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INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA



STATEWIDE SURVEY · NOVEMBER 2021

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Economic Well-Being

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Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation

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Key Findings

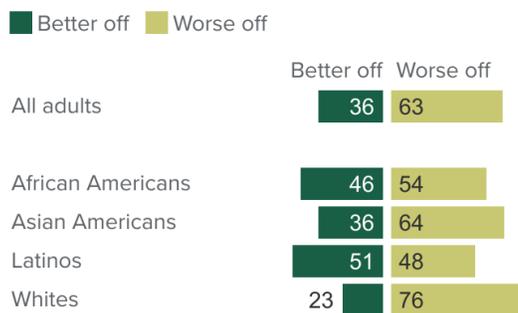
While job conditions and economic circumstances have been recovering from the COVID-19 crisis over the past year, glaring disparities in economic well-being have taken center stage in policy discussions. Many lower-income Californians continue to struggle to make ends meet while higher-income Californians have seen their fortunes rise. Meanwhile, changes in federal leadership coupled with a large increase in state revenues have set the context for a renewed focus on expanding educational opportunities and safety net programs to improve the lives and future prospects of lower-income Californians.

These are among the key findings of a statewide survey on state and national issues that was conducted from October 12 to October 31 by the Public Policy Institute of California:

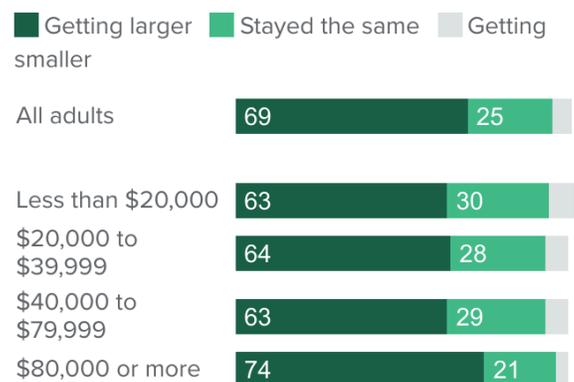
- **Solid majorities of Californians (69%) say the gap between the rich and the poor in their region is increasing and that it will be larger by the year 2030 (64%).** Majorities across partisan groups and regions say that children growing up in California today will be worse off than their parents.

- **Californians have mixed views of the state's economic outlook in the next 12 months (47% good times, 52% bad times).** About one in five say the lack of well-paying jobs in their region is a big problem; a similar share say the lack of well-paying jobs is making them seriously consider moving out of the state.

- **Most** **Most adults think today's children will be worse off in the future**



Most Californians say the gap between the rich and the poor is getting larger



Californians (62%) say their finances today are the same as a year ago. Lower-income residents are more likely than others to say they are worse off financially than a year ago, to express dissatisfaction with their finances, and to say that it would be difficult to pay for a \$1,000 emergency expense.

- **Twenty-eight percent report that they or someone in their household had work hours reduced or pay cut in the last 12 months.** Households with incomes under \$80,000 are much more likely than higher-income households to have faced reduced pay or hours. Forty-nine percent say that they or someone in their household worked from home over the past year, with more-affluent Californians far more likely to say this.
- **Twenty-five percent of Californians and 36 percent of lower-income residents worry every day or**

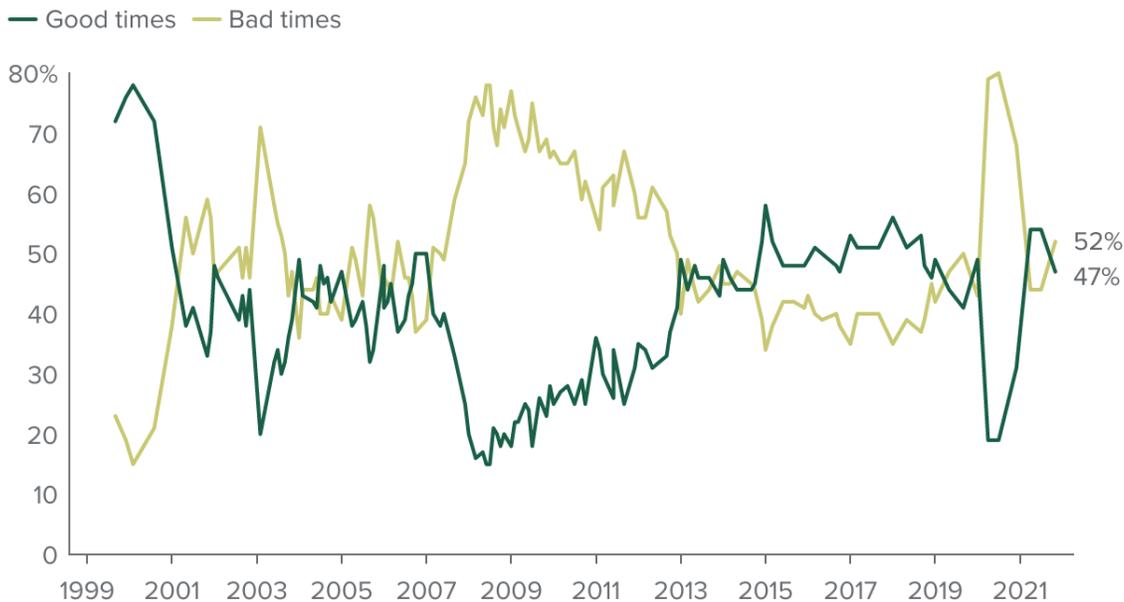
almost every day about housing costs. Lower-income residents also worry more than those at higher income levels about paying their bills, the amount of debt they have, and saving enough for retirement.

- **Thirty-seven percent of employed residents are very satisfied with their jobs; the perception that their job offers opportunities for growth and advancement increases with rising education and income levels.** Majorities across partisan and demographic groups agree that it is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them.
- **An overwhelming majority of Californians (76%) favor increasing government funding so that childcare programs are available for more lower-income working parents.** Solid majorities across partisan groups and regions favor increasing government funding for job training programs so that more workers have the skills they need for today's jobs.

California Economy

Economic optimism among Californians has rebounded since the early days of the pandemic: the share expressing optimism is similar to that of January 2020. However, fewer than half expect good economic times in the next 12 months. Majorities across income groups are pessimistic about the economy. Notably, majorities of Latinos (57%) and African Americans (54%) say good times are ahead, compared to about four in ten Asian Americans (43%) and whites (39%). Half of residents in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area are optimistic, while majorities in the Central Valley, the Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego are pessimistic.

