

CBS News Poll – February 3-5, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



Sample 2,425 Adults in the U.S.

Margin of Error ± 2.4 points

1. How would you rate the condition of the national economy today?

Very good	6%
Fairly good	28%
Fairly bad	35%
Very bad	25%
Not sure	6%

2. Do you think the economy is...?

Getting better	25%
Getting worse	55%
Staying about the same	20%

3. Which of these things do you, personally, think about when you evaluate whether the U.S. economy is good or bad? CHECK ALL THOSE YOU THINK ABOUT

Prices of food and services you buy	89%
Gas prices	62%
Housing market	56%
National job reports and unemployment rates	54%
Interest rates	47%
Stock market	34%
Job prospects in your own field of work	33%

4. As you and your family plan for the next year, are you doing so expecting the U.S. economy to be...

Booming	5%
Growing, but not booming	17%
Holding steady	24%
Slowing, but not in recession	30%
In recession	24%

5. How would you rate your own personal financial and economic situation today?

Very good	8%
Fairly good	43%
Fairly bad	27%
Very bad	14%
Not sure	8%

6. In the last few weeks, have prices on the goods and services you buy been...

Going up	55%
Going down	10%
Staying the same	35%

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7. How would you rate the U.S. job market today?

Very good	4%
Fairly good	29%
Fairly bad	34%
Very bad	18%
Not sure	15%

8. In the last few weeks, have gas prices in your area been...

Going up	24%
Going down	23%
Staying the same	39%
Not sure/don't buy gas	14%

9. Thinking about discretionary or optional purchases - that is, things you want, but don't need to buy. In the next few months, do you expect to buy more, fewer, or about the same amount of these kinds of discretionary purchases as you typically do?

More	6%
Fewer	46%
About the same	48%

10. Thinking about what you pay for utilities and energy in your home, such as heating oil, gas and electricity, are those costs right now...

A financial hardship	17%
Difficult, but not a financial hardship	33%
An inconvenience, but not difficult	32%
Very affordable, not inconvenient	8%
Don't pay for utilities	10%

11. How would you rate the overall condition of the U.S. stock market today?

Very good	10%
Fairly good	30%
Fairly bad	15%
Very bad	7%
Not sure	38%

12. How much does the way the stock market performs matter to you and your personal finances?

A lot	12%
Some	28%
Not much	31%
Not at all	29%

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13. Which should be the bigger priority for the economy right now?

Keep interest rates where they are, to try to control inflation	40%
Lower interest rates from where they are, to try to make borrowing money easier	32%
Not sure	28%

14. Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Increasing	Decreasing	Same
Young people	21%	51%	28%
Older people	15%	55%	30%
Wealthy people	62%	8%	30%
Middle class people	16%	53%	31%
People with college degrees	15%	49%	36%
People without college degrees	19%	46%	35%

15. For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Easier	Harder	Same
Go to a good college	13%	61%	26%
Get a good job	8%	69%	23%
Buy a home	5%	83%	12%
Start a business	11%	67%	22%
Raise a family	4%	77%	18%

16. Do you think the income gap between the richest Americans and middle class Americans is increasing, decreasing, or is it staying the same?

Increasing	71%
Decreasing	7%
Staying the same	22%

17. How secure do you feel that you can continue in your job as long as you want?

Among those who are working full or part time

Very secure	28%
Somewhat secure	52%
Not very secure	15%
Not at all secure	5%

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18. If you were looking for a job, how easy or difficult do you think it would be to find the kind of job you would want?

Very easy	6%
Somewhat easy	23%
Somewhat difficult	42%
Very difficult	29%

19. Do you think that AI (Artificial Intelligence) will increase, decrease, or not have any impact on the number of jobs available in the U.S.?

Increase	21%
Decrease	62%
Have no effect	16%

20. Should U.S. government policy with regard to AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the United States generally be to promote use and development of AI, restrict use and development of AI, or not take a position either way?

Promote use and development of AI	18%
Restrict use and development of AI	50%
Not take position either way	32%

21. In the next ten years or so, what impact, if any, do you think AI will have in your field of work? Do you think AI will...

