92% of all respondents want to leave money and other assets behind, but 64% do not have a formal estate plan in place, including almost half of seniors (46%) and over half of baby boomers (59%).

Make me proud

Americans are adopting more savvy financial habits as they prioritize their futures, the new Merrill Edge Summer Report finds.

Financial feats

In the past year, 85% of Americans took steps to improve their financial lives, including:

- 45% saving more money
- 42% paying off some credit card debt
- 35% limiting spending on luxuries like eating out and entertainment
- 26% skipping travel or vacations
- 18% delaying retirement
- 15% taking on a second job or working overtime
- 14% investing some of their savings in the market
- 13% raising their credit score
- 7% saving enough to live on for three months without an income
- 6% limiting spending on expensive items like clothes, shoes, or jewelry
- 5% limiting or reducing their social media use
- 4% giving up all carbs, sugar and/or alcohol

Treating yourself

Nearly half of Americans are changing their financial habits in favor of their new "healthy" mentalities.

Impact spending: put your money where your mouth is

A growing number of Americans are aligning their spending with their personal values.

Debtor nation

68% of Americans have purposefully delayed or abstained from certain activities or life milestones in order to save for a rainy day.

Would you rather?

When choosing between two retailers selling an identical product, 42% of Americans would choose the retailer selling it at a higher price knowing the company’s core values align with their own.

Help wanted

New tech might be the answer for Americans looking to adopt better spending and savings habits.

You can’t take it with you — they hope

81% of current or future parents say it is important to leave an inheritance to their children.

Source: Merrill Edge Report Spring 2019