

# navigator\*



Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

Communicating  
About Crisis

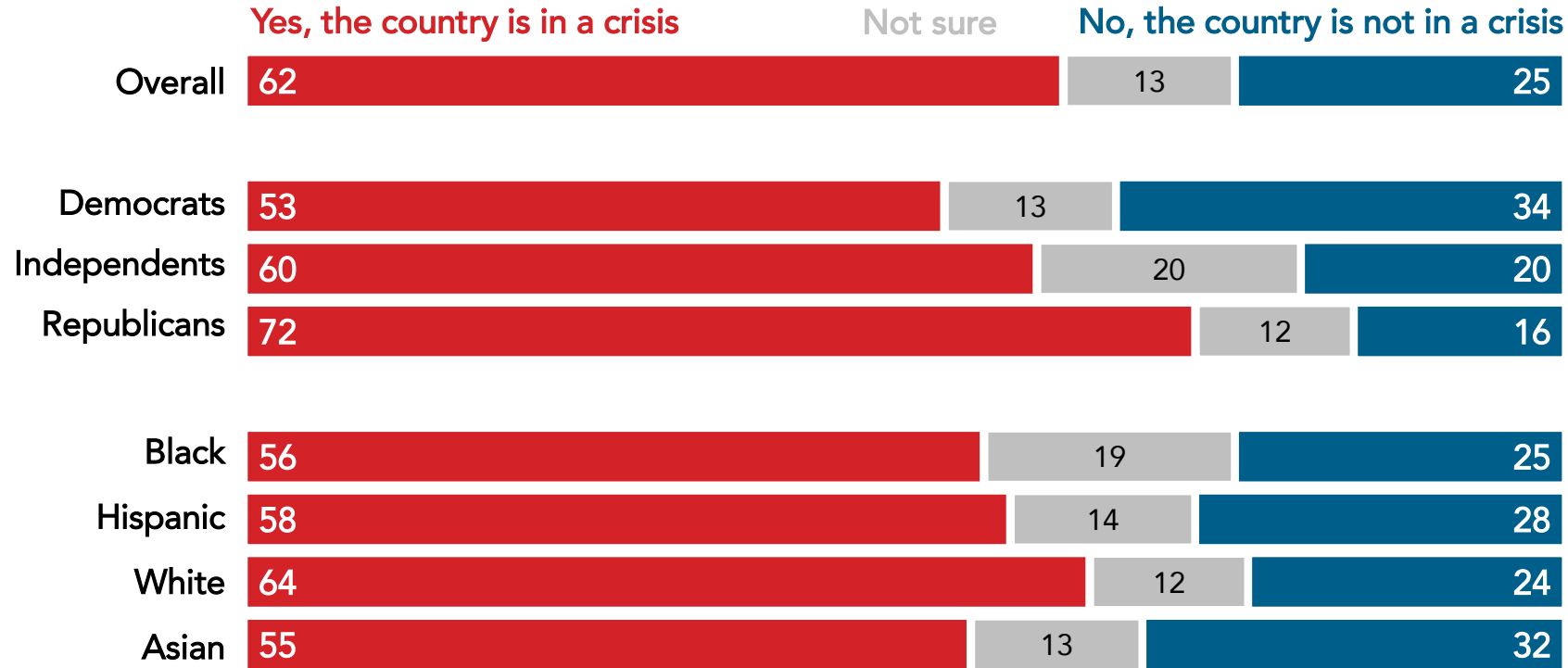
## Key Takeaways:

- While three in five say the country is in crisis, perceptions of why the country is in crisis varies largely by partisanship.
- Biden and Democrats are more trusted to combat the pandemic, address hate crimes, deal with crises generally, rebuild the economy, and reduce violent crime than Republicans.
- Americans see gas prices increasing and are concerned about inflation but are convinced by arguments that these are signs of the economy returning to normal.

# Three in Five Say the Country Is in Crisis, But Americans Have Very Different Perceptions of Why

Democrats (53% "country is in a crisis") are less likely to say the country is in a state of crisis than independents (60%) or Republicans (72%).

Generally speaking, do you think the country is in a state of crisis right now or not?



Top-cited crisis (open end)

Dem: The pandemic

Ind: The pandemic & the economy

Rep: The southern border

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 24-June 28, 2021. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Perceptions of Crisis in the Country Vary Greatly By Partisanship

Among those who believe the country is in crisis, Democrats point to the pandemic, the number of unvaccinated Americans, the economy, and racism, while Republicans point to the border, illegal immigration, and rising prices.

- The greatest concerns among independents are the pandemic, the economy, and the border.