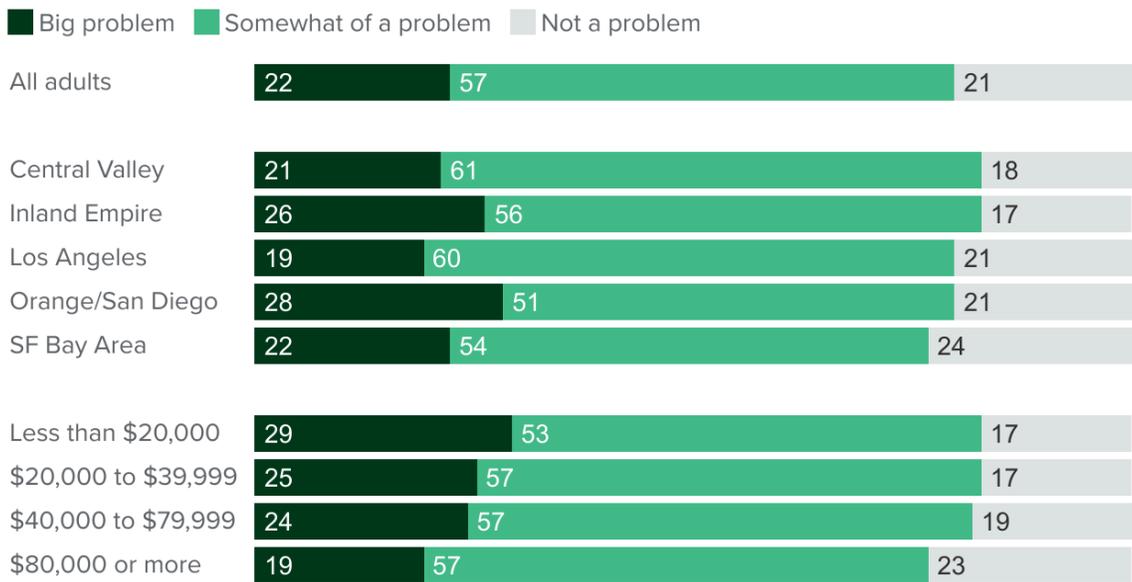
Economic optimism rebounds, but views remain divided



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1999–2021.

Most Californians say the availability of well-paying jobs is a problem in their part of the state, and 22 percent consider it a big problem. Residents in the Inland Empire and Orange/San Diego are slightly more likely to say this is a big problem than those in other regions. Californians in households making less than \$20,000 a year are more likely than those making \$80,000 or more to view the availability of well-paying jobs as a big problem. Overwhelming majorities across age, education, gender, and racial/ethnic groups view this as a problem. Notably, 26 percent of Californians say they have seriously considered moving from their part of the state because of the lack of well-paying jobs. Among those who have considered moving, most would leave the state rather than go somewhere else in California.

Most view the availability of well-paying jobs as a problem



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

One in four Californians say the lack of well-paying jobs makes them consider moving out of their part of the state

	Yes, elsewhere in California	Yes, outside of California	No
All adults	5	21	74
Central Valley	3	26	71
Inland Empire	5	26	68
Los Angeles	8	16	76
Orange/San Diego	3	24	71
SF Bay Area	4	17	79
Men	6	22	72
Women	4	20	75
African Americans	4	19	77
Asian Americans	2	21	77
Latinos	8	13	78
Whites	4	27	70
Less than \$20,000	7	20	71
\$20,000 to \$39,999	8	25	66
\$40,000 to \$79,999	6	20	75
\$80,000 or more	3	21	75
High school only	6	19	73
Some college	4	26	70
College graduates	4	18	78

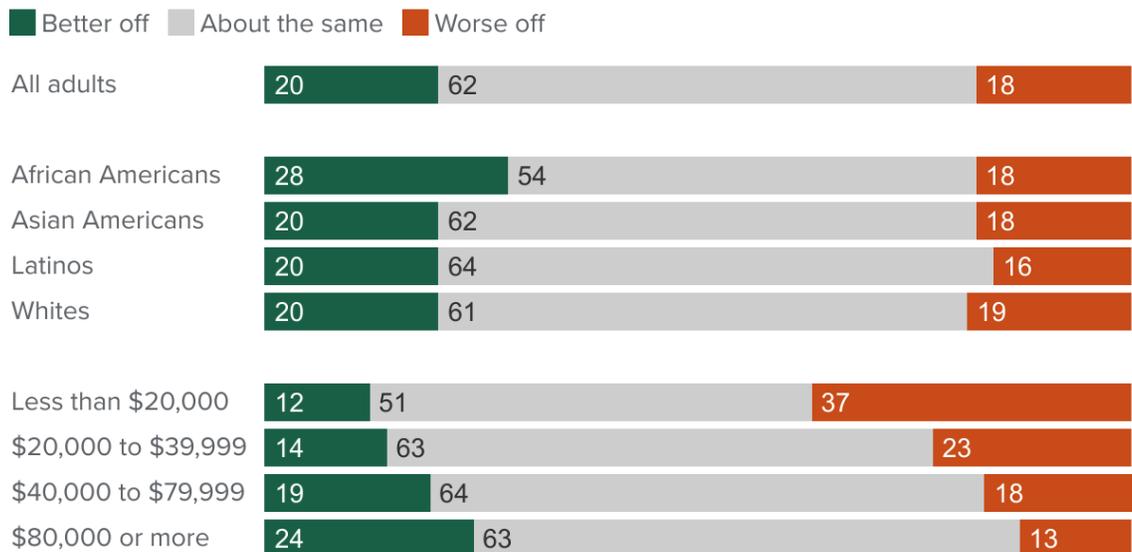
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Personal Finances

When asked about their personal finances, most Californians say they are doing about as well as they were a year ago, while one in six say they are worse off and about one in five say they are better off. Those making less than \$20,000 per year are nearly three times more likely than those making \$80,000 or more to say they are worse off (37% vs. 13%). College graduates are twice as likely as those with a high school

diploma or less to say they are better off (29% vs. 14%). Majorities across regions and across age, education, gender, and racial/ethnic groups say they are doing about the same financially as last year.

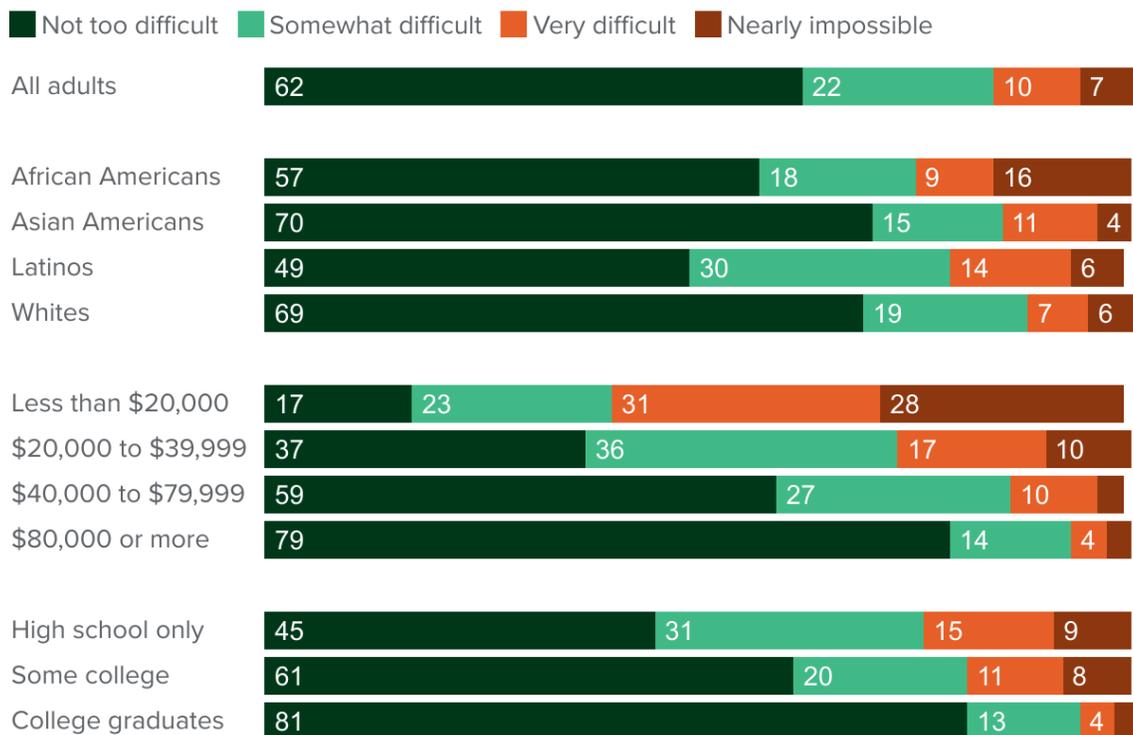
Most Californians say their personal finances are about the same as a year ago



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

When asked how difficult it would be to handle a \$1,000 emergency expense, most Californians say that it would not be too difficult; however, there are differences across demographic groups. Californians in households with annual incomes under \$40,000 are far less likely than those making \$40,000 or more to say this expense would be not too difficult. Notably, about three in ten in the lowest-income households say this expense would be nearly impossible and another three in ten say it would be very difficult. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites and Asian Americans are much more likely to say this expense would be not too difficult. The share holding this view increases with rising educational attainment. Overall, most Californians (78%) are satisfied with their current financial situation, with 21 percent saying they are very satisfied. People of color, those with less formal education, and lower-income Californians are less likely to be very satisfied with their financial situation.

