

A.3 Examples of open-ended answers by topic

- **Protectionist policies:** “Make companies produce in America”, “Pump our own oil”.
- **Price caps:** “Put a price level on certain things”, “Put a national freeze on raising rent. Every state would not be able to charge a certain amount according to sections”.
- **Expansionary monetary policy:** “Decrease interest rates”, “Print more money out perhaps”.
- **Contractionary monetary policy:** “Raise interest rates”, “Stop printing money”.
- **Reduce immigration:** “Stop illegal immigration!”, “Get rid of illegal immigrants and drill out own oil”.
- **Help low income:** “Lower income taxes on the working class so we can save some money to get passed the struggle we are in daily”, “Raise the minimum wage”.
- **Fight greedflation:** “They should make companies crack down on overcharging on products so they can be more affordable”, “The single most important thing the government should do to reduce inflation is take away a company's ability to increase prices on goods”.
- **Stimulate the economy:** “Create more jobs”, “Probably get the economy growing back up again so prices are cheaper”.
- **Contractionary fiscal policy:** “reduce spending and increase taxes”, “Cut down on social programs that provide money, food and housing assistance to people that are able to work but just will not”.
- **Change President:** “Take Biden out of office and elect Trump”, “Put trump in office”.

A.4 Full Questionnaire Survey: [link here](#)

A.4.1 Introduction, background questions, and screening

A.4.1.1 Consent

1. This is a survey for academic research purposes. It will take approximately **25 minutes to complete**.

The purpose of this non-partisan survey is to understand how you think about economic policies in the US. To this end, we will ask you questions about your household's circumstances and about some hypothetical policy scenarios.

You will be **compensated** for this interview conditional **upon completing** the survey **and passing our survey quality checks**, which use sophisticated statistical control methods to detect incoherent and rushed responses. Responding without adequate effort may result in your response being flagged for low quality and you may not receive your payment. Please note that it is very important for the success of our research that you answer honestly and read the questions very carefully before answering.

You should know the following: you may not be told everything or may be misled. As part of this research design, you may not be told or may be misled about the purpose or procedures of this research. However, the purpose or procedures of the research will be disclosed to you following your participation.

Whether or not you participate is up to you. Your **participation** is completely **voluntary**. You can choose not to take part. You can agree to take part and later change your mind. Your decision will not be held against you. Your refusal to participate will not result in any consequences or any loss of benefits that you are otherwise entitled to receive. You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, contact the research team at social.economics.research2020@gmail.com.

All of the answers you provide will remain **anonymous** and be treated with absolute **confidentiality**. The data are only used for research purposes.

Do you agree to participate to the survey?

[No, I do not agree to participate; Yes, I agree to participate]

A.4.1.2 Pre-screening background questions

1. What is your **gender**?

[Male; Female; Other (Please Specify)]

2. What is your **age**?

[From 17 or younger to 66 or older]

If age is less than 18 or more than 65 the respondent is excluded.

3. Do you currently live in the U.S.?

[Yes; No]

Non U.S. residents are excluded

4. Which **ZIP code** do you currently live in?

[Text box]

5. How would you describe your **ethnicity/race**?

[White; African American/Black; Hispanic/Latino; Asian/Asian American; Mixed race; Other (please specify)]

6. What was your **total household income** from all sources in **2023, before taxes and other deductions**?

Total household income is defined as the sum of: wages, salary and tips, business / self-employment / farm income and loss, taxable interest and dividends, taxable social security benefits, alimony payments you receive, capital gains and losses, rental / schedule K1 income and losses, unemployment compensation, taxable amount from pensions and individual retirement arrangements, taxable state refunds, other income not exempted from the income tax.

[15 non-overlapping brackets from \$0-\$9,999 to \$200,000+]

7. We're interested in where you might have heard **news about the economy in the past week**.

Have you seen or heard news about the economy on the **following outlets** in the past week?

[Social media; CNN; MSNBC; Fox News; Network News; Local TV; NPR; AM talk radio station; The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal; Local Newspapers; Other (please specify)]

8. On average, would you say you **trust or distrust** these outlets you follow to **report accurate news about the economy**?

