

FRONTLINE WORKERS' PERSPECTIVES

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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF MINNEAPOLIS

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed here are the presenter's and not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis or the Federal Reserve System.

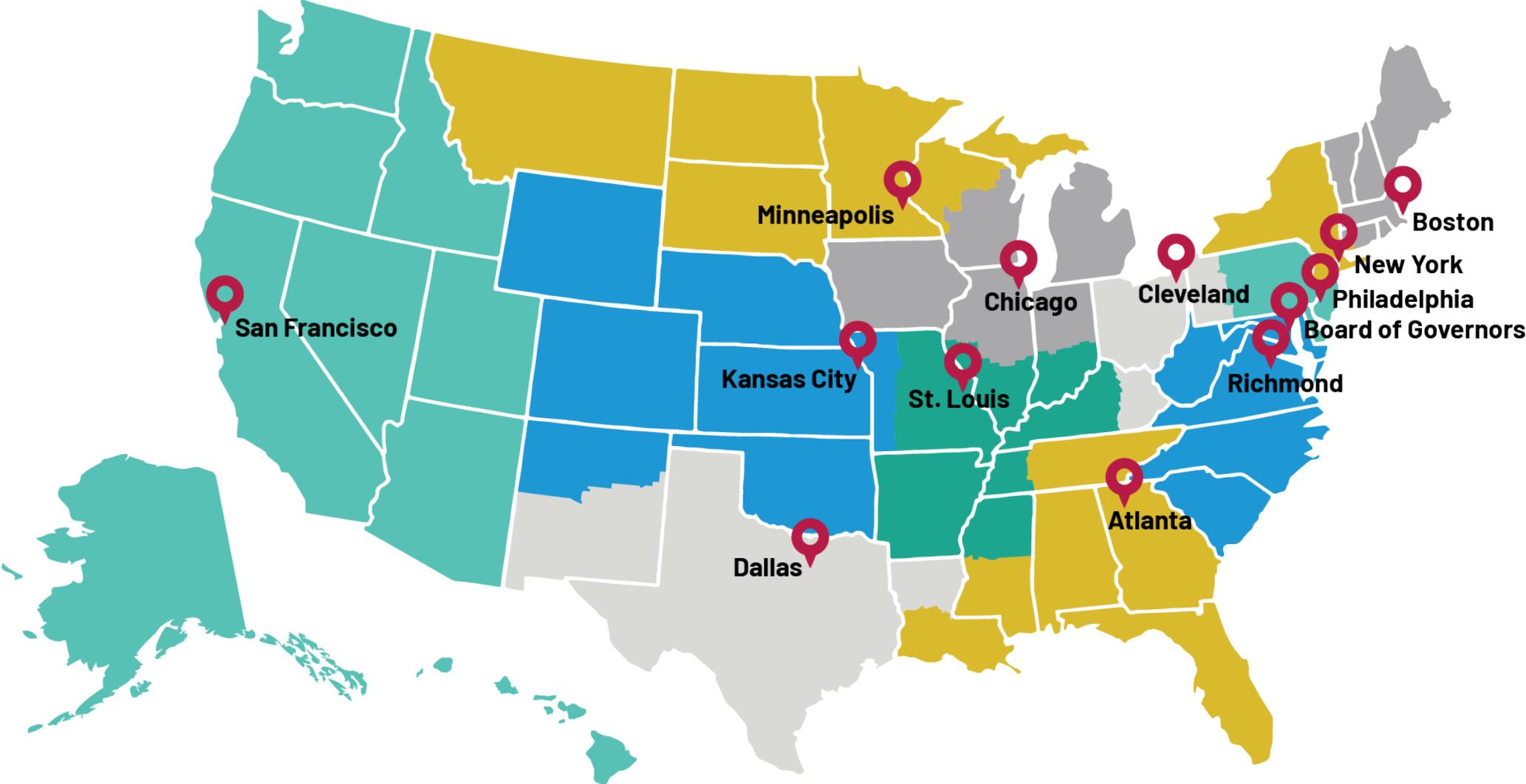


REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (REC) WEBINAR SERIES

- Accelerated survey work due to the pandemic; complements existing work
 - Quarterly: General business, construction, hospitality & tourism, & ag credit
 - Annual: Manufacturing, professional services
- Minneapolis Fed connecting with more stakeholders across the Ninth District
- Webinars help disseminate and discuss what stakeholders are telling us about current conditions



THE FEDERAL RESERVE





INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

- **Federal Reserve Dual Mandate**
 - Stable prices
 - Maximum sustainable employment
- **Minneapolis Fed's Outreach**
 - Traditional information gathering
 - Two additional lenses
 - Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)
 - Workers' experiences



THANK YOU TO PARTNERS

- UNITE HERE! 17
- SEIU Local 26
- Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation
- Frontline workers in the Twin Cities



