

**Financially Insecure Workers Face Greater Workplace Challenges During COVID-19 Pandemic**  
 “Very concerned” about impact of coronavirus on local economy (73%) and hospital care (69%)

**ROCKVILLE, MD** – As the American workplace undergoes sweeping changes to operations, policies and staffing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, American workers who are most financially insecure are having a much harder time than their wealthier counterparts.

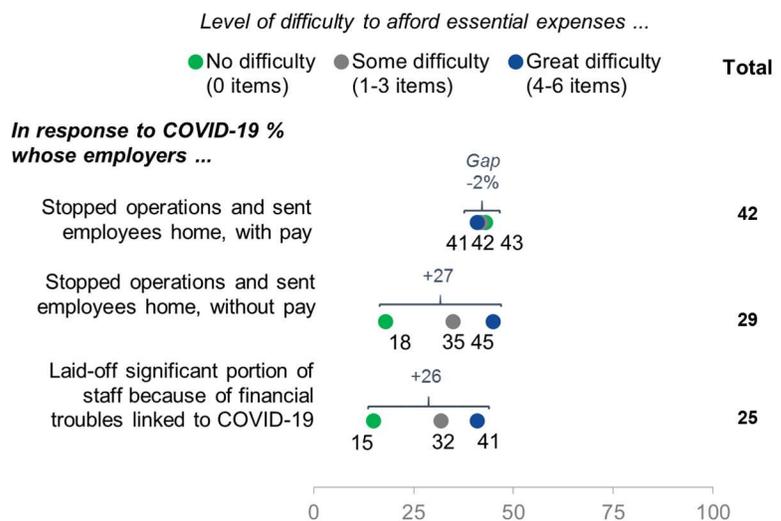
*A new analysis by EurekaFacts, in a survey conducted March 23-31, evaluates the attitudes and experiences during the early part of the coronavirus pandemic based on levels of financial security. Americans are categorized into one of three groups based on their answers to questions about level of difficulty affording their expenses (none, some, or great difficulty) – including food, housing, health care, utilities, transportation, and childcare.*

Close to half (45%) of American workers who have great difficulty affording basic expenses say that their workplace has stopped operations and sent employees home *without* pay, compared with just 18% of those who report no difficulty affording their core expenses.

Another 41% of the most financially distressed Americans say that their employers have laid-off large portions of staff due to financial troubles linked to COVID-19, while only 15% of those without difficulty affording basic expenses report widespread lay-offs in their workplace.

At the same time, by a margin of 12-points, workers who have no difficulty affording their essential expenses are more likely to be hearing about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace than are workers who are most financially insecure (88% vs 76%).

**How coronavirus is impacting America’s most financially insecure workers**



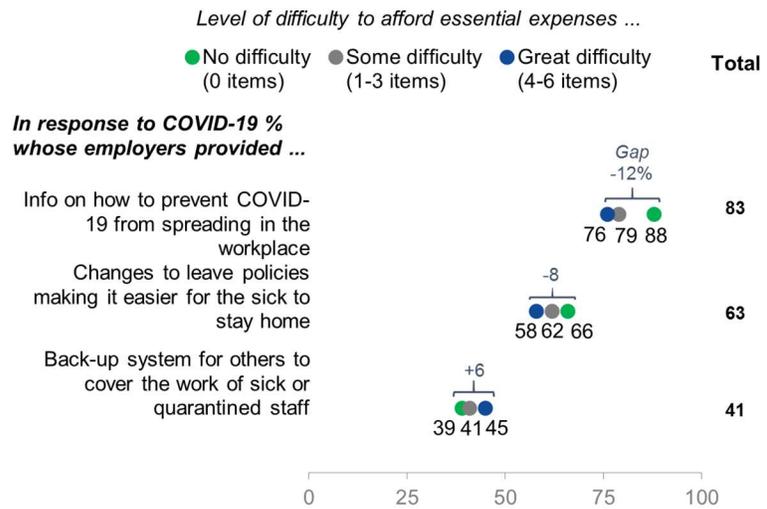
Source: EurekaFacts Panel Survey of U.S. adults, March 23-31, 2020. N=936. Conducted in compliance with ISO: 20252 to which EurekaFacts is certified.

For several other aspects of work life, during the coronavirus outbreak, there are modest differences between workers who have great difficulty affording basic expenses and those who have some or no difficulty paying for essentials needs.

