PRESS RELEASE

Americans Strongly Support Direct Cash Payments, Loan Repayment Freeze Amidst Coronavirus Outbreak

New Newsy/Ipsos poll shows a call for federal government to take drastic economic, safety measures as more Americans are staying home, watching the news & facing money loss
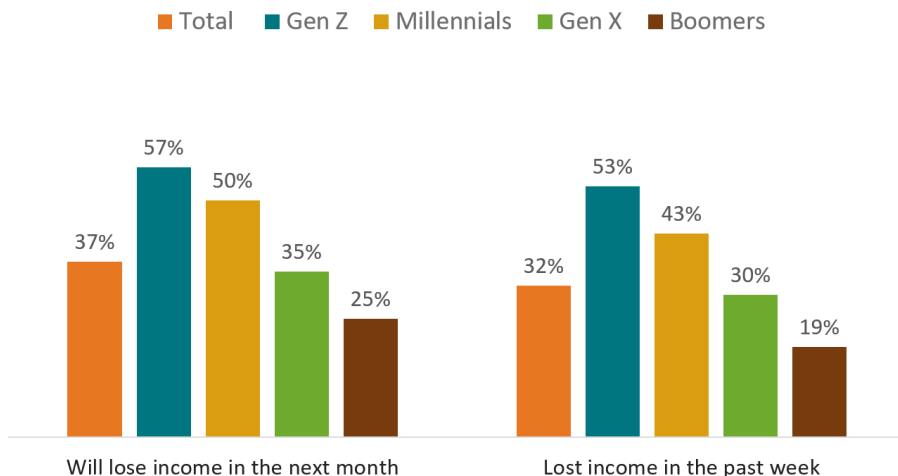
Washington, DC, March 24, 2020 – More than nine in ten (92%) Americans feel it is important to stay home for the next 14 days to slow the spread of coronavirus, according to a new Newsy/Ipsos poll. As people begin to adapt to their new normal, support for sweeping federal government action – from a freeze on federal loan repayments, to a mandatory shutdown of schools – is widespread.

Detailed Findings

1. Some are already feeling a financial strain.
    - One in three (32%) report they have lost income in the past week, including over half of Gen Z respondents (53%) and four in ten millennials (43%).
    - A similar number, 37%, feel they will lose income in the next month. Again, this perception is driven by younger generations: 57% of Gen Z and 50% of millennials agree.
    - One in four say that if they were left without income, and no additional financial assistance, their household could carry on for 3 weeks or less.

Younger Generations More Worried About Income

Do any of the following situations apply to you, as a result of coronavirus-related restrictions or closures?

Legend: Total | Gen Z | Millennials | Gen X | Boomers

Will lose income in the next month: Total 37%, Gen Z 57%, Millennials 50%, Gen X 35%, Boomers 25%

Lost income in the past week: Total 32%, Gen Z 53%, Millennials 43%, Gen X 30%, Boomers 19%

