



Californians & Their Economic Well-Being

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News Release

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Most Think California Children Will Be Worse Off than Their Parents; Two-Thirds See Income Inequality Widening

MANY LOWER-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS HAD HOURS OR PAY REDUCED, LESS FOOD IN LAST YEAR

SAN FRANCISCO, December 9, 2020—A solid majority of Californians say children growing up in the state today will be worse off financially than their parents, while more than two-thirds say the gap between rich and poor is widening. In the past year, more than four in ten households with annual incomes below \$40,000 had work hours or pay reduced, and an equal share had to cut back on food. With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations again rising, the pandemic continues to disproportionately affect lower-income households and Latinos. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Six in ten Californians (63%) think that when children in California today grow up they will be worse off financially than their parents; about a third (35%) say better off. Majorities of whites (76%), Asian Americans (67%), and African Americans (62%), and nearly half of Latinos (47%), say California children will be worse off than their parents. Most across income groups say this, including 73% of those with annual incomes of \$80,000 or more (58% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 54% under \$40,000).

“Majorities of Californians across income groups think that children growing up in California today will be worse off financially than their parents,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

A strong majority (69%) say the gap between rich and poor in their part of the state is getting wider, 6 percent say the gap is narrowing, and 25 percent say it has stayed the same. Majorities across income, age, and racial/ethnic groups and across regions believe the gap is getting larger.

Thinking nationally, Californians link racial and ethnic discrimination with economic disparity. An overwhelming majority (83%) say racism is a problem in the US, and about seven in ten say racial and ethnic discrimination contributes a great deal (34%) or a fair amount (38%) to economic inequality. African Americans (63%) are far more likely than other groups to say racial and ethnic discrimination contributes a great deal to inequality (36% Latinos, 32% Asian Americans, 29% whites).

“Overwhelming majorities of Californians, including nine in ten African Americans, say that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes to economic inequality in the US,” Baldassare said.

COVID-19 Continues to Have an Outsized Effect on Californians with Lower Incomes and on Latino Households

With coronavirus cases and hospitalizations surging again this fall, about three in four Californians are either very (31%) or somewhat (41%) worried that someone in their family will get sick from the virus, similar to responses in April and July (77% either very or somewhat worried). Today, lower-income

adults are slightly more likely to be very worried about illness (40% incomes under \$40,000, 34% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 24% \$80,000 or more). Latinos (44%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (31%), African Americans (23%), and whites (21%) to be very worried about illness.

About two in three Californians are very (27%) or somewhat (38%) worried COVID-19 will hurt their family's finances. Similar shares were very or somewhat worried about financial impacts in April (75%) and July (71%). Today, lower-income Californians are somewhat more likely to be very worried (38% incomes under \$40,000, 32% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 18% \$80,000 or more). Latinos (39%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (26%), African Americans (24%), and whites (19%) to be very worried.

"The pandemic is continuing to have a disproportionate impact on Californians with lower incomes and on Latino households," Baldassare said.

Many Lower-Income Families Faced Reduced Work Hours or Pay, Cut Back on Food, or Had Other Challenges in the Last Year

Many lower-income households faced a range of economic challenges in the last 12 months. Among households with incomes under \$40,000, 43 percent had someone in their household with reduced work hours or pay (42% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 36% \$80,000 or more). In addition, 42 percent cut back on food to save money (27% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 12% \$80,000 or more).

"More than four in ten lower-income Californians report their work hours or pay reduced. A similar share cut back on food in the last 12 months," Baldassare said.

One-third or more of lower-income households report receiving unemployment (36%), not being able to pay a monthly bill (36%), having difficulty paying rent or mortgage (35%), or being laid off (35%) in the past year. Similar shares report using a food bank (43%) and receiving food stamps (38%).

Most Lower-Income Households Would Have Difficulty Affording a \$1,000 Emergency Expense; Less than Half Have Key Job Benefits

Seven in ten Californians live comfortably (31%) or can meet basic expenses with a little left over (41%). Those making under \$40,000 are much less likely to say they live comfortably (9%) than those making \$40,000 to under \$80,000 (23%) and \$80,000 or more (49%). Most Californians (55%) say it would be not too difficult to cover a \$1,000 emergency expense, but that share is lower among lower-income households. Among those making under \$40,000, 23 percent say it would be not too difficult to cover a \$1,000 emergency expense (48% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 79% \$80,000 or more).

