

# navigator\*

Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

## Trump's Economy



Credit: Shutterstock/Noam Galai

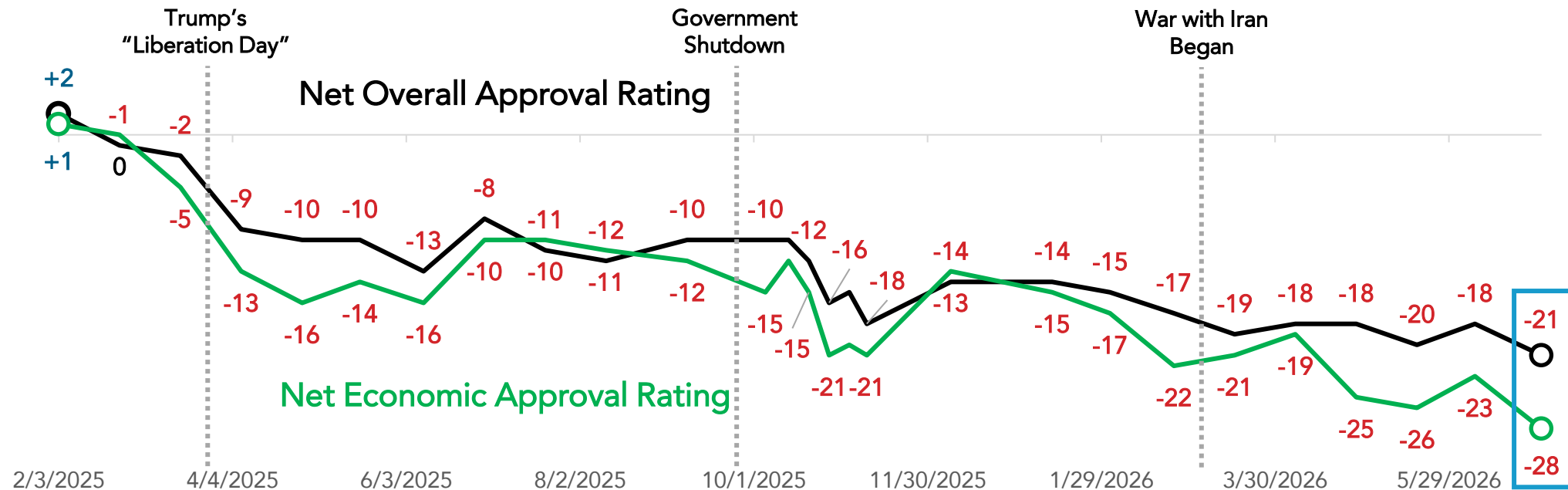
## Key Takeaways:

- Trump's economic approval rating has hit its lowest point in Navigator's tracking. Roughly one in five 2024 Trump voters regret their vote, citing broken promises, the war with Iran, and the economy.
- A majority are living paycheck to paycheck or struggling to make ends meet, and most have debt. Americans overwhelmingly prioritize lower costs over higher wages, but many are skeptical the federal government can deliver either.
- Americans see Trump's own actions – not broader economic forces – as driving higher prices, with tariffs, the war with Iran, and the Republican budget viewed as the biggest contributors to rising costs.
- The biggest concerns about Trump's economic agenda are that it is raising costs, prioritizing the wrong things, and showing he is out of touch with the struggles of working families.

# Trump's Overall and Economic Approval Ratings Have Hit New Lows in Navigator Tracking

Trump's overall and economic approval ratings have hit all-time lows in Navigator's tracking: he is now in the negative by 28 points on the economy and 21 points overall.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president/**the economy**?