LOW-WAGE FRONTLINE WORKERS SURVEY OVERVIEW

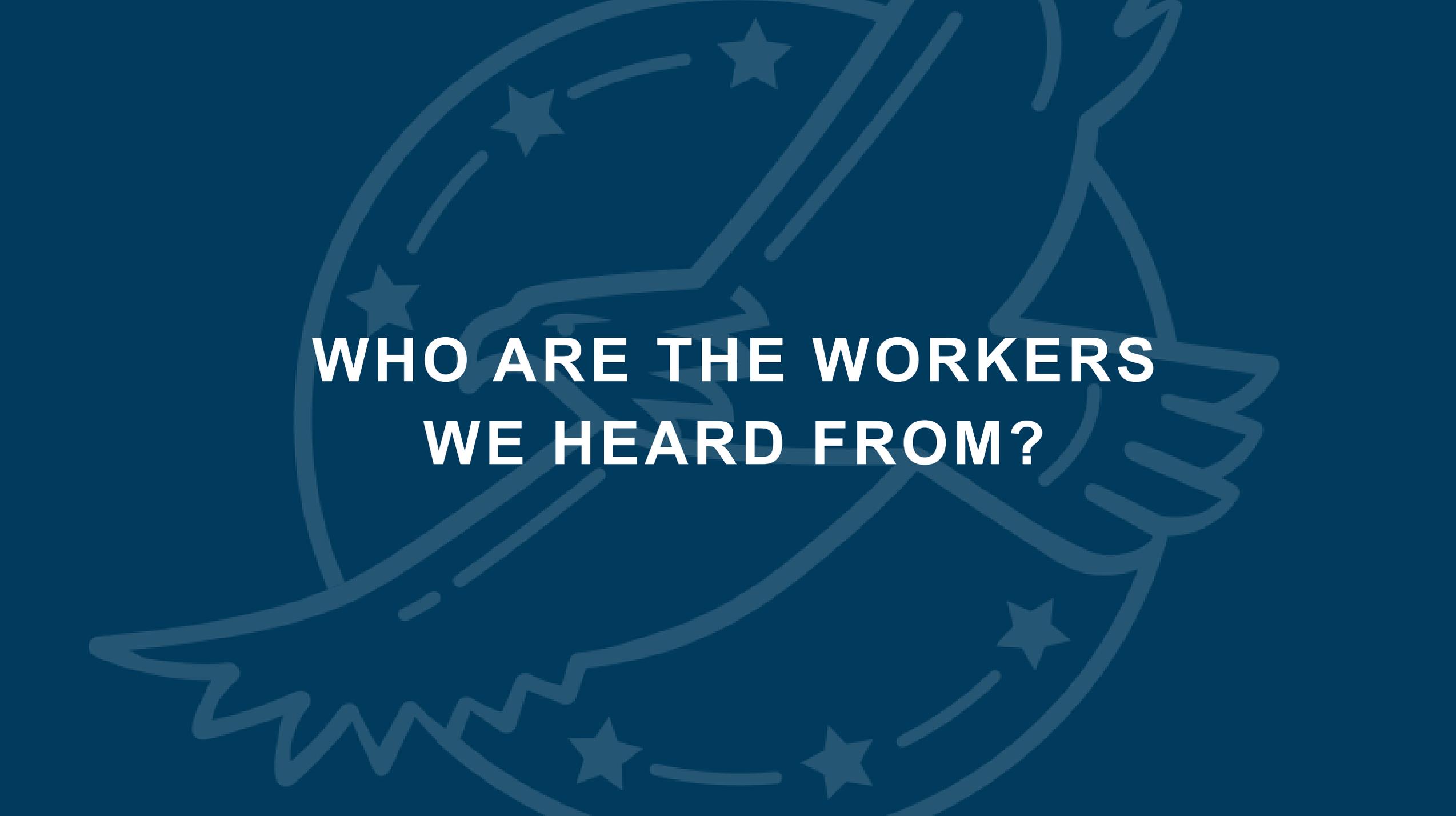
- Pilot survey
- 121 respondents in janitorial and hospitality occupations
- Survey was made available in English, Spanish, and Somali
- Open July – August 2021



SURVEY TAKE-AWAYS

- Employed workers can also be job seekers.
- Workers want training and skills to advance in the job market but struggle to invest in themselves amid the challenges of daily life.
- Frontline workers worry about the basics: paying bills, staying healthy, affording housing.



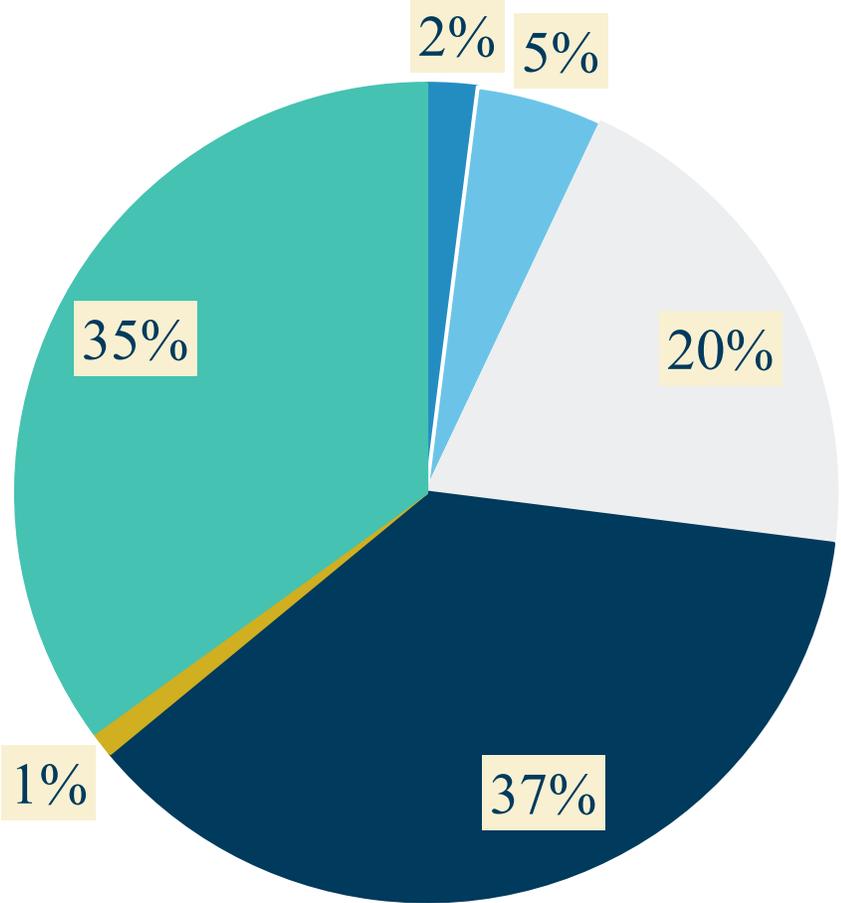
The background of the image features a large, faint watermark of the United States Seal. The seal is rendered in a light blue color and is centered behind the text. It depicts an eagle with its wings spread, holding an olive branch in its right talon and arrows in its left. A shield is on the eagle's chest, and a banner is in its beak. The seal is surrounded by a circular border containing stars.