[Completely trust; Somewhat trust; Neither trust nor distrust; Somewhat distrust; Completely distrust]

- Only outlets selected before

A.4.1.3 Attention Screen #1

1. *Captcha*

2. It is very important for us that you do not get distracted throughout the survey. This question is to check whether you are not getting distracted. To proceed, please select the definition of dog from the following options:

[A yellow and black flying insect that makes honey and can sting you; A large, strong bird with a curved beak that eats meat and can see very well; A large wild animal of the cat family with yellowish-orange fur with black lines; A common animal with four legs, especially kept by people as a pet, or to hunt, or guard things; A very large sea mammal that breathes air through a hole at the top of his head]

A.4.2 Perceived and expected inflation and unemployment

We will ask you some questions about inflation later on. First, we need to define what the **inflation rate** actually is.

The inflation rate measures the percentage increase in prices over a given period of time. It represents **how much more expensive the basket of goods and services generally consumed by US households has become over a certain period**, most commonly a year.^{A1}

For instance, an yearly inflation rate of 10% means that, on average, a basket of goods and services costing 100\$ at the beginning of a year will cost 110\$ at the end of the year.

If the inflation rate is **negative**, it is referred to as **deflation**. This means that goods and services become less expensive over time.

1. The next few questions are about inflation.^{A2}

Over the **last 12 months**, do you think that there was inflation or deflation? (Note: deflation is the opposite of inflation).

[Inflation; Deflation (the opposite of inflation)]

2. What was the rate of [inflation/deflation] over the **last 12 months**? Please give your best guess.

Over the **last 12 months**, the rate of [inflation/deflation] was *[Text box]* %

3. Over the **next 12 months**, do you think that there will be inflation or deflation? (Note: deflation is the opposite of inflation).

[Inflation; Deflation (the opposite of inflation)]

4. What do you expect the rate of [inflation/deflation] to be over the **next 12 months**? Please give your best guess.

^{A1}Definition from <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/Series/Back-to-Basics/Inflation>

^{A2}Verbatim from: <https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/interactives/sce/sce/downloads/data/frbny-sce-survey-core-module-public-questionnaire.pdf>

Over the **next 12 months**, I expect the rate of [inflation/deflation] to be [Text box] %

We will also ask you some questions about the unemployment rate in the US.^{A3} Although this is a widely talked about number, the unemployment rate is actually not an easy concept to understand. People often believe that the unemployment rate is simply the share of people not working. But that is not true!

The unemployment rate represents the **percentage of the US labor force** (defined as the sum of the employed and the unemployed) **that is not working but looking for a job and available to work.**

Importantly, **people who are NOT looking for a job or available to work, like students, retirees, or stay-at-home parents are NOT counted as “unemployed” and they do not enter official calculations of the unemployment rate.**

5. What do you think the **current unemployment rate** is in the US?

The **current unemployment rate** in the US is [Text Box] %

6. What do you think the unemployment rate will be **12 months from now** in the US?

12 months from now, the unemployment rate in the US will be [Text Box] %

A.4.3 Conjoint Experiment: Preferences for inflation and unemployment

In the next questions, we will present you with pairs of “scenarios” that are different in terms of inflation and unemployment. For each pair, please pick the one you would prefer to live in.

For information, the current unemployment rate in the US is around 4%, while the current annual inflation rate is around 3%.

If you had to pick, which of the following scenarios would you prefer to live in for the next year in the US?

Scenario 1: Inflation is X1, Unemployment is Y1

Scenario 2: Inflation is X2, Unemployment is Y2

[Scenario 1; Scenario 2]

^{A3}https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/ecb_surveys/consumer_exp_survey/results/html/ecb.ces_results_december_2023_labour_market_growth.en.html#_Current_unemployment_rate

A.4.3.1 Attention Screen #2

1. This is a question to check whether you are reading the questions carefully. Please select both "slightly concerned" and "extremely concerned" to continue.

[Not at all concerned; Slightly concerned; Moderately concerned; Very concerned; Extremely concerned]

A.4.4 Conditional correlations between inflation and unemployment

What do you think would happen to inflation and unemployment in the following scenarios?