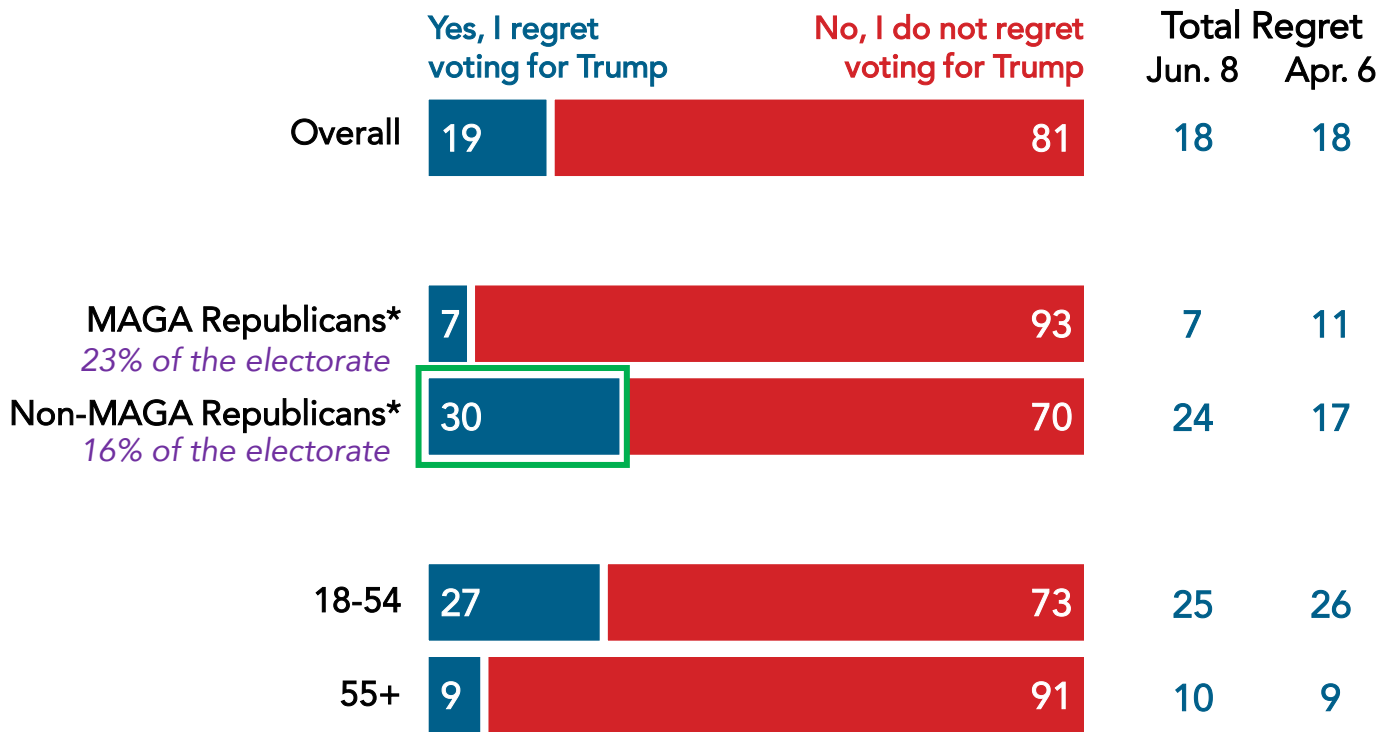
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 25-June 30, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

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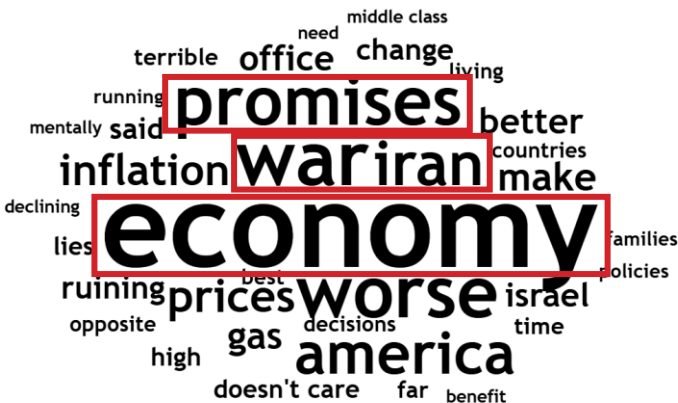
# Trump’s Economy, Broken Promises, and War With Iran Make His Supporters Regret Their Vote

Roughly one in five 2024 Trump voters continue to regret voting for Trump, including 30% of non-MAGA Republicans\*.