**[If believe country is in crisis] In a few words, why do you believe the country is in a state of crisis right now?**

## Democrats



## Independents



## Republicans



“Because we **cannot get past the coronavirus situation.**”

“**Variants** of coronavirus are spreading and most people are **not partially vaccinated.**”

“**Coronavirus.** But we are getting better.”

“The **coronavirus** has wreaked the world as well as the **economy.**”

“Still in crisis because of **coronavirus** and life getting back to normal.”

“**Border security.**”

“The **border crisis...**[Biden’s] spending plan will **destroy our economy.**”

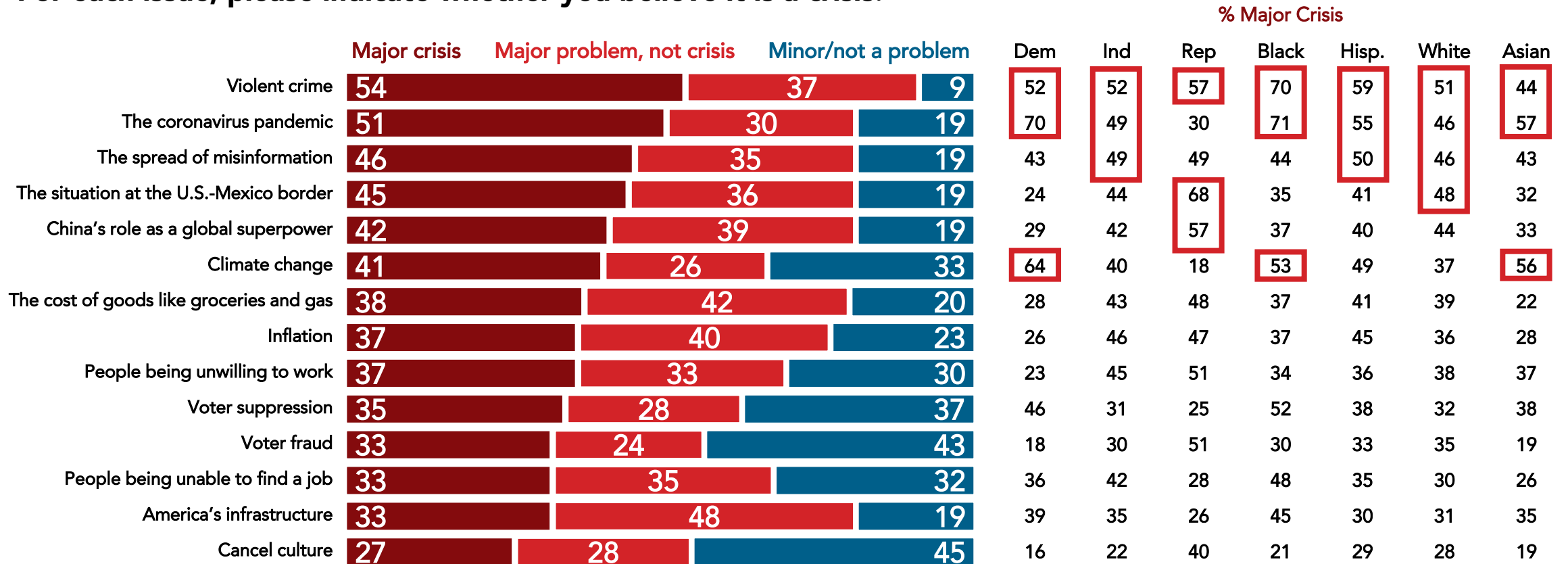
“The **gas prices are on the rise**, the **border is too open** and anyone can get across.”

“**High prices**, increased **crime**, insecure **borders.**”

# Violent Crime and the Pandemic Are Seen As Top Crises

For Democrats, Black Americans, and Asian Americans, violent crime, the pandemic, and climate change are top crises; for Republicans, violent crime, the border, and China's rise as a global superpower are top crises.

For each issue, please indicate whether you believe it is a crisis.



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# Despite Concerns on Crime, Economy and the Pandemic Remain Issues Americans Most Want Biden and Congress to Focus on

Despite crime being seen as a crisis, voters still prioritize the economy and the pandemic as top issues for Biden and Congress to be working on.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for President Joe Biden and Congress to focus on.

		Dem	Ind	Rep
Jobs and the economy	44%	37	40	52
The coronavirus pandemic	34	47	32	21
Wages and the cost of living	27	29	32	23
Immigration	26	12	24	41
Health care	24	32	28	14
Corruption in government	21	12	25	29
National security	21	11	17	32
Social Security and Medicare	18	19	22	16
Violent crime	18	14	18	22
The federal budget deficit	17	7	19	28
Climate change/extreme weather	17	28	17	5
Infrastructure	16	21	14	11

Which of these issues do you feel President Joe Biden and Congress are most focused on?

