

Press Release of Survey findings

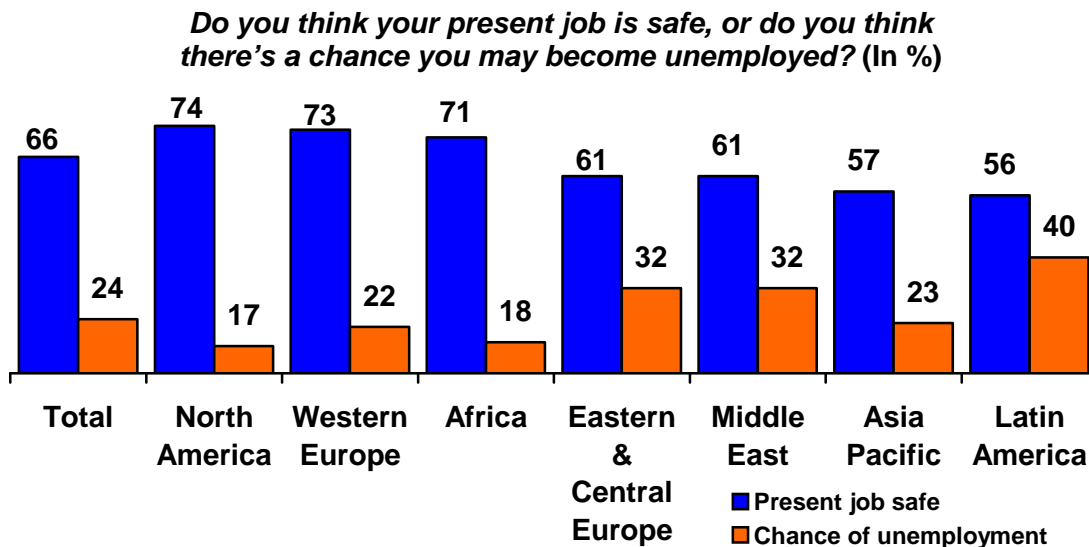
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE™

- **Gallup International’s Voice of the People™ End of the Year Survey** of more than 50,000 people found that one in four working world citizens (24%) think there is a chance they may become unemployed, while a clear majority of working world citizens (66%) believe their job is safe. The survey, which was conducted between October and December 2007, asked employed people in 61 countries of different continents **“Do you think your present job is safe, or do you think there’s a chance you may become unemployed?”**
- In terms of confidence in finding a new job, almost half of respondents (47%) fear that if they became unemployed it would take them some time to find a new job while just over a third (36%) of respondents think they would be able to find a new job fairly quickly.

Job Security

Respondents who declared to be working full or part time were asked whether they thought their present job is safe or if there is a chance that they may become unemployed. A quarter of the respondents believe that they might lose their job (24%), whilst 66% are optimistic, believing that their job is safe and one in ten does not know (10%).

Skilled workers show a higher level of confidence in their ability to keep their job: the proportion of “safe” answers reaches 72% of the respondents with high level education, against 57% of those with only basic education. Consequently, 31% of the less educated respondents consider the possibility of losing their job, whilst only 20% with high level education do.



Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

Looking at regions across the world, respondents in Latin America (40%) are the most pessimistic regarding job security with four in ten employed respondents declaring that there is a chance they could lose their job. Interestingly, Latin America stands out for its optimism regarding general and economic prospects for 2008, although this feeling clearly does not translate directly to job security.

Just over three in ten people hold this opinion in Middle East and Eastern & Central Europe (both regions 32%), whilst about two in ten concur in Asia Pacific (23%), Western Europe (22%), Africa (18%) and North America (17%). On the opposite side, job security appears to be the strongest in North America (74%), Western Europe (73%) and Africa (71%) with seven in ten employed respondents declaring that their present job is safe

Job Security – By Country

Turning to the results for individual countries, the list of the top ten countries in which there was a large degree of pessimism about job security was headed by the African country of Cameroon (51%). Besides Cameroon, pessimism about job security by country was concentrated in Eastern & Central Europe and South America. Serbia (47%), UN administered Kosovo, Bolivia & Panama (all 44%), Czech Republic & Ecuador (both 43%) and Macedonia, Argentina & Colombia (all 42%) were all well above the world average of 24%.

Top Pessimists	
Top 10 chance of <u>unemployment</u>	
Cameroon	51%
Serbia	47%
Kosovo (UN administered)	44%
Panama	44%
Bolivia	44%
Czech Republic	43%
Ecuador	43%
Macedonia	42%
Argentina	42%
Colombia	42%

Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

The list of the top ten countries where more interviewees consider their jobs as being safe includes a variety of Western European and Asia-Pacific countries, headed by countries of Scandinavia. At the top of the list is Norway (85%), followed closely by Denmark, Sweden & Malaysia (all 84%). Just behind are Iceland & New Zealand (both 83%), Luxembourg (82%), Ireland & Hong Kong (both 81%), and Australia (80%).