[If 2024 Trump voter] You indicated you voted for Donald Trump in 2024. Do you regret voting for Donald Trump?



[If voted for Trump and regret voting for him] You indicated you regret voting for Donald Trump in 2024. What makes you say that?



"He has ruined our economy and gotten us into war."

"Because he hasn't kept any of his promises. He's started a bunch of chaos that's gotten way out of control."

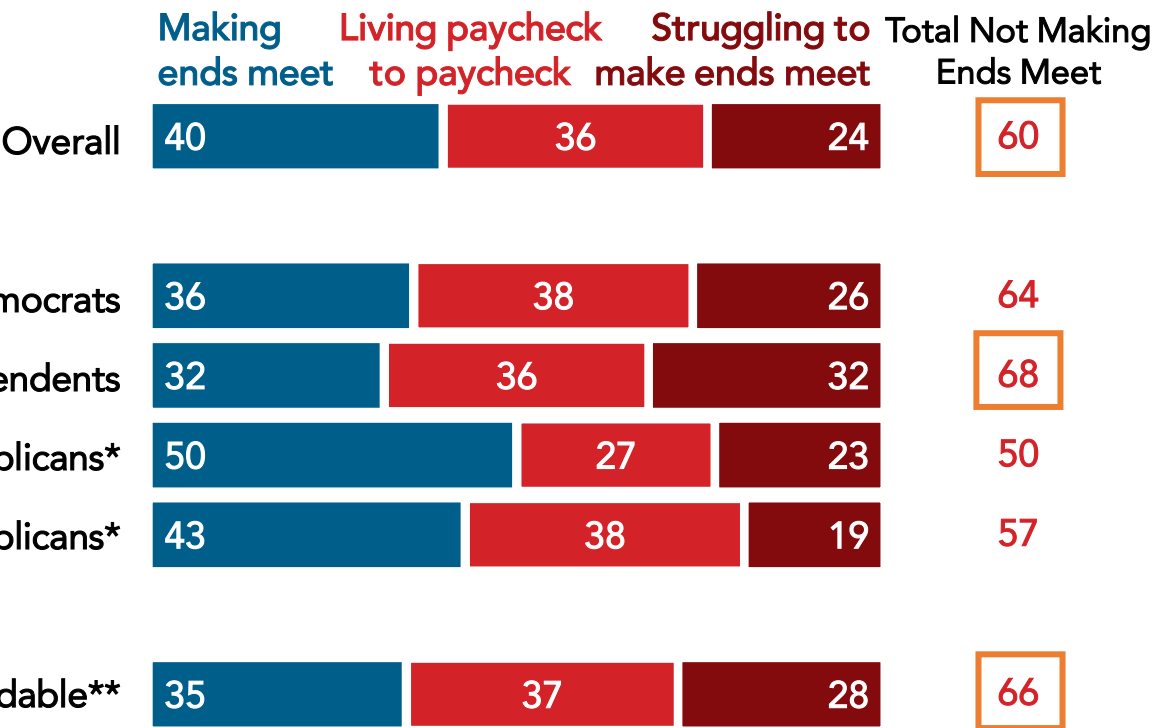
"Nothing has changed in the economy, prices are still out of control, and we also were told no more wars, and we are involved in one with Iran."