Most could handle a \$1,000 emergency expense, but there are wide differences across race/ethnicity, income, and education



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Most Californians are satisfied with their financial situation

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not satisfied
All adults	21	57	22
Central Valley	20	56	24
Inland Empire	18	57	25
Los Angeles	14	62	24
Orange/San Diego	19	59	22
SF Bay Area	30	51	18
Men	21	55	24
Women	21	59	20
African Americans	16	53	31
Asian Americans	13	62	26
Latinos	19	62	19
Whites	26	53	22
Less than \$20,000	6	42	52
\$20,000 to \$39,999	8	57	35
\$40,000 to \$79,999	15	64	21
\$80,000 or more	30	57	13
High school only	17	57	27
Some college	21	56	23
College graduates	26	59	15

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

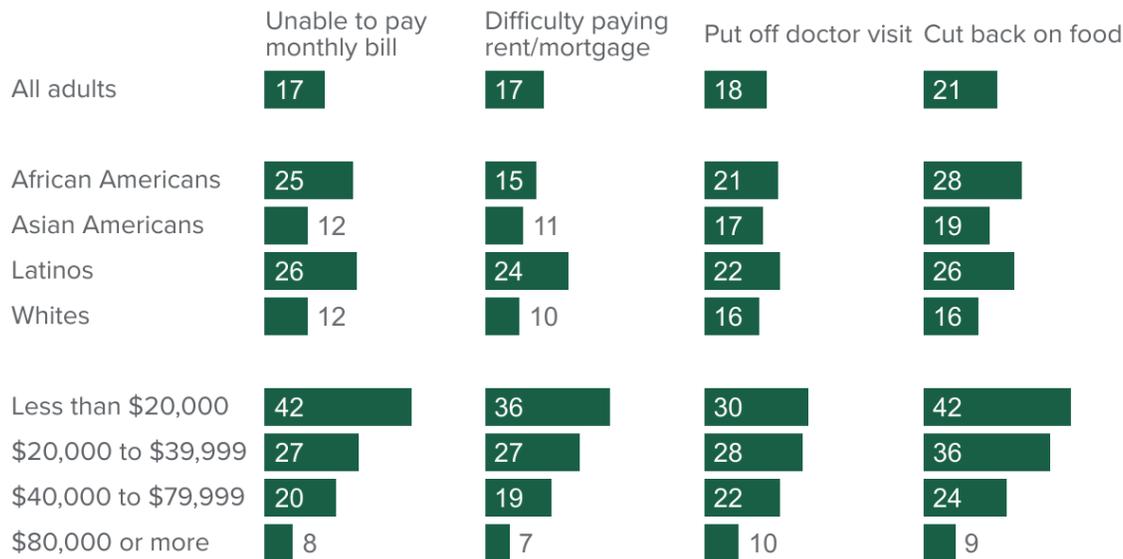
Economic Security

About one in five Californians report that they or someone in their household has cut back on food (21%), put off seeing a doctor or purchasing medicine to save money (18%), been unable to pay a monthly bill (17%), or had difficulty paying the rent or mortgage (17%) in the last 12 months. Results were similar last November, when many statewide restrictions were still in effect. Significant differences across income groups are present. More than one in four households earning less than \$40,000 report these difficulties, compared to one in ten (or fewer) households making more than \$80,000. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos and African Americans are the most likely to report any of these issues. Renters are more likely than

homeowners to report financial difficulties and the share experiencing these difficulties declines as age increases.

The share of Californians experiencing financial difficulties varies across racial/ethnic and income groups

% happened to me, someone in my household, or both

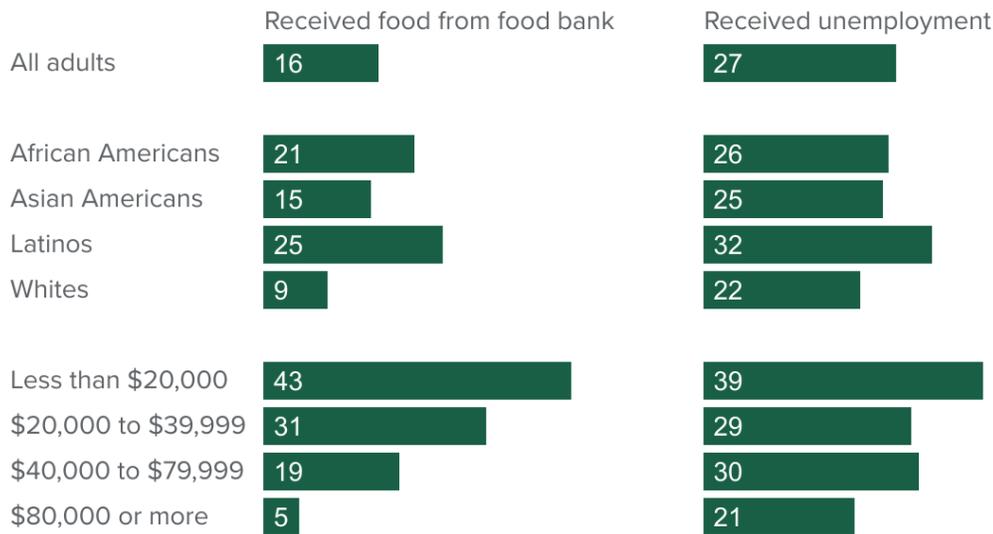


SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Sixteen percent of Californians say they or someone in their household has received food from a food bank in the past year, and 27 percent received unemployment benefits. These shares were similar last November. Lower-income Californians are the most likely to report receiving economic assistance or related services; the share receiving assistance is highest among households earning less than \$20,000. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos and African Americans are more likely than Asian Americans or whites to have received food from a food bank, while Latinos are somewhat more likely than those in other racial/ethnic groups to have received unemployment. Renters are much more likely than homeowners to say they have received assistance.

The share of Californians who have received economic assistance or related services varies across racial/ethnic and income groups

% happened to me, someone in my household, or both



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

More than one in four Californians say they or someone in their household has had their work hours reduced or pay cut (28%) and about two in ten say someone has lost their job (19%) in the past 12 months, while nearly half (49%) have worked from home. The share of Californians who had pay or work hours cut was much higher last November amid COVID lockdowns (41%). Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the most likely to have experienced job loss or cuts to hours or pay, while Asian Americans are the most likely to have worked from home. Households with incomes of less than \$80,000 are much more likely to have faced job loss or reductions in pay or hours. The share of Californians who report working from home is far higher among more-affluent households; it increases as education levels rise and declines with age.