		Dem	Ind	Rep
The coronavirus pandemic	48%	58	51	36
Infrastructure	33	38	22	32
Jobs and the economy	26	40	29	11
Race relations	23	17	20	31
Climate change/extreme weather	22	16	16	30
Guns	21	13	19	31
Voting rights	21	21	17	21
Immigration	20	17	25	22
Wages and the cost of living	14	18	11	11
Police reform	14	10	11	19
Taxes	13	12	12	15
Health care	11	16	10	7

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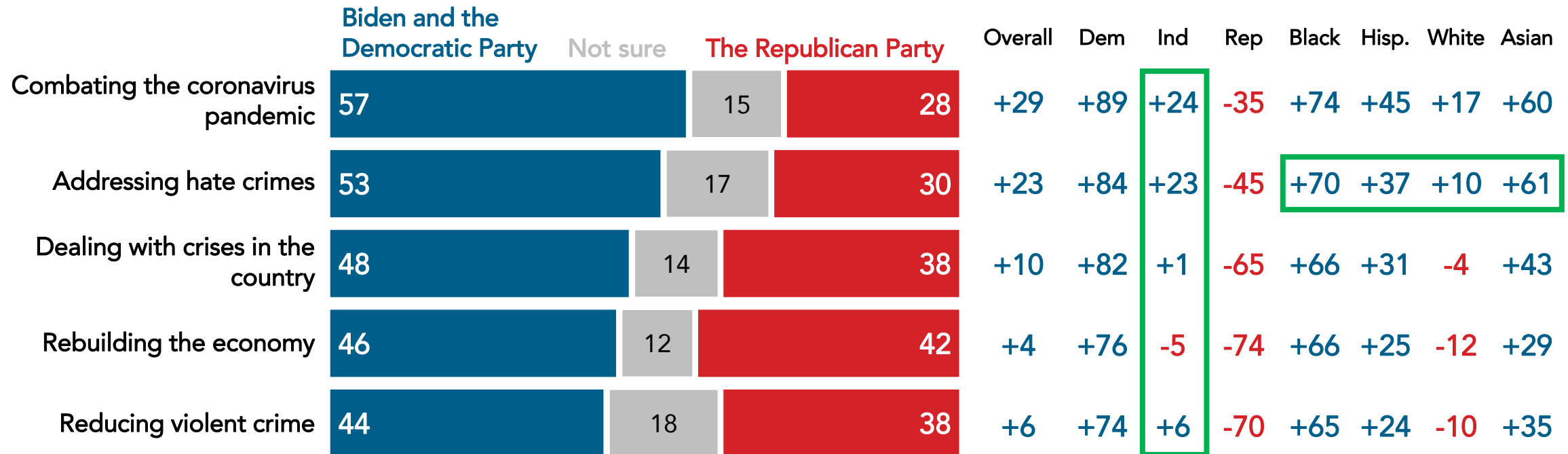
# Biden and Democrats More Trusted Than Republicans to Handle Pandemic, Hate Crimes, Crises, Economy, and Violent Crime

Among independents, Biden and Democrats hold a 24-point lead on the pandemic, a 23-point lead on addressing hate crimes, a 1-point lead on dealing with crises, and a 6-point lead on violent crime.

- Across racial groups, Biden and Democrats are more trusted to handle hate crimes, including by 70 points among Black Americans, 37 points among Hispanic Americans, and 61 points among Asian Americans.

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle:

