

March 2022

Education/Economic Mobility Survey Summary

Produced by [Langer Research Associates](#)

The following is a summary of random-sample U.S. survey research on K-12 and postsecondary education and economic mobility released in late February and March 2022. This project is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Key Takeaways

Polls weigh in this month on a range of issues in education, including teaching about sexual orientation in elementary schools, public priorities for school curricula, schools' support for teaching students with disabilities, student health issues, pandemic impacts, school staffing challenges and high schoolers' credit loads and GPAs compared with those of a decade ago.

In one survey, six in 10 Americans oppose legislation prohibiting classroom lessons on sexual orientation or gender identity in elementary schools, with sharp partisan divisions. In another, seven in 10 trust their schools to make good choices about library books, while fewer, about half, trust them to teach about racism. Partisan breaks also are sharp on the general direction of public schools' curricula, with most overall, 64 percent, saying they're on the wrong track.

A study finds more class credits and higher GPAs on average among high school graduates in 2019 compared with 2009. And a survey of principals finds a multi-pronged approach to teaching students with disabilities, but with disparities between high- and low-poverty schools.

Surveys on the topic of economic mobility also range across many issues this month, touching on economic attitudes and inflation impacts, employment and telework patterns, workplace COVID-19 policies, parents' use of the Child Tax Credit and more. One study surfaces stubborn unemployment rates and duration for Black women. Another explores reasons for job quitting in 2021, with low pay and lack of advancement opportunities leading the way.

Detailed results of these and other new surveys on education and economic mobility follow.

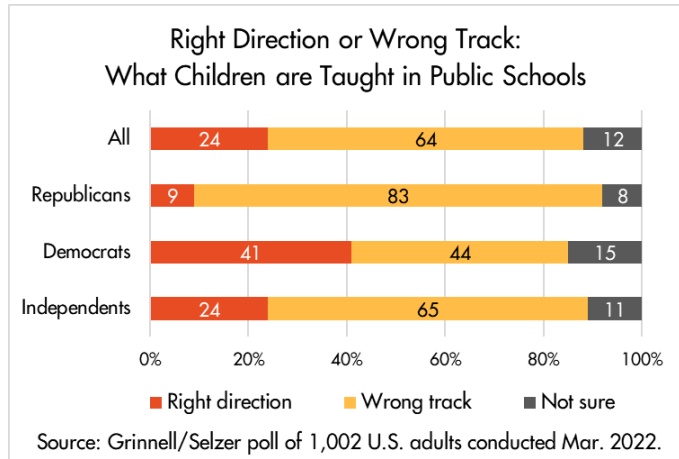
K-12 Education

High school graduates had more course credits and higher grade point averages in 2019 than in 2009. A study of approximately 47,000 public and private school graduates finds they earned an average of 28.1 standard curriculum course credits in 2019, up from 27.2 in 2009, and their overall grade point average was 3.11, up from 3.00 a decade earlier. The share earning STEM credits rose 3 percentage points to 97 percent, including 89 percent in advanced mathematics, 88 percent in advanced science and engineering and 39 percent in STEM-related technical classes.

Despite advances in coursework and GPAs, high school graduates who took rigorous courses in 2019 had lower average NAEP math scores (-5 points to 184) than in 2009, as did those who took midlevel courses (-5 points to 153). There were no significant changes in graduates' scores on the NAEP science assessments. ([NAEP 3/16](#))

Policies and Curriculum

Americans by 64-24 percent say public schools are on the wrong track, rather than headed in the right direction, in terms of what children are being taught. Republicans are much more critical than Democrats, 83 vs. 44 percent.



Among subjects in the curriculum, 81 percent say reading, math and writing are essential; 67 percent, American history; 66 percent, home economics and budgeting; and 64 percent, useful job skills. Half say art and music are essential, 45 percent college preparatory classes and 44 percent alike say this for languages other than English and sex education. Most of the rest find these subjects important but not essential. Eight percent say public schools should not teach sex education.

Sixty-nine percent alike say it's essential for public schools to teach students to be independent thinkers and to teach respect for people of different races. About half say it's essential to teach students to respect authority; 38 percent, to teach patriotism.

