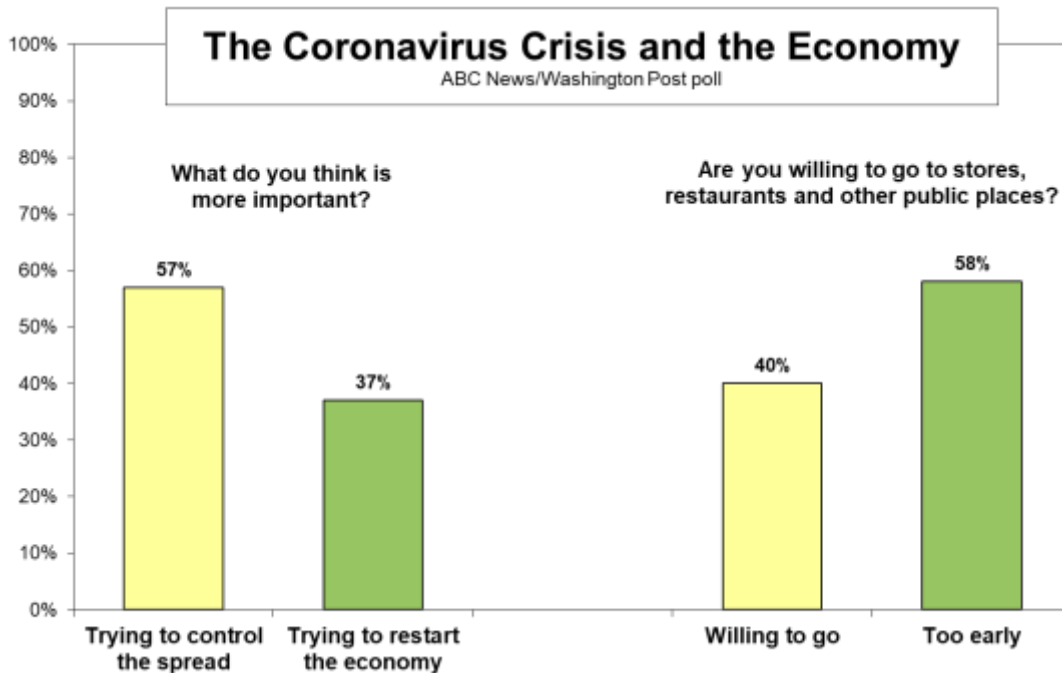


Hesitancy to Resume Activities Marks Reopening Challenges

With two-thirds of Americans worried about a second wave of the coronavirus, a new ABC News/Washington Post poll finds nearly six in 10 unready to resume their pre-pandemic activities, underscoring continued public unease as the nation seeks a return to normalcy.

Impacts of the pandemic are vast. Seventy-nine percent in this national survey say their lives have been disrupted. Fifty-nine percent report severe economic impacts in their community – up from 43 percent two months ago. Among those employed before the pandemic began, 24 percent have been laid off or furloughed.

For all that, 57 percent say it's more important to try to control the spread of the virus than to try to restart the economy. And as states move to reopen, most people are hesitant: Asked if they're willing at this time to go to stores, restaurants and other public places the way they did before the pandemic, 58 percent say it's too early for that.

