

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 81 JANUARY 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
JANUARY 19-24, 2021
TOTAL N=10,334**

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). A HYPHEN (-) INDICATES THAT THE SAMPLE SIZE FOR A GIVEN SUBGROUP IS TOO SMALL TO REPORT FOR THAT QUESTION. ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL.

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	10,334	+/- 1.6 percentage points
<i>Lower income</i>	2,193	+/- 3.4 percentage points
<i>Middle income</i>	4,872	+/- 2.2 percentage points
<i>Upper income</i>	2,823	+/- 2.6 percentage points

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PERSFNC Thinking about your personal finances...How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in...

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
12	Excellent shape	4	10	33
41	Good shape	23	48	53
32	Only fair shape	44	33	12
14	Poor shape	30	9	2
*	No Answer	*	*	*

TREND:

	<u>Excellent shape</u>	<u>Good shape</u>	<u>Only fair shape</u>	<u>Poor shape</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 7-12, 2020	7	40	37	16	*
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	10	40	34	15	1

ASK ALL:

CVDECON1 Compared with one year ago, is the financial situation of you and your family now...

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
30	Better	22	32	39
21	Worse	31	18	11
49	About the same	46	49	50
*	No answer	*	*	*

ASK IF IN WORSE SHAPE COMPARED WITH ONE YEAR AGO (CVDECON1=2) [n=1,907]:

CVDECON2 Considering everything, how long do you think it will take for the financial situation of you and your family to get back to where it was a year ago?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
12	Less than a year	12	13	11
43	1-2 years	41	45	47
26	3-5 years	24	27	30
6	6-10 years	8	5	2
1	More than 10 years	1	1	1
12	It will never get back to where it was	14	10	8
*	No answer	*	*	*

ASK ALL:

E_COVIDMOD Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
44	Employed full-time	25	51	61
12	Employed part-time	16	10	8
18	Retired	14	20	20
3	Furloughed or temporarily laid off	5	3	1
22	Not employed	39	16	10
1	No answer	1	*	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE OR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

CVDECON9 Thinking about your situation in relation to most of the people you know...

Just your impression, has the economic impact from the coronavirus outbreak...

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
13	Hurt your finances MORE than those of most other people you know	24	10	6
39	Hurt your finances LESS than those of most other people you know	27	42	55
47	Impacted your finances about the same as it has most other people you know	48	48	39
1	No answer	1	*	*

ASK IF NOT RETIRED (E_COVIDMOD=1,2,4,5) [n=8,072]:

CVDECON10 In the long run, do you think the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak will make achieving your financial goals... **[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
2	A lot easier	2	2	1
6	Somewhat easier	5	7	5
41	Neither easier nor harder	34	41	52
35	Somewhat harder	33	38	32
16	A lot harder	25	11	9
1	No answer	1	1	*

[RANDOMIZE SAVINGS AND SPENDING]**ASK ALL:**

SAVINGS

Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, have you... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
16	Been able to put MORE money into savings than usual	8	17	30
22	Been able to put LESS money into savings than usual	25	23	16
32	Been able to put the SAME AMOUNT of money into savings as usual	18	35	46
29	Usually not able to put any money into savings	47	25	8
1	No answer	1	*	*

TREND:

	Been able to put MORE money into savings than usual	Been able to put LESS money into savings than usual	Been able to put the SAME AMOUNT of money into savings as usual	Usually not able to put any money into savings	No answer
Aug 3-16, 2020 ¹	13	25	30	31	1

¹ In the 2020 survey, the question wording did not specify "2020" and was: "Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February, have you..."

[RANDOMIZE SAVINGS AND SPENDING]**ASK ALL:**

SPENDING

Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, have you... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS SAVINGS, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
19	Been spending MORE money than usual	26	17	11
42	Been spending LESS money than usual	34	43	53
39	Been spending about the SAME AMOUNT of money as usual	38	40	36
1	No answer	1	*	*

ASK IF SPENDING LESS (SPENDING=2) [n=4,926]:

CVDECON11 Are you spending less money than usual mainly because...

