



Contract Work Module Methodology

The Contract Work Module, sponsored by the Upjohn Institute and the University of Maryland, was a set of questions carried on the Gallup Daily Education poll on four separate occasions in 2018 and 2019. Each wave consisted of 15,000 interviews with U.S. adults ages 18-80.

The field dates for the four modules were:

May 14-June 12, 2018
Aug. 13-Sept. 11, 2018
Nov. 19-Dec. 16, 2018
Feb. 25-March 27, 2019

Gallup interviewers conducted all interviews by telephone on weekday evenings and weekend afternoons. Interviews were primarily conducted in English, but respondents who preferred to be interviewed in Spanish.

Gallup used a dual-frame Random Digit Dial (RDD) sample obtained from Survey Sampling International, with approximately 70% of the sample consisting of cellular telephone numbers and 30% consisting of landline telephone numbers. Cellphone interviews were conducted with the person answering the cellphone on the assumption that cellphones are personal devices. Landline interviews were conducted with a randomly selected household member (the person having the next birthday) on the assumption that landline phones are shared devices. A minimum of three attempts were made to each sampled telephone number. The call attempts were varied across days of the week and times of the evening/day to maximize the likelihood a respondent could be reached.

The sample was ordered proportionately by time zone within a U.S. census region, and interviewing quotas were set to make sure the completed interviews were also done proportionately by time zone and region. These quotas were set on a weekly basis with interviewing “weeks” beginning on Mondays and ending on Sundays. Weekly time zone by region quotas were as follows:

Region/Time Zone	Landline	Cellphone
East/Eastern	136	317
Midwest/Eastern	61	144
Midwest/Central	93	220
South/Eastern	153	355
South/Central	121	281
West/Mountain	44	103
West/Pacific	127	295
Total: All regions/All time zones	735	1,715

Note: Geographies that fall outside the dominant time zone within region groupings are assigned to the next closest group — Midwest/Mountain is assigned to Midwest/Central, South/Mountain is assigned to South/Central and Alaska and Hawaii to West/Pacific.

The module took an average of 3.5 minutes to complete for contract workers, and an average of 1.2 minutes to complete for all 18- to 80-year-old adults. The entire Daily Education poll averages 12-14 minutes overall.

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The estimated response rates are below. Because the Daily Education poll (on which the Contract Work questions were asked) involved continuous interviewing throughout the year, it is not possible to compute precise response rates for the Contract Work Module interviewing waves. However, reasonable estimates can be computed by isolating the days on which the Contract Work Module ran and computing response rates for those days. Sample records that were first dialed on days prior to when a new Contract Work Module wave started, or that were first dialed during the Contract Work field period but not fully resolved until after it finished, are not included in the computations.¹

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Contact rate (contacted/working number)	38%	36%	36%	35%
Response rate (AAPOR RR-III calculation) ²	10%	8%	9%	10%
Completion rate (completed/eligible)	87%	86%	85%	87%
Non-interview/Refusal rate (refused/contacted)	20%	22%	22%	18%

Gallup weighted the obtained data to compensate for stratified sample selection probabilities, within-household selection, dual-frame (landlines and cellphones) sample design overlap and nonresponse. Additionally, Gallup post-stratified the data to match the demographic profile of U.S. adults ages 18-80 years old with targets from the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Current Population Survey on age, gender, census region, education, ethnicity and race.³

Weighting Variable	Categories
Age by gender	Male 18-24, Female 18-24, Male 25-34, Female 25-34, Male 35-44, Female 35-54, Male 45-54, Female 45-54, Male 55-64, Female 55-64, Male 65-80, Female 65-80
Age by census region	Northeast 18-24, Northeast 25-34, Northeast 35-44, Northeast 45-54, Northeast 55-64, Northeast 56-80, Midwest 18-24, Midwest 25-34, Midwest 35-44, Midwest 45-54, Midwest 55-64, Midwest 56-80, South 18-24, South 25-34, South 35-44, South 45-54, South 55-64, South 56-80, West 18-24, West 25-34, West 35-44, West 45-54, West 55-64, West 56-80,
Education	Less than high school, High school graduate, Some college/vocational/technical school, College degree and above
Race and ethnicity	Non-Hispanic white, Non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, Non-Hispanic Other

¹ The exclusion of these cases (less than 10% of completes) likely has minimal effect on the computed rates. See the Appendix for more detail.

² One distinguishing feature of the AAPOR-RR-III rate is it attempts to estimate eligibility rates for sampled households or individuals that cannot be reached. This is done to avoid overestimating the response rate (by assuming all who are not reached are ineligible) or underestimating it (assuming all who are not reached are eligible). This rate assumes the eligibility rates are the same for households and individuals who cannot be reached as they are for those who are contacted and screened for eligibility. Given the sample frame for the study was ages 18-80, the eligibility rate was high, and thus factoring in eligibility rates for unreachable households and individuals has little practical impact on the rates. See [https://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-\(1\).aspx](https://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-(1).aspx) for more detail.