**WHO ARE THE WORKERS
WE HEARD FROM?**

WHO ARE THE WORKERS WE HEARD FROM?

Ethnicity of Respondents

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino/a/x
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

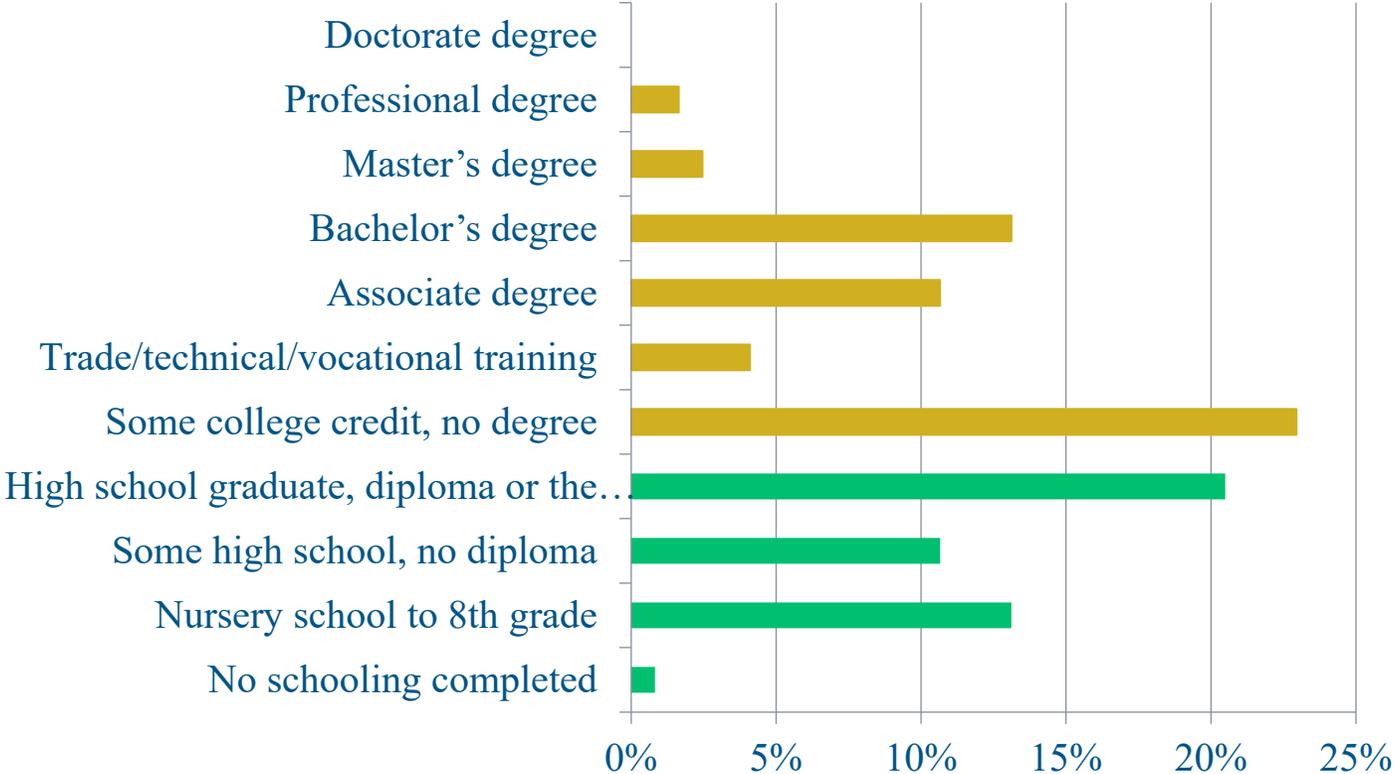


WHO ARE THE WORKERS WE HEARD FROM?

