Inflation Polling Analysis

May 2022
Methodology

From May 5 to 9, 2022, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,146 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±3 percentage points.

Respondents by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>53% Female</th>
<th>47% Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>11% Black</td>
<td>74% White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14% Latino/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>39% College</td>
<td>61% Non-college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>36% Under 45</td>
<td>64% Over 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Vote</td>
<td>51% Biden</td>
<td>47% Trump</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings

- By a 60-32 margin, voters strongly agree that large corporations are using the pandemic to raise prices and increase profits — and reject the notion corporations have “no choice but to raise prices.”

- A clear majority of voters support a variety of measures to address inflation, including:
  - Bringing new manufacturing jobs to the U.S.
  - Cracking down on corporations that raise prices unfairly
  - Investing in healthcare, childcare, long-term care, and clean energy
  - Increasing taxes on large corporations and the ultra-wealthy

- When asked whom they blame more for inflation — corporations for increasing prices to profit more, or the rising wages of workers — voters overwhelmingly blame corporations by a +55-point margin.

- Inflation is a growing concern for American voters. The percentage of voters viewing inflation as the most important economic problem facing the country has shot up from 36 percent in February to 44 percent today.

- Concern over inflation is most pronounced among Republican (54 percent) and Independent (47 percent) voters, but also extends to 33 percent of Democrats.
Attitudes Toward Inflation
Voters Think Large Corporations Are Taking Advantage of the Pandemic to Raise Prices and Increase Profits

Do you think large corporations are **taking advantage of the pandemic** to raise prices unfairly on consumers and increase profits OR do you think large corporations have **no choice** but to raise prices in response to rising costs?

By a 60-32 margin, voters strongly agree that large corporations are using the pandemic to raise prices and increase profits — and reject the notion corporations have “no choice but to raise prices.”

The belief that large corporations are taking advantage of the pandemic to raise prices is bipartisan, with agreement from a majority of Democrats (+47), Independents (+19), and Republicans (+12).
Seventy-two percent of voters think large corporations taking advantage of the pandemic to raise prices is contributing a “great deal” or a “fair amount” to inflation.

Seventy-eight percent of voters agree that supply chain disruptions are leading to inflation.

Sixty-two percent of voters think Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is contributing.
A majority of voters support new measures to combat inflation:

- 79 percent support bringing new manufacturing jobs to the U.S.
- 67 percent support cracking down on corporations that raise prices unfairly
- 64 percent support legislation to invest in healthcare, childcare, long-term care, and clean energy
- 60 percent support increasing taxes on large corporations and the ultra-wealthy

Meanwhile, fewer than half (47 percent) of voters want to prevent new government spending in 2022.
Voters continue to strongly agree that taxes on large corporations should be increased. Fifty-four percent of voters believe this, across party lines, voters would rather increase than decrease corporate taxes: Democrats by a 72-8 margin, Independents by a 50-12 margin, and Republicans by a 36-15 margin.

Do you think taxes on large corporations should be increased, should be decreased, or should taxes on corporations be left where they currently are?

- Increased
- Left where they are now
- Decreased
- Don't know

Plot showing the percentage of respondents over time, with a trend line indicating a decrease in support for keeping taxes as they are and an increase in support for increasing them.
Voters Blame Corporations — Not Workers — for Inflation

Some people say that corporations are earning record profits and it's good that they're finally paying workers more. People who work should be able to support themselves and their families.

Other people say that rising wages are driving inflation. Government overspending has kept people from working so corporations have been forced to pay their workers more. This has made everything more expensive.

Knowing what you know now, who do you blame more for inflation, even if neither is exactly right: corporations increasing prices to increase their profits, or the rising wages of workers making the costs of goods and services more expensive?

When asked whom they blame more for inflation — corporations for increasing prices to profit more, or the rising wages of workers — voters overwhelmingly blame corporations by a +55-point margin.

This includes a +79-point margin of Democrats, a +51-point margin of Independents, and a +32-point margin of Republicans.
Among likely voters nationally, the percentage of voters viewing inflation as the most important economic problem facing the country has shot up from 36 percent in February to 44 percent today. Concern over inflation is most pronounced among Republican (54 percent) and Independent (47 percent) voters, compared to 33 percent of Democrats.

There was also an increase in voters citing rising fuel costs as the country’s top economic concern, from 7 percent to 11 percent. However, these anxieties are much lower than concern about inflation.
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Toplines for this polling can be found here.