

Long stints out of work are on the rise in U.S.

Share of workers jobless for at least six months is at post-pandemic high

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

More Americans are facing stretches of unemployment of six months or more, a worrisome sign for the U.S. economy.

More than 1 in 4 workers without jobs have been unemployed for at least half a year, new data shows. That number is a post-pandemic high and a level typically only seen during periods of economic turmoil.

In all, more than 1.9 million Americans had been unemployed “long term” in August, meaning they have been out of work for 27 weeks or more, a critical cliff when it comes to finding a job. That’s nearly double the 1 million people who were in a similar position in early 2023.

“We have a low-hire, low-fire environment — and that stagnancy means there aren’t a lot of new positions for people to move into,” said Laura Ullrich, director of economic research at the jobs site Indeed. “The probability of becoming unemployed has not gone up that much, but if you become unemployed, it’s much harder to find a job.”

Six months of unemployment often signals a turning point in a person’s job search, according to economists. They’ve probably run out of unemployment insurance benefits and severance payments by then, leaving them on shakier financial ground. People who have been unemployed for more than six months are also more likely to become discouraged and stop looking for work altogether.

The data shows how broadly the job market has cooled ahead of the Federal Reserve’s highly anticipated meeting this week, when

SEE UNEMPLOYMENT ON A22

Court allows Cook to keep her position as Fed governor

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

A divided federal appeals court on Monday ruled Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook can keep her job, turning aside an appeal by the Trump administration that sought to fire her ahead of the central bank’s key meeting this week on setting interest rates.

The Trump administration was expected to quickly appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Trump has accused Cook of mortgage fraud — a charge she denies — and has sought her dismissal, but the three-judge panel said the president violated Cook’s rights by not giving her a chance to defend herself against the accusations.

“The government does not dispute that it failed to provide Cook even minimal process — that is, notice of the allegation against her and a meaningful opportunity to respond — before she was purportedly removed,” the majority wrote in the 2-1 ruling.

Judges Bradley N. Garcia and J. Michelle Childs, both Biden appointees, ruled against the Trump administration. Judge Gregory G. Katsas, a Trump appointee, dissented.

Katsas wrote that a federal

SEE COOK ON A9

Trump orders deployment of National Guard to Memphis



TOM BRENNER/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump, joined by Cabinet members and Tennessee officials, ordered the mobilization Monday, expanding his administration’s use of the military to crack down on violent crime. Trump said the effort would be a “replica” of the federal surge in D.C. Tennessee’s Republican governor, Bill Lee, is supportive of the deployment.

Poll finds 1 in 6 U.S. parents are delaying or skipping vaccines

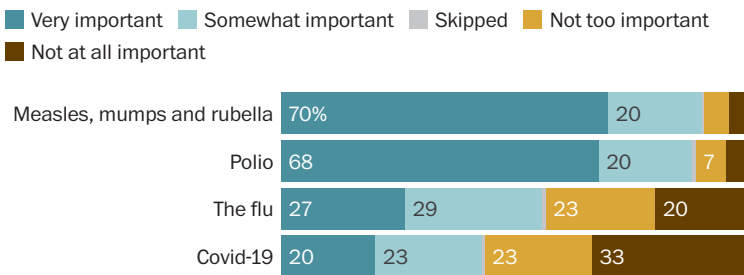
BY LAUREN WEBER, SCOTT CLEMENT, EMILY GUSKIN AND LENA H. SUN

The American parents who are choosing to skip or delay vaccines for their children are more likely to home-school their children, be White and very religious, identify as Republican or be under 35, according to a wide-ranging Washington Post-KFF poll that sheds new light on what drives vaccine hesitancy.

The poll — the most detailed recent look at the childhood vaccination practices and opinions of American parents — shows that 1 in 6 parents have delayed or skipped some vaccines for their children, excluding for coronavirus or flu. Nine percent have skipped the polio or measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) shots, which public health experts say risks large outbreaks of potential-

Parents overwhelmingly say measles and polio vaccines are important for children to get, but fewer say this about covid or flu

Q: How important do you think it is for children in your community to be vaccinated for each of the following?