About seven in 10 trust the public schools in their district to make good choices ensuring books in school libraries are appropriate for students and responding appropriately when a student poses a risk of doing something violent. Adults divide in trusting schools to teach about racism in the United States, 49-43 percent. ([Grinnell-Selzer 3/15-3/20](#))

Sixty-two percent oppose legislation that would prohibit classroom lessons about sexual orientation or gender identity in elementary schools. Sixty-one percent of Republicans support this kind of legislation, vs. 35 percent of independents and 20 percent of Democrats. Opposition peaks at 87 percent of those who identify as LGBTQ+; it's 59 percent among other adults. ([ABC News-Ipsos 3/11-3/12](#))

Eighty-four percent of Latinos support teaching about sex ed and safe sex in middle and high school, with a majority expressing strong support. Sixty-seven percent support teaching middle and high schoolers about sexuality and gender identity; 58 percent back requiring public schools to teach all classes in English. Fewer, 44 percent, favor giving parents "the ability to stop schools from teaching subjects that parents do not like." ([Axios-Ipsos-Telemundo 3/7-3/18](#))

A recently released analysis of a 2020 survey of elementary school teachers assesses adoption of evidence-based practices – those shown through research to improve student outcomes. Eighty-four percent of teachers said they personally use at least one EBP in their teaching; 83 percent said other teachers at their school did the same. ([RAND 1/20-2/24/2020](#))

Staffing

Forty-four percent of public schools in January reported having at least one teaching vacancy; one in 10 reported more than 10 percent of positions vacant. Sixty-one percent of those with at least one teaching or staff vacancy agreed that the pandemic increased the number of vacancies in their school. About half said teacher vacancies reflected attrition from resignations, 30 percent new positions, 21 percent attrition due to retirement and 35 percent another other reason (multiple responses were accepted).

Vacancies increased schools' need to use non-teaching staff (62 percent) and teachers (57 percent) outside their intended duties. Twenty-six percent of schools reported increased class sizes, 21 percent disruptions in student transportation and 20 percent sharing teachers/staff with other schools. Seventeen percent alike offered fewer student services and fewer extracurricular opportunities. Other impacts were in the single digits. ([NCES 1/11-1/24](#))

A new analysis of survey data from 2017-2018 finds that two-thirds of Hispanic public school teachers taught in schools where at least three-quarters of the students were racial and ethnic minorities, compared with 27 percent of all public school teachers. On average, Hispanic teachers were younger and less-tenured than public school teachers overall, with more having used alternative certification paths and more teaching at city schools. ([NCES 3/3](#))

Students with Disabilities

Secondary schools used a variety of methods to educate students with disabilities during the 2020-2021 school year. According to a survey of principals:

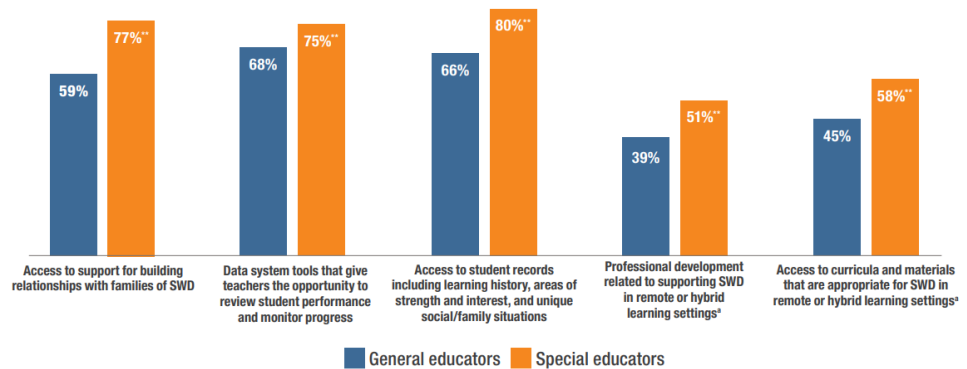
- Sixty-four percent of schools had teachers using a co-teaching method, in which general and special education teachers work together to plan classes that include both students with and without disabilities;
- Fifty-three percent used a resource or special education-only method, in which special education teachers use specialized curriculum for students with disabilities apart from students without disabilities;
- Forty-three percent used “occasional push-in,” when special education teachers periodically provide in-classroom supports for students with disabilities in general education classrooms; and
- Forty-three percent used consultation, in which special education teachers support students with disabilities by consulting with general education teachers but are not directly involved in the classroom.

Nearly two-thirds of principals said the teachers at their school used more than one model, with low-poverty schools more apt than high-poverty schools to use a variety of methods.

A quarter of general secondary school teachers in a separate spring 2021 survey said they had no support from other staff when educating students with disabilities. Among special education teachers, just more than half mostly taught resource or special education-only classes and a third mostly used the co-teaching method.

Most general education teachers said they had sufficient access to data system tools for monitoring student performance (68 percent), student records on learning history (66 percent) and support for building relationships with families (59 percent) in educating students with disabilities. Fewer than half reported sufficient access to curricula and materials (45 percent) or professional development (39 percent) for supporting students with disabilities specifically in remote or hybrid learning settings. Special education teachers were 7 to 18 points more apt than general education teachers to say they had these supports. ([RAND March 2021](#))

Secondary Educator Reports of Sufficient Access to Supports for Educating SWD, by Educator Type in 2021



Student Health

In a July 2020-January 2021 survey of parents and caregivers, reported prevalence of anxiety problems (9.2 percent), behavioral/conduct problems (8.1 percent) and depression (4.0 percent) among children age 3-17 reached a five-year high, with incremental increases in each of these measures in available data since 2016 ([Lebrun-Harris et al., 2022](#)).

