

TRUE COST NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY

Interview Schedule



April 12-18, 2022
Project #: 220184
N=1,500 Registered Voters
Credibility Interval=±2.89%

* Denotes result under 0.5%.

^ Denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

C. Are you registered to vote in [survey state]?

100% YES (**CONTINUE**)

D2. Please record your gender.

48% MALE
52% FEMALE

E. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or by a political party or a candidate for office?

100% NO (**CONTINUE**)

F. Do you write your own political blog or frequently comment on blogs regarding political issues or elections?

100% NO

D1. In what year were you born?

5%	18 - 24
17%	25 - 34
21%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
20%	55 - 64
23%	65 AND ABOVE

D6A. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it... **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY)**

72%	CAUCASIAN OR WHITE
12%	AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK
10%	HISPANIC OR LATINO
5%	ASIAN
*	AMERICAN INDIAN

* **OTHER (SPECIFY: _____)(IF PUNCH, THEN ASK: Now you just indicated your main ethnic or racial heritage does not fall into any of the categories previously shown...but if you had to choose JUST ONE of these categories, which ONE would you choose?)(SHOW LIST AGAIN)**

1. Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

29% RIGHT DIRECTION
71% WRONG TRACK

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as President?

14% STRONGLY APPROVE
30% SOMEWHAT APPROVE
15% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
41% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

44% TOTAL APPROVE
56% TOTAL DISAPPROVE

3. If the election for U.S. Congress were being held today, for whom would you vote ... **(ROTATE)**

the Republican candidate
...OR...
the Democratic candidate

...for Congress from your district?

51% REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
49% DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

Now, turning to issues...

4. Which TWO of the following issues are MOST important to you? **(RECORD FIRST CHOICE, ASK SECOND IMPORTANCE AND REMOVE FIRST CHOICE) (RANDOMIZE)**

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Comb</u>	
18%	14%	32%	The economy and jobs
9%	7%	15%	Social Security and Medicare
3%	4%	7%	Education
9%	9%	18%	Health care
6%	5%	11%	Terrorism and national security
4%	9%	14%	Taxes and spending
8%	9%	17%	Illegal immigration and border security
7%	9%	16%	COVID-19
3%	3%	6%	Race relations
7%	6%	13%	Dysfunction in Washington
22%	23%	45%	Rising prices
*	*	1%	Environment/climate change
			...or...
*	*	*	Voting rights?
3%	1%	5%	Other (Specify: _____)

Thinking now about the price of goods and services, please indicate how concerned you are about the price of the following. Are you **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?**(RANDOMIZE)**

	VERY CONC	SMWT CONC	NOT VERY CONC	NOT AT ALL CONC
5. The price of food	69%	26%	4%	1%
	95%		5%	
6. The price of gas	68%	25%	4%	3%
	93%		7%	
7. The price of energy to heat or cool your home	55%	33%	10%	2%
	88%		12%	
8. The price of health care	62%	29%	7%	2%
	91%		9%	
9. The price of education	33%	35%	21%	11%
	68%		32%	
10. The price of housing	53%	30%	15%	3%
	82%^		18%	
11. The price of cars and trucks	38%	36%	20%	6%
	74%		26%	
12. The price of medicine	58%	30%	10%	2%
	88%		12%	
13. The price of clothes	23%	38%	33%	6%
	61%		39%	

Now, please indicate if you think federal government policies are causing the prices of each of these goods and services (**ROTATE FIRST TWO**) to increase, to decrease, or if federal government policies are not having much of an impact on prices. (**RANDOMIZE**)

	INCREASE	DECREASE	NOT MUCH IMPACT
14. The price of food	76%	3%	21%
15. The price of gas	80%	5%	15%
16. The price of energy to heat or cool your home	73%	3%	24%
17. The price of health care	74%	5%	21%
18. The price of education	60%	5%	35%
19. The price of housing	70%	3%	27%
20. The price of cars and trucks	65%	3%	32%
21. The price of medicine	71%	5%	24%
22. The price of clothes	49%	3%	48%

23. Thinking now about your own family, how much of an impact have rising prices had on your own purchasing decisions over the last year? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