"Lower-income Californians are less likely to say their household finances are comfortable and that it would be not too difficult to pay an emergency expense," Baldassare said.

Most employed Californians (82%)—including those earning less than \$40,000 (79%)—are satisfied with their jobs, but lower-income workers are less likely to have key job benefits. Among workers making under \$40,000, 59 percent have paid sick leave (81% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 84% \$80,000 or more); 48 percent get health coverage (73% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 84% \$80,000 or more); 40 percent get retirement savings (59% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 76% \$80,000 or more); and 33 percent get educational or training assistance (51% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 60% \$80,000 or more).

"Less than half of lower-income workers report having a job that offers them health care, retirement savings, and education or training," Baldassare said.

Most Californians Are Pessimistic about the State's Economic Outlook

Californians have an unfavorable outlook for the state's economy in the next year and beyond. Three in ten (31% adults, 30% likely voters) expect good times financially for California in the next 12 months.

Less than half (40% adults, 41% likely voters) expect good times during the next five years, while majorities (59% adults, 58% likely voters) expect periods of widespread unemployment or depression.

More than eight in ten Californians say the availability of well-paying jobs is a big problem (27% adults, 28% likely voters) or somewhat of a problem (61% adults, 60% likely voters) in their part of the state. In addition, nearly one in three (32%) say the lack of well-paying jobs is making them seriously consider moving—26 percent out of California, and 6 percent elsewhere in the state.

“Californians have a gloomy economic outlook, and one in four are seriously considering leaving California due to a lack of well-paying jobs in their region,” Baldassare said.

Despite this pessimism, most approve (58% adults, 59% likely voters) of how Governor Newsom is handling the economy. An overwhelming majority of Democrats approve (85%), while 54 percent of independents and 14 percent of Republicans approve. Majorities across income groups approve.

“Majorities of Californians across income groups approve of Governor Newsom’s handling of jobs and the economy, while Democrats and Republicans are divided,” Baldassare said.

Among Several Policy Proposals to Boost Economic Well-Being, Increased Funding for Job Training Has the Most Support

Asked about a number of policy proposals to improve economic well-being, Californians expressed the most support for increasing public funding for job training programs so that more workers have the skills needed for today’s jobs. More than eight in ten Californians (83% adults, 82% likely voters) support increased government funding for job training, with 93 percent of Democrats, 86 percent of independents, and 63 percent of Republicans approving. Across racial/ethnic groups, 90 percent of African Americans, 87 percent of Asian Americans, 85 percent of Latinos, and 80 percent of whites support increased funding for job training, as do most across regions (88% Los Angeles, 87% Inland Empire, 87% San Francisco Bay Area, 79% Orange/San Diego, 78% Central Valley).

“Overwhelming majorities of Californians across political, racial/ethnic, and regional groups are in favor of increasing government funding for job training programs,” Baldassare said.

Other proposals to increase economic well-being also have the support of most Californians. These include increased funding for child care serving lower-income working parents (78% adults, 76% likely voters), a government health insurance plan similar to Medicare (77% adults, 75% likely voters), expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (73% adults, 72% likely voters), free college tuition (66% adults, 59% likely voters), and eliminating college debt (65% adults, 60% likely voters). Fewer support the federal government providing a guaranteed income, sometimes called “universal basic income” (50% adults, 43% likely voters).

Most Value Worker Organizing and Believe in the Importance of Voting

Three in ten employed Californians (29%) say their workplace offers membership in or affiliation with a union, occupation association, worker center, or other group representing workers. Overwhelming majorities of Californians (78% adults, 78% likely voters) say it is important for workers to organize. This view is held by majorities across parties, regions, and income and racial/ethnic groups.

Overwhelming majorities (83% adults, 90% likely voters) say voting gives people like them a say in what government does. This includes majorities across racial/ethnic groups—with Asian Americans (94%) the most likely and whites (77%) the least likely to hold this view—as well as across income groups and regions.

