Public Viewpoint: COVID-19 Work and Education Survey

Demographic differences in impact and perspectives
Insights: Work challenges and education expectations

1. Impact is widespread, but people of color have been disproportionately affected.

2. Latino Americans are the most likely to have lost income from work.

3. Black Americans are the most likely to have been laid off.

4. Asian and Latino Americans are more likely than white and black Americans to believe they will need more education if they lose their jobs.

5. Americans strongly favor online education, but preferences vary by group.
Americans’ worries about their jobs, finances, and physical health stayed steady, while worries about mental health increased.

What effect do you think the coronavirus outbreak will have on each of the following parts of your life?

(% very negative or somewhat negative)

Weekly online surveys with n≥ 1,000
Work
People of color have been disproportionately impacted by the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis.
This week, 59% of Americans remain worried they will lose their jobs.

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?

Weekly online surveys n>=500 individuals employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed.
Americans of color are more worried about job loss

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?

62% 57% 72% 68% 72%

Somewhat worried Very worried Extremely worried

All White Asian Black Latino

n=2,154 individuals employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed from online surveys March 25-April 16
The majority of Americans have either lost their jobs or seen their hours or income reduced

Did you lose your job or have your hours or income from work been reduced because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?

Weekly online surveys n>=600 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Latino Americans have the most widespread reduction of income

Did you lose your job or have your hours or income from work been reduced due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?

- All: 54%
- White: 51%
- Asian: 48%
- Black: 51%
- Latino: 66%

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Black Americans are the most likely to have been laid off

Which of the following has happened to you in the past month: I have been laid off

18% All
15% White
16% Asian
25% Black
22% Latino

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Latino Americans are the most likely to have had hours or shifts reduced

Which of the following has happened to you in the past month: I have had my hours or shifts reduced

- All: 34%
- White: 34%
- Asian: 31%
- Black: 31%
- Latino: 40%

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Latino and Asian American business owners are the most likely to have lost income

Among those who say they own a business:
Did you lose your job or have your hours or income from work been reduced due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?

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<th>All</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>65%</td>
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Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Education
Perspectives on future education and career pathways vary
Latino and Asian Americans are the most likely to feel they would need more education to replace a lost job.

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.

- 34% for All
- 33% for White
- 36% for Asian
- 31% for Black
- 38% for Latino

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Black Americans are less likely to want to change career fields

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.

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, n=2,498 individuals in the workforce (employed or unemployed and looking for work)
Online courses or training are the top choice, but preferences vary

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

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, 2020, n=4,023

- White: 21% Employer provided, 24% In person, 55% Online
- Asian: 27% Employer provided, 27% In person, 46% Online
- Black: 17% Employer provided, 31% In person, 52% Online
- Latino: 21% Employer provided, 33% In person, 47% Online
Black and Latino Americans are more likely to prefer in-person education or training than other groups

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

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<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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Online surveys March 25 – April 16, 2020, n=4,023
Black Americans are the least likely to prefer employer-provided training

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

White
- Employer provided: 21%
- In person: 55%
- Online: 24%

Asian
- Employer provided: 27%
- In person: 46%
- Online: 27%

Black
- Employer provided: 17%
- In person: 52%
- Online: 31%

Latino
- Employer provided: 21%
- In person: 47%
- Online: 33%

Online surveys March 25 – April 16, 2020, n=4,023
1. **Impact is widespread, but people of color have been disproportionately affected.** Compared to white Americans, people of color are more likely to be worried about losing their jobs or have lost work or income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

2. **Latino Americans are the most likely to have lost income from work.** Sixty-six percent of Latino Americans report losing a job, hours or income, compared to 51 percent of white Americans.

3. **Black Americans are the most likely to have been laid off.** Twenty-five percent of black Americans in the workforce report being laid off from their job, compared to 15 percent of white Americans.

4. **Latino and Asian Americans are more likely than white and black Americans to believe they will need more education if they lose their jobs.** Thirty-eight percent of Latino Americans and 36 percent of Asian Americans said they would need more education and training, compared to 33 percent of white Americans and 31 percent of black Americans.

5. **Americans strongly favor online education, but preferences vary by group.**
Learn more at
StradaEducation.org/PublicViewpoint
or email
consumervoice@stradaeducation.org
Methodology

• Weekly tracking of education consumers’ perceptions of COVID-19’s impact on postsecondary education and work in America, completed by Heart+Mind Strategies on behalf of Strada Education Network’s Center for Consumer Insights.

• Online survey of Americans ages 18 and above.

• Representative of the general population in age, gender, geographic region, and race/ethnicity.

• Current report for survey results from April 15-16, n=1,016. Previous waves: April 8-9, 2020, n=1,001; April 1-2, 2020, n=1,000; March 25-26, 2020, n=1,006; and March 18-19, 2020, n=1,035. For data aggregated from March 25-April 16, n=4,023.

• A theoretical margin of error based on a probability sample of size 1,000 would be +/- 3.1% at 95% confidence. This is not a probability-based sample, and a margin of error cannot be estimated. Based on experience, we believe the sampling error would be at least this number.

• Please contact the Center for Consumer Insights with questions or information requests at consumervoice@stradaeducation.org or learn more at StradaEducation.org/PublicViewpoint