



# June 2021 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire

Total N=2,422 adults. | Interview dates: June 11–June 27, 2021.

*Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk (\*) replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.*

## ASK ALL:

**Q.1** Thinking about the job situation in America today, would you say that it is now a good time or a bad time to find a quality job?

74	Good time
25	Bad time
1	Refused

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N= 1,214]:

**Q.2a** Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community, or are jobs difficult to find?

78	Plenty of jobs available
22	Difficult to find
1	Refused

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,208]:

**Q.2b** Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available in your community, or are good jobs difficult to find?

66	Plenty of jobs available
33	Difficult to find
1	Refused

## ASK ALL:

**Q.3** Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

50	Employed full-time
10	Employed part-time
25	Retired
15	Not employed
*	Refused

**Q.4** All in all, how satisfied would you say you are with the following?

a. How things are going in your life today

14	Completely satisfied
38	Very satisfied
34	Somewhat satisfied
10	Not too satisfied
3	Not at all satisfied
*	Refused

b. Your living situation

26	Completely satisfied
38	Very satisfied
24	Somewhat satisfied
8	Not too satisfied
3	Not at all satisfied
1	Refused

**ASK IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME [N=1,078]:**

c. Your job

20	Completely satisfied
40	Very satisfied
31	Somewhat satisfied
7	Not too satisfied
2	Not at all satisfied
*	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.5** During most of the coronavirus pandemic, what was your employment situation?

19	Worked remote fully, five days a week
7	Worked remote part of the time, a few days a week
5	Worked remote just on occasion
27	Did not work remote at all
37	Was not working
4	Other [SPECIFY]
1	Refused

**Q.6** Even if you are not currently employed, what do you think is the ideal work situation? A job where you work...

21	Remotely full-time
37	Remotely some of the time
41	In person, at a central workplace with your coworkers
2	Refused

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED [N=727]:**

**Q.7** How long has it been since your last regular employment?

- 8 Less than 1 month
- 9 2-5 months
- 13 6-11 months
- 20 Between 1 and 2 years
- 47 More than 2 years
- 3 Refused

**ASK IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME [N=1,078]**

**Q.8** How many jobs do you currently have?

- 86 One
- 12 More than one, but consider one of them my primary job
- 1 More than one and do not consider any of them my primary job
- \* Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.9** Even if you are not currently working or retired, do you do something to earn extra money that is not your household's main source of income?

- 26 Yes
- 73 No
- 1 Refused

**ASK IF EARNING EXTRA MONEY [N=632]:**

**Q.10** If you could manage it, would you prefer to do this as a full-time job, or would you rather this be something you do only part-time?

- 26 Do full-time
- 74 Do only part-time
- \* Refused

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED [N=727]:**

**Q.11** What is the main reason you are not currently working for pay?

- 20 Taking care of children or family members
- 24 Have personal health problems or a disability and unable to work
- 13 Unable to find the right job or position
- 12 Pursuing education or training opportunities
- 6 Taking time off to review my life priorities
- 2 Previous position was not paying enough
- 5 Do not need the money right now
- 8 Concerns about COVID-19
- 8 Other [SPECIFY]
- 2 Refused

**IF EMPLOYED PART-TIME [N=180]:**

**Q.12** You mentioned that you currently work part time. Would you prefer to be working full time, or not?

- 34 Yes, prefer full time
- 65 No, would not
- 1 Refused

**ASK ALL:**

And thinking about your employment situation...

