# navigator* 

Tuesday, March $1^{\text {st }}$

Economy: A Guide for Advocates

## Key Takeaways:

- In spite of record job growth, more people believe jobs have been lost than have been created in the last year.
- However, most Americans find statements about low unemployment rates and job creation statistics to be the most credible, the most likely to benefit their communities, and the best indicators of economic recovery.
- While just half of Americans are hearing about Biden and Democrats' new economic plan, a majority support it.


## Personal Financial Situation Seen as Far Better Than State of Overall Economy

On a separate question, a majority say they feel the economy is getting worse ( $55 \%$ ), while just $20 \%$ say it is staying the same, and $19 \%$ say the economy is getting better.

How would you rate the state of the U.S. economy today?


Thinking about your personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?

| Very confident | Somewhat t confident | Not sure | Uneasy | Uneasy Feb. 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 | 30 |  | 55 | 54 |
| 17 | 37 |  | 43 | 41 |
| 9 | 21 8 |  | 62 | 61 |
| 8 | 23 |  | 67 | 66 |
| 18 | 39 |  | 40 | 41 |
| 13 | 29 |  | 53 | 47 |
| 11 | 28 |  | 58 | 57 |
| 14 | 39 |  | 45 | 53 |

## Pluralities Say the U.S. Has Experienced More Job Loss Than Job Creation in Last Year

Nearly half of economically persuadable Americans* (48\%) say that more jobs were lost than created last year.

When it comes to the U.S. economy over the last 12 months, do you think that the country is...


When it comes to the U.S. economy over the last 12 months, which of the follow statements do you think is most accurate?

[^0]| More jobs <br> created last year | Don't know | More jobs lost <br> last year |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 28 | 21 |  |



| 30 | 22 |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 28 | 18 | 31 |
| 28 | 22 | 39 |
| 28 | 16 | 37 |48

## Unemployment Rate, Job Creation, \& Economic Growth Seen as Most Likely To Help Community, Credible, Indicators of Recovery

Across three metrics - helpfulness to people in their community, credibility, and indication of the economy improving - low unemployment rates, job creation, and economic growth are strongest overall.
For each statement from some who say the economy is getting better in the U.S., please indicate whether you believe each...

|  | Will help people in my community | Will not help people in my community | Is credible | Is not credible | Is a good indicator economy is getting better | Is a bad indicator economy is getting better |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The unemployment rate fell from $6.2 \%$ to $3.9 \%$ in 2021 | 69 | 31 | 57 | 43 | 49 | 51 |
| More than 6 million jobs were created last year, the largest number of any year on record | 68 | 32 | 54 | 46 | 54 | 46 |
| For the first time ever, the U.S. created 7 million jobs in 12 months | 68 | 32 | 52 | 48 | 51 | 49 |
| Since Biden took office, 1.36 million small business jobs have been created | 66 | 34 | 53 | 47 | 48 | 52 |
| Last year, the U.S. economy (GDP) grew $5.7 \%$, which is the highest rate of growth in almost 40 years | 64 | 36 | 55 | 45 | 47 | 53 |
| For the first time in 20 years, the U.S. economy has grown faster than China's | 60 | 40 | 47 | 53 | 49 | 51 |

]Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted February 17-February 22, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
navigator.

## Americans Report Financial and Political Stresses as Top in the Last Couple of Years

For Democrats, top stresses have been political, pandemic-related health stresses, and global stresses; for Republicans, it has been financial and political.

Below is a list of different stresses people may have experienced and dealt with. For each, please indicate how stressful each item has been for you over the last couple of years.


|  | Total Stresful <br> Total <br> Dem |  | Ind |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 70 | 69 | Rep |  |
|  | 78 | 69 |  |
| 72 | 71 | 63 | 76 |
| 63 | 66 | 65 | 59 |
| 64 | 71 | 65 | 56 |
| 55 | 56 | 63 | 52 |
| 61 | 56 | 62 | 66 |
| 62 | 75 | 58 | 49 |
| 53 | 48 | 62 | 55 |
| 59 | 61 | 59 | 55 |
| 46 | 47 | 44 | 45 |

[^1]
## Young Americans, Parents, Democrats, Vaccinated, and Those With Underlying Health Issues Most Stressed on Health

On pandemic-related health stresses, younger Americans, parents, Democrats, vaccinated Americans, and those with underlying health conditions have been most stressed; on overall mental health, younger Americans, parents, and Democrats stand out.
For each item, please indicate how stressful it has been for you over the last couple of years.