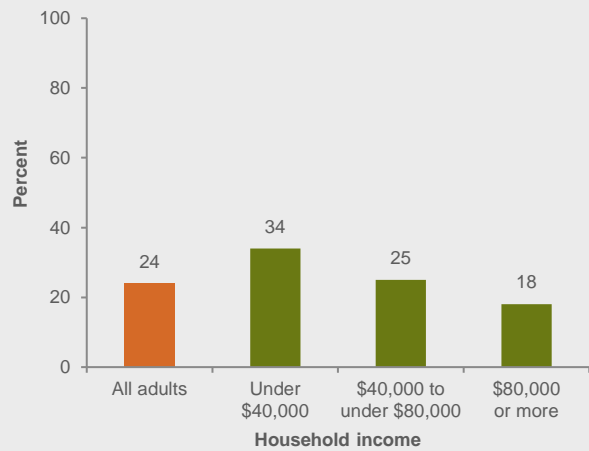
“Solid majorities across demographic, political, and regional groups say it is important for workers to organize,” Baldassare said. “Solid majorities also say voting gives people like them a say in government.”

Public Perceptions and Current Attitudes

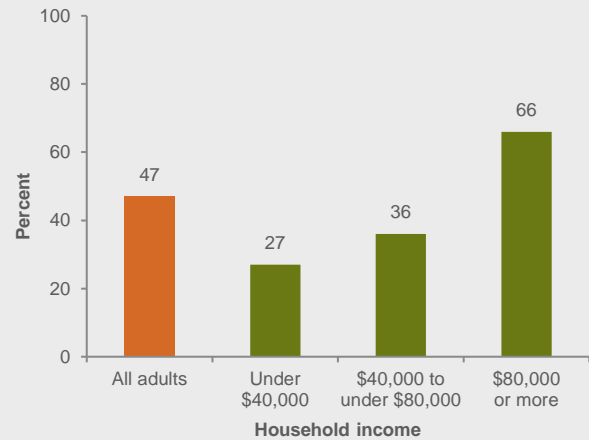
Key Findings

- Fifty-eight percent of Californians approve of Governor Newsom’s handling of jobs and the economy. Fifty-three percent approve of how the legislature is handling this issue. Fifty percent trust the state government just about always or most of the time when it comes to the issue of jobs and the economy. *(page 7)*
- Majorities of Californians continue to worry about getting sick (72%) and the negative financial impact (65%) of the coronavirus. When asked about employment effects for themselves and members of their household, many report working remotely (47%), reduced hours or pay (38%), or being laid off or losing a job (25%). *(page 8)*
- When asked about economic conditions in California, three in ten adults expect good times during the next 12 months while four in ten expect mostly good times in the next five years. Most Californians view the availability of well-paying jobs as a problem in their part of the state (27% big problem, 61% somewhat of a problem). *(page 9)*
- Lower-income Californians are more likely than others to say they are worse off financially than they were a year ago. They are much less likely to say they live comfortably and that it would not be too difficult to pay a \$1,000 emergency expense. *(page 10)*
- Sixty-three percent of Californians think that children growing up in California today will be financially worse off than their parents, and 61 percent expect the gap between the rich and the poor in their part of California to be larger by 2030. *(page 11)*
- More than eight in ten say that racism is a problem, and about seven in ten say that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes to economic inequality in this country. *(page 12)*

Personal finances worse off compared to a year ago



Share reporting that someone in their household is working remotely because of the coronavirus outbreak



Belief that an emergency expense of \$1,000 would not be too difficult to pay



Californians and Their State Government

Fifty-eight percent of Californians approve of Governor Newsom’s handling of jobs and the economy. Likely voters (59%) give similar approval ratings. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (85%) approve, compared to 54 percent of independents and 14 percent of Republicans. About six in ten across income groups approve. Across regions, majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%), Los Angeles (65%), Orange/San Diego (55%), and the Inland Empire (52%)—and fewer in the Central Valley (45%)—approve. Across racial/ethnic groups, majorities of Asian Americans (70%), Latinos (65%), and African Americans (64%)—and fewer whites (47%)—approve of the governor’s handling of jobs and the economy.