In recently released data from October, 27 percent of parents of children age 11-18 said their child had ever had a visit with a mental health specialist. Among them, 59 percent said the visit was within the previous year. Most parents (55 percent) decided on their own to have their child see a mental health specialist; 11 percent got a referral from their child’s school.

One in four parents of children 11-18 said their first response to a possible mental health issue would include checking with their adolescent’s teacher about a problem at school. Among possible warning signs, 61 percent of parents said they’d be concerned about their child if they noticed a drop in grades. ([C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital 10/2021](#))

Pandemic Impacts

Recently released data indicate that 99 percent of public schools offered full-time in-person instruction in February, 34 percent offered full-time remote instruction and 10 percent offered hybrid instruction. Eighty-six percent remained in person following winter break while 13 percent switched to remote learning. Seventy-four percent had students staying home because they were exposed to, displayed symptoms of or tested positive for COVID-19, down from 94 percent in January.

Fifty-eight percent of public schools required students to wear masks in February, ranging from 93 percent in the Northeast to 34 percent in the South. Twenty-six percent used the Test-to-Stay program and 22 percent required daily COVID-19 symptom screening for students. ([NCES 2/8-2/22](#))

Early in March, 42 percent of K-12 parents said their school required masks for in-person learning. Another 42 percent said they had a mask mandate earlier in the year that was dropped; 15 percent had no school mask mandates this year.

Of those who experienced a mask mandate this year, 46 percent said wearing a mask hurt their child's social learning and interactions, 41 percent their general schooling experience, 39 percent their mental and emotional health and 34 percent their education. Democrats were much less apt than Republicans or independents to report these impacts.

Parents divided, 51-47 percent, on whether masks in school were necessary to be safe from COVID-19. Two-thirds of parents whose child's school had a mask mandate say it as necessary, vs. one-third of those whose school had one but dropped it.

Twenty-two percent of parents whose school had a mask mandate this year said they'd gone to a public meeting or demonstration, contacted a school or other public official or written an op-ed or letter to the editor to express their views about schools requiring students to wear masks for in-person learning. ([Politico-HSPH 3/1-3/7](#))

Forty-three percent of all adults in February said K-12 schools should require all students and staff to wear masks, a 13-point drop from September. Fourteen percent said schools should only require masks among unvaccinated students and staff; four in 10 opposed any mask mandate. The public divided on whether K-12 schools should require students and staff to get a COVID-19 vaccine, 46-51 percent. Opposition reached six in 10 among parents of minor children. ([KFF 2/9-2/21](#))

Forty-six percent of registered voters said the K-12 schools in their area were finding the right balance in protecting students from COVID-19 while meeting their educational and social needs. One in four saw unnecessary restrictions; 12 percent said schools were not being cautious enough. The rest, 17 percent, were unsure. ([WSJ 3/2-3/7](#))

The Broader K-12 Picture

Registered voters are 5 points more apt to say the Democratic Party is best able to improve education, 41-36 percent, while 8 points more likely to think the Republican Party is best able to keep children in school, 40-32 percent. ([WSJ 3/2-3/7](#))

Fifty-nine percent of registered voters say education is very important to their vote in the 2022 congressional elections, tied for fourth among 15 issues. It's very important to 66 percent of Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party, compared with 53 percent among Republicans and Republican leaners. ([Pew Research Center 3/7-3/13](#))

Fifty-five percent of adults disagree with the use of taxpayer money to support students who wish to attend religious schools ([Grinnell-Selzer 3/15-3/20](#)).

Forty-four percent think a great deal or a lot of progress has been made in achieving equal treatment for African Americans in access to good education over the last 50 years. Thirty-four percent think there's been some progress; 21 percent, only a little or no progress at all. Roughly three in four say more needs to be done to achieve equal treatment for African Americans in access to good education, with 39 percent saying a lot needs to be done. ([AP-NORC 2/18-2/21](#))

A quarter of U.S. students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes did not take any AP exams in the 2017-2018 school year, peaking at 45 percent of students with disabilities and 39 percent of English language learners. Thirty percent of Black and Hispanic students enrolled in AP classes did not take any AP exams, compared with 24 percent of whites and 17 percent of Asian students. ([Urban Institute 3/17](#))

Share of Students Enrolled in AP Courses Who Took at Least One AP Exam, by Race or Ethnicity



Source: 2017-18 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection.