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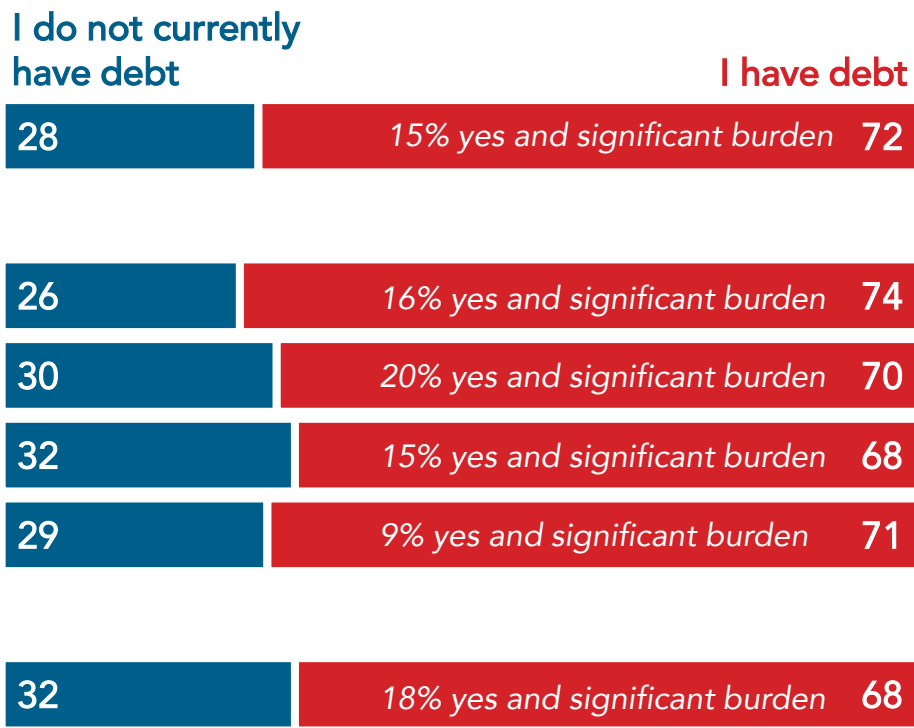
# Americans Say They Are Living Paycheck to Paycheck or Struggling to Make Ends Meet; Most Have Debt

A majority of Americans are either living paycheck to paycheck or struggling to make ends meet (60% paycheck to paycheck or struggling), including 66% of economically persuadable\*\* Americans. Nearly three in four Americans have debt (72% have debt).

Which of the following best describes your current financial situation?  
I am...



Which of the following best describes your current level of debt, including credit card debt or otherwise, if you have any?

