Who Borrows: Employment Behind Short-Term Loans

The picture of a payday borrower as jobless is wrong. Most are working when they borrow.

7 employment groups compared	**Employed full time** largest group	**51.7** its share of borrowers, %
Employed full time group most likely to roll over		

The numbers

Employment groups ranked by share of all surveyed borrowers.

Employment	Share of borrowers, %	Respondents	Fell into rollovers, %	Would NOT do it again, %	Median loan, $
Employed full time	51.7	6230	45.5	44.7	329
Employed part time	17.9	2159	42.7	41.7	273
Unemployed	10.3	1240	20.6	20.2	117
Self-employed	8.3	1005	28.6	28.4	164
Retired	5.1	619	38.3	40.2	241
Disabled	4.7	562	41.1	33.3	221
Student	1.9	232	37.4	30.1	200

How we counted

- Employment is self-reported at the time of borrowing.
- Shares are of all surveyed borrowers, not of the population.

Data updated 2026-07-31. Full dataset in CSV at https://paykedge.com/research/who-borrows/data.csv

How to cite

Paykedge, “Who Borrows: Employment Behind Short-Term Loans”, 2026. Available at https://paykedge.com/research/who-borrows/