



**JOHN J. HELDRICH  
CENTER FOR  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

# **WORKTRENDS**

**AMERICANS' ATTITUDES ABOUT WORK, EMPLOYERS, AND GOVERNMENT**

## **Left Behind: The Long-term Unemployed Struggle in an Improving Economy**

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**RUTGERS**  
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## BACKGROUND

The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University was founded as a research and policy organization devoted to strengthening New Jersey's and the nation's workforce during a time of global economic change. The Heldrich Center researches and puts to work strategies that increase workers' skills and employability, strengthen the ability of companies to compete, create jobs where they are needed, and improve the quality and performance of the workforce development system.

Since 1997, the Heldrich Center has experienced rapid growth, working with federal and state government partners, Fortune 100 companies, and major foundations. The Center embodies its slogan "Solutions at Work" by teaming with partners and clients to translate cutting-edge research and analysis into practices and programs that companies, unions, schools, community-based organizations, and government officials can leverage to strengthen the nation's workforce. The Center's projects are grounded in a core set of research priorities:

- > Disability Employment
- > Education and Training
- > Unemployment and Reemployment
- > U.S. Labor Market and Industry
- > Work Trends
- > Workforce Policy and Practice

Since its inception, the Heldrich Center has sought to inform employers, union leaders, policymakers, community members, the media, and academic communities about critical workforce and education issues that relate to the emerging global economy. To better understand the public's attitudes about work, employers, and government, and improve workplace practices and policy, the Heldrich Center produces the *Work Trends* surveys on a regular basis (the complete set of reports is available at [www.heldrich.rutgers.edu](http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu)). The surveys poll the general public on critical workforce issues facing Americans and American businesses. The survey findings are promoted widely to the media and national constituencies. The series is co-directed by Carl E. Van Horn, Ph.D., Director of the Heldrich Center and Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Rutgers University, and Cliff Zukin, Ph.D., Senior Faculty Fellow at the Heldrich Center and Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at Rutgers University.

*Left Behind: The Long-term Unemployed Struggle in an Improving Economy* continues to advance the goals of the *Work Trends* series to give American workers a voice in the national economic policy debates, and thereby provides policymakers and employers with reliable insights into how workers across the nation are judging and acting upon the realities of work and the workplace.

## A SLOW, UNEVEN RECOVERY

Since the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009, approximately 10 million private-sector jobs were added back to the economy; more than 2.5 million jobs were added in the past year alone. The United States has experienced 54 straight months of economic growth, which is the longest period of consistent job growth on record.<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates declined from 8.2 percent in March 2013 to 6.1 percent in August 2014.

While job growth has been consistent, it has been insufficient to produce enough full-time jobs for everyone who wants one.<sup>2</sup> As of August 2014,<sup>3</sup> nearly 9.6 million workers were unemployed. In addition, many of the jobs lost during the Great Recession were high- and middle-wage jobs, while most of the recovery's employment growth has been in low-wage occupations.<sup>4</sup> Wages have increased modestly for many, but have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation. Labor force participation rates are at the lowest levels in three decades.<sup>5</sup> Involuntary part-time employment ("part time for economic reasons") has grown from 4.4 million people in 2007 to 7.5 million people in June 2014.<sup>6</sup>

## WIDESPREAD LAYOFFS AND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

While the unemployment rate for the short-term unemployed — people out of work for six months or less — has returned to pre-recession levels, the levels of unemployment for workers

who remain jobless for more than six months is among the most persistent, negative effects of the Great Recession. As of August 2014, three million Americans, nearly one in three unemployed workers, had been unemployed for more than six months. Over two million Americans have been unemployed for more than a year. While the percentage of unemployed workers who have been unemployed for more than six months declined from 46 percent in 2010, it is still above the 26 percent level experienced in the worst previous recession in 1983 and more than double the pre-recession era. Unemployment rates in 29 states are at post-recession lows, but long-term unemployment remains above pre-recession levels in 41 states.<sup>7</sup>

As part of its series of *Work Trends* research examining the views of Americans about work, the economy, and government, the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University conducted a nationally representative survey of 1,153 Americans between July 24 and August 3, 2014. The overall findings from that research were reported in *Unhappy, Worried, and Pessimistic: Americans in the Aftermath of the Great Recession*.<sup>8</sup>

This report explores the experiences of unemployed Americans, and especially the long-term unemployed, by surveying a sample of 394 unemployed workers looking for work, of whom 389 have been unemployed for more than six months (297) or who were unemployed for a period of more than six months at some point in the past five years (92).<sup>9</sup> Also surveyed were 463 individuals who currently have jobs. This research provides a detailed record of the enduring effects of the Great Recession on the unemployed and long-term unemployed five years after the economy started growing again in June 2009. This report examines the

recession's impact on the financial condition of unemployed Americans and how they've attempted to cope with their diminished income and savings. Other sections present new data on the extent of support from employed and unemployed workers for governmental policies and programs to lower unemployment.

The Heldrich Center's survey finds that one in five workers — or nearly 30 million people — say they were laid off from a job in the past five years. Nearly 4 in 10 of these laid-off workers say they searched for a job for more than seven months before finding another one; one in five workers laid off during the past five years never found another job (see Figure 1). Of those who found another job, one in four say it was a temporary position.<sup>10</sup> Americans who are currently unemployed and looking for new jobs report similar experiences. Over one-third say they have not been able to obtain a job for more than seven months, indicating that the ranks of the long-term unemployed may remain high for months or years even if the economy continues to improve.

## REEMPLOYED WORKERS STRUGGLE

Laid-off workers who found another job seldom improved their financial situation: two-thirds say their new jobs either paid less than their previous one (46 percent) or paid the same (21 percent) (see Figure 2). Given these experiences, it is no surprise that nearly half (44 percent) of these reemployed workers say their new job was a step down for them compared to what they were doing five years ago. Just a quarter say their new job was a step up and only a third say they are receiving higher pay.

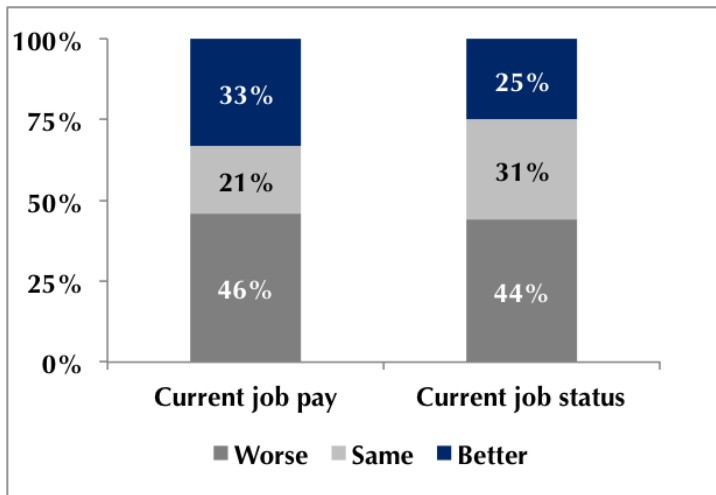
## A PROFILE OF UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS

Evidence of the widespread and far-reaching nature of the Great Recession is reflected in the demographic characteristics of currently unem-

**FIGURE 1. The Long Search for Another Job**



**FIGURE 2. Reemployed Workers Struggle to Get Ahead**



ployed and long-term unemployed Americans. Long-term unemployed workers are represented in all age categories, educational levels, regions of the nation, and income strata. But a higher number of Americans between the ages of 45 and 59 say they have been out of work for more than six months during the past five years, as have a higher number of blacks (see Table 1).