Fifty-three percent of Californians approve of the California Legislature’s handling of jobs and the economy. Likely voters (54%) hold similar views. Seventy-eight percent of Democrats approve, compared to 47 percent of independents and 10 percent of Republicans. Just over half approve across income groups. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Los Angeles (59%), and Orange/San Diego (53%) approve, compared to fewer in the Inland Empire (43%) and the Central Valley (41%). Majorities of Asian Americans (65%), Latinos (60%), and African Americans (54%)—and fewer than half of whites (43%)—approve of the state legislature’s handling of jobs and the economy.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that _____ is handling the issue of jobs and the economy?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Governor Newsom	Approve	58%	85%	14%	54%	59%
	Disapprove	40	15	85	45	40
	Don't know	1	–	1	1	1
The California Legislature	Approve	53	78	10	47	54
	Disapprove	45	21	90	52	46
	Don't know	2	1	–	1	1

Fifty percent of Californians say they trust the state government (6% just about always, 44% most of the time) to do what is right when it comes to handling the issue of jobs and the economy, while 49 percent say that it can be trusted only some of the time. Likely voters (6% just about always, 46% most of the time) hold similar views. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (74%) say they trust the state government on the issue of jobs and the economy, compared to 42 percent of independents and 13 percent of Republicans. About half across income groups trust the state government on this dimension.

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Just about always	6%	10%	2%	3%	6%
Most of the time	44	64	11	39	46
Only some of the time	49	26	87	57	47
None (volunteered)	–	–	1	–	–
Don't know	1	–	–	1	–

Coronavirus and Its Consequences

With the numbers of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations in California surging again this fall, about eight in ten Californians continue to say their lives have been disrupted a lot or some by the coronavirus outbreak (78% today, 83% July, 84% April). Today, responses are similar across income and racial/ethnic groups. Eight in ten likely voters (82%) say the outbreak has disrupted their lives.

“How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
A lot	39%	44%	34%	40%	38%	40%	39%	38%
Some	39	37	46	38	38	37	38	41
Just a little	17	13	19	16	19	18	15	19
Not at all	5	6	1	7	5	4	9	2

About three in four Californians are worried (31% very, 41% somewhat) that they or their family members will get sick from the coronavirus. A similar share of adults said they were very or somewhat worried about getting sick in the April (77%) and July (77%) PPIC surveys. Today, lower-income adults are somewhat more likely than those with higher incomes to be very worried (40% under \$40,000, 34% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 24% \$80,000 or more). Latinos (44%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (31%), African Americans (23%), and whites (21%) to be very worried about getting sick.

About two in three Californians say they are worried (27% very, 38% somewhat) that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on their personal finances or those of their family members. More than seven in ten adults expressed worries about negative financial impact of the virus in the April (75%) and July (71%) PPIC surveys. Today, lower-income adults are somewhat more likely than others to be very worried (38% under \$40,000, 32% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 18% \$80,000 or more), while Latinos (39%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (26%), African Americans (24%), and whites (19%) to be very worried about the negative financial impact of COVID-19.

“How worried, if at all, are you that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on the personal finances of you and your family?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Very worried	27%	24%	26%	39%	19%	38%	32%	18%
Somewhat worried	38	33	47	36	37	39	39	37
Not too worried	24	30	20	18	28	15	17	32
Not at all worried	11	13	7	6	17	7	13	13

Half of Californians have consistently reported that worry or stress related to the coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health (51% today, 51% July, 50% April). When asked about the employment-related effects of the coronavirus on themselves or members of their household, 47 percent of Californians report working remotely, 38 percent report reduced work hours or a pay cut, and 25 percent report being laid off or losing their job. Across income groups, higher-income residents are the most likely to report working remotely and the least likely to report reduced work hours, a pay cut, being laid off, or losing their job. Eighty-four percent of employed residents say that their employer cares about their health and safety at work as it relates to COVID-19. About eight in ten or more across income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups and regions hold this view.

California’s Economy

When asked about economic conditions, three in ten Californians (31% adults, 30% likely voters) expect good times financially in California during the next 12 months, while about seven in ten Californians expect bad times (68% adults, 69% likely voters). About two in ten adults expected good times and eight in ten expected bad times in the April and July PPIC surveys. Today, majorities expect bad times in the next 12 months in California across regions and income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups.

