

# The Washington Post



This Washington Post-Ipsos poll was conducted online April 27-May 4, 2020, among a random national sample of 8,086 U.S. adults age 18 and over. The sample was drawn through the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus one percentage point. The error margin is 3.5 points among the sample of 928 people who were laid off, and two points among the sample of 2,302 people leaving their homes to go to work. Sampling, field work and data processing by Ipsos of Washington, D.C.

(Full methodological details at the end of this document.)

\*= less than 0.5 percent

"Laid-off" includes adults who report being laid off or furloughed since the coronavirus outbreak

S1. (IF EMPLOYED) In the past 7 days, on how many days, if any, have you left your home to go to work?

	Zero	NET	One	Two	Three	Four	NET	Five	Six	Seven	No opin.
5/4/20	47	22	5	6	6	6	30	21	5	4	1

S2. Since the coronavirus outbreak began in the U.S, has any of the following happened to you?

5/4/20 - Summary table

	Yes, has happened	No, has not happened	No opinion
Being laid off	7	92	1
Being furloughed	9	90	1
Laid-off OR furloughed	13	86	1

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

a. President Trump

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
5/4/20 All	43	56	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	41	58	1

b. Your state's governor\*

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
5/4/20 All	71	27	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	73	26	*

\*For Washington D.C. residents: "Your city's mayor"

c. (IF EMPLOYED) Your employer

Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
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5/4/20 All employed	87	12	1
5/4/20 Going to work	82	17	1

2. Do you think each of the following is doing enough to ensure more people can return to work safely, or are they not doing enough?

a. President Trump

	Doing enough	Not doing enough	No opinion
5/4/20 All	42	57	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	38	62	1

b. Your state's governor\*

	Doing enough	Not doing enough	No opinion
5/4/20 All	69	30	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	68	31	1

\*For Washington D.C. residents: "Your city's mayor"

c. (IF EMPLOYED) Your employer

	Doing enough	Not doing enough	No opinion
5/4/20 All employed	84	15	1
5/4/20 Going to work	80	19	1

3. Thinking about your state government's restrictions on business activity because of the coronavirus outbreak, do you think your state government is...?

	Lifting restrictions too quickly	Handling this about right	Not lifting restrictions quickly enough	No opinion
5/4/20 All	28	56	16	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	31	55	13	1

4. Which comes closer to your view?

	The U.S. should keep trying to slow the spread of the coronavirus, even if that means keeping many businesses closed	The U.S. should open up businesses and get the economy going again, even if that means more people would get the coronavirus	No opinion
5/4/20 All	74	25	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	79	19	1

5. At this time, do you think workers at open businesses in your state should be required to wear a face mask while interacting with co-workers and customers, or not?

	Yes, workers should be required to wear a face mask	No, workers should not be required to wear a face mask	No opinion
5/4/20 All	81	19	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	85	14	1
5/4/20 Going to work	73	27	*

6. At this time, do you think customers should be required to wear face masks when visiting businesses in your state, or not?

	Yes, customers should be required to wear a face mask	No, customers should not be required to wear a face mask	No opinion
5/4/20 All	76	23	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	80	19	1
5/4/20 Going to work	71	29	1

Question 7 held for release.

8. Would you describe the coronavirus outbreak as a...

	----- Source of stress -----				
	NET	Serious source of stress in your life	Source of stress, but not serious	Not a source of stress	No op.
5/4/20 All	86	31	55	14	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	89	43	46	10	*

Questions 9-12 held for release.

13. (IF LAID-OFF OR LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Aside from people you live with, about how many people did you come within 6 feet of [If Mon., Sat., Sun.: last Friday/If Tues.-Fri.: yesterday]?

	Zero	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20 or more	No opin.
5/4/20 Going to work	23	14	19	8	15	21	1

14. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK AND HAD CONTACT WITH PEOPLE IN PAST WEEK) In the past week, has your contact with people outside your household happened...?

