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This report looks at the following areas:

- Usage of financial institutions in the past year
- Reasons for visiting a bank branch
- Most important factors when consumers consider a new provider
- · What would drive consumers to switch to a new provider
- Attitudes toward banking

Inflation and high interest rates have had a significant impact on the behavior of banking customers. In times of economic certainty, consumers are more likely to weigh their options and seek maximum value from their financial products, even if it comes from multiple providers. Consumers' value-driven approach to selecting providers remains heavily tied to incentives, with 70% of consumers indicating that they would open a new bank account if the incentive offered was appealing enough. Similarly, when choosing a new provider, consumers are shifting focus to the savings rates Fls offer to boost the return on their deposits in this high-interest rate environment – 35% of consumers say that savings account interest rates are the most important factor when choosing a new Fl.

On top of wanting to derive the most value from their financial products, consumers are also seeking financial support from their providers, especially during this period of elevated inflation. Nearly 70% say that support from their banks is important to them to help them manage inflation. Banks still have work to do, however, given that 45% of consumers agree that their banks have reached out to provide them with advice on how to manage their finances during these economically uncertain times.

Banks still have gaps to fill when it comes to engaging their customers with the financial advice and support they need, but they should make financial advice a priority to ensure that those that need support the most get it. Just 7% of financially struggling consumers report using their bank's financial advisor, compared to 18% of financially healthy consumers. While much has been made



"With economic uncertainty still looming, Fls must remain engaged and in-tune with their customers' needs and wants. If it is support that customers desire, Fls must position themselves as subject matter experts in their customers' corner ready to support their financial aspirations as well as enhance their knowledge and literacy."

Amr Hamdi, FinanceAnalyst

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of the death of the physical branch, banks still have the opportunity to transform the in-branch experience to be more consultative and financial wellness driven, make visits more inclusive and welcoming in messaging, and support financially struggling customers yearning to improve their situations.

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Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Top takeaways
- Younger consumers more likely to seek rewards and financial advice when choosing new providers

Figure 1: Importance of rewards and financial advice when choosing provider, by generation, 2022
Figure 2: Vitality Money, 2023

 68% of consumers want support and financial advice from their banks, yet just 45% have received it

Figure 3: Importance of financial advice from bank, by household income, 2022

Figure 4: Fidelity paid Facebook ad, 2023 Figure 5: SoFi financial tips email, 2022

 Just 7% of financially struggling consumers use their bank's advisory services

Figure 6: Use of bank's financial advisor, by financial situation, 2022

Figure 7: Bank of America CDFI directory, 2023

Market overview

Figure 8: The Banking Experience outlook, 2023-27

- Opportunities and challenges
- The struggling fintech sector presents a prime growth opportunity for incumbents
- Standing out in a rate-focused world through relatable messaging

Figure 9: Most important factors in choosing a financial provider, 2022

Figure 10: Marcus online savings account paid Facebook ad, 2023

- Key consumer insights
- Overdraft and non-sufficient funds fees remain a severe financial burden on financially struggling minority consumers

Figure 11: Consumers charged an overdraft or NSF fee in the past year, by financial situation and race/ethnicity, 2022 Figure 12: Earnings disparities, by race and ethnicity, 2020

Figure 13: Citibank desktop display ad, 2022

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Figure 14: Bank of America SafeBalance checking account email, 2022

 Gen Z and Millennials are most swayed by sign-up bonuses and rewards when considering a banking switch

Figure 15: Reasons to switch financial providers, by generation, 2022

Figure 16: Chase Southwest Rapid Rewards card email, 2023

MARKET SIZE

Total number of US banks remains in freefall

Figure 17: Total number of US insured commercial banks, 2008–2022

 Chase and Bank of America top the list of largest US banks by assets

Figure 18: US chartered commercial banks with consolidated assets of \$300 million or more, 2022

MARKET FACTORS

- Banks cut mortgage lending staff amid struggling housing market
- Personal savings rate rebounds to 3.4%

Figure 19: Personal saving rate, seasonally adjusted, 2015-22 Figure 20: Net percentage of domestic banks tightening standards for credit card loans, quarterly, Q1 2019-Q4 2022

Branch closures on pace to slow down after pandemic-era record closures

Figure 21: Total number of US insured commercial bank branches, 2008-21

Figure 22: Importance of in-branch banking, by residence in urban, suburban, and rural locations, 2022

COMPETITIVE STRATEGIES AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

 TD stresses overdraft protection along with an appealing sign-up bonus

Figure 23: TD Bank checking account paid Facebook ad, 2023

 Schwab makes financial planning more human by putting advisors at the forefront of its messaging

Figure 24: Charles Schwab financial consultancy ad, 2023

 Fifth Third announces new Early Pay feature aimed at expediting the tax refund process

Figure 25: Fifth Third Early Pay for tax refunds, 2023 Figure 26: US Bank and TurboTax partnership, 2023

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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 Dollar Bank encourages digital banking via a communitydriven approach

Figure 27: Dollar Bank Facebook ad, 2023

THE BANKING EXPERIENCE – FAST FACTS USE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PAST YEAR

Commercial banks remain the most popular type of financial institution

Figure 28: Usage of financial institution in the past year, 2022

Digital bank usage ranks among the highest for financial struggling consumers

Figure 29: Usage of financial institutions in the past year, by financial situation, 2022

TOTAL NUMBER OF BANK ACCOUNTS

Most consumers have at least two bank accounts
 Figure 30: Total number of bank accounts, 2022

Older consumers are more likely to diversify their funds and accounts

Figure 31: Total number of bank accounts, by age, 2022 Figure 32: Total number of bank accounts, by household income, 2022

LENGTH OF PRIMARY ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP

 A third of consumers have held their primary bank account for over 16 years

Figure 33: Length of primary account ownership, 2022

 18-24 year olds are a prime segment for FIs to establish early banking relationships with

Figure 34: Length of primary account ownership, by age, 2022

REASONS FOR VISITING A PHYSICAL BRANCH

 Over half of consumers visit physical bank branches to use an ATM

Figure 35: Reasons for visiting a physical branch, 2022

Younger Millennials most likely to visit their FI's financial advisor

Figure 36: Use of bank's financial advisor, by generation, 2022

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

Did you know?

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MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN CHOOSING FINANCIAL PROVIDERS

Customer service is top of mind for prospects seeking a new provider

Figure 37: Most important factors in choosing a financial provider, 2022

40% of Gen Z considers savings rates when choosing a new provider

Figure 38: Importance of savings rates when choosing provider, by generation, 2022

 Financially struggling consumers least likely to consider financial advice when seeking a new provider

Figure 39: Importance of financial advice when choosing provider, by financial situation, 2022

REASONS TO SWITCH FINANCIAL PROVIDERS

 Fees, customer service, and rates remain the trifecta most likely to prompt switching banks

Figure 40: Reasons to switch financial providers, 2022 Figure 41: Capital One 360 Checking account, 2023

ATTITUDES TOWARD BANKS

Nine in 10 consumers are satisfied with their current bank(s)
 Figure 42: Bank satisfaction and likelihood of making recommendations, 2020 and 2022

 Over 90% of consumers prefer to bank at FIs with wellestablished reputations

Figure 43: Importance of reputation in banking, by generation, 2022

Figure 44: Use of traditional banks and neobanks, by generation, 2022

 70% of consumers would consider opening a new account if the incentive was appealing enough

Figure 45: Likelihood of signing up for a new bank account if incentives are offered, by generation, 2022

Figure 46: Discover checking account email, 2023

APPENDIX – DATA SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

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