Public Viewpoint: COVID-19 Work and Education Survey

Work Impact and Education Perspectives by Job Field

The COVID-19 crisis has left millions of Americans without work. As workers struggle to adapt, millions will be looking to upskill, change jobs — or even change careers. The Public Viewpoint research is providing some early signs about impacts across various job fields as well as who is looking to reskill and how they want education and training to be delivered.

Responses from more than 6,000 adults now are included in this survey*, 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.

- **73%** of leisure and hospitality workers have lost jobs, income, or hours in the COVID-19 crisis.
- **51%** of information technology workers are worried about losing their jobs.
- **66%** of education workers believe the crisis will affect them personally for at least six months.
- Nearly half of workers in manufacturing, finance, and information technology say they would change fields if they lost their job.

A majority of American workers say they prefer nondegree and skill-based education and training programs.

Across job fields, workers prefer that education and training are delivered online.

* 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 29-30, 2020

Audience: National online survey of Americans ages 18 and above. Quotas based on the US Census were used to ensure results that are nationally representative by age, gender, race/ethnicity and region. Some data aggregated across multiple weeks. This week’s sample size n=1,004.

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 56%
   b. Cautious 50%
   c. Worried 46%
   d. Anxious 40%
   e. Hopeful 33%
   f. Afraid 25%
   g. Scared 24%
   h. Optimistic 22%
   i. Angry 21%
   j. Confused 18%
   k. Confident 13%
   l. Determined 13%
   m. Resigned 10%
   n. Surprised 9%
   o. Supported 8%

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

   Finances
   a. Very negative effect 16%
   b. Somewhat negative effect 32%
   c. No effect 33%
   d. Somewhat positive effect 12%
   e. Very positive effect 8%
Job
a. Very negative effect 17%
b. Somewhat negative effect 27%
c. No effect 36%
d. Somewhat positive effect 11%
e. Very positive effect 9%

Mental health
a. Very negative effect 11%
b. Somewhat negative effect 32%
c. No effect 37%
d. Somewhat positive effect 13%
e. Very positive effect 8%

Physical health
a. Very negative effect 8%
b. Somewhat negative effect 26%
c. No effect 42%
d. Somewhat positive effect 15%
e. Very positive effect 9%

*Base: Individuals 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 20%
   b. Very worried 20%
   c. Somewhat worried 23%
   d. Not very worried 17%
   e. Not at all worried 20%

   *Base: Individuals who were employed full-time or part-time or self-employed, n=545.

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 52%
   b. No 48%

   *Base: Individuals who were in the workforce (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work) n=611.
5. How long do you think the impact of the coronavirus will be to you personally?

   a. 1-3 months  22%
   b. 4-6 months  39%
   c. 7-12 months 21%
   d. More than 1 year 18%

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  11%
   b. Agree  22%
   c. Neither agree nor disagree  28%
   d. Disagree  25%
   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  12%
   b. Agree  25%
   c. Neither agree nor disagree  32%
   d. Disagree  18%
   e. Strongly disagree  13%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce: (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work) n=611.*

   I know which skills I should develop to be an attractive candidate for the jobs I want in the industry where I would like to work.

   a. Strongly agree  23%
   b. Agree  38%
   c. Neither agree nor disagree  28%
   d. Disagree  7%
   e. Strongly disagree  4%

*Base: Individuals who were in the workforce: (employed full-time or part-time, self-employed, or unemployed looking for work), aggregated across multiple weeks, n=1,884.*
7. If you had $5,000 available to invest in your future education or training, where would you prefer to spend it?

   a. Courses or training provided by an employer while on the job 21%
   b. Online college or university 20%
   c. Online education provided by an organization other than a community college, college or university 17%
   d. In-person college or university 16%
   e. Online community college 15%
   f. In-person community college 10%

8. If you were to enroll in additional education or training sometime within the next six months, what would be your goal?

   a. A certificate, certification, or license 16%
   b. One or more courses to get some skills I need for work 13%
   c. One or more courses for personal interests or hobbies 12%
   d. A bachelor's degree 9%
   e. A graduate degree 9%
   f. An associate degree 7%
   g. I do not plan to enroll in any kind of education or training within the next 6 months 33%

9. If you were to enroll in additional education or training sometime within the next six months, what would be the main reason you would enroll?

   a. To get more skills in my current career field 24%
   b. To get skills for a new career field 22%
   c. For personal interest 20%
   d. I do not plan to enroll in any kind of education or training within the next six months 35%