

Gallup Job Creation Index

Gallup's Job Creation Index is based on the core assumption that random samples of thousands of employed Americans in all parts of the country and across industries can provide accurate and up-to-date assessments of their companies' hiring and firing practices.

Each day, Gallup asks a sample of employed Americans whether their companies are hiring new people and expanding the size of their workforces, not changing the size of their workforces, or letting people go and reducing the size of their workforces. Gallup computes the Job Creation Index by subtracting the reported percentage of employers who are letting people go from the percentage of employers who are hiring. The index provides a real-time indicator of the nation's employment picture across all industry and business sectors. Gallup has tracked its Job Creation Index daily since January 2008.

Survey Methods

Results are based on aggregated data from Gallup Daily tracking questions. Landline and cellular telephone interviews are conducted each night with 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older. Gallup's Job Creation Index questions are asked of those who are employed, including those who work for an employer and those who are self-employed. Gallup typically reports results as three-day rolling averages, each consisting of interviews with approximately 1,700 employed respondents. One can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error for the three-day rolling average is ± 3 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Survey Questions Used for Gallup Job Creation Index

Gallup's Job Creation Index is based on the subset of respondents who are employed, based on an affirmative response to either of the following two questions:

1. Thinking about your **WORK SITUATION** over the past 7 days, have you been employed by an employer — even minimally like for an hour or more — from whom you receive money or goods? (This could be for one or more employers.)
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. (Don't know)
 4. (Refused)
2. Again thinking about the last 7 days, were you self-employed, even minimally like for an hour or more? This means working for yourself, freelancing, or doing contract work, **OR** working for your own or your family's business. Self-employment also includes fishing, doing farm work, or raising livestock for either your own or your family's farm or ranch.
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. (Don't know)
 4. (Refused)

The question that is used to compute the Job Creation Index is:

Now thinking more generally about the company or business you work for, including all of its employees. Based on what you know or have seen, would you say that, in general, your company or employer is (read 1-3)?

1. Hiring new people and expanding the size of its workforce
2. Not changing the size of its workforce (or)
3. Letting people go and reducing the size of its workforce
7. (Does not apply)
8. (Don't know)
9. (Refused)