



RAPID RECOVERY REPORT

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE • JULY 28, 2020

SUMMARY

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE/EDUCATION DATA TRENDS

- The latest national data indicate the number of individuals seeking unemployment benefits increased to 1.42 million from 1.31 million in early July, the first increase since the pandemic struck in March. The number of Hoosiers receiving unemployment benefits is holding steady at around 190,000, while weekly initial claims declined from approximately 28,000 to 18,000 as of July 11.
- Employment is still rising in July but at a slower rate than in May and June. Job gains are expected in industries such as construction and manufacturing where social distancing is easier, with less of an increase at businesses dependent on public gatherings, such as restaurants and stores.
- Strada Education Network summarizes core findings from its ongoing Work and Education survey, including noting adults' fears about their ability to succeed are a significant barrier to enrolling in education and nondegree programs have the strongest interest among survey respondents.

SECTOR AND REGIONAL INSIGHTS

- **Advanced Manufacturing:** Core lessons from COVID-19 highlighted by an industry publication are: 1) embrace digitalization, 2) build a disruption response plan, 3) do scenario planning, 4) build an extended onshore network of suppliers, and 5) put plans into practice via a Hackathon approach.
- **Business Logistics/Supply Chain:** Supply chain concerns include inconsistent labor and material availability, while businesses still are not getting the labor they need as many continue sheltering in place or are disincentivized by the robust amount of funds available for unemployment.
- **Healthcare:** An additional \$5 billion in federal funding for nursing homes will cover testing of staff, providing states a weekly list of cases, and offering additional training and support for homes.
- **Campuses** report employers are showing interest in training opportunities available through expanded Next Level Jobs state funding, in part because training budgets are tight.
- For some employer partners ramping up with employees working overtime, online training options are the most useful at this time.

EMPLOYMENT DATA AND TRENDS

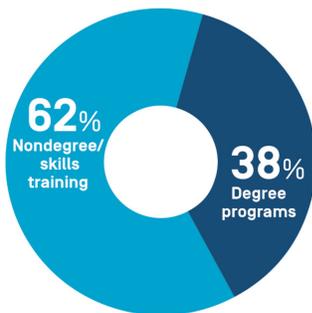
- The latest U.S. Department of Labor data indicate **Americans seeking unemployment benefits increased** to 1.42 million from 1.31 million in early July, the first increase since the pandemic struck in March. The number of **Hoosiers receiving unemployment benefits is holding steady** at around 190,000, while weekly initial claims declined from approximately 28,000 to 18,000 as of July 11.
- The Wall Street Journal reports that employers hit hard by pandemic and businesses with renewed demand are driving hiring in U.S. jobs recovery, although labor market data suggest the recovery's momentum is threatened by the recent COVID-19 surge. Employment is still rising in July but at a slower rate than in May and June. Job gains are expected in industries such as construction and manufacturing where social distancing is easier, with less of an increase at businesses dependent on public gatherings, such as restaurants and stores.
- In a separate analysis, WSJ notes **women are exiting the workforce at a slightly higher rate than men** according to federal data. The rate at which women were either working or looking for work declined 2.1 points from 57.3% in March to 56.1% in June. Male labor participation dropped 1.9 points from 68.5% to 67.2% during that same timeframe.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE POLLING

Strada Education Network summarizes key findings of their ongoing Work and Education survey, providing insights on American **adult learner motivations, barriers, and expectations** regarding education. (See Strada's summary charts below.)

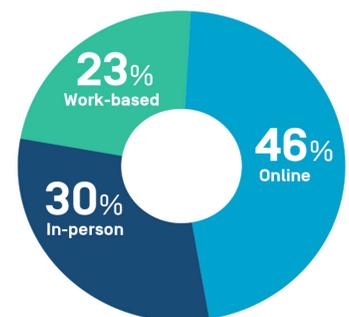
- Two out of every three young adults report they have changed or canceled their education plans
- Adults' fears about their ability to succeed are a significant barrier to enrolling
- Nondegree programs have the strongest interest
- Americans prefer online programs over in-person
- People of color are most likely to experience disruption

Americans strongly prefer nondegree programs and skills training over degree programs.



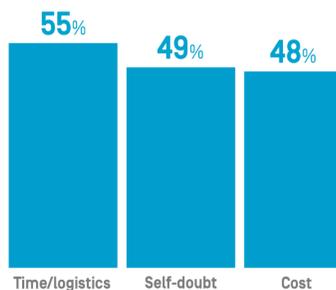
Strada Center for Consumer Insights Public Viewpoint surveys May 10-June 11. Base: Americans ages 18 and older, n=2,432.

Americans mostly value online options over in-person or work-based learning.



Strada Center for Consumer Insights Public Viewpoint surveys May 6-May 21. Base: Americans ages 18 and older, n=2,432.

Americans identify three primary challenges to enrolling in a postsecondary education program: time and logistics, fear they won't be successful students or have been out of school too long, and cost.



Strada Center for Consumer Insights Public Viewpoint surveys, May 20-June 25. Base: Americans ages 18-64, n=3,241.

SECTOR AND REGIONAL INSIGHTS

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

- Industry publication IndustryWeek highlights core lessons from COVID-19: 1) embrace digitalization, 2) build a disruption response plan, 3) do scenario planning, 4) build an extended onshore network of suppliers, and 5) put plans into practice via a Hackathon approach.
- Two IUPUI professors are applying a patented technology developed at the school to manufacture reusable face masks using copper, a metal often used in the production of high-touch objects like doorknobs and handles. Their goal is to improve filter performance by trapping and disabling airborne virus particles. (source IBJTech eNewsletter)

BUSINESS LOGISTICS/SUPPLY CHAIN

- Supply chain concerns remain due to inconsistent labor and material availability. Systems are not set up for extensive variability of demand, supply and labor.
- Businesses still are not getting the labor they need as many are either sidelined to protect from COVID-19 or disincentivized by the robust amount of funds available for unemployment.

HEALTHCARE

- The White House announced a \$5 billion package to help nursing home facilities rebound after COVID-19 that includes testing of staff, providing states a weekly list of cases, and offering additional training and support for homes. Nursing homes in hotspots will get priority for new funds. Nursing homes have already received \$4.9 billion from pandemic relief funds, and the move is applauded by the American Health Care Association.

COMMUNITY PARTNER PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Campuses report **more employers are showing interest in training opportunities available through expanded Next Level Jobs funding**, in part because training budgets are tight.
- For some employer partners ramping up with employees working overtime, **online training options are the most useful** at this time.
- Anderson is looking closely at what will happen with the Hoosier Park casino, a major employer in the area that was bought out by Caesars with an announcement that they will continue to invest in the property.
- The State of Indiana's **Rapid Recovery Initiative Resources** can be found at <https://yournextstepin.org>, with links to employment, education and training, and other support.