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
32	You are worried about your personal finances	55	30	14
67	Your daily activities have changed due to coronavirus-related restrictions	44	70	86
1	No answer	1	*	*

ASK ALL:

CVDECON12 When the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, were you...

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
50	Employed full-time	35	55	64
13	Employed part-time	16	12	9
36	Not employed	48	32	26
1	No answer	2	1	*

ASK ALL:CVDECON13 Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, have any of the following happened to you personally? **[DISPLAY ITEMS IN ORDER]**

a. Been laid off or lost a job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
16	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	23	14	7
47	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	32	51	65
36	Not applicable (have not been employed since the coronavirus outbreak began)	43	34	27
1	No answer	1	*	*

CVDECON13 CONTINUED ...

b. Had to take a cut in pay due to reduced hours or demand for your work

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
20	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	25	19	15
41	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	26	46	57
38	Not applicable (have not been employed since the coronavirus outbreak began)	47	34	28
1	No answer	2	1	*

c. Been furloughed or temporarily laid off

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
15	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	18	16	8
47	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	33	50	63
38	Not applicable (have not been employed since the coronavirus outbreak began)	48	34	28
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK IF MORE THAN ONE ADULT IN HOUSEHOLD (XHH3=1) [n=7,902]:

CVDECON14 What about other people currently living in your household? Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, has ANYONE ELSE in your immediate household...
[DISPLAY ITEMS IN ORDER]

a. Been laid off or lost a job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
20	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	28	18	11
51	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	38	53	64
29	Not applicable	33	28	25
1	No answer	1	1	*

b. Had to take a cut in pay due to reduced hours or demand for your work

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
25	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	32	24	17
44	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	32	46	57
31	Not applicable	35	29	26
1	No answer	1	1	*

CVDECON14 CONTINUED ...

c. Been furloughed or temporarily laid off

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
19	Yes, has happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	24	19	11
49	No, has not happened since the coronavirus outbreak began	38	50	63
32	Not applicable	37	30	26
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK IF RESPONDENT OR SOMEONE IN HOUSEHOLD HAS BEEN LAID OFF, TAKEN A PAY CUT, OR BEEN FURLOUGHED (CVDECON13a=1 OR CVDECON13b=1 OR CVDECON13c=1 OR CVDECON14a=1 OR CVDECON14b=1 OR CVDECON14c=1) [n=4,136]:

CVDECON15 Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, have you done any of the following in order to cover any lost wages or salary? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF SCREENS 1-3, DISPLAY ITEMS IN ORDER ON EACH SCREEN]**

SCREEN 1

a. Used savings you had set aside for emergencies

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
52	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	66	49	29
47	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	34	50	70
1	No answer	*	1	1

b. Used savings you had set aside for something else

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
52	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	65	49	32
46	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	35	49	67
1	No answer	1	2	1

c. Taken on debt

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
38	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	48	38	17
61	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	51	61	82
1	No answer	1	1	1

CVDECON15 CONTINUED ...**SCREEN 2**

d. Received unemployment benefits

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
32	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	34	33	25
67	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	66	66	75
1	No answer	*	1	*

e. Gone on public assistance other than unemployment benefits

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
15	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	29	10	1
84	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	70	90	98
*	No answer	1	*	*

f. Cut back on your spending

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
71	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	81	69	55
28	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	19	30	45
1	No answer	1	*	*

SCREEN 3

g. Put off paying your bills

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
30	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	42	27	13
69	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	57	73	86
1	No answer	1	*	1

h. Borrowed money from family or friends

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
30	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	50	24	7
69	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	49	76	92
1	No answer	1	*	1

CVDECON15 CONTINUED ...

