

Released:
Monday, June 28, 2021

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NATIONAL: COVID-INDEPENDENCE DAY?

Summer vacation plans partly rebound from 2020

West Long Branch, NJ – Months ago, President Joe Biden expressed hope that the Fourth of July holiday would “begin to mark our independence from this virus.” The *Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll*, though, finds a sizable number of Americans will be holding back on their typical holiday festivities this weekend. The poll also finds that summer vacation plans are still below normal levels, but better than they were after Covid altered the rhythm of American life last year.

Just over half (54%) of American adults plan to attend an Independence Day barbecue this year, which is down from a pre-pandemic level of 69% with cookout plans [in 2019](#). The number of people who plan to attend a professional fireworks show (26%) is half of what it was two years ago (51%). There will also be fewer people attending July 4th parades (18%, versus 28% in 2019) and slightly fewer people setting off their own fireworks (26%, versus 31% in 2019). Republicans are somewhat more likely than Democrats to say they will partake in all four of these activities. There was more parity across the parties two years ago for barbecues and fireworks.

“Partisan differences in holiday activities are tied to Covid. As with other aspects of socializing during the pandemic, Democrats are more cautious than Republicans about venturing into crowds on July 4th,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

About half (48%) of the public plans to take a summer vacation this year. This is lower than typical levels but higher than actual plans for 2020. [Last June](#), 63% said they had been planning a summer vacation before Covid hit, but only 26% said it was probable that they would actually take some type of summer trip in 2020.

Overall, 34% of Americans say their summer vacation plans this year are about what they would typically do, while 26% say they have either scaled back plans or canceled their usual summer vacation plans altogether. Another 14% of the public will be traveling somewhere within 200 miles of their home

this summer, 27% will be vacationing farther away in the U.S., and just 5% will be traveling to another country. Before the nation's summer plans were altered by the pandemic last year, 13% said they had been planning a vacation closer to home, 33% planned to travel farther than 200 miles, and 17% intended to vacation in another country. After Covid hit, 11% planned a trip close to home, 12% were planning to travel farther afield, and just 3% planned to vacation outside the U.S.

“Overseas trips have taken the biggest hit, but the number taking a vacation closer to home really hasn't changed. While some travelers are downgrading their plans, others are simply opting to wait at least another year before resuming summer travel,” said Murray.

One-third of the public says that the pandemic has been either the most important factor (10%) or a major factor (23%) in planning a summer vacation this year. Another 25% say Covid has been a minor factor and 42% say it has not been a factor. Among those who have scaled back or canceled vacation plans this year, 22% say the pandemic was the most important factor in their decision and another 39% call it a major factor.

Interestingly, while higher-earning families are more likely to be taking a vacation this summer – as they are in any typical year – income level is not a determining factor in whether 2021 plans are different from 2020 plans. For example, 64% of those earning over \$100,000 are planning a summer vacation this year, which is 13 points lower than the number who had pre-pandemic plans last year but 28 points higher than the number of upper income earners who said they would probably still take a vacation in 2020 even with the Covid outbreak. In the middle income category (\$50,000 to \$100,000), 49% plan to take a vacation this summer, off by 15 points from pre-pandemic plans but 21 points above probable plans last year. Among those earning less than \$50,000, 40% plan to take a vacation this summer, down by 14 points from pre-pandemic levels, but 21 points higher than probable plans last year. Among 2021 vacationers, about 1 in 4 in all income groups report scaling back their typical summer plans this year.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from June 9 to 14, 2021 with 810 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-18 previously released.]

19. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? [ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

TREND:	Yes	No	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
Attend a barbecue	54%	42%	4%	(810)
-- June 2019	69%	27%	3%	(751)
Go to a parade	18%	80%	2%	(810)
-- June 2019	28%	69%	3%	(751)
Go to a professional fireworks show	26%	72%	2%	(810)
-- June 2019	51%	46%	4%	(751)
Set off your own fireworks	26%	72%	2%	(810)
-- June 2019	31%	67%	2%	(751)

20. Are you planning to take a trip this summer for your vacation, or not?

	June 2021
Yes, planning	48%
No, not planning	49%
(VOL) Don't know	3%
(n)	(810)

20A. Are you planning to go somewhere within 200 miles of your home, somewhere farther away in the United States, or somewhere outside the country? [If MULTIPLE TRIPS: In this case let's talk about the longest trip in time.]

	June 2021
Within 200 miles of your home	14%
Farther away in the United States	27%
Outside the country	5%
(VOL) Don't know	1%
No trip planned (from Q20)	52%
(n)	(810)

21. Would you describe your summer plans as being about what you typically would do for vacation or not up to the same scale as your normal vacation plans? [If NO PLANS: Do you typically take a vacation in the summer, or not usually?]