Half of Californians have worked from home in the past year; fewer than three in ten report reduced hours/pay or job loss

% happened to me, someone in my household, or both

	Lost job	Had hours/pay cut	Worked from home
All adults	19%	28%	49%
Central Valley	18	25	38
Inland Empire	24	34	33
Los Angeles	20	35	52
Orange/San Diego	20	27	50
SF Bay Area	18	27	62
Men	18	27	49
Women	22	30	48
African Americans	15	24	37
Asian Americans	20	28	67
Latinos	26	38	40
Whites	14	21	50
Less than \$20,000	35	39	32
\$20,000 to \$39,999	25	34	34
\$40,000 to \$79,999	24	34	36
\$80,000 or more	12	21	64
High school only	23	31	29
Some college	21	32	47
College graduates	14	23	73

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

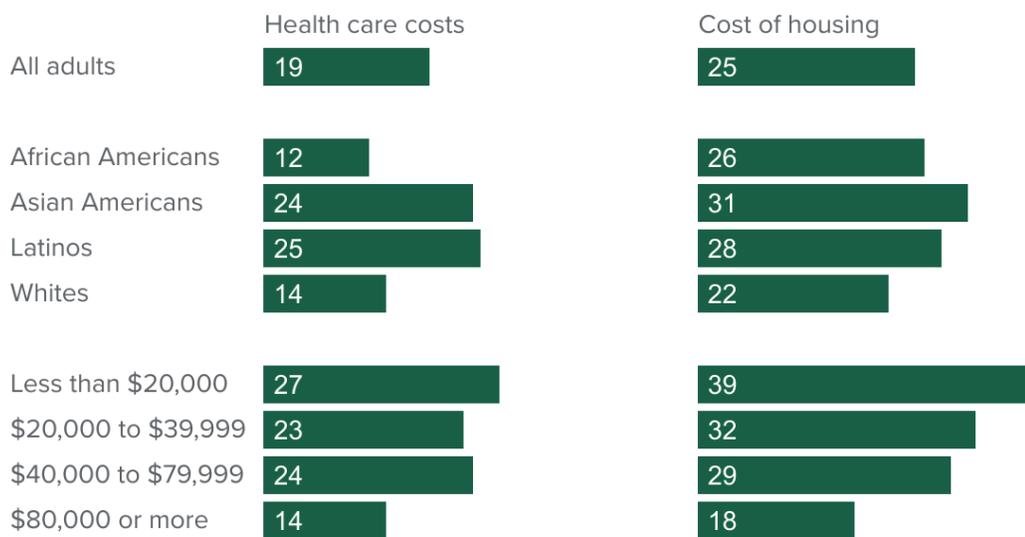
Financial Worries

Despite improved economic circumstances compared to last November, a substantial number of Californians continue to worry about their financial situation. About one in four worry every day or almost

every day about saving for retirement (27%) and the cost of housing (25%); two in ten worry about the amount of debt they have (20%) and about health care costs for them and their family (19%). Similar shares reported these worries 12 months ago. Financial worries are more common in lower-income households, and about one in four or more Californians earning less than \$20,000 worry about these financial issues every day or almost every day. The shares who worry frequently about these financial stressors vary across racial/ethnic groups. The share of adults who are worried about each of these issues decreases slightly as education levels rise. Renters are much more likely than homeowners to worry about the cost of housing, debt, and saving for retirement.

The share of Californians who worry about health care and housing costs varies across racial/ethnic and income groups

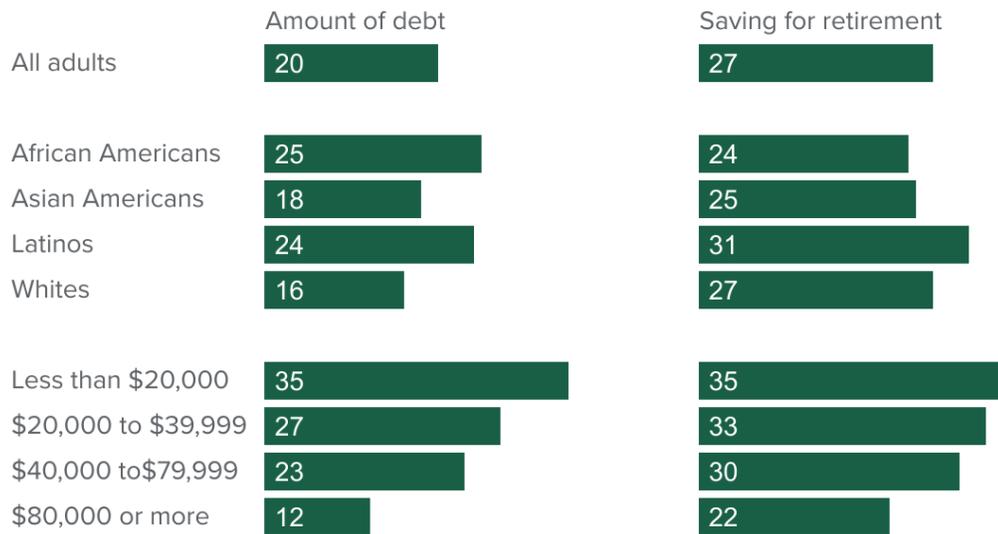
% worry every day or almost every day



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

At least two in ten Californians worry frequently about the amount of debt they have and about saving for retirement

% worry every day or almost every day



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

About two in ten Californians (19%) worry every day or almost every day about paying their bills, and 14% worry about job loss. Similar shares had these financial worries last November. Regionally, concern about paying bills is highest in the Inland Empire and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area, while worries about job loss are highest in Los Angeles and lowest in Orange/San Diego. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the most likely to be worried about job loss, while African Americans and Latinos are the most likely to worry about paying bills; whites are the least likely to be worried about either of these issues. Californians earning less than \$20,000 are the most likely to worry: 44% worry every day or almost every day about paying bills and 27% worry about job loss. Concern about job loss and paying bills declines as education levels rise.

Worries about job loss and bills vary across regions and demographic groups

% worry every day or almost every day

	Job loss	Paying bills
All adults	14%	19%
Central Valley	16	20
Inland Empire	16	26
Los Angeles	18	23
Orange/San Diego	9	18
SF Bay Area	11	15
Men	12	18
Women	15	21
African Americans	12	27
Asian Americans	15	17
Latinos	20	27
Whites	9	14
Less than \$20,000	27	44
\$20,000 to \$39,999	18	28
\$40,000 to \$79,999	19	21
\$80,000 or more	7	10
High school only	17	26
Some college	14	20
College graduates	10	11

