

navigator*

Wednesday, June 1st

Economy: A Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

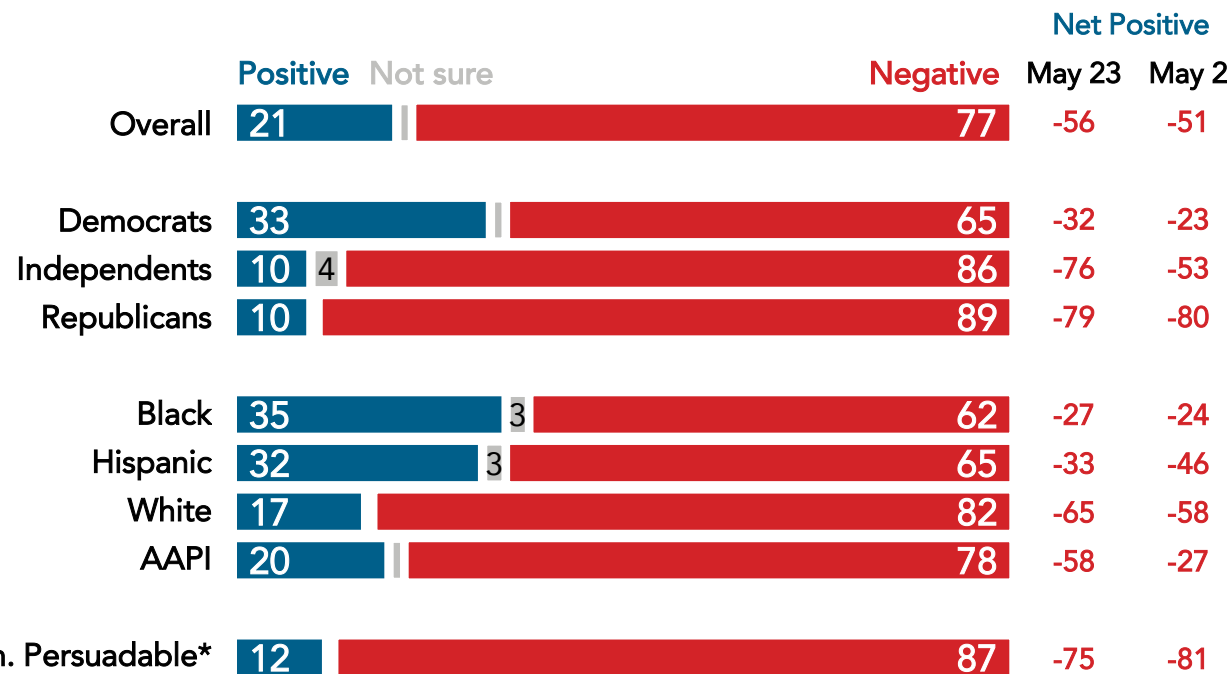
- The vast majority of Americans remain pessimistic about the national economy, while unease about their personal financial situation has hit an all-time high since the beginning of Biden's presidency.
- Growing majorities of Americans show concerns about inflation broadly and feel the costs of gas and groceries have increased "significantly" or "a lot" recently.
- An overwhelming and growing majority of Americans blame inflation on corporations being greedy and raising prices to make record profits.

Americans Are the Most Pessimistic They Have Been About Their Personal Finances Since Biden Took Office

