



A Union of Professionals

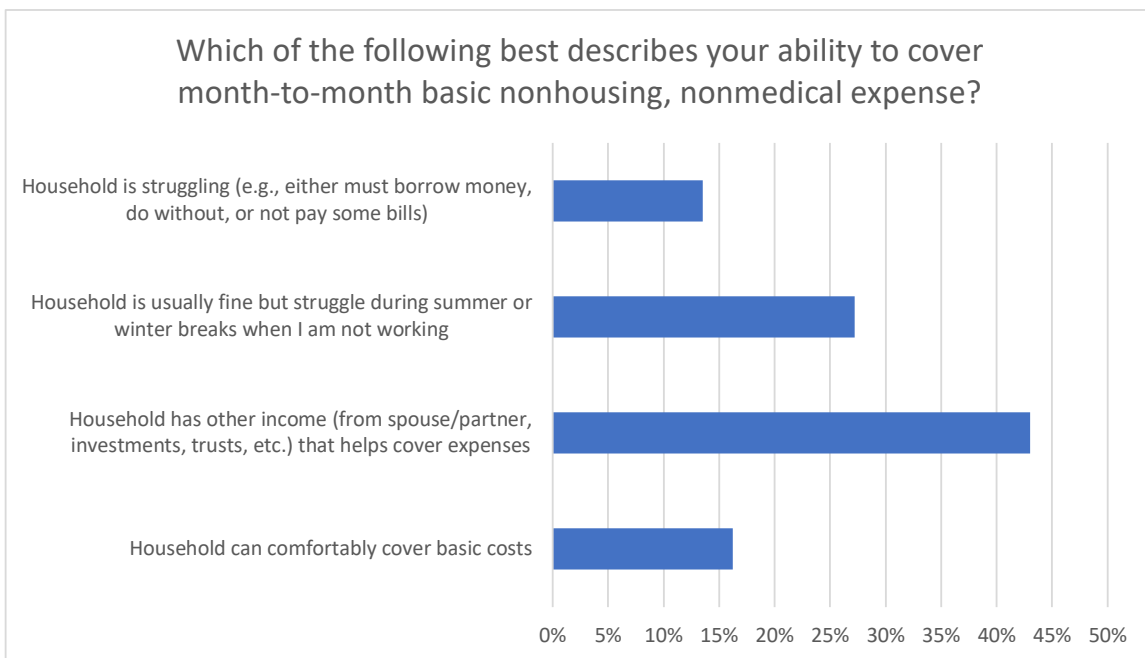
Contingent Faculty Quality of Work Life Survey

OCTOBER 2019

This report is based on the first nationwide survey of adjunct and other contingent faculty to be circulated since 2013. The 52-question survey was completed by 3,076 contingent faculty—adjuncts/part-time faculty, full-time nontenure track faculty, and graduate employees—between May 22 and June 30, 2019. AFT and our affiliates advertised the survey via email and social media. While the resulting sample is not random, taken together with other sources of feedback from and information about contingent faculty and their work/life conditions, we believe that the size of the sample allows us to draw some robust conclusions about the conditions faced by this new majority of college faculty in the United States.

BASIC NEEDS AND FOOD SECURITY

- When asked about the ability to cover nonhousing, nonmedical expenses, 40 percent of respondents report struggling at points throughout the year when they’re not actively teaching. Some struggle year-round. Because so many contingent faculty members work term to term, we find they have the same problems that affect other forms of temporary contingent work.¹



The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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- The low pay that contingent faculty face has also led to food insecurity among some faculty members and their families, with 26 percent saying they had problems accessing adequate food or, to get by, opted to reduce the quality of food they ate, and 6 percent reporting they've had to eat less in the last year to get by.

