

This Washington Post-Ipsos poll was conducted among 614 civilian federal government workers as of Jan. 1, 2025. The survey was conducted online Feb. 28 to March 10, 2025, via the probability-based Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through a random sampling of U.S. households. Results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 5.1 percentage points for the full sample, including design effects due to weighting. Error margins are larger for subgroups. Sampling error is not the only cause of differences in polls. Sampling, field work and data processing were provided by Ipsos Public Affairs.

See full methodological details at the end of this document.

In the tables below, asterisks in data columns indicate <0.5 percent. "Skip/No opinion" shows the share of respondents who skipped the question or who selected an explicit no opinion option in online administration. Respondents interviewed via telephone were able to volunteer a "no opinion" response. Items in parentheses were rotated.

1. As of Jan. 1, 2025, were you employed full-time by the federal government (including all agencies and the Postal Service, excluding federal contractors)?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	100	0	0

1a. Are you currently employed by the federal government?

	Yes, still employed by the federal government	Employed but not working (i.e., on administrative leave or instructed not to work)	No longer employed by the federal government	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	93	3	4	0

2. Which federal agency [do you/did you] work for?

	3/10/25
Department of Defense	27
U.S. Postal Service	19
Department of Veterans Affairs	12
Department of Homeland Security	9
Health and Human Services	7
Department of Treasury	4
Department of Agriculture	2
Department of Education	2
Department of Commerce	1
Department of Labor	1
Department of State	1
Department of the Interior	1
Department of Transportation	1
Social Security Administration	1
Environmental Protection Agency	*
General Services Administration	*
Housing and Urban Development	*

National Archives and Records Administration	*
National Credit Union Administration	*
National Labor Relations Board	*
National Science Foundation	*
Another agency	6
No opinion/Skipped	*

3. (AMONG DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WORKERS) Are you currently an active-duty member of the U.S. military or in a civilian position?

	Active duty	Civilian	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	0	100	0

4. (AMONG THOSE NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT) What best describes how you stopped working for the federal government?

	You were laid off or fired	You accepted the deferred resignation offer (the "Fork in the Road" email)	You resigned or quit voluntarily (separate from deferred resignation program)	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	[Sample too small to report reliable results (n=22)]			

5. For how many years have you worked for the federal government?

	Less than 5 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20 years or more	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	23	19	11	15	33	*

6. As of Jan. 20, 2025, were you classified as a probationary employee?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	6	94	0

7. Did you receive a deferred resignation offer from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the "Fork in the Road" message?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25*	60	40	*

(Results exclude 48 respondents who were not asked this question due to a coding error and were unable to be recontacted)

7a. (IF RECEIVED OFFER) Did you accept the deferred resignation offer or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
--	-----	----	---------------------

3/10/25 4 96 0

Q7/7a NET

	----- Received offer -----	Did not	No opinion	Did not	No opinion
	Accepted	Did not	/Skipped	receive	/Skipped
NET	offer	accept		offer	
3/10/25	60	2	58	0	40
					*

7b. (IF ACCEPTED OFFER) What is the main reason you accepted the offer?

[Open-ended response; not tabulated]

7c. (IF RECEIVED OFFER AND DID NOT ACCEPT IT) If the deferred resignation offer was authorized by Congress, would you have taken it?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	11	89	*

8. Do you expect the "Fork in the Road" deferred resignation offer from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to be honored, providing employees who accept the offer full pay and benefits until September 2025?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	36	63	1

9. Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel (optimistic) or (pessimistic) about your own family's financial situation?

	---- Optimistic ----	---- Pessimistic ----	No opinion
NET	Very	Somewhat	/Skipped
3/10/25	52	13	39
			48
			33
			15
			*

10. Thinking about the past few years, but before 2025, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your job in the federal government?

	----- Satisfied -----	Somewhat	----- Not satisfied -----	No opinion
NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Not too
				Not at all
				/Skipped
3/10/25	66	25	41	26
				7
				4
				4
				*
Current				
workers	68	26	42	26
				7
				4
				3
				*

11. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) Today, how satisfied are you with your job in the federal government?

	----- Satisfied -----	Somewhat	----- Not satisfied -----	No opinion
NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Not too
				Not at all
				/Skipped

3/10/25 36 12 25 35 28 16 12 \*

Compare to U.S. workers overall\*:  
Overall, how satisfied are you with your job?

	NET	----- Satisfied ----- Extremely	Very	Somewhat satisfied	NET	----- Not satisfied ----- Not too	Not at all	No answer
10/13/24	50	15	35	38	12	9	2	*
2/12/23	51	15	37	34	27	9	3	*

\*Pew Research Center polls

12. While working for the federal government, which of the following best describes your approach to work?

	Working just enough to get my job done	Working enough to do my job well, but not doing more than I am paid for	Working enough to excel at my job and advance in my career	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	5	27	68	1

Compare to U.S. workers age 18-64\*:  
Which of the following best describes your approach to work?

