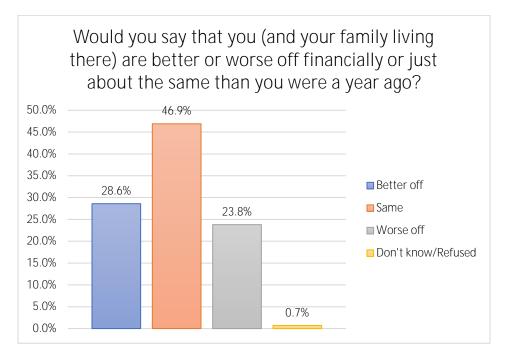
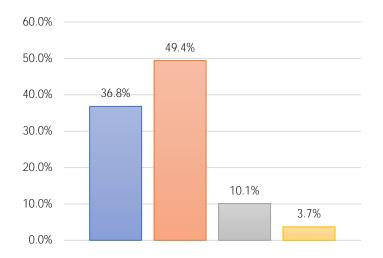


When asked if they and their family were better or worse off financially compared to a year ago, 28.6% reported that they were better off and 46.9% reported that they were about the same. About 23.8% indicated that they and their family were worse off. These numbers show a slightly more positive view of inancial standing compared to 2022 (27.8% thought they were better off, 44.9% thought they were about the same, and 26.5% thought they were worse off).



Respondents showed some optimism for the future, with 36.8% indicating that they think they and their family will be better off financially a year from now. Almost half (49.4%) think they will be the same and 10.1% think they will be worse off. A higher percentage of respondents last year felt that they would be the better off (42.9%) and a slightly higher percentage thought they would be worse off (12%).

## Do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially,



The outlook for home purchasing, however, may be less optimistic, with 64.2% of respondents saying that now is a bad time to buy a house and only 12.1% responding that it is a good time to buy. Only 17.8% think that it is neither a good nor bad time. This is a major decline from 2021 when 27.8% thought it was a good time to buy a house and only 41.3% thought it was a bad time to buy a house. These shifting sentiments perhaps reflect the impacts of rising interest rates and higher home prices.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For example, see: <a href="https://www.forbes.com/advisor/mortgages/real-estate/housing-market-predictions/">https://www.forbes.com/advisor/mortgages/real-estate/housing-market-predictions/</a>

More than half of respondents who are working either full or part-time reported they are working only outside of the home and not teleworking or telecommuting (55.7%). Another 10.6% said they are working only from home (teleworking or telecommuting). The remaining respondents reported either working mostly outside of the home (17.9%), splitting time equally between working from home and outside the home (7.8%), or working mostly from home (6.5%). Only 1% had some other arrangement. This continues the declines in work from home seen in 2021 and 2022. In 2020, nearly half of respondents were working mostly or only from home.

## Affordability of Essentials in Hampton Roads

and related personal financial issues. Respondents were asked if they strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

Affordable childcare care is a problem in the Hampton Roads area
There is not enough affordable housing in the Hampton Roads area
I have access to affordable healthcare
In the last 12 months, I have been concerned that I would not be able to pay my rent or mortgage

More than 70% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that affordable childcare is a problem in Hampton Roads (71%) and that there is not enough affordable housing in Hampton Roads (77.8%).