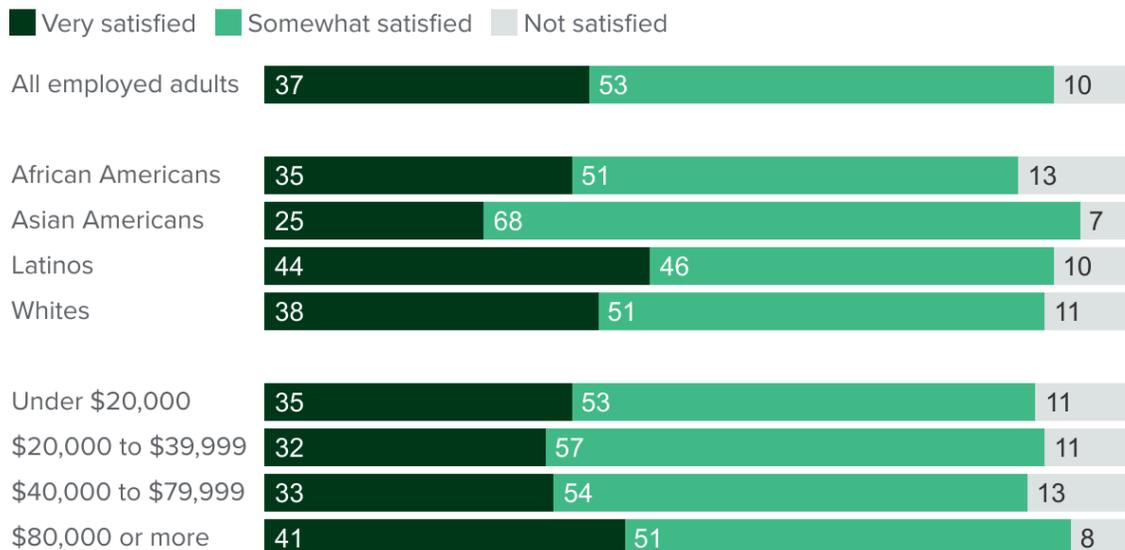
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Job Conditions

When asked about job satisfaction, 37 percent of employed adults are very satisfied and 53 percent are somewhat satisfied, while 10 percent say they are not satisfied with their current job. Satisfaction has increased since last November, when 82 percent of employed adults expressed satisfaction compared to 90 percent today. Asian Americans are less likely than other racial/ethnic groups to say they are very

satisfied with their current job. Across income groups, the share saying they are very satisfied is highest among those making \$80,000 or more.

Most employed adults say they are at least somewhat satisfied with their jobs



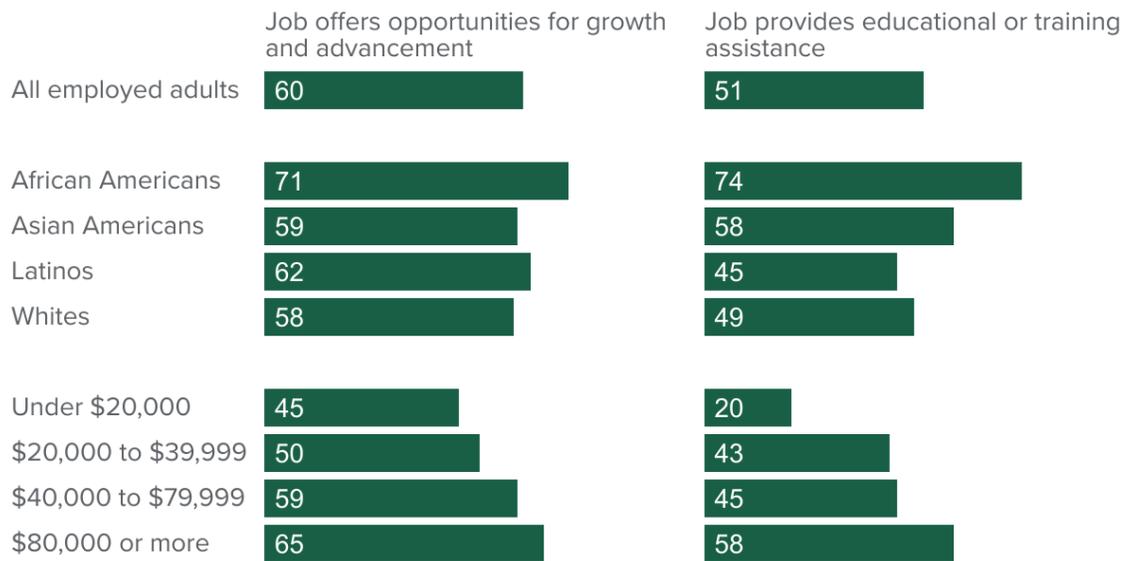
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

NOTES: Among employed adults only.

Six in ten employed Californians say their jobs offer opportunities for growth, and about half (51%) say they are provided with educational or training assistance. Similar shares of men and women say they have opportunities for growth and advancement at work and are offered educational/training assistance. African Americans are somewhat more likely than any other racial/ethnic group to say their jobs provide opportunities for growth or educational/training assistance. The shares saying their jobs offer either of these increase with rising educational attainment and income. Employed adults with an income of less than \$20,000 are the least likely across all demographic groups to say their current job offers either of these benefits.

About eight in ten adults completely (43%) or somewhat (38%) agree with the idea that it is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them, and a similar share agree at least somewhat with the idea that voting gives people like them a say in what the government does (39% completely, 42% somewhat). There is agreement among partisan groups on both issues.

Most say their job offers growth opportunities, while about half are offered educational/training assistance



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

NOTES: Among employed adults only.

Overwhelming majorities agree that it is important for workers to organize, and that voting gives people a say in government decisions

% completely or somewhat agree

	It is important for workers to organize	Voting gives people a say in government
All adults	81%	81%
Likely voters	80	86
Democrats	91	93
Republicans	61	71
Independents	79	79
Central Valley	75	73
Inland Empire	86	86
Los Angeles	84	87
Orange/San Diego	75	80
SF Bay Area	84	82
Men	79	81
Women	83	83
African Americans	86	81
Asian Americans	81	91
Latinos	87	84
Whites	75	77
Less than \$20,000	88	75
\$20,000 to \$39,999	88	82
\$40,000 to \$79,999	84	83
\$80,000 or more	75	82

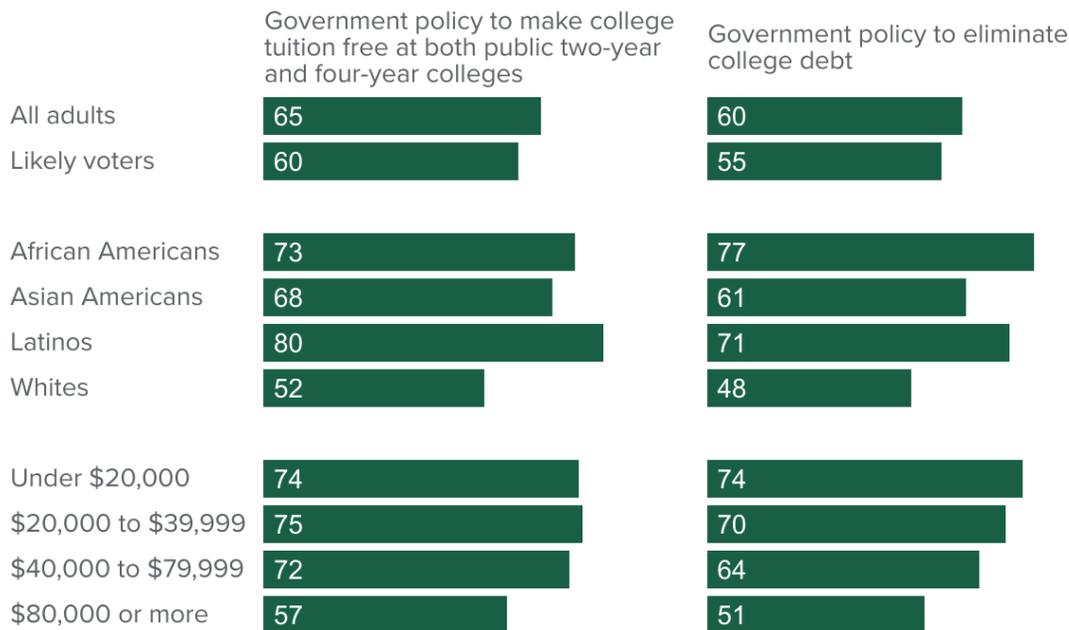
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Workforce Policies

When asked about policy proposals to address the cost of higher education, nearly two in three Californians

(65% adults, 60% likely voters) support a government policy to make college tuition free at both public two-year and four-year colleges, and about six in ten Californians (60% adults, 55% likely voters) support a government policy that would eliminate college debt. Democrats and independents largely support these policies, while majorities of Republicans oppose both. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites are the least likely to support these policies, though nearly half are in favor. Support is lowest among college graduates, those 55 and older, and those with incomes of \$80,000 or more.

