

# WORKTRENDS

AMERICANS' ATTITUDES ABOUT WORK, EMPLOYERS, AND GOVERNMENT

## Topline Survey Results

**Work Trends November 2021 Survey**

December 2021



**HELDRICH CENTER**  
FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**RUTGERS**

Edward J. Bloustein School  
of Planning and Public Policy

Fielded online November 19 to 21, 2021 by Ipsos Public Affairs, LLC via KnowledgePanel® Weekend Omnibus

Margin of error for labor force sample, N=623 (currently employed working full-time hours, currently employed working part-time hours, or unemployed and looking): ±4.3%

Refusals are counted as missing data.

**Estimates may not sum to totals due to rounding.**

\* denotes reported percentage is less than 1%.

Weighted frequency percentages and unweighted sample sizes are presented.

**Q1. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?**

*Based on total sample (N=989)*

Employed working full-time hours (at least 35 hours per week, including retired from main occupation but now working)	47%
Employed working part-time hours (34 hours or less per week, including retired from main occupation but now working)	12%
Unemployed and looking for work	6%
Unemployed and not looking for work	35%
On temporary furlough from a job	*
In the military	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Thirty (30) respondents refused this question.

**Q2. How confident are you that if you lost or wanted to leave your current job, you could find another job as good or better?**

*Based on employed full time or employed part time (N=571)*

Extremely confident	25%
Very confident	25%
Somewhat confident	29%
Not very confident	15%
Not at all confident	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q3. Here are two different ways of looking at your job. Some people get a sense of identity from their job. For other people, their job is just what they do for a living. Which of these best describes the way you usually feel about your job?**

*Based on employed full time or employed part time (N=568)*

Identity	32%
For a living	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q4. Thinking about the job situation in America today, would you say that now is a good time or bad time to find a quality job?**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=618)*

Good time	73%
Bad time	27%
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Total	100%

**Q5. Thinking about some economic issues...how concerned are you about...?**

ITEMS RANDOMIZED, presented in grid

**a. The current unemployment rate**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=617)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>61%</b>
Very concerned	23%
Somewhat concerned	38%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>39%</b>
Not too concerned	30%
Not at all concerned	9%
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Total	100%

**b. The job market for those looking for work**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=615)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>46%</b>
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	33%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>54%</b>
Not too concerned	38%
Not at all concerned	16%
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Total	100%

**c. Job security for those currently working**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=616)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>54%</b>
Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	37%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>46%</b>
Not too concerned	36%
Not at all concerned	10%
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Total	100%

**d. The impact of technology on jobs, such as automation of jobs**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=617)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>54%</b>
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	38%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>46%</b>
Not too concerned	36%
Not at all concerned	10%
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Total	100%

**e. The impact of the global supply chain on your work**

*Based on employed full time or employed part time (N=568)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>58%</b>
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	33%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>42%</b>
Not too concerned	27%
Not at all concerned	16%
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Total	100%

**f. Your own job security**

*Based on employed full time or employed part time (N=569)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>29%</b>
Very concerned	10%
Somewhat concerned	19%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>72%</b>
Not too concerned	40%
Not at all concerned	32%
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Total	100%

**g. The availability of good jobs at good pay for those who want to work**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=615)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>55%</b>
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	35%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>45%</b>
Not too concerned	32%
Not at all concerned	13%
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Total	100%

**h. The cost of living**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=618)*

<b>Very/Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>89%</b>
Very concerned	60%
Somewhat concerned	29%
<b>Not too/Not at all concerned</b>	<b>11%</b>
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%
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Total	100%

**Q6. To what degree do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

ITEMS RANDOMIZED, presented in grid

**a. It's not hard to find a job in America if you really want to work.**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=616)*

<b>Agree</b>	<b>75%</b>
Strongly agree	39%
Somewhat agree	35%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>25%</b>
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	8%
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Total	100%

**b. Overall, job, career, and employment opportunities will be better for the next generation than for my generation.**

*Based on employed full time, employed part time, or unemployed and looking (N=608)*

<b>Agree</b>	<b>50%</b>
Strongly agree	10%
Somewhat agree	40%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>50%</b>
Somewhat disagree	42%
Strongly disagree	7%
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Total	100%

# Methodological Statement

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The current survey was fielded November 19 to 21, 2021 online with a national probability sample of 1,019 U.S. residents age 18 or older using the KnowledgePanel® Weekend Omnibus, designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University, and managed by Ipsos Public Affairs, LLC. The study has been weighted using sample weights and post-stratification weights on various demographic categories such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, census region, education, metropolitan status, and household income based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for the total survey sample of 1,019 respondents is  $\pm 3.30$  percentage points, at a 95% confidence interval (design effect is 1.19). Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by employment status, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. For example, the sampling error for the labor force sample of 623 respondents who are employed or are unemployed and looking for work is  $\pm 4.30$  percentage points, at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or contextual effects.

The survey was conducted in English using Ipsos Public Affairs' web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population (all non-institutionalized adults age 18 or older who live in the United States). Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of residential addresses using the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate but do not already have Internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and Internet Service Provider connection. People who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique login information for accessing surveys online, and are sent e-mails inviting them to participate in research. Typically, specific survey samples are based on the equal probability selection method for general population surveys. Ipsos also operates an ongoing modest incentive program to encourage participation and create member loyalty. Ipsos assigns panel members no more than one survey per week. On average, panel members complete two to three surveys per month with durations of 10 to 15 minutes per survey. The completion rate for this KnowledgePanel® omnibus survey is 33%. For more information, see <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2021-09/ESOMAR-Ipsos-Answers-July-2021.pdf>.

**November 2021 Sample Characteristics (total sample, N=1,019)**

	<b>Unweighted Sample Size</b>	<b>Weighted Sample %</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	538	48%
Female	481	52%
Total	1,019	100%
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 34	218	27%
35 to 49	227	24%
50 to 64	307	28%
65+	267	21%
Total	1,019	100%
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Employed full time	457	47%
Employed part time	117	12%
Unemployed/looking	49	6%
Other	396	35%
Total	1,019	100%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White, non-Hispanic	726	63%
Black, non-Hispanic	95	12%
Other, non-Hispanic	54	7%
Two+ races, non-Hispanic	35	2%
Hispanic	109	16%
Total	1,019	100%
<b>Household Income</b>		
\$0 to \$49,999	292	30%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	135	17%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	145	14%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	204	19%
\$150,000+	243	20%
Total	1,019	100%