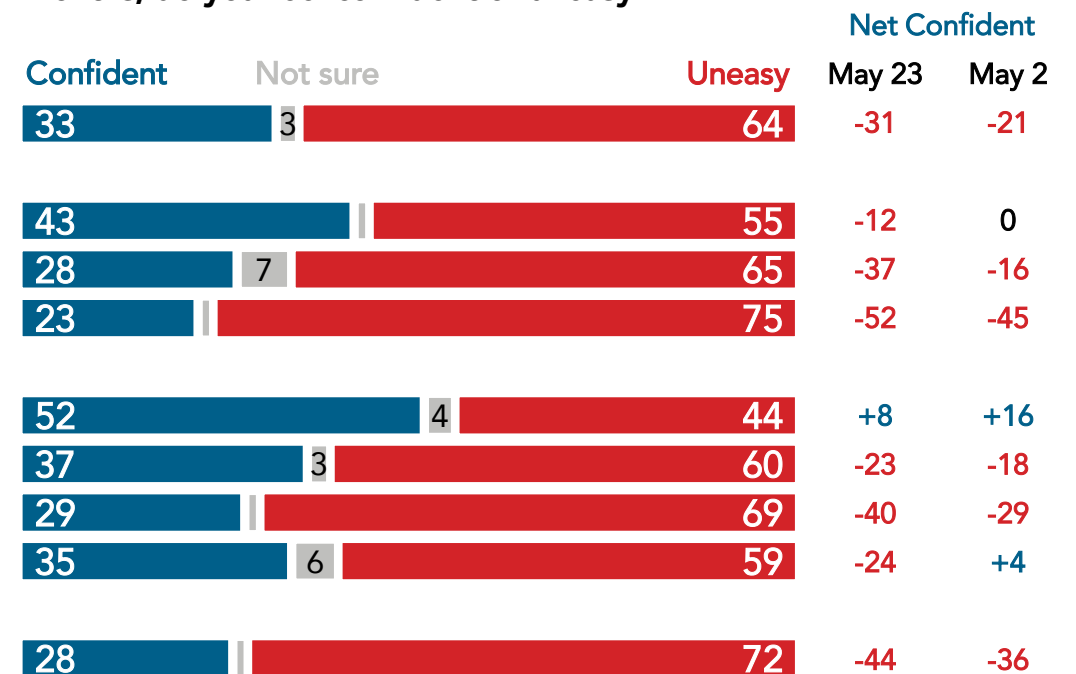
Nearly two in three (64%) say they are uneasy about their personal financial situation, the highest share since Biden's inauguration.

- Nearly nine in ten independents (86%) rate the state of the U.S. economy negatively, and two in three (65%) feel uneasy about their personal financial situation over the next few months.

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?

