### Report



ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION

INVESTOR EXPERIENCE RESEARCH STUDY August 19, 2020



### METHODOLOGY

## Leger

#### QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

An online survey of 1942 Canadian investors was completed between April 1-12, 2020, using Leger's online panel.

employer

derivatives

### To qualify for this survey, respondents must have had at least one of the following investment products:

- Stocks
- Exchange-traded units (ETFs and REITs)
- Canada Savings Bonds
- Bonds or notes other than Canada Savings Bonds
- Mutual funds
- NOTE: investors were terminated if they only had 'Canada savings bonds' or 'Segregated funds' or 'Pension plan'.

### And, invest in one of the following ways:

- 1. With an advisor
- 2. With an online investment service
- As a self-directed investor

NOTE: investors were terminated if they only had investments through their employee pension plan

#### The data was weighted using the following steps:

1. All qualified, terminated and incomplete respondents were weighted by a matrix of age, gender, and region.

Guaranteed Investment

A pension plan through my

Other types of securities or

Certificates (GICs)

Segregated funds

- 2. Data was filtered by those who qualified (both completes and incompletes) to see their distribution by age, gender and region.
- 3. Final weighting based on this distribution was applied to the qualified completed respondents.

#### ABOUT LEGER'S ONLINE PANEL

Leger's online panel has approximately 400,000 members nationally and has a retention rate of 90%.

#### QUALITY CONTROL

Leger's methods of data collection and storage outperform the norms set by WAPOR (The World Association for Public Opinion Research). These measures are applied at every stage of the project: from data collection to processing, through to analysis. We aim to answer our clients' needs with honesty, total confidentiality, and integrity.



7-IN-10 (74%) OF INVESTORS RECEIVED COMMUNICATION OR HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR ADVISOR, PORTFOLIO MANAGER OR ROBO-ADVISOR DURING THE PANDEMIC WHILE A QUARTER OF INVESTORS (26%) DID NOT.

- 46% of investors had discussions with their advisor, 17% received an informative email or message and 11% received some other form of communication.
- Investors generally believed that the quality of the advice that they received was high. 81% of respondents viewed the advice positively; however, a significant minority of respondents (18%) held negative views to towards the advice they received.

TWO-IN-TEN SAY THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF STRESS IS 'VERY HIGH' OR 'HIGH'; TWICE THAT PRIOR TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

• Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic only 8% of investors say their stress level could be ranked as 'very high' or 'high': 20% currently rank their stress at that level. Nearly half (47%) currently say their stress level is 'moderate', while only 27% said their stress level was 'moderate' prior to the pandemic.

MOST INVESTORS (85%) HAVE NOT SOLD ANY INVESTMENTS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- A small, but significant number of respondents (7%) sold a large portion of their investments (20% or more of their portfolios).
- Individuals with lower levels of financial knowledge were much more likely to sell at this time. 27% of investors with very low and 21% with low financial literacy sold over 20% of their assets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



#### INVESTORS OWN A WIDE VARIETY OF INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

- Investors are most likely to have:
  - Mutual funds (68%)
  - Stocks (48%)
  - Pension plan through their employers (46%)
  - GICs (37%)
- An investor's age and amount invested play a role in the types of investment products owned.

OVERALL, THREE-QUARTERS OF INVESTORS (74%) ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE AS AN INVESTOR.

#### THREE-IN-TEN (30%) INVESTORS RATE THEIR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FINANCIAL MATTERS HIGH

- Half (52%) say their level of knowledge is average, while few (18%) rate their knowledge low.
- Those most likely to answer the skill testing questions **correctly** include:
  - Investors who believe they have a high level of knowledge when it comes to financial matters
  - Investors who take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments, and
  - Investors who do not have an advisor.



#### THREE-QUARTERS (77%) OF INVESTORS USE AN ADVISOR TO HELP MANAGE THEIR INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

- Less than one-in-ten (7%) use online investment services, while 69% work with advisors and 23% are self-directed investors who do not work with advisors.
- Among the 23% of investors who do not use an advisor, six-in-ten (60%) enjoy managing their own investments, while 38% say it is too expensive and one-quarter (25%) do not trust financial advisors.

#### INVESTORS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICE AND ADVICE THEY RECEIVE FROM THEIR ADVISOR

• 83% are satisfied and only 5% are dissatisfied.

#### ABOUT SIX-IN-TEN (58%) INVESTORS CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE CONSERVATIVE WHEN MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS

• Nearly four-in-ten (37%) investors consider themselves to have moderate to high level of risk when making investment decisions, with 54% of those who <u>do not</u> work with an advisor, considering themselves to have moderate to high level of risk.



#### When considering the following aspects of their investments:

- 1. The overall return of my investments
- 2. How my investments are performing against my financial goals
- 3. The amount of fees I am charged
- 4. The change in value of each of my investments
- 5. How the return on my investments compares to the return on other similar types of investments

#### NEARLY ALL BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MONITOR THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THEIR INVESTMENTS

- Two-thirds (67%) of investors spend at least some time per month monitoring these aspects of their investments.
- An average investor spends 170 minutes per month monitoring these aspects.
- The majority of investors find it easy to find information about or understand these various aspects of investments

#### SEVEN-IN-TEN INVESTORS FIND AT LEAST ONE CHALLENGE TO UNDERSTANDING THEIR INVESTMENTS.

• Seven-in-ten (68%) of investors say they have at least once challenge to understanding their investments, with the biggest challenges being the need for more financial knowledge (30%) followed by confusion surrounding financial concepts (22%) and the information not being presented clearly (21%).



#### MOST INVESTORS PREFER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENTS VIA DIGITAL FORMS OF COMMINCATION

- 48% saying by email, 40% from a website, and 17% through a mobile app. Just over three-in-ten want to receive information inperson (32%), and by mail (31%). Investors could select multiple channels of communication.
- Age plays a role in how investors want to receive information about their investments, with younger investors significantly more likely to prefer email or a mobile app, while older investors (age 55+) are significantly more likely to want to receive information via mail or in-person.

HALF (50%) OF INVESTORS FIND ADVICE FROM A FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO BE THEIR PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFORMATION WHEN DECIDING TO BUY OR SELL AN INVESTMENT

• Others say they consult continuous disclosure documents and summary disclosure documents when deciding to buy or sell an investment (10% and 9% respectively).

ONLY ONE-IN-TEN (10%) INVESTORS BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO LOSE MONEY TO AN INVESTMENT FRAUD OR SCAM

• Half (52%) of investors would contact the police or RCMP if they suspected they were offered a fraudulent investment, while slightly fewer would contact their bank (42%), or their advisor (41%). One-quarter would contact a securities regulator (24%).

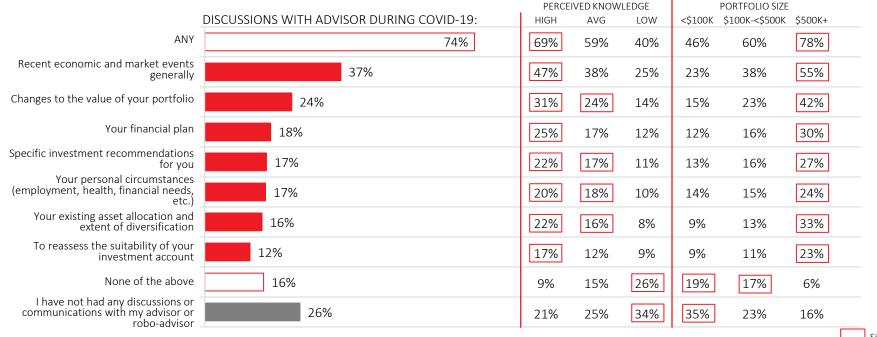


### SEVEN-IN-TEN COMMUNICATED WITH THEIR ADVISOR DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



As the COVID-19 pandemic is causing significant turbulence in the capital markets, seven-in-ten (74%) investors have had discussions or communications from their advisor or robo-advisor about their investments or strategies. One-quarter (26%) have had no communications whatsoever with their advisor. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) discussed recent economic and market events generally, and 24% addressed changes to the value of their portfolio. Fewer spoke to their

financial plan (18%), specific investment recommendations (17%), their personal circumstances (17%), or their existing asset allocation and extent of diversification (16%).