1. **(Increase in interest rates)** An **increase in interest rates** by the Federal Reserve Bank would cause inflation to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
and the unemployment rate to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
2. **(Increase government spending)** An **increase in government spending** to finance more income support for lower-income families would cause inflation to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
and the unemployment rate to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
3. **(Increase in oil prices)** An **increase in oil prices** due to events in other countries such as wars or natural disasters, would cause inflation in the US to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
and the unemployment rate in the US to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
4. **(Increase in productivity)** **Technological improvements** making the production process more efficient would cause inflation to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
and the unemployment rate to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
5. **(Wage increases)** An **overall increase in wages** due to labor laws and bargaining by unions would cause inflation to
[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]
and the unemployment rate to

[Decrease a lot; Decrease; Stay the same; Increase; Increase a lot]

A.4.5 Understanding of inflation

A.4.5.1 Causes of inflation

1. In your view, what are the main **causes of inflation**?

[Text Box]

1. We will now list various events and economic phenomena. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think that they are an **important cause of inflation**.

[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]

- (a) **Government spending, debt, and taxation**, e.g., spending on social security, national defense, and healthcare, increases in government debt, or changes in the tax system
 - (b) **Actions by the Federal Reserve**, such as printing money, changing interest rates, or making announcements about future inflation and rates
 - (c) **Increases in the costs of production** due to e.g., increases in oil prices, energy prices, or to increases in the costs of inputs due to large-scale events in other countries, like wars or natural disasters, or to new laws and regulations
 - (d) **Changes in the labor market** such as increases in unions' bargaining power or wage increases
 - (e) **Politicians and political interests**, e.g., politicians catering to special interest and lobby groups
 - (f) **Households spending more** due to optimism about the economy, impatience, or expectations about future price increases
 - (g) **Actions by firms and businesses**
2. Please select from the previous list the **two most important causes of inflation**. Write 1 in the box corresponding to the most important cause, and 2 in the box corresponding to the second most important cause of inflation.

[\[Conditional on selecting “Government policies”\]](#). You said that government spending, debt, and taxation are an important cause of inflation. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Decreases in income taxes) Income tax cuts**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. **(Increase in govt debt) Increases in government debt** to provide aid and financial assistance to a foreign country during a war or natural disaster
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. **(Increase in spending for infrastructure and national defense) Increases in government spending**, financed by government debt, to build infrastructure and for national defense
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
4. Government spending, financed by government debt, to help households during difficult times, such as the stimulus checks (“Economic impact payments”) during COVID-19.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
5. **(Increase in social spending for healthcare and social security) Increases in government spending on social programs, such as Medicare and social security, financed by government debt**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
6. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation

[Income tax cuts; Increase government debt for foreign assistance; Increase spending for infrastructure and defense; Increase spending to assist households during hard times; Increase spending in social programs]

[\[Conditional on selecting “Federal reserve policies”\]](#). You said that actions by the Federal Reserve are an important cause of inflation. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Decreases in interest rates) Decreases in interest rates**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. **(Increases in interest rates) Increases in interest rates**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. **(Increase in money supply) Increases in the money** the Federal Reserve Bank provides to the economy.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]

4. **(Wrong monetary policy) The Federal Reserve Bank not taking appropriate action** when it should
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
5. **(Unclear announcements about future actions) The Federal Reserve Bank making unclear announcements** about its future intentions
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
6. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation
[Decreases in interest rates; Increases in interest rates; Increases in money printed; The Federal Reserve not taking appropriate actions when it should; The Federal Reserve making unclear announcements]

[Conditional on selecting “Increases in the costs of production”, nothing asked, cost-push shocks have their own category]. You said that increases in the costs of production are an important cause of inflation. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Increases in oil prices) Increases in oil prices**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. **(Increases in energy prices) Increases in energy prices**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. **(Large-scale events in other countries raising the cost of inputs like wars or natural disasters) Wars, natural disasters, or other large-scale disruptions in other countries**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
4. **(Supply chain disruptions) Disruptions in international supply chains**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
5. Increases in costs because of the pandemic.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
6. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation
[Increases in oil prices; Increases in energy prices; Large-scale disruptions in other countries; Disruptions in international supply-chains; Increases in costs because of the pandemic]

[Conditional on selecting “Labor market dynamics”]. You said that changes in the labor market are an important cause of inflation. We will now list a number of labor market dynamics. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Increases in wages)** An overall **increase in wages due to more labor rights or unionization**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. An increase in wages because of a labor shortage.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. **(Wage-price spirals)** Workers asking for pay increases in light of the rise in cost of living.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
4. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation
[Wage increases due to labor rights or unionization; Wage increases due to labor shortages; Workers asking for pay increases in light of the rise in the cost of living]

[Conditional on selecting “Households higher willingness to spend in the present”]. You said that households spending more is an important cause of inflation. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Expectations by HHs)** **Increases in households spending** in the present due to **expected price increases in the future**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. **(Optimism)** **Increases in households spending** in the present due to **optimism about the economy or their economic status**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation
[Increase household spending due to expecting higher prices; Increase household spending due to optimism]

[Conditional on selecting “Firms’ business decisions and industrial dynamics”]. You said that are an important cause of inflation. Below, we list some more detailed causes in that category. For each of them, please tell us whether or not you think it is an important cause of inflation.