[^2] Latest wave conducted February 17-February 22, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
navigator.

## Just Over Half of Americans Are Hearing About Biden and Democrats' New Economic Plan

Just 40\% of independents and 47\% of economically persuadable Americans* report hearing about the new economic legislation proposed by Biden and Democrats in Congress.
How much have you seen, read, or heard about new economic legislation proposed by President Biden and being negotiated by Democrats in Congress?

|  | A lot | Some | Not much/None at all | Total A lot/Some |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall | 16 | 38 | 46 | 54 |
| Democrats | 18 | 41 | 40 | 59 |
| Independents | 8 | 32 | 61 | 40 |
| Republicans | 16 | 35 | 48 | 52 |
| Black | 15 | 36 | 49 | 51 |
| Hispanic | 15 | 42 | 43 | 57 |
| White | 17 | 37 | 46 | 54 |
| AAPI | 15 | 40 | 45 | 55 |
| Econ. Persuadable* | 9 | 38 | 53 | 47 |

## Majorities Support Biden and Democrats' New Economic Plan

When including the $\$ 1.75$ trillion price tag, as well as universal pre-K, Medicare covering hearing, and lower drug prices, 60\% support, including $86 \%$ of Democrats and $50 \%$ of independents. Dropping the price tag and universal pre-K, while adding in clean energy, drives support up to $66 \%$, including $89 \%$ of Democrats, $59 \%$ of independents, and $42 \%$ of Republicans.
(Split sample) As you may know, Biden and Democrats' new economic plan is expected to cost $\$ 1.75$ trillion and will establish a universal pre-K program, expand Medicare for seniors to include hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this new economic plan?

(Split sample) As you may know, Biden and Democrats' new economic plan will expand Medicare for seniors to include hearing coverage, lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this new economic plan?


## Nearly a Quarter of Americans Are Economically Persuadable, Disapproving of Biden on Economy But Supporting BBB

With one in four Americans being economically persuadable, those that are especially likely to be in this group include moms (37\%), not very conservative Republicans ( $35 \%$ ), and non-Fox News Republicans ( $35 \%$ ). Other groups like to be economically persuadable include white women and women under 55 years old, service industry workers, rural Americans, and independents.

| I | Economically Persuadable Audience: |
| :---: | :---: |
| I |  |
| 1 | Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden |
| I |  |
| I |  |
| 1 | (Split sample) As you may know, Biden and |
| 1 | Democrats' new economic plan is expected to cost |
| I | \$1.75 trillion and will establish a universal pre-K |
| I | program, expand Medicare for seniors to include |
| I | hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by |
| I | allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. |
| I | Knowing this, do you support or oppose this new |
| I | economic plan? Support OR (Split sample) As you may |
| I | know, Biden and Democrats' new economic plan will |
| 1 | expand Medicare for seniors to include hearing |
| I | coverage, lower health care costs by allowing |
| 1 | Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, and invest |
| I | in clean energy like wind and solar power. Knowing |
| I | this, do you support or oppose this new economic |
| I | plan? Support |
|  |  |

## Overall 24\%

## Moms 37

Not very conservative Republicans 35
Non-Fox News Republicans 35
White women 31

$$
\text { Women <55 } 30
$$

Service industry 30

| Rural | 30 |
| ---: | ---: |
| Independents | 30 |

[^3]For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org

## When Sharing How the Economic Plan Will Be Paid for, Nearly Two in Three Americans Support It

A majority of independents support the plan when describing how it will be paid for (58\%), as do nearly two in five Republicans (38\%).
Biden and Democrats' new economic plan would be paid for by increasing taxes on billionaires and multi-millionaires with income over $\$ 10$ million, creating a minimum 15\% tax on corporate profits, adding an additional $1 \%$ tax on corporations that use profits to buy back their own stock, and cracking down on tax evasion. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this legislation?


[^4] Latest wave conducted February 17-February 22, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

## Majorities Support Biden Administration Initiative to Crack Down on Rising Meat Prices

Over half of independents (55\%) and a plurality of Republicans (47\%) support the Biden administration's plan to invest in independent meat and poultry processors to reduce prices.