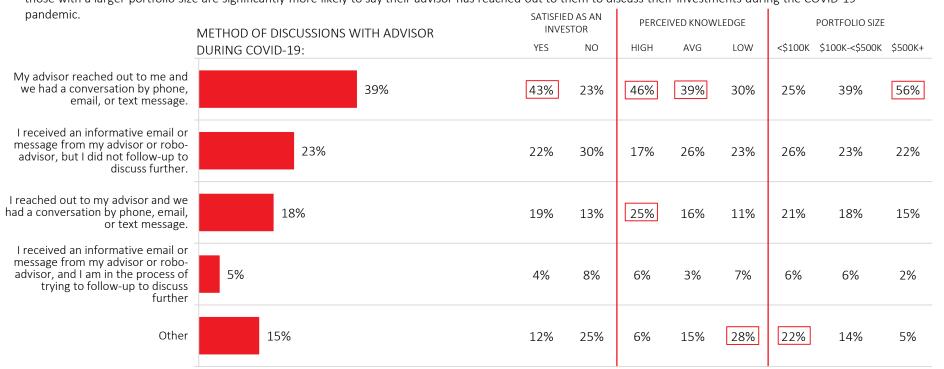


Significantly higher

## FOUR-IN-TEN ADVISORS REACHED OUT AND HAD A CONVERSATION VIA PHONE, E-MAIL, OR TEXT MESSAGING.



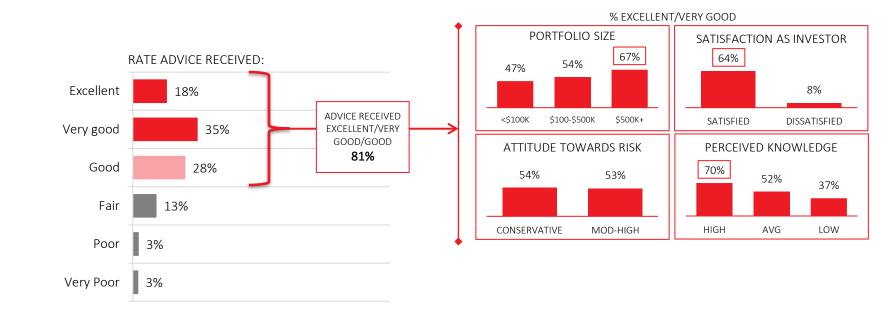
Of those who have spoken with their advisors/robo-advisors, four-in-ten (39%) investors say their advisor reached out to them, and they had a conversation by phone, e-mail, or text messaging. Another 23% say their advisor reached out but they did not follow up to discuss further, and 18% say they had to be the one to reach out to their advisor, but they then had a discussion. Investors who are satisfied as an investor, those with high or average knowledge of financial matters, and those with a larger portfolio size are significantly more likely to say their advisor has reached out to them to discuss their investments during the COVID-19



### MAJORITY OF INVESTORS RATED THE ADVICE THEY RECEIVED FROM THEIR LEGET ADVISOR TO BE EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD.



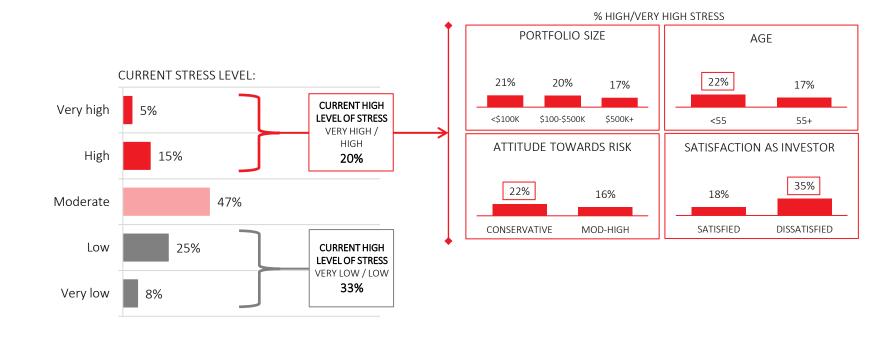
Majority (81%) rated the advice they received from their advisor about investing during the COVID-19 pandemic positively. Investors with a higher value portfolio, those who are satisfied as an investor, and those whose knowledge of financial matters is high, are significantly more likely to rate the advice they received positively.



## TWO-IN-TEN SAY THEY ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A HIGH OR VERY HIGH LEVEL OF STRESS WHEN THINKING ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENTS.



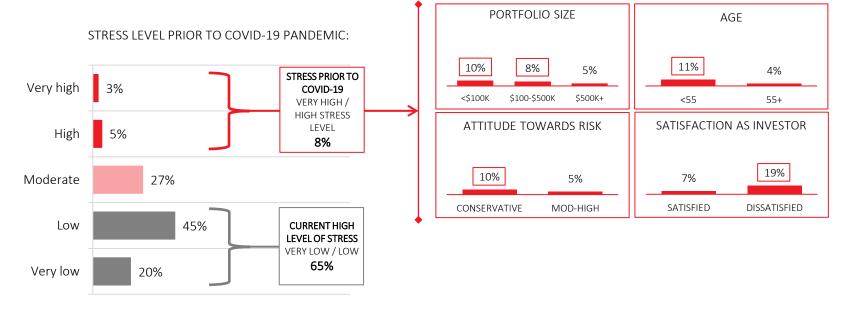
While nearly half (47%) of investors say their current level of stress when thinking about their investments is moderate, two-in-ten (20%) say their stress level is high or very high. Younger investors (<55), investors with a conservative attitude towards risk, and those who say they are dissatisfied as an investor are significantly more likely to admit they are experiencing a high level of stress right now. Portfolio size has little to do with stress levels.



### PREVIOUS TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, LESS THAN ONE-IN-TEN HAD A HIGH OR VERY-HIGH STRESS LEVEL ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENTS.



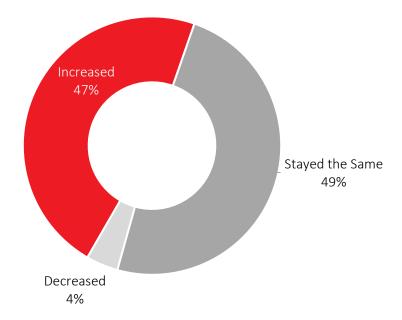
While two-in-ten (20%) investors say they are currently experiencing a high/very high level of stress when thinking about their investments, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, less than half that (only 8%) said they had a high/very high level of stress. Younger investors (<55), those with a conservative attitude towards risk, and those who say they are dissatisfied as an investor are still significantly more likely to say they previously had a high/very high level of stress, as did those with a portfolio value of <\$500K. 27% previously had a moderate level of stress regarding their investments compared to 47% who say their stress level is moderate now. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, two-thirds (65%) had a low/very low level of stress when thinking about their investments compared to half that (33%) currently.



## NEARLY HALF OF INVESTORS ARE EXPERIENCING INCREASED LEVELS OF STRESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



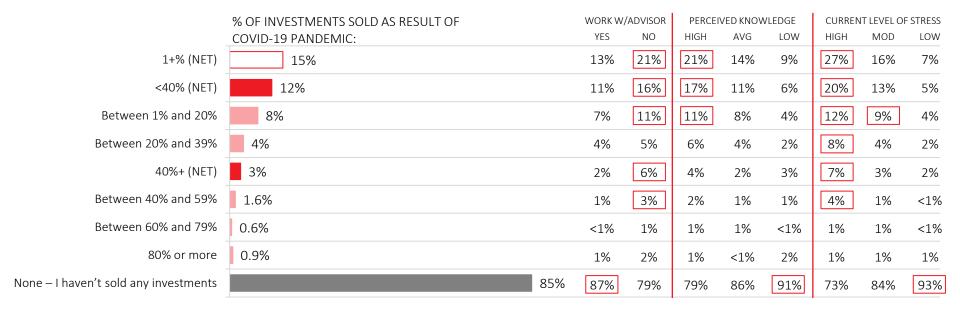
Investors reported on their current level of stress and their perceived level of stress before the pandemic. Further analysis of these responses revealed that 47% of investors are experiencing increased levels of stress. Increased levels of stress can dramatically affect investment decisions by decreasing a person's willingness to take risks (risk aversion).