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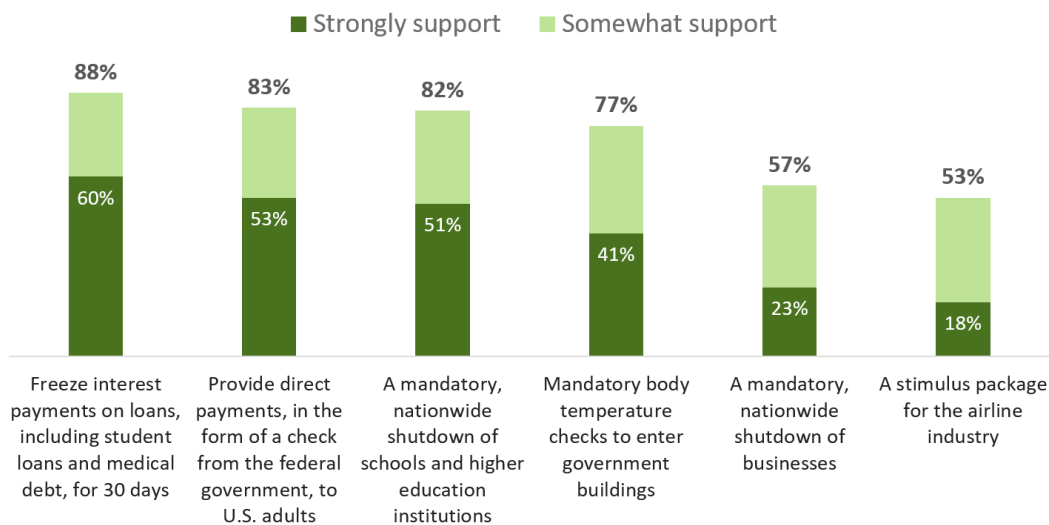Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
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2. As seven in ten (71%) feel it is *very* important to stay home for the next 14 days, they are looking to the federal government to also take dramatic action.
   - A vast majority (88%) support freezing interest payments on loans for 30 days, including 60% who strongly support. More than eight in ten (83%) also want the federal government to provide direct payments to adults in the U.S. A majority (53%) strongly support this plan.
   - While 82% support a mandatory, nationwide shutdown of schools and higher education institutions, support for a mandatory, nationwide shutdown of businesses is much lower (57%).
   - More than half (53%) are in favor of a stimulus package for the airline industry, but just 18% are strong supporters of this proposal.

Vast Support for Temporary Freeze on Loan Payments

Do you support or oppose each of the following federal government actions, in response to the coronavirus outbreak?

■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support

	Strongly support	Somewhat support (total)
Freeze interest payments on loans, including student loans and medical debt, for 30 days	60%	88%
Provide direct payments, in the form of a check from the federal government, to U.S. adults	53%	83%
A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of schools and higher education institutions	51%	82%
Mandatory body temperature checks to enter government buildings	41%	77%
A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of businesses	23%	57%
A stimulus package for the airline industry	18%	53%

3. Most are staying home, watching the news more, and scrolling through social media.
   - Nearly half (46%) report they have watched the news more than they typically would in the past week. Millennials in particular are tuning in more (49% more than they typically would vs. 36% who say they are watching the same amount).
   - Nearly three-quarters (72%) of Americans say they are staying home from work, school, or other social obligations as a result of the outbreak.
   - More than one-third (35%) report scrolling through social media more often in the past week, including a majority of millennials (51%) and Gen Z (57%).

For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.

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1. Are you currently staying home from work, school, or other social obligations as a result of the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak?

	Total (N=2,007)
Yes	72%
No	26%
Don't know	2%

2. How important do you think it is for people to stay home for the next 14 days to slow the spread of coronavirus?

	Total
Very important	71%
Somewhat important	21%
Not very important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	3%
A great deal or Somewhat	92%
Not very much or Not at all	5%

3. Do any of the following situations apply to you, as a result of coronavirus-related restrictions or closures?

    a. Lost income in the past week

	Total
Yes	32%
No	64%
Don't know	4%

    b. Will lose income in the next month

	Total
Yes	37%
No	48%
Don't know	14%

    c. **[IF EMPLOYED]** Had work hours cut or been laid off

	Total (N=1,178)
Yes	40%
No	57%
Don't know	3%

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4. If coronavirus-related restrictions or closures were to leave you without income, how long could your household carry on without additional financial assistance?

	Total
Less than 2 weeks	14%
2-3 weeks	11%
1-2 months	21%
3-6 months	19%
More than 6 months	21%
Don't know	14%

5. Do you support or oppose each of the following federal government actions, in response to the coronavirus outbreak?

Summary: Total Support

	Total
Freeze interest payments on loans, including student loans and medical debt, for 30 days	88%
Provide direct payments, in the form of a check from the federal government, to U.S. adults	83%
A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of schools and higher education institutions	82%
Mandatory body temperature checks to enter government buildings	77%
A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of businesses	57%
A stimulus package for the airline industry	53%

a. Freeze interest payments on loans, including student loans and medical debt, for 30 days

	Total
Strongly support	60%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	3%
Don't know	6%
Support (Net)	*88%*
Oppose (Net)	*6%*

