



PSRPanel Project
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Survey Report #5

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 or email 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
Fairly satisfied		29.2%	64
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
answered question			219
skipped question			1

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	39.1% (77)	38.6% (76)	12.7% (25)	5.1% (10)	4.6% (9)	197
I am proud to be working for my firm or organization	42.0% (84)	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)	24.7% (49)	24.7% (49)	24.7% (49)	198
answered question						200
skipped question						20



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

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
Politics is a dirty word	7.9% (17)	19.5% (42)	26.5% (57)	28.4% (61)	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)	45.8% (97)	17.0% (36)	212
I don't care much for politicians	11.3% (24)	23.9% (51)	37.1% (79)	19.7% (42)	8.0% (17)	213
I unselfishly contribute to my community	21.4% (46)	50.2% (108)	25.1% (54)	2.8% (6)	0.5% (1)	215
Meaningful public service is very important to me	63.7% (137)	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)	44.9% (97)	16.7% (36)	6.5% (14)	0.9% (2)	216
I consider public service my civic duty	41.2% (89)	42.6% (92)	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)	44.7% (96)	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)	51.9% (111)	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)	31.3% (67)	17.3% (37)	30.4% (65)	12.1% (26)	214
answered question						216
skipped question						4

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)	46.5% (100)	9.3% (20)	0.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	215
high income	13.7% (29)	53.3% (113)	28.3% (60)	3.8% (8)	0.9% (2)	212
good opportunities for advancement	43.3% (93)	48.8% (105)	7.0% (15)	0.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	215
an interesting job	63.6% (136)	32.7% (70)	3.7% (8)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	214
a job that allows someone to work independently	40.0% (86)	45.6% (98)	12.6% (27)	1.9% (4)	0.0% (0)	215
a job that allows someone to help other people	46.5% (100)	44.2% (95)	8.8% (19)	0.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	215
a job that is useful to society	57.0% (122)	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)	37.9% (81)	34.6% (74)	6.1% (13)	0.0% (0)	214
answered question						215
skipped question						5






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
Working for the government or civil service		83.3%	179
answered question			215
skipped question			5



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

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







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
		answered question	211
		skipped question	9






10. Are you . . .

		Response Percent	Response Count
male		43.3%	91
female		56.7%	119
		answered question	210
		skipped question	10






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
50-59		29.4%	62
60-69		12.3%	26
70 or older		2.8%	6
answered question			211
skipped question			9

12. Do you consider yourself to be . . .

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

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
		answered question	212
		skipped question	8