## MOST HAVE NOT SOLD ANY INVESTMENTS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; THOSE WHO HAVE, SOLD LESS THAN 40%.



Most investors (83%) have not sold any investments as a result of the COVID-10 pandemic. A small, but significant number of respondents (7%) sold 20% or more of their portfolios. Those working with an advisor, those who have a low knowledge of financial matters, and those saying they currently have a low level of stress when thinking about their investments are significantly more likely to have not sold any investments. For the 15% of investors who have sold some of their investments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are most likely to have divested themselves of less than 40%. Investors who say they are experiencing a high level of stress about their investments are significantly more likely to have sold, as are those with a high level of knowledge, and those who are not working with an advisor.

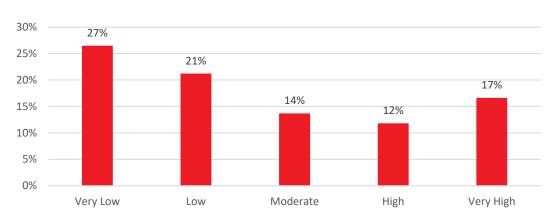


## INDIVIDUALS WITH LOWER LEVELS OF FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE WERE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO SELL DURING PANDEMIC.



There were correlations between financial knowledge and selling behaviour. Individuals with lower levels of financial knowledge were much more likely to sell at this time. 27% of investors with very low and 21% with low financial literacy sold over 20% of their assets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial knowledge was measured using a five-question quiz. These questions covered inflation, compounding, diversification, numeracy, and bond prices. We do not have sufficient data on each individual respondent to evaluate whether they should be selling or holding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic nor whether they sold due to financial hardship.

#### PORTION OF INVESTORS SELLING 20% OR MORE OF PORTFOLIO DURING PANDEMIC



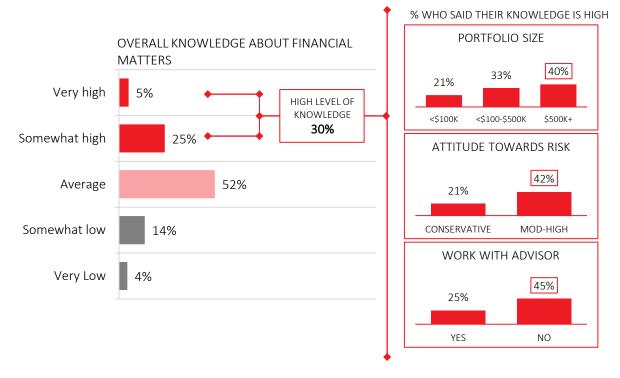
MEASURED LEVELS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY



## THREE-IN-TEN RATE THEIR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FINANCIAL MATTERS HIGH, WHILE HALF STAY NEUTRAL.



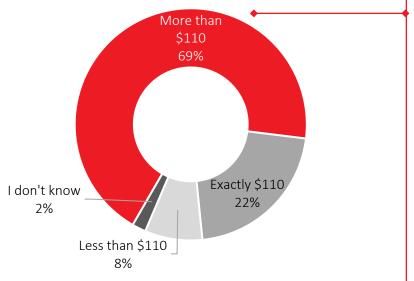
Three-in-ten (30%) investors rate their overall knowledge about financial matters high, while just over half (52%) stay average. Few (18%) rate their knowledge low or very low. Those who have more money invested, those that take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments, and those who *do not* work with an advisor are significantly more likely to say their overall knowledge about financial matters is high.



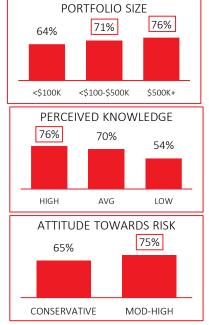
## SEVEN-IN-TEN CORRECTLY ANSWERED THAT THEIR \$100 WOULD GROW INTO MORE THAN \$110 AFTER 5 YEARS AT 2% PER YEAR.



Suppose you had \$100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much do you think you would have in the account if you left the money to grow?





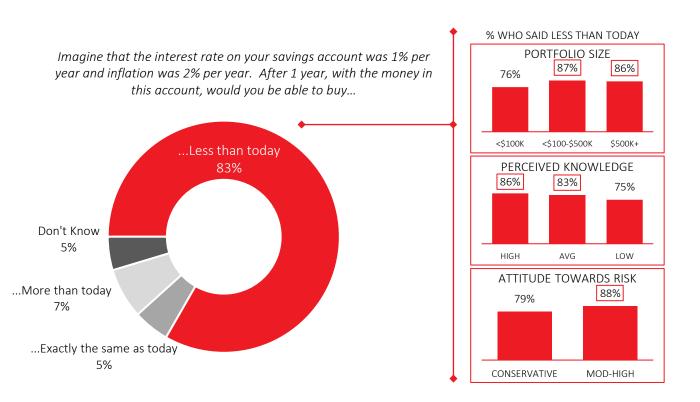


About seven-in-ten (69%) investors correctly answered that their \$100 would grow into *more than* \$110 after 5 years at 2% per year while one-in-five (22%) incorrectly believe it would grow to exactly \$110.

Investors with more money invested, have high perceived knowledge of financial matters, and those that take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments, are significantly more likely to answer that after 5 years at 2% interest, the account will grow to more than \$110.

## MORE THAN EIGHT-IN-TEN INVESTORS UNDERSTAND HOW INFLATION AFFECTS THEIR INVESTMENTS.





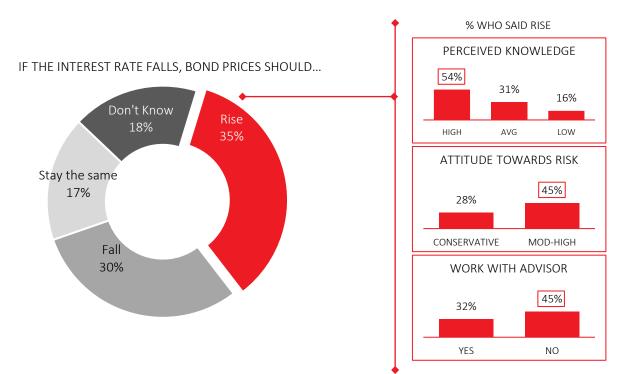
More than eight-in-ten (83%) investors correctly identified they would be able to purchase *less* if inflation was 2% and interest was 1% per year, after 5 years.

Investors with more money invested, have an average to high knowledge of financial matters, and those that take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments are significantly more likely to have correctly identified that you would be able to purchase *less* if inflation was 2% and interest was 1% per year.

Base: All (n=1942)

## ONLY ONE-THIRD CORRECTLY ANSWERED THAT BOND PRICES SHOULD RISE IF THE INTEREST RATE FALLS.



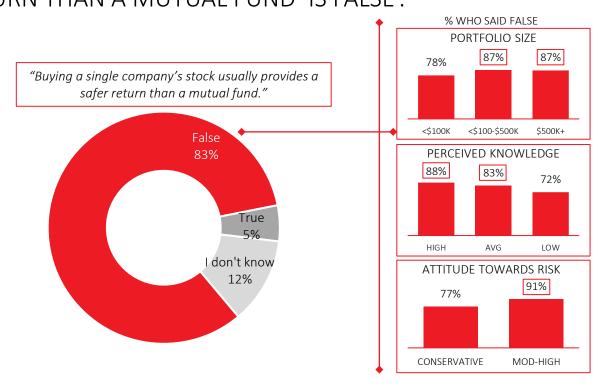


Canadian investors struggled the most with this question. 35% knew that bond prices should rise while 30% incorrectly said they should fall. Of all the questions, this one had the largest number of investor who indicated that they didn't know the answer.

Investors with a high knowledge of financial matters, those that take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments and those that *do not* work with an advisor are significantly more likely to have correctly answered that bond prices should *rise*, if interest rates fall.

# MORE THAN EIGHT-IN-TEN INVESTORS CORRECTLY ANSWERED THAT 'BUYING A SINGLE COMPANY'S STOCK USUALLY PROVIDES A SAFER RETURN THAN A MUTUAL FUND' IS FALSE'.





More than eight-in-ten (83%) correctly answered that buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a mutual fund is *false*.