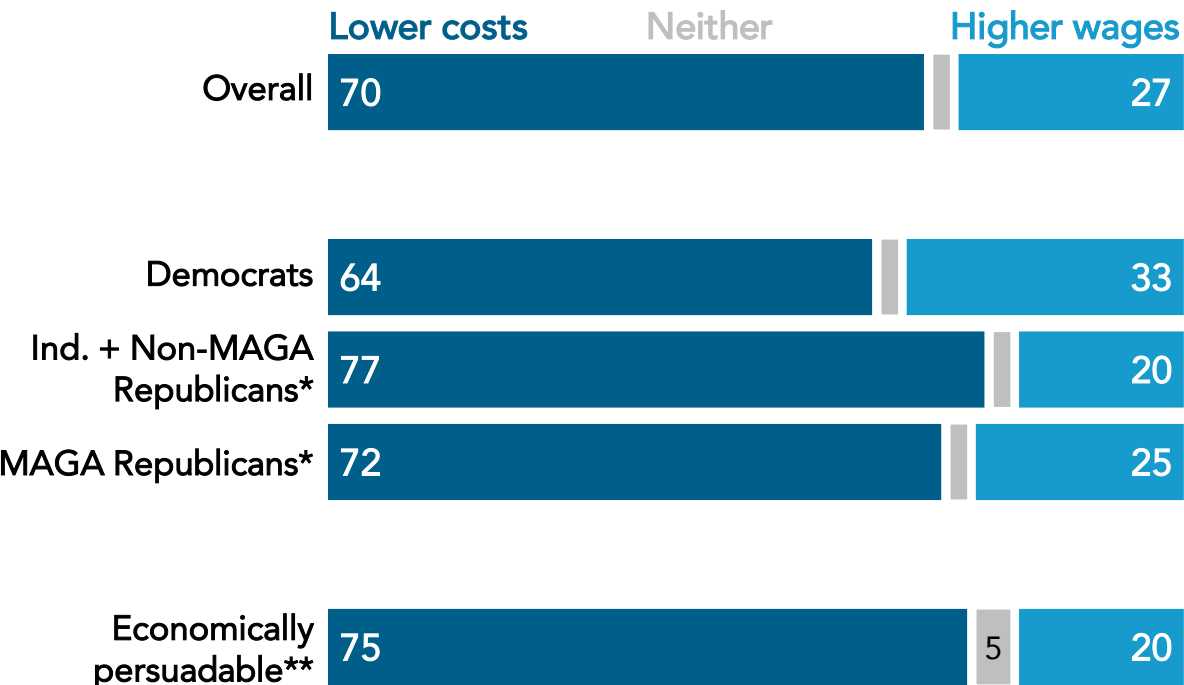


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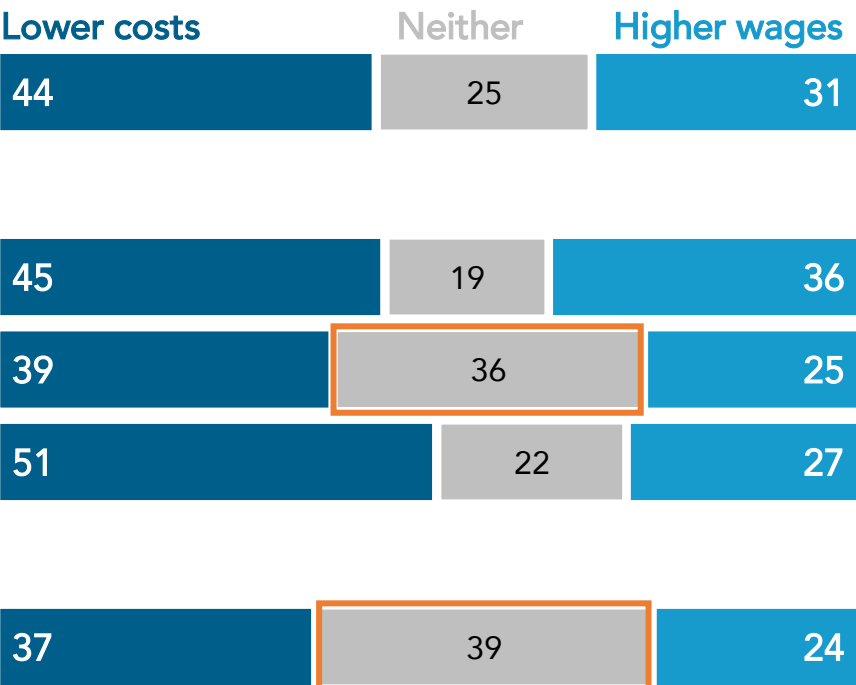
# Americans Prefer Lower Costs Over Higher Wages, But Many Doubt the Federal Government Can Deliver Either

Seven in ten Americans prefer lower costs over higher wages (70%). One in four say the federal government has the power to achieve neither (25%), including 36% of independents and non-MAGA Republicans\* and 39% of economically persuadable\*\* Americans.

