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# Survey Report #5

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Spring 2012 Quarterly Questionnaire

May 2012

## **About the Survey**

This Survey Report presents findings of a PSRPanel online survey about current issues in public service and work motivation in the public sector.

The survey was conducted in April 2012, and included online responses from 220 panelists.

## **About the Panel**

The Public Service Research Panel, PSRPanel, is an online community of public service professionals who sign up to participate in occasional web-based surveys and studies about the important work they do and the organizations they help lead.

It is important to point out that the panel is not a random sample, and thus the results are not scientifically projectable to the larger population.

For more information visit [www.psrpanel.org](http://www.psrpanel.org) or email [psrpanel@rutgers.edu](mailto:psrpanel@rutgers.edu)

## PSRPanel Quarterly Questionnaire (Spring 2012)

**1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Right direction		55.8%	116
Wrong track		44.2%	92
answered question			208
skipped question			12

**2. Is now a good time, or bad time, to work in the . . .**

	Good time	Bad time	Response Count
public sector?	42.1% (91)	57.9% (125)	216
non-profit sector?	47.7% (103)	52.3% (113)	216
private (for-profit) sector	59.4% (126)	40.6% (86)	212
answered question			218
skipped question			2

### 3. How satisfied are you with your (main) job?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Completely satisfied		10.5%	23
Very satisfied		26.9%	59
<b>Fairly satisfied</b>		<b>29.2%</b>	<b>64</b>
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		9.6%	21
Fairly dissatisfied		7.8%	17
Very dissatisfied		5.0%	11
Completely dissatisfied		3.2%	7
(Not applicable / not currently working)		7.8%	17
<b>answered question</b>			<b>219</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

### 4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your (main) job?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
I am willing to work harder than I have to in order to help the firm or organization I work for succeed	<b>39.1% (77)</b>	38.6% (76)	12.7% (25)	5.1% (10)	4.6% (9)	197
I am proud to be working for my firm or organization	<b>42.0% (84)</b>	35.5% (71)	15.0% (30)	3.5% (7)	4.0% (8)	200
I would turn down another job that offered quite a bit more pay in order to stay with this organization	7.6% (15)	18.2% (36)	<b>24.7% (49)</b>	<b>24.7% (49)</b>	<b>24.7% (49)</b>	198
<b>answered question</b>						<b>200</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>20</b>

**5. Please indicate the extent to which you agree, or disagree, with the following statements:**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Politics is a dirty word	7.9% (17)	19.5% (42)	26.5% (57)	<b>28.4% (61)</b>	17.7% (38)	215
The give and take of public policy-making does not appeal to me	4.7% (10)	13.7% (29)	18.9% (40)	<b>45.8% (97)</b>	17.0% (36)	212
I don't care much for politicians	11.3% (24)	23.9% (51)	<b>37.1% (79)</b>	19.7% (42)	8.0% (17)	213
I unselfishly contribute to my community	21.4% (46)	<b>50.2% (108)</b>	25.1% (54)	2.8% (6)	0.5% (1)	215
Meaningful public service is very important to me	<b>63.7% (137)</b>	30.7% (66)	4.2% (9)	1.4% (3)	0.0% (0)	215
I would prefer seeing public officials do what is best for the whole community, even if it harmed my interests	31.0% (67)	<b>44.9% (97)</b>	16.7% (36)	6.5% (14)	0.9% (2)	216
I consider public service my civic duty	41.2% (89)	<b>42.6% (92)</b>	10.6% (23)	3.2% (7)	2.3% (5)	216
It is difficult for me to contain my feelings when I see people in distress	13.0% (28)	<b>44.7% (96)</b>	25.1% (54)	14.9% (32)	2.3% (5)	215
I am often reminded by daily events about how dependent we are on one another	33.2% (71)	<b>51.9% (111)</b>	10.7% (23)	3.7% (8)	0.5% (1)	214
I have little compassion for people in need who are unwilling to take the first step to help themselves	8.9% (19)	<b>31.3% (67)</b>	17.3% (37)	30.4% (65)	12.1% (26)	214
<b>answered question</b>						<b>216</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>4</b>