1. **(Expectations by firms) Firms increasing their prices today** because they anticipate more inflation in the future.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
2. **(Greediness) Firms and businesses trying to increase their profits by increasing prices even though their costs have not increased.**
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
3. **(Decreases in competition between firms) Lack of competition** and the rise of big firms that have no competitors.
[Not important at all; Only a little important; Very important; Extremely important]
4. Among the following, please select the most important cause of inflation
[Firms increasing prices due to expecting higher prices; firms increasing prices to increase profits; Lack of competition]

A.4.5.2 Distributional impacts of inflation

1. Which people or groups would you say are **most negatively affected** by inflation?
[Text Box]
2. Which people or groups would you say **benefit most** from inflation?
[Text Box]

For the next questions, suppose **prices unexpectedly increased by 10% over the next year**, on average.

3. Would the following **income groups** lose or gain from inflation?
[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]
 - High-income households
 - Middle-income households
 - Low-income households
4. Would the following **age groups** lose or gain from inflation?
[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]
 - People between 18 and 30 years old
 - People between 31 and 65 years old

- People more than 65 years old

5. Would the following **occupation groups** lose or gain from inflation?

[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]

- The unemployed
- The employed
- Retirees

6. Would the following **groups** lose or gain from inflation?

[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]

- People whose savings are mainly in the form of cash (in their checking or savings accounts)
- People whose savings are mainly invested in financial assets (such as stocks or bonds)
- People without any savings

7. Would the following **groups** lose or gain from inflation?

[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]

- People with credit card debt
- People with fixed-rate mortgages, that is, home loans that have a fixed interest rate for the entire term of the loan
- People with adjustable-rate mortgages, that is, home loans with an interest rate that can fluctuate periodically
- People with low levels of debt

8. Would the following **types of firms** lose or gain from inflation?

[Lose a lot; Lose somewhat; Neither gain nor lose; Gain somewhat; Gain a lot]

- Small businesses
- Large corporations

A.4.5.3 Consequences of inflation on the economy

1. If prices increased by 10% over the next year, what would the major consequences for the **US economy** be?

[Text Box]

For the next few questions, we ask you to keep thinking about the **consequences of inflation on the US economy**.

Suppose that the inflation rate over the next 12 months is 10%.

2. **(Difficulty in taking economic decisions - HHs)** Does inflation make it simpler or more complicated for households to take **daily economic decisions** such as spending and saving?
[Much more complicated; More complicated; Neither simpler nor more complicated; Simpler; Much simpler]
3. **(Households uncertainty)** How does inflation affect the uncertainty households face when making decisions? [Significantly increases uncertainty, Somewhat increases uncertainty, Neither increases nor decreases uncertainty, Somewhat reduces uncertainty, Significantly reduces uncertainty]
4. **(Shoelather costs)** How much of an inconvenience would it be for most US households to adjust their savings and investment plans to have more cash available for rising expenses?
[Almost no inconvenience; A small inconvenience; A moderate inconvenience; A very big inconvenience]
5. **(Price setting/menu costs)** Does inflation make it easier or more difficult for firms to **set their prices**?
[Much more difficult; More difficult; Neither easier nor more difficult; Easier; Much easier]
6. **(Difficulty in taking economic decisions - firms)** Does inflation make it easier or more difficult for firms to take **daily business decisions** such as those related to their products, finances, and personnel?
[Much more difficult; More difficult; Neither easier nor more difficult; Easier; Much easier]
7. **(Resource misallocation)** During inflation, businesses selling similar products might face challenges in adjusting their prices frequently. How do these price differences affect the economy's use of resources?

[Greatly improve use; Slightly improve use; Neither improve nor worsen use; Slightly worsen use; Greatly worsen use]

Suppose again that the inflation rate over the next 12 months will be 10%.