**Q.13** Even if you already have a job, are you currently...

- 11 Looking for a new full-time position
- 5 Looking for a new part-time position
- 11 Not looking for a new position, but will be looking in the next 6 months
- 71 Not looking for a new position and will NOT be looking in the next 6 months
- 2 Refused

**Q.14 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

**Q.15** Now, please tell me if you or anyone in your household has done or experienced any of the following in the last 12 months.

a. Lost your job or had your work hours reduced

- 11 Yes, happened to me
- 11 Yes, happened to someone in my household
- 2 Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household
- 75 No
- 1 Refused

b. Received unemployment benefits

- 9 Yes, happened to me
- 9 Yes, happened to someone in my household
- 2 Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household
- 79 No
- 1 Refused

c. Received financial support from parents or other family members

- 7 Yes, happened to me
- 4 Yes, happened to someone in my household
- 1 Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household
- 87 No
- 1 Refused

d. Worked at a job that paid minimum wage

- 6 Yes, happened to me
- 4 Yes, happened to someone in my household
- \* Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household
- 89 No
- 1 Refused

e. Worked at a job that relied on tips

- 2 Yes, happened to me
- 2 Yes, happened to someone in my household
- \* Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household
- 95 No
- 1 Refused

- f. Received government food assistance, such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits

9 Yes, happened to me  
 4 Yes, happened to someone in my household  
 1 Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household  
 86 No  
 1 Refused

- g. Used money from a savings or retirement account to pay your bills

17 Yes, happened to me  
 4 Yes, happened to someone in my household  
 2 Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household  
 75 No  
 1 Refused

- h. Started a new business venture

3 Yes, happened to me  
 1 Yes, happened to someone in my household  
 \* Yes, happened to both me and to someone in my household  
 94 No  
 1 Refused

#### Q.16 NO QUESTION 16

#### ASK IF RECEIVED EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR SNAP [N=788]:

- Q.17 Was the amount of support you and your household received enough to get by or was it not enough to get by on?

71 Enough  
 28 Not enough  
 \* Refused

#### ASK ALL:

- RELIG What is your present religion, if any?

32 Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)  
 21 Roman Catholic (Catholic)  
 2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)  
 \* Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)  
 2 Jewish (Judaism)  
 \* Muslim (Islam)  
 1 Buddhist  
 1 Hindu  
 6 Atheist (do not believe in God)  
 5 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)  
 13 Nothing in particular  
 13 Just Christian  
 2 Something else [SPECIFY]  
 1 Refused

**ASK IF PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, MORMON, ORTHODOX, JUST CHRISTIAN OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=1,700]:**

**BORN** Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

38	Yes
61	No
*	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.18** Do you think unemployment benefits in your state have been too generous, not generous enough, or about right?

39	Too generous
44	About right
16	Not generous enough
2	Refused

**Q.19** Do you think the federal government is doing...

44	Too much to support the unemployed
21	Not doing enough to support the unemployed, or
34	Is doing about the right amount
1	Refused

**ASK IF REPORTED EMPLOYMENT STATUS [N=2,414]:**

**Q.20** Do you think of [IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED INSERT: "your current job"; IF RETIRED OR NOT EMPLOYED INSERT: "your previous job"] as a career, a stepping stone to a career, or do you think of it as just a job to get you by?

51	A career
13	A stepping stone to a career
34	Just a job to get you by
2	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.21** In general, how important, if at all, is each of the following in order to live a fulfilling life?

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,214]:**

a. Being married

25	Essential
49	Important, but not essential
25	Not important
1	Refused

b. Having a lot of money

15	Essential
69	Important, but not essential
14	Not important
1	Refused

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,208]:**

- c. Being in a committed romantic relationship

35	Essential
51	Important, but not essential
14	Not important
*	Refused

- d. Earning a lot of money

16	Essential
68	Important, but not essential
15	Not important
1	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

- e. Having children

27	Essential
47	Important, but not essential
25	Not important
1	Refused

- f. Having a job or career you enjoy

56	Essential
40	Important, but not essential
4	Not important
1	Refused

- g. Having good friends

58	Essential
36	Important, but not essential
5	Not important
1	Refused

**ASK IF REPORTED EMPLOYMENT STATUS [N=2,414]:**

**Q.22** Now still thinking about what gives your life meaning and fulfillment, regardless of how much time you spend doing it, how much meaning and fulfillment, if any, **[IF EMPLOYED INSERT: "does your current job or career"; IF RETIRED OR NOT EMPLOYED INSERT: "did your previous job or career"]** provide you?

31	A great deal
45	Some
16	Not much
7	None at all
*	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.23** Do you think it is possible to live a complete and satisfying life even if you do not like your job, or is this not possible?