Net Biden and the Democratic Party



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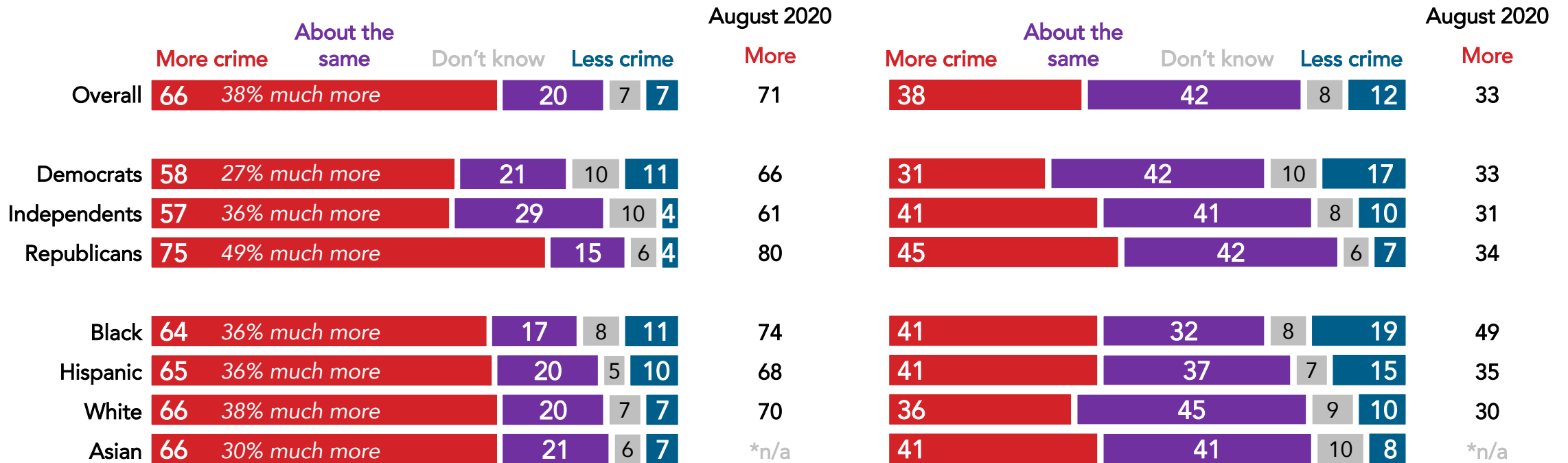
# Perception of Rising Crime Is Far More National Than Local

Two in three Americans say there is more crime in the United States than there was a year ago, but just over a third say the same of their local community.

- In August, 71% said there was more crime nationally, and 33% said there was more in their community.

**Based on what you know, is there more or less crime in the United States than there was a year ago?**

**Based on what you know, is there more or less crime in your local community than there was a year ago?**



\*Previous survey's sample size of AAPI interviews is too small for statistical analysis. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 24-June 28, 2021. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)



# Americans Hearing About Shootings, Theft, and Drugs Locally; Murder, Mass Shootings, and Hate Crimes Nationally

When asked to describe what kinds of crimes they are hearing about locally, many mention shootings, robberies and petty theft, and murder. When asked the same about the country at large, Americans report hearing about mass shootings and shootings more generally, hate crimes, and violence and murder.

What type of crimes have you heard about in the U.S.?

What type of crimes have you heard about in your local community?