Solid majorities support policies that reduce higher education costs



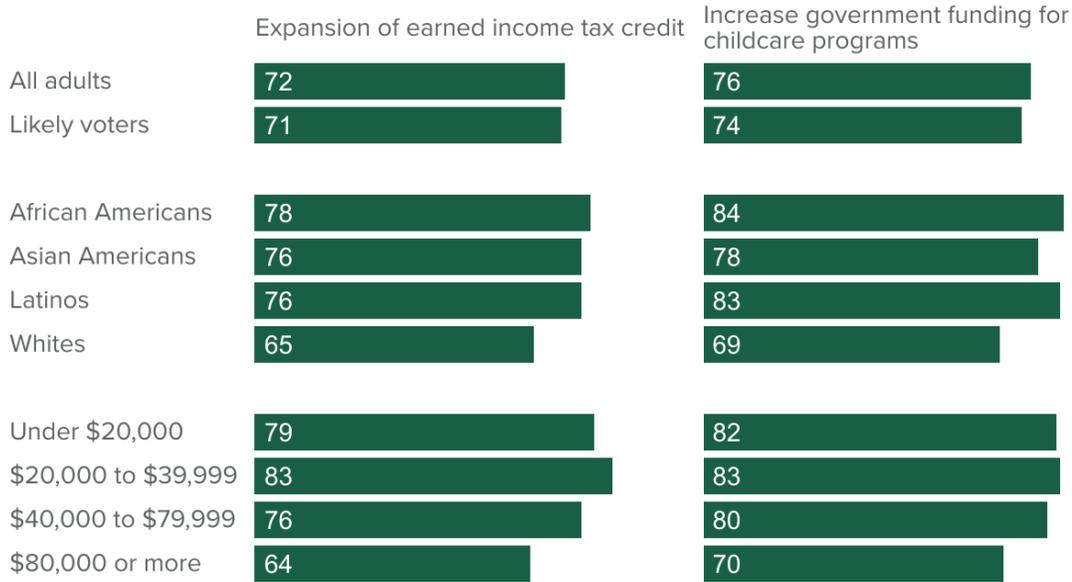
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

About seven in ten adults (72%) and likely voters (71%) are in favor of expanding eligibility for and payments of the earned income tax credit for lower-income working families and individuals. When asked whether they support increasing government funding so that childcare programs are available for more lower-income working parents, overwhelming majorities of adults (76%) and likely voters (74%) are in favor. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats and independents support increased funding for childcare programs and the expansion of earned income tax credits; about six in ten Republicans oppose both. While about two in three whites support both of these policies, they are the least likely to hold this view across racial/ethnic groups. Solid majorities across income groups favor these policies, but support is lowest among those making \$80,000 or more.

Eight in ten adults (81%) and likely voters (82%) are in favor of increasing government funding for job training programs and about three in four (77% adults, 74% likely voters) support government offering a health insurance plan, similar to Medicare, that Americans can choose to purchase instead of private insurance.

Majorities across partisan groups agree on increasing funding for job training programs, but there is a wide partisan divide on government-funded health care.

Overwhelming majorities support expansion of safety net programs



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Overwhelming majorities support increased job training and a public health care option

	Increasing government funding for job training programs	Government-funded health care option
All adults	81%	77%
Likely voters	82	74
Democrats	92	93
Republicans	60	41
Independents	80	76
Central Valley	75	66
Inland Empire	73	78
Los Angeles	85	83
Orange/San Diego	79	74
SF Bay Area	85	82
Men	78	74
Women	84	79
African Americans	85	85
Asian Americans	86	80
Latinos	85	85
Whites	76	68
Under \$20,000	85	80
\$20,000 to \$39,999	85	79
\$40,000 to \$79,999	81	83
\$80,000 or more	79	71

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Regional Map

This map highlights the five geographic regions for which we present results; these regions account for approximately 90 percent of the state population. Residents of other geographic areas (in gray) are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less-populous areas are not large enough to report separately.

Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California. Coauthors of this report include associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner, who was project manager for this survey, and survey analysts Rachel Lawler and Deja Thomas. The Californians and Their Economic Well-Being survey is supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 2,292 California adult residents. The median time to complete the survey was 16 minutes. Interviews were conducted from October 12–31, 2021.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos, using its online KnowledgePanel, in English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified or traditional), Vietnamese, and Korean according to respondents' preferences. We chose these languages because Spanish is the dominant language among non-English-speaking adults in California, followed in prevalence by the three Asian languages. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability-based sampling and include both those with internet access and those without. KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it and, if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel. KnowledgePanel members are primarily recruited using address based sampling (ABS) methodology, which improves population coverage, particularly for hard-to-reach populations such as young adults and minority groups. ABS-recruited Latinos are supplemented with a dual-frame random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methodology that targets telephone exchanges associated with areas with a higher concentration of Latinos to provide the capability to conduct representative online surveys with Latinos, including those who speak only Spanish. KnowledgePanel's recruitment was originally based on a national RDD frame and switched to the primarily ABS-based methodology in 2009. KnowledgePanel includes households with landlines and cell phones, including those with cellphones only and those without phones. ABS allows probability-based sampling of addresses from the US Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File (DSF). The DSF-based sampling frame used for address selection is enhanced with a series of refinements—such as the appendage of various ancillary data to each address from commercial and government data sources—to facilitate complex stratification plans. Taking advantage of such refinements, quarterly samples are selected using a stratified sampling methodology that aims to retain the representativeness of the panel. KnowledgePanel recruits new panel members throughout the year to offset panel attrition.

To qualify for the survey, a panel member must be age 18 or older and reside in California. A general population sample of Californians was selected using Ipsos's PPS (probability proportional to size) sampling procedure to select study-specific samples. Briefly, to select such samples, the panel is first weighted to population benchmarks and those panel weights are used as the measure of size for a PPS sample selection that yields a fully representative sample. An oversample of panelists with household income under \$40,000 augmented the general population sample. A total of 2,369 respondents completed the survey out of 5,782 panelists who were sampled, for a response rate of 48 percent. To ensure the highest data quality, we flagged respondents who sped through the survey, which we defined as completing the survey in one fourth of the overall median time (less than 4 minutes). We also flagged respondents if their self-reported age or gender did not match the data stored in their profile. A total of 77 cases were removed after this review process, resulting in 2,292 total qualified and valid cases.

Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever. Ipsos translated all survey questions into Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

Ipsos uses the US Census Bureau's 2015–2019 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The sample of Californians is first weighted using an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for any differences in the probability of selecting various segments of the KnowledgePanel sample. This base weight is further adjusted using an iterative proportional fitting (raking) procedure that aligns sample demographics to population benchmarks from the 2015–2019 ACS data as well as party registration benchmarks from the California Secretary of State's voter registration file.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 2,292 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,929 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.5 percent; for the 1,543 likely voters, it is ± 3.9 percent. The sampling error for the oversample of 1,027 lower-income Californians is ± 5 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

We present results for five geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. "Central Valley" includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. "San Francisco Bay Area" includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. "Los Angeles" refers to Los Angeles County, "Inland Empire" refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and "Orange/San Diego" refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less-populous areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 42 percent of the state's adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state's adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state's adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. Results for African American and Asian American likely voters are combined with those of other racial/ethnic groups because sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, intentions to vote this year, attention to election news, and current interest in politics.

