



## Fishers Staffing Agency Shares Results of Labor Day Survey, White, Grey, and Blue-Collar Workers: Haunted by Past, Worried About Future, Content with Present

*August 30, 2019*

August 30, 2019 - PRESSADVANTAGE -

Fishers, Ind. ? Following the inaugural survey of America’s blue-collar workers in 2018, Express Employment Professionals, a Fishers staffing agency, has partnered once again with The Harris Poll to learn more about how today’s white-collar workers compare with blue-collar employees and those who fall in the middle?grey collar professions.

Despite a similar outlook of the future, regardless of collar color, the survey revealed American workers have substantial student loan debt and are not saving enough for retirement, but feel their jobs provide a good living for the present.

### Grey Collar Work

Grey-collar work combines some of the manual labor aspects of blue-collar work but also has components of white-collar work. For this study, Harris defines grey-collar workers as working in jobs such as airline pilot or flight attendant, farmer or land manager, certified or licensed salesperson, clergy, childcare worker, engineer,

firefighter, paralegal, military, teacher or non-physician healthcare professional.

A full survey methodology and enlarged infographic are available below.

Grey-collar industries emerged as the forgotten workforce when comparing demographics and sentiments between the traditional stereotypical white and blue-collar jobs. But with 40% of grey-collar workers expecting substantial job growth in their fields over the coming years, they are an important segment to survey to accurately capture American employment data as a whole.

### College: Was it Worth it

For workers with a high-school diploma or less, more than half look back and wish they had a four-year degree or attended a community college or vocational school. Seventy-nine percent of grey-collar workers and 72% of blue-collar workers believe they would have had more opportunities if they had attended college.

For those with a college degree, more than 1 in 3 grey-collar workers, 35%, and almost 1 in 4 white-collar workers, 24%, say they think the higher education they received is essential to their current job. Most college graduates, 79% grey-collar and 70% white-collar, think going to college was worth every penny.

However, some college-educated workers express regret about their decision, wishing they had attended community college, vocational school or had gone straight into the workforce instead (46% blue-collar, 31% white-collar, 30% grey-collar). Nearly 1 in 3 college graduates say they have too much student loan debt (32% grey-collar, 31% white-collar) and cannot find a good job despite their college degree (33% white-collar, 28% grey-collar). Eighteen percent of white-collar workers and 16% of grey-collar workers have at least \$25,000 worth of student loan debt, and those with student loans estimate it will take approximately seven to eight years to pay it off.

### Retirement: Saving for the Future

While blue, grey and white-collar workers are still paying off student loans, 62% of blue-collar, 45% of grey and 40% of white-collar workers also say they have less than \$5,000 saved in case of an emergency. White-collar workers are the most likely segment to have a larger fund of \$25,000 or more saved for emergencies, 33%, with only 24% of grey-collar and 11% of blue-collar workers reporting the same amount.

The majority of all workers are worried about saving enough for retirement (73% blue-collar, 62% white-collar, 59% grey-collar) and only about half of workers are currently setting aside money for the later years (58% white-collar, 53% grey-collar). Blue-collar workers are the group least likely to save for the future at only 42%.

## Content in the Present

For now, job satisfaction is high among most workers. Eighty-eight percent of grey-collar workers and 86% of both blue and white-collar workers say they are at least somewhat satisfied with their job and an average of 89% of all workers are proud of the work.

They believe their job provides them a good living financially to support their family (81% white-collar, 80% blue-collar, 77% grey-collar) and few are worried they might lose their position in the future (13% blue-collar, 13% white-collar, 12% grey-collar).

Most white and grey-collar workers believe their boss cares about them (80% white-collar, 77% grey-collar) and that their company cares about its employees (80% white-collar, 77% grey-collar), though blue-collar workers are the least likely to agree with this sentiment at 71%. Regardless of their type of work, the top reason U.S. workers value their field is the ability to make a good living wage at 53%. Having flexible work hours is also a top reason for job satisfaction (47% white-collar, 42% grey-collar, 35% blue-collar).

Conversely, white and grey-collar workers say the top thing they dislike about their job is having limited or no advancement opportunities (30% white-collar, 27% grey-collar). Blue-collar workers mostly dislike that their job can be dangerous at times, 39%, though they also report limited or no advancement opportunities, 28%, as reasons they dislike their field.

Financially, about half of all workers describe themselves as middle class, and most say they've received a pay increase in the last year (76% white-collar, 70% grey-collar, 68% blue-collar). White-collar and blue-collar workers are more likely to say they received a promotion in the past year (36% white-collar, 35% blue-collar, 29% grey-collar). Over half of U.S. workers anticipate they will receive a pay increase this year or next year (68% white-collar, 60% grey-collar, 55% blue-collar).

