

# Topline Survey Results

GfK/Knowledge Networks/online

Field dates: August 8 to 19, 2018

N=827 total sample

N=457 currently employed

N=504 labor force

Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Refused responses are counted as missing data, and are not included in the percentage totals

Mode differences may be apparent when comparing data obtained via telephone interview versus online survey

Where applicable, trend data are noted if base is total sample or labor force

[s] denotes single response question

[m] denotes multiple response question

August 2016 = Total August 2016 sample (N=822) / online

August 2014 = Total August 2014 sample (N=1,153) / online

January 2013 = Total January 2013 sample (N=1,090) / online

July 2010 = Total July 2010 sample (N=818) / online

November 2009 = Total November 2009 sample (N=652 adult labor force) / phone

March 2009 = Total March 2009 sample (N=700 adult labor force) / phone

May 2008 = Total May 2008 sample (N=1,000) / phone

January 2000 = Total January 2000 sample (N=1,005 adult labor force) / phone

February 1999 = Total February 1999 sample (N=1,000 adult labor force) / phone

August 1998 = Total August 1998 sample (N=1,001 adult labor force) / phone

**Base: All respondents**

**QEMPSTATSUM [s]**

Which of the following best describes you?

- 1      Employed
- 2      Unemployed and looking for work
- 3      Unemployed and not looking for work
- 4      Retired

	<b>N</b>
Employed	457
Unemployed and looking	47
Unemployed and not looking	94
Retired	225
Refused	4
Total	827

**Base: ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**

**EMPLOYED [s]**

Please mark the following that applies to you:

- 1      Employed full time
- 2      Employed part time
- 3      Self-employed full time
- 4      Self-employed part time
- 5      Military

	<b>N</b>
Employed full time	349
Employed part time	72
Self-employed full time	26
Self-employed part time	7
Refused	3
Total	454

**Base: ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=2**

**UNEMPLOYED\_LOOKING [s]**

Please mark the following that applies to you:

- 1 Looking for full-time work
- 2 Looking for part-time work (15-20 hours)
- 3 Looking for either part-time or full-time work

	<b>N</b>
Looking for full-time work	18
Looking for part-time work	9
Looking for either part-time or full-time work	20
Total	47

**Base: DISPLAY IF QEMPSTATSUM=1 or 2**

**QPAY [s]**

**[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1]** Thinking about your current job...if you work in multiple jobs, please think about the one you consider your *primary* occupation...

**[IF QEMPSTATSUM=2]** Thinking about your most recent job...if you worked in multiple jobs, please think about the one you considered your *primary* occupation...

**[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1]** How are you paid?

**[IF QEMPSTATSUM=2]** How were you paid?

- 1 Salary
- 2 By the hour
- 3 Self-employed/commission/stipend

	<b>August 2018</b>
Salary	39%
By the hour	54%
Self-employed/commission/stipend	8%
Total	101%

**Base: ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1,2**

**QJOB [s]**

Of the following categories, which industry or field describes your **[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1: current/IF QEMPSTATSUM=2: most recent]** job? **[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1: If you work in multiple jobs, please think about the job you consider your *primary* occupation. /IF QEMPSTATSUM=2: If you worked in multiple jobs, please think about the job you considered your *primary* occupation.]**

- 1 Private, for-profit business
- 2 Government/military
- 3 Nonprofit/academic
- 4 Self-employed
- 5 Other

	<b>August 2018</b>
Private, for-profit	55%
Government/military	12%
Nonprofit/academic	13%
Self-employed	8%
Other	11%
Total	99%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**ECON [s]**

How would you rate the current state of the national economy?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor

	<b>August 2018</b>
Excellent	10%
Good	48%
Only fair	33%
Poor	9%
Total	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**Scripter: randomly assign half respondents to DOV\_NEW1=1 and another half to DOV\_NEW1=2**

**NEW1 [s]**

**[IF DOV\_NEW1=1: Compared to a year ago / IF DOV\_NEW1=2: Compared to five years ago], do you think the economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same?**

- 1 Gotten better
- 2 Gotten worse
- 3 Stayed the same

	<b>August 2018</b>
Gotten better	44%
Gotten worse	27%
Stayed the same	29%
Total	100%

Compared to a year ago (N=414)

	<b>August 2018</b>
Gotten better	38%
Gotten worse	26%
Stayed the same	36%
Total	100%

Compared to five years ago (N=413)

	<b>August 2018</b>
Gotten better	50%
Gotten worse	29%
Stayed the same	21%
Total	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**R5 [s]**

*A year from now, do you expect economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better, worse, or the same as now?*

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Same as now

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>January 2013</b>	<b>July 2010</b>
Better	29%	31%	26%	32%	32%
Worse	35%	21%	27%	32%	27%
Same as now	36%	49%	46%	36%	41%
Total	100%	101%	99%	100%	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**GOVTJOB [s]**

How good a job do you think the government in Washington is doing in handling the job situation in America?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor

	<b>August 2018</b>
Excellent	10%
Good	32%
Only fair	32%
Poor	25%
Total	99%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**R1 [s]**

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?