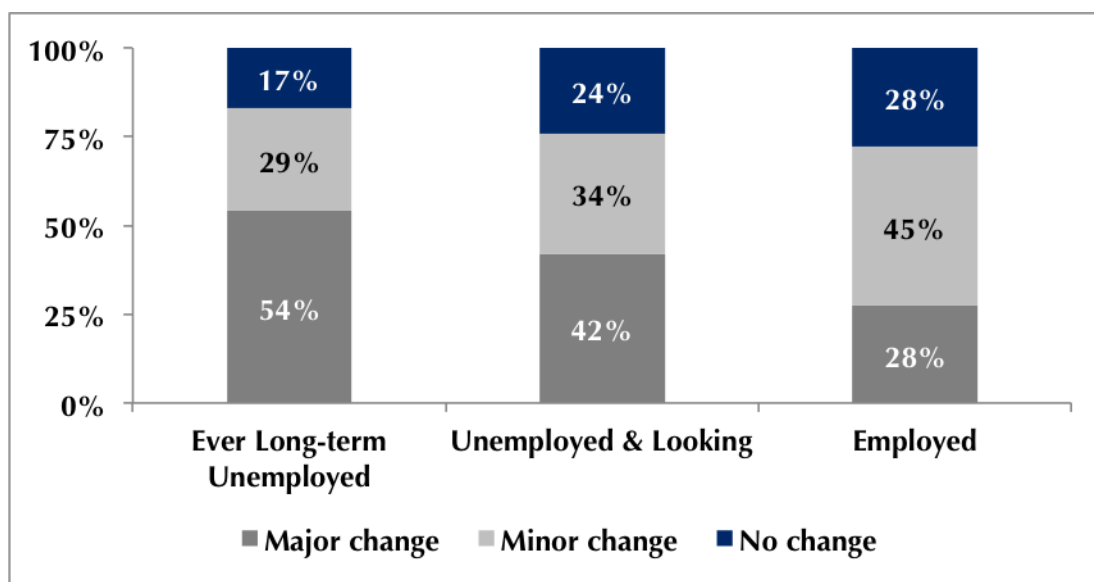
## DIMINISHED LIVING STANDARDS

Two-thirds of all adults in the survey, including those who were laid off and those who never lost a job, say the recession had an impact on their own standard of living, a staggering number in American society (see Figure 3). Fully one-quarter (26 percent) describe it as a “major” change with another 41 percent saying it caused a “minor” change. Among the two-thirds having experienced a lifestyle change, 53 percent believe those changes will be permanent.

**TABLE 1. Characteristics of Long-term and Unemployed Americans in August 2014**

	Long-term Unemployed	Unemployed & Looking
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	20%	47%
30-44	31%	24%
45-59	34%	17%
60+	15%	12%
<b>Race</b>		
White	53%	52%
Black, Non-Hispanic	23%	16%
Other, Non-Hispanic	4%	7%
Hispanic	19%	24%
2+ Races	2%	2%
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school	15%	16%
High school	37%	34%
Some college	25%	30%
Bachelor's degree or higher	23%	21%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	55%	53%
Female	45%	47%
<b>Income</b>		
Less than \$30,000	44%	37%
\$30,000-\$60,000	25%	31%
\$60,000+	31%	32%
<b>Region</b>		
Northeast	19%	16%
Midwest	17%	17%
South	38%	38%
West	27%	23%

**FIGURE 3. The Great Recession Affected the Lifestyle of Most Americans**



While these are powerful indications of the negative consequences of the society-wide impact of the Great Recession, matters were even worse for the long-term unemployed. Over 8 in 10 of the long-term unemployed say the recession caused a change in their lifestyle, and more than half say they experienced major upheavals.

Combining the magnitude and permanence of impact yields five distinct categories of Americans as shown in Table 2. By this reckoning, **one-third of Americans** who experienced a period of long-term unemployment during the past five years can be said to have been “devastated” because they reported a major and permanent change in their lifestyle. Another 10 percent of the long-term unemployed could be said to have been downsized by the recession because they experienced a permanent change, but it was not considered a major one. Those who experienced major, but temporary losses were “set back” by the Great Recession. One in

**TABLE 2. Magnitude and Permanence of the Great Recession on Americans**

Category	Currently Employed	Unemployed & Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Devastated	17%	19%	33%
Downsized	18%	18%	10%
Set Back	11%	23%	21%
Troubled	27%	16%	19%
Unscathed	28%	24%	17%
Total	101%	100%	100%

five of the long-term unemployed were categorized in this group. Rounding out those who were affected, approximately one in five of the long-term unemployed were “troubled” by the recession in that they experienced a minor, but temporary retrenchment in their quality of life. Finally, only one in six of the long-term unemployed says they were completely unscathed by the Great Recession.

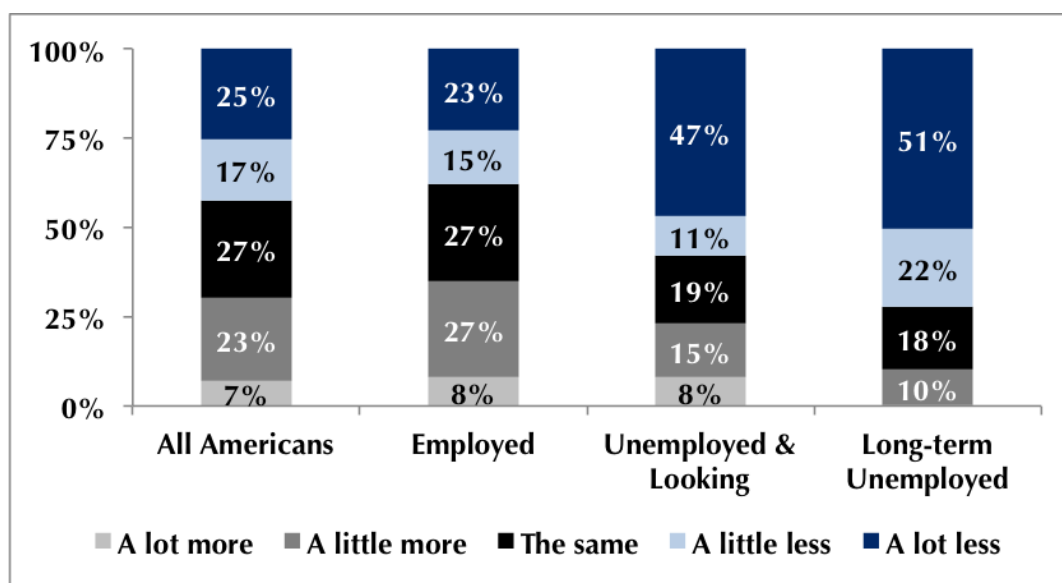
## LOST INCOME AND SAVINGS

Asked to compare “how much you make and what you have in savings now to when the recession started five years ago,” a plurality of the survey respondents say they have less (42 percent), including 25 percent who say they have **a lot** less (see Figure 4). Just over another quarter say they have the same as five years ago, which is also a decline in purchasing power given inflation. Just 30 percent say they have more in salary and savings than they did five years ago, including just 7 percent who report having **a lot** more. For those without a job, the financial impact is even worse. Nearly 6 in 10 unemployed say they have less than five years ago (58 percent). Among the long-term unemployed, more than 7 in 10 (73 percent) say they have less in savings and income than they did five years ago.

Few Americans say that their own finances are in a good place, and express little optimism that their situation will improve in the next year. About 8 in 10 currently unemployed (78 percent) and long-term unemployed (81 percent) rate their personal financial situation as being in only fair or poor shape, compared to 58 percent of employed Americans (Figure 5).

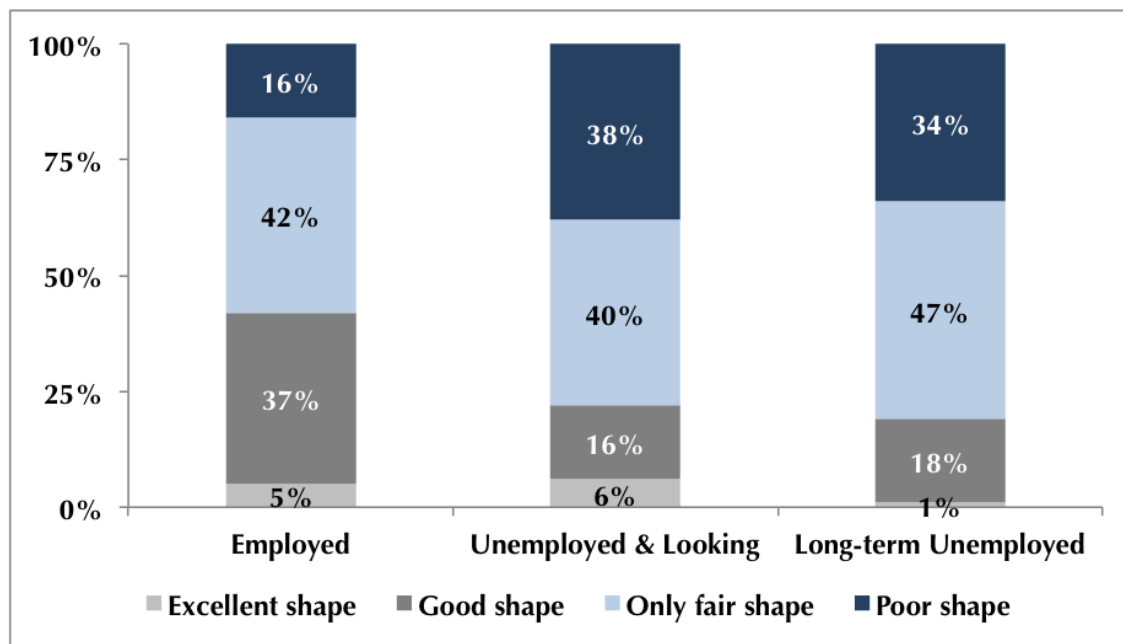
Nor are Americans expecting to get financially healthier in the near future. Just 4 in 10 say they expect their family’s finances to get a little (31 percent) or a lot (9 percent) better over the next year. An equal number (42 percent) expect stagnation, with their financial condition staying the same. And nearly one in five see things getting harder for them over the next 12 months. Asked how long it will take to recover financially from the effects of the recession, 39 percent of employed Americans and 47 percent of the long-term unemployed predict it will take between 3 and 10 years. One in five (21 percent) long-term unemployed workers say