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

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Good times	31%	26%	37%	36%	26%	29%	30%
Bad times	68	72	62	63	73	70	69
Don't know	1	3	1	1	1	1	1

Looking ahead to the next five years, four in ten expect mostly good times (40% adults, 41% likely voters), while majorities expect mostly periods of widespread unemployment or depression (59% adults, 58% likely voters). Across parties, 56 percent of Democrats expect good times, while fewer independents (35%) and Republicans (17%) hold this view. The expectation of good times increases slightly as income rises (35% under \$40,000, 40% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 43% \$80,000 or more) and views across regions vary (49% Los Angeles, 39% San Francisco Bay Area, 36% Inland Empire, 36% Orange/San Diego, 31% Central Valley).

About one in four Californians say that the availability of well-paying jobs is a big problem (27% adults, 28% likely voters) and six in ten say it is somewhat of a problem (61% adults, 60% likely voters) in their part of California. As income rises, the share who see the availability of well-paying jobs as a big problem declines slightly (31% under \$40,000, 30% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 22% 80,000 or more). The share holding this view varies across regions (31% Central Valley, 31% Inland Empire, 28% Los Angeles, 25% Orange/San Diego, 21% San Francisco Bay Area) but is similar across racial/ethnic groups (29% African Americans, 29% whites, 25% Latinos, 23% Asian Americans).

“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?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	27%	31%	31%	28%	25%	21%	28%
Somewhat of a problem	61	58	62	61	62	60	60
Not a problem	12	9	7	10	12	18	11
Don't know	1	1	–	–	–	1	–

Because of a lack of well-paying jobs, 32 percent of adults say they and their family are seriously considering moving away from the part of California they live in now—26 percent have considered moving outside of the state and 6 percent elsewhere in the state. The share who are seriously considering moving away from their part of California is lowest among higher-income households (35% under \$40,000, 36% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 27% \$80,000 or more). The share who are seriously considering moving away varies across racial/ethnic groups (37% whites, 29% Latinos, 27% African Americans, 20% Asian Americans) but is similar across regions (35% Inland Empire, 31% Central Valley, 31% Orange/San Diego, 30% Los Angeles, 29% San Francisco Bay Area).

Californians' Finances

When asked about their own finances, 24 percent of adults say they are worse off, 16 percent better off, and 59 percent about the same as a year ago. Likely voters (22% worse off) hold similar views. Adults with lower incomes are more likely to say they are worse off (34% under \$40,000, 25% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 18% \$80,000 or more). The share feeling worse off is similar across racial/ethnic groups (25% Asian Americans, 25% Latinos, 23% whites, 21% African Americans) and education groups (26% high school or less, 24% some college, 22% college graduate), as well as across the state's regions.

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

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Education		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	High School or less	Some College	College Graduate
Better off	16%	20%	22%	14%	15%	12%	16%	22%
Worse off	24	21	25	25	23	26	24	22
About the same	59	59	52	61	61	61	60	56

Looking ahead to a year from now, 23 percent of Californians expect themselves and their family members to be better off, 16 percent expect to be worse off, and 60 percent expect to be just about the same as they are now. Likely voters (22% better off) hold similar views. About one in four adults across income groups expect to be better off a year from now than they are today, while majorities expect to be about the same. African Americans (34%) and Latinos (28%) are somewhat more likely than Asian Americans (23%) and whites (18%) to expect to be better off a year from now.

About seven in ten Californians say they live comfortably (31%) or meet their basic expenses with a little left over (41%) when asked to describe their household's financial situation. Lower-income Californians are much less likely than others to say they live comfortably (9% under \$40,000, 23% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 49% \$80,000 or more). Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (38%) and whites (35%) are more likely than Latinos (24%) and African Americans (17%) to say they live comfortably. Homeowners (40%) are far more likely than renters (18%) to say they live comfortably.