- 1 Good time
- 2 Bad time

	<b>August 2018</b>
Good	64%
Bad	36%
Total	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**Randomize items a-g and record the order**  
**One item per screen, repeat the question text each time.**

**LBR1 [s]**

Labor Day is just around the corner. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

- a. Labor unions are good for workers in general.

- 1. Agree
- 2. Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	64%
Disagree	36%
Total	100%

- b. Labor Day doesn't really stand for anything these days.

- 1. Agree
- 2. Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	57%
Disagree	43%
Total	100%

c. The country is run for the benefit of the rich rather than for workers.

1. Agree
2. Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	68%
Disagree	32%
Total	100%

d. [ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1] Given my job, Labor Day has a special meaning for me.

1. Agree
2. Disagree

N=457

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	33%
Disagree	67%
Total	100%

e. [ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1] I will have to work during the Labor Day weekend.

1. Agree
2. Disagree

N=457

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	27%
Disagree	73%
Total	100%

f. Labor Day is about an older generation and doesn't mean much anymore.

1. Agree
2. Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	46%
Disagree	54%
Total	100%

g. I will do something special on the Labor Day weekend.

- 1. Agree
- 2. Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	43%
Disagree	57%
Total	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**LBR2 [s]**

What percent of American workers belong to a labor union these days? Just your best guess.

- 1 10%
- 2 20%
- 3 30%
- 4 40%
- 9 Don't know

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>
<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>
20%	27%	37%
30%	24%	28%
40%	10%	13%
Don't know	24%	Not asked
Total	101%	101%

**Base: ASK ALL**  
**[display1]**

Thinking about you and your family...

**FS1 [s]**

How would you rate your own personal financial situation?

- 1 Excellent shape
- 2 Good shape
- 3 Only fair shape
- 4 Poor shape

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>July 2010</b>
Excellent	12%	9%	7%	7%
Good	46%	43%	34%	37%
Only fair	30%	34%	40%	39%
Poor	12%	14%	19%	16%
Refused	NA	NA	NA	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**FS2 [s]**

Over the next year, do you think your family's finances will:

- 1 Get a lot better
- 2 Get a little better
- 3 Stay the same
- 4 Get a little worse
- 5 Get a lot worse

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
Get a lot better	10%	9%	9%
Get a little better	37%	33%	31%
Stay the same	42%	44%	42%
Get a little worse	9%	10%	13%
Get a lot worse	2%	4%	4%
Total	100%	100%	99%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**PS10 [s]**

Thinking about you and your family and the national economy, would you describe yourself as:

- 1 Unconcerned
- 2 Concerned
- 3 Worried
- 4 Scared

*Total Sample*

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>
Unconcerned*	25%	12%
Concerned	55%	62%
Worried	15%	20%
Scared	5%	7%
Don't know/other	NA	NA
Total	100%	101%

*Labor Force*

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>March 2009</b>
Unconcerned*	26%	12%	Not asked
Concerned	54%	63%	53%
Worried	16%	19%	25%
Scared	4%	6%	9%
Don't know/other	NA	NA	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%
	N=504 labor force	N=547 labor force	N=700 labor force

\* Answer category added in August 2016 to capture those who are no longer concerned about the economy.

**Base: ASK ALL**

**SM1 [s]**

How much are you and your family’s financial situation personally affected by what happens on Wall Street and in the stock market?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Not at all

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
A lot	15%	15%	14%
A little	55%	45%	47%
Not at all	30%	27%	24%
Don’t know	NA	13%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**EMP8a [s]**

Thinking about the current unemployment rate, are you:

- 1 Very concerned
- 2 Somewhat concerned
- 3 Not too concerned
- 4 Not at all concerned

*Total Sample*

% very concerned	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>January 2013</b>	<b>July 2010</b>
	7%	22%	43%	52%

	<b>August 2018</b>
Very concerned	7%
Somewhat concerned	37%
Not too concerned	38%
Not at all concerned	19%
Total	101%

*Labor Force*

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>March 2009</b>
Very concerned	5%	20%	67%
Somewhat concerned	39%	42%	24%
Not too concerned	39%	32%	6%
Not at all concerned	17%	6%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**K1 [s]**

Which figure is closest to the official government unemployment rate? Just your best guess.

