



COVID-19 and the Hourly Workforce

COVID-19 is rapidly transforming workplaces, and we know that frontline employees are most affected. To better understand circumstances and how to help hourly workers at this time, [Branch](#) surveyed 700+ employees about how COVID-19 has affected their work.

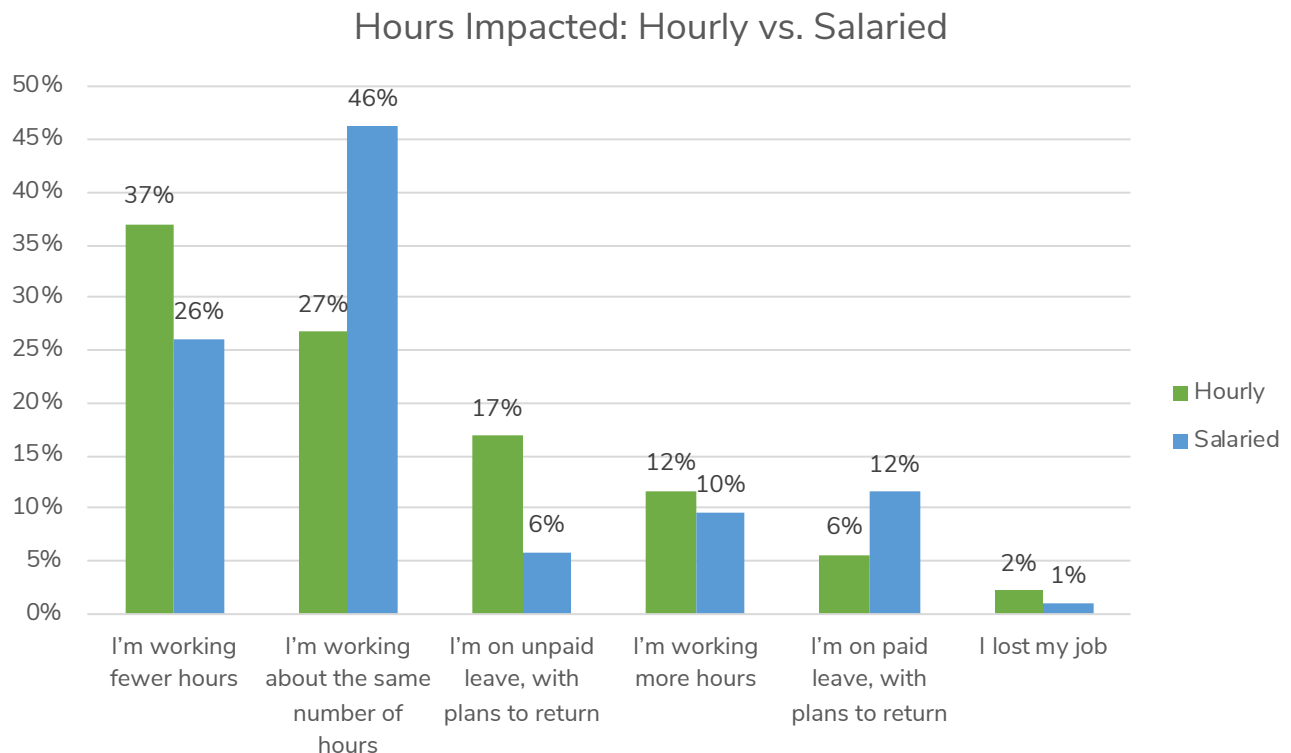
Hours Reduced, Workplaces Shut Down

Workplace operations across the board have been significantly impacted for both hourly and salaried employees, with **about a third of employers (33%) shutting down**.