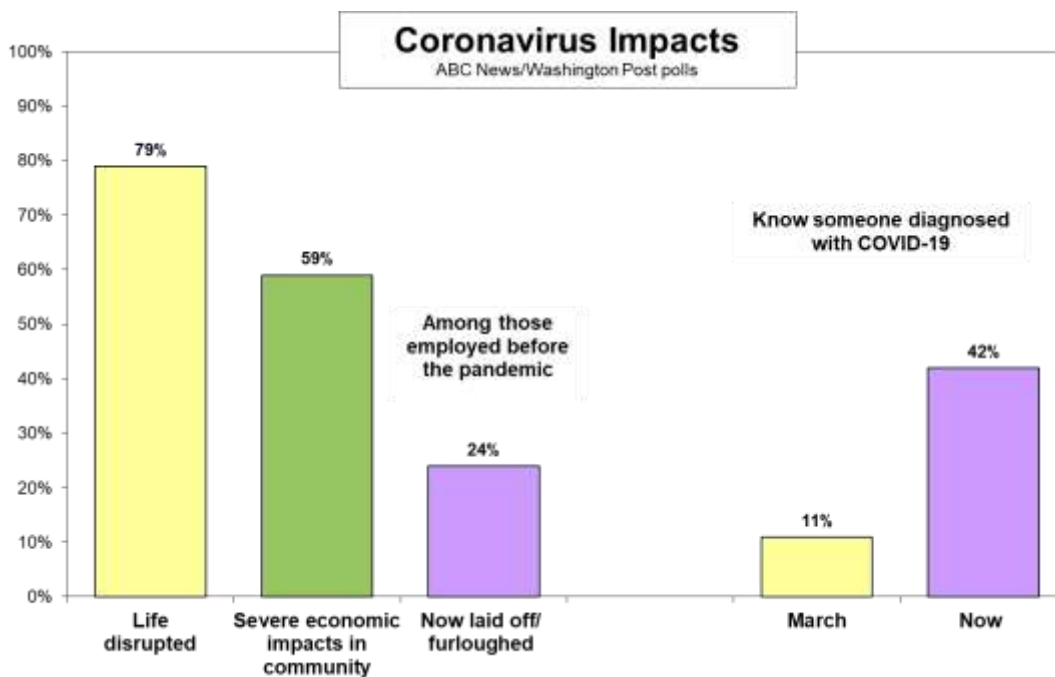


That result reflects concerns about becoming infected. Sixty-three percent remain very or somewhat worried they or someone in their immediate family may catch the coronavirus. (It was 69 percent in late March.) And 68 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), are worried about a possible second wave of infections.

Greater worries are associated with reluctance to resume normal activities. Among people who are very worried about a second wave – one in three Americans – 91 percent say it’s too early to return to public places as they did before the pandemic. Reluctance also is higher among people living in counties with more diagnosed cases, among other groups.

Worries rise in some groups. Eighty-one percent of Hispanics and 75 percent of blacks are worried they or a family member might catch the disease, for example, compared with 58 percent of whites.

Further demonstrating the extent of the pandemic, 42 percent of Americans now personally know someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, up nearly fourfold from 11 percent in late March. That rises to 54 percent among blacks and as many in the Northeast. It also peaks among higher-income and more-educated adults, possibly reflecting disparities in healthcare access.



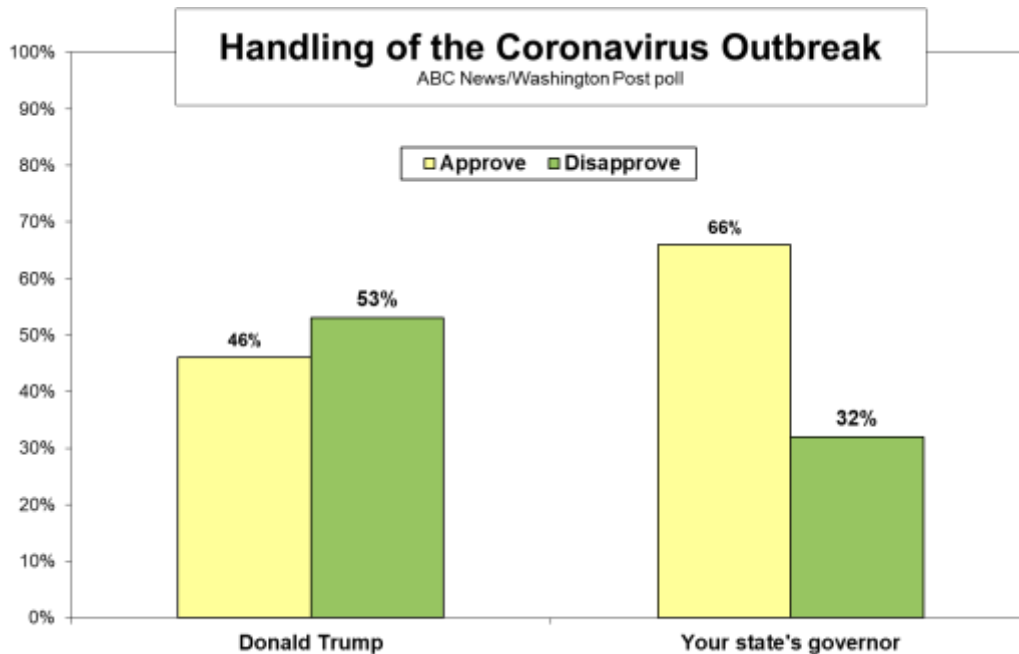
EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMY – Work loss is a pervasive impact of the crisis. Among Americans who were working full- or part-time before the pandemic, 24 percent report that they’re now unemployed or furloughed without pay. (Additionally, among those who were previously working full time, 10 percent are now on part time.)

