

HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN *for* PROGRESS

The PULSE of the ECONOMY

EDITION 34 | FEBRUARY 5, 2021

An interesting snapshot of the impact of the Pandemic on the economy is that according to the New York Times, those people who have either a 401k or 403b retirement account, two and a half times the normal amount, accessed those funds through the emergency declaration from last year's Cares Act. Normally 2.2% would seek some amount of funds and in 2020, 5.6% took advantage of this. The chart on the right is a survey of the characteristics of those who did. The real issue is that most people did not have a savings account of any kind to access in the current emergency. After 10 years of an expanding economy, half the country did not have an emergency fund. More on this in future editions of Pulse.

STOCK MARKET - DOW JONES

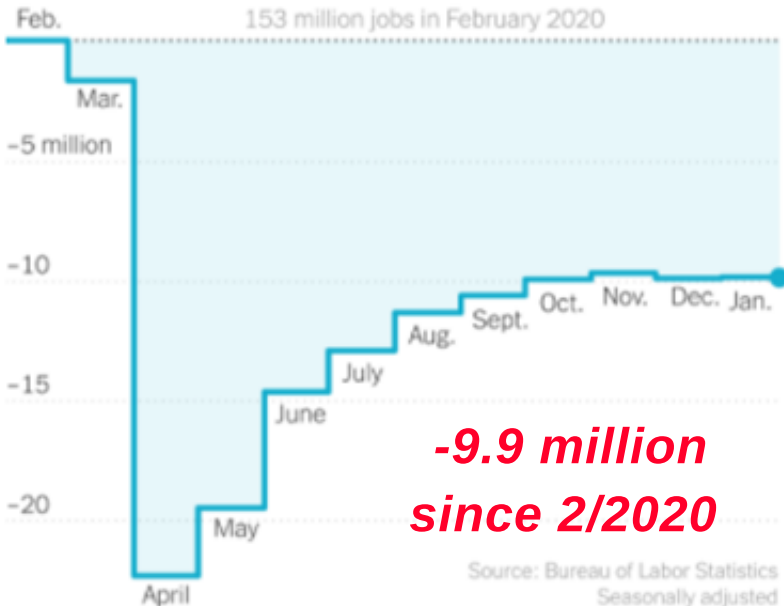
OPENING NUMBERS **30,553** **31,093** **↑ 540**
 JANUARY 29 FEBRUARY 5

WEAK JOBS REPORT

of jobs added in January = 49,000

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/02/05/us/joe-biden-trump-impeachment#biden-says-a-weak-jobs-report-proves-the-need-for-an-immediate-and-large-stimulus>

Cumulative change in jobs since before the pandemic



<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/business/economy/december-2020-jobs-report.html>

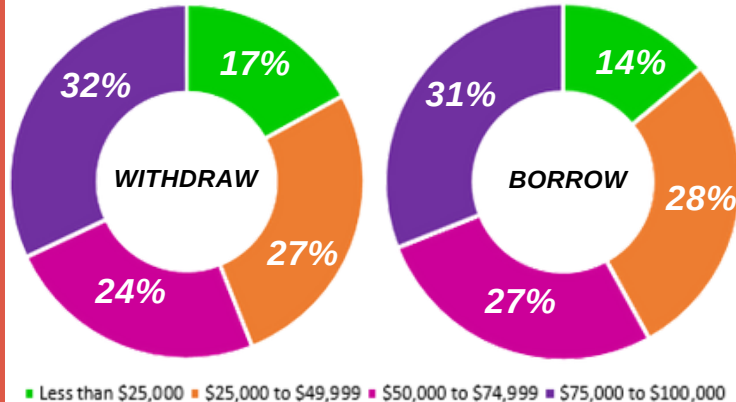
COVID IN THE U.S.A.: LATEST COUNT



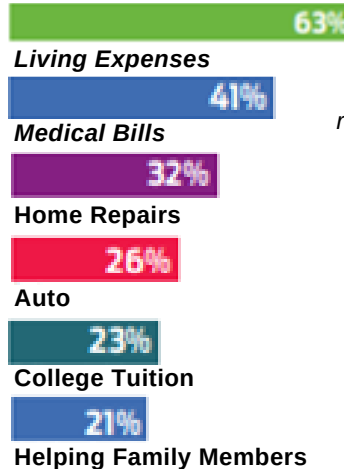
JOINT POLL BY KIPLINGER AND PERSONAL CAPITAL: AMERICANS ARE WITHDRAWING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS FROM RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS...

31.4% took a distribution from their retirement account:
27.4% took a loan from their retirement account:

How much did you... from your retirement accounts?



What did you use the money for?*



The poll, conducted in early November, surveyed a national sampling of 744 people ages 40 to 74, none of whom were fully retired, who had at least \$50,000 in retirement savings. The median amount saved for retirement among all of the respondents was \$188,800. The respondents were equally divided between men and women. A provision in the CARES Act allows people under age 59½ affected by the coronavirus to take a distribution of up to \$100,000 from an IRA, 401(k), or similar account without penalty.

*Respondents were asked to choose all applicable options

Source: https://www.kiplinger.com/web_docs/kiplinger/KPF%20Feb%202021_spread.pdf

WEEKLY ECONOMIC INDEX (WEI)

