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

**Which of the following best describes your ability to cover month-to-month basic nonhousing, nonmedical expense?**

- Household is struggling (e.g., either must borrow money, do without, or not pay some bills)
- Household is usually fine but struggle during summer or winter breaks when I am not working
- Household has other income (from spouse/partner, investments, trusts, etc.) that helps cover expenses
- Household can comfortably cover basic costs

---

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.
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.

Which of the following best describes your household’s ability to cover month-to-month food expenses in the past 12 months?

- Household had no problem or anxiety about consistently accessing adequate food
- Household at times had problems or anxiety about accessing adequate food, but meals were not substantially reduced
- Household reduced the quality and desirability of diets, but the quantity of food intake and normal eating patterns were not substantially disrupted
- At times during the year, eating patterns of one household member (or more) were disrupted and food intake reduced because the household lacked money or other...
- Household had no problem or anxiety about consistently accessing adequate food