	Working just enough to keep my job	Working enough to do my job well, but not doing more than I am paid for	Working enough to excel at my job and advance in my career	No opinion
4/11/23	4	33	61	1

\*Washington Post-Schar School poll

13. Over the past few years, how much do you think that each of the following benefited the United States?

3/10/25 - Summary table among federal workers

	NET	-- Benefitted more --- A great deal	A good amount	NET	-- Benefitted less -- Not so much	Not at all	No op. /Skip
a. What you did in your job	89	53	35	10	6	3	2
b. The work your team did	91	59	31	8	6	2	2
c. The agency you worked for	92	65	26	7	4	3	1

14. In the past few years, would you say you were proud of the work you did or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	95	5	*

15. In the past few years, would you say your agency was a good place or a bad place to work?

	----- Good -----			----- Bad -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	/Skipped
3/10/25	89	47	41	11	8	3	*

16. Going forward, do you think your agency will be a good place or a bad place to work?

	----- Good -----			----- Bad -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	/Skipped
3/10/25	67	26	41	31	23	8	1

17. Among all of the funds that your agency receives, how much do you think is used effectively or wasted?

	-- Used effectively --			----- Wasted -----					
	Vast majority of funds		Most funds	Half used effectively, half wasted		Most funds		Vast majority of funds	No opinion /Skipped
	NET			NET					
3/10/25	74	34	39	18	7	4	3	2	

18. Among all of the positions at your federal agency, how many of them are necessary for the agency to fulfill its mission?

	----- Necessary -----			Half are necessary, half are unnecessary		----- Unnecessary -----		No op/Skip
	Vast majority		Most			Most positions		Vast majority
	NET			NET				
3/10/25	85	47	38	11	3	1	1	1

19. What do you think would be the most significant impact if many federal jobs like yours were eliminated? (Open-end)

[Open-ended response; not tabulated]

20. Do you think the average American understands what the agency you [work/worked] for does, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	44	55	1

21. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	/Skipped
3/10/25	36	15	22	63	12	51	1

Compare to U.S. adults:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			Skip/
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
2/18/25	45	27	19	53	13	39	2

22. What is the most significant change you think Trump will make to the federal government? (Open-end)

[Open-ended response; not tabulated]

23. All in all, what effect will Donald Trump have on each of the following? Do you think he will make each better, worse, or not have much effect?

3/10/25 - Summary table among federal workers

	Better	Worse	Not have much effect	No opinion /Skipped
a. The way the federal government works in Washington	32	56	11	1
b. How the federal government serves ordinary Americans	27	58	13	2
c. Government regulations on businesses	33	53	13	1
d. Ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent effectively	37	49	13	2
e. Ability of your agency to fulfill its mission	21	59	18	1

24. Please indicate whether each of the following describes how you feel about the actions the Trump administration is taking with the federal workforce:

3/10/25 - Summary table among federal workers

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
a. Scared	63	36	1
b. Hopeful	34	65	2
c. Angry	55	43	1
d. Enthusiastic	24	74	2
e. Frustrated	69	29	2
f. Pleased	26	73	2

25. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) Do you think Trump's executive orders impacting the federal agency where you work are:

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			No opinion
	NET	All	Mostly	NET	Mostly	All	/Skipped
3/10/25	41	16	25	57	39	19	2

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Elon Musk is doing within the federal government?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	/Skipped
3/10/25	33	11	21	67	9	58	1

Compare to U.S. adults:

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Elon Musk is doing within the federal government?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			Not sure	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	/Skipped	/Skipped
2/18/25	34	21	13	49	8	41	14	2

27. Do you think Musk's team is mainly cutting (wasteful government spending) or is he cutting (necessary government programs)?

	Cutting wasteful government spending		Cutting necessary government programs		Not sure	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	NET	Somewhat	/Skipped	/Skipped
3/10/25	24	24	52	24	*	*

Compare to U.S. adults:

	Cutting wasteful government spending		Cutting necessary government programs		Not sure	No opinion
	NET	Strongly	NET	Somewhat	/Skipped	/Skipped
2/18/25	37	37	34	26	3	3

28. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) How likely do you think it is that the Trump administration will remove you from your position through a reduction in force, layoffs or firings?

	----- Likely -----			----- Not likely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	/Skipped
3/10/25	35	7	28	63	41	22	2

29. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) How likely are you to voluntarily leave your position in the federal government over the next 12 months, even if your position is not eliminated?