Sample sizes and margins of error for each subgroup are presented in the table below.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier online surveys. Numerous questions were adapted from the Public Religion Research Institute's (PRRI) California Workers Survey dated August 2018 and national surveys by the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Unweighted N-size and margin of error

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, November 2021.

Questions and Responses

October 12–October 31, 2021

2,292 California adult residents

English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Vietnamese, and Korean

Margin of error $\pm 3.2\%$ at 95% confidence level for total sample

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the issues of jobs and the economy?

61% approve

38% disapprove

1% don't know

1a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system?

60% approve

38% disapprove

2% don't know

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling the issue of jobs and the economy?

56% approve

43% disapprove

1% don't know

3. How much of the time can you trust the state government to do what is right when it comes to handling the issue of jobs and the economy? [rotate order top to bottom]

7% just about always

43% most of the time

49% only some of the time

– don't know

4. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

47% good times

52% bad times

1% don't know

5. Looking ahead, in California will we have mostly good times during the next five years or will we have mostly periods of widespread unemployment or depression?

47% good times

52% periods of depression or unemployment

1% don't know

6. How much of a problem is the availability of well-paying jobs in your part of California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem?

22% big problem
57% somewhat of a problem
21% not a problem
– don't know

7. Does the lack of well-paying jobs make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now? (if yes, ask: "Are you considering moving elsewhere in California or outside of the state?")

5% yes, seriously considered moving to another part of California
21% yes, seriously considered moving outside of California
74% no, have not seriously considered moving
– don't know

8. Now thinking about your own personal finances, would you say you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as you were a year ago?

20% better off
18% worse off
62% about the same
– don't know

9. Now looking ahead, do you think a year from now that you and your family will be better off, worse off, or just about the same as now?

29% better off
15% worse off
56% about the same
– don't know

10. How would you describe your household's financial situation today? Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with your situation?

21% very satisfied
57% somewhat satisfied
22% not satisfied
– don't know

11. Suppose that you have an emergency expense that costs \$1,000. Based on your current financial situation, how difficult would it be for you to pay this expense? [rotate response top to bottom]

62% not too difficult
22% somewhat difficult
10% very difficult
7% nearly impossible
– don't know

12. On another topic, do you think the American Dream—that if you work hard you'll get ahead—still holds true, never held true, or once held true but does not anymore?

37% still holds true
16% never held true

47% once held true but does not anymore
– don't know

13. Do you think the American Dream is easier to achieve in California than elsewhere in the US or harder to achieve?

13% easier to achieve
57% harder to achieve
30% about the same
1% don't know

14. When children today in California grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

36% better off
63% worse off
1% don't know

15. Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?

69% getting larger
6% getting smaller
25% stayed the same
1% don't know

16. Looking ahead to the year 2030, do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California will be larger, be smaller, or will be the same?

64% be larger
10% be smaller
25% will be the same
2% don't know

Now, please indicate whether you or anyone in your household has done or experienced any of the following in the last 12 months...

[rotate questions 17 to 28]

17. Been laid off or lost their job?

9% yes, happened to me
7% yes, happened to someone in my household
3% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
81% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

18. Had work hours reduced or pay cut?

13% yes, happened to me
10% yes, happened to someone in my household
5% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
71% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

19. Put off seeing a doctor or purchasing medication for financial reasons?

10% yes, happened to me
5% yes, happened to someone in my household
3% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
82% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

20. Was not able to pay a monthly bill?

10% yes, happened to me
4% yes, happened to someone in my household
3% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
83% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

21. Received food stamps?

9% yes, happened to me
5% yes, happened to someone in my household
2% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
84% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

22. Reduced meals or cut back on food to save money?

12% yes, happened to me
2% yes, happened to someone in my household
7% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
79% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

23. Received unemployment benefits?

12% yes, happened to me
11% yes, happened to someone in my household
4% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
73% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

24. Received food from a food bank or pantry?

9% yes, happened to me
4% yes, happened to someone in my household
3% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
84% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

25. Worked from home?

25% yes, happened to me
15% yes, happened to someone in my household
9% yes, happened to me and someone in my household

51% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

26. Had difficulty paying rent or mortgage?

9% yes, happened to me
4% yes, happened to someone in my household
4% yes, happened to me and someone in my household
84% did not happen to anyone in my household
– don't know

Next, how often, if ever, do you worry about each of the following?
[rotate questions 27 to 34]

27. You or someone in your family losing their job?

8% every day
6% almost every day
32% sometimes
25% rarely
29% never
– don't know

28. The cost of health care for you and your family?

10% every day
9% almost every day
37% sometimes
19% rarely
25% never
– don't know

29. The cost of housing for you and your family?

13% every day
12% almost every day
32% sometimes
17% rarely
26% never
– don't know

30. Paying your bills?

9% every day
10% almost every day
27% sometimes
24% rarely
29% never
– don't know

31. [parents of children 18 or younger only] The cost of childcare?

9% every day

10% almost every day
23% sometimes
15% rarely
44% never
– don't know

32. The amount of debt you have?

11% every day
9% almost every day
27% sometimes
23% rarely
31% never
– don't know

33. [parents of children 18 or younger only] Being able to save enough for your children's college education?

16% every day
15% almost every day
38% sometimes
16% rarely
15% never
– don't know

34. Being able to save enough for your retirement?

15% every day
12% almost every day
38% sometimes
14% rarely
20% never
1% don't know

35. [employed adults only] Overall, would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with your job?

37% very satisfied
53% somewhat satisfied
10% not satisfied
– don't know

Please answer yes or no about each of the following in regards to your current job...

[rotate questions 36 to 41]

36. [employed adults only] Would you say that you have stable and predictable pay at work?

86% yes
14% no
– don't know

37. [employed adults only] Would you say that you have stable and predictable hours at work?

81% yes

19% no
– don't know

38. [employed adults only] Would you say that your job offers opportunities for growth and advancement?

60% yes
40% no
– don't know

39. [employed adults only] Would you say that your employer cares about your health and safety at work as it relates to COVID-19?

85% yes
15% no
– don't know

40. [employed adults only] Would you say that you can voice your concerns at work without fear of negative consequences?

74% yes
26% no
– don't know

41. [employed adults only] Would you say that the decisions made at work take into account your views and concerns?

61% yes
39% no
– don't know

42. [employed adults only] Which describes your current employment or work situation?

61% working outside the home [skip to q44]
22% working from home/remotely [ask q43]
15% mix of some work from home, and some outside home/at workplace [ask q43]
2% something else [skip to q44]
– don't know

43. [those working remotely some or all of the time only] Did you start working from home as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns?

73% yes
27% no
– don't know

44. [employed adults only] If you had the choice, for the next year, would you prefer to:

42% work outside the home/at your workplace full-time
24% work from home or remotely full time
33% mix some days working remotely, some days at the workplace
– don't know

45. [parents of children 18 and under only] In the past year, did you or another adult in your household leave

your job or change your work schedule in order to take care of your children, or not?

17% yes, happened to me [*ask q45a*]

7% yes, happened to someone in my household [*ask q45a*]

6% yes, happened to me and someone in my household [*ask q45a*]

70% did not happen to anyone in my household [*skip to q46*]

– don't know

45a. [*parents/household members have had to leave a job or change their work schedule only*] Did you/that person stop working either temporarily or permanently cut back on hours, change your/their work schedule, or something else?