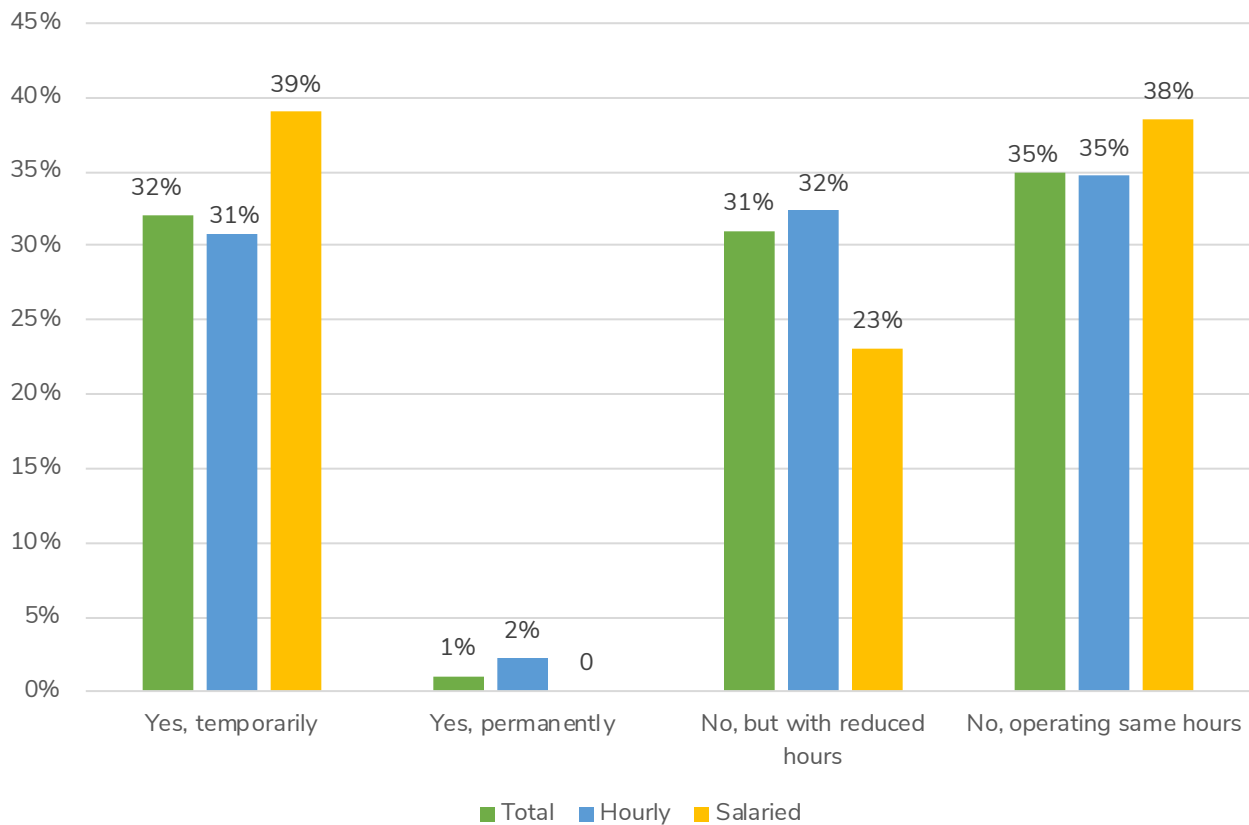
Hourly employees are impacted at higher rates than salaried employees:

56% of hourly employees are experiencing reduced or unpaid leave/job loss

Only **33 percent** of hourly employees are maintaining the same level of pay, either through working the same number of hours or paid leave.



Employer Shutdown from COVID-19



Limited Employer Support + Financial Assistance

As employers respond to changes in real-time, few can offer financial assistance to employees.

Just **13%** of hourly employees receive some sort of financial assistance from their employer, compared with 25 percent of salaried employees.

Top forms of financial assistance for hourly and salaried employees include:

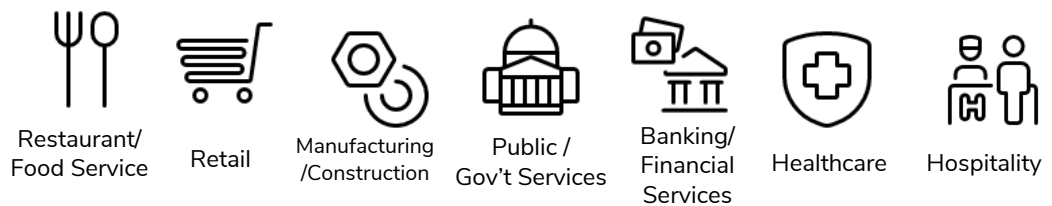
- Paid Shutdown Leave (37%)
- Paid Sick Leave (36%)
- Emergency Fund (15%)
- Bonus Pay (8%)
- Other (16%)

Industries Most Impacted

By industry, the **Restaurants/Food Service** employers were most likely to reduce staffing:

82% of hourly employees in food service experiencing reduced hours or unpaid leave.

Hospitality was the second highest sector, with **73%** of employees working fewer hours or on unpaid leave. Hospitality was the highest sector of employees expected to return to their jobs (33%).



I'm working more hours	3%	15%	12%	7%	11%	24%	7%
I'm working about the same number of hours	8%	21%	36%	27%	39%	33%	17%
I'm on paid leave, with plans to return	6%	8%	0%	11%	17%	3%	3%
I'm working fewer hours	53%	34%	36%	38%	22%	32%	40%
I'm on unpaid leave, with plans to return	26%	17%	14%	18%	6%	8%	33%
I lost my job	3%	5%	2%	0%	6%	0%	0%

Following Healthcare (24%), **Retail** was the highest industry for hourly employees to receive an increase in hours (15%)

Workers Most Concerned About Affording Groceries

Groceries are the top concern for hourly and salaried employees alike during this time.

Hourly workers, who have typically cited home/rent affordability as their top financial concern, have been **more concerned about affording shorter-term expenses like groceries (91%) and utility bills (76%)** at higher rates than salaried workers (82% and 61% respectively).



91% of hourly workers cite groceries as their top financial concern



76%

Utility Bills



60%

Home/Rent



23%

Medical/Health



15%

Childcare



15%

Auto/Transportation



13%

Short-term savings



6%

Student Debt



2%

Retirement



1%

Eldercare

Mixed Confidence

Employees are split on their employment on the next few months, more hourly employees are hopeful in their employment outlook over the next few months. When asked how confident they felt in employment outlook over the next 3 months:

26%

Not Confident

37%

Neutral

37%

Confident

Branch is working closely with employers, employees, and partner organizations to push the funds employees need as quickly as possible during this difficult time.
We'll continue to build out this resource with more information.

For more information or questions, please contact research@branchapp.com.