Job losses and furloughs peak in economically vulnerable groups, including 41 percent among women without college degrees, 36 percent among people with household incomes less than \$50,000 a year and 32 percent among racial and ethnic minorities. Those compare with two in 10 whites, 17 percent of people earning \$50,000 or more and 16 percent of college graduates.

While work losses differ among groups, there’s broad agreement on community-level economic impacts. Sixty-one percent of blacks, 60 percent of whites and 54 percent of Hispanics all report severe economic impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on their community. So do 56 to 62 percent

across regions of the country and roughly six in 10 in cities and suburbs (it's lower, 49 percent, in rural areas). This even crosses generally sharp partisan lines: Fifty-seven to 63 percent of Republicans, independents and Democrats alike report severe economic impacts locally.

POLICY – Americans give far higher marks to their state's governor's handling of the outbreak – 66 percent approve – than to Donald Trump's (as [reported](#) Sunday, 46 percent approve). More than six in 10 approve whether the governor is a Republican (63 percent approval) or a Democrat (69 percent), and whether Americans live in areas with higher or lower infection rates.



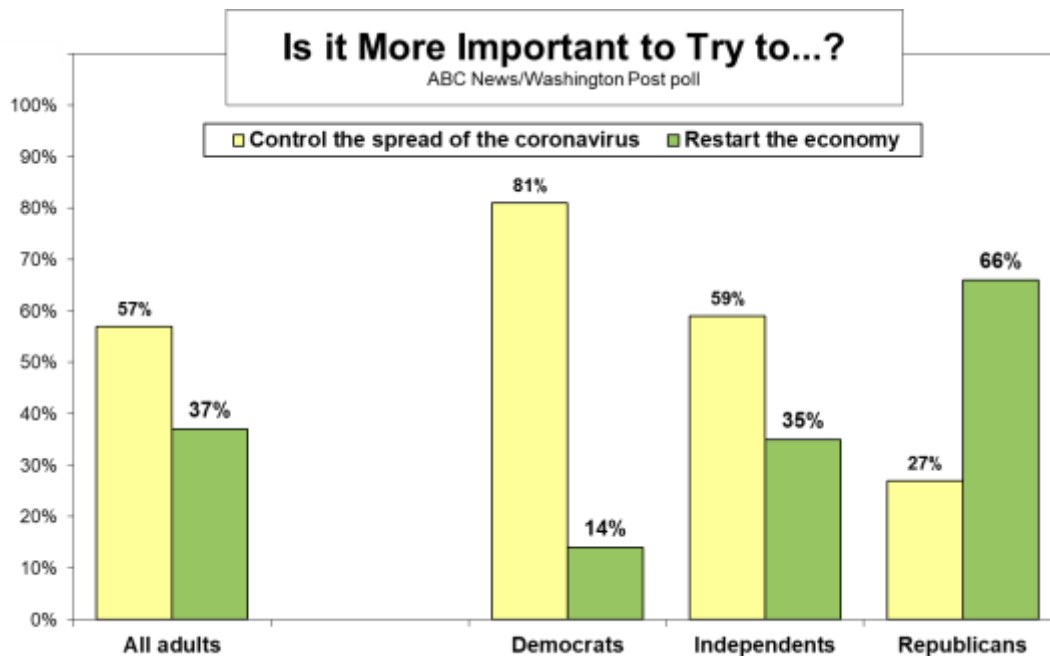
The most popular response at the federal level is the effort to provide financial help for people in need; 57 percent rate the Trump administration positively in this area. In a related result, 58 percent support extending the current \$600-per-week boost to unemployment benefits past its current expiration in July.

