

November 1, 2022

Fall 2022 Policy Survey: Inflation Supplement

Summary: Researchers at the University of South Florida conducted a statewide survey of 600 Floridians to measure public opinion on several current policy issues. The results presented in this supplemental report address the impact of inflation on Floridians and their attitudes toward government responses to the rising costs of goods and services. The survey included a representative sample of 600 Floridians, fielded between October 14th and 23rd, 2022. Topline results are reported below with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error +/- 4.

Over the past year, a significant majority of Floridians have been severely impacted by the rising costs of goods and services:

- 65% say that inflation has impacted their ability to pay essential bills.
- 67% say that inflation has forced them to draw down their savings.
- 89% say that inflation has impacted their grocery spending.
- 88% say that inflation has impacted their discretionary spending.
- 68% say that inflation has impacted their travel plans

Floridians's wages have not kept pace with inflation. Among income earners, 80% say that their wages have not kept up with the rising cost of goods and services over the past year.

Two-thirds of Floridians are worse off financially than they were a year ago. Just over 67% of Floridians say that they have LESS money available for a personal emergency than they did 12 months ago. Only 7% say that they have MORE money available for a personal emergency than they did 12 months ago.

Most Floridians are dissatisfied with the federal government's response to inflation. More than a third of Floridians's say that the Biden Administration's policies are primarily responsible for the rising costs of goods and services, while 19% attribute inflation primarily to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 11% attribute it primarily to the War in Ukraine. More than three quarter (77%) say that they are either "somewhat" or "very dissatisfied" with the federal government's response to the rising cost of goods and services.

Inflation is top of mind for voters heading into the November 8th midterms. When asked to identify the issues that will impact their votes this Fall, 52% said inflation (more than any other issue).

Summary of Responses

Thinking about the past year, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: ***Inflation has impacted my ability to pay essential bills.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	203	33.8
Somewhat Agree	197	32.8
Somewhat Disagree	131	21.8
Strongly Disagree	69	11.5

(n=600)

Thinking about the past year, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: ***Inflation has impacted my grocery spending.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	362	60.3
Somewhat Agree	171	28.5
Somewhat Disagree	49	8.2
Strongly Disagree	18	3.0

(n=600)

Thinking about the past year, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *Inflation has impacted my discretionary spending.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	347	57.8
Somewhat Agree	179	29.8
Somewhat Disagree	52	8.7
Strongly Disagree	22	3.7

(n=600)

Thinking about the past year, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *Inflation has impacted my travel plans.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	258	43.0
Somewhat Agree	150	25.0
Somewhat Disagree	128	21.3
Strongly Disagree	64	10.7

(n=600)

Thinking about the past year, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *Inflation has forced me to draw down my personal savings.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	246	41.0
Somewhat Agree	156	26.0
Somewhat Disagree	130	21.7
Strongly Disagree	68	11.3

(n=600)

Have your wages kept up with the rising costs of goods and services over the last year?.

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	19.9
No	362	80.1

(n=452 income earners)

Compared to 12 months ago, which of the following statements best describes your current financial situation?

	Frequency	Percentage
I have MORE money available for a personal emergency than I did 12 months ago	42	7.0
I have LESS money available for a personal emergency than I did 12 months ago	403	67.2
I have ABOUT THE SAME amount of money available for a personal emergency as I did 12 months ago.	155	25.8

(n=600)

How satisfied are you with how the federal government is responding to inflation and the rising costs of goods and services?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	22	3.7
Somewhat Satisfied	91	15.2
Somewhat Dissatisfied	173	28.8
Very Dissatisfied	288	48.0
Unsure	26	4.3

(n=600)

Which ONE of the following do you feel is MOST responsible for the inflation currently being experienced by Americans?

	Frequency	Percentage
The Biden Administration's Policies	215	35.8
The COVID-19 Pandemic	116	19.3
Government Spending/Stimulus Payments	69	11.5
The War in Ukraine	67	11.2
The Trump Administration's Policies	56	9.3
Increasing Consumer Demand	27	4.5
Something Else	50	8.3

(n=600)

Q: Thinking about the upcoming elections in November, which three of the following issues will have the most significant impact on how you decide to vote? (n=500 likely voters)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Inflation | 52% |
| 2. Economy/Jobs | 48% |
| 3. Immigration | 32% |
| 4. Abortion | 28% |
| 5. Gun Violence/Crime | 27% |
| 6. Healthcare | 22% |
| 7. Education | 17% |
| 8. Climate Change | 15% |

*All other options selected by 10% or less of respondents.

Survey Information

600 adult Floridians were surveyed via an online web-panel using an industry leading market research provider. The survey was fielded from October 14th through October 23rd 2022, and the results are reported with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of +/- 4. Respondents were selected via stratified, quota sampling to ensure a representative sample. Balanced quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education and party affiliation were determined based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida's Department of State, and Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR). Quotas were stratified by region of the state for geographical representativeness.

Sample Comparison

	USF Survey Sample	Florida Demographics*
<i>Gender</i>		
Female	51.3%	51.1%
Male	48.0%	48.9%
Non-Binary/Other	0.7%	-
<i>Age</i>		
18-24	10.8%	10.8%
25-44	31.0%	31.2%
45-64	32.2%	32.4%
65+	26.0%	25.6%
<i>Race</i>		
Black/African American	18.0%	16.9%
White/Caucasian	74.0%	77.3%
Other	8.1%	5.8%
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
Hispanic	27.8%	26.4%
Non-Hispanic	72.2%	73.6%
<i>Education</i>		
Less than 4 Year Degree	71.0%	69.5%
4 Year Degree (or higher)	29.0%	30.5%
<i>Political Affiliation (registered voters only, n=541)</i>		
Democrat	36.6%	36.2%
Independent	27.4%	26.4%
Republican	35.7%	35.7%
Other	0.3%	1.7%
<i>Region</i>		
Panhandle	7.3%	7.2%
Northeast Florida	12.5%	12.4%
Central Florida	25.2%	25.5%
West Coast	22.5%	21.9%
Southeast Florida	32.5%	32.9%

*Gender, race, ethnicity, and region quotas based on U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP): <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fl> Age quotas based on Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR): <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/population-demographics/data/index-floridaproducts.cfm> Political Affiliation quotas based on Florida Division of Elections <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/voter-registration-statistics/voter-registration-reportsxlsx/voter-registration-by-party-affiliation/>

About our Research Team

Stephen Neely (PhD, North Carolina State University, 2013) is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. He is coordinator of the School's undergraduate program in *Leadership and Public Service*. His areas of specialization include survey research, quantitative data analysis, and public policy. He is a faculty researcher on the Sunshine State Survey project and has conducted survey research on behalf of local governments in the Tampa Bay region. For additional information please visit his [USF faculty page](#). Dr. Neely can be contacted by email at srneely@usf.edu

About the University of South Florida

The University of South Florida is a high-impact global research university dedicated to student success. Over the past 10 years, no other public university in the country has risen faster in U.S. News and World Report's national university rankings than USF. Serving more than 50,000 students on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF is designated as a Preeminent State Research University by the Florida Board of Governors, placing it in the most elite category among the state's 12 public universities. USF has earned widespread national recognition for its success graduating under-represented minority and limited-income students at rates equal to or higher than white and higher income students. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.

***For media inquiries, please contact Stephen Neely at srneely@usf.edu**