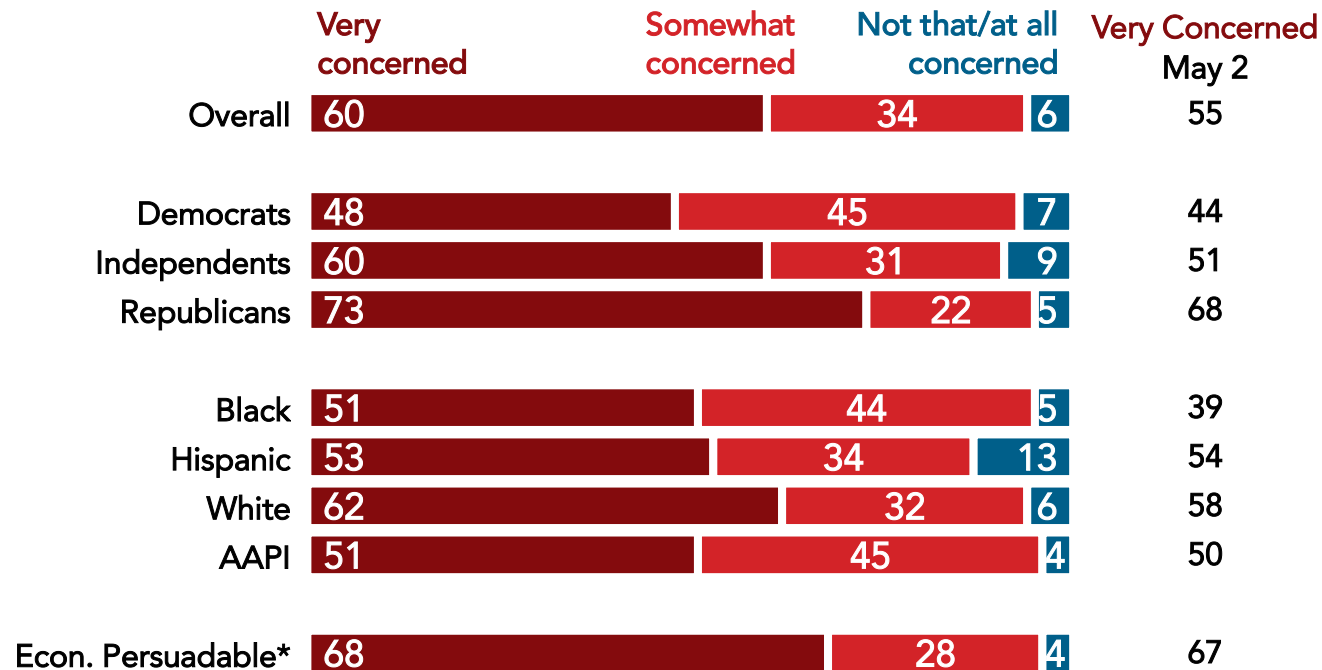


*"Economically persuadable Americans" are those who disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy, but support new economic legislation on separate questions. This data is from a survey conducted entirely before the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 24th, 2022. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 19-23, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

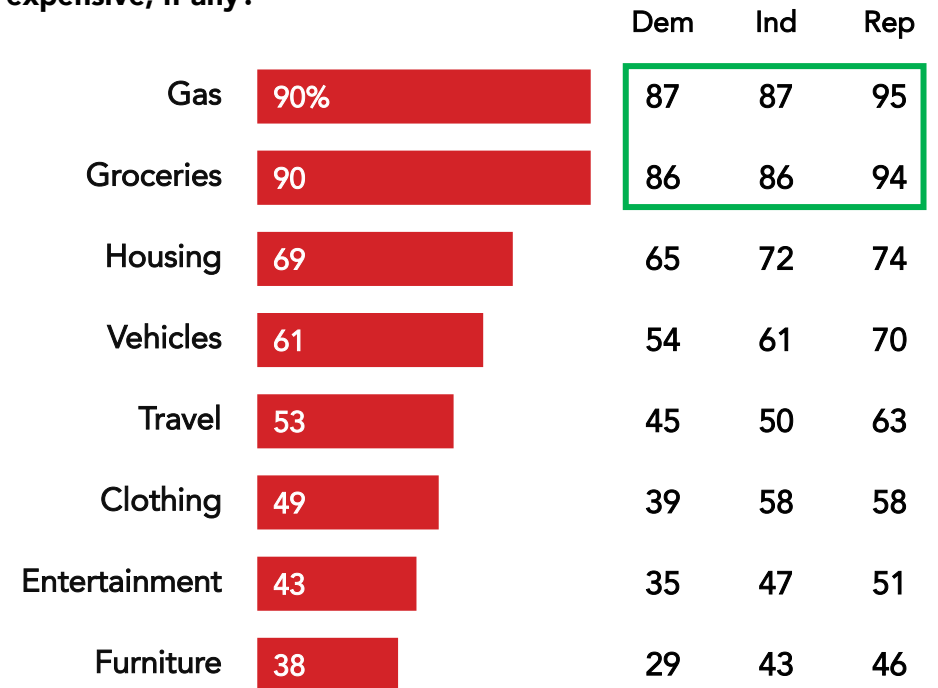
A Growing Majority Are “Very Concerned” About Inflation and See Range of Items Getting More Expensive

Since May 2nd, there has been a 5-point increase in the share who say they are “very concerned” about inflation, with the greatest increase coming from independents (9-point increase, from 51% to 60%).

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



Which of the following items do you think are getting more expensive, if any?

