



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
 For Release: Monday, December 14, 2009
 2:30 pm (EST)

AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED: THE JOB MARKET AND THE RECESSION'S IMPACT
 December 4-10, 2009

The unemployed are twice as likely as Americans overall to say the recession has been a hardship on their family. Those who have been unemployed for more than six months are particularly affected; 58% say the recession has been a hardship for themselves and their family.

EFFECT OF THE RECESSION ON YOUR FAMILY

	All	Total Unemployed	Unemployed for:	
			6 months or less	Over 6 months
Hardship	24%	49%	43%	58%
Difficult	49	44	48	38
Not much effect	26	5	6	4

But 39% of unemployed Americans are optimistic that the job market will get better in their area over the next year. About one in five thinks the job market will get worse, while 36% think it will stay the same. Extended joblessness makes people more pessimistic: Those who have been out of work for longer than six months are less optimistic than those who have not been unemployed as long.

WILL THE JOB MARKET IN YOUR AREA...?

(among unemployed Americans)

	Total Unemployed	Six months or less	Six months
			or more
Get better	39%	43%	33%
Get worse	22	19	26
Stay the same	36	35	39

When it comes to lost jobs returning to their community, fewer than half expect the jobs their communities have lost will come back when the economy recovers, and 40% think they won't. Those who have been out of work longer are even less hopeful.

WILL THE LOST JOBS IN YOUR COMMUNITY COME BACK?

(among unemployed Americans)

	Total Unemployed	Six months or less	Six months
			or more
Yes	46%	52%	37%
No	40	34	48

Optimism about jobs returning varies by region. In the Midwest - once the bedrock of manufacturing jobs in the country - 52% of unemployed

Americans think the lost jobs in their communities will not come back, while elsewhere the unemployed are more hopeful.

WILL THE LOST JOBS IN YOUR COMMUNITY COME BACK?

(among unemployed Americans)

	All	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes	46%	48%	32%	49%	52%
No	40	32	52	41	32

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,650 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 4-10, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus two percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

An oversample of people out of work and looking for a job were interviewed for a total of 708 interviews with the unemployed. The results were then weighted in proportion to the adult population as reported by the U.S. Census. The margin of error for the sample of the unemployed is four points.

Results among all Americans are from a CBS News/New York Times Poll conducted December 4-8, 2009.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.