8. (**Economic growth**) Under this level of inflation, would the US economy **grow** more quickly, more slowly, or at the same rate, compared to a situation with no inflation?
[Much more slowly; More slowly; At same rate; More quickly; Much more quickly]
9. (**Value of the dollar**) Would **value of the dollar** increase, remain the same, or decrease relative to the currencies of other countries where the inflation rate is lower?
[Decrease by a lot; Decrease somewhat; Remain the same; Increase somewhat; Increase by a lot]
10. (**National prestige**) Would the **national prestige** of the US increase, remain the same, or decrease relative to countries with a lower inflation rate?
[Decrease by a lot; Decrease somewhat; Remain the same; Increase somewhat; Increase by a lot]
11. (**Inequality**) Is inflation associated with a higher, lower, or the same level of **inequality** in the US?
[Much lower; Lower; The same; Higher; Much higher]
12. Does inflation increase or decrease **social cohesion**?
[Increases by a lot; Increases somewhat; Neither increase nor decrease; Decreases somewhat; Decreases by a lot]
13. Does high inflation increase or decrease people's **trust** in the Federal Government?
[Increases by a lot; Increases somewhat; Neither increase nor decrease; Decreases somewhat; Decreases by a lot]
14. Among the following, please select the most important consequence of inflation
[Only options selected above]

A.4.6 Information on the trade-offs between inflation and unemployment

Script of the slide-show:

Inflation is the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time, meaning you have to spend more money to buy the same things.

Why does inflation happen? Imagine prices like a game of tug-of-war or a balancing act between the money we all have to spend and the amount of things available to buy. If people have more money and start buying a lot, but there's not enough stuff for everyone, prices will go up.

This increase in prices can happen because of government policies, actions by the Federal Reserve Bank, or when the stock market is doing really well, for instance.

On the flip side, if making products becomes pricier due to higher material costs or wages, companies may pass these costs to you.

Here's the tricky part: reducing inflation can be like walking a tightrope. Cutting down on how much money is floating around might cool off inflation, but it's not without its pains, affecting jobs and economic vibrancy.

Importantly, policies that are, in principle, good, such as those that reduce unemployment and increase economic activity might, paradoxically, increase inflation too.

Take reducing unemployment: a great goal! But this might lead to more competition for workers, and higher wages, which in turn will tend to increase prices and inflation. This is why economists often talk about the "inflation-unemployment trade-off," this balancing act between keeping jobs plentiful but not increasing inflation.

Tax cuts are another example of a policy that can put more cash in your pocket and that can stimulate economic activity. But if lots of people start spending more, demand outstrips supply, and that might also result in inflation.

In a nutshell, while fighting inflation is critically important, the trade-offs require careful navigation to avoid swapping one problem for another.

A.4.7 Policy Views

A.4.7.1 Tradeoffs (First stage)

1. To what extent do you agree with the statement that inflation is an unfortunate side effect of positive economic developments, like higher employment and increased economic activity?
[Strongly disagree; Disagree; Neither agree nor disagree; Agree; Strongly agree]
2. **(Spending)** How **necessary** do you think it is to **reduce household spending** in the US in order **to decrease inflation**?
[Not necessary at all; Somewhat necessary; Very necessary; Extremely necessary]
3. **(GDP growth)** How **necessary** do you think it is to **induce a reduction in US GDP growth** in order **to decrease inflation**?
[Not necessary at all; Somewhat necessary; Very necessary; Extremely necessary]
4. **(Govt debt)** How **necessary** do you think it is to **induce a reduction in US government debt** in order **to decrease inflation**?
[Not necessary at all; Somewhat necessary; Very necessary; Extremely necessary]

5. **(Unemployment)** How **necessary** do you think it is to **induce an increase in the US unemployment rate** in order to **decrease inflation**?
[Not necessary at all; Somewhat necessary; Very necessary; Extremely necessary]
6. **(Side effects of expansionary policies)** How do you think **policies designed to reduce unemployment** typically affect inflation?
[Significantly increase; Increase; Neither increase nor decrease; Decrease; Significantly decrease]
7. Do you think that inflation is **most often** a sign of a good, a bad economy, or neither?
[Most often a sign of a bad economy; Neither a sign of a good nor a bad economy; Most often a sign of a good economy]
8. In general, do you think **inflation** occurs **more frequently** during times of economic growth (booms) or economic downturns (recessions)?
[Mostly in booms; Slightly more in booms; Equally in booms and recessions; Slightly more in recessions; Mostly in recessions]