“How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say you live comfortably, meet your basic needs with a little left for extras, just meet your basic expenses, or don't even have enough to meet basic expenses?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Live comfortably	31%	17%	38%	24%	35%	9%	23%	49%
Meet your basic expenses with a little left over	41	42	40	44	40	33	49	39
Just meet the basic expenses	24	36	19	28	21	47	25	10
Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	4	5	4	3	4	10	3	1

Fifty-five percent of Californians say that it would be “not too difficult” to pay for an emergency expense that costs \$1,000. Lower-income Californians are far less likely than others to agree that a \$1,000 emergency expense would not be too difficult to pay (23% under \$40,000, 48% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 79% \$80,000 or more). Across racial/ethnic groups, majorities of Asian Americans (74%) and whites (62%)—and fewer African Americans (49%) and Latinos (40%)—say this would be “not too difficult.” Homeowners (68%) are far more likely than renters (39%) to say this.

California’s Future

About four in ten Californians (38%) think the American dream—that if you work hard you will get ahead—still holds true, while six in ten (61%) think it once held true but not anymore (45%) or it never held true (16%). Lower-income Californians are less likely than others to say the American Dream still holds true (30% under \$40,000, 40% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 43% \$80,000 or more). Moreover, about six in ten Californians (58%) say that the American Dream is harder to achieve in California than elsewhere in the US. Majorities across regions as well as income and racial/ethnic groups say this goal is harder to achieve in California than elsewhere in the country.

Six in ten Californians (63%) think that when children in California today grow up they will be worse off financially than their parents; 35 percent think they will be better off. Likely voters (69% worse off) hold similar views. Majorities across income groups think children will fare worse than their parents (54% under \$40,000, 58% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 73% \$80,000 or more). Majorities of whites (76%), Asian Americans (67%), and African Americans (62%)—and nearly half of Latinos (47%)—hold this view. Majorities across state regions and majorities with (52%) and without children (67%) at home think that California children today will be financially worse off than their parents.

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

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Better off	35%	37%	32%	52%	23%	43%	41%	26%
Worse off	63	62	67	47	76	54	58	73
Don't know	1	–	1	1	2	3	1	–

Sixty-nine percent say that the gap between the rich and the poor in their part of California is getting larger, 6 percent say it is getting smaller, and 25 percent think it has stayed the same. Majorities across regions and age, income, and racial/ethnic groups perceive that the gap is getting larger.

Looking ahead to the year 2030, 61 percent of Californians think the gap between the rich and the poor in their part of California will be larger, 10 percent think it will be smaller, and 28 percent think it will be the same. Likely voters (66% will be larger) hold similar views. Majorities across income groups think the gap will be larger, and about six in ten across regions think it will be larger in their part of California (63% Los Angeles, 62% San Francisco Bay Area, 61% Central Valley, 61% Orange/San Diego, 59% Inland Empire). Half or more across racial/ethnic groups say the gap will be larger (70% Asian Americans, 67% whites, 59% African Americans, 50% Latinos). Across partisan groups, about two in three say the gap between rich and poor will be larger.

“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?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Will be larger	61%	59%	70%	50%	67%	57%	60%	65%
Will be smaller	10	11	4	15	8	11	11	9
Will be the same	28	29	26	34	23	30	28	26
Don't know	1	–	–	1	2	2	1	1

Racism and Discrimination

In a year that has seen large protests over longstanding racial injustices and startling news of racial and ethnic disparities around the health and economic impact of the pandemic, more than eight in ten Californians say racism is a problem in the US today—including 53 percent who say it is a big problem. Seven in ten African Americans, six in ten Latinos, and about half of Asian Americans and whites say it is a big problem. Half or more across income groups, and more than four in ten across regions, perceive that racism is a big problem today. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (77%), a majority of independents (52%), and 15 percent of Republicans hold this view.

“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?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Big problem	53%	71%	48%	62%	45%	56%	57%	49%
Somewhat of a problem	30	18	41	27	31	31	27	31
Small problem	11	6	5	5	17	8	10	12
Not a problem at all	7	5	6	5	8	5	6	8

About seven in ten think that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes (34% great deal, 38% fair amount) to economic inequality in this country. African Americans (63%) are far more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to say that discrimination contributes a great deal to economic inequality in this country (36% Latinos, 32% Asian Americans, 29% whites). Majorities of Democrats (53%) hold this view, compared to 31 percent of independents and 9 percent of Republicans. At least three in ten across age, education, gender, and income groups perceive that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes a great deal to economic inequality in this country.