- 1 4% or less
- 2 7%
- 3 10% or more
- 9 Don't know

	<b>August 2018</b>
<b>4% or less</b>	<b>48%</b>
7%	24%
10% or more	13%
Don't know	16%
Total	101%

	<b>August 2016</b>
3% or less	5%
<b>5%</b>	<b>39%</b>
7%	28%
9%	14%
11% or more	15%
Total	101%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**EMP8b [s]**

How concerned are you about job security for those currently working?

- 1 Very concerned
- 2 Somewhat concerned
- 3 Not too concerned
- 4 Not at all concerned

*Total Sample*

% very concerned	August 2018	August 2016	January 2013	July 2010
	12%	19%	43%	49%

	August 2018
Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	43%
Not too concerned	35%
Not at all concerned	10%
Total	100%

*Labor Force*

	August 2018	August 2016	March 2009
Very concerned	11%	16%	49%
Somewhat concerned	41%	53%	39%
Not too concerned	38%	28%	7%
Not at all concerned	11%	4%	3%
Don't know/refused	NA	NA	1%
Total	101%	101%	99%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**EMP8c [s]**

Please mark how concerned you are about the job market for those looking for work.

- 1 Very concerned
- 2 Somewhat concerned
- 3 Not too concerned
- 4 Not at all concerned

*Total Sample*

% very concerned	August 2018	August 2016	January 2013	July 2010
	15%	24%	54%	61%

	August 2018
Very concerned	15%
Somewhat concerned	41%
Not too concerned	34%
Not at all concerned	10%
Total	100%

*Labor Force*

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>March 2009</b>
Very concerned	15%	23%	68%
Somewhat concerned	40%	51%	25%
Not too concerned	36%	21%	4%
Not at all concerned	9%	5%	2%
Don't know/refused	NA	NA	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

**ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**
**EMP8d [s]**

How concerned are you with your OWN job security?

- 1 Very concerned
- 2 Somewhat concerned
- 3 Not too concerned
- 4 Not at all concerned

N=457

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>May 2008</b>
Very concerned	9%	11%	19%	13%
Somewhat concerned	25%	30%	24%	22%
Not too concerned	40%	40%	24%	26%
Not at all concerned	27%	19%	33%	38%
Total	101%	100%	100%	99%

**ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**

**RI12 [s]**

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

- 1 Extremely confident
- 2 Very confident
- 3 Somewhat confident
- 4 Not very confident
- 5 Not at all confident

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>January 2013</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>November 2009</b>	<b>February 1999</b>	<b>August 1998</b>
Extremely confident	10%	10%	4%	8%	7%	7%	33%	28%
Very confident	21%	21%	16%	10%	12%	13%	31%	29%
Somewhat confident	42%	38%	33%	34%	30%	29%	23%	25%
Not too confident	21%	22%	27%	30%	30%	28%	8%	11%
Not at all confident	7%	9%	21%	18%	20%	22%	4%	7%
Don't know/not sure	NA	NA	NA	NA	1%	1%	*	1%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**QGPJOB [s]**

Which statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

- 1 The jobs available to American workers today are good jobs because they offer things that most working people want, such as adequate pay and the opportunity to advance in a career
- 2 The jobs available to American workers today are poor jobs because they don't offer things that most working people want, such as adequate pay and the opportunity to advance in a career
- 9 Don't know

	<b>August 2018</b>
Good jobs	35%
Bad jobs	44%
Don't know	21%
Total	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**Q20 [m]**

In order to obtain better jobs, many workers need education and training beyond formal schooling. Who should be primarily responsible for this training and education:

- 1 The government
- 2 Employers
- 3 Workers

% who say yes (check all that apply)

	<b>August 2018</b>
Government	29%
Employers	53%
Workers	48%

**ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1,2**

**NEWSKILL [s]**

Looking ahead, how important do you think it will be for you to get training and develop new skills throughout your work life in order to keep up with changes in the workplace?

N=504

- 1 Essential
- 2 Important but not essential
- 3 Not important

	<b>August 2018</b>
Essential	51%
Important but not essential	42%
Not important	7%
Total	100%

**ASK IF QEMPSTATSUM=1,2**

**NEWSKILL2 [s]**

And how likely is it that you will get training and develop new skills in order to keep up with changes in the workplace?

N=504

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not very likely
- 4 Not at all likely

	<b>August 2018</b>
Very likely	29%
Somewhat likely	45%
Not too likely	21%
Not at all likely	6%
Total	101%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**TIMESERIES3 [s]**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Overall, job, career, and employment opportunities will be better for the next generation than for my generation.