Among those working full or part time

Make jobs in the field harder to do	32%
Make jobs in field easier	35%
Not impact that work either way	33%

22. In the next ten years or so, do you think that AI will increase, decrease, or not have any impact on the number of jobs available in your field of work?

Among those working full or part time

Increase	17%
Decrease	47%
Have no effect	36%

* Questions held for future release.

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1. Condition of National Economy

How would you rate the condition of the national economy today?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very good	6%	8%	4%	3%	6%	7%	6%	4%	8%	9%
Fairly good	28%	33%	23%	29%	23%	27%	33%	23%	28%	35%
Fairly bad	35%	33%	37%	37%	36%	36%	32%	34%	37%	35%
Very bad	25%	20%	28%	22%	26%	26%	24%	31%	22%	17%
Not sure	6%	6%	7%	9%	9%	4%	5%	7%	5%	4%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(1,176)	(1,248)	(505)	(614)	(791)	(514)	(1,020)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very good	6%	3%	4%	13%	6%	3%	7%	5%	8%
Fairly good	28%	11%	23%	54%	31%	13%	29%	33%	29%
Fairly bad	35%	43%	38%	23%	35%	46%	27%	33%	37%
Very bad	25%	40%	27%	6%	23%	30%	30%	24%	21%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	4%	5%	7%	6%	5%	5%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(648)	(874)	(696)	(1,524)	(296)	(391)	(947)	(577)

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2. Track of Economy

Do you think the economy is...?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Getting better	25%	29%	20%	17%	22%	26%	33%	20%	29%	34%
Getting worse	55%	50%	60%	58%	57%	54%	51%	61%	51%	49%
Staying about the same	20%	21%	19%	25%	21%	19%	16%	19%	19%	17%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(1,173)	(1,248)	(505)	(614)	(788)	(514)	(1,018)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Getting better	25%	5%	16%	60%	30%	8%	21%	32%	27%
Getting worse	55%	84%	61%	17%	50%	75%	60%	46%	56%
Staying about the same	20%	11%	23%	23%	20%	17%	19%	22%	17%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(647)	(872)	(696)	(1,523)	(296)	(389)	(946)	(577)

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3. How Do You Evaluate Economy?

Which of these things do you, personally, think about when you evaluate whether the U.S. economy is good or bad? CHECK ALL THOSE YOU THINK ABOUT

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Prices of food and services you buy	89%	86%	91%	83%	87%	91%	94%	90%	89%	87%
Gas prices	62%	61%	63%	56%	57%	68%	65%	61%	65%	62%
Housing market	56%	52%	60%	58%	57%	54%	58%	52%	60%	62%
National job reports and unemployment rates	54%	54%	54%	51%	53%	53%	59%	49%	52%	69%
Interest rates	47%	46%	48%	42%	46%	48%	52%	39%	51%	58%
Stock market	34%	38%	31%	37%	33%	32%	38%	24%	37%	52%
Job prospects in your own field of work	33%	33%	34%	40%	41%	35%	15%	30%	33%	41%
Weighted N	(2,425)	(1,176)	(1,249)	(505)	(614)	(792)	(514)	(1,020)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Prices of food and services you buy	89%	92%	88%	87%	91%	87%	84%	91%	90%
Gas prices	62%	54%	61%	72%	65%	56%	60%	66%	63%
Housing market	56%	63%	60%	47%	56%	61%	54%	50%	65%
National job reports and unemployment rates	54%	68%	55%	43%	55%	57%	49%	49%	65%
Interest rates	47%	46%	46%	51%	50%	39%	43%	46%	57%
Stock market	34%	33%	33%	41%	37%	24%	34%	32%	45%
Job prospects in your own field of work	33%	38%	36%	25%	32%	34%	32%	27%	41%
Weighted N	(2,425)	(648)	(874)	(697)	(1,525)	(296)	(391)	(948)	(577)

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4. Expectations for U.S. Economy

As you and your family plan for the next year, are you doing so expecting the U.S. economy to be...

