

Can you give me a basic number, with no data, of people who lost their jobs from speaking up about covid (in the USA) and those who have lost their jobs speaking against Trump and/or Charlie Kirk

ChatGPT said:

I couldn't find credible data that gives reliable numbers for people in the U.S. who lost their jobs specifically *because* they spoke up about COVID-19 (e.g. being critical of mandates, vaccines, policies) or who were fired specifically for speaking against Donald Trump and/or Charlie Kirk.

Here's what I found and what the gaps are:

What *is* known / estimates

- There are reports of “dozens” of people in various sectors (academia, journalism, government, etc.) being disciplined or fired after posting comments about Charlie Kirk's death. But these reports do not provide verifiable, comprehensive counts. [The Guardian+1](#)
 - There is data about people out of work due to **long COVID**: between **2 million to 4 million Americans** are estimated to be out of work because of long COVID symptoms. [Brookings+1](#)
 - During the COVID-recession/pandemic onset, millions lost jobs overall, but that includes all kinds of economic effects (lockdowns, business closures, reduced demand), not because they expressed views. [Business Insider+1](#)
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Why specific numbers are unavailable

- It is very hard to attribute job loss to *speech* (expressing dissent or criticism) rather than performance, company policy, safety concerns, or other factors.
 - Public reporting tends to focus on anecdotal or high-profile cases rather than systematically tracking “speech-related job loss.”
 - Legal protections like free speech are limited in workplace settings; private employers can often terminate for many reasons, which means many such incidents may be unreported or unverified.
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If you want, I could try to pull together a rough estimate based on media-reports / case studies, with caveats. Do you want me to try doing that?

You said:

yes please

ChatGPT said:

Here's a rough summary of what I found: various case studies and reports, with big caveats, and *no reliable aggregate number* I could find. But I've pulled together examples to give a sense of scale.

What I found: Case studies & examples

These are people who lost jobs, got suspended, or were disciplined *for things they said or posted* about COVID-19 policies (or vaccines/mandates), or about speaking out (or criticizing) Donald Trump / Charlie Kirk.

Situation	Approx. Number or Description	Notes / Context
COVID-19 vaccine / mandate refusals	Thousands	For example, ~16 NYC sanitation workers were fired for refusing the vaccine. More broadly, thousands across health care, education, etc., lost jobs or faced termination over vaccine mandates. NPR+1
Speaking about or criticizing Charlie Kirk's death / legacy	Dozens	After Charlie Kirk was shot, many people across different sectors were fired, suspended, or placed on leave for social media posts, refusing to print memorial posters, etc. CBS News+7The Washington Post+7The Times of India+7

Why no solid totals

- Many of the media reports are fragmented: some refer to “dozens,” some to “several,” etc., but without names or complete counts.
 - It's often unclear whether “disciplinary action” means losing a job, being suspended, being placed on leave, etc. These have different weights.
 - Some people *voluntarily left* or resigned, which complicates attributing “job loss” strictly due to speech.
 - Reporting bias: high-profile cases are more likely to get media attention; many smaller-scale or private employer instances may go unreported.
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Rough Estimate / Ballpark

Given the above:

- For COVID-mandates / vaccine refusal: **thousands** of job losses (firings, terminations) across the U.S. during the height of mandates.
- For speaking against Trump / Charlie Kirk particularly: likely **tens to maybe low hundreds** of people (firings + suspensions + leaves) in recent incidents combined.

If you like, I can try to assemble a more systematic dataset (from news, court filings) to estimate with error bars. Do you want me to try?