## Political Differences: Not So Much

At a time when the country is divided along many lines, views on political parties are notably similar between the groups. When asked which political party does a better job of helping Americans in their line of work, there is no consensus.

Blue-collar: 39% Republican, 36% Democratic, 24% neither

Grey-collar: 35% Republican, 38% Democratic, 25% neither

White-collar: 39% Republican, 37% Democratic, 22% neither

With 2020 approaching, the 2019 survey also polled grey and white-collar respondents on their concerns ahead of the election. (Similar questions were not posed to blue-collar workers in the 2018 survey). Respondents could select all issues that applied. The concerns that rise to the top for U.S. workers are as follows:

Economy: grey and white-collar 51%, each

Health Care: grey-collar 54%, white-collar 50%

Immigration: grey and white-collar 43%, each

Affordability of daily living: grey-collar 43%, white-collar 39%

#### Hopeful for Their Profession in the Future

Looking down the road, roughly 3 in 4 workers believe there is a good career path in their line of work (75% white-collar, 74% blue-collar, 72% grey-collar) and would encourage a friend or family member to pursue a job in it (70% grey-collar, 68% white-collar, 64% blue-collar). However, they are less enthusiastic about encouraging a child to follow in their footsteps with only 64% of white-collar, 62% of grey-collar and 51% of blue-collar workers making the recommendation. For those who would encourage a child to pursue the same career, the top reasons for doing so include because it's enjoyable and profitable.

Notably, grey-collar workers are far more likely to encourage a child to explore a career in their field than white-collar workers because they anticipate high demand for their job in the future (grey-collar 45%, white-collar 31%).

Eight-in-10 U.S. workers are optimistic about their future (83% grey-collar, 83% white-collar, 80% blue-collar) and most parents are hopeful for their children, agreeing with the idea that their children will have an even better future than they will (88% blue-collar, 81% grey-collar, 75% white-collar). And despite any past or future worries, an overwhelming majority say their life is moving in the right direction (88% grey-collar, 86% white-collar, 85% blue-collar).

#### Archaic Labels

Although most U.S. white-collar (83%) and grey-collar (81%) workers view labels such as 'grey-collar' and

?white-collar? as a good way to describe the work they do, they also see them as old-fashioned and non-applicable anymore (62% grey-collar, 56% white-collar). When grey and white-collar workers were asked which definition or label best describes the work they do, their responses reveal an overlap in classification.

Eighty percent of white-collar workers describe their work as ?white-collar,? while 49% of grey-collar workers also classify their work as ?white-collar.? Another 25% of grey-collar workers define their duties as ?grey-collar,? and 14% say ?blue-collar.? Eleven percent of grey-collar workers define their position as ?something else.?

While the majority of white-collar (76%) and grey-collar (73%) workers believe labeling a profession as ?blue-collar,? ?grey-collar? or ?white-collar? is not personally offensive, they do think the labeling hurts how people view a particular line of work (62% grey-collar, 59% white-collar). More than 1 in 4 grey-collar (31%) and white-collar (27%) workers even say they would likely be in another profession if it weren?t for the assigned label (e.g., ?blue-collar,? ?white-collar?).

?The value of work is not found in the color of the collar one wears, the location of a job, the existence of an office or even the size of the paycheck. The value of work is found in the sense of purpose and pride it gives the worker,? said Bill Stoller, CEO of Express. ?White, grey and blue-collar Americans have clear differences, but they are also telling us that they feel good about themselves, their families and their future. That?s a good news story.?

The Fishers employment agency is located at 7259 Fishers Landing Dr, Fishers, IN 46038. Local businesses and applicants are encouraged to stop by, visit [www.expresspros.com/IndyNorth](http://www.expresspros.com/IndyNorth) or call (317) 596-9370.

###

For more information about Express Employment Professionals - Indy North, contact the company here: Express Employment Professionals - Indy North Lee Wenninger (317) 596-9370 [jobs.fishersin@expresspros.com](mailto:jobs.fishersin@expresspros.com) 7259 Fishers Landing Dr Fishers, IN 46038

## **Express Employment Professionals - Indy North**

*Express Employment Professionals - Indianapolis North is a full-service staffing agency that strives to help good companies in Hamilton County find great people and job seekers find work!*

Website: <https://www.expresspros.com/IndyNorth>

Email: [jobs.fishersin@expresspros.com](mailto:jobs.fishersin@expresspros.com)

Phone: (317) 596-9370