55% of respondents have some level of post-secondary education

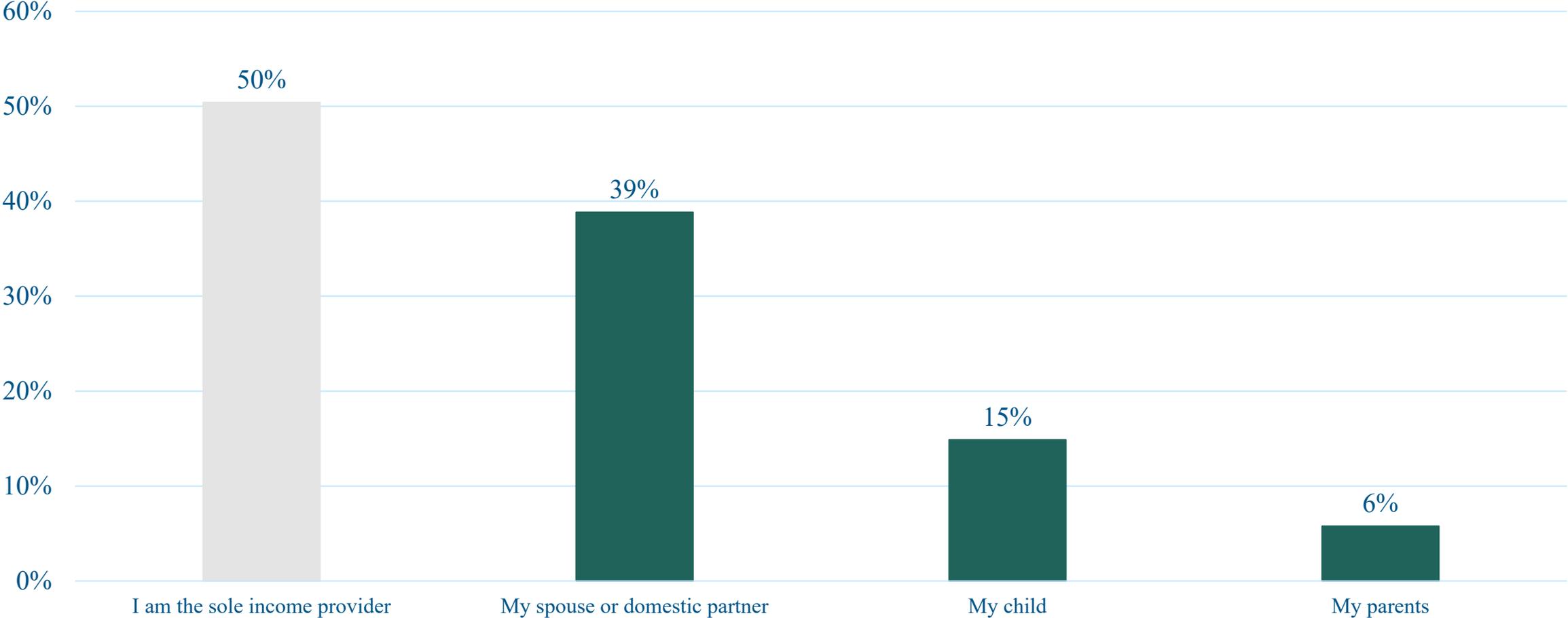
Majority of respondents have at least high school education or equivalent

Education



WHO ARE THE WORKERS WE HEARD FROM?

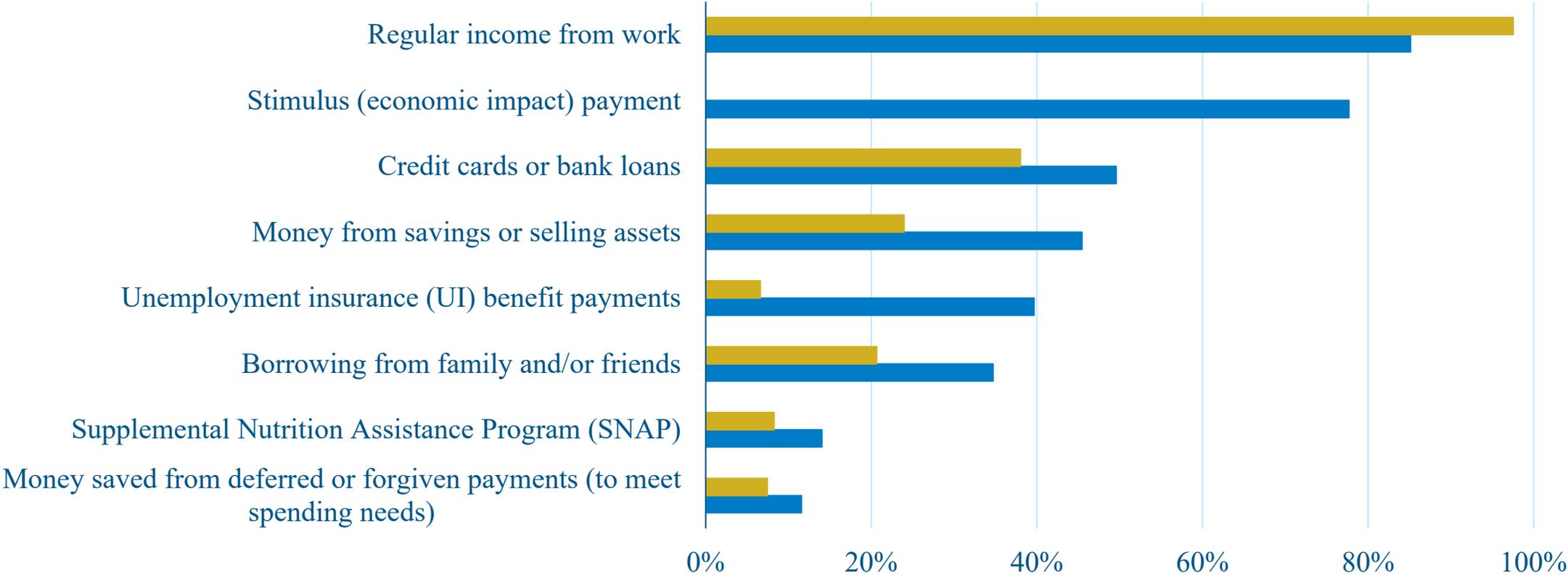
Who contributes to household income?