About four-in-ten among those at all levels of financial security say that their place of work has stopped operations and sent employees home *with* pay, including 41% of those who report great difficulty affording basic needs, such as food and housing.

When it comes to creating flexible workplace leave policies during the pandemic that make it easier for the sick to stay home, a majority (58%) of the most financially distressed workers have been granted this flexibility by their employers. That is on par with two-thirds (66%) of workers who report no difficulty affording their essential needs.

**Workplace policies during COVID-19**



Source: EurekaFacts Panel Survey of U.S. adults, March 23-31, 2020. N=936. Conducted in compliance with ISO: 20252 to which EurekaFacts is certified.

Overall, fewer than half (41%) of American workers say that their employer has created a back-up system that would allow other workers to cover the work of sick or quarantined staff members in their workplace. Slightly more of those who face great financial stress say that their employer has instituted a back-up system like this than among American workers who have no difficulty with basic expenses (45% vs. 39%).

**How financially stressed Americans view the impact of COVID-19 on themselves and their communities**

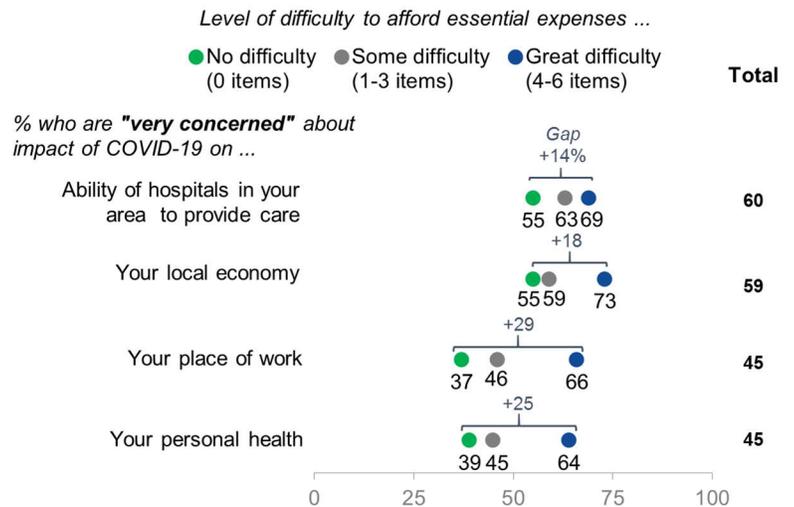
Americans who face great difficulty affording their basic expenses are far more likely than their more well-off counterparts to be “very concerned” about the impact of COVID-19 on their local economy (73%) and their place of work (66%).

By contrast, a slim majority of those with no difficulty affording basic expenses say that they are “very concerned” about their local economy (55%) and about a third (37%) are very concerned about their workplace amidst COVID-19.

Moreover, two-thirds of the most financially insecure Americans are “very concerned” about the ability of their local hospitals and clinics to care for the sick (69%), compared with just over half (55%) of Americans who say they have no difficulty affording core expenses.

When it comes to personal health, 64% of the financially distressed say they are “very concerned” about COVID-19, while just 39% of those with no difficult affording basic needs say they are very concerned about their personal health.

**Financially distressed Americans are more concerned than others about the impact of COVID-19**



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### About the Survey

This panel survey of U.S. adults was conducted March 23-31, 2020 among N=936 respondents. Sample sizes and sampling errors for overall results and subgroups available upon request. For more information about this study or additional research conducted by EurekaFacts, please contact Robert Suls at [sulsr@eurekafacts.com](mailto:sulsr@eurekafacts.com). For more from this survey please visit [Eurekafacts.com/COVID19](https://Eurekafacts.com/COVID19).

### About EurekaFacts

[EurekaFacts](https://EurekaFacts.com) is a full-service market and social research firm in the Washington, D.C. area. We help leaders understand and shape successful programs, communications, and brands through data collection and advanced analytics. Since 2003, we have collaborated with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations to answer their research questions and business objectives. This study was completed in compliance with the International Quality Standard [ISO 20252](https://www.iso.org/standard/68252.html) for market, public opinion, and social research, to which EurekaFacts is certified.

Interested in being part of our next survey? Complete our [participant form](#) so we may contact you to share your opinions and experiences on upcoming research studies.