	----- Likely -----			----- Less likely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	/Skipped
3/10/25	18	6	12	81	26	55	1

30. (AMONG SOMEWHAT OR VERY LIKELY TO VOLUNTARILY LEAVE POSITION) Why are you likely to voluntarily leave your position? (Please choose all that apply)

	3/10/25
Feeling bullied by Trump/Musk/DOGE	43

Dislike the Trump administration	36
Think you will be laid off/ fired anyway	23
Ready to leave federal service regardless of presidency	20
Commuting to work is too much	17
Need to work remotely	16
Have a different job lined up	7
Some other reason	44

31. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) Are you actively looking for another job in any of these following places? (Select all that apply)

	3/10/25
A for-profit business	10
State government	7
The federal government	6
Self-employment	4
A nonprofit	4
Not looking for another job	80

32. How concerned are you, if at all, over the following if large numbers of federal workers are laid off?

3/10/25 - Summary table among federal workers

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	No op. /Skip
a. The loss of institutional knowledge at your agency	74	50	24	25	14	11	1
b. The ability to accomplish the agency's mission	75	51	24	24	13	11	1
c. The ability of the federal government to function	71	46	25	28	18	10	1

33. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) Regardless of your current work arrangement, would you say that, for the most part, the responsibilities of your job...

	Can be done from home	Cannot be done from home	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	37	63	*

34. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) In a typical week at your job **this January**, how many days did you...

3/10/25 - Summary table among current federal workers

	0 days	1	2	3	4	5	6	12	8	Average
a. Work from home	60	3	6	5	6	12	8	1.3		



b. Work on-site at an office or in the field            11    6    7    4    5    63            5            4.1

3/10/25 - Summary table among remote-capable federal workers (in Q33)

	0 days	1	2	3	4	5+ days	No op. /Skip	Average
a. Work from home	14	6	15	13	16	29	7	3.1
b. Work on-site at an office or in the field	22	15	17	11	6	20	10	2.3

35. If you had a choice, how often would you want to work from home?

	---- At least mostly ----				---- Less often ----			No op. /Skip
	NET	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	NET	Rarely	Never	
3/10/25 Remote-capable workers	35	20	16	23	42	15	26	*
	67	36	31	27	5	3	2	*

36. Do you support or oppose all government agencies returning to the office five days a week?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25 Remote-capable workers	48	50	1
	14	85	1

37. (AMONG CURRENT FEDERAL WORKERS) At this time, have you been assigned a specific desk or workspace in an office?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	57	42	*

38. Do you think the federal government's diversity, equity and inclusion programs or "DEI programs" were a good thing or a bad thing?

	----- Good -----			----- Bad -----			No opinion /Skipped
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
3/10/25	56	31	25	41	18	23	3

Compare to U.S. adults:

In general, do you think programs designed to increase the racial diversity of workplaces are:

A good thing	A bad thing	Skipped
--------------	-------------	---------

5/12/23 All U.S. 62 35 4

39. Under the Trump administration, do you think federal government employees or job applicants from each of the following backgrounds will be treated fairly, have an unfair advantage or have an unfair disadvantage?

3/10/25 - Summary table among federal workers

	Will be treated fairly	Have an unfair advantage	Have an unfair disadvantage	No op./Skip
a. White workers	67	25	5	2
b. Asian workers	56	6	36	2
c. Hispanic and Latino workers	49	5	43	2
d. Black workers	49	5	44	2
e. Disabled workers	46	7	45	2
f. Gay, lesbian or bisexual workers	45	5	47	2
g. Transgender workers	39	8	51	2

40. As of Jan. 1, 2025, was **another member of your household** employed full-time by the federal government (including all agencies and the Postal Service, excluding federal contracts)?

	Yes	No	No opinion /Skipped
3/10/25	13	86	1

Q41. (AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS) Did you happen to vote in the November 2024 elections for the U.S. president and Congress? Which candidate did you vote for in the 2024 Presidential election?

	Voted Harris	Voted Trump	Voted Other/Skipped	Did not vote
3/10/25	51	38	6	5

42. In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Something else	No op./Skip
3/10/25	35	28	30	6	1

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

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

Demographics of weighted sample

	% of civilian federal workers
Male	55%
Female	45

High School or less	27
Some college	24
Bachelor's degree	25
Postgraduate	23
<30	10
30-39	21
40-49	26
50-59	26
60+	17
White	58
Black	19
Hispanic	12
Asian/Other/Multiracial	12
Northeast	12
Midwest	17
South - except DC/MD/VA	30
DC/MD/VA	19
West	22

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. The poll includes a random sample of 614 civilian federal workers.

The 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 tablet 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 sample was weighted to match population estimates for the demographic makeup of civilian federal workers prior to the start of the 2025 Trump administration, as detailed in the table below.

	<b>Source of weighting benchmarks</b>
<b>Weighting factors</b>	
Agency size	Office of Personnel
Gender	Management June 2024 data
Education	via FedScope for non-postal
Age	service employees; 2022-
Race/Ethnicity	2023 Census American
Region	Community Survey for Postal
	workers

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.7 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.

The Washington Post and Ipsos are 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.