State Results

California. Thirty-seven percent of Californians say K-12 public education should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending, second to health and human services (43 percent) ([PPIC 3/6-3/17](#)).

Postsecondary Success

Eighty-three percent of Latinos think a college education is important in being able to succeed in the United States, with 43 percent saying it's very important. Fifty-one percent of first-generation Latinos say it's very important, more than those in the second (31 percent) or third generation (39 percent). ([Axios-Ipsos-Telemundo 3/7-3/18](#))

The public by 68-27 percent says colleges should not be allowed to take a person's race into account in admissions decisions "in order to expand access to college for racial minorities" ([Grinnell-Selzer 3/15-3/20](#)).

Economic Mobility

Sixty-nine to 79 percent of Americans rate the economy negatively, fairly steady since October ([AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#); [Fox News 3/18-3/21](#), among registered voters; [Gallup 3/1-3/18](#); [KFF 2/9-2/21](#)). Three-quarters say economic conditions are getting worse, a high since April 2020 ([Gallup 3/1-3/18](#)).

About two-thirds of adults and registered voters say the economy is headed in the wrong direction ([Fannie Mae 2/1-2/22](#); [WSJ 3/2-3/7](#)). Fifty-eight percent expect it to be weaker 12 months from now, up from 34 percent in late March 2020 ([Grinnell-Selzer 3/15-3/20](#)). Fifty-eight percent worry about the economy a great deal ([Gallup 3/1-3/18](#)).

About seven in 10 say the United States' economic sanctions on Russia are hurting the U.S. economy, with one-third saying they're hurting it a lot ([Monmouth 3/10-3/14](#)). Eighty-three percent are very or somewhat concerned that the costs of services and goods such as gasoline will increase because of the war between Russia and Ukraine ([NBC News 3/18-3/22](#)).

Registered voters are more apt to think the Republican Party is best able to get inflation under control, 47-30 percent; rebuild the economy, 47-34 percent; and has a better economic plan to make life easier for people like them, 45-37 percent. They split on which party is best able to look out for middle-class families. ([WSJ 3/2-3/7](#))

Forty-three percent of adults think a great deal or a lot of progress has been made in achieving equal treatment for African Americans in access to good jobs over the last 50 years. Fewer, 35 percent, think at least a lot of progress has been made in access to affordable housing. About seven in 10 think more needs to be done to achieve equal treatment in each area. ([AP-NORC 2/18-2/21](#))

Financial Situation

Sixty-three percent rate their household's financial situation positively and 79 percent say their personal finances are very or somewhat good, both essentially unchanged since last fall ([AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#); [Axios-Ipsos 3/11-3/14](#)). Forty-one percent in February expected their finances to get better in the next 12 months; 20 percent expected them to worsen ([Fannie Mae 2/1-2/22](#)). Still, 43 percent of registered voters say they're falling behind financially, up from 27 percent in June ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)).

Fifty-nine percent of adults in February said the pandemic had caused a major (20 percent) or minor (38 percent) disruption in their financial stability. Those with household incomes less than \$50,000 were three times as apt as those with higher incomes to report a major disruption, 30 vs. 10 percent. People of color, those without college degrees and parents also were more likely than whites, college graduates and non-parents to report a major disruption.

Fifty-two percent were satisfied with their standard of living, 31 percent dissatisfied. Satisfaction dipped to 35 percent among those with household incomes less than \$50,000, compared with 68 percent among those making more. Forty-eight percent were satisfied with their household income, compared with 77 percent in February 2019. ([CNN 2/23-2/26](#))

Twenty-seven percent, also in February, reported significantly higher household incomes than 12 months ago; 12 percent, significantly lower ([Fannie Mae 2/1-2/22](#)). Nonetheless, 62 percent say their family’s income is falling behind the cost of living ([NBC News 3/18-3/22](#)).