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree

	<b>August 2018</b>
Agree	46%
Disagree	52%
Neither*	2%
Total	100%

\* "Neither" answer category removed after pre-test.

**Base: ASK ALL**

**Scripter: randomize items a-f and record the order**  
**One item per screen, repeat the question text**

**QTHR [s]**

Please indicate whether you think each of the following things are a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat to American workers.

- a. A downturn in the economy
  - 1. Major threat
  - 2. Minor threat
  - 3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	61%
Minor threat	34%
Not a threat	5%
Total	100%

b. Illegal immigrants taking jobs from Americans

1. Major threat
2. Minor threat
3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	31%
Minor threat	38%
Not a threat	32%
Total	101%

c. Competition and cheap labor from other countries

1. Major threat
2. Minor threat
3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	56%
Minor threat	38%
Not a threat	6%
Total	100%

d. Corporate decision-making moving jobs to other countries

1. Major threat
2. Minor threat
3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	64%
Minor threat	30%
Not a threat	6%
Total	100%

e. Technology, such as automation of jobs

1. Major threat
2. Minor threat
3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	43%
Minor threat	46%
Not a threat	11%
Total	100%

- f. The government in Washington
  - 1. Major threat
  - 2. Minor threat
  - 3. Not a threat to American workers

	<b>August 2018</b>
Major threat	50%
Minor threat	35%
Not a threat	15%
Total	100%

**Base: IF MORE THAN ONE QTHR a - f =1**

**QTHR2 [rank, range 1 to # of Major threat selected in QTHR]**

Using numbers, please rank these major threats below. Put a 1 by what you think is the biggest threat.

Of respondents who name item as “major threat,” percent that ranked that item as #1 or chose that item as the only “major threat” of the battery.

- 1. [if qthr\_a=1] A downturn in the economy ranked #1 - 40%
- 2. [if qthr\_b=1] Illegal immigrants taking jobs from Americans ranked #1 - 35%
- 3. [if qthr\_c=1] Competition and cheap labor from other countries ranked #1 - 26%
- 4. [if qthr\_d=1] Corporate decision-making moving jobs to other countries ranked #1 -28%
- 5. [if qthr\_e=1] Technology, such as automation of jobs ranked #1 - 27%
- 6. [if qthr\_f=1] The government in Washington ranked #1 - 48%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**OT2 [s]**

On another topic, please indicate which of the following two statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

- 1 Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they’re willing to work hard
- 2 Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people
- 9 Don’t know

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
Can get ahead if work hard	54%	68%	58%
No guarantee of success	38%	33%	42%
Don’t know	8%	Not asked	Not asked
Total	100%	101%	100%

**Base: ASK ALL**

**Im1 [s]**

Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

- 1 Immigrants today, that is people born in another country, strengthen the United States because of their hard work and talents
- 2 Immigrants today are a burden on the United States because they take our jobs, housing, and health care
- 9 Don't know

	<b>August 2018</b>
Strengthen the United States	50%
Burden on United States	32%
Don't know	19%
Total	101%

**Base: IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**

**CE1 [s]**

Thinking about your current job are you:

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 4 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 5 Very dissatisfied

N=457

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>January 2013</b>	<b>July 2010</b>
Very satisfied	32%	26%	24%	29%	25%
Somewhat satisfied	43%	47%	39%	37%	40%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	16%	14%	16%	15%	14%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7%	8%	14%	11%	12%
Very dissatisfied	3%	3%	6%	7%	7%
Don't know/refused		2%	2%	1%	3%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	101%

**Base: IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**

**JS2 [s]**

Compared to one year ago, how do you feel about your job situation:

- 1 More satisfied now
- 2 About as satisfied now
- 3 Less satisfied now

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>May 2008</b>	<b>January 2000</b>	<b>February 1999</b>	<b>August 1998</b>
More satisfied now	28%	27%	19%	23%	30%	39%	46%	44%
About as satisfied now	58%	51%	53%	41%	44%	42%	37%	39%
Less satisfied now	15%	19%	26%	33%	25%	18%	17%	16%
Don't know/ other	NA	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	*
Total	101%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	99%

**Base: IF QEMPSTATSUM=1**

**JS3 [s]**

Compared to one year ago, how do you feel about your job security:

- 1 More satisfied now
- 2 About as satisfied now
- 3 Less satisfied now

	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>May 2008</b>
More satisfied now	24%	21%	18%	23%	30%
About as satisfied now	64%	59%	52%	41%	44%
Less satisfied now	13%	15%	28%	33%	25%
Don't know/ depends/other	NA	5%	2%	2%	1%
Total	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%