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

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
A great deal	34%	63%	32%	36%	29%	33%	31%	36%
A fair amount	38	31	47	40	35	44	43	32
Not too much	20	2	17	17	26	17	17	24
Not at all	8	4	4	7	10	7	9	7

Eight percent of Californians report a time in the last 12 months when they felt they were treated unfairly at their place of work because of their racial or ethnic background. Reports of being treated unfairly at work differ across racial/ethnic groups (15% African Americans, 13% Latinos, 9% Asian Americans, 3% whites); reports of unfair treatment decline with higher income (13% under \$40,000, 9% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 5% \$80,000 or more) and are similar for men (9%) and women (8%).

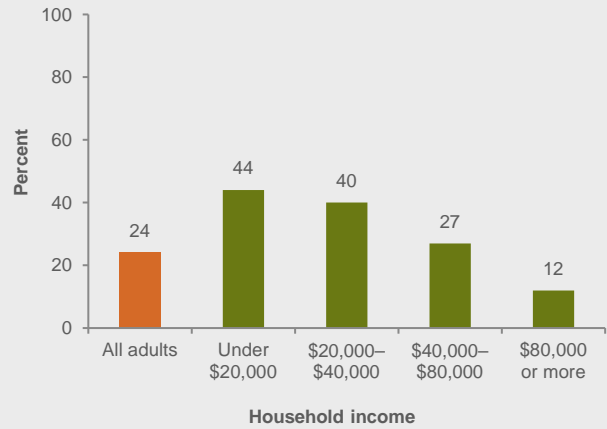
Nine percent of employed Californians say they felt they were treated unfairly at work some time in the last 12 months because of their racial or ethnic background. For employed residents, the perception of being treated unfairly at work varies across racial/ethnic groups (17% African Americans, 13% Latinos, 8% Asian Americans, 4% whites), declines with higher income (14% under \$40,000, 11% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 7% \$80,000 or more), and is similar for women (10%) and men (9%).

Economic Experiences and Policy Preferences

Key Findings

- Forty-one percent of Californians report that they or a household member had their work hours or pay reduced in the last 12 months, while 27 percent say they or someone in their household has been laid off or lost their job. Lower-income adults are more likely than others to report these experiences. *(page 14, 15)*
- At least one in four Californians say they worry every day or almost every day about saving for retirement (28%) and the cost of housing (26%). Lower-income adults worry more often than others about housing costs and other financial issues. *(page 16)*
- Overwhelming majorities of workers are satisfied with their job and have stable pay and stable hours. Lower-income workers are less likely than others to report having stable pay and hours, and to have a job that offers growth opportunities. *(page 17)*
- Overwhelming majorities of employed adults say their current job offers paid sick leave and health care coverage, two in three say it offers retirement savings, and about half say it offers educational or training assistance benefits. Lower-income workers are less likely than others to have these employee benefits. *(page 18)*
- Three in ten employed adults say they are in a workplace that offers membership in or affiliation with a union or other group that represents workers. About eight in ten Californians agree that it is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them. *(page 19)*
- When asked about policy proposals to improve economic well-being, 83 percent favor increasing government funding for job training programs, with majority support across regions, parties, and income and racial/ethnic groups. *(page 20)*

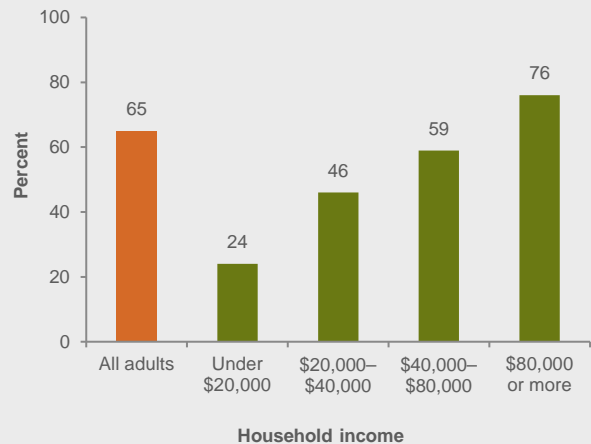
Share of households that have reduced meals or cut back on food to save money