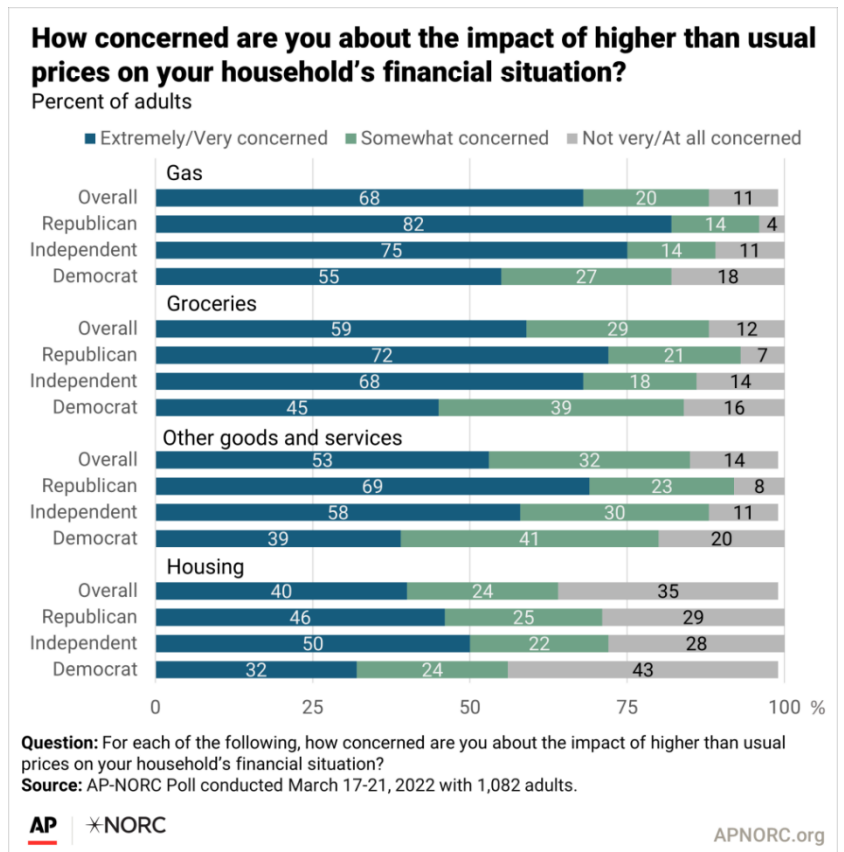
Inflation/Expenses

Inflation is its highest in 40 years, with consumer prices up 7.9 percent in the 12 months ending in February. Prices in February alone increased 0.8 percent; the gasoline index rose 6.6 percent ([U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 3/10](#)). Fifty-six percent of registered voters say inflation is not under control at all ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)).

Inflation and the cost of living top lists of biggest, most important, most urgent or most worrying problems in seven studies ([CNN 2/23-2/26](#); [KFF 3/15-3/22](#); [NBC News 3/18-3/22](#); [NPR-Ipsos 3/18-3/21](#); [PhRMA-Ipsos 2/11-2/16](#); [Quinnipiac 3/24-3/28](#); [WSJ 3/2-3/7](#)). Six in 10 worry about inflation a great deal ([Gallup 3/1-3/18](#)). Inflation and supply chain breakdowns were the most worrying topic of 17 among Latinos ([Axios-Ipsos-Telemundo 3/7-3/18](#)).

About six in 10 registered voters say the cost of living is rising and causing them financial strains, with three in 10 citing major strains. Thirty-two percent say the cost of living isn’t a problem for them now but will become one if costs keep going up. Nine percent aren’t concerned about it. ([WSJ 3/2-3/7](#))

Sixty-eight percent are very or somewhat concerned about the impact of higher gasoline prices on their household’s financial situation. Fifty-nine percent are similarly concerned about the price of groceries, 40 percent housing and 53 percent other goods and services. Republicans are more apt than Democrats to express concern. ([AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#))



About nine in 10 alike report spending more on food and gas, fuel or energy than this time last year. Fifty-two percent say their housing costs have gone up ([NPR-Ipsos 3/18-3/21](#)).

Thirty-four percent say it's been somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses in the past week, up from 27 percent in August to the most since March 2021. Ten percent say there was sometimes or often not enough to eat in their household in the past week, up 2 points since August ([U.S. Census Bureau 3/2-3/14](#)). Forty-seven percent are very or somewhat worried about being able to afford food, up from 34 percent in February 2020 ([KFF 3/15-3/22](#)).

In February, 17 percent said they'd fallen behind in paying credit card or other bills, 13 percent had problems paying for food, 12 percent had problems paying medical bills, 11 percent had problems affording health insurance coverage and 9 percent had fallen behind in paying their rent or mortgage in the past three months. In sum, 29 percent had trouble paying for or affording one of those items, down from 37 percent a year earlier. ([KFF 2/9-2/21](#))

Two-thirds of registered voters and 75 percent of those with household incomes less than \$50,000 say they've had to cut back on other spending in order to afford necessities, with 28 percent cutting back "a lot" ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)).

Forty-eight percent of adults have stopped doing something in the past month "e.g. driving long distances, planning trips" because of increased housing, food or gas prices and three in 10 have changed summer vacation plans because of gas prices ([NPR-Ipsos 3/18-3/21](#); [Quinnipiac 3/24-3/28](#)). Forty-five percent say they've cut back significantly on household spending as a result of the recent rise in gas prices. That reaches 59 percent of those with household incomes less than \$30,000 vs. one-third of those with incomes more than \$100,000 ([Quinnipiac 3/10-3/14](#)). Thirty-five percent say they've cut back spending on groceries so they can pay for gas ([Quinnipiac 3/24-3/28](#)).

