



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

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Press Contact Information:

Mileah Kromer, Ph.D.

Director, UMBC Institute of Politics

Email: mkromer@umbc.edu

Cherie Parker

Director, UMBC Media Relations

Phone: 240-930-1169

Email: cheriepa@umbc.edu

UMBC Poll Topics:

- Americans' views toward the length and frequency of summer vacations
- Types of vacations Americans plan to take this summer
- Reasons why Americans don't plan to take a vacation this summer
- Perceptions of modes of vacation travel safety among Americans
- Preferences toward return or new summer vacation destinations

Tuesday, May 20 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed 1,123 American adults (MOE=4.0%) from Thursday, May 1 to Monday, May 5, 2025, via the AmeriSpeak® Panel. Please refer to the methodology statement for information regarding data collection, sample demographics, and the topline results for the questions as worded in the order in which they were administered to respondents.

[Click here for results by demographics.](#)

Summer Vacation Plans, Length, and Comparison to Last Year

Memorial Day is the official federal commemoration of military members who lost their lives in service to the United States. In addition to its significance as a day of solemn remembrance, the last Monday of May and the preceding weekend are also widely regarded as the unofficial start of summer.

And, for many Americans, summer means vacation.

According to the latest UMBC Poll, **55 percent** of Americans say they plan to spend at least two nights away from home for a vacation sometime this summer. **Twenty-one percent** are uncertain about their vacation plans, while **24 percent** do not intend to take a vacation at all.

- Among Democrats: **54 percent** plan to take a summer vacation
- Among Independents: **45 percent** plan to take a summer vacation
- Among Republicans: **61 percent** plan to take a summer vacation

When asked to compare their summer vacation plans to last summer:

- **13 percent** say they will take fewer days of vacation
- **44 percent** say they will take about the same amount of vacation days
- **18 percent** say they will take more days of vacation
 - Among Democrats: **17 percent**
 - Among Independents: **13 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **21 percent**
- **24 percent** say they are unsure

Americans hold different views on how many consecutive days off of work are needed to be considered a vacation:

- **12 percent** say 1 to 3 days
- **34 percent** say 4 or 5 days
- **27 percent** say 6 or 7 days
- **20 percent** say more than 7 days

More than half (**53 percent**) of Americans like to try a different vacation destination every year, while **16 percent** like to return to the same destination year after year. **Thirty percent** were unsure whether they preferred different vacation destinations or returning to the same one.

- Republicans (**22 percent**) were more likely than Democrats (**14 percent**) to say that they preferred to return to the same vacation destination each year.

Summer Vacation Types

Americans who said they planned to spend at least two nights away from home for a vacation this summer were asked which type(s) of vacation(s) they were considering.

- Beach trips: **40 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **39 percent**
 - Among Independents: **42 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **40 percent**
- Road trips to explore various destinations along the way: **32 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **35 percent**
 - Among Independents: **27 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **31 percent**
- Adventure or outdoor travel like camping, hiking, or other nature-based recreation: **30 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **34 percent**
 - Among Independents: **26 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **26 percent**
- Urban tourism, like visiting cities and exploring their attractions: **28 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **39 percent**
 - Among Independents: **31 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **16 percent**
- Couples or romantic getaway with my spouse or partner: **27 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **30 percent**
 - Among Independents: **27 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **25 percent**
- Family excursions to kid-friendly places like theme parks: **25 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **28 percent**
 - Among Independents: **31 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **21 percent**
- Solo trip for personal enjoyment or relaxation: **21 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **21 percent**
 - Among Independents: **22 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **20 percent**
- Rural tourism, like visiting farms or small towns: **13 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **13 percent**
 - Among Independents: **8 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **13 percent**

Reasons for Skipping Summer Vacation

Americans who reported either being uncertain (**21 percent**) or not planning to take (**24 percent**) a vacation this summer were asked to identify their reasons:

- **47 percent** say they can't afford to take a summer vacation this year
 - Among Democrats: **42 percent**
 - Among Independents: **59 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **45 percent**
- **21 percent** say that other family and personal obligations don't leave enough time for a vacation
 - Among Democrats: **22 percent**
 - Among Independents: **18 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **21 percent**
- **20 percent** say they would rather take their vacation during another season
 - Among Democrats: **23 percent**
 - Among Independents: **10 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **22 percent**
- **17 percent** say they don't like to take vacations
 - Among Democrats: **11 percent**
 - Among Independents: **20 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **21 percent**
- **16 percent** say they can't get enough time off work
 - Among Democrats: **15 percent**
 - Among Independents: **17 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **16 percent**

Perceptions of Vacation Travel Safety

Americans were asked to rate how safe they felt using different transportation options that people sometimes use when traveling for vacation on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 meant "not safe at all" and 5 meant "completely safe."