**FIGURE 4. Most Americans have Less in Income and Savings than Five Years Ago**





**FIGURE 5. Unemployed Americans' Finances are in Fair or Poor Shape**



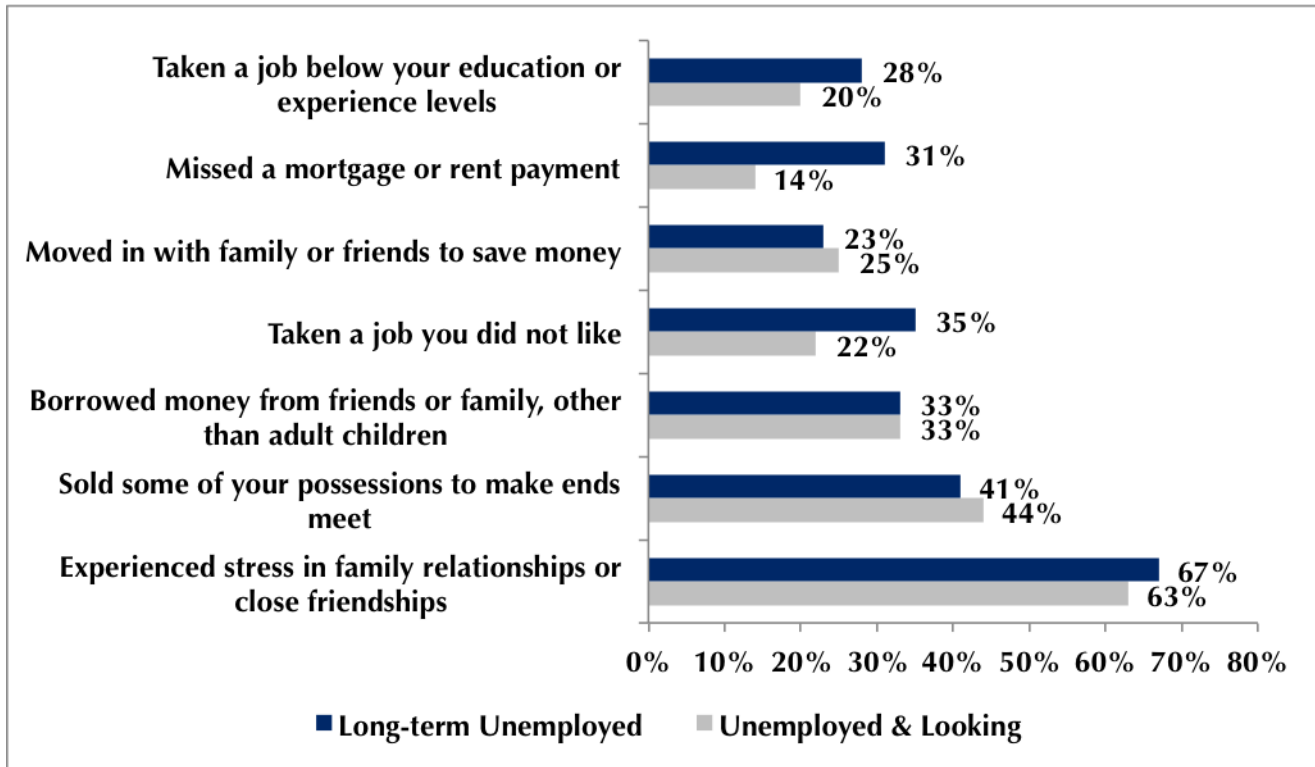
their personal and family finances will take 10 years to recover or perhaps never recover; 15 percent of employed Americans hold that view.

Even though the stock market has soared in recent years, just one in seven employed workers say its performance affects them a lot; **another half** say the market has a little impact on them. The long-term unemployed are more likely to say that the stock market affects their circumstances: nearly a quarter say it had a lot of impact on them and 33 percent say it had a little impact on their financial situation.

The foundation of what Americans regard as essential elements of the American Dream of upward mobility was eroded by the Great Recession and its aftermath. Approximately one-half of employed Americans and 61 percent of the long-term unemployed do not expect their finances will improve in the next few years. More than 4 in 10 employed Americans — and 55 percent of the long-term unemployed — say that hard work and determination do not guarantee success in America.

## DIFFICULT ADJUSTMENTS/ ALTERED PLANS

Unemployed Americans cite a number of difficult measures they were forced to take in order to cope with the economic recession (see Figure 6). More than 4 in 10 of the long-term unemployed and currently unemployed sold some of their possessions to make ends meet. More than a third borrowed money from friends or family, while a third of the long-term unemployed and a quarter of those without jobs now moved in with friends or family. Three in ten of the long-term unemployed missed a mortgage or rent payment, as did one in seven of those currently unemployed. According to the survey, the loss of a job and diminished finances took both an emotional and financial toll. More than 6 in 10 unemployed and long-term unemployed say they experienced stress in family relationships and close friendships during their time without a job.

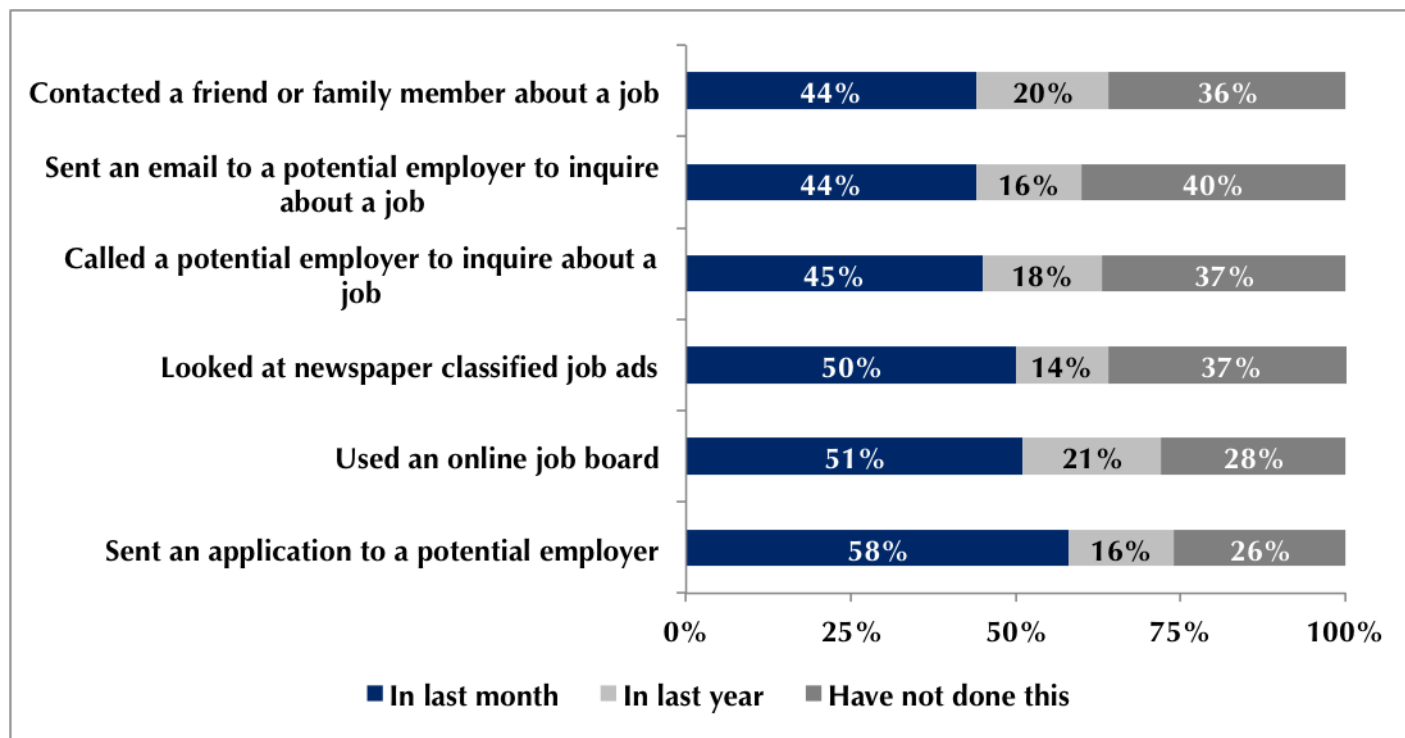
**FIGURE 6. The Painful Realities of Unemployment**

The Great Recession also affected retirement plans for millions of Americans. Nearly half (47 percent) of employed Americans say they were forced to alter their original plans, with most of those (44 percent) saying it caused them to retire later than planned. Among the long-term unemployed, the impacts were even greater: 55 percent say they would need to retire later than planned because of the recession and 5 percent say the weak economy forced them to retire early. **Fully half of 45- to 59-year-olds say they now expect to retire later (53 percent) than they originally planned.** Moreover, it is not just those nearing the traditional age of retirement who expect to work longer: 4 in 10 of those aged 30 to 44 (41 percent) and a third of 18- to 29-year-olds (34 percent) also say their retirement plans have been changed because of the recession.