Thirty-eight percent say recent increases in gas prices have caused them a great deal of financial hardship; 37 percent say the price of gas has been a very serious problem for them lately. Both are more cited among those with lower incomes and Republicans than by those with higher incomes and Democrats. ([Monmouth 3/10-3/14](#); [Quinnipiac 3/10-3/14](#)).

At the same time, assessments of the problem of rising gas prices are essentially unchanged since last asked in mid-October: Fifty-two percent of registered voters say they're a major problem for their family, 36 percent a minor problem, 15 percent not a problem ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)).

One in three adults younger than 65 with employer-based private health insurance reported incurring significant medical expenses from July 2019 to July 2021, with 59 percent of them having to make financial sacrifices as a result. Fifty-one percent of those making sacrifices limited grocery spending; 10 percent went hungry or skipped meals. Twelve to 22 percent canceled or cut back on utilities, internet or phone services; 10 percent fell behind on rent or mortgage payments. Most making sacrifices also had to take on debt as a result of their medical expenses. ([Centivo 8/11-8/24](#))

Housing

Eighteen percent of the U.S. population lives in multigenerational households, more than doubling since 1971. It reaches 37 percent of men age 25-29, compared with 26 percent of women in this age group. Four in 10 adults in such households cite financial issues as a major reason for the arrangement. Unemployed adults in such households are less apt than those in other households to be in poverty, 11 vs. 19 percent. ([Pew 10/18-10/24](#))

Parenting

One in five adults reports that they or someone in their household claimed the Child Tax Credit on their 2021 Federal tax return. (A quarter had yet to file.) Five percent overall say their household used the Child Tax Credit payment to meet spending needs. Among those who received a refund, three-quarters mostly used it to pay down debt (58 percent) or spent it (18 percent), with food, clothing, utilities/telecommunication and rent the most-cited expenses. ([U.S. Census Bureau 3/2-3/14](#))

Eighty-seven percent of parents of minor children rate the cost of paid childcare in their area as expensive, with 42 percent calling it very expensive ([CNN 2/23-2/26](#)).

In a survey conducted in the second half of 2020, 13.7 percent of parents with minor children reported problems paying their child's medical bills in the previous 12 months, down from 17.0 percent in 2019 to the lowest in data since 2016. The share who reported household food insufficiency fell 5.0 points in five years to a low of 28.9 percent in 2020. That's despite an increase in the share of parents of children age five and younger who quit, declined or changed jobs due to childcare problems, up 3.2 points in 2020 to 12.6 percent. ([Lebrun-Harris et al., 2022](#))

Employment

The unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent in February, just 0.3 points more than in February 2020. Labor force participation, too, largely has recovered, now 62.3 percent vs. 63.4 percent pre-pandemic ([U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 3/4](#)). Eighty-seven percent of workers in February were not concerned about losing their job, a 9-point increase since January ([Fannie Mae 2/1-2/22](#)).

Job openings remained near record highs last month, with 11.3 million vacancies at the end of February, similar to January. That's partially due to a persistently high quit rate, now 2.9 percent, reflecting 4.4 million quits in February. ([BLS 3/29](#))

Though the unemployment rates in February were similar for men and women, seven in 10 net job losers since February 2020 were women, and more than 1.1 million have left the labor force since then. Among Black women in particular, unemployment increased to 6.1 percent from 5.8 percent in January. Unemployed Black women are more likely than other unemployed women to have been out of work for six or more months, 32.5 percent, and their labor force participation in February was 61.7 percent, 2.2 points below the pre-pandemic rate. ([National Women's Law Center 3/4](#))

Nineteen percent of adults, excluding retirees, quit a job in 2021, including 37 percent of those younger than 30. Low pay and lack of opportunities for advancement were cited most frequently out of a list of 10 items as reasons for having left, both 63 percent; 57 percent said feeling disrespected at work was a factor. Other reasons included child-care issues (48 percent), work-time flexibility (45 percent) and poor benefits (43 percent). Fewer mentioned relocation and problems with the amount of working hours, 30 to 39 percent. Eighteen percent said it was at least in part because their employer required them to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

College-educated workers were less likely to point to COVID-19 vaccines, lack of hours and lack of flexibility of when to work as reasons to quit than those without degrees. They also were more likely to say they currently earn more money and have more opportunities for advancement in their new situations, though these also held for about half of those with no more than some college education. ([Pew 2/7-2/13](#))

An analysis of Census data finds that among full-time, year-round workers in 2019, the median annual earnings for women was 82 percent that of men, with differences by age and geography. It narrowed to 93 percent among those younger than 30. In just 22 of 250 metro areas, women younger than 30 earned at least as much as men; these areas accounted for approximately 16 percent of women younger than 30 working full time. ([Pew 3/28](#))