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Booming	5%	6%	4%	3%	4%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Growing, but not booming	17%	20%	15%	13%	14%	18%	24%	15%	20%	24%
Holding steady	24%	25%	22%	34%	23%	21%	17%	23%	21%	20%
Slowing, but not in recession	30%	27%	33%	26%	29%	31%	33%	28%	30%	33%
In recession	24%	22%	26%	24%	29%	25%	19%	29%	23%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,414)	(1,169)	(1,246)	(503)	(607)	(792)	(512)	(1,018)	(650)	(468)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Booming	5%	1%	2%	12%	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Growing, but not booming	17%	4%	14%	37%	20%	9%	16%	21%	18%
Holding steady	24%	15%	24%	30%	23%	23%	27%	25%	19%
Slowing, but not in recession	30%	44%	30%	15%	28%	41%	24%	26%	33%
In recession	24%	36%	30%	6%	24%	23%	27%	23%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,414)	(647)	(872)	(690)	(1,516)	(294)	(391)	(940)	(575)

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5. Personal Financial Situation

How would you rate your own personal financial and economic situation today?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very good	8%	10%	7%	4%	8%	8%	13%	3%	9%	21%
Fairly good	43%	45%	40%	40%	41%	40%	52%	33%	50%	56%
Fairly bad	27%	23%	30%	25%	26%	30%	23%	33%	27%	15%
Very bad	14%	14%	15%	16%	17%	16%	7%	24%	9%	4%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%	14%	8%	6%	5%	7%	5%	4%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(1,174)	(1,245)	(502)	(612)	(791)	(514)	(1,017)	(654)	(468)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very good	8%	7%	6%	14%	9%	6%	8%	6%	15%
Fairly good	43%	41%	41%	52%	46%	40%	37%	43%	52%
Fairly bad	27%	27%	28%	21%	25%	27%	29%	28%	20%
Very bad	14%	17%	17%	7%	14%	17%	15%	17%	8%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%	6%	6%	10%	11%	6%	5%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(647)	(872)	(697)	(1,524)	(296)	(389)	(948)	(575)

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6. Prices on Goods and Services

In the last few weeks, have prices on the goods and services you buy been...

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Going up	55%	52%	59%	53%	54%	58%	56%	61%	53%	50%
Going down	10%	10%	9%	6%	10%	9%	14%	10%	12%	11%
Staying the same	35%	38%	32%	41%	36%	33%	30%	29%	35%	39%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(1,173)	(1,247)	(505)	(614)	(789)	(513)	(1,019)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Going up	55%	74%	59%	33%	51%	71%	58%	51%	50%
Going down	10%	4%	7%	20%	11%	4%	8%	12%	10%
Staying the same	35%	22%	34%	47%	38%	25%	34%	37%	39%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(646)	(873)	(695)	(1,522)	(295)	(391)	(946)	(575)

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7. U.S. Job Market

How would you rate the U.S. job market today?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very good	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	6%	5%
Fairly good	29%	33%	26%	27%	27%	28%	36%	23%	35%	38%
Fairly bad	34%	31%	37%	31%	33%	35%	36%	34%	32%	37%
Very bad	18%	17%	18%	26%	22%	16%	7%	22%	16%	12%
Not sure	15%	13%	16%	12%	13%	16%	17%	17%	11%	8%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(1,176)	(1,246)	(505)	(614)	(791)	(513)	(1,020)	(651)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very good	4%	2%	2%	10%	4%	2%	7%	5%	4%
Fairly good	29%	13%	25%	55%	34%	21%	22%	36%	30%
Fairly bad	34%	48%	38%	15%	31%	46%	32%	28%	37%
Very bad	18%	27%	21%	5%	16%	20%	21%	15%	18%
Not sure	15%	10%	14%	15%	14%	11%	18%	16%	11%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(646)	(872)	(697)	(1,523)	(296)	(390)	(948)	(575)

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8. Gas Prices

In the last few weeks, have gas prices in your area been...