Investors with \$100K or more invested, those who have an average to high knowledge of financial matters, and those that take a moderate to high level of risk when it comes to their investments are significantly more likely to have correctly identified that that buying a single company's stock usually provides a safer return than a mutual fund is false.

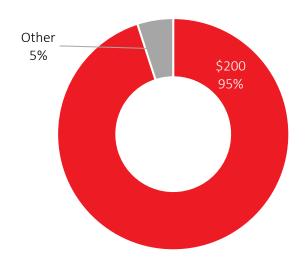
### NEARLY ALL INVESTORS COULD DIVIDE THE \$1,000 GIFT CORRECTLY.



Nearly all (95%) investors correctly divided the gift, saying that if five people are given a gift of \$1,000 in total, each person would get \$200.

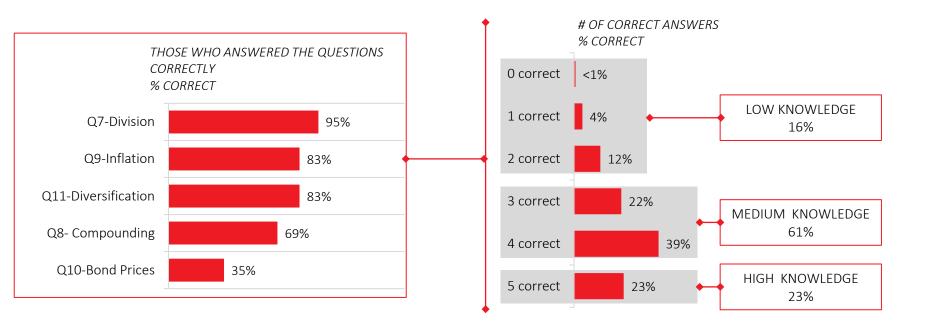
Imagine that five people are given a gift of \$1,000 in total.

HOW MUCH WOULD EACH PERSON GET?



## NEARLY ONE-QUARTER OF INVESTORS CORRECTLY ANSWERED ALL FIVE KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS.



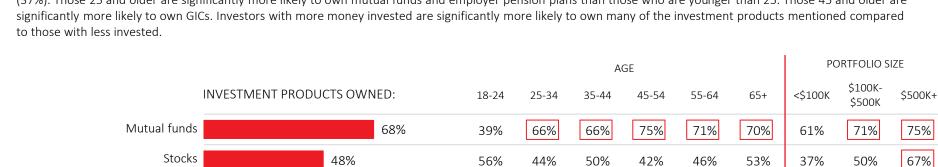




### MUTUAL FUNDS ARE THE MOST COMMON INVESTMENT PRODUCT, WITH NEARLY SEVEN-IN-TEN INVESTORS OWNING THEM.



Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) investors own mutual funds, followed by owning stocks (48%), having a pension plan through their employers (46%), and owning GICs (37%). Those 25 and older are significantly more likely to own mutual funds and employer pension plans than those who are younger than 25. Those 45 and older are significantly more likely to own GICs. Investors with more money invested are significantly more likely to own many of the investment products mentioned compared



27%

26%

8%

16%

2%

10%

31%

21%

11%

14%

6%

6%

50%

40%

16%

10%

11%

5%

8%

30%

22%

7%

10%

5%

9%

51%

39%

16%

12%

5%

6%

11%

50%

41%

18%

16%

3%

6%

8%

42%

32%

14%

6%

10%

4%

6%

51%

35%

18%

10%

5%

6%

8%

46%

46%

32%

24%

10%

10%

13%

Significantly higher

Stocks 48% 56% 44% A pension plan through my 46%

37%

19%

12%

8%

6%

8%

0004 Which of the following investment products do you own? Please select all that apply. Base: All (n=1942)

employer

ETFs and REITs

Savings Bonds

Canada Savings Bonds

Other types of securities or

Segregated funds

derivatives

(GICs)

Guaranteed Investment Certificates

Exchange-traded units, including

Bonds or notes other than Canada

46% 42% 15%

## SEVEN-IN-TEN INVESTORS USE AN ADVISOR TO HELP MANAGE THEIR INVESTMENTS.



Over three-quarters (77%) of investors use an advisor to help manage their investment account. 42% make decisions based on advisor recommendations, 27% give their advisor discretionary authority and 7% use an online investment service. 23% are self-directed investors who manage their own investments. Older investors and those with over \$100k invested are significantly more likely to work with an advisor and approve all decisions, while investors with less money invested are significantly more likely to use an online investment service. Younger investors are significantly more likely to use online investment services and are more likely to be a self-directed investor.

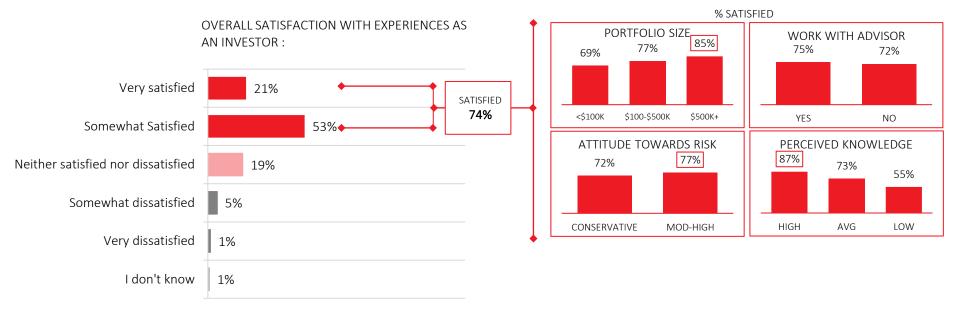


0005 Not including investments you may have that are part of your employer's pension plan, how do you manage your **primary** investment account (i.e., an account that holds stocks, ETFs, REITs, bonds, notes, mutual funds, or other types of securities or derivatives)? Base: All (n=1942)

## THREE-QUARTERS OF INVESTORS ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR OVERALL EXPERIENCES AS AN INVESTOR.

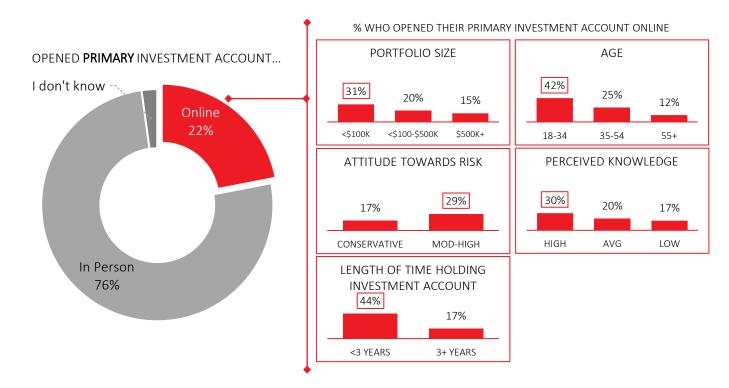


In general, three-quarters (74%) of investors are satisfied with their experience as an investor, while 19% feel neutral about their experience. Few (6%) investors are dissatisfied. Investors with more money invested (more than \$500K), those who are willing to take a moderate to high level of risk with their investments, and those who believe their knowledge of financial matters is high, are significantly more likely to be satisfied with their overall experience as an investor. Having an advisor does not significantly impact the level of satisfaction. Those who are retired and older investors are also significantly more likely to be satisfied with their overall experience as an investor.



## MORE THAN TWO-IN-TEN OPENED THEIR PRIMARY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT ONLINE.





More than two-in-ten (22%) investors opened their primary investment account online, while 76% did so in-person.

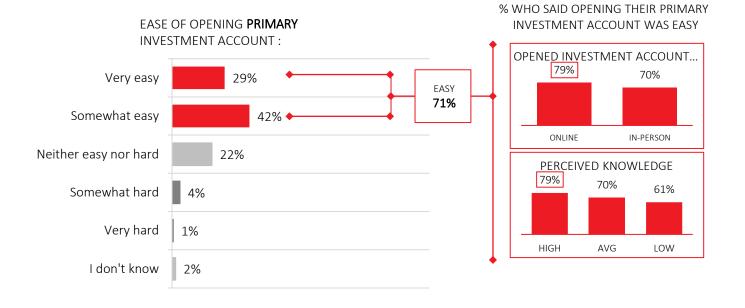
Those who have opened their account more recently (within the last 3 years) were also more likely to have opened their accounts online.

