumers to grow up fast and desire a more serious tone from financial brands. Strong crosschannel response rates indicate plentiful opportunities for marketers that can adapt to these shifting preferences."

Patrick Rahlfs, Senior Research Analyst

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financial tastes have shifted from education-seeking to mature, with an independent streak. Additionally, added responsiveness to incentives from older consumers opens a premium segment for active marketers to target.

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Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

- What you need to know
- · This Report looks at the following areas
- Definition
- Market context

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Top Takeaways
- Consumer trends
- Gen Z is maturing in both financial consumption and taste in themes

Figure 1: Gen Z personal finance sources by year, 2022 and 2023

 Brand reputation overtakes savings as consumers' most desired feature

Figure 2: Financial services product features by year, 2022 and 2023

Older, higher-earning customers are considering switches

Figure 3: Openness to switch due to incentive by age and income, 2022 and 2023

- Competitive strategies
- Banking marketing is on the rise, while lending declines

Figure 4: Financial services industry spend by subindustry, Q1 2021 – O1 2023

Top television creatives elevate customer service

Figure 5: TD Bank national television ad, 2023

Market predictions

Figure 6: Category outlook, 2023-28

- Opportunities
- Aggressive paid social campaigns are particularly likely to land
- Bank sites can cross-sell young consumers
- The \$75k to \$100k income group are valuable switchers

MARKET SIZE

More than 90% of consumers are banked

Figure 7: Financial product ownership, 2023

 Consumer financial well-being took a rare step back in 2022

Figure 8: Percent of consumers that are at least okay financially, 2013-22

Inflation and its knock-on effects are driving concerns

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Figure 9: Categories of self-reported main financial challenges, 2016-22

MARKET DRIVERS

- Marketing spend hit quarterly low, but responses are up Figure 10: Financial services industry cross-channel spend, Q1 2021 – Q1 2023
- Banking marketing is surpassing mortgages and loans
 Figure 11: Financial services industry spend by subindustry, Q1
 2021 Q1
 2023
- Consumer sentiment ticked up in June, but remains low Figure 12: Consumer sentiment index, 2017-23

COMPETITIVE STRATEGIES AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- Online savings accounts offer a counterpunch to inflation
 Figure 12: Discover savings direct mail creative, 2023
- Apple Card's security focus is gaining appeal
 Figure 13: Apple card acquisition email, 2023
- TD Bank's unexpectedly human approach provides an empathetic narrative

Figure 14: TD Bank national television ad, 2023

THE FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSUMER – FAST FACTS PERSONAL FINANCE SOURCES

- Personal sources reign supreme
 Figure 15: Personal finance sources, 2023
- Gen Z is expanding its consumption of digital sources
 Figure 16: Gen Z personal finance sources by year, 2022 and
 2023
- Black consumers are most responsive to top-of-funnel channels, in line with qualitative preferences
 Figure 17: Personal finance sources by race and Hispanic origin, 2023

RESPONSE BEHAVIORS

Responses to social ads outpaced responses to direct channels

Figure 18: Financial services marketing responses, 2023

- Consumer response to financial ads was up across channels
 Figure 19: Financial services marketing responses by year,
 2022 and 2023
- 35-54-year old males led the surge in digital responses
 Figure 20: Change in financial services marketing responses
 by year, 2022 and 2023

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Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

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Middle asset segments are the most responsive

Figure 21: Financial services marketing responses by household investable assets, 2023

TOP PRODUCT FEATURES

Customer service and security were more valued than earn potential

Figure 22: Financial services product features, 2023

Reputation surpassed savings among top priority features

Figure 23: Financial services product features by year, 2022 and 2023

Young consumers shifted toward reputation, security

Figure 24: Change in preferred financial services product features by year, 2022 and 2023

 Sign-up bonuses and online features were sought by responsive customers

Figure 25: Financial services product features by response to ads, 2023

PREFERRED MARKETING THEMES

Serious, quantitative approaches are most popular
 Figure 26: Financial services marketing themes, 2023

Gen Z is maturing and want a more advanced tone
 Figure 27: Gen Z financial services marketing themes by year,
 2022 and 2023

 Higher earning consumers prefer serious themes, but still want to learn

Figure 28: Financial services marketing themes by income, 2023

 Influencers and premium experiences are more niche, but appeal to a key demographic

Figure 29: Financial services marketing themes by age and gender, 2023

PREFERRED INCENTIVES

· Cash bonuses remain the standard

Figure 30: Financial services product incentives, 2023

Young consumers are more likely to consider alternate incentives

Figure 31: Financial services product incentives by generation, 2023

Lower asset consumers are more responses to gifts, gift cards

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

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Figure 32: Financial services product incentives by household investable assets, 2023

ATTITUDES TOWARD MARKETING FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Recent economic events have stimulated hands-on activity
 Figure 33: Impact of recent events on financial services attitudes, 2023
- Young consumers are most concerned, causing them to further prioritize security and reputation

Figure 34: Impact of recent events on financial services attitudes by generation, 2023

Figure 35: Gen Z and millennial top financial product features by year, 2022 and 2023

 Consumers are open to change based on incentives or negative experiences

Figure 36: Switching behaviors and attitudes, 2023

 Older, higher-earning consumers are becoming more open to switching

Figure 37: Switching likelihood by age and income, 2022 and 2023

 The \$75k to \$100k income group is the most engaged and seeks maximum value

Figure 38: Financial services engagement by income, 2023

• Social media followers are primed to seek incentives
Figure 39: CHAID analysis of banking behaviors, 2023

APPENDIX - DATA SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Consumer survey data
- Marketing creative
- Abbreviations and terms
- Abbreviations

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Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

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Powerpoint Presentation

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