³ The March 2017 CPS was used for Waves 1 through 3 and the March 2018 CPS was used for Wave 4.

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The samples were also post-stratified on population density using data from the 2010 Census based on respondents' self-reports of location (from their zip code, rolled up to their county). Gallup created population density weighting targets by dividing the U.S. population into equal quintiles. The 20% of Americans residing in the most densely-populated counties (based on total county population divided by county land area, representing 60 counties) are assigned to the top quintile, the 20% of Americans living in the next most densely-populated counties (representing 98 counties) are assigned to the second quintile, and so on. Gallup then weights the sample to ensure that the weighted proportion of the sample living in each population density quintile is equal to 20%.

Gallup also weighted the data to match national targets of phone status such as cellphone only, landline only and dual user (subdivided into dual users who mostly use their cellphone vs. all other dual users) based on the latest estimates from the most recent National Health Interview Survey.⁴

Questions were generally standard for all four waves with few exceptions. All survey questions were pre-tested in cognitive interviews and revised based on feedback received from those interviews.

Some questions had two versions with slightly different wordings, with each version randomly assigned to half the sample.

Question ID	Waves	Wording
WP16	All	Please imagine a ladder with steps numbered from zero at the bottom to 10 at the top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you, and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time?
WP10200	All	Thinking about your WORK SITUATION over the past seven days, have you been employed by an employer — even minimally, like for an hour or more — from whom you receive money or goods? (This could be for one or more employers.)
U2	All	How many employers did you work for in the last seven days?
U3A_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for one employer)</i> Were you an employee on this job or were you an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker?
U3A_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for one employer)</i> Did this employer take any taxes out of your pay?
U3B_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers)</i> Were you an employee on each of your jobs; an independent contractor, independent consultant, or freelance worker on each of your jobs; or did the arrangement vary across jobs?
U3B_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers)</i> Did all of your employers take out taxes from your pay, did none of them take out taxes from your pay, or did it vary across employers?
QA_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample of 50- to 80-year-old independent contractors, independent consultants or freelance workers)</i> Still thinking about your work situation over the past seven days, were you working as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker for a business or organization where you previously were an employee?
QA_2	1,2,4	<i>(Asked of random half of sample of 50- to 80-year-olds whose employer(s) did not take taxes out of their pay)</i> Still thinking about your work situation over the past seven days, were you working on a cash or contract basis for an employer who previously took taxes out of your pay?

⁴ The Jan.-June 2017 for NHIS was used for Waves 1 and 2, the July-Dec. 2017 NHIS was used for Wave 3, and the Jan.-June 2018 NHIS was used for Wave 4.

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Question ID	Waves	Wording
QA_2A	3	<i>(Asked of random half of sample of 50- to 80-year-olds whose employer(s) did not take taxes out of their pay)</i> Thinking about the [employer/employers] who currently [does/do] not take taxes out of your pay, did they used to take taxes out of your pay?
QB	All	<i>(Asked of 50- to 80-year-olds who said they are independent contractors, independent consultants or freelance workers or are employed but indicated their employer does not take taxes out of their pay)</i> What was your MAIN REASON for doing this work? Was it to earn income, to stay active and connect with others, to pursue an interest or hobby, because it was the only type of work you could get, or was there some other reason?
QC	All	<i>(Asked of 50- to 80-year-olds who said they are independent contractors, independent consultants or freelance workers, or are employed but indicated their employer does not take taxes out of their pay, and whose main reason for doing the work was to earn income)</i> Would you describe this work as your main source of income, a supplement to the income you earn in your main job, a supplement to your retirement income, or something else?
WP102152	All	<i>(Asked of those who work for an employer)</i> In a typical week (seven days), how many hours do you work for an employer?
U5_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers and whose employment situation varied across jobs)</i> Did you work as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker for more than half of these hours?
U5_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers and whose employment situation varied across jobs)</i> Did the job where taxes were taken out of your pay account for more than half of these hours?
U6A_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for one employer)</i> In the last seven days, did your employer contract you or your services out?
U6A_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for one employer)</i> In the last seven days, were you doing work for a business or organization that was different from the business or organization that paid you?
U6B_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers)</i> In the last seven days, did any of your employers contract you or your services out?
U6B_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample who worked for two+ employers)</i> In the last seven days, on any of your jobs, were you doing work for a business or organization that was different from the business or organization that paid you?
U7_1	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample whose employment situation varied across jobs and did work for an organization other than their employer)</i> Was this on a job where you were an employee, OR on a job where you worked as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker?
U7_2	All	<i>(Asked of random half of sample whose employment situation varied across jobs and did work for an organization other than their employer)</i> Did this happen on a job where your employer took out taxes from your pay?
U8	All	<i>(Asked of those who did work for an organization other than their employer)</i> [Thinking about the job where you were an employee..."] On this job, are you usually assigned to more than one client or customer?
U9	All	<i>(Asked of employees who are not assigned to more than one client or customer)</i> Do you usually work at the client's or customer's worksite?
WP10202	All	Again, thinking about the last seven days, were you self-employed, even minimally, like for an hour or more? This means working for yourself, freelancing or doing contract work, OR working for your own or your family's business? Self-employment also includes fishing, doing farm work or raising livestock for either your own or your family's farm or ranch.
WP102162	All	<i>(Asked of those who are self-employed)</i> In a typical week (seven days), how many hours do you work as a self-employed individual?