A.4.7.2 Priority of inflation

- How important or unimportant is price stability as an objective of US economic policy?
[Not important at all; Slightly important; Moderately important; Very important]
- Now, we are going to list some widely debated **economic policy issues** in the US. Could you please **rank** them depending on how much you think they should be a **national priority**?
 - Price stability
 - Low unemployment
 - High economic growth
 - Investments in national defense
 - Stability of the financial system
- Now, we are going to list some widely debated **civic and social policy issues** in the US. Could you please **rank** them depending on how much you think they should be a **national priority**?
 - Inflation
 - Gun rights

- Access to abortion
- Civil rights
- Access to education
- Affordable healthcare

A.4.7.3 Tools to combat inflation

1. In your view, what is the single most important thing that the government or the Fed should do to reduce inflation?

[Text Box]

We now want to ask you whether you would oppose or support the following policies to **fight inflation**.

Do you support or oppose the following policies **as tools to combat inflation**?

1. **(Federal Reserve Bank increasing interest rates today)** An increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Bank.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither support nor oppose; Support; Strongly support]
2. **(Federal Reserve Bank decreasing interest rates today)** A decrease in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Bank.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither support nor oppose; Support; Strongly support]
3. **(Forward guidance)** The Federal Reserve’s practice of publicly sharing its future plans for interest rates to influence economic expectations and behaviors today?
[Strongly support; Support; Neutral; Oppose; Strongly oppose]
4. **(Federal Reserve Bank reducing the amount of money circulating in the economy)** A reduction of the money that the Federal Reserve Bank provides to banks in the economy, which in turn would reduce access of firms and households to loans and credit.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
5. **(Increase in income taxes I)** An increase in taxes on high-income taxpayers used to reduce government debt.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]

6. **(Increase in income taxes II) A increase in taxes on the middle class and high-income taxpayers** used to reduce government debt.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
7. **(Government spending cut I into less debt) A reduction in spending on social programs,** such as Medicare or the Child Tax Credit, to reduce government debt.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
8. **(Government spending cut III into reallocation) An increase in taxes on top earners** to fund additional low-income transfers.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
9. **(Increase in corporate taxes) An increase in corporate taxes.**
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
10. **(Anti-trust) An tightening of anti-trust regulation** to ensure more competition between firms.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
11. **(Price controls) A policy freezing the prices of gas or basic food items.**
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
12. **(Wage controls) Regulations to cap the wage growth** of workers in the US.
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]
13. **(Limit imports from other states (more generally, use trade policy to relocate production in the US)) A policy restricting imports from other countries.**
[Strongly oppose; Oppose; Neither oppose nor support; Support; Strongly support]

A.4.7.4 Tools to combat the redistributive effects of inflation

1. Do you support or oppose the following policies to help the **most vulnerable population groups** after a **rise in the cost of living**?
[Strongly oppose; Oppose somewhat; Neither oppose nor support; Support somewhat; Strongly support]
 - More cash transfers to low-income families
 - Expanding the food stamps program to help more families with food expenses
 - Providing vouchers for fuel, gas, and electricity to low-income families
 - Providing vouchers for fuel, gas, and electricity to middle-income families
 - Increasing the minimum wage

A.4.8 Economic Information about the Household

1. Do you and your household own any motor vehicle?

[Yes; No]

2. With which frequency do you typically use any of the motor vehicles you own?

[Daily; On a weekly basis, but not all days; On a monthly basis, but not all weeks; Less than once per month]

3. Do you and your household own or rent your primary residence?

[Own; Rent; I have no primary residence]

4. Could you provide an estimate of the monthly rent (excluding utilities) that you and your household pay for your primary residence?

[\$0-\$399; \$400-\$499; \$500-\$649; \$650-\$799; \$800-\$949; \$950-\$1,099; \$1,100-\$1,299; \$1,300-\$1,499; \$1,500-\$2,499; \$2,500 or more]

5. Could you provide an estimate of your primary residence value (if it was sold today)?

[\$0-\$49,999; \$50,000-\$99,999; \$100,000-\$149,999; \$150,000-\$199,999; \$200,000-\$249,999; \$250,000-\$299,999; \$300,000-\$349,999; \$350,000-\$449,999; \$450,000-\$649,999; \$650,000 or more]

6. Do you have a mortgage on your primary residence?

Yes; No

7. What is the outstanding amount of the mortgage on your primary residence? In other words, if it were fully repaid today, how much would you have to pay?