## SEARCHING FOR WORK

Unemployed workers use a wide variety of strategies to find their next jobs (see Figure 7). Nearly 6 in 10 unemployed workers sent applications to potential employers in the last month. Half of the unemployed and 58 percent of the long-term unemployed who are currently looking for work used online job boards such as LinkedIn, Career Builder, Monster, or Hot Jobs and about half searched the “help wanted” advertisements in newspapers. The unemployed also networked with family and friends and potential employers: 45 percent say they have called a potential employer about a job, and the same number sent an email, or contacted a friend or family member about a position.

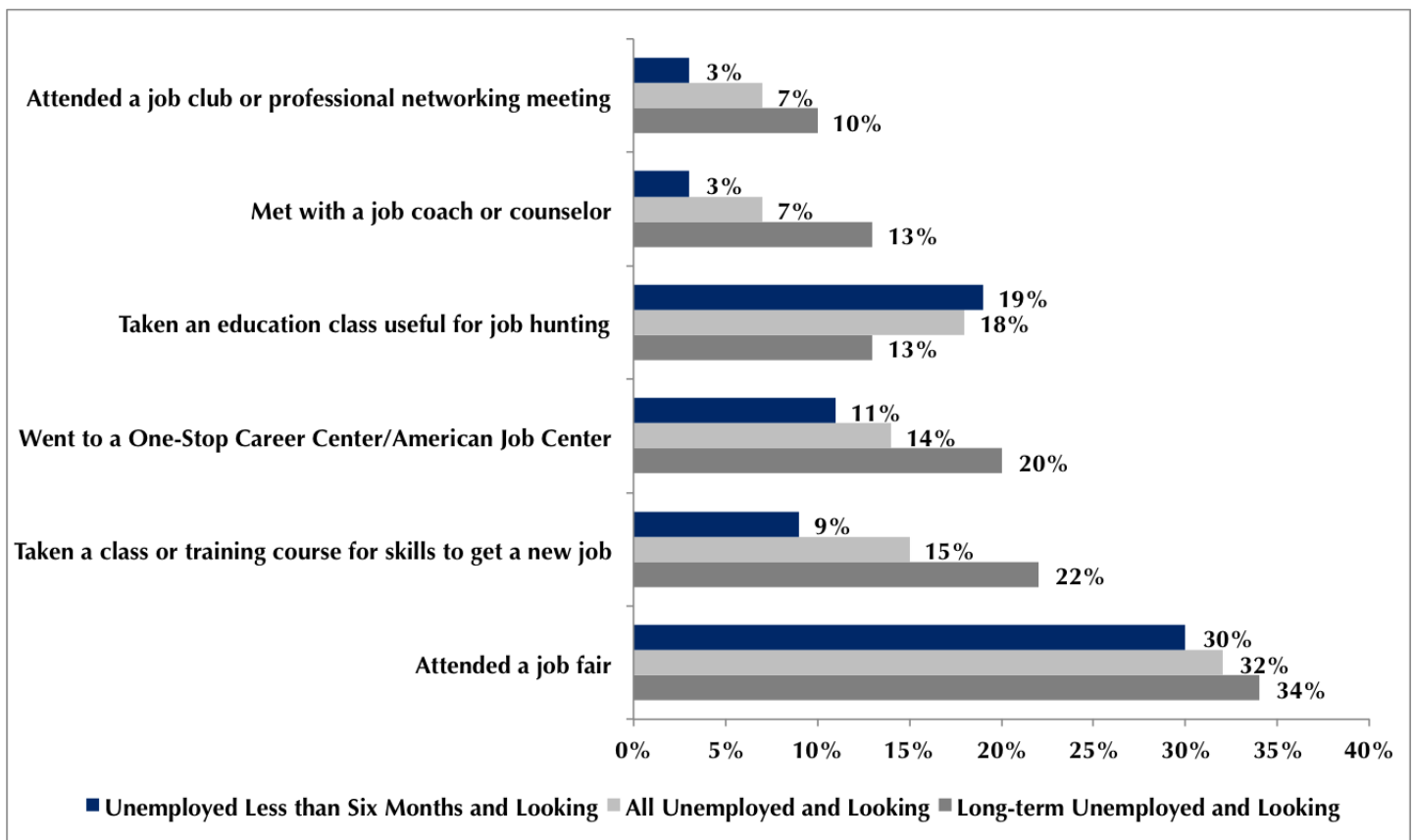
**FIGURE 7. Job Search Methods of Unemployed Americans**



In sharp contrast, in their quest for reemployment, few unemployed workers were able to engage in activities that are time-consuming, expensive, and, perhaps, more effective (see Figure 8). For example, **only 18 percent of unemployed individuals took courses to help them improve their job search strategies in the past year. About the same number (15 percent) enrolled in training programs leading to new skills that might help them find a new job.** Most of those (59 percent) who enrolled in education and training programs paid for it themselves. The long-term unemployed were somewhat more likely to have obtained support from a government agency for training programs. Among those who are long-term unemployed and looking, 4 in 10 say they

paid for training themselves, while about the same number say either a government agency (29 percent) or a community organization (11 percent) paid.

One in six unemployed workers visited a federally funded One-Stop Career Center, also known as American Job Center. Only seven percent of the unemployed and ten percent of the long-term unemployed attended a job club or professional networking meeting. Seven percent of the long-term unemployed met with a job coach or counselor. A third of the unemployed say they attended a job fair within the past year.

**FIGURE 8. Active Strategies to Find Work**

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

A bare majority (54 percent) of those who were out of work in the past five years received unemployment benefits at some point. Moreover, for almost half of those who did obtain unemployment aid, their benefits ran out before they were able to find work. Sixty-five percent of the long-term unemployed who were laid off between 2009 and 2014 received unemployment insurance benefits; the same percentage

saw their benefits expire before getting another job. In contrast, only 38 percent of those who are currently experiencing a period of long-term unemployment are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Eighty-three percent of those who did obtain assistance lost benefits before finding another job, which reflects the elimination of the federally funded extended unemployment insurance benefits in late 2013.

The vast majority of those who were laid off during and after the recession reported that they received no other form of government assistance.

Nearly one in five respondents — and 28 percent of the long-term unemployed — received assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program, more commonly known as Food Stamps. As noted above, far fewer Americans — just 7 percent — received help from the government with job search or funded training programs. **Remarkably, only 9 percent of the long-term unemployed say they received help from a government agency when they were looking for a job; only 4 percent say they were enrolled in a government-funded training program** (see Figure 9).

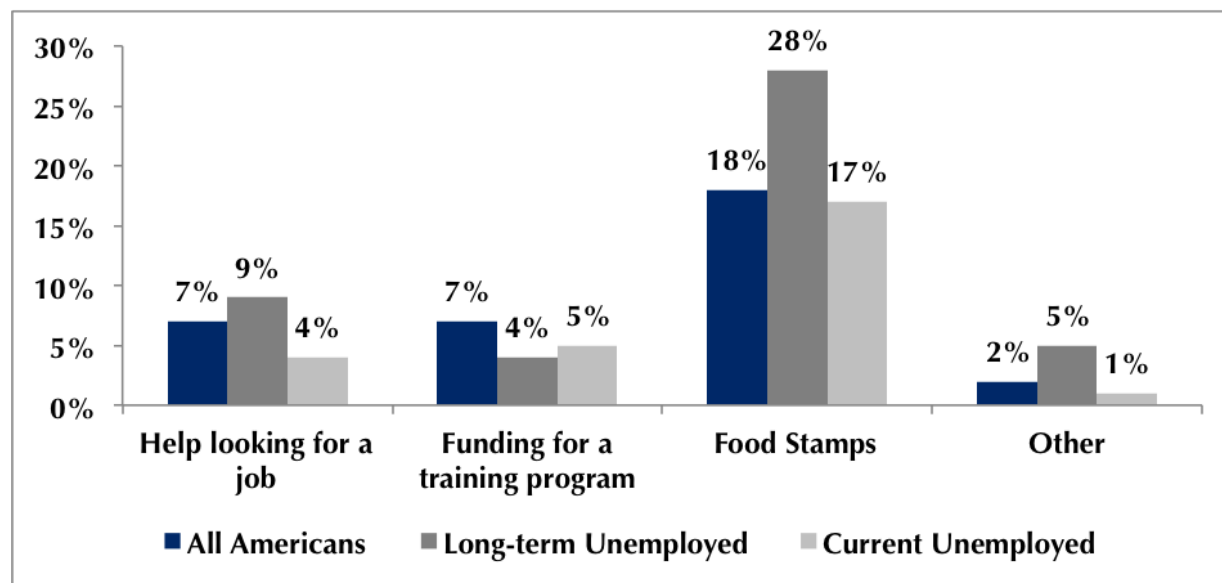
## WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED?

