Understanding and Improving Consumer Personal Finances

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How do consumers make decisions about budgeting, spending, saving, investing, and borrowing? And what can be done to improve consumer personal finances? The recent sub-prime meltdown and related developments have focused attention on these important aspects of consumer behavior, yet research on consumer personal finances is scant. The objectives of this roundtable are 1) to encourage research on important issues related to consumer personal finances; 2) to bring together academic researchers and consumer organizations in order to identify issues of mutual interest; and 3) to improve consumer welfare through the development and dissemination of knowledge that improves personal financial decision-making among consumers. This roundtable will include participants from academia and industry, including the National Endowment for Financial Education and the Federal Reserve Bank, who are consumer advocates and sources of research funding.

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ROUNDTABLE

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Joel Cohen, University of Florida, USA

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