Of 16 factors to consider whether to take a job, majorities of workers in October rated income and benefits, work-life balance and well-being, being able to do what they do best and stability and job security as very important. Fifty-two percent of women said whether an organization is diverse and inclusive was very important, vs. 29 percent of men. ([Gallup 10/16-10/28](#))

Remote Work

In February, 42 percent of full-time workers (not exclusively self-employed) whose job can be done remotely at least part of the time had a hybrid schedule, 39 percent worked remotely and 19 percent were fully on site. A plurality preferred a hybrid model, 59 percent, including 38 percent of fully remote workers. Thirty-two percent preferred to be exclusively remote, 9 percent fully on site.

Among those preferring a hybrid schedule, opinions were mixed on how often they'd prefer to work at the office. About a quarter wanted to do so primarily or mostly, 38 percent about half the time, 29 percent sometimes and 8 percent rarely. There also were mixed results on who should determine the schedule: Thirty-eight percent wanted autonomy, 22 percent coordination by their manager or team so that everyone is on site at least one day per week together, 16 percent employer-required specific days per week and 24 percent employer-required certain number of days per week on site.

If their employer stopped offering remote-work options, 54 percent of those working remotely and 38 percent of hybrid workers said they'd likely look for another job. ([Gallup 2/3-2/14](#))

Nineteen percent of workers say their employer asked remote workers to start coming back into the office. The share of those who've worked remotely instead of at their normal workplace in the last few weeks, 25 percent, is down 7 points from early February and just 1 point off its pandemic low. ([Axios-Ipsos 3/11-3/14](#))

In a July-to-September survey, 22 percent of private-sector jobs involved telework at least some of the time, ranging from 68 percent of workers in the information sector to 2 percent in accommodation and food services. Within sectors, high-wage establishments (i.e., those paying an average of more than \$80,000 per job per year) had a higher share of their workforce working remotely, compared with low-wage establishments (with average wages less than \$20,000). At the same time, establishments with a higher share of their employees working in-person were more apt to say they increased wages because of the pandemic. Among businesses that increased base wages, 88 percent of jobs rarely or never involved remote work, compared with 76 percent of jobs at businesses that did not increase base pay. ([BLS 7/27-9/30](#))

COVID and the Workplace

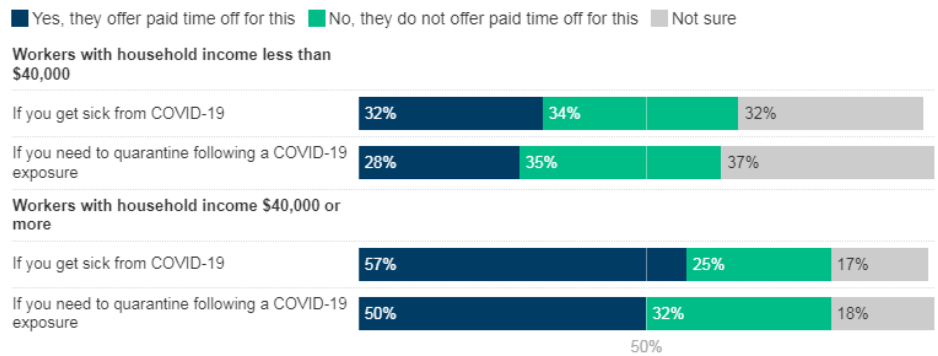
Seventy-one percent of workers say the pandemic has caused a disruption to their job, with 25 percent calling it a major disruption ([CNN 2/23-2/26](#)).

Twenty-eight percent of working parents had to miss work in the past three months to stay home with a child who had to quarantine or whose school switched to online learning. Among all working adults (excluding those self-employed), 26 percent had to miss work to quarantine, one in five after testing positive for COVID-19 and 13 percent because their workplace was closed or reduced hours due to COVID-19 concerns. In sum, 42 percent in February had to miss work at least once in the past three months because of one of those COVID-19 concerns; this rose to 60 percent among those with household incomes lower than \$40,000. Of those who had to miss work due to COVID-19, 44 percent said it impacted their family's finances, with 19 percent calling that a major impact.

Fifty-two percent said their employer offers paid time off if they get sick from COVID-19, 44 percent if they need to quarantine. Thirty-five percent of working parents said their employer offers paid time off to stay home with their child if they get sick or can't attend school or daycare because of COVID-19. Those with household incomes below \$40,000 were less apt than those with

Lower-Income Workers Are Less Likely Than Higher Income Workers To Report Paid Time Off To Recover From Symptoms Or Quarantine After COVID-19 Exposure

As far as you know, does your employer offer you paid time off...do they not offer paid time off, or are you not sure?