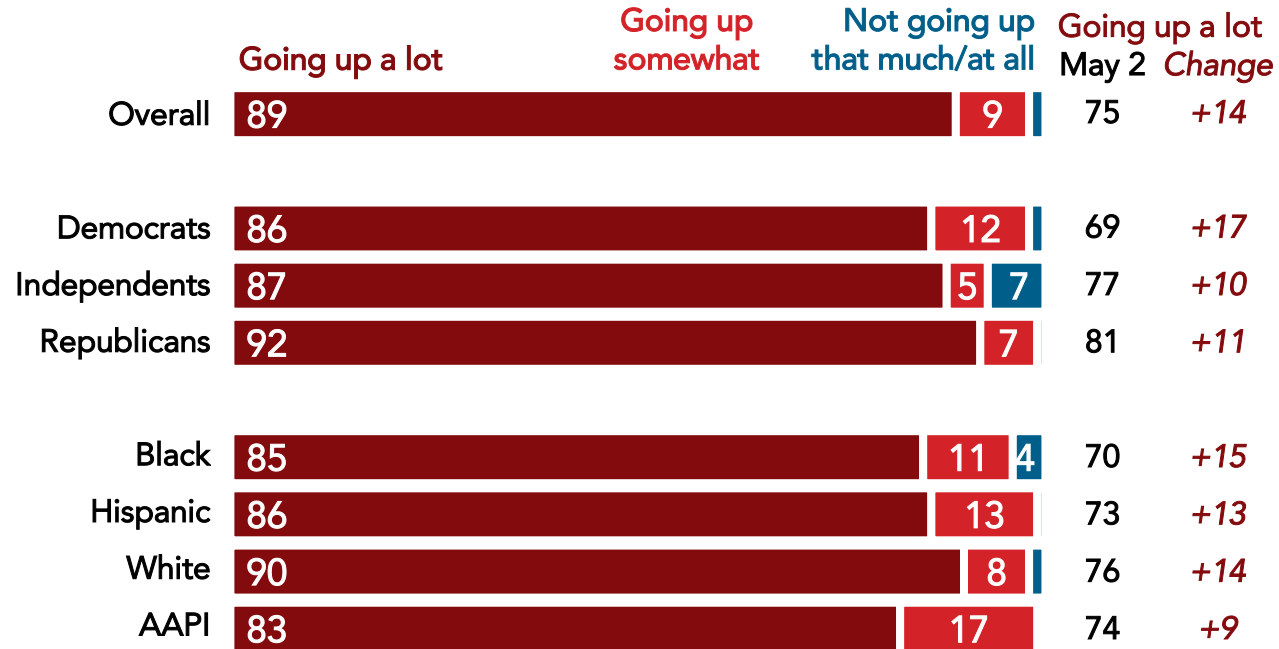


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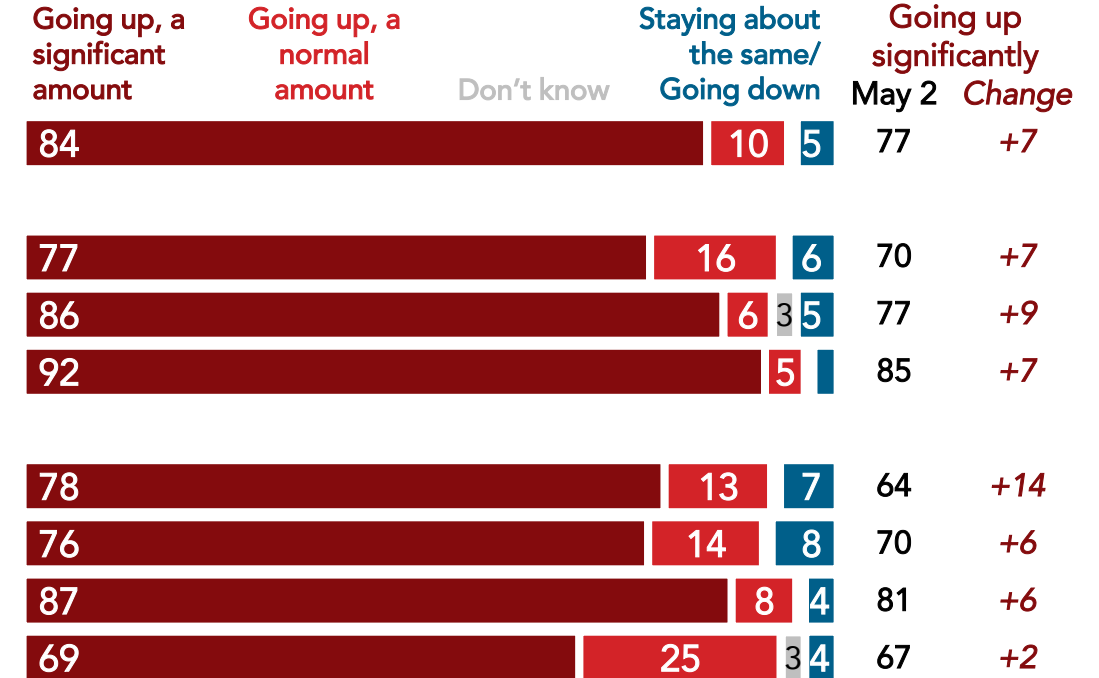
Intensity of Feelings that Gas and Groceries Are Increasing in Price Is Universal and Growing

Since early May, there has been a 14-point increase in the share who say the price of gas is going up “a lot” (from 75% to 89%) and a 7-point increase in the share who say the cost of groceries is going up “significantly” (from 77% to 84%).