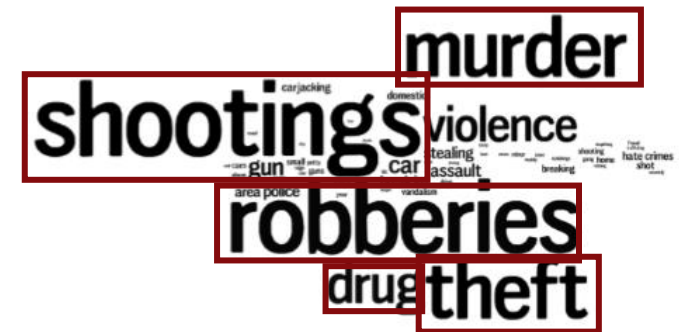


*"Asian hate crimes all over the U.S."*

*"Gun violence every weekend and hate crimes."*

*"Mass shootings, murders."*

*"Shootings, robberies, attacks against citizens."*



*"Robbery, shootings."*

*"Crimes in my local community are thefts, shootings."*

*"Shootings and violence and murder."*

*"Robbing people and shootings."*

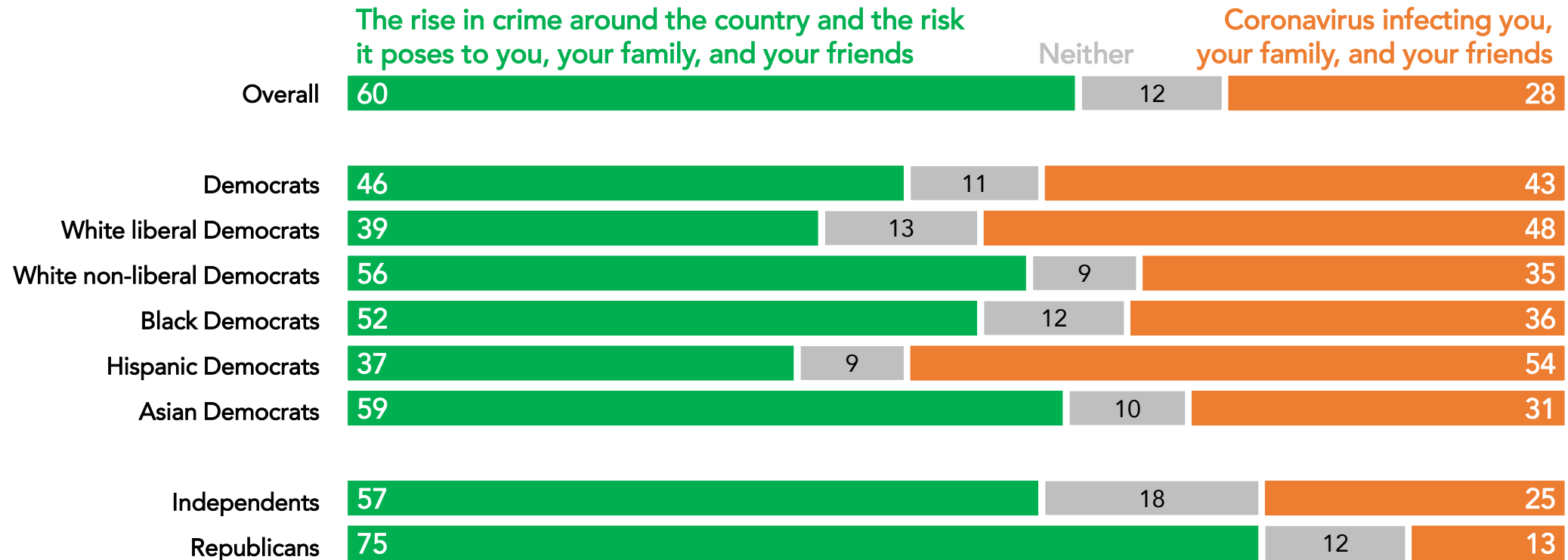
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 24-June 28, 2021.  
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# Concerns About Crime Now Outweigh Pandemic Concerns

Independents and Republicans are notably more concerned about the risk that crime poses than the pandemic, while Democrats are more split.

- White liberal Democrats (48%) and Hispanic Democrats (54%) are more concerned about the pandemic, while white non-liberal (56%), Black (52%), and Asian (59%) Democrats are all more concerned about crime.

Which of the following concerns you more?



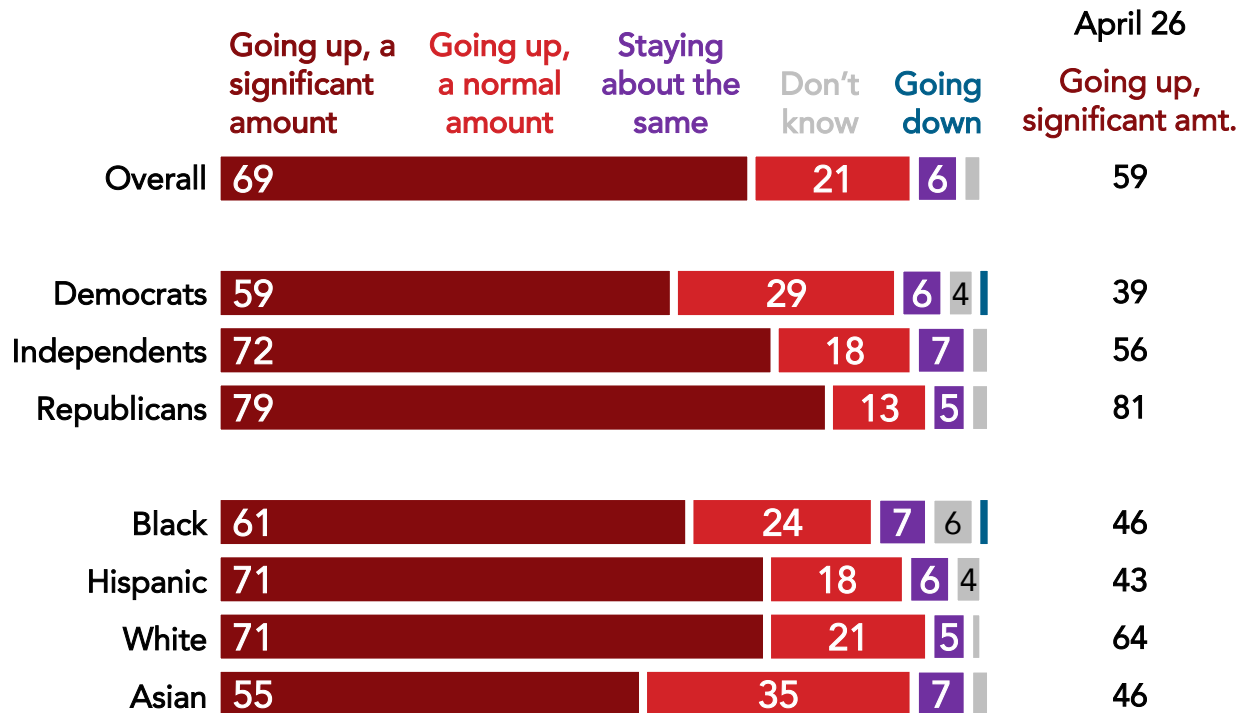
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# Gas Prices Are Seen as Rising, With Most Blame Going to Recent Disruptions in the Supply Chain

