Americans are more anxious about a recession than they’ve been in years

Key findings from the Allianz Life 2022 2Q Quarterly Market Perceptions Study

Americans’ anxiety about a recession is increasing as inflation cuts into spending power. This is a major takeaway from the latest Quarterly Market Perceptions Study from Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America (Allianz Life).

With the stock market in bear market territory and inflation at historic levels, Americans are expressing the most worry about a recession in years. The majority say their income is not keeping up with rising expenses.

82% worry about rising inflation’s impact on their purchasing power in the next six months
Worries increase about a major recession and falling purchasing power

“I worry that a major recession is right around the corner.”

“My income is not keeping up with expenses.”

82% “I expect inflation to get worse over the next 12 months”

Americans’ feelings about the economy and their own finances differ by generation

Fewer Millennials have a plan to address the rising cost of living.

More Gen Xers are concerned about their income keeping pace with rising expenses.

More Boomers are worried about affording their desired lifestyle in retirement.
Americans want to protect themselves from market risks

“It’s important to have some retirement savings protected from loss.”

“I wish I could have locked in gains when the market was high.”

The number of Americans who think it is a good time to invest continues to decline.

38% 2Q 2021
37% 3Q 2021
37% 4Q 2021
28% 1Q 2022
25% 2Q 2022

“It’s worth the risk of potential losses to have unlimited potential gains”

“I’m keeping more money than I should out of the market because I’m worried about loss”

65% 2022
57% 2021
54% 2020

ASK YOUR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL about strategies that can help address the top concerns revealed in the study.

Guarantees are backed by the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing company. Variable annuity guarantees do not apply to the performance of the variable subaccounts, which will fluctuate with market conditions.

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