Do you feel the price of gas is going up?



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



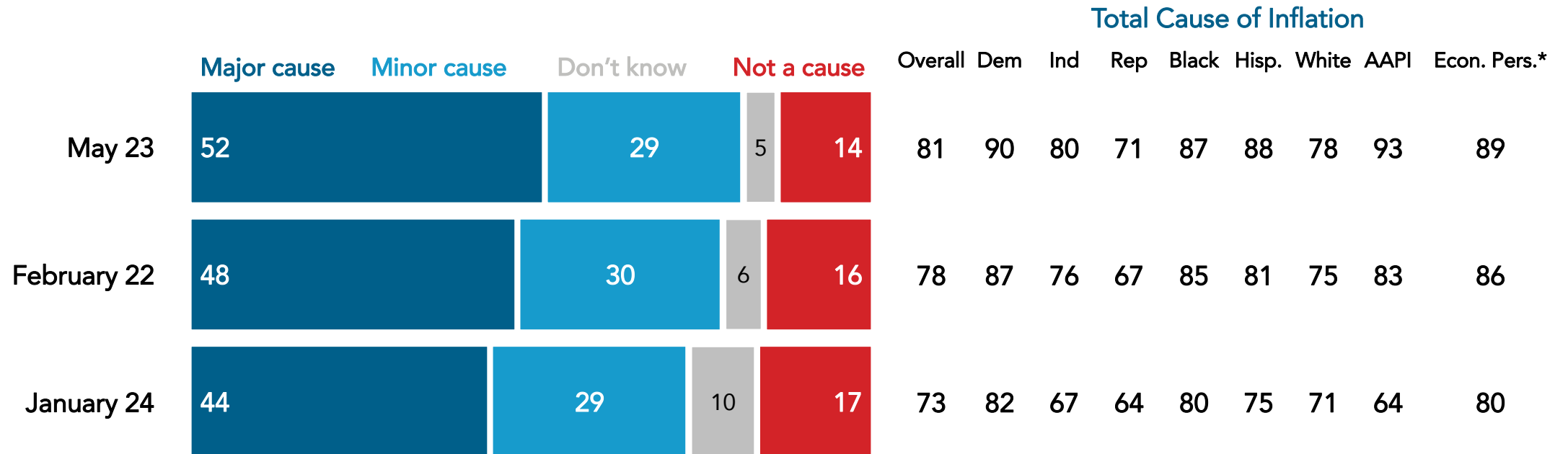
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Americans Increasingly See Corporations Being Greedy and Raising Prices to Make Record Profits as a Cause of Inflation

Since January, there has been an 8-point increase in the share who say corporate greed is a cause of inflation (from 73% to 81%).

- Increases in blame for greedy corporations have been universal: there has been a 7-point increase among Republicans (from 64% to 71%), a 13-point increase among independents (from 67% to 80%), and an 8-point increase among Democrats (from 82% to 90%).

For each one, please indicate whether you believe it is a cause of inflation: Corporations being greedy and raising prices to make record profits.