In addition to wide partisan and ideological differences, support for extending higher benefits peaks among less well-off groups. It's 79 percent among blacks and 77 percent among Hispanics vs. 48 percent among whites; 66 percent among people with less than \$50,000 incomes vs. 51 percent among those earning more; and 65 percent among women vs. 50 percent among men.

Fifty-four percent also say the administration has done an excellent or good job providing small-business loans. Positive ratings slip in two other areas – coordinating federal and state responses (49 percent) and making a test available to anyone who wants it (46 percent).

These views are highly partisan. In terms of testing availability, for example, 81 percent of Republicans rate the administration positively; that drops by half to 42 percent of independents, and then by half again to 21 percent of Democrats. It's lower, also, in states and counties with the most cases. And it ranges from 55 percent in the South to 35 percent in the Northeast.

GROUPS – There are other divisions among groups, many also based on partisanship. Just 27 percent of Republicans say it’s more important to stop the spread of the virus, even if that hurts the economy, than to try to restart the economy, even if that hurts efforts to stop the spread. By contrast, battling the spread is prioritized by 59 percent of independents and 81 percent of Democrats.



Similarly, 77 percent of blacks and Hispanics alike put a higher priority on stopping the spread of the virus; that drops to 49 percent of whites. Priority on stopping the spread also is higher among lower-income Americans, and it’s 66 percent among women vs. 48 percent among men. It’s also vastly higher, naturally, among people who are more worried about catching the disease and about a second wave.

Notably, too, people who’ve been laid off or furloughed nonetheless say stopping the spread is more important than restarting the economy – by a 2-1 margin, 64-31 percent.

Partisanship even relates to degrees of life disruption. Sixty percent of Democrats say their lives have been disrupted “a lot” by the pandemic, compared with 47 percent of independents and 39 percent of Republicans. Part of the reason is that major disruptions peak among blacks (at 62 percent) and women (55 percent) – both more Democratic groups.

Many of these gaps also are reflected in willingness to resume activities. Sixty-seven percent of Republicans say they’re willing to go to shops, restaurants and other public places as they did before the pandemic; that falls to 40 percent of independents and just 18 percent of Democrats. It’s nearly 20 points higher among men than women, 50 vs. 31 percent; and 48 percent among whites compared with 27 percent among racial and ethnic minorities.

Worry and experience are strong factors, as noted. Among those who are most worried about a second wave, a mere 9 percent are willing to resume their pre-pandemic activities now; it's 33 percent among those who are somewhat worried and jumps to 79 percent of those who are less worried. And among people in the quartile of counties with the fewest cases, 50 percent are willing to resume now. That drops to 29 percent in counties with the most diagnosed cases.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone May 25-28, 2020, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer and Steven Sparks.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

1-16 previously released. 25-26 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent

17. I'd like you to rate the way the Trump administration has handled each of the following aspects of the coronavirus situation. First is [ITEM] - has the Trump administration's handling of that been excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

5/28/20 - Summary Table

| | ----- Positive ----- | | | ----- Negative ----- | | | No op. |
|--|----------------------|-----------|------|----------------------|-------------|------|--------|
| | NET | Excellent | Good | NET | Not so good | Poor | |
| a. making a coronavirus test available for anyone who wants one | 46 | 17 | 29 | 51 | 21 | 29 | 3 |
| b. coordinating federal and state responses to the pandemic | 49 | 17 | 32 | 50 | 19 | 31 | 1 |
| c. providing small businesses with loans to help them stay in business | 54 | 18 | 36 | 42 | 23 | 19 | 4 |
| d. providing financial help to people who need it | 57 | 21 | 36 | 41 | 25 | 17 | 1 |