WHO ARE THE WORKERS WE HEARD FROM?

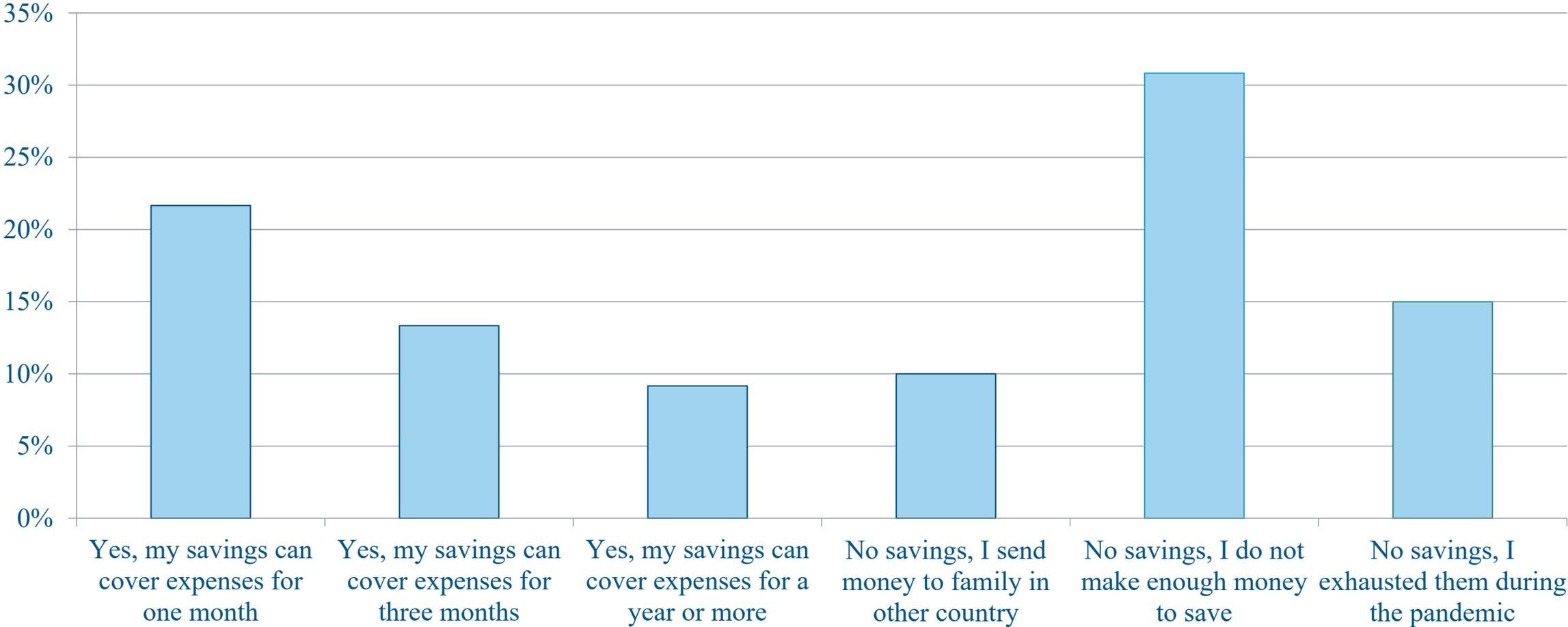
Income sources used to meet spending needs

■ Pre-pandemic ■ Last 12 months



WHO ARE THE WORKERS WE HEARD FROM?

Do you have any savings?





