

This is a questionnaire about your views on inflation. By inflation, we mean a steady increase of the average of all prices, and thus of the price level.¹

1. Try to imagine how things would be different if the United States had experienced higher inflation over the last five years, so that prices of things you buy had risen to higher levels than we actually see today. How different do you think your income (the total dollars you earn in a month) would be now, in comparison with your actual income now, if we had had the higher inflation? [Circle one dot]
 - My income (in dollars per month) would be lower
 - My income (in dollars per month) would be about same
 - My income (in dollars per month) would be higher
 - No opinion

2. Do you agree that preventing high inflation is an important national priority, as important as preventing drug abuse or preventing deterioration in the quality of our schools?
 - Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree

3. Do you agree with the following statement? “If the government were to make a mistake next year, such as printing too much money, and creates prices that are 20% higher than they are today, I think that they should try to reverse their mistake, and bring prices back down where they are today.”
 - Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree

4. Which of the following comes closer to your biggest gripe about inflation:
 - Inflation causes a lot of inconveniences: I find it harder to comparison shop, I feel I have to avoid holding too much cash, etc.
 - Inflation hurts my real buying power, it makes me poorer.

¹Based on: Shiller, Robert. 1996. “Why do people dislike inflation?” NBER Working Paper No. 5539

- Other:
5. What percent of the population do you think is hurt when there is sudden, unexpected, high inflation?
 6. Please evaluate which of the following theories about the effects of general inflation on wages or salary relates to your own experience and your own job: [circle one dot]
 - The price increase will create extra profits for my employer who can now sell output for more; there will be no effect on my pay. My employer will see no reason to raise my pay.
 - Competition among employers will cause my pay to be bid up. I could get outside offers from other employers, and so, to keep me, my employer will have to raise my pay too.
 - A sense of fairness and proper behavior will cause my employer to raise my pay.
 - None of the above or no opinion.
 7. Do you agree with the following statement? “When I see projections about how many times more a college education will cost, or how many times more the costs of living will be in coming decades, I feel a sense of uneasiness; these inflation projections really make me worry that my own income will not rise as much as such costs will.”
 - Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree
 8. Imagine that next year the inflation rate unexpectedly doubles. How long would it probably take, in these times, before your income is increased enough so that you can afford the same things as you do today? In other words, how long will it be before a full inflation correction in your income has taken place? [Please mark only one answer.]
 - Up to a month
 - Until the next negotiation with my employer within a year
 - Several years
 - Never will be restored
 - Do not know
 9. Do you agree with the following statement? “Keeping inflation low is so high a priority that I would not like to see a national policy that caused the inflation rate to double from where it is today even if that policy were sure to double the real (inflation-corrected) growth rate of the economy.”

- Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree
10. Do you agree with the following statement? “I think that if my pay went up I would feel more satisfaction in my job, more sense of fulfillment, even if prices went up just as much.”
- Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree
11. Do you agree with the following statement? “We can live with moderate, steady inflation for a while, but sooner or later there has to be an alarming problem with steady inflation: if the inflation continues long enough then eventually the dollar will be practically worthless.”
- Fully agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Undecided
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Completely disagree
12. Which is the better explanation why inflation is reported so regularly in the news:
- Economists tell reporters that the monthly inflation numbers are very important news, and so reporters feel that they ought to give the inflation numbers a lot of coverage.
 - The general public is regularly interested in inflation news, and reporters cover inflation to boost the number of viewers or readers.
 - Neither or no opinion