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Question ID	Waves	Wording
U12	All	<i>(Asked of those who are self-employed who previously indicated they were independent contractors, independent consultants, freelance workers or whose employer did not take taxes out of their pay)</i> Just to check, was all or was some of the self-employment work you did in the last seven days work you already told me about, or not?
U13	All	<i>(Asked of those who did additional self-employment work not previously indicated)</i> Excluding the work you already told me about, in a typical week (seven days), how many additional hours do you work as a self-employed individual?
U14	All	<i>(Asked of those who did not specify that all of the additional self-employment work was previously indicated)</i> Was any of this self-employment work done as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker?
QD	All	<i>(Asked of those 50-80 years old who did self-employment work not previously indicated)</i> Still thinking about the self-employment work you did over the past seven days, were you working as an independent contractor, independent consultant, or freelance worker for a business or organization where you previously were an employee?
QE	All	<i>(Asked of those 50-80 years old who did self-employment work not previously indicated)</i> What was your MAIN REASON for doing this work as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker? Was it to earn income, to stay active and connect with others, to pursue an interest or hobby, because it was the only type of work you could get, or was there some other reason?
QF	All	<i>(Asked of those 50-80 years old who did self-employment work not previously indicated whose main reason for doing the work was to earn income)</i> Would you describe what you earn from this work as your main source of income, a supplement to the income you earn in your main job, a supplement to your retirement income, or something else?
U15	All	<i>(Asked of self-employed individuals who work as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker)</i> In your work as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker, do you usually have more than one customer or client?
U16	All	<i>(Asked of self-employed individuals who work as an independent contractor, independent consultant or freelance worker and have one client)</i> Did you work primarily at the client's or customer's worksite?
U17_1	All	<i>(Asked of a random half of the sample)</i> Did you do anything else in the last seven days that you have not already mentioned for which you received (or expect to receive) payment?
U17_2	All	<i>(Asked of a random half of the sample)</i> Did you do anything else in the last seven days that you have not already mentioned for which you received (or expect to receive) payment? Examples might include babysitting or eldercare, cleaning, maintenance work, data entry tasks, driving for a car service or making and selling handicrafts.
U18	All	<i>(Asked of those who did any other activities for which they expect to receive payment)</i> How many hours did you spend on these activities in the last seven days?
U19_1	All	<i>(Asked of a random half of the sample of those who were self-employed, worked as an independent consultant, independent contractor or freelancer, who work for an employer who did not take taxes out of their pay, or who did work outside of an employer-paid job for which they expected to be paid)</i> For any of the work you did in the past seven days, did you connect directly with new customers or clients through a mobile app or online platform?
U20_1	3,4	<i>(Asked of a random half of sample of those who connected with new customers through a mobile app or online platform)</i> Did the customers pay you directly, or did they pay the mobile app or online platform which then pays you?

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Question ID	Waves	Wording
U19_2	All	<i>(Asked of a random half of the sample of those who were self-employed, worked as an independent consultant, independent contractor or freelancer, who work for an employer who did not take taxes out of their pay, or who did work outside of an employer-paid job for which they expected to be paid) For any of the work you did in the past seven days, did you connect directly with new customers or clients through a mobile app or online platform? For example, you might have given rides to people using a ridesharing app; used an app to find people looking for cleaning, delivery or handyman services; or used an online platform where people can bid on data entry or other tasks.</i>
U20_2	3,4	<i>(Asked of a random half of sample of those who connected with new customers through a mobile app or online platform) Did the customers pay you directly, or did they pay the mobile app or online platform which then pays you?</i>

Appendix

Completed Interviews Included and Excluded From Contract Worker Module Response Rate Estimates

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4
Completed interviews for contract worker module	15,456	15,478	15,013	15,015
Completes included in the response rate estimates calculation	14,890	14,834	14,442	13,939
Completes excluded from response rate calculation because they were first dialed before contract worker module began	566	644	571	1,076
Completes for the Daily Education poll that were first dialed while the contract worker module was in the field but not obtained until after contract worker module was removed	536	504	753	526

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