LABOR MARKET MOBILITY

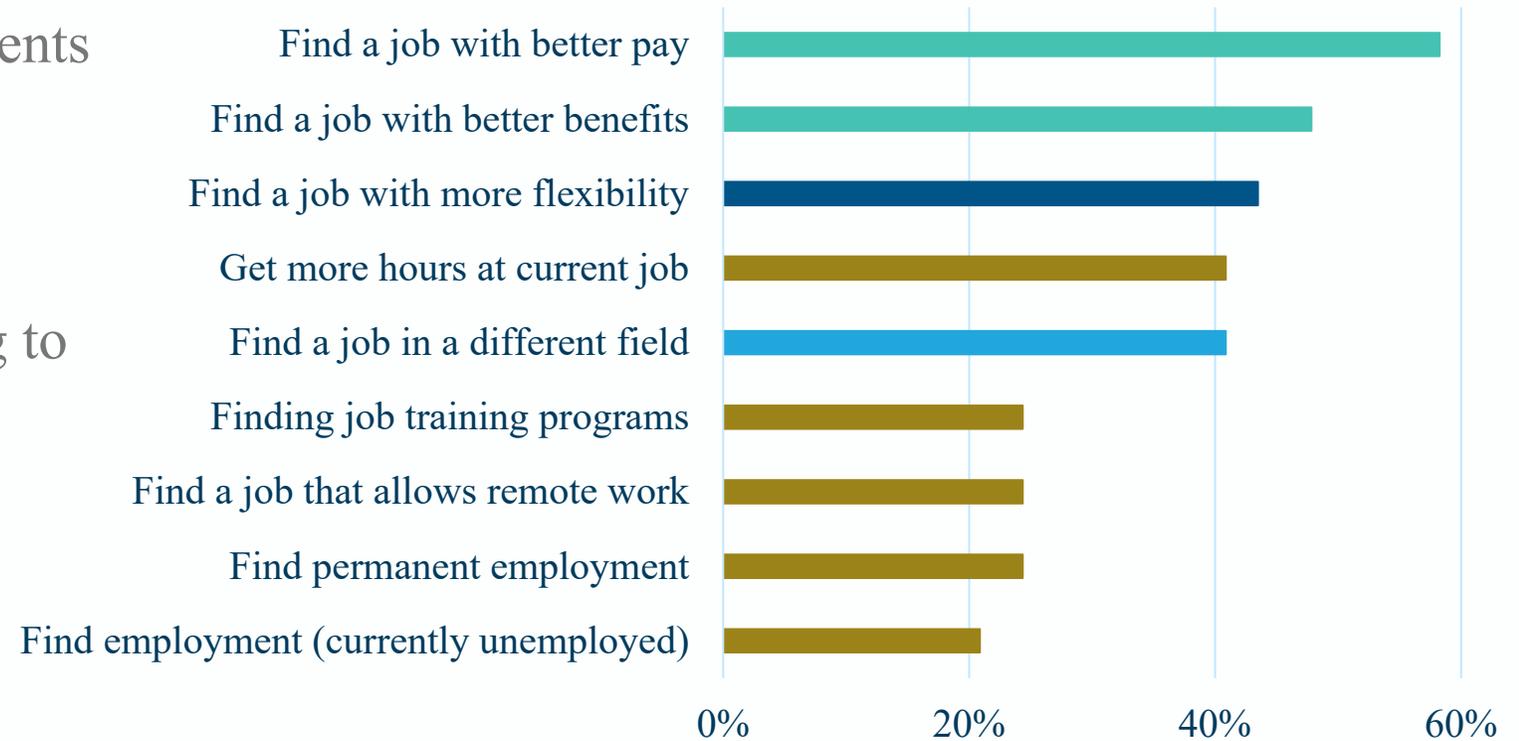
LABOR MARKET MOBILITY

More than half of respondents want better pay

Workers' need for more flexibility is quickly rising to the top

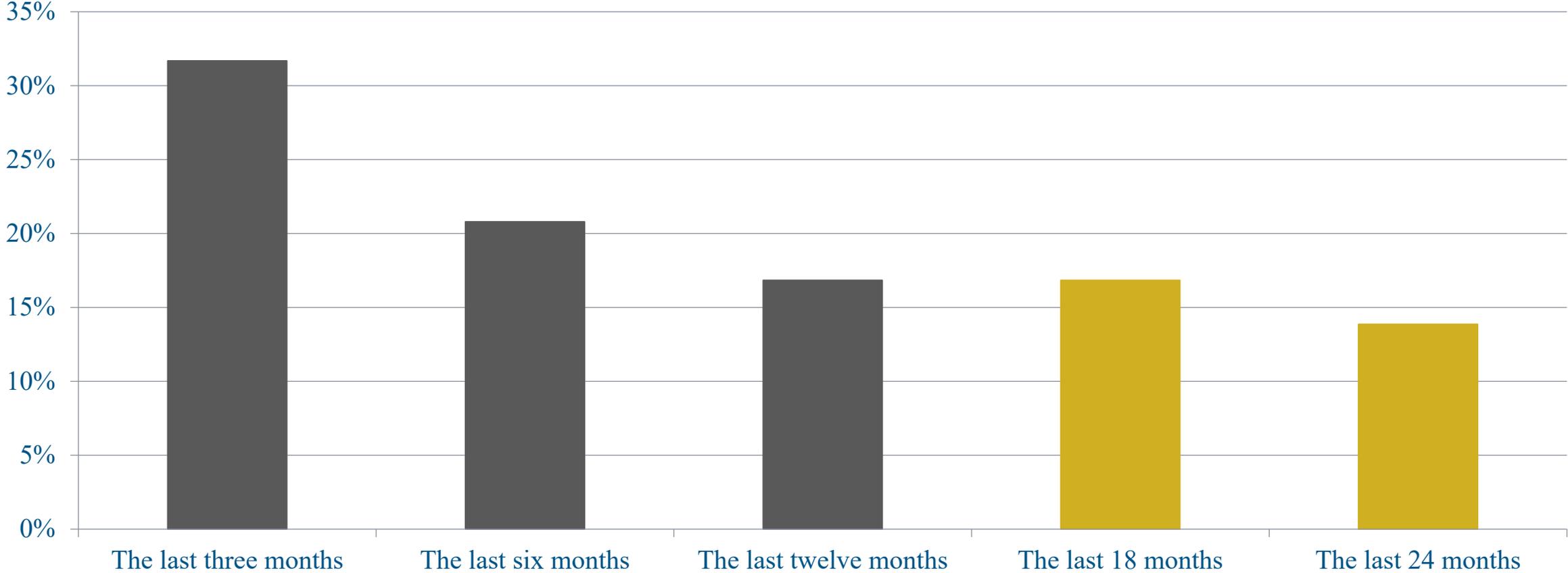
Field change

What changes are respondents trying to make?
(Question allowed for multiple responses to be marked)



