

# Time or money?



For our latest survey, we asked whether you'd rather have lots of extra money but hardly any free time or lots of free time but just enough money to get by. And you answered!

63 percent of the responses placed a higher value on free time. That means 37 percent would prefer a lot of money with very little free time.

**Some readers tried to have it all even after choosing one or the other:**

- Time is money; free time will allow me to find a side hustle and find the next million-dollar idea.
- I can easily make more money with free time! Time is everything!
- Because I can save the money and once I have enough, I can enjoy the free time.
- Eventually, the extra money will enable me to afford to do whatever I want with my time.

**And others rightly questioned why they were forced to choose:**

- I don't like the extreme choice. I'd like enough money to be okay and have time to enjoy it.
- Prefer balance — enough free time and money. (Why only extreme choices?)

We know — it's not an easy choice and a good balance is likely to be ideal for many. For those who did decide, here's a sample of the reasoning behind their decisions:

### Lots of time but just enough money

- My kids are 12 & 14. They'll be 18 & gone before I know it.
- Because spending time with family is all you have in life.
- What's the joy in money if you don't have time to spend it? Most of my joyful activities are low-cost, creative. No \$ amount can give back creative time.
- Life is about enjoying the people, relationships, and experiences we have on Earth. With no free time, you're not really living. Money can't buy happiness.
- More time to relax and unwind, enjoy work-life balance.
- As long as I have "enough" money — and I'm not anxious about day-to-day life — I think I'd be happier. Especially if that "free time" and "just enough money" meant I could travel more with my kids and live fully.
- Time goes by too quickly and you can't retrieve it ... make the most of every day!

### Lots of money but hardly any free time

- Free time could result in more loneliness, and extra money will be used to help others.
- Do not like scraping by.
- Raising two children in this current economy can be expensive. The money would mean I could afford better resources for them.
- Free time could result in more loneliness, and extra money will be used to help others.
- I can't afford to live with rising gas costs and inflation.
- At this point in my life my needs come before my wants. Paying my bill, being out of debt brings me peace. Peace gives a stress-free life and keeping busy reduces anxiety and brings me joy to be of service so there is no time to think about negativity. So my choice is having more money.
- Lots of free time and no money would be boring and I think having a lot of free time would lead to feeling unproductive....Limited free time with lots of money would mean that I could do whatever I want with the limited time I have.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey. We appreciate everyone who shared their response and hope you enjoyed thinking about this deceptively complicated question. Be on the lookout for a new survey next month.