Note that we are interested in the outstanding principal, excluding interests, fees, etc.

[\$0-\$24,999; \$25,000-\$49,999; \$50,000-\$74,999; \$75,000-\$99,999; \$100,000-\$124,999; \$125,000-\$149,999; \$150,000-\$199,999; \$200,000-\$249,999; \$250,000-\$349,999; \$350,000 or more]

8. Do you and your household own any checking accounts?

[Yes; No]

9. Could you provide an estimate of the total amount currently held in your checking account(s)?

[\$0-\$199; \$200-\$699; \$700-\$1,299; \$1,300-\$1,999; \$2,000-\$2,999; \$3,000-\$4,999; \$5,000-\$8,999; \$9,000-\$19,999; \$20,000-\$39,999; \$40,000 or more]

10. Do you and your household own any other short-term savings (savings/money market accounts, brokerage accounts or shares in money market mutual funds)?
Yes; No
11. Could you provide an estimate of the total amount currently held in these account(s)?
[\$0-\$999; \$1,000-\$1,999; \$2,000-\$4,999; \$5,000-\$9,999; \$10,000-\$14,999; \$15,000-\$29,999; \$30,000-\$49,999; \$50,000-\$99,999; \$100,000-\$149,999; \$150,000 or more]
12. Do you and your household own shares of mutual funds, ETFs, or hedge funds?
Yes; No
13. Could you provide an estimate of the total value of these assets (if they were sold today)?
[\$0-\$9,999; \$10,000-\$24,999; \$25,000-\$49,999; \$50,000-\$74,999; \$75,000-\$99,999; \$100,000-\$199,999; \$200,000-\$399,999; \$400,000-\$699,999; \$700,000-\$1,699,999; \$1,700,000 or more]

A.4.9 Demographics

1. Where you **born in the United States**?
[Yes; No]
2. How many **children** do you currently have?
[I do not have children; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5 or more]
3. Which category best describes your **highest level of education**?
[Primary education or less; Some High School; High School degree/GED; Some College; 2-year College Degree; 4-year College-Degree; Master's Degree; Doctoral Degree; Professional Degree (JD, MD, MBA)]
4. Did you study economics in college?
[Yes; No]
5. What is your **current employment status**?
[Full-time employee; Part-time employee; Self-employed or business owner; Unemployed and looking for work; Student; Not working and not looking for a job; Retiree]
6. Please select all years in which you have been unemployed and looking for work for at least one week
[menu with years from 1968 to 2024]

7. [(If “Full-time employee”, “Part-time employee”, or “Self-employed or small business owner” to employment_status)] Which category best describes your **main occupation**?
[Management, business and financial occupations; Professional and related occupations; Service occupations; Sales and related occupations; Office and administrative support occupations; Farming, fishing and forestry occupations; Construction and extraction occupations; Installation, maintenance and repair occupations; Production occupations; Transportation and material moving occupations; Armed forces; Other (Please specify)]
8. [If “Unemployed and looking for work” to 5] Even if you are not currently working, which category best describes your most recent main occupation? Check the one that applies.
9. [If “Full-time employee”, “Part-time employee”, or “Self-employed or small business owner” to employment_status] Which of the following **sectors** are you currently employed in?
 If you have multiple jobs, check the one that best corresponds to your main occupation.
[Agriculture, plantations, other rural sectors; Basic metal production; Chemical industries; Commerce; Construction; Education; Financial services, professional services; Food, drink, tobacco; Forestry, wood; Health services; Hotels, tourism, catering; Mining; Mechanical and electrical engineering; Media, culture, graphical; Oil and gas production, oil refining; Postal and telecommunications services; Public service; Shipping, ports, fisheries, inland waterways; Textiles, clothing, leather, footwear; Transport (including civil aviation, railways, road transport); Transport equipment manufacturing; Utilities (water, gas, electricity); Other (Please specify)]
10. [If “Unemployed and looking for work” to 5] Even if you are not currently working, in which sector did you last work?
 If you had multiple jobs, check the one that best corresponds to your main latest occupation.
11. Do you work in the **gig economy**?
 The gig economy is based on flexible, temporary or freelance jobs, often involving connecting with clients or customers through an online platform.
[Yes;No]
12. Please indicate your **marital status**.
[Single; Married; Legally separated or divorced; Widowed]
13. What is your **spouse’s** current **employment status**?
[Same options as in the respondent’s case] Conditional on having a spouse.
14. At any time in **2023**, even for one month, did you or anyone in your household receive:

- Any **cash assistance** from a state or county welfare program such as welfare to work, TANF, general assistance, diversion payments, or refugee cash?
- An **Earned Income Tax Credit Break**?
- Any **unemployment insurance transfers**?

[Yes;No]

15. Are you covered by **Medicaid or Medical Assistance**?

[Yes;No]

16. Did you, or anyone in your household, receive **food stamps** or use a **food stamp benefit card** at any time in **2023**?

[Yes;No]

17. For what you currently know, do you think your **total household income** this year (2024) will be **significantly different from 2023**, overall?

[It will be a lot less; It will be a bit less; It will be around the same; It will be a bit more; It will be a lot more;]

18. On **economic policy** matters, where do you see yourself on the liberal/conservative spectrum?

[Very liberal; Liberal; Moderate; Conservative; Very conservative]

19. What do you consider to be your **political affiliation**, as of today?

[Republican; Democrat; Independent; Other (Please specify); Non-affiliated]

20. Did you vote in the **2020 presidential election**?

[Yes;No]

21. *(If answered “Yes”)*

In the **2020 presidential election**, who did you vote for?

[Joe Biden; Donald Trump; Howie Hawkins; Jo Jorgensen; Other]

(If answered “No”) Even if you **did NOT vote**, please indicate the **candidate** that you would have voted for or who represented your views most closely.

[Joe Biden; Donald Trump; Howie Hawkins; Jo Jorgensen; Other]

A.4.10 Feedback and Debrief

1. Please feel free to give us any **feedback** or impression regarding this survey.

[Text box]

2. Thank you for your participation in our research study.

To end the survey, please click on the arrow at the bottom right of the page as if you were answering a question.

We would like to discuss with you in more detail the study you just participated in and to explain exactly what we were trying to study.

Before we tell you about all the goals of this study, however, we want to explain why it is necessary in some kinds of studies not to tell people all about the purpose of the study before they begin. As you may know, scientific methods sometimes require that participants in research studies not be given complete information about the research until after the study is completed. Although we cannot always tell you everything before you begin your participation, we do want to tell you everything when the study is completed.

We do not always tell people everything at the beginning of a study because we do not want to influence their responses. If we tell people what the purpose of the study is and what we predict about how they will react, then their reactions would not be a good indication of how they would react in everyday situations.

This study had three main goals: understand how you think **about inflation and its causes**; understand **your policy preferences** in terms of inflation and unemployment; finally, we also wanted to study your understanding of the consequences of inflation.

When you were asked to choose between different economies (the pairs between inflation and unemployment), the order and levels of inflation and unemployment shown to you were randomly chosen each time. The purpose of this was to understand how you trade-off these concerns.

Moreover, before you were asked to choose between different economies, you might or might not have been given information about the true current values of inflation and unemployment rate in the US. The purpose of this was to understand how this information may have an effect on your preferences for inflation and unemployment. This is the information that was provided to some randomly selected respondents (that might include you): "For in-

formation, the current unemployment rate in the US is around 4%, while the current annual inflation rate is around 3%.”

In addition, you might or might not have seen a video explaining the trade-off between inflation and unemployment. We did this in order to understand how you would use this information when expressing your policy preferences. This was randomized, meaning that you were randomly allocated to either see the video or not, as other respondents were. We could not tell you this beforehand in order to not affect your responses and have them be as they would in a real world setting. Please note that the information reflected general economic knowledge and there is nothing misleading in the video. Here is the video, please watch it if you are interested and to see what other respondents saw.

If other people get to know the true purpose of the study, it might affect how they answer questions, so we are asking you not to share the information we just shared.

We hope you enjoyed your experience, and we hope you learned something today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on the email provided in the consent form (social.economics.research2020@gmail.com).

Do you have any other questions or comments about anything you did today or anything we’ve talked about? Thank you again for your participation.