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Going up	24%	24%	24%	27%	25%	24%	20%	25%	26%	22%
Going down	23%	22%	23%	11%	17%	27%	34%	20%	24%	29%
Staying the same	39%	40%	38%	39%	40%	39%	37%	36%	42%	41%
Not sure/don't buy gas	14%	13%	15%	23%	18%	10%	8%	19%	7%	8%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(1,176)	(1,246)	(505)	(613)	(790)	(514)	(1,017)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Going up	24%	29%	24%	17%	21%	30%	30%	21%	22%
Going down	23%	11%	17%	43%	26%	11%	19%	28%	23%
Staying the same	39%	45%	41%	35%	40%	36%	37%	37%	45%
Not sure/don't buy gas	14%	15%	17%	5%	12%	23%	14%	14%	10%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(647)	(874)	(694)	(1,523)	(295)	(391)	(946)	(577)

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9. Optional Purchases in the Next Few Months

Thinking about discretionary or optional purchases - that is, things you want, but don't need to buy. In the next few months, do you expect to buy more, fewer, or about the same amount of these kinds of discretionary purchases as you typically do?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
More	6%	7%	6%	10%	7%	5%	4%	4%	8%	11%
Fewer	46%	41%	51%	38%	48%	49%	48%	54%	45%	37%
About the same	48%	52%	43%	52%	45%	46%	48%	42%	47%	52%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,420)	(1,172)	(1,247)	(502)	(613)	(790)	(514)	(1,019)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
More	6%	7%	4%	7%	5%	14%	6%	4%	7%
Fewer	46%	59%	51%	31%	45%	47%	48%	43%	47%
About the same	48%	34%	45%	62%	50%	39%	46%	53%	46%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,420)	(646)	(871)	(695)	(1,520)	(295)	(391)	(943)	(577)

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10. Cost of Utilities

Thinking about what you pay for utilities and energy in your home, such as heating oil, gas and electricity, are those costs right now...

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
A financial hardship	17%	14%	20%	10%	19%	21%	15%	26%	14%	7%
Difficult, but not a financial hardship	33%	33%	33%	29%	29%	36%	40%	33%	38%	32%
An inconvenience, but not difficult	32%	34%	30%	30%	33%	31%	33%	25%	33%	45%
Very affordable, not inconvenient	8%	9%	7%	6%	9%	7%	9%	6%	10%	13%
Don't pay for utilities	10%	10%	10%	24%	9%	5%	3%	10%	5%	3%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(1,176)	(1,248)	(505)	(613)	(792)	(514)	(1,019)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
A financial hardship	17%	20%	18%	13%	17%	16%	19%	21%	10%
Difficult, but not a financial hardship	33%	34%	32%	33%	35%	35%	30%	35%	34%
An inconvenience, but not difficult	32%	30%	32%	37%	33%	23%	31%	29%	40%
Very affordable, not inconvenient	8%	7%	5%	12%	7%	13%	9%	4%	12%
Don't pay for utilities	10%	9%	12%	5%	8%	13%	11%	11%	3%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(646)	(874)	(697)	(1,525)	(294)	(391)	(948)	(577)

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11. U.S. Stock Market

How would you rate the overall condition of the U.S. stock market today?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very good	10%	15%	6%	6%	7%	11%	18%	7%	13%	18%
Fairly good	30%	34%	26%	26%	27%	31%	36%	22%	35%	41%
Fairly bad	15%	15%	16%	19%	18%	14%	11%	16%	15%	17%
Very bad	7%	7%	6%	12%	9%	4%	2%	10%	6%	3%
Not sure	38%	29%	45%	37%	39%	40%	32%	45%	31%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(1,176)	(1,248)	(505)	(614)	(792)	(514)	(1,020)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very good	10%	4%	8%	21%	12%	5%	8%	11%	14%
Fairly good	30%	27%	27%	40%	33%	23%	24%	27%	44%
Fairly bad	15%	22%	17%	7%	13%	21%	18%	12%	14%
Very bad	7%	10%	9%	1%	5%	9%	10%	7%	3%
Not sure	38%	36%	39%	31%	36%	42%	39%	43%	25%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,424)	(648)	(874)	(697)	(1,525)	(295)	(391)	(948)	(577)

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Adults in the U.S.



