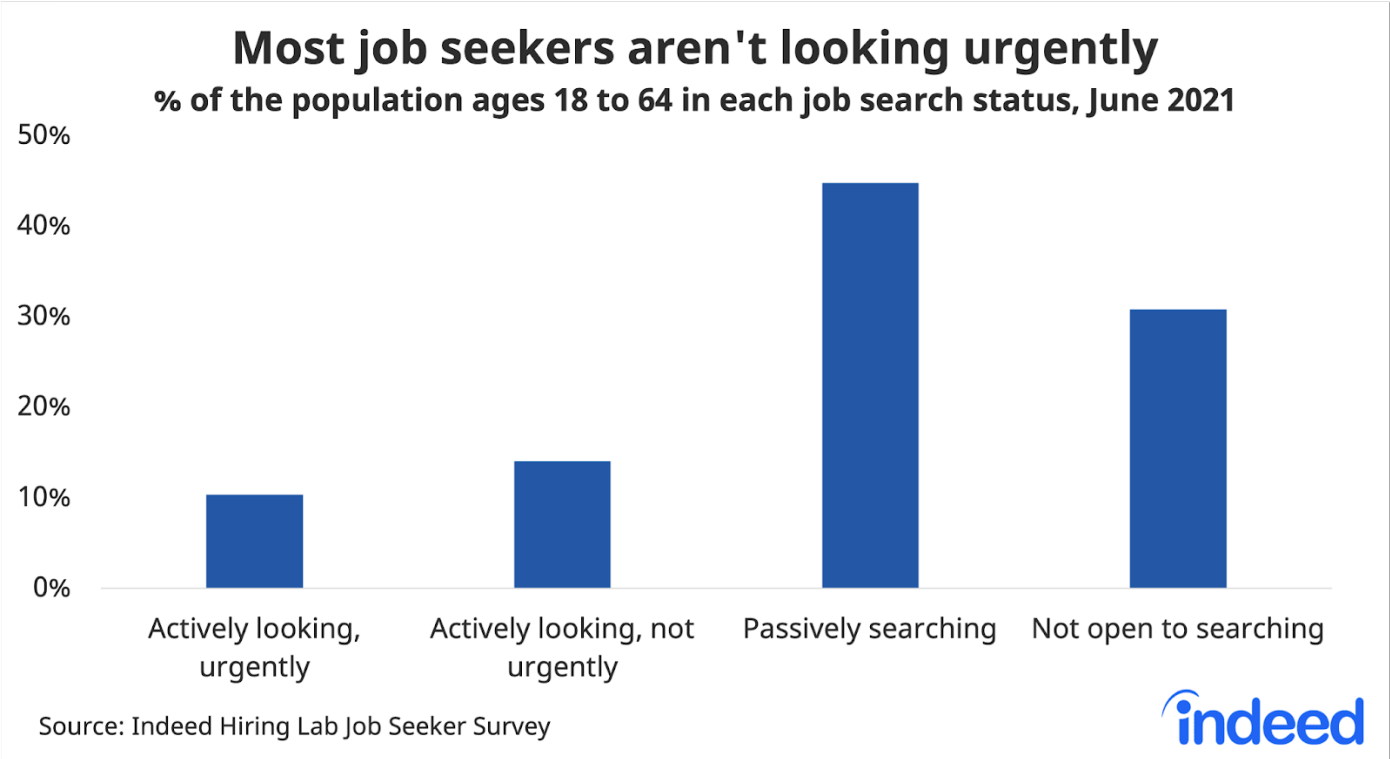


# Why People Aren't Working

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Data collected by Indeed shows only 10% of American job seekers are actively and urgently looking for work right now. Fear of the COVID-19 virus, migrations from large metropolitan areas to smaller cities and rural areas, safety concerns for family members and dependants, and better options all contribute to the decline of individuals not seeking employment.



# Fear of Covid

The pandemic isn't over yet. The highly transmissible delta and omicron variants are still wreaking havoc across the country. COVID-19 is still a significant source of fear and doubt among Americans. Recent survey data from [YouGov reports](#) more than 50% of American adults are still "very" or "somewhat" scared of contracting COVID-19.

## Majority of Americans are Scared of Contracting Covid-19

Share of U.S. adults saying they are "very" or "somewhat" scared they will contract Covid-19



Source: YouGov COVID-19 Monitor



statista

# Employed Partner or Financial Cushion

The pandemic has caused many households to adapt their household budgets and resources to one working partner. These households may have decided this new reality works for them.

Individuals already working higher-paying jobs could have increased the financial cushions they already had due to an increase of stimulus checks, decreased social spending, and government assistance and can afford to be picky about their return to the workforce.

# Care Dependency

While some families adapted to having one income by choice, many individuals have stepped out of the workforce to care for children or other dependents. Childcare is more expensive and less available than ever. So are home health services, which may have prompted more individuals to take on a caretaker role.

## Better Options

The pandemic caused many people to slow down, spend time at home, and reevaluate whether or not their current pace is a good fit.

As writer Joanne Lipman says in a piece for Time Magazine titled “[The Pandemic Revealed How Much We Hate Our Jobs. Now We Have a Chance to Reinvent Work](#),”

**“The deep unhappiness with jobs points to a larger problem in how workplaces are structured. The line between work and home has been blurring for decades—and with the pandemic, obliterated completely for many of us, as we have been literally living at work.”**

Many individual Americans realized that returning to the way they’ve been working wasn’t conducive to their well-being and pursued better options.

Pandemic closures and reflection have invigorated entrepreneurs. The sixteen-month period from March 2020 to June 2021 marked a record high for business startups. According to Census Bureau data, more than 4.4 million businesses were created in the US during 2020, a 24.4% increase from 2019. Additionally, many workers with

multiple jobs (2 or more) have [dropped the additional jobs](#) to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors, so there is a decrease in those with multiple jobs and an increase in those with self-employment earnings.

More young people are pursuing advanced education than ever before, and there's a rise in young entrepreneurs. This is a trend that's been rising since before the pandemic. Between 2000 and 2018, the workforce participation rate for ages 16 to 19 fell from one-half of the population to one-third.

The gig economy grew by 33% in 2020. [Statista estimates](#) that by 2027, half the U.S. population will engage in "gig work, " appealing for its flexibility and autonomy.