



Polling on what percentage of Gen z thinks they will have the same lifestyle as parents and grandparents

### ◆ AI Overview

Recent polling indicates a complex view among Generation Z (Gen Z) regarding their future lifestyle, with a mix of high ambition, significant anxiety, and a feeling that they must work harder than their parents and grandparents to achieve similar living standards. While some surveys show a majority believe they will eventually match or surpass their parents, a large portion of Gen Z is experiencing financial strain and pessimism.

#### **Key Findings on Lifestyle & Financial Expectations:**

- **The "Work Harder" Mentality:** A February 2025 [YouGov](#) poll in Britain found that **61% of Gen Z** believe their generation has to work harder than their parents' generation to achieve the same lifestyle.
- **Financial Pessimism vs. Optimism:** While 57% of Gen Z in a 2023 LendingTree survey felt they were doing better financially than their parents at that same age, other studies show significant pessimism. A 2025 [Pew Research Center](#) report noted that about three-quarters of Americans (including young adults) believe children will be *worse off* financially than their parents.
- **Persistent Economic Struggles:** As of early 2026, 32% of Gen Z expects their finances to worsen in the coming year, largely due to high inflation. Additionally, in 2025, 43% of young people reported that they were struggling financially or just getting by.
- **Delayed Milestones:** A 2024 Reddit-cited poll indicated that almost one-third (31%) of Gen Z adults live with their parents or family, partly due to the high cost of living, which affects their ability to replicate their parents' early adulthood independence.
- **Different Definitions of Success:** A 2025 NBC News survey found that Gen Z prioritizes financial independence and a fulfilling career over traditional family markers, such as having children or buying a home at the same age their parents did.



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**Key Takeaway:** While many Gen Z individuals are optimistic about their ultimate success, a significant portion feels that the financial hurdles—particularly housing costs—make it difficult to achieve the same lifestyle as their predecessors, leading to a new "boomerang generation" that is living at home longer.



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