Source: July 18-Aug. 4, 2025, Washington Post-KFF poll of 2,716 U.S. parents and guardians of children under 18 with an error margin of +/- 2.1 percentage points.

ly fatal diseases that have been curbed through widespread vaccination.

The poll finds concerns about the vaccines themselves are driv-

ing these decisions. Parents who reject vaccine recommendations are primarily worried about side effects and the risks of the shots rather than facing challenges get-

ting them. About half of parents overall lack faith in federal health agencies to ensure vaccine safety, mirroring the findings of other surveys.

Several major polls have shown a decline in trust in childhood vaccines since the coronavirus pandemic among the broader public, largely among self-identified Republicans. The Post and KFF, a health policy research and news organization, surveyed 2,716 parents this summer, providing a detailed breakdown of why some people are avoiding childhood vaccines. It also shows that the vast majority of American parents still support immunizations.

“We still have strong support for vaccines among parents in this country,” said Liz Hamel, KFF vice president and director of public opinion and survey research. “What we don’t know yet is whether those slight cracks we’re starting

SEE POLL ON A10

Kirk suspect appeared to confess

POSTED ‘IT WAS ME’ ON DISCORD CHAT

Alleged shooter turned himself in later that night

BY HANNAH KNOWLES, SHAWN BOBURG AND AARON SCHAFER

The 22-year-old suspect in Charlie Kirk’s killing appears to have confessed to friends in an online chat shortly before turning himself in to law enforcement, according to two people familiar with the chat and screenshots obtained by The Washington Post.

“Hey guys, I have bad news for you all,” said a message from an account belonging to the suspect, Tyler Robinson, on the online platform Discord. “It was me at UVU yesterday. im sorry for all of this.”

The message was sent Thursday night, about two hours before officials said Robinson was taken into custody.

A member of the group chat shared an image of the conversation with The Post and confirmed that it came from Robinson’s account. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect their privacy and out of fear of harassment.

Discord provided a copy of the message with the confession to authorities, according to a person familiar with the company’s interaction with law enforcement. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation.

The message was sent from Robinson’s account to a small private group of online friends, the person said. Discord is work-

SEE KIRK ON A4

Cuts impede climate, health work in Black communities

BY ANUMITA KAUR AND EMMANUEL FELTON

The Trump administration has axed nearly two dozen projects addressing health and environmental issues in Southern Black communities, a Washington Post analysis found, reversing years of work to address pollution, sewage leaks, flooding and more.

Rural Alabama counties lost a \$14 million grant to upgrade sanitation systems so decrepit that some residents have contracted hookworm. A historically Black Virginia neighborhood won’t receive a \$20 million grant to stop severe flooding.

In Louisiana, multiple federal efforts have been halted: a Justice Department lawsuit against a corporation accused of worsening cancer risks in a predominantly Black neighborhood; the designation of one area as a national historic landmark to limit industrialization; and grants from the Environmental Protection Agency to support monitoring air quality in “Cancer Alley,” an 80-mile stretch of mostly Black towns and villages hit hard by industrial pollution.

The Trump administration

SEE CUTS ON A6

IN THE NEWS

TikTok sale The White House says the U.S. and China have reached a deal that would shift ownership of the popular video app. A2

Rubio in Jerusalem The secretary of state downplayed tensions with the United States and said he would visit Qatar after Israel’s strike targeting Hamas negotiators there. A14

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Poland’s foreign minister called on NATO to declare a no-fly zone over Ukraine. A14

THE ECONOMY A Chinese regulator, after probing a 2019 acquisition by Nvidia, said the U.S. chipmaker broke China’s antitrust law. A17
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STYLE In three Senate races in the midterm elections, blue-collar candidates hope to wrest seats from the GOP. B1

SPORTS Joe Burrow is injured again. Can the Cincinnati Bengals keep winning without their star quarterback? B7

THE REGION Trump threatened to again federalize D.C. police over Mayor Muriel E. Bowser’s stance on cooperating with U.S. immigration authorities. B13
Crews have begun cutting down trees to facilitate the president’s long-held dream: a White House ballroom. B13

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