Investors aged 18-34 (vs. those 35+) are significantly more likely to have opened their accounts online, as are those with a smaller portfolio size, have a moderate to high level of attitude towards risk, and those who have a high knowledge of financial matters.

### SEVEN-IN-TEN FOUND THE PROCESS OF OPENING THEIR PRIMARY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT TO BE FASY.



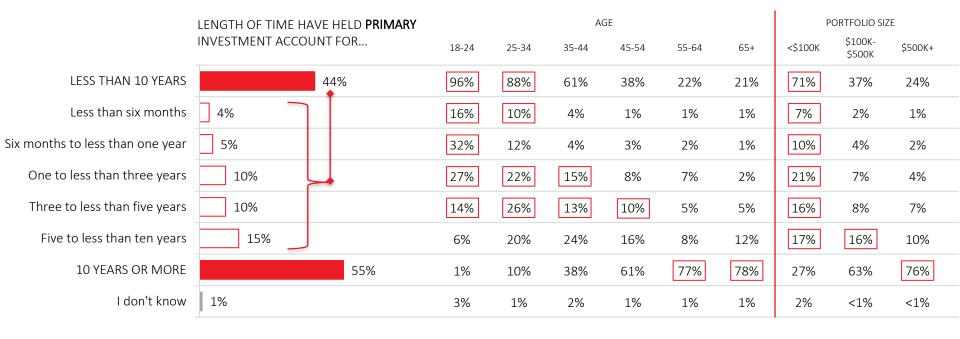
Seven-in-ten (71%) investors found the process of opening their primary investment account to be easy, with 29% saying very easy, while very few (5%) said it was hard. Those opening their primary account online are significantly more likely to say the process was easy. As well, those who believe their knowledge of financial matters is high (vs average or low) are significantly more likely to say the process was easy.



### MORE THAN HALF HAVE HELD THEIR PRIMARY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT FOR TEN OR MORE YEARS.



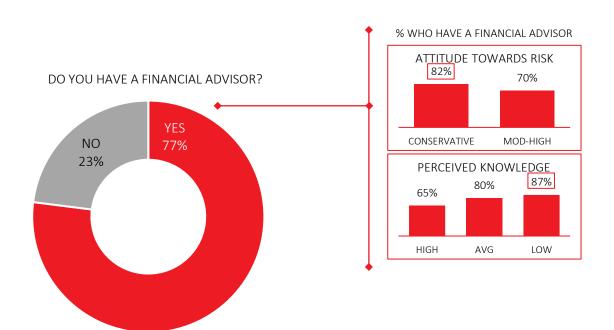
More than half (55%) of investors have held their primary investment account for ten or more years, while 44% have held their account for less than 10 years. Naturally, younger investors and investors with less money invested are significantly more likely to have held their investment account for less than 10 years, while the opposite is true for those who have held their primary investment account for more than ten years.





### THREE-QUARTERS OF INVESTORS HAVE A FINANCIAL ADVISOR.



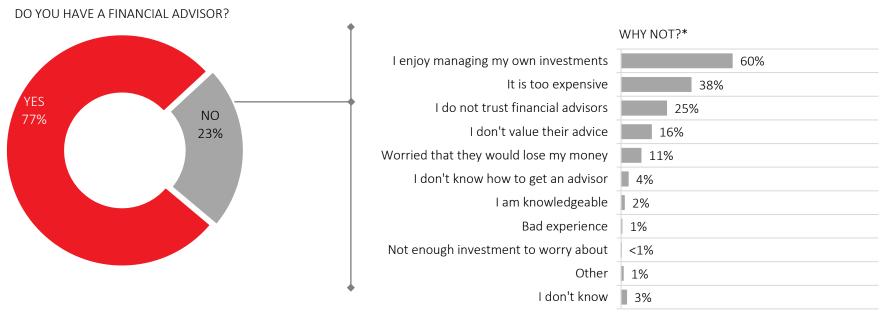


Three-quarters (77%) of investors have a financial advisor. Those who tolerate a conservative level of risk with their investments, and those who believe their knowledge of their investments is low are significantly more likely to have a financial advisor.

## SIX-IN-TEN SELF-DIRECTED INVESTORS ENJOY MANAGING THEIR OWN INVESTMENTS.



Among the 23% of investors who do not use an advisor, six-in-ten (60%) say the reason for not having an advisor is because they enjoy managing their own investments, while 38% say it is too expensive and one-quarter (25%) do not trust financial advisors.



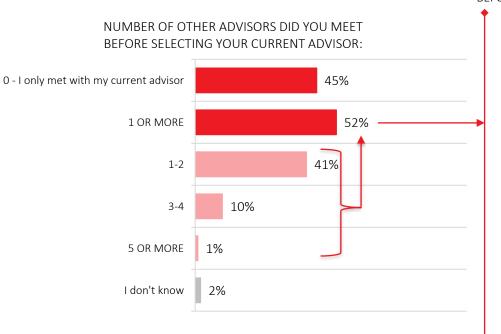
<sup>\*</sup>Does not sum to 100%. Respondents could select multiple options.

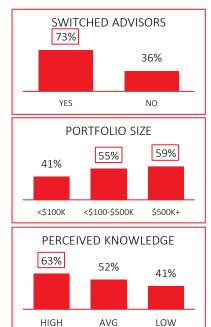
0005 Not including investments you may have that are part of your employer's pension plan, how do you manage your **primary** investment account (i.e., an account that holds stocks, ETFs, REITs, bonds, notes, mutual funds, or other types of securities or derivatives)? Base: All (n=1942)
0020 Why don't you invest through an advisor? Please select all that apply. Base: Those who do not use a financial advisor (n=459)

## JUST OVER HALF MET WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER ADVISOR BEFORE CHOOSING THEIR CURRENT ADVISOR.



### % WHO SAID THEY MET ONE OR MORE OTHER ADVISORS BEFORE SELECTING THEIR CURRENT ADVISOR





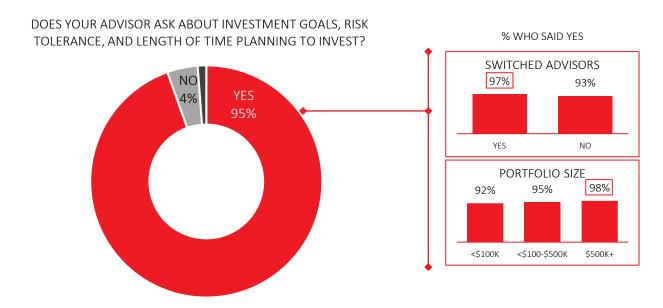
Among investors who have a financial advisor, nearly half (45%) only met with their current advisor. Those who have switched advisors are significantly more likely to have met with at least one other advisor before selecting their current advisor.

Investors with more investments (more than \$100K vs less than \$100K) and those who believe that they have average to high financial knowledge are significantly more likely to have met with at least one other advisor before selecting their current advisor.

## NEARLY ALL SAY THEIR ADVISOR ASKS ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENT GOALS, RISK TOLERANCE, AND LENGTH OF TIME THEY PLAN TO INVEST.



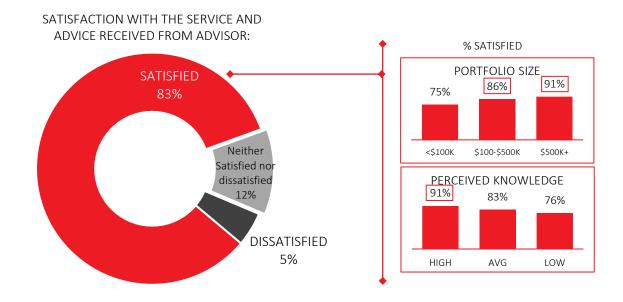
Nearly all (95%) investors who have an advisor say their advisor asks about their investment goals, risk tolerance, and length of time planning to invest. Those who have ever switched advisors and those with a larger portfolio (\$500K vs <\$500K) are significantly more likely to say their advisor asked about their investment goals, risk tolerance, and length of time planning to invest. Investors who say they are satisfied overall with their experience as an investor are also significantly more likely to say their advisor asked about these issues (96% vs. 82% those who are dissatisfied).



