

Wedding Season Omnibus: Topline Report

Findings & Methodology

- A poll of 1,000 Married Americans commissioned by MassMutual in August 2019 with PSB reveals how married couples' relationships are impacted by financial attitudes and wedding-related financial decision making.
- Gen Z/Millennials are Americans ages 18-38 / Gen X are Americans ages 39-53 / Boomers+ are Americans ages 54+
- Dating/Engaged/Married banner points are derived from the question: At what point in your relationship did you first discuss your finances (i.e. salary, debt, savings, merging finances) with your partner?

At what point in your relationship did you first discuss your finances (i.e. salary, debt, savings, merging finances) with your partner?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Dating	27%	32%	20%	38%	31%	17%
Engaged	17%	17%	17%	14%	14%	20%
Married	55%	49%	62%	47%	53%	61%
We haven't discussed finances	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
Dating	27%	100%	0%	0%	25%	29%
Engaged	17%	0%	100%	0%	16%	17%
Married	55%	0%	0%	100%	58%	52%
We haven't discussed finances	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%

Why haven't you discussed your finances with your significant other?

Please note: Base size too small to determine statistical significance, results directional

	Total n=15	Women n=10	Men n=5	Gen Z/Mill. n=5	Gen X n=3	Boomers+ n=7
I'm not sure why we haven't discussed our finances	87%	80%	100%	80%	67%	100%
I'm embarrassed to share my financial situation	7%	10%	0%	20%	0%	0%
I don't feel comfortable discussing finances with my significant other	7%	10%	0%	0%	33%	0%
My significant other doesn't want to discuss it	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

	Total n=15	Dating n=0	Engaged n=0	Married n=0	Finances Matter n=4	Finances Don't Matter n=11
I'm not sure why we haven't discussed our finances	87%	0%	0%	0%	75%	91%
I'm embarrassed to share my financial situation	7%	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%
I don't feel comfortable discussing finances with my significant other	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
My significant other doesn't want to discuss it	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Which of the following best describes how you and your significant other manage money?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
We make money decisions together as a couple	53%	54%	53%	57%	50%	52%
All of our income goes into one household pot	29%	29%	30%	24%	32%	32%
We keep our money separate and divide bills	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%
We make money decisions independently	6%	5%	6%	6%	8%	4%
My significant other makes all of our money decisions	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	2%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
We make money decisions together as a couple	53%	57%	64%	49%	53%	54%
All of our income goes into one household pot	29%	29%	21%	32%	24%	34%
We keep our money separate and divide bills	8%	10%	9%	7%	10%	6%
We make money decisions independently	6%	2%	4%	8%	8%	3%
My significant other makes all of our money decisions	3%	1%	3%	4%	4%	2%

Previously, how much have finances factored into your decision to stay in or advance a relationship (i.e. move in together, get married)?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
A great deal	27%	28%	25%	38%	32%	16%
Some	22%	23%	21%	25%	24%	20%
Not that much	23%	21%	27%	19%	22%	27%
Not at all	28%	29%	27%	19%	22%	37%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
A great deal	27%	21%	21%	31%	55%	0%
Some	22%	25%	26%	20%	45%	0%
Not that much	23%	26%	30%	20%	0%	46%
Not at all	28%	28%	23%	29%	0%	54%

If your partner had debt, which of the following statements are true?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
I would help them financially	68%	64%	73%	71%	61%	69%
I would not end the relationship, but it would drive me crazy	10%	11%	8%	11%	10%	9%
I would attempt to keep our finances separate	8%	9%	6%	5%	10%	9%
I would provide advice, but not help them financially	7%	8%	6%	6%	11%	6%
I would have reconsidered getting engaged/married until the debt was paid off	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%	6%
I would end the relationship	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
I would help them financially	68%	72%	71%	66%	63%	73%
I would not end the relationship, but it would drive me crazy	10%	12%	10%	8%	9%	11%
I would attempt to keep our finances separate	8%	4%	9%	9%	9%	7%
I would provide advice, but not help them financially	7%	6%	5%	8%	9%	6%
I would have reconsidered getting engaged/married until the debt was paid off	6%	5%	4%	7%	8%	4%
I would end the relationship	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	0%

Would you compromise on your financial goals to appease your significant other (i.e. put off buying a home until your partner's debts are paid)?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Yes	75%	74%	76%	82%	80%	69%
No	25%	26%	24%	18%	20%	31%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
Yes	75%	77%	79%	74%	75%	76%
No	25%	23%	21%	26%	25%	24%

Have you kept any financial secrets from your significant other (i.e. debt, overspending)?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Yes	23%	24%	22%	29%	33%	15%
No	77%	76%	78%	71%	67%	85%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
Yes	23%	22%	16%	26%	30%	17%
No	77%	78%	84%	74%	70%	83%

What financial secrets have you kept from your significant other?

	Total n=233	Women n=134	Men n=99	Gen Z/Mill. n=96	Gen X n=67	Boomers+ n=70
A separate credit card	38%	40%	35%	40%	37%	37%
Giving money to family/friends	32%	30%	34%	31%	37%	27%
A major expense	24%	23%	25%	24%	31%	17%
A bonus or other windfall of money	23%	22%	25%	25%	22%	21%
A separate savings account or investment fund	21%	16%	26%	22%	19%	20%
Financial losses from gambling/betting	16%	8%	26%	25%	13%	6%
A job loss	8%	4%	13%	8%	10%	6%

