The economic impact of COVID-19 is widespread, but the ramifications are felt disproportionately among people of color.

In the fourth week of this nationally representative survey*, disparities among how different racial and ethnic groups are affected by the crisis are emerging. The survey of now more than 4,000 adults is updated weekly and designed to track the impact of the pandemic on American lives, work, and education. Its intent is to provide insights to the education and training providers, policymakers, employers, and individual Americans who are navigating the crisis.

The survey findings capture how this period is affecting people’s jobs and earnings across different races and ethnicities — as well as perspectives on the role of education as they look to recover financially.

Most Americans (62%) are worried they will lose their jobs, but people of color are more worried.

- White: 57%
- Asian: 72%
- Black: 68%
- Latino: 72%

In the last month, the majority of Americans in the workforce (54%) have lost jobs or income during this crisis, but various groups are affected differently.

- Latino Americans are the most likely to have lost income from work.
- Latino Americans are the most likely to have had hours or shifts reduced.
- Black Americans are the most likely to have been laid off.

34% of Americans feel they would need more education to find a comparable job if they lost theirs, with Latino (38%) and Asian Americans (36%) most likely to believe they would need more.

36% of Americans would change career fields if they lost their jobs in the crisis. Black Americans (32%) are less likely to want to change career fields.

Americans would prefer to invest in their online education and training options over in person and employer-provided choices.

Online: 53%
In person: 26%
Employer-provided: 21%

*Survey completed weekly by Heart+Mind Strategies on behalf of the Center for Consumer Insights.
Strada Public Viewpoint: COVID-19 Work and Education Survey

Interview Dates: April 15 – 16, 2020

Audience: National online survey of Americans ages 18 and above. Quotas based on the U.S. Census were used to ensure results that are nationally representative by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and region. Sample size n=1,016

1. Please select the words below that best describe the way you feel right now about the virus outbreak. Please select all that apply.

   a. Concerned 58%
   b. Cautious 50%
   c. Worried 49%
   d. Anxious 45%
   e. Scared 30%
   f. Hopeful 30%
   g. Afraid 27%
   h. Angry 23%
   i. Optimistic 21%
   j. Confused 18%
   k. Determined 14%
   l. Confident 12%
   m. Resigned 8%
   n. Supported 8%
   o. Surprised 8%

2. What effect do you think the coronavirus outbreak will have on your ...?

   Finances

   a. Very negative effect 19%
   b. Somewhat negative effect 30%
   c. No effect 29%
   d. Somewhat positive effect 14%
   e. Very positive effect 9%
Job
a. Very negative effect 19%
b. Somewhat negative effect 30%
c. No effect 30%
d. Somewhat positive effect 13%
e. Very positive effect 11%

Mental health
a. Very negative effect 13%
b. Somewhat negative effect 31%
c. No effect 35%
d. Somewhat positive effect 10%
e. Very positive effect 10%

Physical health
a. Very negative effect 8%
b. Somewhat negative effect 24%
c. No effect 41%
d. Somewhat positive effect 15%
e. Very positive effect 12%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work) and for whom the item is applicable, n=varies.

3. How worried are you that you may lose your job as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) events, or are you not at all worried?
   a. Extremely worried 17%
   b. Very worried 17%
   c. Somewhat worried 24%
   d. Not very worried 19%
   e. Not at all worried 23%

Base: Individuals who were employed full-time or part-time or self-employed, n=561.

4. Did you lose your job or have your hours or income from work been reduced because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?
   a. Yes 55%
   b. No 45%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work) n=624.
5. Which of the following has happened to you in the past month

a. I have had my hours or shifts reduced  34%

b. I have been laid off  18%

c. I have been furloughed—I am receiving benefits  9%

d. I have been furloughed—I am not receiving benefits  6%

e. None of these  33%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work), data from March 25-April 16 n=1,888.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If I were to lose my job because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) events, I will need additional education or training to find another job with the same wages or income.

a. Strongly agree  14%

b. Agree  19%

c. Neither agree nor disagree  30%

d. Disagree  22%

e. Strongly disagree  15%

If I were to lose my job because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) events, I would look for a job in a career field that is different from what I currently do.

a. Strongly agree  16%

b. Agree  19%

c. Neither agree nor disagree  34%

d. Disagree  17%

e. Strongly disagree  14%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce: (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work) n=624.

7. If you had $5,000 available to invest in your future education or training, where would you prefer to spend it?

a. Online college or university  23%

b. Courses or training provided by an employer while on the job  18%

c. Online education provided by an organization other than a community college, college, or university  16%

d. Online community college  16%

e. In-person college or university  15%

f. In-person community college  12%