**(Split Sample)** Which of the following would you prefer?



**(Split Sample)** Which of the following do you think the federal government has more power to achieve?

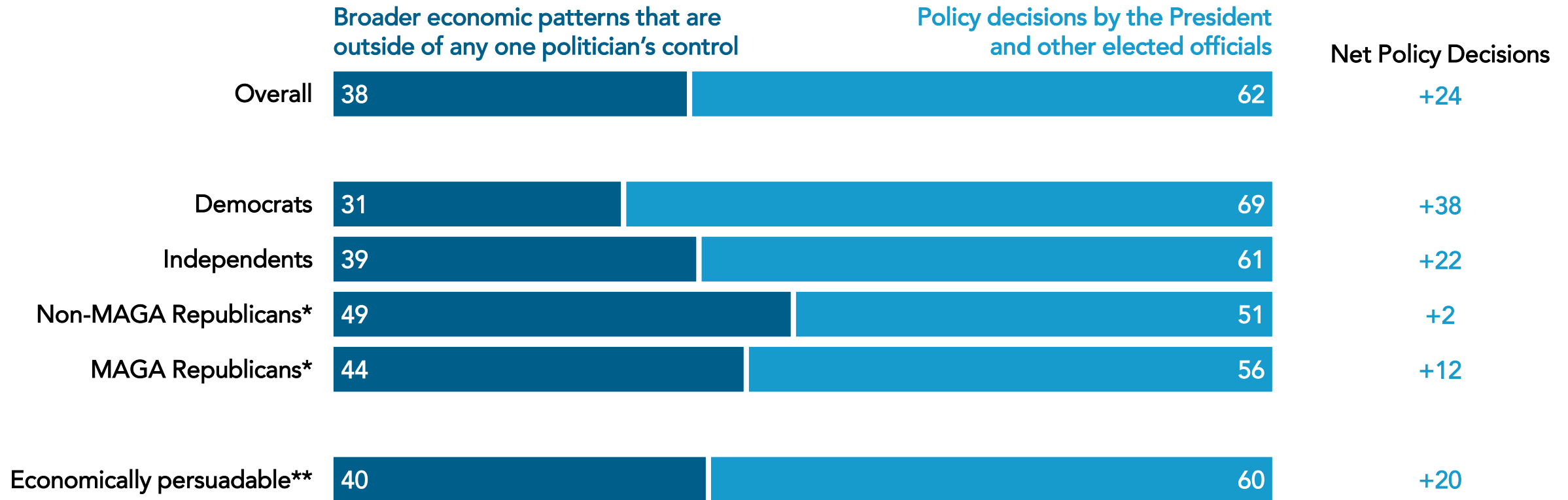


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# The President and Other Elected Officials' Policy Decisions Seen as More Impactful Than Broader Patterns on the Economy

Three in five economically persuadable\*\* Americans see policy decisions by elected officials as more impactful on the economy than broader economic patterns (net +20 policy decisions).

Generally speaking, which of the following do you think has more of an impact on the economy?