## MOST ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICE AND ADVICE THEY RECEIVE FROM THEIR ADVISOR.

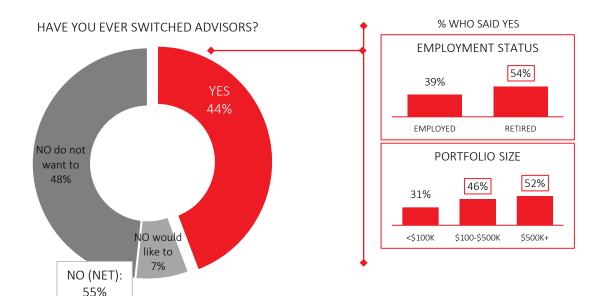


The majority (83%) of investors who have an advisor are satisfied with the service and advice they receive from their advisor, with 47% saying they are very satisfied. Few (5%) are dissatisfied. Investors with more money invested (more than \$100K vs. less than \$100K), and investors who believe their knowledge of financial matters is high are significantly more likely to be satisfied with their advisor.



# 55% OF INVESTORS HAVE NEVER SWITCHED THEIR ADVISOR, HOWEVER 7% WOULD LIKE TO.





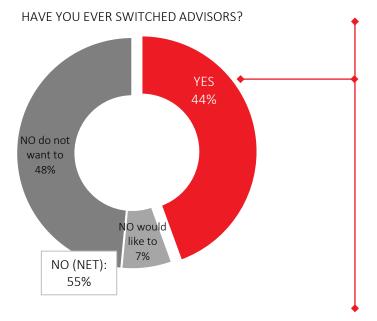
44% have switched advisors while 7% have not switched but would like to. Investors with more money invested (more than \$100K vs. <\$100K) are significantly more likely to have ever switched advisors.

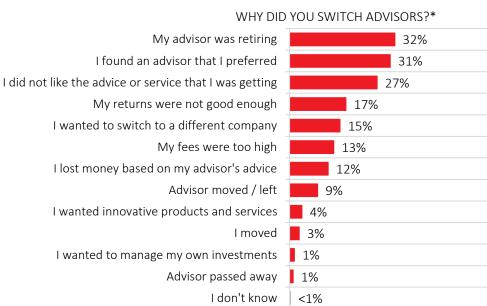
Investors who are retired (vs. employed) and older investors (55 and older vs. under 55) are significantly more likely to have ever switched advisors.

## THREE-IN-TEN OF THOSE THAT HAVE SWITCHED ADVISORS DID SO BECAUSE THEY FOUND AN ADVISOR THEY PREFERRED.



Among those who have ever switched advisors, three-in-ten did so because their advisor was retiring (32%) or they found an advisor they preferred (31%). Slightly fewer (27%) say they did not like the advice or service they were getting. Those with a high knowledge (compared to average or low knowledge) of financial matters are significantly more likely to say they lost money based on their advisor's advice or their returns were not good enough. Those with more money invested (More than \$100K) are significantly more likely to say they lost money based on their advisor's advice.





<sup>\*</sup>Does not sum to 100%. Respondents could select multiple options.

<sup>0017</sup> Have you ever switched advisors? Base: Those who have a financial advisor (n=1323)

<sup>0018</sup> Why did you want to switch advisors? Please select all that apply. Base: Those who wanted to switch financial advisors (n=563)



#### ABOUT SIX-IN-TEN ARE CONSERVATIVE WHEN MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS.

Six-in-ten (58%) investors take a conservative approach when making investment decisions, while 42% consider themselves to have moderate to high level of risk when making investment decisions. Investors who helieve their level of knowledge about financial matters is low and who have a smaller nortfolio size (<\$100K vs

\$100K+), are significantly more likely to take a co conservative approach.	9					•	•	•	
АТ	TITUDE TOWARDS RISK WHEN	WORK WITH ADVISOR		KNOWLEDGE OF FINANCIAL MATTERS		PORTFOLIO SIZE			
	AKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS	YES	NO	HIGH	AVG	LOW	<\$100K	\$100K- \$500K	\$500K+
I am very conservative and try to minimize risk and avoid the possibility of any loss		19%	16%	11%	19%	28%	21%	17%	13%

13% I am conservative but willing to accept a small 40% 46% 29% 29% 43% 39% 37% 39%

amount of risk and possibility of loss I am willing to accept a moderate level of risk and tolerate moderate losses to achieve potentially 37% 35% 44% 48% 35% 24% 34% 39% 44%

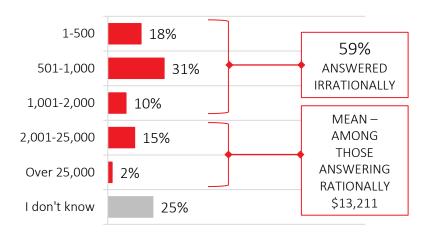
higher returns

I am aggressive and typically take on significant risk. I can tolerate large losses for the potential of 5% 10% 12% 3% 1% 5% 7% 4% achieving higher returns

#### INVESTORS STRUGGLE TO EVALUATE RISKY PROPOSITIONS.



"You have just won \$1000 in a lottery. You are offered the chance to increase your winnings by flipping a coin. If the coin lands heads you lose the \$1000 and end up with nothing. You win if the coin lands tails. What is the smallest amount of money you would you need to win to take this bet?"



If they have just won \$1000 in a lottery, and are offered the chance to increase the winnings by flipping a coin, 59% did not act economically rationally. Among those answering more than \$2000, the median was \$13,211.

This small gamble was a greatly simplified version of the risks that investors need to evaluate when selecting investment products. Evaluating risky propositions is challenging and many investors in this sample struggled to do it.

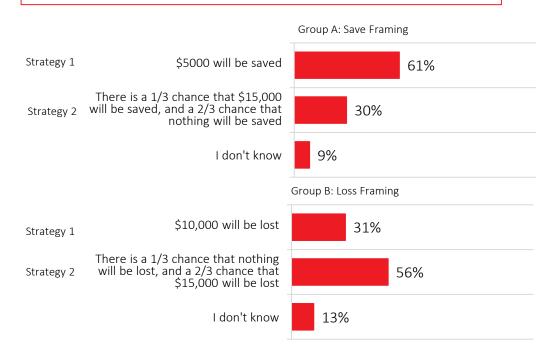
#### INVESTORS ARE AFFECTED BY HOW CHOICES ARE PRESENTED.



For this question the total sample was split into two groups. The outcomes of the strategies for each group was the same; however the wording for each strategy was different.

The strategies for both groups have the same expected outcomes. Strategy 1 leaves the investor with \$5000 and strategy 2 leaves them with either 15,000 or nothing. Despite the outcomes being the same, the two groups made very different decisions about which strategy to choose. In Group A, 61% of investors chose the conservative option and in Group B this decreased to 31%. The way the choices were framed had a very significant impact on decision making of respondents.

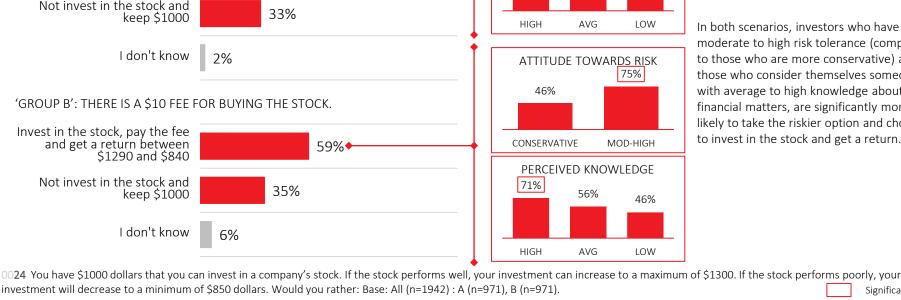
Imagine that declining stock prices are going to cause you to lose \$15,000. Two alternative investment strategies are available to protect your investments. Assume the exact outcomes of the strategies are as follows: Which strategy would you choose?



0023 Imagine that declining stock prices are going to cause you to lose \$15,000. Two alternative investment strategies are available to protect your investments. Assume the exact outcomes of the strategies are as follows: Which strategy would you choose? Base: All (n=1942): A (n=971), B (n=971).

