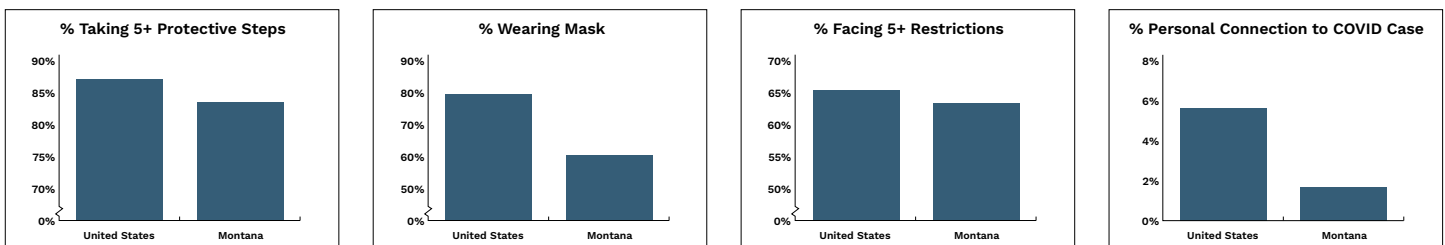


How has COVID-19 changed work and well-being for Montanans?

AN OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH INSTITUTE FACT BRIEF

In general, Montanans are protecting themselves against COVID-19 at rates slightly lower than those of other Americans, while having fewer personal connections to people with COVID-19.

- More than eight of 10 Montanans report taking five or more measures to protect against the virus—about the same as Americans as a whole.
- Montanans are less likely to wear a mask than other Americans. Six of 10 Montanans report wearing a mask compared with eight of 10 across the country.
- A little over 60 percent of Montanans face five or more movement restrictions—slightly less than Americans as a whole.
- Montanans have a personal connection to a COVID-19 case—that is, a diagnosis of COVID-19 in their household or the death of a close friend or family member—at one-third the rate of Americans as a whole. Less than 2 percent report a personal connection.



Source: COVID Impact Survey, Waves 1 and 2. Data are representative of the population 18 years or older. Bars show share of respondents answering affirmatively on indicated measures. For more detail, see www.minneapolisfed.org/research/institute-working-papers/disparities-and-mitigation-behavior-during-covid-19

Job losses have disproportionately hit younger and middle-aged Montanans, while declines in hours have hit Montanans living with children the hardest

- More Montana respondents have remained employed than national respondents. The table below reports employment rates (the share of the population working for pay), which are less affected by layoffs and job search choice than unemployment rates.
- Before the pandemic hit, nearly 63 percent of Montana’s respondents reported being employed. In April and May, the share of respondents employed fell to 55 percent.
- Employment declines have been sharpest for respondents aged 18-29 and 45-59, both with over a 20 percent fall from the pre-COVID-19 baseline.
- Average hours worked per week for Montana respondents decreased 9 percent compared with the pre-COVID-19 baseline, similar to the decline for national respondents.
- Montanans who live with children saw the largest fall in hours worked, with a 15 percent decline.

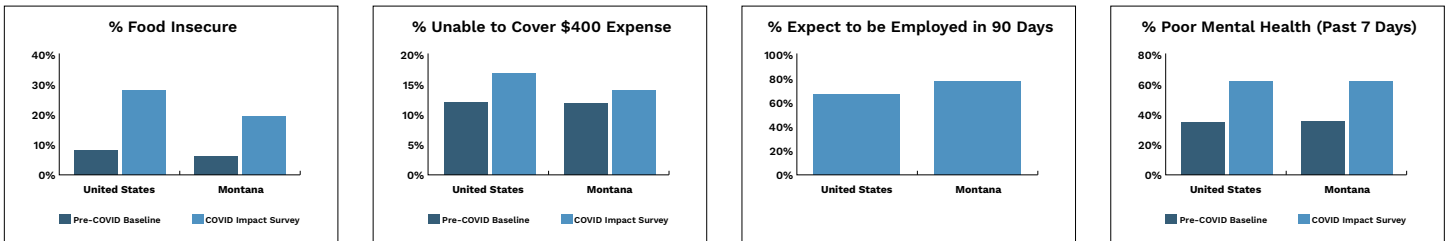
¹ The COVID Impact Survey asks some questions that also appear on the new Census Household Pulse Survey, including employment questions. Differences between the two may be due to substantive differences in survey methods. The CIS invites Montanans into the survey by mail and allows phone interviews if needed. The Census Pulse invites respondents using email and text.

	Employment Rate (Pre-COVID)	Employment Rate (Apr-May 2020)	Percent Change In Employment	Percent Change In Hours, if Employed
United States	62%	48%	-23%	-10%
Montana	63%	55%	-13%	-9%
MT-Living with Children	76%	74%	-2%	-15%
MT-Not Living with Children	57%	48%	-15%	-5%
MT-Age 18-29	75%	60%	-21%	-11%
MT-Age 30-44	82%	80%	-3%	-12%
MT-Age 45-59	79%	63%	-20%	-6%
MT-Age 60+	31%	30%	-3%	0%

Source: April-May data from COVID Impact Survey, Waves 1 and 2. Pre-COVID-19 data from 2018 American Community Survey (ACS), and 2019 Current Population Survey (CPS). Data are representative of the population 18 years or older. Employment is defined as doing any work for pay in the past week. Hours are conditional on employment (excluding self-employment) in the past week.

Well-being has declined for Montanans, although somewhat less than for all Americans

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Montanans’ well-being—including economic security, physical health, and mental health—has worsened. However, relative to U.S. averages, Montanans are experiencing less food insecurity and are more likely to be able to cover emergency expenses. Montanans in the labor force are also more likely to believe they will be employed in three months. The incidence of poor mental health days among Montanans has been similar to the U.S. average.



Source: COVID Impact Survey, Waves 1 and 2. Pre-COVID-19 baselines from 2019 Survey of Household Economics Decisionmaking; 2016, 2017, and 2018 December Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements; and 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey. Bars show share of respondents answering affirmatively on indicated measures.

Survey data information for Ninth Federal Reserve District leaders

The onset of COVID-19 generated an immediate need for timely data reflecting how our communities are faring in a newly changed environment. To meet this need, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis partnered with the Data Foundation—experts in improving national statistical resources—to provide the COVID Impact Survey. This brief offers a snapshot of key facts from the CIS to help policymakers understand what it says about how Montana residents are faring in the COVID-19 environment.

To find out more:

- Visit covid-impact.org/results for additional results, survey questionnaire, and microdata for statistical analysis.
- Follow [@minneapolisfed](https://twitter.com/minneapolisfed), Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute director [@abigailwozniak](https://twitter.com/abigailwozniak), and [@COVIDImpact](https://twitter.com/COVIDImpact).