WORKERS ON THE MOVE

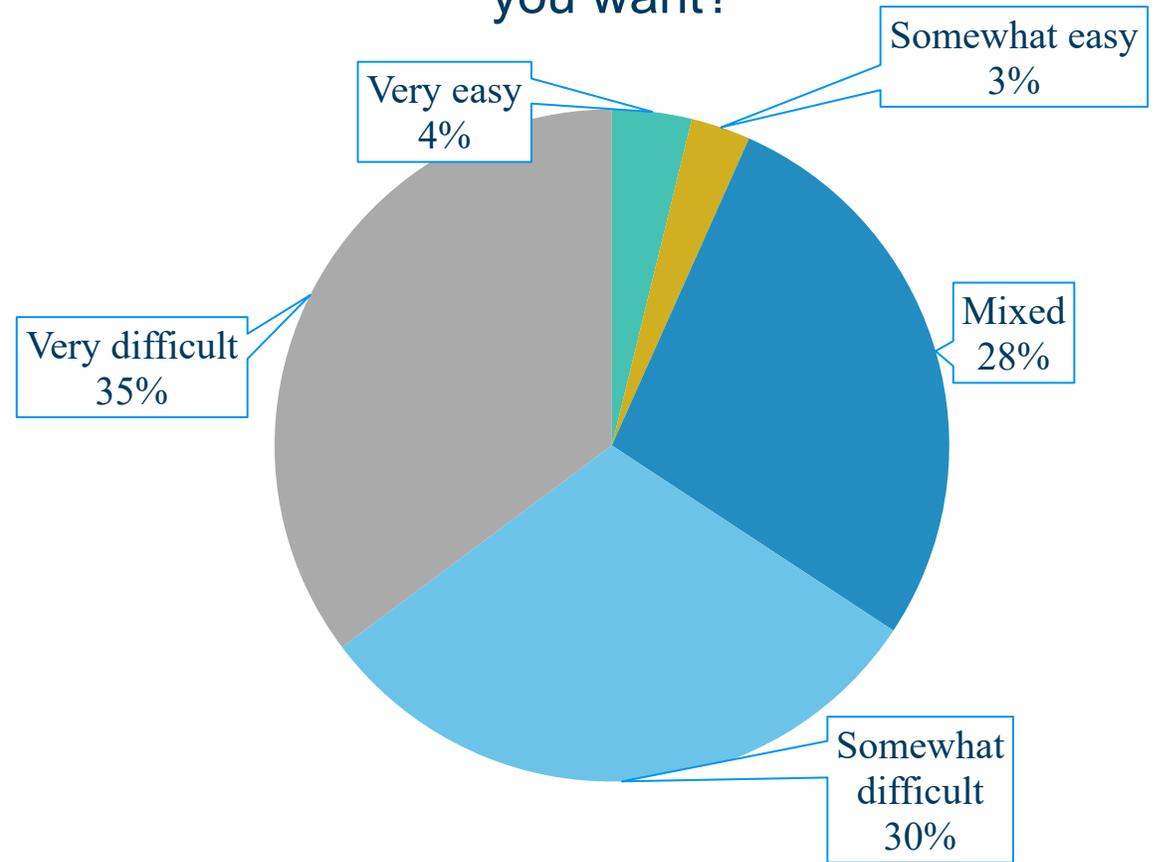
For how long have workers been trying to make those changes?



NOT AN EASY TRANSITION

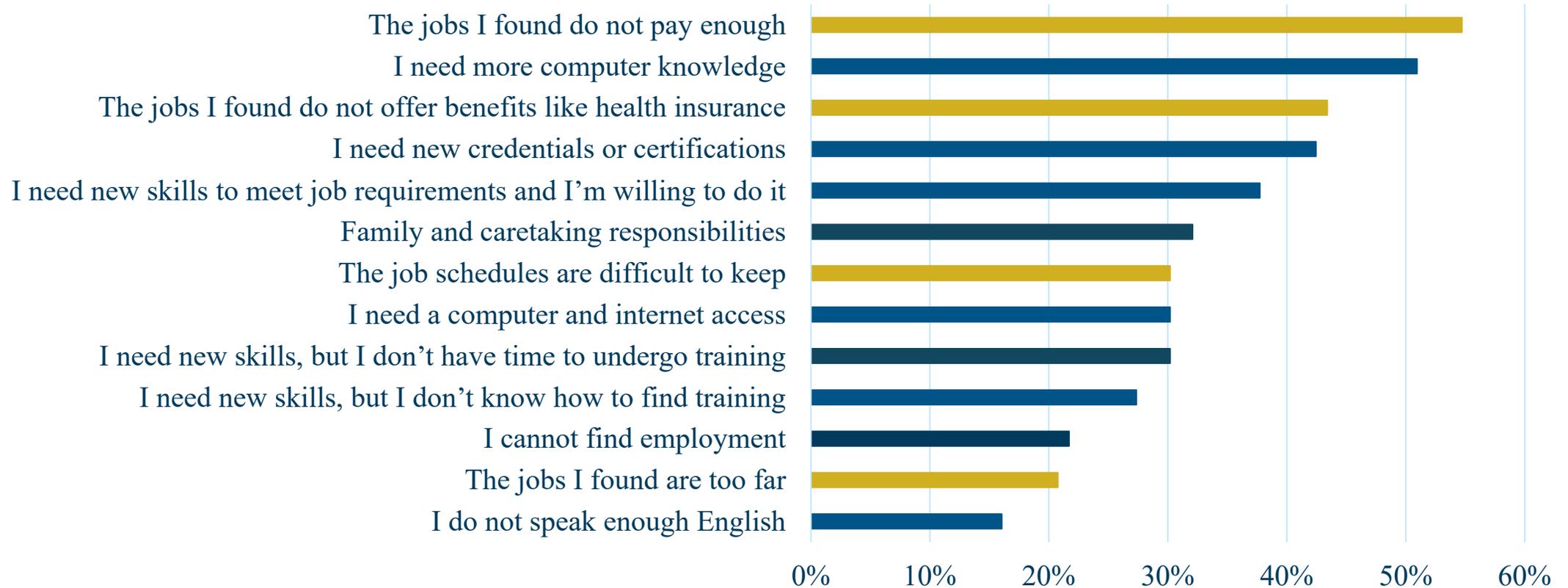
Over half of respondents find it difficult to make occupational changes

How difficult has it been to make those changes you want?