**6. For each of the following, please indicate how important you personally think it is in a job. How important is . . .**

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important	Not important at all	Response Count
job security	43.3% (93)	<b>46.5% (100)</b>	9.3% (20)	0.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	215
high income	13.7% (29)	<b>53.3% (113)</b>	28.3% (60)	3.8% (8)	0.9% (2)	212
good opportunities for advancement	43.3% (93)	<b>48.8% (105)</b>	7.0% (15)	0.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	215
an interesting job	<b>63.6% (136)</b>	32.7% (70)	3.7% (8)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	214
a job that allows someone to work independently	40.0% (86)	<b>45.6% (98)</b>	12.6% (27)	1.9% (4)	0.0% (0)	215
a job that allows someone to help other people	<b>46.5% (100)</b>	44.2% (95)	8.8% (19)	0.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	215
a job that is useful to society	<b>57.0% (122)</b>	38.8% (83)	3.3% (7)	0.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	214
a job that allows someone to decide their times and days of work	21.5% (46)	<b>37.9% (81)</b>	34.6% (74)	6.1% (13)	0.0% (0)	214
<b>answered question</b>						<b>215</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>5</b>

**7. Suppose you could choose between different kinds of jobs. Which of the following would you personally choose?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Working in a private business		16.7%	36
<b>Working for the government or civil service</b>		<b>83.3%</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>215</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>5</b>

**8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I see myself as someone who . . .**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
is reserved	10.0% (21)	<b>42.1% (88)</b>	15.8% (33)	25.8% (54)	6.2% (13)	209
is generally trusting	29.2% (62)	<b>52.8% (112)</b>	9.0% (19)	7.5% (16)	1.4% (3)	212
does a thorough job	<b>52.1% (111)</b>	42.7% (91)	3.8% (8)	1.4% (3)	0.0% (0)	213
is relaxed, handles stress well	16.4% (35)	<b>50.7% (108)</b>	19.2% (41)	12.2% (26)	1.4% (3)	213
has an active imagination	33.3% (70)	<b>50.0% (105)</b>	15.7% (33)	1.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	210
is outgoing, sociable	21.2% (45)	<b>45.3% (96)</b>	23.1% (49)	9.9% (21)	0.5% (1)	212
tends to find fault with others	1.9% (4)	19.7% (42)	24.9% (53)	<b>40.4% (86)</b>	13.1% (28)	213
tends to be lazy	0.9% (2)	6.6% (14)	8.0% (17)	<b>42.5% (90)</b>	42.0% (89)	212
gets nervous easily	2.4% (5)	16.5% (35)	19.8% (42)	<b>42.5% (90)</b>	18.9% (40)	212
has few artistic interests	7.5% (16)	21.1% (45)	15.0% (32)	<b>39.4% (84)</b>	16.9% (36)	213
<b>answered question</b>						<b>213</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>7</b>

## 9. Where do you currently work?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Public sector		62.6%	132
Non-profit sector		16.6%	35
Private (for-profit) sector		4.3%	9
Student/retired/unemployed		10.9%	23
Other (please specify)		5.7%	12
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>211</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>9</b>

## 10. Are you . . .

		Response Percent	Response Count
male		43.3%	91
female		56.7%	119
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>210</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>10</b>

## 11. What is your age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
19 or under		0.0%	0
20-29		13.3%	28
30-39		16.6%	35
40-49		25.6%	54
<b>50-59</b>		<b>29.4%</b>	<b>62</b>
60-69		12.3%	26
70 or older		2.8%	6
<b>answered question</b>			<b>211</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>9</b>

## 12. Do you consider yourself to be . . .

		Response Percent	Response Count
<b>White</b>		<b>75.7%</b>	<b>159</b>
Black		11.9%	25
Hispanic		3.3%	7
Asian		3.8%	8
Other		5.2%	11
<b>answered question</b>			<b>210</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>10</b>

### 13. Where do you currently live?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Northeast (US)		36.3%	77
South (US)		23.1%	49
Midwest (US)		17.5%	37
West (US)		16.0%	34
Outside the US (please specify country)		7.1%	15
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>212</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>8</b>