

## Spending Patterns of High School Seniors

### Spending patterns of employed high school seniors, by sex, race, and college plans: 1981-1990

| Expense and spending pattern | Percent of 1981 seniors | Total | Percent of 1990 seniors |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|--------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                              |                         |       | Sex                     |        | Race  |       | Planning to go to 4-year college | Not planning to go to 4-year college |
|                              |                         |       | Male                    | Female | White | Black |                                  |                                      |
| <b>Savings for education</b> |                         |       |                         |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
| None or only a little        | 70.2                    | 73.1  | 73.8                    | 72.7   | 73.0  | 69.9  | 70.5                             | 80.9                                 |
| Some                         | 12.4                    | 10.7  | 9.9                     | 11.5   | 11.1  | 6.2   | 10.9                             | 9.8                                  |
| About half                   | 6.4                     | 7.5   | 7.5                     | 8.2    | 6.8   | 7.5   | 10.4                             | 8.1                                  |
| Most                         | 6.4                     | 4.5   | 4.5                     | 4.3    | 4.9   | 5.0   | 5.4                              | 2.1                                  |
| All or almost all            | 4.6                     | 4.2   | 3.7                     | 4.5    | 3.6   | 8.5   | 5.2                              | 1.8                                  |
| <b>Car expenses</b>          |                         |       |                         |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
| None or only a little        | 62.4                    | 58.2  | 52.8                    | 64.4   | 55.8  | 72.0  | 61.1                             | 51.7                                 |
| Some                         | 14.7                    | 14.9  | 15.7                    | 13.6   | 16.3  | 8.9   | 14.7                             | 15.1                                 |
| About half                   | 11.1                    | 11.3  | 11.3                    | 14.6   | 7.7   | 12.2  | 6.6                              | 10.5                                 |
| Most                         | 6.6                     | 8.5   | 8.6                     | 8.4    | 9.2   | 4.2   | 7.9                              | 9.5                                  |
| All or almost all            | 5.3                     | 7.2   | 7.2                     | 8.3    | 5.8   | 6.7   | 8.3                              | 5.9                                  |
| <b>Long-range savings</b>    |                         |       |                         |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
| None or only a little        | 70.7                    | 73.4  | 74.1                    | 72.8   | 74.2  | 70.7  | 74.6                             | 72.4                                 |
| Some                         | 13.4                    | 12.7  | 12.5                    | 12.8   | 12.8  | 9.6   | 13.1                             | 11.8                                 |
| About half                   | 7.0                     | 6.5   | 6.5                     | 7.2    | 5.8   | 6.2   | 11.0                             | 5.5                                  |
| Most                         | 4.3                     | 3.4   | 3.0                     | 3.8    | 3.5   | 1.6   | 2.9                              | 4.2                                  |
| All or almost all            | 4.6                     | 4.0   | 4.0                     | 3.1    | 4.8   | 3.3   | 7.2                              | 3.9                                  |
| <b>Personal items</b>        |                         |       |                         |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
| None or only a little        | 24.6                    | 24.9  | 26.7                    | 22.9   | 22.2  | 31.0  | 23.1                             | 28.3                                 |
| Some                         | 19.1                    | 18.7  | 19.6                    | 17.6   | 19.7  | 15.9  | 18.8                             | 17.2                                 |
| About half                   | 17.1                    | 16.7  | 16.7                    | 17.7   | 15.6  | 17.4  | 14.3                             | 16.7                                 |
| Most                         | 16.8                    | 16.7  | 15.6                    | 18.1   | 17.4  | 12.5  | 18.0                             | 14.5                                 |
| All or almost all            | 22.4                    | 23.1  | 23.1                    | 20.3   | 25.8  | 23.3  | 26.2                             | 23.6                                 |
| <b>Family expenses</b>       |                         |       |                         |        |       |       |                                  |                                      |
| None or only a little        | 82.0                    | 82.0  | 84.0                    | 79.6   | 86.6  | 61.7  | 84.1                             | 76.8                                 |
| Some                         | 9.7                     | 8.8   | 8.3                     | 9.6    | 7.0   | 18.1  | 8.4                              | 9.9                                  |
| About half                   | 3.6                     | 3.6   | 3.5                     | 3.1    | 4.1   | 2.9   | 4.9                              | 3.1                                  |
| Most                         | 2.0                     | 2.0   | 1.7                     | 2.3    | 1.3   | 2.5   | 1.5                              | 2.8                                  |
| All or almost all            | 2.8                     | 2.8   | 3.7                     | 2.9    | 4.4   | 2.2   | 12.7                             | 2.9                                  |

**SOURCE:** University of Michigan, Institute for Social research, *Monitoring the Future*, 1981 and 1990.