	Total n=233	Dating n=59	Engaged n=27	Married n=144	Finances Matter n=145	Finances Don't Matter n=88
A separate credit card	38%	41%	37%	37%	41%	33%
Giving money to family/friends	32%	27%	48%	31%	34%	27%
A major expense	24%	20%	11%	28%	24%	24%
A bonus or other windfall of money	23%	22%	19%	24%	26%	19%
A separate savings account or investment fund	21%	15%	15%	24%	25%	14%
Financial losses from gambling/betting	16%	7%	19%	19%	21%	8%
A job loss	8%	5%	15%	8%	11%	3%

How many of your disagreements as a couple are about money?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
None	25%	25%	26%	23%	18%	30%
Some	59%	59%	60%	56%	61%	61%
Most	11%	12%	9%	14	13%	8%
All	5%	4%	6%	7%	8%	1%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=448	Finances Don't Matter n=414
None	25%	29%	26%	22%	17%	32%
Some	59%	58%	65%	59%	61%	58%
Most	11%	10%	8%	11%	13%	9%
All	5%	2%	1%	7%	8%	1%

Do you have a prenuptial agreement?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Yes, we were aligned on having a prenup	5%	5%	7%	10%	7%	1%
Yes, but it put a strain on our relationship initially	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	2%
No, we didn't think we needed one	85%	87%	83%	80%	81%	91%
No, I refused to get married if he/she insisted on one	6%	7%	6%	6%	8%	6%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=448	Finances Don't Matter n=414
Yes, we were aligned on having a prenup	5%	4%	5%	6%	9%	2%
Yes, but it put a strain on our relationship initially	3%	0%	2%	4%	5%	1%
No, we didn't think we needed one	85%	91%	86%	82%	77%	93%
No, I refused to get married if he/she insisted on one	6%	4%	6%	7%	9%	4%

Did you go in to debt to pay for your wedding (i.e. took out a loan, used a credit card to pay)?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Yes	11%	9%	13%	18%	16%	3%
No	89%	91%	87%	82%	84%	97%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=448	Finances Don't Matter n=414
Yes	11%	7%	10%	13%	19%	3%
No	89%	93%	90%	87%	81%	97%

When planning your wedding, how much did you take into account the costs it might have for guests who attended (i.e. travel, hotels, dresses)?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
It was a major consideration	25%	31%	17%	35%	27%	17%
It was a minor consideration	33%	29%	38%	34%	32%	33%
It wasn't a consideration at all	42%	41%	44%	32%	41%	50%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=448	Finances Don't Matter n=414
It was a major consideration	25%	29%	27%	22%	31%	19%
It was a minor consideration	33%	30%	39%	33%	36%	30%
It wasn't a consideration at all	42%	41%	33%	45%	33%	51%

Do you regret what you spent on your wedding?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Yes, I wish I put some of what I spent into savings or towards another financial priority (i.e. buying a home, college education)	11%	10%	11%	18%	15%	4%
No, I spent more than expected, but it was worth it	9%	9%	8%	11%	9%	7%
No, I have zero regrets	81%	81%	80%	71%	76%	89%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=448	Finances Don't Matter n=414
Yes, I wish I put some of what I spent into savings or towards another financial priority (i.e. buying a home, college education)	11%	8%	7%	13%	17%	4%
No, I spent more than expected, but it was worth it	9%	6%	14%	9%	13%	5%
No, I have zero regrets	81%	86%	80%	78%	70%	91%

What influenced how much you spent on your wedding?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Family traditions	48%	49%	48%	43%	48%	53%
Long-term financial goals (i.e. paying off student loan debt, saving for the future)	38%	38%	38%	45%	40%	33%
My family and friends' suggestions heavily influenced my decisions	28%	30%	27%	40%	24%	22%
Seeing other people's lavish weddings on social media	9%	9%	8%	15%	10%	4%
Keeping up with the Jones' (i.e. I wanted to stay on-par or out do other weddings I've attended)	7%	5%	8%	12%	8%	2%
Pop culture moments (i.e. Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle or Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' wedding)	5%	4%	6%	11%	3%	1%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
Family traditions	48%	44%	52%	49%	44%	52%
Long-term financial goals (i.e. paying off student loan debt, saving for the future)	38%	51%	38%	32%	38%	38%
My family and friends' suggestions heavily influenced my decisions	28%	29%	28%	28%	33%	24%
Seeing other people's lavish weddings on social media	9%	6%	8%	10%	13%	5%
Keeping up with the Jones' (i.e. I wanted to stay on-par or out do other weddings I've attended)	7%	5%	7%	7%	11%	2%
Pop culture moments (i.e. Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle or Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' wedding)	5%	3%	4%	6%	8%	2%

What did you do with any financial gifts you received at your wedding?

	Total n=1002	Women n=548	Men n=454	Gen Z/Mill. n=327	Gen X n=204	Boomers+ n=471
Saved it	30%	28%	32%	36%	25%	28%
Spent on normal expenses	27%	30%	25%	32%	27%	24%
Used it for the honeymoon	24%	23%	25%	32%	25%	18%
I didn't receive any financial gifts	20%	18%	22%	15%	18%	24%
Paid down debt	14%	13%	14%	18%	18%	9%
Put towards the wedding itself	9%	8%	9%	14%	9%	5%
Put it towards a down payment for a house	8%	9%	7%	10%	12%	5%
Other	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	3%

	Total n=1002	Dating n=269	Engaged n=168	Married n=550	Finances Matter n=488	Finances Don't Matter n=514
Saved it	30%	28%	29%	32%	32%	28%
Spent on normal expenses	27%	29%	28%	27%	29%	26%
Used it for the honeymoon	24%	27%	24%	23%	25%	23%
I didn't receive any financial gifts	20%	22%	16%	19%	16%	24%
Paid down debt	14%	13%	15%	14%	17%	11%
Put towards the wedding itself	9%	9%	10%	8%	12%	5%
Put it towards a down payment for a house	8%	8%	8%	8%	12%	4%
Other	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%