



behavior research center's

# Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE  
RMP 2003-I-12

Contact: Earl de Berge  
Research Director

## 24% OF FAMILIES REPORT JOB LOSSES IN FAMILY

Phoenix, Arizona, February 20, 2003. Twenty-four percent of non-retirement households in Maricopa County report that at least one adult in the household has lost a full-time job in the past 12 months – a figure that rises to 35 percent within the ethnic minority population.

What is more, of those who lost their jobs, 40 percent are still out of work and looking for employment. And, among those who were lucky enough to have found new employment, 51 percent say they are working for less money.

Within working age families, it also appears that younger employees are the most vulnerable to having lost a full-time job. Thus, in the youngest families (those under 35 years of age) 31 percent have lost at least one full-time job. The figure drops to 22 percent among these in the 35 to 54 age set and then again to only ten percent among workers 55 and older, but not yet retired. The study also reveals that loss of jobs is most likely to occur in the middle of the educational attainment range: 18 percent loss for high school graduates, 23 percent for college graduates, but 31 percent for those who attended but did not earn a college degree. Finally, the highest rate of job loss is in the Tempe/Mesa area (31%) and in Phoenix (25%). All other areas of the valley report percentages of 19 percent or less and the rate is especially low in the Paradise Valley/Scottsdale areas (10%).

RETIREE HOUSEHOLDS: Among families in which the head of household is considered to be retired, we find that 15 percent still include at least one individual who is holding down a full-time job to help make ends meet. In these households, 40 percent report loss of a full-time job in the past year, a rate almost double that of the younger working-age population. Additionally, among those who have lost employment, only 13 percent have been able to find a new job, a success rate only one-third that of younger, working-age people.

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In these economic times, it appears that Hispanics are the most likely to have two and, in many cases, three or more persons in the household holding down full-time jobs. On average, Hispanic families report that 2.02 persons have full-time jobs, a figure that declines to 1.68 in non-Hispanic minority homes and to 1.66 in Caucasian households.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 600 heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between February 6 and February 9, 2003, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-I-12) is based on 600 telephone interviews conducted from February 6 through February 9, 2003, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.08 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**BELOW:** Statistical data

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

**STATISTICAL DATA**

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LOST A FULL-TIME JOB IN LAST 12 MONTHS

	<u>Yes</u>
TOTAL	24%
<u>ETHNICITY</u>	
Caucasian	21
Hispanic	35
Other	35
<u>AGE</u>	
Under 35	31
35 to 54	22
55+	10
<u>EDUCATION</u>	
High school or less	18
Some college	31
College graduate	23
<u>VALLEY REGION</u>	
Phoenix	25
West side	19
Scottsdale/Paradise Valley	10
Tempe/Mesa	31
Chandler/Gilbert	16

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*"Is that person still out of work or have they found a new job?"*

|               | ALL<br><u>HOUSEHOLDS</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Found a job   | 60%                      |
| Still looking | 40                       |

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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If new job found...

*Is the new job a full or part-time job?*

	<u>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</u>
Full-time	92%
Part-time	8

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*Is the new job at a higher, equal or lower level of pay?*

|            | <u>ALL<br/>HOUSEHOLDS</u> |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Higher pay | 19%                       |
| Equal pay  | 30                        |
| Lower pay  | 51                        |

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NUMBER OF FULL-TIME JOBS CURRENTLY  
HELD BY FAMILY MEMBERS

Non-Retiree Households

	<u>Caucasian</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
One	44%	30%	34%
Two	43	54	46
Three +	9	16	6
None	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>
	100%	100%	100%
(Mean)	(1.69)	(2.02)	(1.81)

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