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b. Provide direct payments, in the form of a check from the federal government, to U.S. adults

	Total
Strongly support	53%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	3%
Don't know	7%
Support (Net)	*83%*
Oppose (Net)	*10%*

c. A stimulus package for the airline industry

	Total
Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	22%
Strongly oppose	13%
Don't know	13%
Support (Net)	*53%*
Oppose (Net)	*35%*

d. A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of businesses

	Total
Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	34%
Somewhat oppose	23%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't know	8%
Support (Net)	*57%*
Oppose (Net)	*35%*

e. A mandatory, nationwide shutdown of schools and higher education institutions

	Total
Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	5%
Don't know	4%
Support (Net)	*82%*
Oppose (Net)	*14%*

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f. Mandatory body temperature checks to enter government buildings

	Total
Strongly support	41%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	4%
Don't know	7%
Support (Net)	*77%*
Oppose (Net)	*16%*

6. In the past week, have you done each of the following more or less than you typically would?

a. Watch television (traditional)

	Total
More often than I typically would	37%
Same amount	56%
Less often than I typically would	5%
Don't know	2%

b. Watch streaming platforms (Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, etc.)

	Total
More often than I typically would	36%
Same amount	52%
Less often than I typically would	7%
Don't know	5%

c. Watch the news

	Total
More often than I typically would	46%
Same amount	44%
Less often than I typically would	7%
Don't know	4%

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d. Read

	Total
More often than I typically would	29%
Same amount	59%
Less often than I typically would	8%
Don't know	5%

e. Scroll through social media

	Total
More often than I typically would	35%
Same amount	53%
Less often than I typically would	7%
Don't know	4%

f. Post on social media

	Total
More often than I typically would	18%
Same amount	64%
Less often than I typically would	12%
Don't know	5%

g. Exercise

	Total
More often than I typically would	16%
Same amount	59%
Less often than I typically would	21%
Don't know	4%

h. Play online video games (single or multiplayer)

	Total
More often than I typically would	17%
Same amount	61%
Less often than I typically would	12%
Don't know	9%

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i. Play video games on a console

	Total
More often than I typically would	16%
Same amount	59%
Less often than I typically would	14%
Don't know	11%

j. Video chat (Skype, Facetime, etc.) with family and friends

	Total
More often than I typically would	20%
Same amount	59%
Less often than I typically would	12%
Don't know	9%

k. Text with family and friends

	Total
More often than I typically would	36%
Same amount	57%
Less often than I typically would	4%
Don't know	3%

l. **[IF EMPLOYED]** Video chat (Skype, Facetime, etc.) with coworkers

	Total (N=1,178)
More often than I typically would	23%
Same amount	57%
Less often than I typically would	12%
Don't know	8%

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m. **[IF EMPLOYED]** Text with coworkers

	Total (N=1,178)
More often than I typically would	27%
Same amount	58%
Less often than I typically would	9%
Don't know	5%

n. Stream music (through Spotify, Apple Music, etc.)

	Total
More often than I typically would	19%
Same amount	63%
Less often than I typically would	11%
Don't know	7%

o. Play board games/puzzles

	Total
More often than I typically would	20%
Same amount	60%
Less often than I typically would	13%
Don't know	8%

7. In the past week, has your use of the following specific applications increased?

a. Facebook
b. Twitter
c. TikTok
d. Instagram
e. Snapchat
f. Twitch

Data held for future release

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8. In the past week, have you or another member of your household bought any of these items in a significantly larger quantity than you typically would?

    a. Food
    b. Toilet paper
    c. Disinfectant (either spray or wipes)
    d. Hand sanitizer
    e. Medical supplies (including masks or over the counter medicine)

    Data held for future release

9. Have you or someone you know purchased a firearm in response to the coronavirus outbreak? Select all that apply.

    Data held for future release

10. **[IF DID NOT SELECT 'YOU' IN Q9]** Have you considered purchasing a firearm in response to the coronavirus outbreak?

    Data held for future release

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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between March 20 -24 behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of roughly 2,007 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S. Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=2,007, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-4.0 percentage points).

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About Ipsos

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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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