The percentages below reflect a "4" or "5" rating:

- Driving a personal vehicle: **80 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **79 percent**
 - Among Independents: **72 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **84 percent**

- Flying in a jet operated by a major U.S. passenger airline: **57 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **55 percent**
 - Among Independents: **51 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **63 percent**
- Riding on a U.S.-based passenger train: **57 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **60 percent**
 - Among Independents: **53 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **57 percent**
- Riding on a bus operated by a U.S.-based bus service: **48 percent**
 - Among Democrats: **52 percent**
 - Among Independents: **41 percent**
 - Among Republicans: **47 percent**

Methodology Statement

The UMBC Poll is conducted under the auspices of the UMBC Institute of Politics and is funded by the UMBC College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

The UMBC Poll surveyed **1,123** American adults from **Thursday, May 1 to Monday, May 5, 2025**. Data was collected via AmeriSpeak® Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. **Ninety-four percent** of the interviews were conducted online, and **6 percent** were conducted via telephone. The survey has a margin of sampling error, adjusted for design effects, of **+/- 4.0%**.

About NORC AmeriSpeak:

Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, AmeriSpeak is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US household population. Randomly selected US households are sampled using area probability and address-based sampling, with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame. Sampled households are contacted by US mail, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

While most AmeriSpeak households participate in surveys by web, non-internet households can participate in AmeriSpeak surveys by telephone. Households without conventional internet access but having web access via smartphones are allowed to participate in AmeriSpeak surveys via the web. For more information, email AmeriSpeak-BD@norc.org or visit AmeriSpeak.norc.org.

Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics, and Ian Anson, Associate Director, process the data collected by the UMBC Poll. Under Kromer and Anson's supervision, student research assistants help with various aspects of the UMBC Poll as part of UMBC's commitment to innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement.

The UMBC Poll is committed to methodological transparency. If you have questions about the poll's methodology, contact Mileah Kromer, Director, UMBC Institute of Politics (mkromer@umbc.edu).

Sample Demographics (in percent)

For information regarding the AmeriSpeak Panel, including panel construction, data weighting, and sample design, please visit this [link](#).

Demographic	Category	Percent
Sex	Male	49
	Female	51
	Total	100
Age	18-29	20
	30-44	27
	45-59	22
	60+	31
	Total	100
Race and Ethnicity	White, non-Hispanic	60
	Black, non-Hispanic	12
	Other race, non-Hispanic	1
	Hispanic	18
	Two or more races, non-Hispanic	2
	Asian-Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	7
	Total	100
Education	Less than HS	9
	HS graduate or equivalent	29
	Some college/ associates degree	26
	Bachelor's degree	23
	Post grad study/professional degree	14
	Total	100

Sample Demographics (in percent) Continued

Income	Less than \$30,000	24
	\$30,000 to under \$60,000	24
	\$60,000 to under \$100,000	22
	\$100,000 or more	30
	Total	100
US Region	Northeast	17
	Midwest	20
	South	39
	West	24
	Total	100
Party	Democrat	32
	Lean Democrat	11
	Independent / No party lean	19
	Lean Republican	8
	Republican	30
	Total	100
Ideology	Very liberal	14
	Somewhat liberal	8
	Moderate	48
	Somewhat conservative	15
	Very conservative	13
	Unknown	2
	Total	100

Topline Results

The topline results below represent a sample of 1,123 American adults (MOE = +/- 4.0%). [Click here for results by demographics](#). Results are presented in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and weighting.