32% LARGE IMPACT
43% MODERATE IMPACT
21% SMALL IMPACT
4% NO IMPACT AT ALL

75% TOTAL LARGE/MODERATE
25% TOTAL SMALL/NO

24. Thinking some more about rising prices, what would you say is MOST to blame for the increase in prices over the last year? **(RECORD FIRST CHOICE, ASK SECOND MOST TO BLAME AND REMOVE FIRST CHOICE) (RANDOMIZE)**

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Comb</u>	
22%	13%	35%	Increased government spending
6%	9%	15%	Increased rules and regulations on businesses
13%	14%	27%	Russia's invasion of Ukraine
25%	24%	48%	Supply chain disruptions
14%	18%	32%	COVID-19
3%	7%	10%	The Federal Reserve's monetary policy
15%	13%	28%	Corporate greed
3%	1%	5%	Other (Specify: ____)

25. How much, if any, do you blame President Biden and his policies for rising prices? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

40% A LOT
21% SOME
19% JUST A LITTLE
20% NOT AT ALL

61% TOTAL A LOT/SOME
39% TOTAL LITTLE/NONE

26. Government spending went from \$4.4 trillion in 2019 to \$6.8 trillion in 2021. Do you agree or disagree that this increase in spending has been a major cause of higher prices?

39% STRONGLY AGREE
34% SOMEWHAT AGREE
18% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
9% STRONGLY DISAGREE

73% TOTAL AGREE
27% TOTAL DISAGREE

27. And, overall do you think continued high levels of federal spending would cause prices to **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)** increase, decrease, or have no real impact on prices?

74% INCREASE
3% DECREASE
22% NO REAL IMPACT

Now, please read some strategies for reducing inflation. After you read each one please indicate how effective or ineffective you think the following would be to reduce inflation and bring prices down. Is it **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective? **(RANDOMIZE)**

	VERY EFFECT	SMWT EFFECT	SMWT INEFFECT	VERY INEFFECT
28. Make it easier to develop and produce American energy.	53%	35%	9%	3%
	88%		12%	
29. Go after corporations for price gouging.	44%	31%	15%	10%
	75%		25%	
30. Stop the Federal Reserve's easy money policy.	29%	46%	21%	4%
	75%		25%	
31. More government spending on green energy programs and child care.	22%	30%	22%	26%
	52%		48%	
32. End government policies that restrict the affordable housing supply.	25%	40%	27%	8%
	65%		35%	
33. Give government gas rebates to consumers.	24%	34%	25%	17%
	58%		42%	
34. Reduce federal debt and deficits by getting spending under control.	48%	35%	13%	4%
	82%^		18%^	
35. Put price limits on products like prescription drugs and energy.	42%	37%	15%	7%
	78%^		22%	
36. End regulations that stop us from modernizing our ports and speeding up the supply chain.	33%	45%	16%	6%
	78%		22%	
37. Cancel student loan debt.	23%	22%	22%	33%
	45%		55%	

Changing topics and thinking about energy...

(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=750)

38. And, generally speaking would you say the United States is **(ROTATE)** better or worse than other countries when it comes to innovations in how energy is produced?

34% BETTER

34% WORSE

33% DON'T KNOW

(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=750)

39. And, when it comes to finding new ways to produce energy, would you say federal government policies **(ROTATE)** help or hurt in finding new ways to produce energy?

13% HELP

33% HURT

34% BOTH

20% DON'T KNOW

40. Thinking now about President Biden's energy policy, please read three statements and indicate which comes closest to your own opinion. **(RANDOMIZE)**

37% President Biden should allow oil and gas production on federal lands.

27% President Biden should continue to block oil and gas exploration on federal lands.

36% With the exception of national parks and military bases, these federal lands should be given to the states and the individual states should be able to decide whether or not to allow oil and gas exploration on these lands.

41. As you may know, President Biden revoked a key permit which caused the construction of the Keystone Pipeline to be canceled. Would you favor or oppose Biden approving this permit so that construction of the Keystone Pipeline can be completed?

38% STRONGLY FAVOR

26% SOMEWHAT FAVOR

18% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE

19% STRONGLY OPPOSE

63%^ TOTAL FAVOR

37% TOTAL OPPOSE

Moving on...