12. U.S. Stock Market and Personal Finance

How much does the way the stock market performs matter to you and your personal finances?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
A lot	12%	12%	11%	8%	10%	13%	15%	8%	13%	21%
Some	28%	28%	28%	29%	29%	25%	30%	22%	31%	39%
Not much	31%	31%	31%	36%	30%	30%	28%	31%	32%	28%
Not at all	29%	29%	29%	26%	31%	32%	26%	39%	24%	12%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(1,175)	(1,247)	(505)	(612)	(792)	(514)	(1,020)	(652)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
A lot	12%	12%	10%	15%	13%	10%	9%	10%	19%
Some	28%	29%	28%	28%	27%	30%	31%	22%	35%
Not much	31%	31%	32%	30%	30%	31%	34%	29%	30%
Not at all	29%	27%	30%	27%	30%	29%	26%	38%	16%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(648)	(873)	(695)	(1,523)	(295)	(391)	(948)	(575)

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13. Interest Rates – Bigger Priority

Which should be the bigger priority for the economy right now?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Keep interest rates where they are, to try to control inflation	40%	45%	35%	41%	39%	38%	44%	33%	42%	56%
Lower interest rates from where they are, to try to make borrowing money easier	32%	31%	33%	24%	28%	37%	36%	34%	34%	29%
Not sure	28%	24%	32%	35%	33%	25%	20%	33%	24%	15%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(1,175)	(1,246)	(505)	(612)	(791)	(513)	(1,016)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Keep interest rates where they are, to try to control inflation	40%	48%	42%	36%	43%	38%	31%	38%	51%
Lower interest rates from where they are, to try to make borrowing money easier	32%	28%	26%	44%	32%	30%	36%	35%	27%
Not sure	28%	24%	32%	20%	25%	32%	33%	27%	22%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(648)	(871)	(696)	(1,522)	(294)	(391)	(946)	(577)

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14A. Opportunities for People — Young people

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	21%	23%	19%	23%	17%	21%	22%	22%	23%	20%
Decreasing	51%	51%	51%	53%	53%	46%	54%	47%	54%	55%
Same	28%	26%	30%	24%	30%	32%	24%	31%	23%	25%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,417)	(1,172)	(1,244)	(505)	(611)	(789)	(511)	(1,019)	(653)	(468)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	21%	14%	18%	31%	20%	25%	23%	22%	16%
Decreasing	51%	65%	56%	34%	52%	43%	47%	45%	64%
Same	28%	21%	26%	35%	28%	32%	29%	32%	20%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,417)	(648)	(871)	(695)	(1,521)	(296)	(389)	(944)	(577)

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14B. Opportunities for People — Older people

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	15%	15%	14%	19%	13%	16%	10%	15%	15%	16%
Decreasing	55%	52%	59%	41%	51%	61%	67%	59%	55%	49%
Same	30%	33%	27%	40%	36%	23%	23%	26%	30%	35%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(1,175)	(1,247)	(505)	(613)	(791)	(513)	(1,018)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	15%	14%	12%	19%	13%	16%	18%	14%	13%
Decreasing	55%	64%	58%	45%	56%	56%	52%	55%	58%
Same	30%	22%	30%	36%	31%	28%	30%	31%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(647)	(874)	(694)	(1,523)	(295)	(391)	(946)	(577)

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14C. Opportunities for People — Wealthy people

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	62%	61%	63%	61%	60%	59%	71%	59%	64%	67%
Decreasing	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	4%	10%	9%	4%
Same	30%	31%	29%	30%	31%	32%	25%	31%	27%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(1,175)	(1,247)	(504)	(614)	(791)	(512)	(1,019)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	62%	77%	67%	48%	63%	62%	61%	58%	70%
Decreasing	8%	8%	5%	10%	6%	11%	11%	8%	4%
Same	30%	15%	28%	42%	31%	27%	28%	34%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(648)	(872)	(695)	(1,522)	(296)	(391)	(946)	(576)

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14D. Opportunities for People — Middle class people

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	16%	17%	15%	13%	13%	16%	21%	17%	15%	18%
Decreasing	53%	51%	56%	52%	55%	54%	52%	52%	56%	55%
Same	31%	32%	29%	35%	32%	30%	26%	31%	29%	27%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,423)	(1,176)	(1,247)	(505)	(613)	(792)	(513)	(1,020)	(654)	(468)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	16%	9%	13%	27%	15%	18%	18%	15%	15%
Decreasing	53%	68%	59%	33%	55%	46%	48%	50%	62%
Same	31%	23%	28%	40%	30%	36%	33%	34%	23%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,423)	(647)	(873)	(697)	(1,523)	(296)	(391)	(947)	(576)

