

## Strada Public Viewpoint: COVID-19 Work and Education Survey

**Interview Dates:** Oct. 14-29, 2020

**Audience:** National online survey of Americans ages 18 and above excluding retirees. 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=1,593

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### 1. How do you feel about your opportunities to advance in your current job?

My opportunities to advance at work are ....

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| a. Very poor | 10% |
| b. Poor      | 13% |
| c. Uncertain | 26% |
| d. Good      | 32% |
| e. Very good | 19% |

*Base: Individuals who were employed full-time or part-time or self-employed, n=1,144.*

### 2. How do you feel about your ability to get a good job? Please rate your feelings on a scale of 1 to 5, where “1” means very difficult and “5” means very easy.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Very difficult for me to get a good job | 26% |
| 2.   | 14% |
| 3.   | 34% |
| 4.   | 15% |
| 5. Very easy for me to get a good job      | 16% |

### 3. Thinking about your local economy and the jobs you would like to have, how would more education or training impact your ability to get a good job and advance at work?

More education and training would:

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Give me a very strong advantage  | 25% |
| b. Give me a strong advantage       | 23% |
| c. Give me somewhat of an advantage | 23% |
| d. Give me a very small advantage   | 7%  |
| e. Make no difference               | 22% |

4. Thinking about why you may feel your opportunities to advance at work or find a good job may be limited, please rate each of the following for how well they describe your situation.

*There are few opportunities for people that look like me*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 14% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 16% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 27% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 14% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 29% |

*I don't have an employer who will provide training*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 17% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 18% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 21% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 11% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 34% |

*I don't have an employer who will help pay for education*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 19% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 17% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 21% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 10% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 33% |

*The system isn't fair*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 15% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 19% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 24% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 19% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 29% |

*I don't have the right skills*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 14% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 16% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 23% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 19% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 28% |

*I don't have the right education, certifications or degree*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 16% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 14% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 23% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 14% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 29% |

*I don't know where to begin or how to focus my efforts*

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Describes my situation very well | 15% |
| b. Describes my situation well      | 18% |
| c. Somewhat describes my situation  | 28% |
| d. Barely describes my situation    | 13% |
| e. Does not apply to my situation   | 27% |

Base: Individuals who feel that opportunities to advance at work are poor, or who feel it would be difficult to get a good job, n=1,129.

5. **Some people say that education and training is not worth the cost. Below is a list of reasons they give. Please choose the top three and rank them in order of why you personally don't believe getting more education or training would be worth the cost.**

*Time away from work*

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| a. Any rank               | 40% |
| b. Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> | 15% |
| c. Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 14% |
| d. Ranked 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 11% |

*Impact on my relationships*

- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| a. Any rank   | 26% |
| b. Ranked 1st | 8%  |
| c. Ranked 2nd | 10% |
| d. Ranked 3rd | 8%  |

*The effort and energy it would take*

- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| a. Any rank   | 53% |
| b. Ranked 1st | 9%  |
| c. Ranked 2nd | 17% |
| d. Ranked 3rd | 21% |

*The quality of education or training available*

a. Any rank	36%
b. Ranked 1st	9%
c. Ranked 2nd	13%
d. Ranked 3rd	14%

*My confidence about how well I would do*

a. Any rank	37%
b. Ranked 1st	10%
c. Ranked 2nd	11%
d. Ranked 3rd	16%

*The financial cost*

a. Any rank	65%
b. Ranked 1st	32%
c. Ranked 2nd	19%
d. Ranked 3rd	14%

*No real benefit at work*

a. Any rank	49%
b. Ranked 1st	16%
c. Ranked 2nd	16%
d. Ranked 3rd	16%

*Base: Individuals in the workforce who believe that getting more education or training would not be worth the cost, n=682.*

**6. Would any of the following improve your confidence that additional education or training would be worth the cost?**

*Work-based learning opportunities (such as apprenticeships and internships)*

a. Definitely	14%
b. Probably	30%
c. Maybe	34%
d. Probably not	16%
e. Definitely not	7%

*Partnerships between employers and education or training programs*

a. Definitely	15%
b. Probably	28%
c. Maybe	38%
d. Probably not	12%
e. Definitely not	7%

*Education or training that develops skills that local employers want*

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| a. Definitely     | 14% |
| b. Probably       | 29% |
| c. Maybe          | 39% |
| d. Probably not   | 10% |
| e. Definitely not | 8%  |

*Help identifying the most valuable skills you could develop through education and training*

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| a. Definitely     | 16% |
| b. Probably       | 28% |
| c. Maybe          | 36% |
| d. Probably not   | 12% |
| e. Definitely not | 8%  |

*Help identifying pathways between education and careers that fit your strengths*

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| a. Definitely     | 14% |
| b. Probably       | 27% |
| c. Maybe          | 36% |
| d. Probably not   | 15% |
| e. Definitely not | 7%  |

*Additional support to help you be successful in classes*

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| a. Definitely     | 13% |
| b. Probably       | 28% |
| c. Maybe          | 37% |
| d. Probably not   | 15% |
| e. Definitely not | 7%  |

*Base: Individuals in the workforce who believe that getting more education or training would not be worth the cost, n=682.*