	June 2021
Plans are typical	34%
Not same scale/canceled	26%
(VOL) Plans bigger than usual	1%
Usually no summer vacation	38%
(VOL) Don't know	1%
(n)	(810)

22. How much of a factor has the pandemic been in deciding on your vacation plans for this summer – has it been the most important factor, a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor?

	June 2021
Most important factor	10%
Major factor	23%
Minor factor	25%
Not a factor	42%
(VOL) Don't know	0%
(n)	(810)

[Q23-39 previously released.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from June 9 to 14, 2021 with a national random sample of 810 adults age 18 and older. This includes 281 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 529 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through a mix of random digit dialing and list-based sampling. Landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2018 one-year survey). Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field), Dynata (RDD sample), and Aristotle (list sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
<i>24% Republican</i>	
<i>44% Independent</i>	
<i>32% Democrat</i>	
<i>49% Male</i>	
<i>51% Female</i>	
<i>30% 18-34</i>	
<i>33% 35-54</i>	
<i>38% 55+</i>	
<i>63% White</i>	
<i>12% Black</i>	
<i>16% Hispanic</i>	
<i>9% Asian/Other</i>	
<i>69% No degree</i>	
<i>31% 4 year degree</i>	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted sample</i>	<i>moe (+/-)</i>
TOTAL		810	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	758	3.6%
	No	52	13.6%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	193	7.1%
PARTY ID	Independent	352	5.2%
	Democrat	251	6.2%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	167	7.6%
	Moderate	345	5.3%
	Conservative	269	6.0%
GENDER	Male	403	4.9%
	Female	407	4.9%
AGE	18-34	133	8.5%
	35-54	272	6.0%
	55+	401	4.9%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	182	7.3%
	No	625	3.9%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	590	4.0%
	Other	197	7.0%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	416	4.8%
	4 year degree	391	5.0%
WHITE COLLEGE	White, no degree	302	5.6%
	White, 4 year degree	287	5.8%
INCOME	<\$50K	269	6.0%
	\$50 to <\$100K	256	6.1%
	\$100K+	233	6.4%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 6/28/21

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19A. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Attend a barbecue	Yes	54%	55%	48%	59%	55%	50%	44%	57%	58%
	No	42%	41%	51%	38%	40%	46%	55%	38%	37%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	1%	3%	5%	4%	1%	5%	5%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
19A. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Attend a barbecue	Yes	62%	47%	60%	58%	46%	65%	51%	57%	49%
	No	35%	49%	36%	38%	50%	34%	44%	39%	46%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	5%	3%	4%	4%	1%	5%	4%	4%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19A. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Attend a barbecue	Yes	53%	57%	56%	60%	51%	58%	60%
	No	43%	39%	41%	35%	45%	39%	39%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%	2%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19B. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a parade	Yes	18%	18%	17%	29%	17%	13%	9%	20%	23%
	No	80%	80%	82%	70%	80%	86%	90%	78%	75%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	2%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
19B. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a parade	Yes	19%	17%	22%	20%	14%	24%	16%	22%	12%
	No	79%	81%	77%	78%	84%	75%	81%	76%	87%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19B. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a parade	Yes	18%	19%	24%	18%	18%	20%	18%
	No	80%	80%	74%	81%	80%	79%	81%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19C. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a professional fireworks show	Yes	26%	27%	20%	39%	24%	22%	25%	26%	29%
	No	72%	71%	80%	60%	74%	77%	74%	71%	70%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
19C. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a professional fireworks show	Yes	28%	25%	27%	34%	20%	35%	24%	30%	20%
	No	70%	73%	71%	65%	78%	64%	74%	68%	79%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19C. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Go to a professional fireworks show	Yes	25%	29%	30%	31%	25%	27%	31%
	No	73%	68%	68%	67%	74%	71%	68%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19D. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Set off your own fireworks	Yes	26%	27%	15%	30%	31%	18%	19%	29%	27%
	No	72%	71%	83%	67%	68%	80%	81%	69%	70%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	3%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
19D. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Set off your own fireworks	Yes	30%	22%	41%	28%	13%	41%	21%	27%	25%
	No	68%	76%	57%	69%	86%	58%	76%	71%	72%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	3%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19D. Looking ahead to the 4th of July holiday coming up, do you plan to do any of the following to celebrate? Set off your own fireworks	Yes	28%	23%	30%	22%	30%	23%	27%
	No	70%	76%	68%	77%	69%	76%	72%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20. Are you planning to take a trip this summer for your vacation, or not?	Yes, planning	48%	50%	24%	48%	47%	50%	50%	50%	45%
	No, not planning	49%	47%	70%	51%	49%	47%	48%	45%	54%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	6%	1%	3%	2%	2%	5%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
20. Are you planning to take a trip this summer for your vacation, or not?	Yes, planning	49%	46%	58%	52%	36%	59%	44%	47%	48%
	No, not planning	47%	51%	41%	42%	62%	38%	53%	50%	48%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	2%	1%	6%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20. Are you planning to take a trip this summer for your vacation, or not?	Yes, planning	43%	59%	42%	58%	40%	49%	64%
	No, not planning	54%	39%	56%	40%	57%	48%	35%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20A. Are you planning to go somewhere within 200 miles of your home, somewhere farther away in the United States, or somewhere outside the country? [IF MULTIPLE TRIPS: In this case lets talk about the longest trip in time.]	Somewhere within 200 miles of your home	14%	15%	9%	14%	17%	11%	10%	17%	15%
	Somewhere farther away in the United States	27%	29%	13%	28%	26%	30%	33%	30%	22%
	Somewhere outside the country	5%	6%	1%	6%	3%	7%	6%	4%	7%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%
	[Q20] No trip planned	52%	50%	76%	52%	53%	50%	50%	50%	55%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
20A. Are you planning to go somewhere within 200 miles of your home, somewhere farther away in the United States, or somewhere outside the country? [IF MULTIPLE TRIPS: In this case lets talk about the longest trip in time.]	Somewhere within 200 miles of your home	13%	16%	19%	17%	9%	23%	12%	13%	17%
	Somewhere farther away in the United States	30%	25%	31%	29%	23%	31%	26%	29%	24%
	Somewhere outside the country	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%	5%	7%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
	[Q20] No trip planned	51%	54%	42%	48%	64%	41%	56%	53%	52%