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14E. Opportunities for People — People with college degrees

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	15%	14%	16%	20%	14%	15%	12%	17%	17%	11%
Decreasing	49%	48%	49%	45%	49%	48%	52%	46%	54%	52%
Same	36%	38%	35%	35%	37%	36%	36%	37%	29%	37%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(1,174)	(1,245)	(502)	(614)	(791)	(511)	(1,016)	(653)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	15%	14%	14%	18%	13%	22%	21%	15%	9%
Decreasing	49%	55%	52%	40%	50%	42%	41%	44%	59%
Same	36%	31%	34%	42%	37%	35%	38%	41%	32%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(645)	(873)	(694)	(1,521)	(296)	(389)	(945)	(576)

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14F. Opportunities for People — People without college degrees

Do you feel that economic opportunity for the following groups has generally been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same over recent years?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	19%	20%	19%	16%	17%	20%	24%	18%	20%	24%
Decreasing	46%	45%	47%	48%	46%	46%	44%	45%	47%	48%
Same	35%	35%	34%	36%	37%	34%	31%	37%	33%	28%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(1,173)	(1,246)	(503)	(614)	(792)	(510)	(1,019)	(650)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	19%	12%	15%	31%	21%	13%	19%	20%	22%
Decreasing	46%	61%	52%	27%	46%	47%	44%	43%	51%
Same	35%	27%	33%	42%	33%	40%	36%	37%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,419)	(644)	(873)	(695)	(1,519)	(296)	(391)	(944)	(575)

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15A. Your Generation Had It Easier or Harder than Previous Generations — Go to a good college

For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Easier	13%	14%	12%	13%	12%	14%	11%	10%	13%	21%
Harder	61%	58%	63%	59%	59%	62%	63%	63%	62%	53%
Same	26%	28%	25%	28%	29%	24%	26%	27%	24%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(2,418)	(1,173)	(1,245)	(503)	(612)	(791)	(513)	(1,016)	(651)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Easier	13%	10%	12%	18%	14%	8%	13%	11%	20%
Harder	61%	70%	62%	48%	59%	65%	62%	61%	56%
Same	26%	20%	26%	34%	27%	27%	25%	28%	24%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,418)	(647)	(870)	(694)	(1,520)	(296)	(391)	(945)	(575)

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15B. Your Generation Had It Easier or Harder than Previous Generations — Get a good job

For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Gender			Age				Family Income		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Easier	8%	10%	6%	4%	9%	8%	10%	6%	12%	9%
Harder	69%	63%	74%	75%	65%	69%	67%	73%	65%	64%
Same	23%	26%	20%	21%	26%	23%	23%	21%	23%	27%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,416)	(1,170)	(1,246)	(505)	(612)	(787)	(512)	(1,014)	(653)	(469)

	Party ID			Race			White by Education		
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Easier	8%	4%	6%	15%	9%	5%	7%	10%	8%
Harder	69%	82%	74%	48%	67%	76%	66%	65%	70%
Same	23%	13%	20%	37%	24%	18%	27%	25%	22%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,416)	(647)	(870)	(694)	(1,521)	(296)	(388)	(944)	(577)

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15C. Your Generation Had It Easier or Harder than Previous Generations — Buy a home

For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Easier	5%	6%	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	7%	6%
Harder	83%	82%	84%	85%	82%	83%	82%	85%	81%	81%
Same	12%	12%	12%	11%	12%	12%	12%	10%	12%	13%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,418)	(1,174)	(1,245)	(505)	(613)	(788)	(513)	(1,016)	(652)	(468)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Easier	5%	4%	5%	8%	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%
Harder	83%	88%	85%	75%	83%	82%	81%	82%	84%
Same	12%	8%	10%	17%	12%	13%	11%	13%	10%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,418)	(646)	(872)	(693)	(1,520)	(294)	(391)	(943)	(577)

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15D. Your Generation Had It Easier or Harder than Previous Generations — Start a business

For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Gender			Age				Family Income		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Easier	11%	12%	10%	11%	12%	12%	9%	8%	13%	15%
Harder	67%	64%	70%	63%	64%	69%	72%	72%	65%	64%
Same	22%	24%	20%	26%	24%	19%	19%	20%	22%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(1,174)	(1,247)	(505)	(613)	(790)	(513)	(1,018)	(653)	(469)