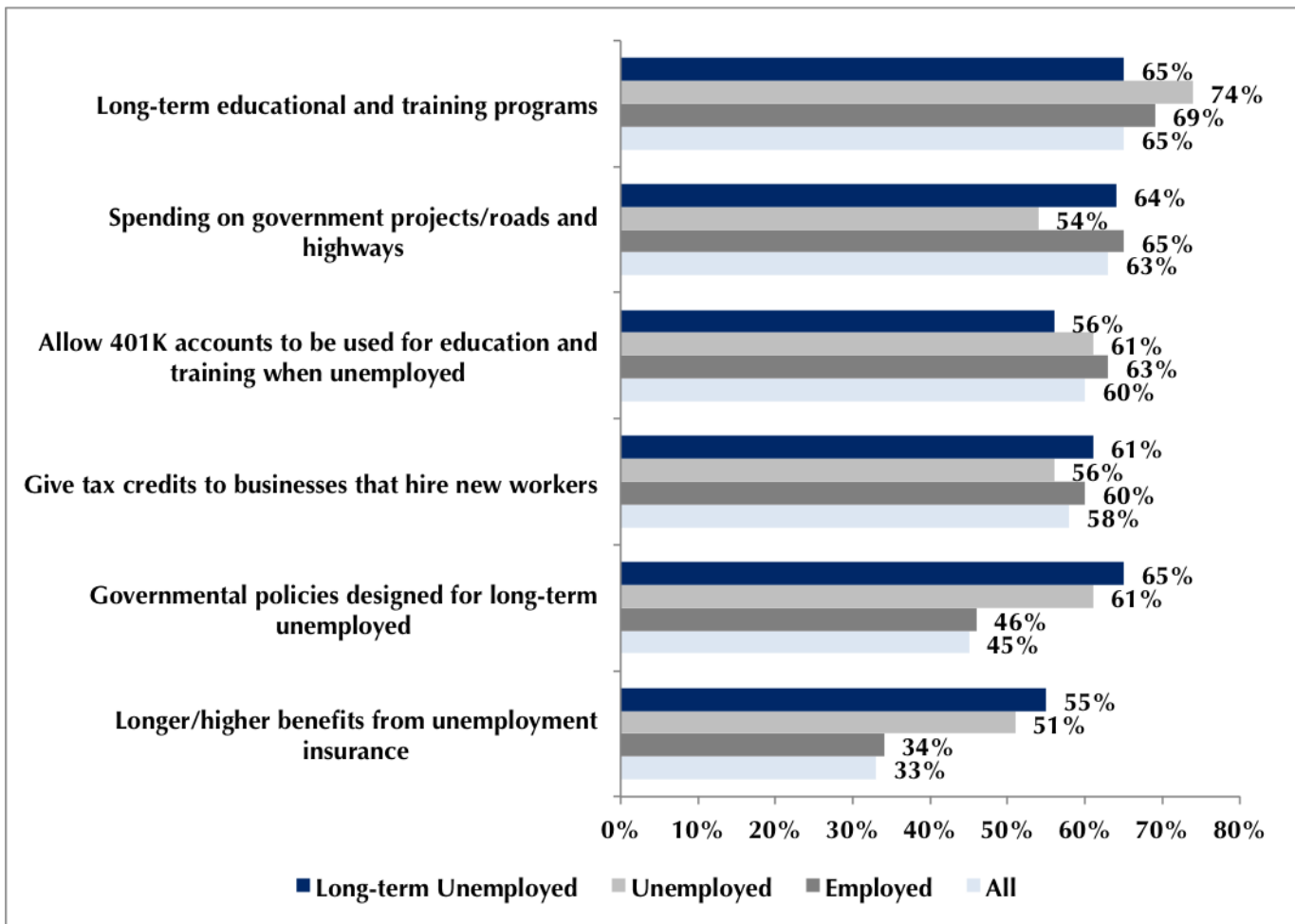
In the Heldrich Center’s survey, nearly half of Americans (45 percent) believe that the federal government can take actions that will reduce unemployment rather than waiting until the

private-sector economy improves. This is a substantial increase from four years ago when only 33 percent held this view. Even more support for the notion that government can take actions to reduce unemployment is found among the unemployed (51 percent) and long-term unemployed (56 percent).

There was substantial support for several government actions that might lower unemployment levels, including long-term education and training programs (65 percent) and spending on roads and highways (63 percent) (see Figure 10). It is noteworthy that **employed and unemployed workers offer similar levels of support** for these forms of government intervention. Majority support is also found for providing tax credits to businesses that hire new workers. Substantial majorities of employed and unemployed workers also endorse the idea of permitting unemployed individuals to withdraw the money they have saved in their 401K accounts to finance education and training courses without incurring financial penalties.

**FIGURE 9. Little Assistance from Government for the Unemployed**



**FIGURE 10. Americans Support Government Action to Help the Unemployed**

About half of the public (45 percent) supports specific policies to help people who have been jobless for more than six months. Not surprisingly, such policies are supported by 65 percent of those who have experienced long-term unemployment. The least support is offered for longer and higher unemployment insurance benefits; just 33 percent of Americans support this, down from 46 percent in January 2013. However, more than half of the unemployed and long-term unemployed support higher and longer unemployment insurance.

## CONCLUSION

While a majority of Americans were affected by the Great Recession, those who had long-term periods of unemployment experienced severe, negative changes in their standard of living. Nearly one in four say they had been either devastated or diminished by their experiences. Just over half were able to get unemployment insurance, and much smaller numbers obtained help from the public workforce system to search for another job or enroll in a training program to gain new skills. Employed

and unemployed workers alike support a wide array of strategies to help the long-term unemployed who are still struggling. Policies to create jobs building or repairing the nation's roads and bridges, providing training programs, and incentives to businesses to hire the unemployed received broad support.

## ENDNOTES

1. Jason Furman, *The Employment Situation in July*, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/08/01/employment-situation-july>.
2. U.S. Congress, Congressional Budget Office, *The Slow Recovery of the Labor Market*, February 2014, Pub. No 4837.
3. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Employment Situation, July 2014*, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>.
4. National Employment Law Project, *The Low-Wage Recovery: Industry Employment and Wages Four Years into the Recovery* (Washington, D.C., 2014), <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Reports/Low-Wage-Recovery-Industry-Employment-Wages-2014-Report.pdf?nocdn=1#page=1&zoom=auto,0,798>.
5. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after increasing in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, the labor force participation rate reached and maintained an all-time high of 67.1 percent over the 1997-2000 period. Since that time, the labor force participation rate has been falling and is currently 63.7 percent, the lowest the rate has been since the early 1980s. See *Labor Force Projections to 2022: The Labor Force Participation Rate Continues to Fall*, December 2013, <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2013/article/labor-force-projections-to-2022-the-labor-force-participation-rate-continues-to-fall.htm>.
6. Ylan Mui, "More Americans are stuck in part-time work," *The Washington Post*, July 3, 2014, retrieved from [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/more-americans-are-stuck-in-part-time-work/2014/07/02/2eefaa72-f7e7-11e3-a3a5-42be35962a52\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/more-americans-are-stuck-in-part-time-work/2014/07/02/2eefaa72-f7e7-11e3-a3a5-42be35962a52_story.html).
7. Current Unemployment Rates for States and Historical Highs/Lows, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/lausthl.htm>.
8. Cliff Zukin, Carl Van Horn, and Allison Kopicki, *Unhappy, Worried, and Pessimistic: Americans in the Aftermath of the Great Recession*, John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University, 2014, retrieved from [http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/products/uploads/Work\\_Trends\\_August\\_2014.pdf](http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/products/uploads/Work_Trends_August_2014.pdf).
9. Throughout the report, three groups of workers are referenced: (1) Currently unemployed (out of work and looking for a job at the time of the survey, n=394); (2) Long-term unemployed (out of work for more than six months at the time of the survey or at some time during the past five years, n=389); and (3) Employed (working when the survey was conducted, n=463).
10. Research by Princeton University economists Alan Krueger, Judd Cramer, and David Cho found that only 11 percent of those who were long-term unemployed in a given month returned to steady, full-time employment a year later. See <http://www.brookings.edu/about/projects/bpea/papers/2014/are-longterm-unemployed-margins-labor-market>.