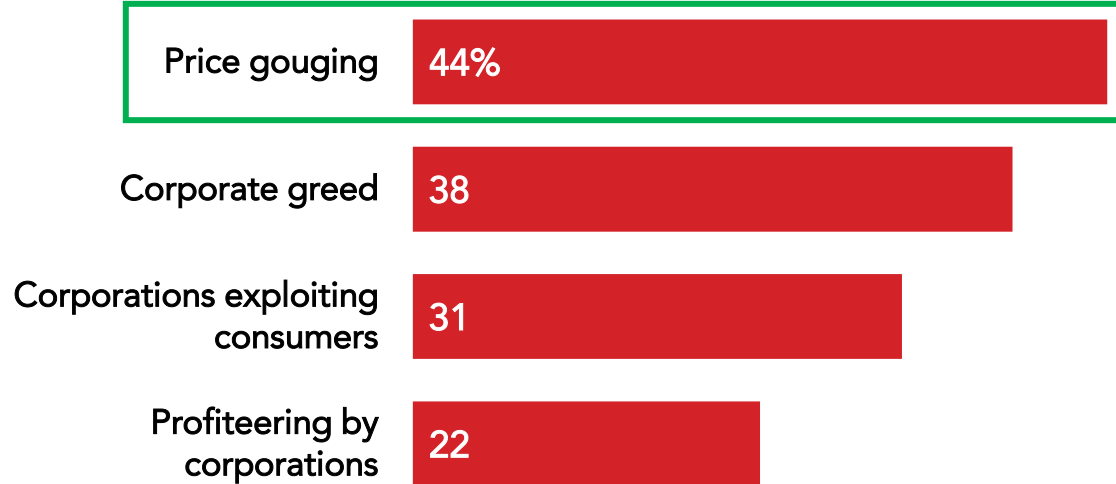
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On Oil and Gas, "Price Gouging" Is Most Descriptive, While on Big Pharma, "Corporate Greed" Is Strongest

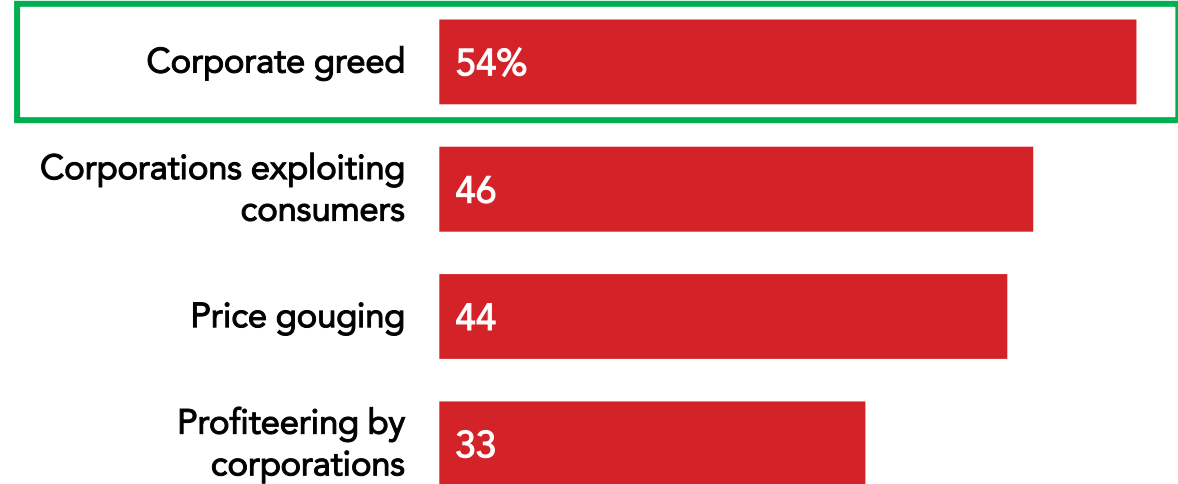
Two in five Americans say a statement about oil and gas companies making \$35 billion in profits while Americans pay more for gas is best described as "price gouging" (44%), while a majority describe pharmaceutical companies increasing revenue while Americans pay more for prescription drugs as "corporate greed" (54%).

- In both cases, language about corporate "profiteering" is least likely to resonate with Americans.

(Split sample) Which of the following two phrases best describe the following statement: *The top oil and gas companies made \$35 billion in profits in the first quarter of 2022 as Americans paid more at the pump.*



(Split sample) Which of the following two phrases best describe the following statement: *Big pharmaceutical companies grew their revenue by 16 percent since last year while Americans paid more for prescription drugs.*