As you may know, the Biden administration announced that it would crack down on rising meat prices by investing $\$ 1$ billion in independent meat and poultry processors, giving farmers and ranchers more options than the four companies controlling most of the meat processing market. Do you support or oppose this action taken by the Biden administration?

|  | Support |  | Not sure |  |  |  | Oppose |  | Net Support |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall | 66 |  |  | 12 |  |  |  | 22 | +44 |
| Democrats | 86 |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 7 | +79 |
| Independents | 55 |  | 21 |  |  |  |  | 24 | +31 |
| Republicans | 47 | 14 |  |  |  |  |  | 39 | +8 |
| Black | 77 |  |  |  |  | 13 |  | 10 | +67 |
| Hispanic | 73 |  |  |  | 10 |  |  | 17 | +56 |
| White | 62 |  | 12 |  |  |  |  | 26 | +36 |
| AAPI | 77 |  |  |  |  | 8 |  | 15 | +62 |

## Four in Five Continue to Say Grocery Costs Are Going Up While There Is a Major Uptick in Perceived Gas Price Increases

While a consistent 78\% of Americans feel the price of groceries are "going up significantly," there has been an 11-point increase in the share who say the price of gas is "going up a lot" since early February (from $66 \%$ to $77 \%$ ).

When it comes to the costs of everyday goods like groceries, do you think costs are:

|  | Going up Going up a normal significantly amount | Staying about the same | DK | Going down | Going up, significantly Feb. 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall | 78 |  | 13 | 6 | 77 |
| Democrats | 70 |  | 20 | 7 | 71 |
| Independents | 78 |  | 10 | 47 \| | 76 |
| Republicans | 87 |  |  | 64 | 84 |
| Black | 68 |  | 19 | 9 | 67 |
| Hispanic | 68 |  | 19 | 8 \| | 66 |
| White | 81 |  |  | 05 | 81 |
| AAPI | 74 |  | 21 | [\| | 77 |

Do you feel the price of gas is going up?

| Going up a lot | Going up somewhat | Not going up | Going up a lot Feb. 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 77 |  | 20 \| | 66 |
| 67 |  | $29 \quad 4$ | 55 |
| 77 |  | 195 | 69 |
| 87 |  | 11 | 77 |
| 69 |  | 27 4 | 58 |
| 65 |  | $27 \quad 7$ | 69 |
| 80 |  | 18 \| | 66 |
| 76 |  | 195 | 68 |

## At Least Four in Five Find a Range of Messaging About Large Corporations Raising Costs and Causing Inflation Concerning

Among independents and economically persuadable Americans*, more than four in five find each message concerning - whether each focuses on large corporations bragging about record profits, artificially increasing the cost of goods, or lining their pockets.

Below is a list of statements some have made about rising prices in the United States. Please indicate how concerning you find each to be.

|  |  | Somewhat concerning | Not concerning | Total Concerning |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very concerning |  |  | Overall | Dem | Ind | Rep | Black | Hisp. | White | AAPI | Econ. Pers.* |
| Large corporations are bragging about passing rising costs to consumers to make record profits | 52 | 33 | 15 | 85 | 93 | 84 | 77 | 89 | 84 | 85 | 88 | 90 |
| Large corporations are driving inflation by using the pandemic as an excuse to artificially increase costs of goods | 51 | 34 | 15 | 85 | 93 | 83 | 76 | 89 | 86 | 83 | 88 | 90 |
| Large corporations are taking record profits to buy back stock to line the pockets of their shareholders at the expense of consumers | 49 | 33 | 18 | 82 | 90 | 80 | 74 | 85 | 86 | 82 | 73 | 86 |

## The Strongest Rebuttal to Republican Criticisms of Spending and the Economy Focus on Biden's New Economic Plan's Policies

When testing a range of messages against a conservative criticism that Biden and Democrats are failing on the economy and government spending, the message that puts progressives in the lead focuses on policies in Biden's new economic plan.

## Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 6: Democrats who say they are working to make sure families can keep up with rising costs by letting Medicare negotiate lower prescription drug prices, lowering health insurance premiums, and reducing utility bills

$$
\begin{array}{rc}
\text { Statement 4: } & 47 \% \\
\text { Statement 6: } & 53 \% \\
\text { Net Statement 6: } & +6
\end{array}
$$



Nationwide survey of 1,395 registered voters conducted February 17-February 22, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org.

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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: Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Joel Payne, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; 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.

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http://navigatorresearch.org
@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter

## About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,395 registered voters from February 17-February 22, 2022. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 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.


[^0]:    For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org.

[^1]:    Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted February 17-February 22, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

[^2]:    Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.

[^3]:    *"Economically persuadable Americans" are those who disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy, but support new economic legislation on separate questions. Nationwide survey of 1,395 registered voters conducted February 17-February 22, 2022

[^4]:    Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.