- i. Done any side jobs or temporary work outside of your regular job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
37	Yes, have done this to cover lost wages or salary	48	34	20
62	No, have not done this to cover lost wages or salary	51	66	79
1	No answer	1	*	1

ASK IF EMPLOYED (E_COVIDMOD=1,2) [n=6,001]:

CVDECON16 Since the coronavirus outbreak began in February 2020, have any of the following happened to you? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Gotten a pay raise or a higher-paying job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
31	Yes, has happened since February 2020	31	30	33
69	No, has not happened since February 2020	69	70	67
*	No answer	1	*	*

- b. Earned more money by working more overtime or longer hours

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
23	Yes, has happened since February 2020	30	24	15
76	No, has not happened since February 2020	70	76	84
*	No answer	1	*	*

- c. Taken unpaid time off work for personal, family or medical reasons

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
20	Yes, has happened since February 2020	32	19	10
80	No, has not happened since February 2020	67	81	90
1	No answer	2	*	*

ASK IF RESPONDENT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND WAS EMPLOYED BEFORE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK BUT EXPERIENCED PAY CUT (E_COVIDMOD=1,2 AND CVDECON12=1,2 AND CVDECON13b=1) [n=1,446]:

POSTCOVIDPAYRMOD Which of the following best describes your current circumstances?

I am now earning... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
49	Less money than before the coronavirus outbreak	49	49	52
16	More money than before the coronavirus outbreak	18	15	16
34	About the same amount of money as before the coronavirus outbreak	33	36	33
*	No answer	*	*	0

ASK IF NOT RETIRED AND AGE 50 OR OLDER (E_COVIDMOD=1,2,4,5 AND XAGE=1)

[n=3,568]:

CVDECON17 Have you delayed your retirement, or do you think you might have to delay your retirement, because of the coronavirus outbreak?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
7	Yes, have delayed my retirement	8	7	6
17	Yes, think I might have to delay my retirement	14	19	16
72	No, have not done/don't think I'll have to do this	73	70	77
4	No answer	5	4	1

ASK ALL:

WORRY2

How often, if ever, do you worry about each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]**

a. The amount of debt you have

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
16	Every day	26	15	6
14	Almost every day	15	16	7
28	Sometimes	26	30	25
19	Rarely	14	18	27
23	Never	18	21	34
*	No answer	1	*	*

WORRY2 CONTINUED ...**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E_COVIDMOD=1,2) [n=6,001]:**

b. Losing your job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
10	Every day	18	8	4
6	Almost every day	10	5	4
29	Sometimes	28	30	29
32	Rarely	26	33	34
23	Never	17	23	29
*	No answer	*	*	*

c. Paying your bills

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
15	Every day	27	12	5
12	Almost every day	16	12	4
29	Sometimes	32	31	16
23	Rarely	13	25	31
22	Never	10	20	44
*	No answer	1	*	*

d. The cost of health care for you and your family

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
14	Every day	21	12	6
13	Almost every day	15	15	7
36	Sometimes	31	39	35
19	Rarely	17	18	27
18	Never	16	16	25
*	No answer	*	*	*

e. Being able to save enough for your retirement

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
15	Every day	23	14	8
14	Almost every day	16	14	10
34	Sometimes	27	38	38
17	Rarely	14	16	20
19	Never	19	17	23
1	No answer	2	1	*

WORRY2 CONTINUED ...**ASK IF EMPLOYED (E_COVIDMOD=1,2) [n=6,001]:**

f. Taking a cut in pay due to reduced hours or demand for your work

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
8	Every day	14	7	4
8	Almost every day	15	7	3
24	Sometimes	27	26	19
25	Rarely	21	25	30
34	Never	23	34	43
*	No answer	*	*	*

g. Paying your rent or mortgage

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
11	Every day	22	8	4
8	Almost every day	12	8	2
22	Sometimes	27	23	11
22	Rarely	16	24	25
36	Never	22	37	58
*	No answer	1	*	*

h. Being able to buy enough food for you and your family

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
10	Every day	19	7	3
8	Almost every day	13	7	1
20	Sometimes	30	19	6
23	Rarely	19	26	20
39	Never	18	42	69
*	No answer	1	*	*

TREND:

	<u>Every day</u>	<u>Almost every day</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The amount of debt you have						
Apr 7-12, 2020	19	17	28	18	17	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	24	16	26	16	16	1

ASK IF EMPLOYED:

b. Losing your job						
Apr 7-12, 2020	14	9	32	29	16	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	12	8	29	29	21	1

WORRY2 TREND CONTINUED ...