Top Optimists	
Top 10 present job <u>safe</u>	
Norway	85%
Denmark	84%
Sweden	84%
Malaysia	84%
Iceland	83%
New Zealand	83%
Luxembourg	82%
Ireland	81%
Hong Kong	81%
Australia	80%

Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

The countries where the level of optimism regarding job security grew the most, compared to last year's results, are South Africa (68%; up 16%), Czech Republic (50%; up 14%), Kosovo (47%; up 13%), South Korea (67%; up 12%), Kenya (56%; up 12%), Nigeria (75%; up 11%), Ukraine (67%; up 10%), Switzerland (78%; up 10%). On the opposite side, in Argentina pessimism grew 11%.

When relating the proportion of respondents who declared there might be a chance they would lose their job with the unemployment rate in each country¹, we can sometimes find different figures since the survey represents the perception of people.

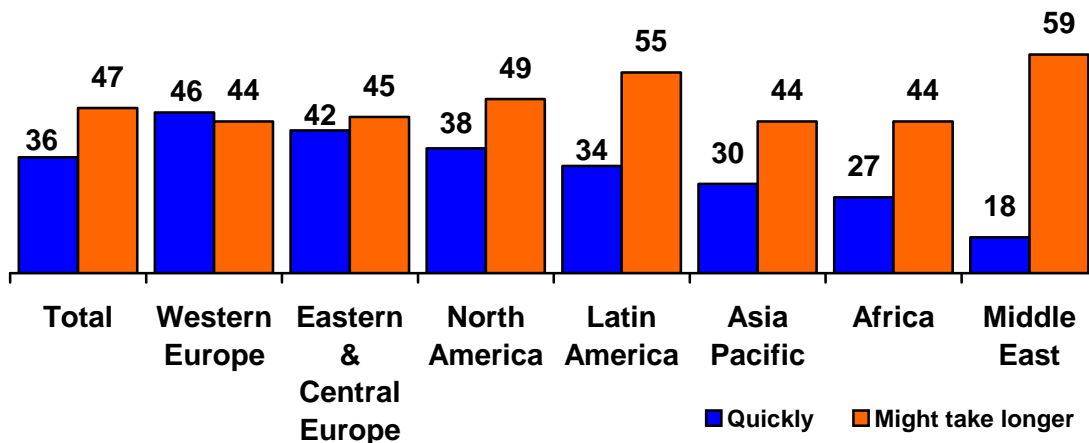
This analysis discovers countries with high unemployment rates and a relatively large proportion of respondents fearing the loss of their job: Countries such as Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. We can also identify countries with low unemployment rates in which few people are afraid of losing their jobs, including countries such as Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and Iceland. But interestingly, breaking the rule, there are countries with low unemployment rates but significant proportions of respondents who think they might lose their job: Thailand, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Philippines, Moldova, Greece, Panama and Argentina all fit into this category.

Confidence in finding a new job

The survey conducted by Gallup International continued by asking the interviewees to assess the difficulty they would have in finding a new job if they lost their current job. 36% believe they would be able to find a new job fairly quickly whilst 47% fear it may take longer.

Again, education appears to be a key factor: whilst 39% of those surveyed with high level education are optimistic about their ability to overcome unemployment in a short time, only 25% of those with primary education echo them. Also, confidence on this matter diminishes along with age: only two in ten respondents over 50 years old think they would find a job fairly quickly, as against four in ten (42%) of those below 30.

If you became unemployed, do you think you'd be able to find a new job fairly quickly, or do you think it might take longer? (In %)



Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

Looking at the results by region, nearly six in ten respondents were pessimistic about their chances of recovering quickly from the loss of their job in the Middle East (59%) and Latin America (55%), whilst nearly half felt the same way in North America (49%). Next, 45% in Eastern & Central Europe and 44% in Asia Pacific, Africa and Western Europe think it might take them longer to find a new job.

¹ ILO Bureau of Statistics at website: <http://laborsta.ilo.org/> as

Confidence in finding a new job – By Country

On a country-by-country analysis, the pessimistic opinion that it may take longer to find a new job is more frequent in the developing world with Egypt (70%), Paraguay (64%), Kenya & Iraq (both 62%) at the top of the list. Italy (61%) is the only developed economy with over 60% of respondents lacking confidence in being able to find a new job quickly and it is followed by Colombia & Macedonia (also 61%) and UN administered Kosovo, Albania & Lebanon (all 60%).

Top Pessimists	
Top 10 <i>might take longer</i> to find a new job	
Egypt	70%
Paraguay	64%
Kenya	62%
Iraq	62%
Italy	61%
Colombia	61%
Macedonia	61%
Kosovo (UN administered)	60%
Albania	60%
Lebanon	60%

Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

The countries with the highest levels of confidence of workers in being able to quickly find a new job are mainly located in Western Europe, with Iceland (79%) well atop the list. Australasia, Australia & New Zealand (both 72%) comes next, followed by a swag of Northern European countries with Denmark (70%) close behind and then Norway (63%), Belgium & Sweden (both 61%) and the Netherlands & UK (both 59%) also recording high results. Just sneaking into the Top 10 list behind these countries is Israel (58%).

Top Optimists	
Top 10 will <i>quickly</i> find a new job	
Iceland	79%
Australia	72%
New Zealand	72%
Denmark	70%
Norway	63%
Belgium	61%
Sweden	61%
Netherlands	59%
UK	59%
Israel	58%

Source: Gallup International Voice of the People™ 2007

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