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your state's governor is handling the coronavirus outbreak? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 5/28/20 | 66 | 40 | 25 | 32 | 11 | 21 | 2 |

19. How do you feel about a possible second wave of coronavirus infections in the fall - are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

| | ---- More worried --- | | | ----- Less worried ----- | | | No |
|---------|-----------------------|------|----------|--------------------------|---------|------------|---------|
| | NET | Very | Somewhat | NET | Not too | Not at all | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 68 | 32 | 36 | 32 | 16 | 15 | 1 |

20. What do you think is more important - (trying to control the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy), or (trying to restart the economy, even if it hurts efforts to control the spread of the virus)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

| | ---- Control spread ----- | | | ---- Restart economy ---- | | | No |
|---------|---------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 57 | 41 | 16 | 37 | 11 | 26 | 6 |

21. At this time are you willing to go to stores, restaurants and other public places the way you did before the coronavirus outbreak, or do you think it's too early for that?

| | Willing to go | Too early | No opinion |
|---------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| 5/28/20 | 40 | 58 | 1 |

22. Congress has increased benefits for unemployed people by an extra 600 dollars per week through July. Do you think these extra unemployment benefits should end then, or should they be extended beyond July?

| | Should end | Should be extended | No opinion |
|---------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| 5/28/20 | 35 | 58 | 8 |

23. How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus - very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

| | ----- Worried ----- | | | ----- Not worried ----- | | | Already caught | No |
|-------------|---------------------|------|----------|-------------------------|---------|------------|----------------|----|
| | NET | Very | Somewhat | NET | Not too | Not at all | it (vol.) | op |
| 5/28/20 | 63 | 30 | 33 | 35 | 22 | 13 | 2 | * |
| 3/25/20 | 69 | 30 | 39 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 1 | * |
| 3/13/20* RV | 53 | 15 | 38 | 47 | 31 | 16 | * | * |

*NBC/Wall Street Journal

24. How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak - a lot, some, just a little, or not at all?

| | --- A lot/Some --- | | | ----- Less disrupted ----- | | | No |
|----------|--------------------|-------|------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| | NET | A lot | Some | NET | Just a little | Not at all | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 79 | 49 | 30 | 21 | 14 | 7 | * |
| 3/25/20 | 77 | 50 | 27 | 23 | 15 | 8 | * |
| 3/15/20* | 40 | 16 | 24 | 59 | 29 | 31 | * |

*KFF

27. Do you personally know anyone who has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, or not?

| | Yes | No | No opinion |
|---------|-----|----|------------|
| 5/28/20 | 42 | 58 | * |
| 3/25/20 | 11 | 89 | * |

28. How would you describe the economic impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on your community - would you say the economic impacts have been very severe, severe, moderate, or less than that?

| | ----- Severe ----- | | | ----- Not severe ----- | | | No |
|---------|--------------------|------|--------|------------------------|----------|----------------|---------|
| | NET | Very | Severe | NET | Moderate | Less than that | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 59 | 23 | 36 | 39 | 32 | 6 | 2 |
| 3/25/20 | 43 | 16 | 27 | 53 | 42 | 10 | 4 |

29. Before the pandemic began, were you working for pay full time, working for pay part time, or not working for pay?

| | Full | Part | Not | Retired | No |
|---------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| | time | time | working | (vol.) | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 54 | 12 | 20 | 13 | * |

30. (ASK IF WORKING FULL OR PART TIME) What describes your situation now - working for pay full time, working for pay part time, unemployed, or furloughed without pay?

| | Full | Part | Unemployed | Furloughed | No |
|---------|------|------|------------|-------------|---------|
| | time | time | | without pay | opinion |
| 5/28/20 | 59 | 16 | 18 | 6 | 1 |

29/30 NET

| | ----- Was working before pandemic ----- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|------|------|------------|------------|-----|---------|---------|-----|
| | NET | Full | Part | Unemployed | Furloughed | No | Not | Retired | No |
| | | time | time | | | op. | working | (vol.) | op. |
| 5/28/20 | 66 | 39 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 13 | * |

*** END ***