	NET	Mostly while you were working	Mostly while you were not working	About half and half	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	66	66	15	18	1

15. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) How concerned are you, if at all, with the following? Extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, Not very concerned, not at all concerned

5/4/20 -- Summary table among those going to work

	----- Concerned -----				- Less concerned -			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Some- what	NET	Not very	Not at all	No op.
a. The possibility of getting sick	69	14	18	38	31	20	11	*
b. The ability to pay your bills	49	11	11	27	51	25	26	*

a. The possibility of getting sick

Compare to Axios-Ipsos among U.S. adults:

4/27/20	75	20	22	33	24	18	6	1
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4/20/20	78	18	23	37	20	14	5	2
4/13/20	82	20	25	37	18	14	3	*

b. The ability to pay your bills

Compare to Axios-Ipsos among U.S. adults:

	----- Concerned -----				- Less concerned --			
	NET	Extremely	Very	Some- what	NET	Not very	Not at all	No op.
4/27/20	46	11	11	24	52	28	24	2
4/20/20	47	8	11	28	51	27	24	2
4/13/20	46	11	12	23	54	27	24	2
4/6/20	51	10	10	31	49	27	22	1
3/30/20	50	10	10	29	50	26	24	1
3/23/20	52	11	12	29	47	26	20	1

Questions 16-18 held for release.

19. (IF LAID-OFF) Have you applied for unemployment benefits since March 1, 2020?

	Yes	No	I tried to apply but was unsuccessful	No opinion
5/4/20 Laid-off	50	40	10	*

20. (IF APPLIED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT) Have you received unemployment benefits since March 1, 2020?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20 Laid-off	60	40	0

Q19/Q20 Net table among laid-off workers

	----- Applied/Tried to apply -----					
	NET	Received benefits	Did not receive	Tried, but unsuccessful	Did not apply	No opin.
5/4/20	60	28	18	10	40	*

21. (IF DID NOT APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT) Do you plan to apply for unemployment benefits in the next two weeks?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20 Laid-off	14	84	1

22. (IF TRIED TO APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED BENEFITS) Did any of the following happen to you when applying for unemployment benefits? I did not qualify for benefits, I could not complete my application because phone lines were busy, I kept getting disconnected without talking to anyone or the website didn't work, I was unable to apply in person

Note: Respondents could select as many options as applied

	Didn't complete app. because phone lines were busy/ I did not qualify	kept getting disconnected	I was unable to
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	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
5/4/20	77	58	19	20	8	12	3

27. (IF LAID-OFF) If your family's job and income situation did not change from what it is today, about how long could you and your family get by before being in real financial trouble?

		Less than a week	1-2 weeks	3-4 weeks	1-2 months	3-5 months	6 months or more	No opinion
5/4/20	Laid-off	3	8	14	19	20	33	2

28. (IF LAID-OFF) Are you actively looking for work now?

		Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20	Laid-off	33	66	1

Questions 29-30 held for release.

31. (IF EMPLOYED) Does your main employer provide paid sick leave, or not?

		Yes	No	Not sure	No opinion
5/4/20	All	61	33	6	*
5/4/20	Going to work	60	34	6	*

32. (IF DON'T GET SICK LEAVE) If you got sick in any way, could you afford to take time off from work, or not?

		Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20	All	53	47	*
5/4/20	Going to work	47	53	*

Question 33 held for release.

34. How much of a risk to your health and well-being do you think the following activities are right now?

a. (IF EMPLOYED) Doing your job

		Large risk	Moderate risk	Small risk	No risk	No opinion
5/4/20	All	18	32	37	13	*
5/4/20	Going to work	17	32	37	13	*
4/27/20*		12	23	26	38	*
4/20/20		17	22	25	36	*
4/13/20		14	25	24	37	*

\*4/27 and earlier Axios-Ipsos among all adults

b. Held for release.

c. Held for release.

35. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Do you think your employer has done enough to ensure employees are safe where you work, or haven't they done enough?

	Done enough	Not done enough	No opinion
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4/5/20 Going to work 79 20 \*

36. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Since the outbreak began, has your employer done any of the following?

4/5/20 -- Summary table if leaving home to go to work

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Reduced the number of employees expected to physically come to work	59	41	1
b. Encouraged workers to stay home if they feel sick	85	14	1

Question 37 held for release.

38. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Has your employer provided you with any of the following items during the outbreak? Please select all that apply at your workplace:

4/5/20 -- Summary table if leaving home to go to work

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Face masks	71	29	*
b. Hand sanitizer	82	18	*
c. Access to soap and water for hand washing	91	9	*

Question 39 held for release.

40. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) How often, if at all, are you currently wearing a mask while working?

	At all times	Sometimes, but not all the time	Occasionally, but not often	Never	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	35	24	15	26	*

41. (IF WEAR A MASK AT WORK) Have you had to do any of the following?

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Wear one mask for an entire shift	72	28	*
b. Wear the same mask more than once	65	35	1

Question 42 held for release.

43. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) How concerned, if at all, are you about exposing members of your household to the coronavirus after being exposed at work?

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Less concerned	Not at all	No op.
5/4/20 Going to work	58	24	34	42	25	17	*

44. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) How likely, if at all, is it that you have been exposed to the coronavirus at work?

		----- Likely -----			----- Unlikely -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion	
5/4/20 Going to work	36	8	28	63	34	29	1	

45. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) To the best of your knowledge, has anyone in your workplace been diagnosed with the coronavirus?

	Yes	No	Don't know	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	17	70	13	*

46. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Do you think the work you are continuing to do during the outbreak is essential to your community or society, or is it not essential?

	Yes, it is essential	No, it is not essential	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	82	17	*

47. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Do you feel like people appreciate the work you're doing, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	71	28	1

48. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Since the outbreak began, has anyone thanked you for your work, or hasn't this happened?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20 Going to work	56	44	*

49. (IF LEAVING HOME TO GO TO WORK) Are the people you interact with while working behaving more friendly or less friendly than before the coronavirus outbreak or hasn't this changed?

	-- More friendly --				-- Less friendly --			
	NET	Much more	Smewhat more	Hasn't changed	NET	Smewhat less	Much less	No op.
5/4/20 Going to work	22	4	17	64	14	11	3	*

50. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or [Medicaid/Medi-CAL])?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/4/20 All	88	11	1
5/4/20 Laid-off	79	20	1
5/4/20 Going to work	86	13	1

Question 51 held for release.

PARTY ID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other party	No opinion
5/4/20	35	28	27	8	1

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

#### METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. The poll is a random sample of adults in the United States. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheticals within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Ipsos conducted sampling, interviewing, and tabulation for the survey using the KnowledgePanel, a representative panel of adults age 18 and over living in the United States. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods using address-based sampling. Panel members who do not have internet access are provided with a netbook and internet service.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The overall sample was weighted to match the demographic makeup of the general population of adults age 18 or older by sex, region, age, race/ethnicity, education, household income and language proficiency according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, and to residence in a metropolitan area according to the Current Population Survey.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus one percentage point. The error margin is 3.5 among the sample of 928 people who were laid off, and two points among the sample of 2,302 people leaving their homes to go to work. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.2 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
All adults	8,086	+/- 1
Laid-off workers	928	3.5
Leaving home to work	2,302	2
Residents of...		
California	962	3.5
Florida	528	4.5
Georgia	219	7.5
Illinois	297	6.5
Michigan	245	7
New Jersey	228	7
New York	450	5
North Carolina	251	7
Ohio	334	6
Pennsylvania	388	5.5
Texas	633	4.5
Virginia	234	7

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact [polls@washpost.com](mailto:polls@washpost.com) for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