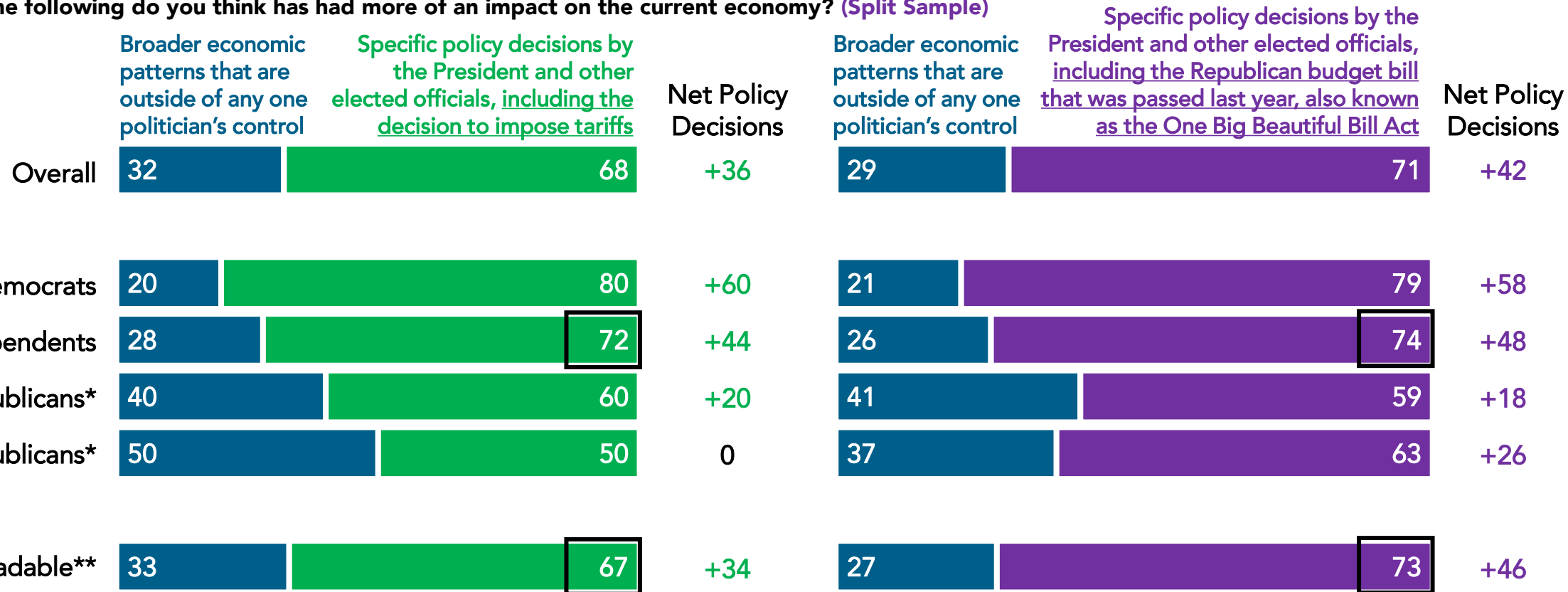


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# Americans Say Both Trump's Tariffs and the Republican Budget Are More Impactful on the Economy Than Broader Patterns

Independents (72% tariffs, 74% OBBBA) and economically persuadable\*\* Americans (67%, 73%) are more likely to say specific Trump policy decisions have a greater impact on the economy than broader economic patterns.

Which of the following do you think has had more of an impact on the current economy? (Split Sample)



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# Of Trump's Second Term, Tariffs and the War With Iran Seen as Biggest Drivers of Higher Costs

More than half of non-MAGA Republicans\* (54% blame tariffs) blame tariffs for raising prices. MAGA Republicans\* primarily blame the conflict in Iran (35% blame) and tariffs (31%).

Below is a list of actions that Trump has taken during his second term as president. Please indicate which three you blame the most for raising prices.

|                                                                  | % top three blame most | Dem | Ind | Non-MAGA<br>Reps.* | MAGA<br>Reps.* | Econ.<br>Pers.** |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Imposing new tariffs on imported goods                           | 54%                    | 66  | 58  | 54                 | 31             | 64               |
| Starting the conflict with Iran                                  | 52                     | 61  | 59  | 50                 | 35             | 64               |
| Spending time and money on mass deportations                     | 31                     | 45  | 30  | 18                 | 17             | 25               |
| Cutting billions of dollars in funding from SNAP, or food stamps | 28                     | 36  | 27  | 24                 | 19             | 24               |
| Cutting billions of dollars in funding from Medicaid             | 23                     | 29  | 24  | 16                 | 18             | 19               |
| Ending Affordable Care Act tax credits                           | 22                     | 26  | 19  | 20                 | 15             | 18               |
| Ending hundreds of clean energy projects                         | 13                     | 13  | 12  | 16                 | 12             | 14               |

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# Trump's Comments on Loving Inflation/Not Thinking About Americans Are Most Troubling

Below is a list of statements Trump has recently made about the economy. Please indicate whether each one raises doubts for you about how Trump is handling the economy on a scale of 1 to 5.