## APPENDIX A. METHODOLOGY

The latest Heldrich Center *Work Trends* survey was fielded July 24 to August 3, 2014 online with a national probability sample of 1,153 U.S. residents age 18 or older through GfK (formerly Knowledge Networks). The sample includes 463 respondents who are currently employed, 394 respondents who are unemployed and looking for work, and 297 respondents who are long-term unemployed, currently unemployed, and looking for work for at least seven months.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for 1,100 respondents is +/- 3 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus, if 60 percent of respondents say the recession has caused permanent changes to the economy, the true figure would be between 63 percent and 57 percent had all U.S. residents been interviewed, rather than just a sample. The sampling error for the 463 employed respondents and for the 394 respondents who are unemployed and looking for work is +/- 5 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval.

Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported for women or men or hourly or salaried workers, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. 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 by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Knowledge Networks provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection. People who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique login information for accessing surveys online, and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research. When the report talks about the unemployed, it is referring only to those who are unemployed and looking for a job.



## APPENDIX B. TOPLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Knowledge Networks/GFK/online

Field dates: July 24 to August 3, 2014

N=1,153

Percentage totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

\* = less than 1% reporting

Employed = August 2014 sample of employed respondents; N = 463

Unemployed and Looking = August 2014 sample of unemployed and looking respondents; N = 394

Ever Long-term Unemployed = August 2014 sample of respondents unemployed more than six months in the past five years; N = 389

Currently Long-term Unemployed = August 2014 sample of unemployed respondents who have been looking for work for more than six months; N = 297

January 2013 = Total January 2013 sample

September 2010 = Total September 2010 sample

### GENERAL POPULATION SEQUENCE (GENPOP)

**QEMPSTATSUM. Which of the following best describes you?**

**N=1,153**

	August 2014	January 2013	September 2010
Employed	62%	58%	60%
Unemployed and looking for work	3%	8%	6%
Unemployed and not looking for work	35%	34%	33%
Total	100%	100%	99%

[IF EMPSTATSUM=2] (Unemployed & Looking)

**UNEMPLOYED\_LOOKING.** Please mark the following that applies to you:

**N=391**

	August 2014	January 2013
Looking for full-time work	26%	43%
Looking for part-time work (15-20 hours)	43%	23%
Looking for either part time or full time work	31%	34%
Total	100%	100%

[IF EMPSTATSUM=2] (Unemployed & Looking)

**CE2\_1.** How long have you been actively seeking employment?

**N=394**

	August 2014
2 months or less	29%
3-4 months	18%
5-6 months	5%
7 months to 1 year	11%
1-2 years	12%
More than 2 years	13%
Not sure	14%
Total	102%

[IF EMPSTATSUM=3] (Unemployed & Not Looking)

**RETIRED.** Please mark the following that applies to you: Are you retired?

**N=294**

	August 2014	January 2013
Yes	60%	60%
No	40%	40%
Total	100%	100%

[IF RETIRED =1]

**FS5. Because of the recession did your retirement plans change?**

N=197

	August 2014
Yes, retired earlier than planned	21%
Yes, retired later than planned	6%
No change in retirement plans due to recession	73%
Total	100%

[ASK ALL] (GENPOP)

**IN\_SCHOOL. Please mark which of the following applies to you: I am...**

N=1,149

	August 2014
In school part time	4%
In school full time	7%
Not in school	89%
Total	100%

[ASK IF IN\_SCHOOL=1,2] (SCHOOL)

**SCHOOL\_TYPE. Please mark which of the following applies to you: I am enrolled in...**

N=109

	August 2014
An undergraduate degree program	55%
A graduate degree or professional program	33%
Other type of educational program	12%
Total	100%

**QB1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?**

N=1,128

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Approve	46%	48%	54%	54%
Disapprove	54%	52%	46%	46%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**QC1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing — the House of Representatives and the Senate?**

N=1,125

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Approve	14%	13%	19%	11%
Disapprove	86%	87%	81%	89%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

[ASK ALL] (GENPOP)

**QNE1A. How much confidence do you have that the government in Washington, D.C. will make progress over the next year on the most important problems facing the country?**

N=1,140

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
A lot of confidence	2%	2%	4%	1%	5%
Some confidence	20%	20%	28%	29%	37%
Not much confidence	46%	48%	37%	39%	38%
No confidence at all	32%	30%	31%	32%	21%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%

**QR4. Who do you trust to do a better job handling the economy?**

N=1,134

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013	September 2010
President Obama	30%	33%	31%	34%	34%	23%
The Republicans in Congress	21%	21%	20%	19%	20%	19%
Neither	43%	40%	39%	39%	39%	45%
Both	6%	5%	11%	8%	8%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%

**QR6. If the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the 2014 election, do you think this will bring about policies that will:**

N=1,136

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Help lower the unemployment rate	26%	28%	19%	26%
Make unemployment worse	30%	30%	35%	39%
Will not make a difference in unemployment	44%	43%	46%	35%
Total	100%	101%	100%	100%

**QNEW1. Compared to a year ago, do you think the economy has:**

N=1,141

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Gotten better	33%	34%	34%	33%	29%
Gotten worse	32%	30%	20%	30%	37%
Stayed the same	35%	37%	46%	37%	34%
Total	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%

QR5. A year from now, do you expect economic conditions in the country as a whole will be:

N=1,143

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013	September 2010
Better	26%	29%	27%	30%	32%	32%
Worse	27%	27%	23%	32%	32%	27%
Same as now	46%	44%	50%	37%	36%	41%
Total	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%

QR1. Thinking about the job situation in America today, would you say that now is a good time or bad time to find a quality job?

N=1,146

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013	September 2010
Good	18%	23%	12%	14%	27%	7%
Bad	50%	51%	50%	58%	73%	78%
Don't know	32%	26%	38%	29%	Not asked	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	99%

QSM1. How much are you and your family's financial situation personally affected by what happens on Wall Street and in the stock market?

N=1,146

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
A lot	14%	15%	15%	24%
A little	47%	51%	26%	33%
Not at all	24%	22%	32%	26%
Don't know	15%	12%	27%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	99%

QT2. Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

N=1,137

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	August 2011 Unemployed
Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard	58%	58%	48%	45%	50%
Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people	42%	42%	52%	55%	50%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

QR2. Just your best guess, do you think the Great Recession of the last five years has left us with:

N=1,129

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>	September 2010 <sup>2</sup>
A <b>permanent</b> change in what are normal economic conditions in the country	71%	73%	65%	82%	60%	56%
A <b>temporary</b> change that the economy will recover from	29%	27%	35%	18%	41%	43%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%

<sup>1</sup> Slightly varied wording in 2013: "...of the last four years"

<sup>2</sup> In 2010, the question read: "Just your best guess, do you think the recent problems in the economy indicate the U.S. economy is experiencing a temporary downturn, OR is it experiencing fundamental and lasting changes?"

N=1,129

**QNE5. How long will it take in your opinion for the economy to fully recover from the Great Recession from right now?**

N=1,133

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Less than 1 year	1%	*	1%	–	1%
1-2 years	6%	6%	10%	7%	11%
3-5 years	30%	33%	32%	31%	34%
6-10 years	24%	25%	22%	25%	25%
The economy will not fully recover	36%	34%	28%	34%	29%
The economy has already recovered	4%	3%	8%	4%	NA
Total	101%	101%	101%	101%	100%

**QNE6. Please indicate what you think will happen in each of the following areas:**

N=1,121

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
<b>A lower unemployment rate</b>					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession<sup>1</sup></i>	16%	17%	22%	14%	15%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	49%	52%	51%	50%	57%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession<sup>2</sup></i>	35%	31%	27%	36%	29%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Workers feeling secure in their jobs</b>					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	9%	9%	9%	6%	13%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	38%	39%	57%	36%	44%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	53%	53%	35%	58%	43%
Total	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%



**QNE6. Please indicate what you think will happen in each of the following areas (continued)**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
The availability of good jobs at good pay for those who want to work					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	13%	13%	11%	9%	14%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	48%	47%	58%	48%	52%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	40%	40%	31%	44%	34%
<i>Total</i>	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%
The ability of young people to afford college					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	8%	8%	7%	7%	9%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	32%	30%	40%	33%	33%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	60%	62%	53%	60%	58%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
The elderly having to find part-time work after retiring					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	14%	15%	17%	15%	17%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	35%	32%	44%	34%	36%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	51%	53%	53%	51%	47%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**QNE6. Please indicate what you think will happen in each of the following areas (continued)**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Older workers being able to retire when they want to					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	7%	6%	9%	4%	7%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	34%	32%	41%	30%	30%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	59%	62%	50%	66%	63%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Workers having to take jobs below their skill level					
<i>It has returned or will soon return to the way it was before the recession</i>	13%	14%	15%	11%	13%
<i>It will return to the way it was before, but not for many years</i>	43%	40%	57%	40%	45%
<i>It will not return to the way it was before the recession</i>	44%	46%	28%	50%	42%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Slightly varied wording in 2013: "It will soon return to the way it was before."