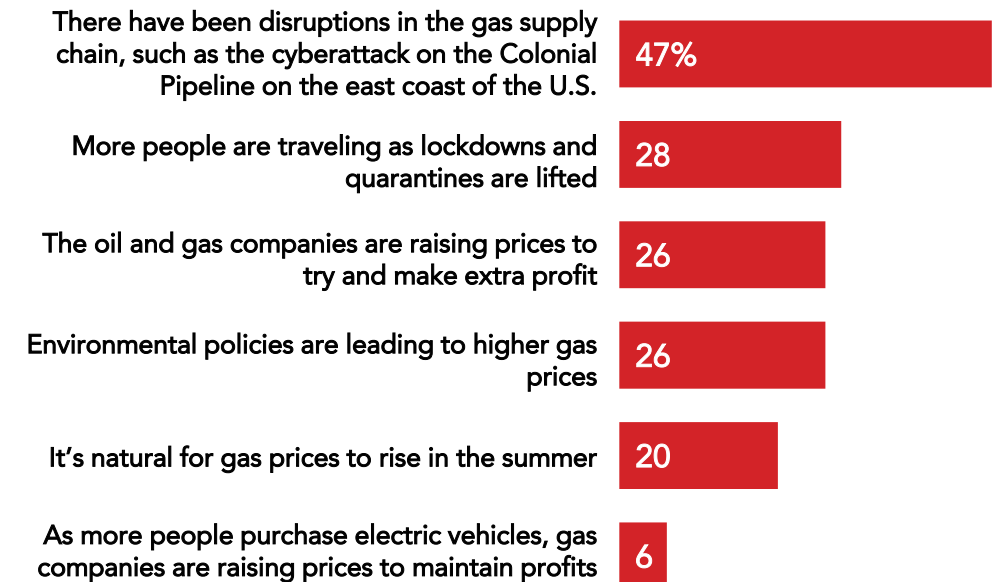
Among the 90% who say gas prices are increasing, 47% blame recent disruptions like the Colonial Pipeline cyberattack, followed by recent travel, oil and gas companies, and environmental policies.

- Since April, the share who say gas prices are going up significantly has increased 10 points (from 59% to 69%).

Does it seem like gas prices are:



[If believes gas prices are going up] What do you think is most responsible for the rising price of gas?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 24-June 28, 2021. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

