



Napolitan News Service Survey
of 985 Registered Voters
Conducted February 17-18, 2026

1 From what you know, are businesses in your area more likely to be hiring people or laying people off?*

- 29% Hiring
- 25% Laying off
- 28% Neither
- 17% Not sure

Total			
	Hiring	Laying off	Net
February 17-18, 2026	29%	25%	+4
December 1-2, 2025	29%	30%	-1
September 8-9, 2025	29%	32%	-3
June 30-July 1, 2025	31%	25%	+6
May 27-28, 2025	29%	28%	+1
March 31-April 1, 2025	27%	30%	-3
September 9-10, 2024	27%	30%	-3

Source: Napolitan News Service



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2 Is this a good time to be looking for a job, or a bad time?*

- 14% Very good
- 30% Somewhat good
- 32% Somewhat bad
- 10% Very bad
- 14% Not sure

Total			
	Good	Bad	Net
February 17-18, 2026	44%	42%	+2
December 1-2, 2025	40%	47%	-7
September 8-9, 2025	46%	45%	+1
June 30-July 1, 2025	49%	38%	+11
May 27-28, 2025	47%	40%	+7
March 31-April 1, 2025	45%	41%	+4
September 9-10, 2024	65%	23%	+42

Source: Napolitan News Service



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3 At the present time, how difficult is it for someone who has been laid off to find a good job?*

- 19% Very difficult
- 42% Somewhat difficult
- 19% Not very difficult
- 9% Not at all difficult
- 12% Not sure

Total			
	Very/Somewhat difficult	Not very/Not at all difficult	Net
February 17-18, 2026	61%	28%	+33
December 1-2, 2025	63%	26%	+37
September 8-9, 2025	63%	28%	+35
June 30-July 1, 2025	63%	26%	+37
May 27-28, 2025	61%	26%	+35
March 31-April 1, 2025	63%	27%	+36
September 9-10, 2024	45%	45%	EVEN
Source: Napolitan News Service			



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4 Government reports show that the economy created 172,000 new private sector jobs in January, while the number of government jobs was cut by 42,000. Generally speaking, is it good for America or bad for America to have more private sector jobs and fewer government jobs?*

- 21% Very good
- 35% Somewhat good
- 18% Somewhat bad
- 5% Very bad
- 21% Not sure

5 Who works harder, government employees or private sector workers?*

- 5% Government employees
- 49% Private sector workers
- 36% Both work equally hard
- 10% Not sure

Totals			
	Government employees	Private sector workers	Both work equally hard
February 17-18, 2026	5%	49%	36%
August 25-26, 2025	6%	45%	37%
January 29-30, 2025	8%	45%	40%
March 11-12, 2024	7%	56%	26%

Source: Napolitan News Service



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6 The Bureau of Labor Statistics has just adjusted its employment statistics for last year and now says it overestimated the number of jobs created by about a million jobs. Generally speaking, how reliable are government reports about jobs and the state of the economy?*

9%	Very reliable
32%	Somewhat reliable
30%	Not very reliable
16%	Not at all reliable
12%	Not sure

7 Suppose official government statistics on the economy showed a different result from private sector statistics on the economy. Which would you trust more?*

12%	Government statistics
58%	Private sector statistics
29%	Not sure

Methodology

This survey of 985 Registered Voters was conducted online by Scott Rasmussen on February 17-18, 2026. Field work for the survey was conducted by RMG Research, Inc. Certain quotas were applied, and the sample was lightly weighted by geography, gender, age, race, education, internet usage, and political party to reasonably reflect the nation's population of Registered Voters. Other variables were reviewed to ensure that the final sample is representative of that population.

The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

This survey was paid for by Napolitan News Service as part of the service provided for our Gold Circle Members.

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