#### INVESTORS ARE SENSITIVE TO FEES AND PAYING THEM IMPACTS THEIR % INVEST IN THE STOCK DECISION MAKING. ATTITUDE TOWARDS RISK 80% 55% You have \$1000 dollars that you can invest in a company's stock. If the stock performs well, your investment can increase to a maximum of \$1300. If the stock performs poorly, your investment will decrease to a minimum of \$850 dollars. WOULD YOU RATHER? Whether or not investors were charged a **CONSERVATIVE** MOD-HIGH \$10 fee for buying a stock had an impact 'GROUP A': THERE IS NO FEE FOR BUYING THE STOCK. PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE on their willingness to make the Invest in the stock and get a 74% 64% investment. Investors that had to pay a fee return between \$1300 and 54% 65% were 6% less likely to make the \$850 investment. Not invest in the stock and 33% keep \$1000 HIGH AVG IOW In both scenarios, investors who have a I don't know ATTITUDE TOWARDS RISK 75%

moderate to high risk tolerance (compared to those who are more conservative) and those who consider themselves someone with average to high knowledge about financial matters, are significantly more likely to take the riskier option and choose to invest in the stock and get a return.



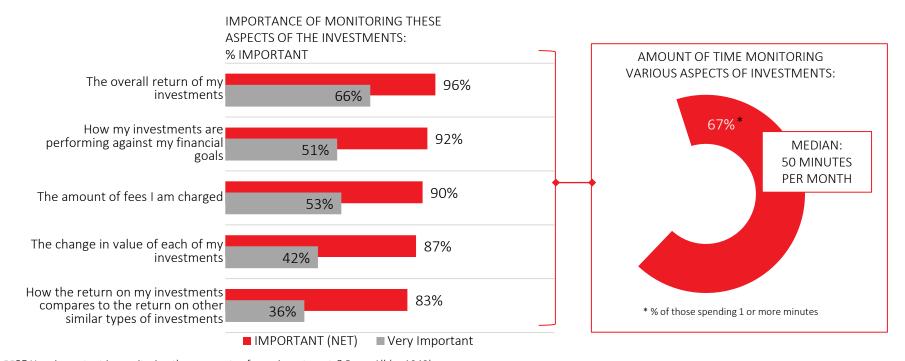
investment will decrease to a minimum of \$850 dollars. Would you rather: Base: All (n=1942): A (n=971). B (n=971). Significantly higher



#### NEARLY ALL BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MONITOR VARIOUS ASPECTS OF



Nearly all believe it is important to monitor various aspects of their investments, with 96% saying monitoring the *overall return of their investments* is important. Two-thirds (67%) of investors spend at least some time per month monitoring aspects of their investments. The average amount of time spent per month is 50 minutes (not including zeros).



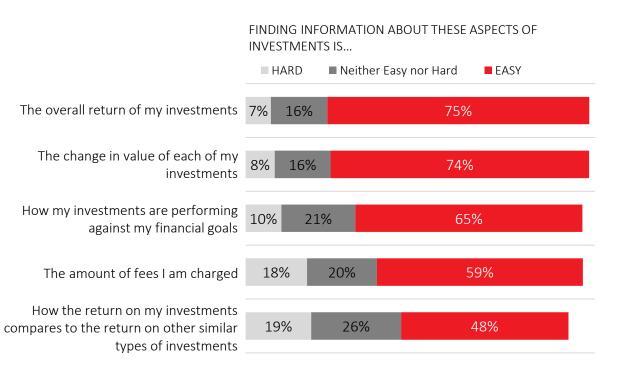
<sup>0025</sup> How important is monitoring these aspects of your investments? Base: All (n=1942)

THEIR INVESTMENTS.

<sup>0026</sup> In a typical month, how many minutes do you spend monitoring these aspects of your investments? Base: All (n=1942)

# THE MAJORITY ARE AT LEAST NEUTRAL WHEN IT COMES TO THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENTS.





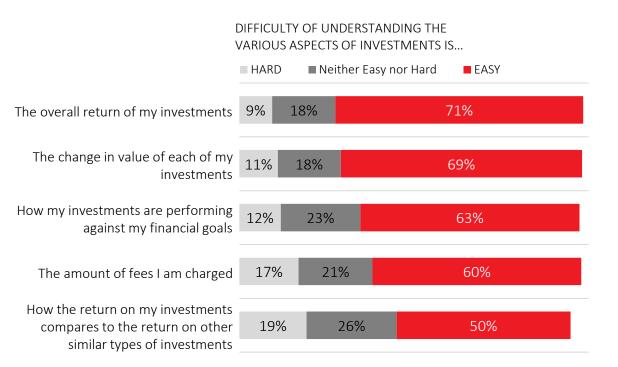
The majority are at least neutral when it comes to the difficulty of finding information about the various aspects of investments, with few saying finding information is hard.

Three-quarters (75%) say that finding information on the *overall return of their investments* is easy, and a similar number (74%) find it easy to find information about the *change in value of each of their investments*. Just under half (48%) say that finding information about *how the return on their investments compares to the return on other similar types of investments* is easy.

Investors with more money invested (\$100K+ vs. <\$100K) and those who believe they have high knowledge of financial matters (vs. average or low) are significantly more likely to believe that finding information about all of the various aspects of their investments is easy.

## THE MAJORITY OF INVESTORS ARE AT LEAST NEUTRAL WHEN IT COMES TO THE DIFFICULTY OF UNDERSTANDING THEIR INVESTMENTS.





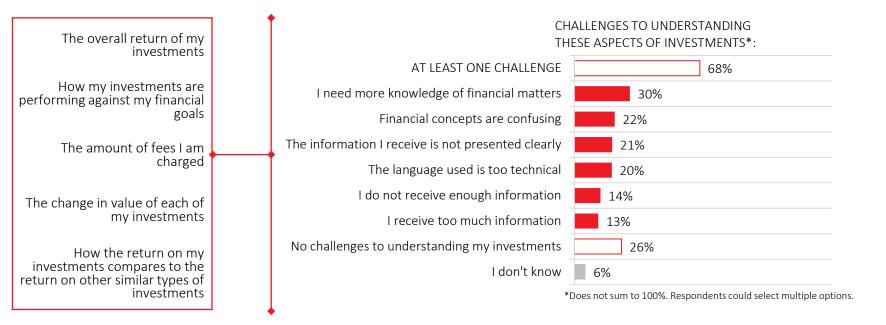
The majority of investors are at least neutral when it comes to the difficulty of understanding the various aspects of their investments, with few saying it is hard. Seven-in-ten (71%) find it easy to understand the overall return of their investments, and 69% find it easy to understand the change in value of each of their investments. Slightly fewer (63%) find it easy to understand how their investments are performing against their financial goals.

Investors with more money invested (more than \$500K vs. less than \$500K) and those who believe they have high knowledge of financial matters (vs. average or low) are significantly more likely to believe that understanding the various aspects of their investments is easy.

## SEVEN-IN-TEN FIND AT LEAST ONE CHALLENGE TO UNDERSTANDING THEIR INVESTMENTS.



Seven-in-ten (68%) investors find at least one challenge to understanding their investments. The most prevalent challenge identified was that investors needed more financial knowledge (30%). Younger investors (aged 18 to 54 vs. older than 55) are significantly more likely to see more challenges while those over 55 are significantly more likely to have no challenges. Those with a lower dollar value of investments (less than \$100K) are significantly more likely to have at least one challenge while those with more than \$500K invested are significantly more likely to have no challenges. Those who believe that they have average or low knowledge of financial matters (vs. high knowledge) are significantly more likely to have at least one challenge when it comes to understanding the various aspects of their investments.