	<u>Every day</u>	<u>Almost every day</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
c. Paying your bills						
Apr 7-12, 2020	21	16	29	21	12	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	25	16	28	18	12	1
d. The cost of health care for you and your family						
Apr 7-12, 2020	18	16	37	18	10	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	22	17	35	15	9	1
e. Being able to save enough for your retirement						
Apr 7-12, 2020	21	17	34	15	12	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	26	19	32	12	10	2

ASK IF EMPLOYED:

f. Taking a cut in pay due to reduced hours or demand for your work						
Apr 7-12, 2020	15	14	27	25	18	*

ASK ALL:

CVDECON18 Who should have the greatest responsibility for making sure people can meet their basic economic needs during the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4, WITH 5 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
33	People themselves or their families	24	36	43
45	The federal government	50	44	41
12	State or local governments	16	11	8
2	Charitable organizations	3	1	2
6	Other (Specify)	6	6	6
2	No answer	2	2	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_AIDPERS If you receive a payment from the federal government as part of the coronavirus aid package, or if you have already received a payment, how are you most likely to use the majority of the money? **[DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN ORDER]**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
14	Pay off debt	13	17	11
45	Pay bills or for something essential you or your family needs	58	46	20
4	Pay for something non-essential you or your family wants	4	4	6
19	Save it	11	23	24
5	Something else (Specify)	3	5	7
13	Won't get a payment/Not eligible	11	5	32
1	No answer	1	*	*

TREND:

	<u>Pay off debt</u>	<u>Pay bills or for something essential you or your family needs</u>	<u>Pay for something non-essential you or your family wants</u>	<u>Save it</u>	<u>Something else (Specify)</u>	<u>Won't get a payment/Not eligible</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 7-12, 2020	12	46	3	18	6	15	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_AIDGOV Thinking about some different groups and the federal government's aid package that was passed and signed into law in December, how much do you think it will help each of the following groups? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [n=5,175]:

a. Small businesses

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
20	A great deal	30	17	12
33	A fair amount	31	35	34
38	Not too much	29	41	47
7	Not at all	8	6	6
1	No answer	2	*	1

b. Unemployed people

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
29	A great deal	36	26	24
32	A fair amount	30	33	34
34	Not too much	28	36	38
5	Not at all	6	5	4
1	No answer	1	*	*

COVID_AIDGOV CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [n=5,159]:**

c. Large businesses

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
25	A great deal	28	26	22
32	A fair amount	31	33	30
30	Not too much	26	30	35
11	Not at all	13	9	12
2	No answer	1	1	2

NO ITEMS d, e

f. You and your household

<u>Total</u>		<u>Lower income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>Upper income</u>
15	A great deal	28	12	4
26	A fair amount	29	29	13
42	Not too much	33	47	42
16	Not at all	10	11	40
1	No answer	1	*	*

TREND²:

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY:					
a. Small businesses Apr 7-12, 2020	24	47	26	3	*
b. Unemployed people Apr 7-12, 2020	30	38	28	4	*
ASK FORM 2 ONLY:					
c. Large businesses Apr 7-12, 2020	35	42	17	4	2
f. You and your household Apr 7-12, 2020	14	31	39	15	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

² In the 2020 survey, the question wording was: "Thinking about some different groups and the federal government's aid package, how much do you think it will help each of the following groups?"

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...³

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	32	26	13	2	17	18

³ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.