61	Yes, possible
39	No, not possible
1	Refused

**ASK IF REPORTED EMPLOYMENT STATUS [N=2,414]:**

**Q.24** Here are two different ways of looking at a job. Some people get a sense of identity from their job. For other people, their job is just what they do for a living. Which of these best describes **[IF RETIRED OR NOT EMPLOYED INSERT: "the way you usually felt about your job]** the way you usually feel about your job?

45	Sense of identity
54	Just what you do for a living
1	Refused

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.25** Thinking about your own work experiences...Which of these things, if any, is important to you personally when choosing a job?

a. Having a high-paying job

13	One of the most important
40	Very important
39	Somewhat important
7	Less important
1	Refused

b. Having flexibility to balance work and family needs

36	One of the most important
50	Very important
11	Somewhat important
3	Less important
1	Refused

c. Having opportunities for promotion or advancement

19	One of the most important
45	Very important
27	Somewhat important
7	Less important
1	Refused

d. Making a meaningful contribution to society

15	One of the most important
39	Very important
35	Somewhat important
9	Less important
1	Refused

e. Having a job that others respect and value

15	One of the most important
37	Very important
33	Somewhat important
14	Less important
1	Refused



f. Having a job that focuses on helping others

17	One of the most important
36	Very important
36	Somewhat important
10	Less important
1	Refused

g. Being in a workplace that is welcoming for people like me

24	One of the most important
50	Very important
20	Somewhat important
5	Less important
1	Refused

h. Being able to work remotely when you want

11	One of the most important
21	Very important
32	Somewhat important
35	Less important
1	Refused

**Q.26** Are you now currently enrolled in school or will be enrolled in school for the upcoming 2021 academic year, either full or part-time?

5	Full-time student
4	Part-time student
91	Not student
1	Refused

**Q.27** What best describes your current living situation? Are you living with... **[SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

12	Parents
63	Spouse, partner, or significant other
3	Unrelated roommates
27	Children, siblings, or other family members
14	Live alone [EXCLUSIVE]
1	Other [SPECIFY]
1	Refused

**Q.28** What is the MOST important financial problem facing you and your household today?

11	Lack of money or low wages
13	Cost of owning or renting a home
15	High cost of living where you live
14	Health care costs
7	College expenses, student loans, or education debt
8	Credit card debt
3	Lack of good job opportunities
11	Lack of savings or retirement
3	Cost of childcare or taking care of parents/grandparents
5	No financial problems
3	Other financial problem [SPECIFY]
7	Refused

**Q.29** Do you favor or oppose the following?

- a. Federal government providing a guaranteed income, sometimes called a Universal Basic Income, of about \$1,000 a month for all adult citizens, whether or not they work

23 Strongly favor  
23 Somewhat favor  
20 Somewhat oppose  
32 Strongly oppose  
1 Refused

- b. Increasing federal government funding for child care to make it available to more parents

32 Strongly favor  
37 Somewhat favor  
16 Somewhat oppose  
13 Strongly oppose  
2 Refused

- c. Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour

40 Strongly favor  
23 Somewhat favor  
16 Somewhat oppose  
19 Strongly oppose  
1 Refused

**Q.30** Do you personally know anyone in the United States who has tested positive for the coronavirus? **[SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]**

10 Yes, myself  
39 Yes, family member  
39 Yes, friend  
30 Yes, someone else  
20 No  
1 Refused

# Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by the Survey Center on American Life. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,422 adults (age 18 and up), with an oversample of 406 unemployed respondents living in the United States, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted among participants of the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviewing was conducted between June 11 and June 27 2021<sup>1</sup>. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and internet service provider connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race, education, Census region by metropolitan status, and household income. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of error for the qualified survey sample is  $\pm 2.3$  percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.4.

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<sup>1</sup> Fielding of a two-wave omnibus sample representative of the US adult population was conducted between June 11-June 20 2021. An oversample of unemployed individuals was conducted between June 24-June 27 2021.