<sup>2</sup> Slightly varied wording in 2013: "It will not return to the way it was before."

**QG1. When people are laid off from work, who should be mainly responsible for helping them?**

N=1,136

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013	September 2010
Government	32%	31%	43%	48%	26%	32%
Employers	30%	31%	29%	29%	32%	26%
Workers themselves	38%	38%	28%	23%	42%	42%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**QR10. Do you think the government can reduce unemployment to any real extent, or do we just have to wait until the private-sector economy improves?**

N=1,122

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013	September 2010
Government can act	45%	46%	51%	56%	36%	33%
Wait for economic improvement	55%	54%	49%	44%	64%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%

**QGP2. Here are some ideas that are being considered by government officials to help bring down high unemployment...Would you support or oppose those ideas?**

N=1,131

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Long-term education and training programs that help people change careers					
<i>Support</i>	65%	69%	74%	65%	76%
<i>Oppose</i>	15%	15%	6%	13%	15%
<i>No opinion</i>	21%	16%	20%	22%	9%
<i>Total</i>	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Longer and higher benefits from unemployment insurance					
<i>Support</i>	33%	34%	51%	55%	46%
<i>Oppose</i>	43%	45%	25%	24%	44%
<i>No opinion</i>	24%	21%	24%	21%	10%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%
Government policies specifically designed to assist long-term unemployed who have been out of work for more than six months					
<i>Support</i>	45%	46%	61%	65%	NA
<i>Oppose</i>	34%	37%	17%	17%	NA
<i>No opinion</i>	21%	17%	22%	18%	NA
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	NA

**QGP2. Here are some ideas that are being considered by government officials to help bring down high unemployment...Would you support or oppose those ideas? (continued)**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Spending on government projects, such as building roads and highways					
<i>Support</i>	63%	65%	54%	64%	NA
<i>Oppose</i>	15%	14%	17%	14%	NA
<i>No opinion</i>	22%	21%	29%	23%	NA
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	101%	NA
Give tax credits to businesses that hire new workers					
<i>Support</i>	58%	60%	56%	61%	81%
<i>Oppose</i>	18%	19%	16%	18%	12%
<i>No opinion</i>	24%	22%	28%	21%	8%
<i>Total</i>	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%
Government making it easier for people to use money set aside for retirement in 401K accounts to pay for education and training when they are out of work					
<i>Support</i>	60%	63%	61%	56%	NA
<i>Oppose</i>	17%	18%	10%	14%	NA
<i>No opinion</i>	23%	19%	29%	30%	NA
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	NA

**QGP5. Here are some words and phrases that could be used to describe the typical American worker. Please just check off each one you think describes them very well.**

**N=1,124**

	Describes very well			
	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Highly skilled	33%	32%	37%	47%
Lazy	23%	24%	16%	22%
Takes pride in work	45%	45%	43%	48%
Not secure in their jobs	70%	72%	62%	71%
Highly educated	21%	20%	30%	26%
Better than workers in other countries	32%	29%	26%	35%
Ambitious	31%	31%	36%	36%
Happy at work	14%	12%	16%	13%
Highly stressed	68%	71%	69%	62%
Innovative	22%	21%	21%	21%
Productive	43%	43%	43%	47%
Well paid	18%	15%	20%	17%

**QTIMESERIES3. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. Overall, job, career, and employment opportunities will be better for the next generation than for my generation.**

**N=1,139**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Agree	16%	16%	22%	18%	19%
Disagree	45%	47%	37%	38%	44%
Neither agree nor disagree	39%	37%	41%	44%	38%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%

	August 2014 Total	18-34	35-54	50+	55+
Agree	16%	19%	15%	15%	14%
Disagree	45%	31%	49%	50%	52%
Neither agree nor disagree	39%	50%	36%	35%	34%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**FS1. How would you rate your own personal financial situation?**

**N=1,135**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	September 2010
Excellent shape	7%	5%	6%	1%	7%
Good shape	34%	37%	16%	18%	37%
Only fair shape	40%	42%	40%	47%	39%
Poor shape	19%	16%	38%	34%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%

**QFS7. Comparing how much you make and what you have in savings now to when the recession started five years ago, do you now have:**

N=1,128

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>
A lot more	7%	8%	8%	-	5%
A little more	23%	27%	15%	10%	15%
The same	27%	27%	19%	18%	25%
A little less	17%	15%	11%	22%	18%
A lot less	25%	23%	47%	51%	38%
Total	99%	100%	100%	101%	101%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording in 2013: "Comparing how much you make and what you have in savings now to when the recession started a couple of years ago, do you now have."

**QFS10. Overall, did the recession cause:**

N=1,133

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	August 2011	November 2010
A major change in your lifestyle	26%	28%	42%	54%	47%	52%
A minor change in your lifestyle	41%	45%	34%	29%	46%	38%
No change in your lifestyle	33%	28%	24%	17%	8%	7%
Total	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	97%

[IF FS10 = 1 or 2]

**QFS10A. Do you think the impact on your standard of living will be:**

N=1,129

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Permanent	35%	35%	37%	43%
Temporary	32%	38%	39%	40%
No change	33%	28%	24%	17%
Total	100%	101%	101%	100%

**QFS8. Thinking about your finances over the next few years, which do you think is more likely?**

N=1,127

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
You will get back to where you were before the recession began	21%	25%	40%	24%	23%
You will stay at the level you are now	57%	53%	46%	61%	61%
You are already back/no loss in the first place	21%	22%	14%	15%	16%
Total	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%

[IF FS8=1 or 2]

**QFS14. Considering everything, how long do you think it will take YOU AND YOUR FAMILY to recover financially from the effects of the recession?**

N=1,120

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Less than 1 year	3%	3%	7%	3%	7%
1-2 years	11%	13%	20%	13%	17%
3-5 years	24%	26%	27%	30%	34%
6-10 years	12%	13%	9%	17%	16%
Longer than 10 years/will never recover	18%	15%	16%	21%	12%
Already recovered/no loss from above	32%	31%	21%	16%	15%
Total	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%



**FS3. Over the next year, do you think your family's finances will:**

**N=1,134**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Get a lot better	9%	11%	9%	11%
Get a little better	31%	36%	28%	28%
Stay the same	42%	38%	36%	40%
Get a little worse	13%	12%	18%	13%
Get a lot worse	4%	3%	9%	8%
Total	99%	100%	100%	100%

**CURRENTLY EMPLOYED**

[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1] (EMPLOYED)

**QCE1. Thinking about your current job, are you:**

**N=458**

	August 2014	January 2013
Very satisfied	24%	29%
Somewhat satisfied	39%	37%
Neither satisfied not dissatisfied	16%	15%
Somewhat dissatisfied	14%	11%
Very dissatisfied	6%	7%
Don't know	2%	1%
Total	101%	100%

**QRI12. How confident are you that if you lost or wanted to leave your current job, you could find another job as good or better?**

N=455

	August 2014	January 2013	September 2010
Extremely confident	4%	8%	7%
Very confident	16%	10%	12%
Somewhat confident	33%	34%	30%
Not very confident	27%	30%	30%
Not at all confident	21%	18%	20%
Total	101%	100%	99%

**QTIMESERIES2. How are you paid?**

N=458

	August 2014	January 2013
A salary	37%	35%
By the hour	53%	56%
Self-employed/commission/stipend	11%	9%
Total	101%	100%

[ASK ALL] (GENPOP)

**QRI14. During and after the Great Recession of the past four years, were you laid off from a full- or part-time job?**

N=1,137

	August 2014	January 2013	September 2010
Yes, full-time job	16%	20%	11%
Yes, part-time job	5%	5%	3%
No	80%	75%	86%
Total	101%	100%	99%

[IF RI14=1,2] (LAID OFF)

**QCE2. How long were you actively seeking employment before you found a job after being laid off?**

N=341

	August 2014	January 2013
2 months or less	14%	23%
3-4 months	13%	9%
5-6 months	10%	20%
7 months to 1 year	16%	10%
1-2 years	10%	12%
More than 2 years	13%	11%
No new job	22%	9%
Not sure	2%	7%
Total	100%	100%

#### CURRENTLY EMPLOYED SEQUENCE

[IF QEMPSTATSUM=1; RI14=3] (LAID OFF, NOW REEMPLOYED)

**QCE4B. Comparing to what you are doing now to what you were doing five years ago, is your current job:**

N=96

	August 2014	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>
A step up for you	25%	24%
A step down for you	44%	48%
Not that different	31%	28%
Total	100%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording: "Comparing to what you are doing now to what you were doing when the recession hit in late 2008, is your current job."