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		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20A. Are you planning to go somewhere within 200 miles of your home, somewhere farther away in the United States, or somewhere outside the country? [IF MULTIPLE TRIPS: In this case lets talk about the longest trip in time.]	Somewhere within 200 miles of your home	14%	15%	13%	14%	16%	14%	14%
	Somewhere farther away in the United States	23%	38%	25%	38%	18%	32%	39%
	Somewhere outside the country	5%	6%	4%	5%	5%	3%	9%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	[Q20] No trip planned	57%	41%	58%	42%	60%	51%	36%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
21. Would you describe your summer plans as being about what you typically would do for vacation or not up to the same scale as your normal vacation plans? [IF No plans: Do you typically take a vacation in the summer, or not usually?]	Plans are typical	34%	36%	17%	39%	33%	34%	33%	36%	34%
	Not same scale\ canceled	26%	25%	34%	23%	26%	27%	30%	28%	23%
	[VOL] Plans bigger than usual	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Usually no summer vacation	38%	37%	48%	36%	38%	37%	36%	34%	41%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
21. Would you describe your summer plans as being about what you typically would do for vacation or not up to the same scale as your normal vacation plans? [IF No plans: Do you typically take a vacation in the summer, or not usually?]	Plans are typical	38%	31%	40%	39%	26%	42%	32%	35%	34%
	Not same scale\ canceled	25%	27%	26%	27%	23%	25%	26%	24%	29%
	[VOL] Plans bigger than usual	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
	Usually no summer vacation	35%	40%	33%	32%	48%	30%	40%	40%	35%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
21. Would you describe your summer plans as being about what you typically would do for vacation or not up to the same scale as your normal vacation plans? [IF No plans: Do you typically take a vacation in the summer, or not usually?]	Plans are typical	33%	38%	32%	40%	29%	35%	44%
	Not same scale\ canceled	22%	34%	19%	32%	24%	21%	32%
	[VOL] Plans bigger than usual	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
	Usually no summer vacation	43%	25%	47%	26%	45%	40%	22%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 6/28/21

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
22. How much of a factor has the pandemic been in deciding on your vacation plans for this summer - has it been the most important factor, a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor?	Most important factor	10%	9%	17%	4%	10%	15%	12%	11%	8%
	Major factor	23%	23%	20%	20%	20%	29%	29%	28%	14%
	Minor factor	25%	25%	25%	21%	24%	30%	32%	21%	24%
	Not a factor	42%	42%	37%	55%	45%	26%	27%	40%	53%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
22. How much of a factor has the pandemic been in deciding on your vacation plans for this summer - has it been the most important factor, a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor?	Most important factor	11%	9%	11%	11%	8%	14%	8%	8%	13%
	Major factor	20%	26%	21%	24%	23%	22%	23%	21%	26%
	Minor factor	24%	26%	35%	17%	24%	24%	25%	23%	28%
	Not a factor	45%	39%	33%	47%	45%	40%	43%	48%	32%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
22. How much of a factor has the pandemic been in deciding on your vacation plans for this summer - has it been the most important factor, a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor?	Most important factor	8%	13%	7%	9%	9%	10%	11%
	Major factor	20%	29%	15%	32%	25%	20%	24%
	Minor factor	25%	25%	23%	25%	22%	30%	20%
	Not a factor	47%	32%	55%	34%	43%	41%	44%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%