	Party ID			Race			White by Education		
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Easier	11%	10%	9%	15%	12%	11%	9%	10%	13%
Harder	67%	75%	69%	55%	67%	66%	66%	67%	68%
Same	22%	15%	22%	30%	21%	23%	24%	23%	19%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,421)	(647)	(873)	(694)	(1,521)	(296)	(391)	(945)	(577)

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15E. Your Generation Had It Easier or Harder than Previous Generations — Raise a family

For people of your generation who want to do these things, do you think each of them has been easier, harder, or the same, compared to previous generations?

	Gender			Age				Family Income		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Easier	4%	6%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Harder	77%	75%	79%	78%	78%	76%	77%	79%	77%	72%
Same	18%	19%	17%	17%	17%	19%	19%	17%	18%	23%
Totals	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,417)	(1,171)	(1,247)	(501)	(612)	(791)	(513)	(1,018)	(653)	(468)
	Party ID				Race			White by Education		
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+	
Easier	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	3%	8%	4%	5%	
Harder	77%	84%	82%	66%	77%	78%	75%	77%	76%	
Same	18%	12%	14%	27%	19%	19%	17%	19%	19%	
Totals	99%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Weighted N	(2,417)	(647)	(869)	(694)	(1,518)	(296)	(390)	(941)	(577)	

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16. Income Gap – Richest and Middle Class

Do you think the income gap between the richest Americans and middle class Americans is increasing, decreasing, or is it staying the same?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increasing	71%	72%	70%	72%	69%	71%	73%	70%	71%	75%
Decreasing	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	6%	6%	9%	6%	3%
Staying the same	22%	22%	22%	21%	23%	23%	20%	21%	23%	22%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(1,175)	(1,247)	(505)	(611)	(791)	(514)	(1,018)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increasing	71%	83%	76%	56%	72%	71%	67%	67%	80%
Decreasing	7%	7%	4%	7%	5%	9%	9%	7%	2%
Staying the same	22%	10%	19%	37%	23%	20%	24%	26%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,422)	(647)	(873)	(696)	(1,524)	(295)	(390)	(948)	(576)

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17. Job Security

How secure do you feel that you can continue in your job as long as you want?

Among those who are working full or part time

		Gender		Age				Family Income		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very secure	28%	29%	27%	25%	30%	26%	*	23%	28%	34%
Somewhat secure	52%	52%	51%	57%	49%	53%	*	54%	50%	51%
Not very secure	15%	14%	16%	15%	16%	14%	*	16%	17%	11%
Not at all secure	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	7%	*	7%	5%	4%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	*	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,031)	(530)	(500)	(213)	(379)	(376)	(62)	(316)	(331)	(306)

		Party ID			Race			White by Education	
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very secure	28%	22%	23%	40%	30%	27%	25%	30%	30%
Somewhat secure	52%	54%	56%	46%	53%	51%	52%	53%	54%
Not very secure	15%	18%	15%	11%	13%	15%	15%	14%	12%
Not at all secure	5%	6%	6%	3%	3%	7%	8%	3%	4%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,031)	(302)	(372)	(292)	(654)	(126)	(170)	(325)	(329)

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18. Ease or Difficulty of Finding a New Job

If you were looking for a job, how easy or difficult do you think it would be to find the kind of job you would want?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Very easy	6%	8%	4%	5%	8%	5%	4%	5%	7%	9%
Somewhat easy	23%	23%	22%	24%	26%	19%	23%	17%	27%	30%
Somewhat difficult	42%	42%	42%	48%	37%	43%	41%	42%	44%	37%
Very difficult	29%	27%	32%	23%	29%	32%	32%	36%	22%	24%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,416)	(1,174)	(1,242)	(502)	(609)	(791)	(514)	(1,016)	(650)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very easy	6%	5%	4%	10%	5%	9%	6%	5%	5%
Somewhat easy	23%	18%	19%	31%	24%	21%	19%	23%	26%
Somewhat difficult	42%	43%	43%	40%	42%	45%	46%	43%	39%
Very difficult	29%	34%	34%	19%	29%	25%	29%	29%	30%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,416)	(647)	(868)	(697)	(1,520)	(295)	(391)	(944)	(576)

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19. Impact of AI on Number of Jobs Available in the U.S.