|                                                                                                                                                                                          | ***/** indicates split sample | % Major doubts (5) | % Some doubts (4) | Overall | Dem | Total Raises Doubts    |             |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-----|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                          |                               |                    |                   |         |     | Ind. & Non-MAGA Reps.* | MAGA Reps.* | Econ. Pers.** |
| ***"I love inflation."                                                                                                                                                                   |                               | 54                 | 10                | 64      | 87  | 58                     | 28          | 76            |
| ****"I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody."                                                                                                   |                               | 51                 | 12                | 63      | 87  | 56                     | 26          | 61            |
| "If you notice, the price [of gas] is not very high, relatively speaking."                                                                                                               |                               | 47                 | 14                | 61      | 86  | 51                     | 27          | 61            |
| "The word affordability is a con job by the Democrats."                                                                                                                                  |                               | 46                 | 10                | 57      | 84  | 45                     | 22          | 54            |
| ***"I don't want to drive housing prices down, I want to drive housing prices up for people that own their homes."                                                                       |                               | 46                 | 13                | 59      | 84  | 47                     | 31          | 61            |
| "Prices were at an all-time high when I came in; prices are coming down substantially."                                                                                                  |                               | 45                 | 11                | 56      | 84  | 47                     | 17          | 58            |
| ****"Thanks to these pro-growth policies, our economy is roaring and factory construction is way up. Business investment is more than triple compared to that of just a short time ago." |                               | 43                 | 12                | 54      | 84  | 41                     | 17          | 42            |

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# Rising Costs and Trump's Misplaced Priorities Are Americans' Top Concerns About His Handling of the Economy

Economically persuadable\*\* Americans are most concerned about Trump’s policies worsening the economy and raising prices (35% concerned), his focus on himself and vanity projects (33%), and him being out of touch (30%).

And when it comes to Trump’s handling of the economy, which of the following concern you the most?

|                                                                                                           | % top two most concerning | Dem | Ind | Non-MAGA Reps.* | MAGA Reps.* | Econ. Pers.** |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Trump’s policies are making the economy worse, raising costs, and hurting the middle class                | 32%                       | 43  | 32  | 25              | 15          | 35            |
| Trump isn’t focused on the economy, just on himself and his vanity projects like the White House ballroom | 31                        | 43  | 30  | 27              | 12          | 33            |
| Trump doesn’t care if middle class Americans are struggling or not                                        | 26                        | 35  | 26  | 23              | 13          | 23            |
| Trump is so out of touch he doesn’t even see what working families are going through                      | 25                        | 31  | 25  | 20              | 15          | 30            |
| Trump is lying to the American people about the economy improving                                         | 21                        | 28  | 27  | 18              | 8           | 27            |

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# Democrats Are More Trusted on a Range of Costs Like Medicaid, Medicare, Healthcare – Though Many Trust Neither Party

Independents trust the Democratic Party more on Medicaid (net +23 trust Democrats more), Medicare (net +23), healthcare (net +17), childcare costs (net +21), and grocery prices (net +14).

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.

|                 |                      |         |    |                                | Overall | Net Trust the Democratic Party |     |                 |             |               |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------|----|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
|                 | The Democratic Party | Neither | DK | Trump and the Republican Party |         | Dem                            | Ind | Non-MAGA Reps.* | MAGA Reps.* | Econ. Pers.** |
| Medicaid        | 45                   | 21      | 7  | 27                             | +18     | +79                            | +23 | -19             | -68         | +3            |
| Medicare        | 45                   | 22      | 5  | 28                             | +17     | +79                            | +23 | -25             | -69         | +2            |
| Healthcare      | 45                   | 23      | 4  | 28                             | +17     | +81                            | +17 | -24             | -69         | +3            |
| Childcare costs | 42                   | 20      | 12 | 26                             | +16     | +75                            | +21 | -17             | -65         | +1            |
| Grocery prices  | 39                   | 27      | 4  | 30                             | +9      | +71                            | +14 | -32             | -74         | -9            |

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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.

## About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from June 25-June 30, 2026. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander 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. The margin of error for the full sample at the 95 percent level of confidence is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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