Things are not favorable for us: Hispanics more pessimistic amid coronavirus crisis.

Coronavirus checks create long lines at airport

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Passengers line up at LAX after they were subjected to a new “enhanced” screening measure for the coronavirus. Photo by TINA FRENCH-FOY, THE MARIANNE ROBERTS/MIAMI HERALD

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Hundreds of Hispanics in Hollywood got a rude awakening from their financial situation when they started losing their jobs due to the pandemic. But the only relief was a new stimulus check from the government. The resulting change in their financial situation has affected their personal financial situation, compared to the overall U.S. economic conditions.

According to a recent survey, Hispanic by the Pew Research Center, 30% of Hispanics said they see the coronavirus as a major threat to their personal financial situation, compared to 29% of the overall U.S. population. And when it comes to health, 85% of Hispanics said they believe coronavirus is a major threat, compared to 70% of the overall population.

Hispanics are overrepresented in hospitality, service and retail industries, which experts say have been among the hardest-hit areas of employment in the pandemic, with no clear end in sight.

A new survey by the Florida Atlantic University’s Business and Economics Polling Initiative showed a dramatic drop in the Hispanic Index of Consumer Sentiment when compared to the last quarter of 2019, meaning most Hispanics now have significantly less confidence in the country’s economic conditions.

While 65% of those surveyed said at the end of 2019 that they thought the U.S. economy would be strong in the next year, only 34% said the same in the first three months of 2020. And while 73% of those surveyed said in late 2019 that their financial situation would improve in the coming year, in 2020, only 15% said so.

“Why I think we are seeing a huge drop is because we never had the shock of a pandemic, something that affects the health of individuals,” said Meena ESCALON, a professor of Economics at FAU. “If government wants to buy, we cannot buy.”

Despite this Giant decline, the FAU poll, which surveyed 234 Hispanic households, showed President Donald Trump’s approval rating among Hispanics had slightly increased in the first three months of 2020, from 44% to 46%

Though the survey was taken in the first months of the pandemic spread through the U.S., Escalon said it would be interesting to see how Latinos continue to feel about their role in the economy.

“The first stress was the health issue. Now people are fearing about their jobs,” Escalon said.

Denia Fernandez, 35, a one of 10 flight attendants who still is employed. She’s been working for HMM since 2016, at a first flight service for 25 years at a Brink’s King Coorective E.

"I had been cut to less than 10 a week. Some days, we don’t work more than four hours.

"I had been cut to less than 10 a week. Some days, we don’t work more than four hours. So I had something saved up for rent. Here in Miami, people live paycheck to paycheck. Then people who have two jobs and they’ve been paid off from both jobs,” Fernandez said. "I know, it’s making hardships, our labors is important because we’re making sure this country keeps moving forward.”