NOTE: Among those who are employed but not self-employed. See topline for full question wording. SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (February 9-21, 2022) • PNG

higher incomes to report having paid time off if they get COVID-19 or need to quarantine.

Eleven percent of workers and about three in 10 of those with household incomes less than \$40,000 said they'd gone to work when they had COVID-19 symptoms or been exposed to the virus because they couldn't afford to take time off. Five percent of employed parents said they'd sent their child to school/daycare when they had symptoms or had been exposed because they couldn't take time off work. ([KFF 2/9-2/21](#))

Twenty-nine percent of workers see working in an office as posing a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being; as many see no risk, while 41 percent think there's a small risk. Thirty-nine percent say masks are required at their workplace, down 20 points from early February and the fewest in data going back to August. Fifty-two percent support a workplace mask mandate; 47 percent oppose it. Results on an employer-based vaccine mandate are similar, with 53 percent support. ([Axios-Ipsos 3/11-3/14](#))

Support for requiring proof of vaccination to attend a workplace was 44 percent among all adults in another poll, down 9 points from September ([Monmouth 3/10-3/14](#)).

Cryptocurrency

Two-thirds say they've heard or read a lot or some about cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. Forty-three percent think that cryptocurrencies "will become a dominant economic force in the long-term" while 35 percent think they're "a short-term trend." The rest are unsure. If given \$1,000 to invest, most, 73 percent, would invest it in traditional stocks; 16 percent would pick crypto.

Sixteen percent currently own cryptocurrency; 8 percent owned it in the past but no longer do. Of those who own it, a plurality says the current value is \$1,000 or less. Among those who don't own cryptocurrency, 46 percent are not interested and 43 percent don't understand it enough. One-third don't think it's secure, 27 percent say it's too volatile, 25 percent don't have extra money to invest, 22 percent don't know how to invest in it and 19 percent don't know anywhere to spend it. Sixty-nine percent of those who don't own any say they're not at all likely to buy cryptocurrency in the next 12 months. ([Quinnipiac 3/10-3/14](#))

State Results

California. Two-thirds of Californians say recent price increases caused financial hardships for their household, reaching serious hardship for 35 percent overall and 47 percent of those with household incomes less than \$40,000. A majority, 55 percent, are concerned about having enough money to pay their rent or mortgage, including 26 percent very concerned. Four in 10 with incomes less than \$40,000 and 34 percent of renters are very concerned.

Sixty-four percent say housing affordability is a big problem in their part of California. Thirty-seven percent say the cost of housing makes them seriously consider moving outside the state; 8 percent, moving elsewhere in California.

Sixty-four percent say homelessness is a big problem in their part of California. Sixty-three percent think that the presence of homeless people in their local community has increased in the last 12 months. ([PPIC 3/6-3/17](#))

Government Action

Among those calling inflation their biggest problem, 87 percent said the U.S. government was doing too little to help them manage it ([CNN 2/23-2/26](#)).

Adults by a 2-1 margin say Joe Biden's policies have done more to hurt rather than help the national economy, 48 vs. 24 percent ([AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#)). Fifty-three percent of registered voters say the Biden administration has made the economy worse, 22 percent better ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)). Thirty-eight percent place most of the blame for inflation on Biden and his policies, 28 percent blame the pandemic, 23 percent corporations increasing prices and 6 percent Russia's invasion of Ukraine ([NBC News 3/18-3/22](#)).

Forty-four percent say higher than usual gas prices are more because of Biden's policies; 55 percent more because of factors outside Biden's control ([AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#)). Sixty-eight percent of registered voters say the administration's policies are very or somewhat responsible for current gas prices ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#)). Asked which is most responsible, 41 percent cite the Biden administration's policies, 24 percent oil companies charging more, 24 percent the war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia and 5 percent rise in demand as the pandemic eases ([Quinnipiac 3/24-3/28](#)). Given different response options to assess primary responsibility, 34 percent blame Biden, 26 percent oil and gas companies and 20 percent Vladimir Putin ([NPR-Ipsos 3/18-3/21](#)).

Three-quarters of registered voters support increasing renewable energy production from wind and solar sources and increasing domestic oil and gas production as a way to help reduce gas prices. Sixty-five percent support approving oil and gas pipelines like Keystone XL. Far fewer, 33 percent, support importing more oil from countries with repressive governments, including Iran and Venezuela. ([Fox News 3/18-3/21](#))

Adults divide, 36-37 percent, on increasing U.S. interest rates, while majorities support releasing more oil and gas from the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve, requiring energy companies to cap gasoline costs during the Ukraine conflict and allowing more oil and gas development on federal lands. Forty-nine percent support providing larger tax breaks for people to buy electric vehicles. ([NPR-Ipsos 3/18-3/21](#))