Q: OFF	How many consecutive days off of work are needed to be considered a vacation?	Percent
	1	2
	2	2
	3	8
	4	9
	5	25
	6	1
	7	26
	More than 7	20
	Don't know	7
	Refused / Skipped	0
	Total	100

Q: TAKE	Do you plan to take more, about the same, or fewer days of vacation this summer compared to last summer?	Percent
	Fewer days	13
	About the same amount of days	44
	More days	18
	Unsure	24
	Refused / Skipped	2
	Total	100

Q: PLAN	Do you plan to spend at least two or more nights away from home for a vacation sometime over this summer?	Percent
	Yes	55
	No	24
	Unsure	21
	Refused / Skipped	0
	Total	100

The **Q: TYPE** battery below was only administered to the respondents (n=620) who answered "Yes" to **Q: PLAN**:

Q: TYPE	Please indicate what type(s) of vacation(s) you plan to take this summer: [Check all that apply]	Percent
Q: TYPE_BEACH	Beach trips	40
Q: TYPE_ROAD	Road trips to explore various destinations along the way	32
Q: TYPE_ADVENTURE	Adventure or outdoor travel like camping, hiking, or other nature-based recreation	30
Q: TYPE_URBAN	Urban tourism like visiting cities and exploring their attractions	28
Q: TYPE_COUPLE	Couples or romantic getaway with my spouse or partner	27
Q: TYPE_FAMILY	Family excursions to kid-friendly places like theme parks	25
Q: TYPE_SOLO	Solo trip for personal enjoyment or relaxation	21
Q: TYPE_RURAL	Rural tourism like visiting farms or small towns	13

Note: Multi-item response. The percentages will not add up to 100.

The **Q: REASON** battery below was only administered to the respondents (n=503) who answered "No" or "Unsure" to **Q: PLAN**:

Q: REASON	You indicated that you either aren't taking or might not take a vacation this summer. The following are reasons why some people decide not to take a vacation someplace away from home over the summer. Please select all that apply to you:	Percent
Q: REASON_AFFORD	I can't afford to take a summer vacation this year	47
Q: REASON_OBLIGATION	My other family and personal obligations don't leave enough time for a vacation this summer	21
Q: REASON_SEASON	I'd rather take my vacation during another season	20
Q: REASON_DISLIKE	I don't like to take vacations	17
Q: REASON_TIMEOFF	I can't get enough time off work	16

Note: Multi-item response. The percentages will not add up to 100.

Q: SAFE	Next, we'd like to know how safe you feel using different transportation options that people sometimes use when traveling for vacation. Please rate the safety of each option on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means you feel "not safe at all" and 5 means you feel "completely safe."
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Q: SAFE_DRIVE to Q: SAFE_BUS presented in randomized order.

Q: SAFE_DRIVE	<i>Driving a personal vehicle</i>	Percent
	1 - Not safe at all	3
	2	3
	3	12
	4	32
	5 - Completely safe	48
	Unable to judge	3
	Refused / Skipped	0
	Total	100

Q: SAFE_FLY	<i>Flying in a jet operated by a major U.S. passenger airline</i>	Percent
	1 - Not safe at all	8
	2	8
	3	22
	4	31
	5 - Completely safe	26
	Unable to judge	4
	Refused / Skipped	1
	Total	100

Q: SAFE_TRAIN	<i>Riding on a U.S.-based passenger train</i>	Percent
	1 - Not safe at all	5
	2	3
	3	23
	4	31
	5 - Completely safe	26
	Unable to judge	12
	Refused / Skipped	1
	Total	100

Q: SAFE_BUS	<i>Riding on a bus operated by a U.S.-based bus service</i>	Percent
	1 - Not safe at all	6
	2	7
	3	30
	4	29
	5 - Completely safe	19
	Unable to judge	9
	Refused / Skipped	1
	Total	100
Q: DESTINATION	Which of these two statements most closely, even if not perfectly, describes your preferences for summer vacation destinations:	Percent
	I like to return to the same vacation destination year after year	16
	I like to try different vacation destinations every year	53
	Unable to judge	30
	Refused / Skipped	1
	Total	100



Our Mission

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership.

UMBC emphasizes science, engineering, information technology, human services and public policy at the graduate level. UMBC contributes to the economic development of the State and the region through entrepreneurial initiatives, workforce training, K-16 partnerships, and technology commercialization in collaboration with public agencies and the corporate community. UMBC is dedicated to cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility and lifelong learning.

Our Vision

Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.