**QCE5. Is your current pay now lower than the job you were doing five years ago, is it higher, or the same amount?**

N=97

	August 2014	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>
Current job is lower paying	46%	54%
Current job is higher paying	33%	24%
Current job is the same pay	21%	22%
Total	100%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording: "Is your current pay now lower than the job you were doing when the recession hit, is it higher, or the same amount?"

**QCE2A2. Is your new job meant to be:**

N=96

	August 2014
Permanent	64%
Temporary	23%
No impact	13%
Total	100%

**QCE10. Did you receive unemployment benefits from the government at any time after you became unemployed?**

N=496

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Yes	54%	62%	25%	65%	38%	21%
No	46%	38%	75%	35%	62%	79%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

[IF QCE10=1] (RECEIVED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS)

**QCE10A. Did your unemployment benefits run out before you were able to find a new job?**

N=211

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Yes	47%	41%	61%	64%	83%	27%
No	53%	59%	39%	37%	17%	73%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%

**CE11. Did you receive other forms of government assistance to help you with your period of unemployment, such as help finding a new job or funding for a training program, or Food Stamps?**

N=498

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed
No	70%	71%	77%	60%	67%
Yes, help looking for a job	7%	8%	4%	9%	8%
Yes, funding for a training program	7%	8%	5%	4%	8%
Yes, Food Stamps	18%	16%	17%	28%	22%
Yes, other	2%	3%	1%	5%	1%

[IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER SELECTED IN CE11]

**FS12AB. During your period of unemployment, which of the following did you do?**

N=438

\*Only “Yes” answers displayed here

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Unemployed August 2011
Sold some of your possessions to make ends meet	40%	41%	44%	41%	38%
Moved in with family or friends to save money	18%	15%	25%	23%	17%
Borrowed money from friends or family, other than adult children	31%	31%	33%	33%	48%
Missed a mortgage or rent payment	24%	25%	14%	31%	18%
Taken a job you did not like	30%	33%	22%	35%	27%
Taken a job below your education or experience levels	28%	32%	20%	28%	30%
Experienced stress in family relationships or close friendships	61%	59%	63%	67%	NA

**CE12. Because of the recession, do you now think you will retire later or earlier than you had originally planned?**

N=865

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>
Yes, will retire earlier than planned	4%	3%	9%	5%	3%
Yes, will retire later than planned	44%	44%	46%	55%	43%
No change in retirement plans because of recession	53%	53%	46%	40%	54%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording in 2013: “Because of the recession, do you think about retiring later or earlier than you had originally planned?”

CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED SEQUENCE

[IF QEMPSTATSUM=2] (UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING)

QCU3. Please indicate what you have done recently in your job search?

N=385

	Unemployed and Looking, August 2014			Currently Long-term Unemployed		
	Yes, in last month	Yes, in last year	Have not done this	Yes, in last month	Yes, in last year	Have not done this
Sent an application to a potential employer	58%	16%	26%	61%	23%	16%
Sent an email to a potential employer to inquire about a job	44%	16%	40%	45%	24%	31%
Called a potential employer to inquire about a job	45%	18%	37%	43%	23%	34%
Used an online job board (like Monster, Hot Jobs, Career Builder, Craigslist, LinkedIn) or online company job boards to look for a job	51%	21%	28%	58%	20%	22%
Looked at newspaper classifieds job ads	50%	14%	37%	49%	20%	31%
Contacted a friend or family member about a job	44%	20%	36%	49%	23%	28%

**QCU11. At the moment, what is your current outlook on finding a job?**

**N=388**

	August 2014 Total	Unemployed and Looking	Currently Long-term Unemployed	January 2013 Unemployed and Looking
Very optimistic	18%	18%	14%	18%
Somewhat optimistic	43%	43%	38%	39%
Somewhat pessimistic	25%	25%	30%	26%
Very pessimistic	14%	14%	18%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%

[IF QEMPSTATSUM=2,3] (UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING/NOT LOOKING)

**QCU10. Have you received unemployment benefits from the government at any time in the past five years?**

**N=496**

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Yes	54%	62%	25%	65%	38%	21%
No	46%	38%	75%	35%	62%	79%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

[IF CU10=1] (RECEIVED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS)

**QCU10A. Did your unemployment benefits run out before you were able to find a new job?**

**N=211**

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Yes	47%	41%	61%	64%	83%	27%
No	53%	59%	39%	37%	17%	79%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%



**CU12. Did you receive other forms of government assistance to help you with your period of unemployment, such as help finding a new job or funding for a training program, or Food Stamps?**

N=498

	August 2014 Total	Reemployed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Current Long-term Unemployed
No	70%	71%	77%	60%	67%
Yes, help looking for a job	7%	8%	4%	9%	8%
Yes, funding for a training program	7%	8%	5%	4%	8%
Yes, Food Stamps	18%	16%	17%	28%	22%
Yes, other	2%	3%	1%	5%	1%

**QCU5. Please check any of the following you have done in the last 12 months?**

N=350

\*Only "Yes" answers displayed here.

	August 2014	Currently Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Taken an education class useful for job hunting	18%	13%	18%
Taken a class or training course for skills to get a new job	15%	22%	25%
Went to a One-Stop Career Center also known as American Job Centers for help <sup>1</sup>	14%	20%	33%
Looked for a job using Internet job boards or employer websites	67%	70%	81%
Attended a job fair	32%	34%	27%
Attended a job club or professional networking meeting	7%	10%	NA
Met with a job coach or counselor	7%	13%	NA
Other	10%	6%	15%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording in 2013: "Went to a One-Stop Career Center or government agency for help."

[IF CU5=1,2] (TOOK EDUCATION OR TRAINING COURSE)

**QCU5B. Who paid for the education and training?**

N=87

	August 2014	Currently Long-term Unemployed	January 2013
Yourself or a family member	59%	41%	49%
An employer	1%	2%	3%
Government agency	14%	29%	23%
Community organization	16%	11%	7%
Religious organization	1%	2%	2%
Other/combination	10%	16%	16%
Total	101%	101%	100%

**CE12. Because of the recession, do you now think you will retire later or earlier than you had originally planned?**

N=865

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	January 2013 <sup>1</sup>
Yes, will retire earlier than planned	4%	3%	9%	5%	3%
Yes, will retire later than planned	44%	44%	46%	55%	43%
No change in retirement plans because of recession	53%	53%	46%	40%	54%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Varied wording in 2013: "Because of the recession, do you think about retiring later or earlier than you had originally planned?"

**FS12AB. During your period of unemployment, which of the following did you do?**

N=438

**\*Only “Yes” answers displayed here**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Unemployed August 2011
Sold some of your possessions to make ends meet	40%	41%	44%	41%	38%
Moved in with family or friends to save money	18%	15%	25%	23%	17%
Borrowed money from friends or family, other than adult children	31%	31%	33%	33%	48%
Missed a mortgage or rent payment	24%	25%	14%	31%	18%
Taken a job you did not like	30%	33%	22%	35%	27%
Taken a job below your education or experience levels	28%	32%	20%	28%	30%
Experienced stress in family relationships or close friendships	61%	59%	63%	67%	NA

**GENERAL POPULATION (CONTINUED)**

**P1. All things considered, do you consider yourself as a Democrat or Republican or Independent?**

N=1,107

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Ever Long-term Unemployed	Unemployed and Looking
Democrat	34%	36%	36%	41%
Independent	28%	27%	29%	23%
Republican	26%	26%	17%	18%
Something else	11%	10%	19%	18%
Total	99%	99%	101%	100%

[IF P1=2 or 4]

**P1A. Do you lean more toward the:**

N=469

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Democratic Party	26%	29%	21%	23%
Republican Party	26%	28%	21%	21%
Neither	48%	44%	59%	56%
Total	100%	101%	101%	100%

**P2. Do you think of yourself as a:**

	August 2014 Total	Employed	Unemployed and Looking	Ever Long-term Unemployed
Liberal	18%	20%	24%	22%
Moderate	47%	48%	48%	48%
Conservative	36%	31%	28%	30%
Total	101%	99%	100%	100%



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