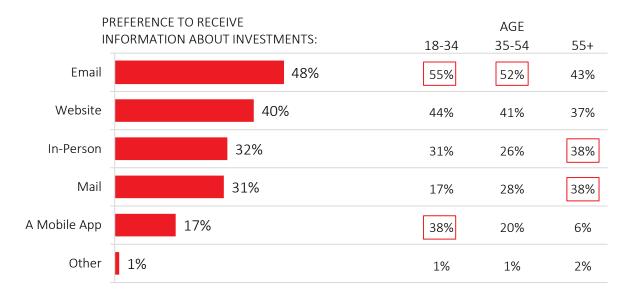




## ABOUT HALF OF INVESTORS WANT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENTS VIA FMAIL.



48% of investors want to receive information about their investments via email, followed by websites (40%), in-person (32%), mail (31%), and mobile apps (17%). Age plays a role in how investors want to receive information about their investments, with younger investors significantly more likely to prefer email or a mobile app and older investors (over 55+) are more likely to prefer mail or in-person. Those who work with an advisor are significantly more likely to prefer to receive information about their investments either by mail or in-person, while those who do not use an advisor and those who consider themselves to be someone with high knowledge about financial matters are significantly more likely to prefer a mobile app or a website.



## ADVICE FROM A FINANCIAL ADVISOR MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION USED TO MAKE DECISION TO BUY OR SELL.



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50% of investors continue to say that advice from a financial advisor is the most important information they receive when deciding to buy or sell an investment. One-in-ten use continuous disclosure documents (10%), summary disclosure documents (9%), or advice from a knowledgeable friend or family member (8%). The lower that an individual perceives their financial knowledge to be, the more important advice from their financial advisor is to them. Investors without advisors are significantly more likely to use continuous and summary disclosure documents than those who have an advisor, as are those with a high knowledge of financial matters (vs. average or low).

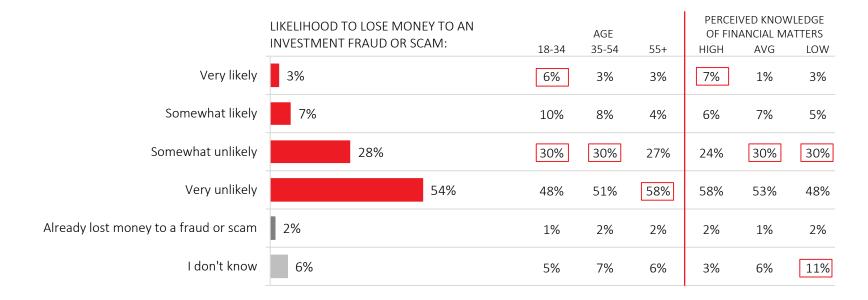
	MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION USED WHEN DECIDING TO BUY OR SELL AN INVESTMENT HAS AN ADVISOR			PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE OF FINANCIAL MATTERS				
	TOP RANK):	YES	NO	HIGH	AVG	LOW		
Advice from a financial advisor	50%	64%	6%	37%	55%	58%		
Continuous disclosure documents	10%	7%	20%	15%	9%	2%		
Summary disclosure documents	9%	7%	17%	12%	8%	6%		
Advice from a knowledgeable friend or family member	8%	6%	15%	7%	8%	13%		
Media such as newspapers, television, or news websites	6%	4%	15%	10%	5%	3%		
The prospectus	4%	3%	9%	6%	4%	2%		
Advice from other investors on social media and online message boards		3%	6%	5%	3%	1%		
Investment advertisements	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%		
None of the above	5%	4%	9%	6%	4%	6%		
I don't know	2%	3%	1%	<1%	1%	8%		



#### ONE-IN-TEN BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO LOSE MONEY TO AN INVESTMENT FRAUD OR SCAM, WHILE FEW ALREADY HAVE.



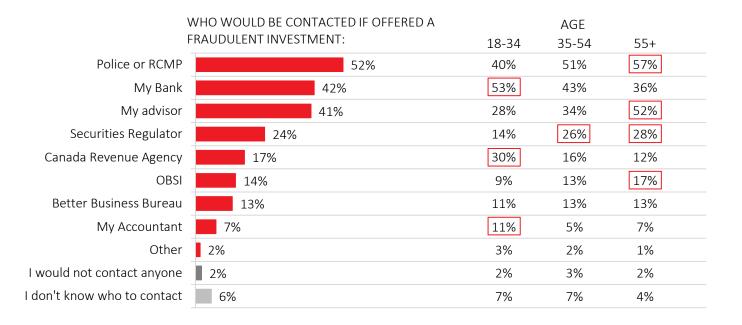
One-in-ten (10%) investors believe that they are likely to lose money to an investment fraud or scam, while the majority (82%) believe that it is unlikely to happen to them. In fact, more than half (54%) say it's very unlikely they will lose money to a fraud or scam, and few (2%) have already lost money to one. Younger investors (those aged 18-34 vs. those aged 35+) and those who have a high knowledge when it comes to financial matters (vs. those with average or low knowledge) are significantly more likely to believe they are likely to lose money to an investment fraud or scam.



### HALF OF INVESTORS WOULD CONTACT THE POLICE OR RCMP IF THEY SUSPECTED THEY WERE OFFERED A FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT.

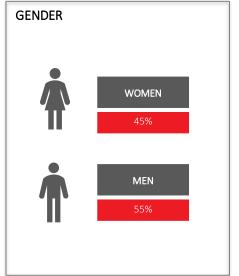


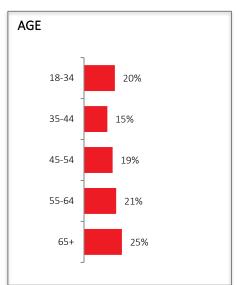
Half (52%) of investors would contact the police or RCMP if they suspected they were offered a fraudulent investment, while slightly fewer would contact their bank (42%), their advisor (41%), or securities regulator (24%). Very few investors would not contact anyone (2%) or do not know who they would contact (6%) if they suspected being offered a fraudulent investment. Younger investors (18-34) would be significantly more likely to contact their bank, CRA, or their accountant if they suspected a fraudulent investment, while investors aged 55+ would be inclined to contact law enforcement, their advisor, their securities regulator, or OBSI.

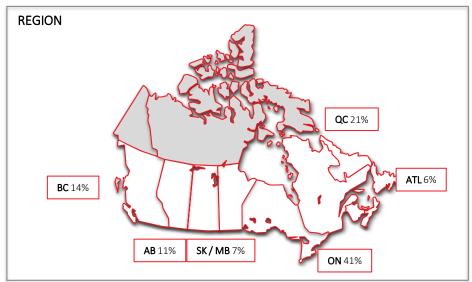




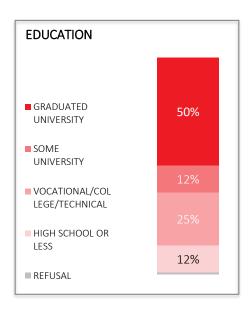
#### RESPONDENT PROFILE

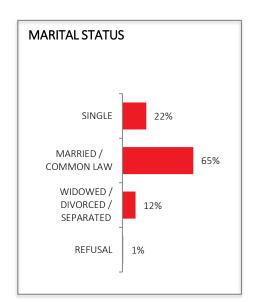


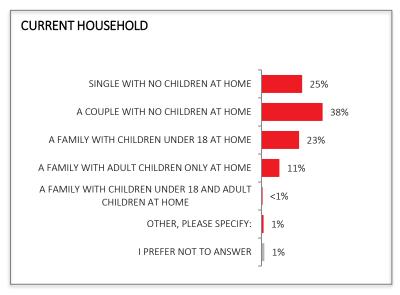




Base: All (n=1942).



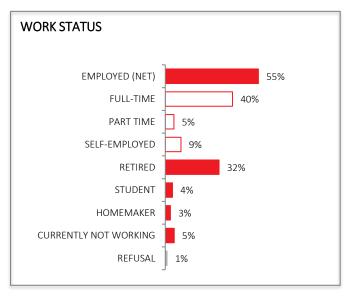


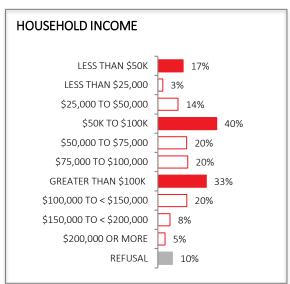


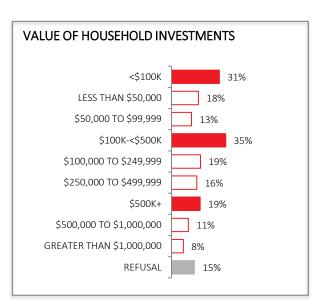
Base: All (n=1942).

#### RESPONDENT PROFILE









Base: All (n=1942).

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