

Personally, I wouldn't say that I've been as unfortunate as many people considering that I am very prudent when it comes to my finances; however, they have taken a few hits.

One of the biggest impacts that the economic crisis has had on my personal life has been having half of my financial security yanked out from under me. My parents have always encouraged me to invest money wisely and I have. Unfortunately, many companies that I have invested in are seeing difficult times. Even the mutual funds which are supposed to be very stable have been hit pretty hard. I've tried to minimize my losses by researching and investing in newer companies with the business models and budgets to ride out the recession and I'm still trying to pull out of companies that are tanking. One of these companies, I fear, is on the verge of bankruptcy and my personal budget will only become tighter if I lose what I have there.

The crisis has also forced me to be more careful on how much money I spend because I don't make a whole lot at my job and I'm in school full-time. My parents have always helped supplement my income; however, my dad is becoming increasingly paranoid and may make me one of his budget cuts. I don't go out to eat as much and I have tried to cut back on name-brand items. I've started keeping a log of how much I spend and what I spend it on so that I can chart where my money is going. Everything I buy is taken into consideration; if I don't need it, I don't buy it. *Good policy.*

Since I make little money and most of my net worth is in the stock market, my financial situation tends to change from week to week. I have moved more of my money into a savings account where I know it is completely safe. People always say the market will eventually make a rebound and that I'll get my money back eventually, but for now, I'm too afraid to touch any of it. *Think long term.*