15% stopped working permanently

15% stopped working temporarily

17% cut back on hours

16% changed work schedule

14% work from home

7% changed jobs

17% something else

– don't know

45b. [*parents/household members have had to leave a job or change their work schedule only*] Have you/has that person returned to working the hours you/they worked before this change, or are you/they still not working or working fewer hours?

32% returned to work or previous hours

33% have not returned to work or previous hours

12% work from home

10% changed job

12% something else

1% don't know

Has this employment change had a major impact, minor impact, or no impact on:

[*rotate questions 45c, 45d, 45e*]

45c. [*parents/household members have had to leave a job or change their work schedule only*] Your family's finances?

41% major impact

39% minor impact

20% no impact

– don't know

45d. [*parents/household members have had to leave a job or change their work schedule only*] Your level of stress?

47% major impact

38% minor impact

14% no impact

– don't know

45e. [parents/household members have had to leave a job or change their work schedule only] Your mental health?

37% major impact
40% minor impact
23% no impact
– don't know

46. [employed adults only] Next, does your workplace offer a membership in or affiliation with a union, occupation association, worker center, or other type of group that represents workers?

28% yes
72% no
– don't know

46a. [employed adults only] Are you or is anyone in your immediate family a member of a labor union? (If yes, ask: "Is that person you or someone else in your family?")

15% yes, myself
11% yes, another person in my family
3% yes, myself and another person in my family
71% no
– don't know

And thinking about the benefits offered at your current job...

47. [employed adults only] Does your current job provide health coverage?

75% yes
25% no
– don't know

48. [employed adults only] Does your current job provide paid sick leave?

80% yes
20% no
– don't know

49. [employed adults only] Does your current job provide retirement savings?

70% yes
30% no
– don't know

50. [employed adults only] Does your current job provide educational or training assistance?

51% yes
49% no
– don't know

Next, please read these two statements and say if you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with each one.

[rotate questions 51 and 52]

51. It is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them.

43% completely agree
38% somewhat agree
14% somewhat disagree
5% completely disagree
– don't know

52. Voting gives people like me some say in what the government does.

39% completely agree
42% somewhat agree
11% somewhat disagree
8% completely disagree
– don't know

On another topic,

**Do you favor or oppose each of these policies that could improve the economic wellbeing of Californians?
[rotate questions 53 to 59]**

53. Do you favor or oppose a government policy to make college tuition free at both public two-year and four-year colleges?

65% favor
35% oppose
– don't know

54. Would you favor or oppose a government policy to eliminate college debt?

60% favor
40% oppose
– don't know

55. Do you favor or oppose increasing government funding so that child care programs are available for more lower-income working parents?

76% favor
24% oppose
– don't know

56. Do you favor or oppose increasing government funding or job training programs so that more workers have the skills they need for today's jobs?

81% favor
19% oppose
– don't know

57. Would you favor or oppose the government offering a health insurance plan, similar to Medicare, that Americans can choose to purchase instead of private insurance?

77% favor
23% oppose
– don't know

58. Do you favor or oppose the government expanding the eligibility and payments of the earned income tax credit for lower-income working families and individuals?

- 72% favor
- 28% oppose
- don't know

59. Would you favor or oppose the federal government providing a guaranteed income, sometimes called a “Universal Basic Income,” of about \$1,000 a month for all adult citizens, whether or not they work?

- 48% favor
- 52% oppose
- don't know

59a. In recent months, how much, if at all, has your work life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak?

- 19% a lot
- 26% some
- 21% just a little
- 33% not at all
- don't know

On another topic,

60. How big of a problem is racism in the US today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

- 46% big problem
- 34% somewhat of a problem
- 12% small problem
- 7% not a problem at all
- don't know

61. Was there a time in the last twelve months when you felt you were treated unfairly at your place of work because of your racial or ethnic background?

- 9% yes
- 91% no
- don't know

62. How much do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes to economic inequality in this country?

- 34% a great deal
- 36% a fair amount
- 21% not too much
- 9% not at all
- 1% don't know

On another topic,

63. How much of a problem is the threat of wildfires in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat

of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 51% big problem
- 36% somewhat of a problem
- 13% not much of a problem
- don't know

64. How serious is the threat of wildfires in your part of California to your personal and economic wellbeing—very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

- 25% very serious
- 41% somewhat serious
- 34% not too serious
- don't know

65. How much confidence do you have in the government in terms of its readiness to respond to wildfires in your part of California—a great deal, only some, or hardly any confidence?

- 34% a great deal
- 49% only some
- 17% hardly any confidence
- don't know

Thinking about the process of recalling elected officials in California...

66. [likely voters only] At this time, how much would you say that you know about how the recall process works in California – a lot, some, very little, or nothing?

- 29% a lot
- 52% some
- 16% very little
- 16% nothing
- 3% don't know

And please tell me if you would support or oppose the following ideas to change the way the recall process works in California.

67. [likely voters only] Currently, a statewide official can be recalled for any or no reason. Would you support or oppose changing this so that an elected official could only be recalled because of illegal or unethical activity?

- 64% support
- 36% oppose
- don't know

68. [likely voters only] Currently, to qualify a recall for a statewide ballot, recall supporters need to gather enough signatures from registered voters to equal 12 percent of the total votes cast in the previous election for that office. For the special election to recall Governor Newsom, this number was about 1.5 million signatures. Would you support or oppose raising this requirement to 25 percent of the total votes cast in the previous election?

- 64% support

36% oppose
– don't know

69. [likely voters only] Generally speaking, and regardless of how you felt about the recall election, do you think the recall election process in California needs major changes, minor changes, or is it basically fine the way it is?

50% major changes
28% minor changes
21% basically fine the way it is
1% don't know

70. [likely voters only] Generally speaking, and regardless of how you felt about the recall election, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that the California constitution provides a way to recall the state's elected officials, such as the Governor?

86% good thing
14% bad thing
– don't know

71. [likely voters only] Currently, the winner of the second part of a recall ballot could get under 50 percent of the vote. Would you support or oppose changing the law so that if no candidate got more than 50 percent of the vote, there would be a runoff election between the top two candidates?

72% support
27% oppose
1% don't know

72. [likely voters only] According to the state Department of Finance, the special election to recall Governor Newsom cost an estimated \$276 million. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view:

79% this election was a waste of money
20% this election was worth the cost
– don't know

72a. [likely voters only] Do you favor or oppose creating a bipartisan commission on improving the recall process that would hold public hearings and make recommendations for a state proposition on the November 2022 election ballot?

70% favor
29% oppose
1% don't know

73. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

77% yes
23% no

73a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

46% Democrat [ask q74]
24% Republican [skip to q74a]

2% another party (specify) [skip to q75]
27% decline-to-state/independent [skip to 74b]

74. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

51% strong
49% not very strong
– don't know

[skip to q75]

74a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

56% strong
44% not very strong
-% don't know

[skip to q75]

74b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

33% Republican Party
63% Democratic Party
3% neither (volunteered)
1% don't know

75. Would you consider yourself to be politically: *[read list, rotate order top to bottom]*

11% very liberal
20% somewhat liberal
42% middle-of-the-road
19% somewhat conservative
7% very conservative
1% don't know

76. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

16% great deal
36% fair amount
34% only a little
13% none
– don't know

[d1-d15 demographic questions]

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Acknowledgments

This survey was supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation.

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