42. Thinking now about health care, do you think the federal government playing more of a role in our health care system would cause the price of health care to **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)** increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

44% INCREASE
27% DECREASE
28% STAY ABOUT THE SAME

43. And, do you think the private sector playing more of a role in our health care system would cause the price of health care to **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)** increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

42% INCREASE
23% DECREASE
34% STAY ABOUT THE SAME

44. Changing topics and thinking about the student loan system, please read two statements about the current student loan system and indicate which comes closest to your own opinion:

(ROTATE)

53% Since the government takeover of the student loan system in 2010, tuition costs have dramatically increased, leaving students saddled with underperforming degrees and large debts they can't afford. The federal student loans need to end.

...or...

47% The current federal student loan system is important so that students who want to attend the college of their choice can afford to do so. These federal student loans should continue.

45. Turning now to housing, please read two statements about housing and zoning regulations, and indicate which comes closest to your own opinion: **(ROTATE)**

48% Current housing and zoning regulations should be streamlined or reduced so that more housing can be built.

...or...

52% Current housing and zoning regulations should remain in place to prevent sprawl and keep our neighborhoods and communities as they are.

(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=750)

46. Now, please read two statements and after reading each statement please indicate which comes closer to your own opinion. **(ROTATE)**

67% **(Some/other)** people say that Congress should focus on cutting the federal budget deficit as a way to stop rising prices.

...while...

33% **(Other/some)** people say that cutting the federal budget deficit would mean cuts to important federal programs.

(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=750)

47. Now, please read two statements and after reading each statement please indicate which comes closer to your own opinion. **(ROTATE)**

75% **(Some/other)** people say that Congress should focus on cutting the federal budget deficit as a way to stop rising prices.

...while...

25% **(Other/some)** people say that cutting the federal budget deficit would mean increasing taxes.

Now, in this section, we are collecting general data for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, the data are anonymous and your responses will be kept completely confidential. Thinking some more about you...

D3. What is the last grade you completed in school?

- * SOME GRADE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8)
 - 1% SOME HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-11)
 - 20% GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)
 - 5% TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
 - 26% SOME COLLEGE
 - 33% GRADUATED COLLEGE
 - 14% GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

 - 22%^ TOTAL HS OR LESS**
 - 31% TOTAL SOME COLLEGE**
 - 47% TOTAL COLLEGE+**
-

D4A. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself ... **(ROTATE)**

a Republican,
a Democrat,
or something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Would you call yourself a **STRONG (Republican/Democrat)** or a **NOT-SO-STRONG (Republican/Democrat)**?

(IF SOMETHING ELSE, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Do you think of yourself as closer to **(ROTATE)** the Republican or to the Democratic party?

- 22% STRONG REPUBLICAN
 - 15% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
 - 3% LEAN REPUBLICAN

 - 18% UNAFFILIATED / INDEPENDENT / SOMETHING ELSE

 - 3% LEAN DEMOCRAT
 - 16% NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
 - 22% STRONG DEMOCRAT

 - 40% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**
 - 42%^ TOTAL DEMOCRAT**
-

D5A. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM , BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate or liberal on most issues?

(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, FOLLOW UP SCREEN:) And would you say you are VERY **(CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)**, or just SOMEWHAT **(CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)**?

16% VERY CONSERVATIVE
20% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

41% MODERATE

13% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
11% VERY LIBERAL

35%^ TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
24% TOTAL LIBERAL

D8A. Regardless of how you feel now, for whom did you vote in the 2020 Presidential election... **(ROTATE)** Donald Trump or Joe Biden?

(IF SOMEONE ELSE, FOLLOW UP SCREEN ASK) And, did you vote for... **(ROTATE)** Jo Jorgensen or some other candidate?

42% DONALD TRUMP
47% JOE BIDEN

2% JO JORGENSEN
2% SOMEONE ELSE **(SPECIFY:_____)**

7% DID NOT VOTE

D9A. And for statistical purposes only... is your total annual household income greater or less than \$60,000 dollars?

(IF LESS THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

12% UNDER \$20,000
25% BETWEEN \$20,000 - \$40,000
20% OVER \$40,000

(IF GREATER THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

14% UNDER \$80,000
12% BETWEEN \$80,000 - \$100,000
18% OVER \$100,000

36%^ TOTAL <\$40K
34% TOTAL \$40K-\$80K
29%^ TOTAL \$80K+
