COVID-19

Bullet Dodged but Long-Term Trends Remain

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• Decrease in on-campus majors

• Graduate Enrollment is slowly breaking long-term trend
• Concern about the lack of a lag in BS degree drop

• Graduate degrees rising as oil and gas hiring contracted
Credit: AGI; data derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey
Employers: Operations

Since November, financial performance is recovering.

Just over 1/3 of employers reported receiving financial assistance between June and August 2020, primarily from federal aid (i.e., PPP, EIDL, SBALF, etc.).

Expectations for financial performance: current calendar year relative to last year

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Employers: Operations

General trends point to recovery in progress.

- Termination / amendment of contracts generally down from Summer 2020.
- Supply chain disruptions and contractor availability issues improving.
- Facility access restrictions easing, with increasing trend since Sept 2020.
- Reporting of no impacts up since June 2020 (except March 2021).
- Furloughs down, but layoffs reported by ~10% of employers.
Employers

Shift to increase in telework and part-time in-office work.

Declines in full-time office attendance.

Increased lab, field, and client sites/remote office attendance.
Employers - What we’ve learned so far...

Workplace environments and staffing

• Permanent telework and limited in-office attendance continue as primary work modalities.

• More employees in the lab, field, and at client sites / remote offices.

• Increase in employees not on travel or in the field due to personal decisions and organizational policies.

• 30%-40% of employers are seeking geoscience talent.

• 20%-30% of employers have hired geoscience talent.
Dept Operations

Budget cuts less severe than expected for most departments.

~1/3 of departments reported no budget cuts.

16% of departments reported cuts worse than expected.

Expected vs. actual budget cuts for 2020-2021 academic year

Academic Departments

- No budget cuts
- Minimal (<5%)
- 5-20%
- >20%
- Potential closure

Expected / Actual
Enrollments generally down at institutions but similar to or higher than last year for geoscience courses.
Dept Operations

Staffing impacts primarily occurred in Summer 2020.

Most impacts centered on reduced hours and furloughs of staff and non-tenured faculty.

Current impacts:
• hiring freezes
• reduced hours (staff and non-tenured faculty)
• layoffs (staff)
• termination of summer contracts
Dept Operations

Increase in departments with active faculty searches since November.
Dept Operations

Increasing expectations to open as normal for the Summer and Fall 2021 terms.
Course instructional formats are still predominantly online.

Some downward trending since December and January for online and hybrid formats.
Meetings & travel

Meeting and travel restrictions relatively steady.

Travel restrictions are easing, but limitations still exist.

Increase in isolation before departure for academic faculty.

Other restrictions often mention include vehicle usage.
Individuals – Work environments

Challenges

• Work-from-home environment is not always ideal (technology, distractions, etc.)
• Increased teaching workloads for multiple instructional formats
• Facility restrictions impeding research and work
• Students needing more attention
• Lack of informal discussions, networking, and business prospecting
• Difficulty with supervising employees
• Online meeting fatigue
Employment status

Over 90% of working participants remained employed.

Over 90% of students either remained in school or gained employment.

Post-docs and students had highest rates unemployment (8%), followed by non-academic geoscientists (3%).

Those that remained unemployed comprise 2% of all study participants.

Unemployed individuals are predominantly seeking work within the geosciences.
Individuals - What we’ve learned so far...

• Over 90% of study participants remained employed or in school or gained employment during this period.
• 5% of study participants became or remained unemployed.
• Students planning to return full-time for next academic term.
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