NOT AN EASY TRANSITION

Challenges encountered

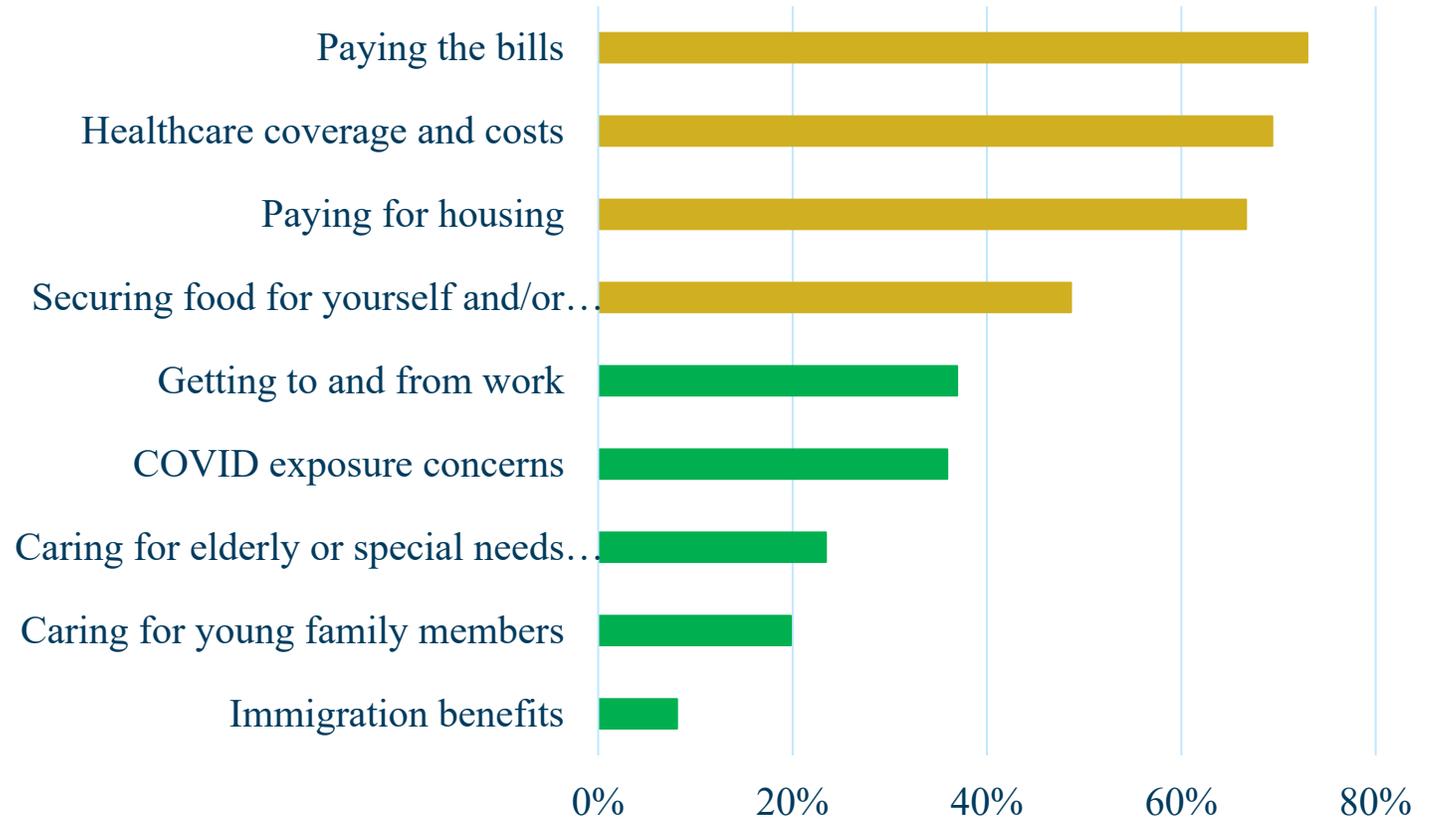


WORKERS' CONCERNS

What are frontline workers concerned with?

A significant number of respondents are concerned with paying for basic needs.

COVID exposure concerns remain present.



WRAP-UP

- **Surveyed low-income workers face a variety of labor mobility challenges**
- **Low-income does not necessarily equate to low-skill or low-education**
- **Many face challenges to meet primary needs**



FUTURE TRACKING OF ECONOMY

- Always looking for new/additional partners to expand input from across the Ninth District
- Groups interested in participating: Please contact me (see info at end) or leave a note in the chat box
- Additional surveys:
 - General Business: October
 - Ag Credit: November
 - Hospitality & Tourism: late November





**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?
SUBMIT QUESTIONS VIA CHAT
BOX**

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