Do you think that AI (Artificial Intelligence) will increase, decrease, or not have any impact on the number of jobs available in the U.S.?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increase	21%	21%	22%	20%	19%	21%	26%	23%	23%	14%
Decrease	62%	62%	62%	61%	62%	63%	61%	59%	61%	70%
Have no effect	16%	17%	16%	19%	19%	16%	12%	17%	16%	15%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,417)	(1,172)	(1,245)	(505)	(608)	(792)	(513)	(1,013)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increase	21%	22%	19%	23%	16%	34%	31%	19%	13%
Decrease	62%	66%	64%	60%	68%	48%	49%	66%	70%
Have no effect	16%	12%	17%	17%	16%	18%	20%	15%	17%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,417)	(646)	(870)	(697)	(1,523)	(293)	(390)	(946)	(577)

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20. Should Government Policy Promote or Restrict AI

Should U.S. government policy with regard to AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the United States generally be to promote use and development of AI, restrict use and development of AI, or not take a position either way?

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Promote use and development of AI	18%	23%	13%	19%	19%	16%	19%	14%	19%	27%
Restrict use and development of AI	50%	46%	54%	48%	51%	50%	50%	53%	51%	44%
Not take position either way	32%	31%	33%	33%	30%	34%	31%	33%	30%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,420)	(1,174)	(1,246)	(505)	(613)	(790)	(513)	(1,017)	(654)	(469)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Promote use and development of AI	18%	18%	16%	23%	18%	25%	18%	15%	21%
Restrict use and development of AI	50%	59%	49%	45%	52%	41%	48%	52%	54%
Not take position either way	32%	23%	35%	31%	30%	34%	34%	33%	25%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,420)	(646)	(872)	(697)	(1,523)	(295)	(391)	(946)	(577)

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21. Impact AI Will Have in Respondent's Field of Work

In the next ten years or so, what impact, if any, do you think AI will have in your field of work? Do you think AI will...

Among those working full or part time

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Make jobs in the field harder to do	32%	29%	35%	30%	33%	32%	*	37%	34%	26%
Make jobs in field easier	35%	37%	33%	42%	37%	31%	*	24%	36%	45%
Not impact that work either way	33%	34%	32%	28%	30%	37%	*	39%	30%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,032)	(532)	(500)	(213)	(380)	(377)	(62)	(317)	(330)	(306)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Make jobs in the field harder to do	32%	36%	35%	25%	32%	32%	31%	31%	33%
Make jobs in field easier	35%	38%	30%	40%	33%	41%	35%	26%	40%
Not impact that work either way	33%	26%	35%	35%	35%	27%	34%	43%	27%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,032)	(302)	(373)	(292)	(656)	(125)	(170)	(326)	(330)

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22. Impact of AI on Number of Jobs in Your Field

In the next ten years or so, do you think that AI will increase, decrease, or not have any impact on the number of jobs available in your field of work?

Among those working full or part time

	Total	Gender		Age				Family Income		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	< \$50K	\$50-100K	> \$100K
Increase	17%	17%	17%	23%	17%	14%	*	16%	18%	14%
Decrease	47%	46%	48%	46%	48%	46%	*	44%	48%	50%
Have no effect	36%	37%	35%	31%	35%	40%	*	40%	33%	36%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(1,030)	(531)	(499)	(213)	(378)	(375)	(62)	(315)	(331)	(306)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Increase	17%	19%	13%	22%	12%	29%	30%	13%	12%
Decrease	47%	56%	45%	42%	49%	41%	43%	45%	52%
Have no effect	36%	25%	42%	36%	39%	29%	27%	42%	35%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(1,030)	(300)	(372)	(292)	(655)	(124)	(170)	(326)	(329)

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

The CBS News/YouGov survey of 2,425 adults in the U.S. was conducted between February 3-5, 2026.

This sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, and education based on the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, and 2024 Presidential vote. Respondents were selected to be representative of adults nationwide. The weights range from 0.1 to 5.0, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.6.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based upon the entire sample is approximately ± 2.4 points. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and n is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.