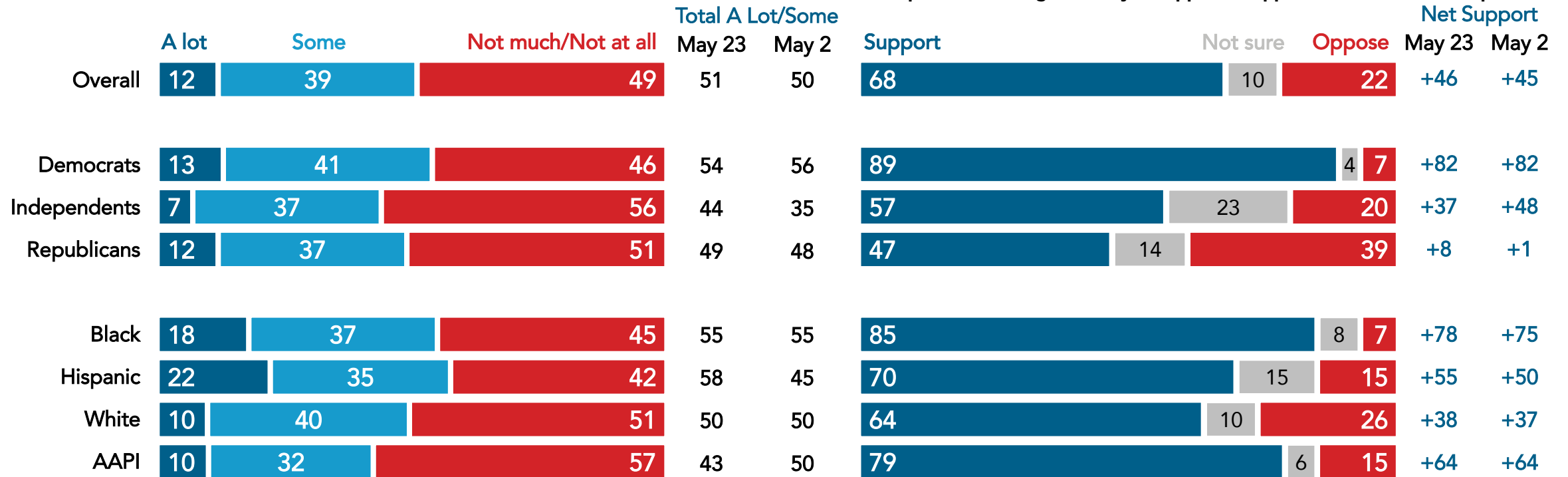
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Americans Are Not Hearing “A Lot” About New Economic Legislation from Biden, Though Seven in Ten Support It

Just half (51%) report hearing “a lot” or “some” about Biden and Democrats’ economic plan, but majorities of Democrats (89%), independents (57%), and every racial group support it, along with a plurality of Republicans (47%).

How much have you seen, read, or heard about new economic legislation being proposed by President Biden and being negotiated by Democrats in Congress?

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?



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Strongest Rebuttals on Baby Formula Shortage Criticism Emphasize What Biden and Democrats Have Done to Fix It

When testing a range of arguments against a Republican hit on Biden and Democrats for the shortage of baby formula, the best responses focus on what Democrats have done to address the problem – including increasing production. Weaker arguments highlight that shortages were a problem before Biden entered office.

Knowing there is a shortage of baby formula, which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Those who say Biden and Democrats are responsible because under their leadership, costs have skyrocketed, factories have closed, supply chains have been disrupted, and the costs and availability of goods and services are out of reach.

Statement 2: Those who say Biden and Democrats are working to fix the baby formula shortage, by working with baby formula manufacturers to reopen closed factories and ramp up production capacity to increase availability and bring down costs for American families.

Statement 1:	41%
Statement 2:	44%
Net Statement 2:	+3

Statement 3: Those who say Biden and Democrats' priority was to stop contaminated baby formula from getting into the market and putting kids at risk, and those who are exploiting this situation would have allowed unsafe formula to be sold to parents. Now, Biden and Democrats are increasing production of baby formula to ensure plenty is accessible.

Statement 1:	37%
Statement 3:	43%
Net Statement 3:	+6

Statement 4: Those who say shortages on everything from toilet paper to baby formula began long before Biden became President. Biden and Democrats are investing in domestic manufacturing and supply chains so that we can avoid these kinds of issues in the future while bringing good-paying jobs back to America.

Statement 1:	40%
Statement 4:	41%
Net Statement 4:	+1

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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.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 998 registered voters from May 19-May 23, 2022. 102 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 62 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 105 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 102 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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