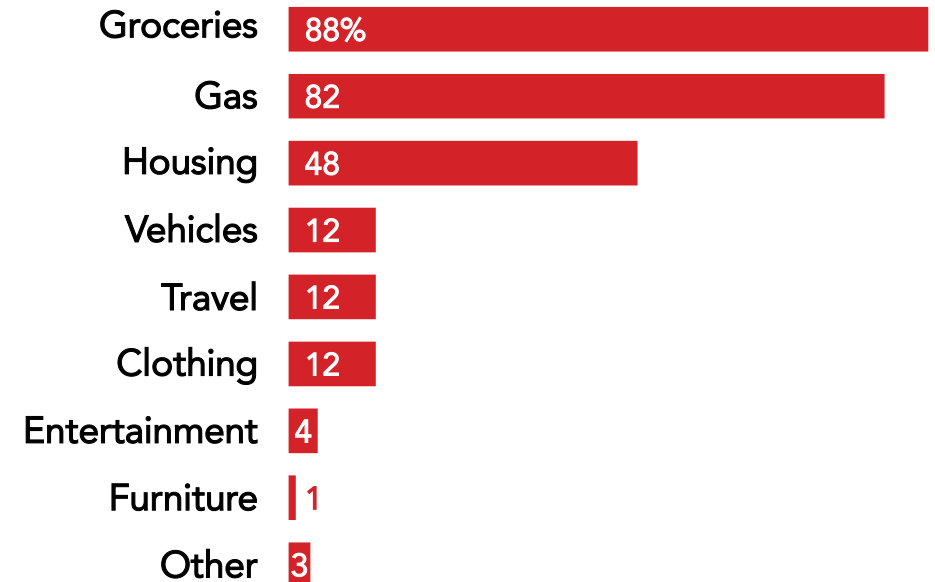
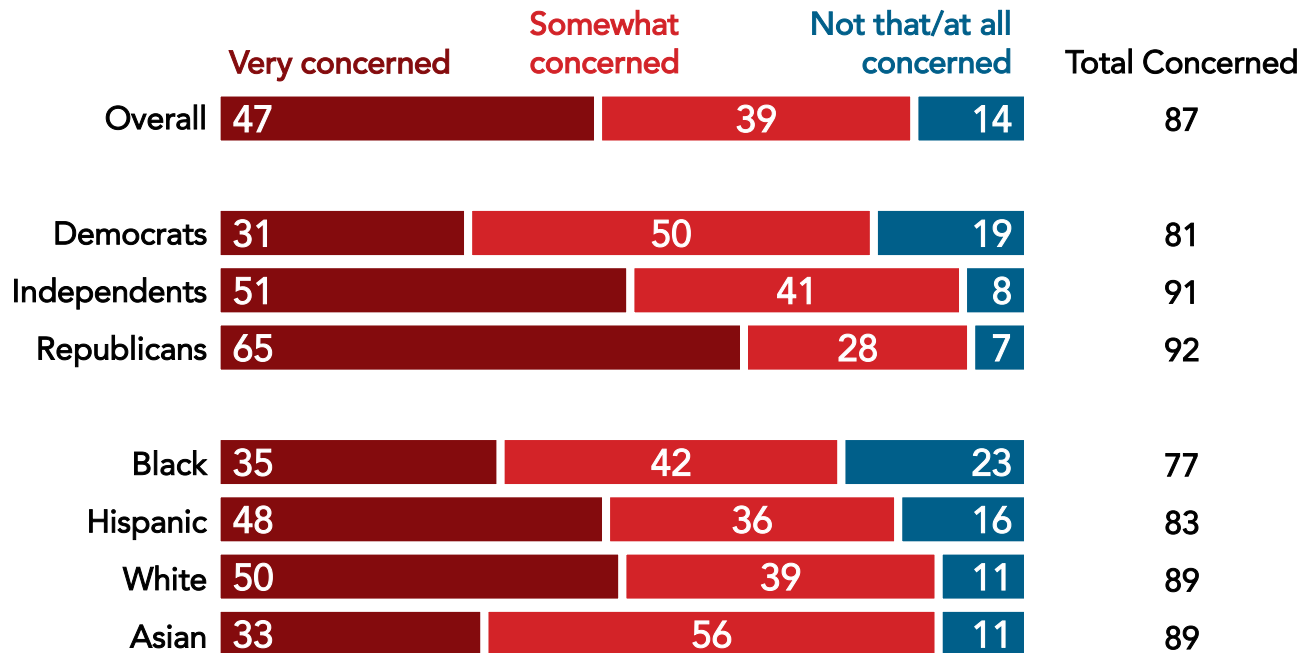
# Four in Five Are Concerned Inflation Will Climb, and Groceries and Gas Raise the Most Concerns on Price

Nine in ten are concerned inflation will climb, and they are most concerned about the price of groceries and gas.

- Out of the share who are concerned about inflation, 88% say groceries and 82% say gas are the items they are most concerned about. Almost half (48%) say they are concerned most about housing costs.

**How concerned are you that the rate of inflation will climb in the coming months?**

**[If concerned about inflation] Which of the following items are you most concerned about prices rising?**

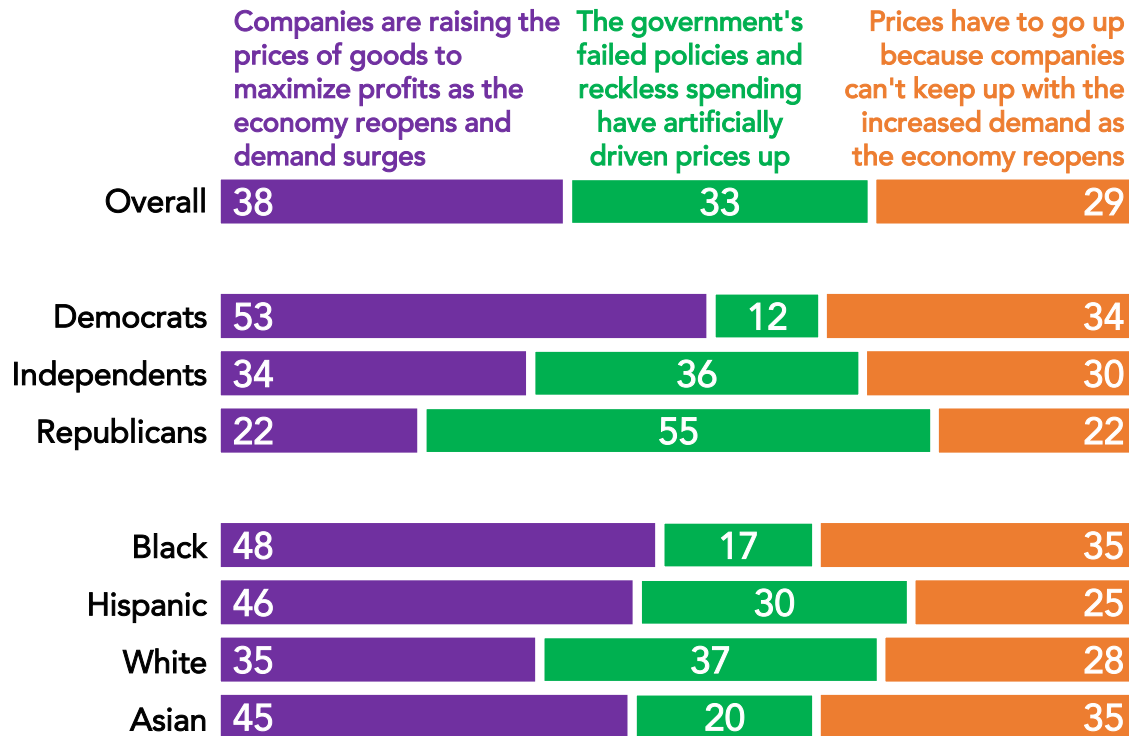


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# Most Americans Say Prices Rising Because of Profit Maximization and Increased Demand

A plurality say the price of goods is increasing in the United States because companies are maximizing profits, and a majority say prices are rising because of increased consumer demand rather than government spending.

Why do you think the price of goods is increasing in the United States?



Which of the following do you agree with more?

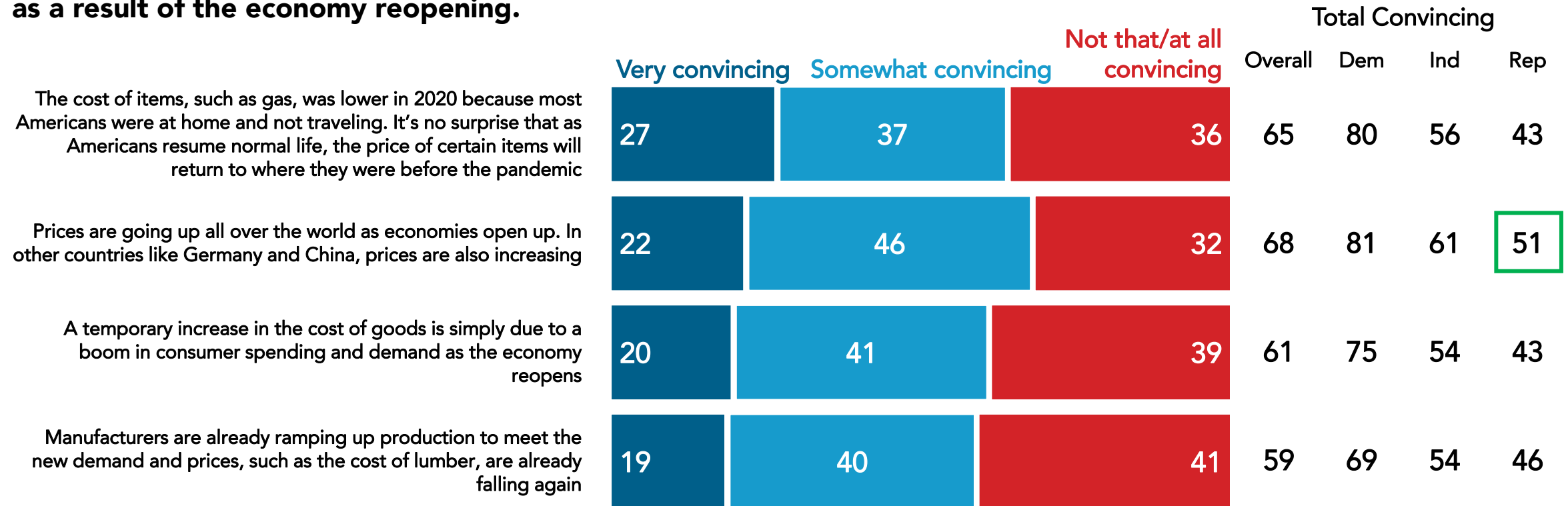


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# Americans Are Convinced By a Range of Inflation Messaging, Especially That Prices are Returning to Pre-Pandemic Levels

Three in five Americans find each of a range of messages convincing on inflation, including that costs are returning to pre-pandemic levels, that costs are going up globally, and that the increase is simply due to consumer demand.

Please indicate how convincing you find each statement from those who believe the price of goods is increasing as a result of the economy reopening.



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## About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Andrea Purse, progressive strategist; Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Joel Payne, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Delvone Michael, Working Families; Felicia Wong, Roosevelt Institute; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

## About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from June 24-June 28, 2021. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 71 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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