Share of adults saying they worry every day or almost every day about paying their bills



Share of employed Californians who report their job provides retirement savings



Economic Security

About a quarter or more Californians report that they or someone in their household has had work hours or pay reduced (41%), received unemployment (31%), lost their jobs (27%), or reduced meals or cut back on food (24%) in the last 12 months. Notably, 34 percent of households helped family or friends with money, and 21 percent report receiving help from family or friends in the last 12 months. The shares that saw work hours or pay reduced and that lost work in the last 12 months are similar to the shares reporting these employment impacts as a result of the coronavirus.

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

<i>All adults</i>	Had work hours/pay reduced	Helped family/friends with money	Received unemployment	Been laid off or lost job	Reduced meals/food	Received help from family/friends
Yes, happened to me	17%	19%	12%	12%	11%	10%
Yes, happened to someone in household	14	7	14	12	3	5
Yes, happened to me and someone in household	10	8	5	3	10	6
Did not happen to someone in household	60	65	68	72	76	78

There are major differences across income groups on many of these economic issues. Notably, those in households making less than \$40,000 per year are more likely than those in households making more than \$80,000 to report having work hours or pay reduced, receiving unemployment, or losing their jobs—and lower-income households are about three times more likely to report reducing meals or cutting back on food. While the share that helped family or friends with money is similar across income groups, lower-income Californians are about three times more likely to report receiving help.

Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the most likely to report having work hours or pay reduced and to report receiving unemployment, while African Americans and Latinos are more likely than whites and Asian Americans to report losing their jobs, cutting back on food, and receiving help from family or friends. African Americans are the most likely to report helping family and friends with money.

Across the state’s regions, residents in the Inland Empire and Los Angeles are the most likely to report having hours or pay reduced and to report receiving unemployment. Residents in the Inland Empire are the most likely to report helping family and friends, while San Francisco Bay Area residents are the least likely to report receiving help. At least one in five across regions report cutting back on food.

Californians with a high school degree or less are more likely than those with a college degree—and renters are more likely than homeowners—to report experiencing all of these impacts of the economic downturn, with the exception of helping family and friends.

<i>Percent saying this happened in their household</i>	Had work hours/pay reduced	Helped family/friends with money	Received unemployment	Been laid off or lost job	Reduced meals/food	Received help from family/friends	
All adults	41%	34%	31%	27%	24%	21%	
Income	Less than \$40,000	43	34	36	35	42	39
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	42	39	37	29	27	22
	\$80,000 or more	36	33	25	23	12	11
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	35	48	30	33	27	23
	Asian Americans	37	30	30	21	16	17
	Latinos	50	36	38	34	28	26
	Whites	33	34	26	24	23	19

Economic Security *(continued)*

About one in five Californians report that they or someone in their household has put off seeing a doctor or purchasing medicine (21%), received food from a food bank (19%), not been able to pay a monthly bill (20%), had difficulty paying rent or mortgage (19%), or received food stamps (17%) in the last 12 months. Eight percent report that their household used a payday lending service in the last 12 months.

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

<i>All adults</i>	Put off seeing doctor/purchasing medicine	Not able to pay a monthly bill	Received food from food bank	Had difficulty paying rent or mortgage	Received food stamps	Used payday lending
Yes, happened to me	10%	9%	9%	8%	8%	4%
Yes, happened to someone in household	4	5	4	5	5	2
Yes, happened to me and someone in household	7	6	6	6	4	2
Did not happen to someone in household	79	81	80	80	82	93

Differences across income groups are present, and in many cases, these differences are stark. About four in ten Californians in households making under \$40,000 report receiving food from a food bank or receiving food stamps, compared to fewer than one in ten in households making more than \$80,000. Lower-income Californians are about twice as likely as those with higher incomes to report putting off seeing a doctor or purchasing medicine—and they are four times more likely to report having difficulty paying a monthly bill or their rent or mortgage.

Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans and Latinos are more likely than Asian Americans and whites to report experiencing any of these issues. Similarly, those with a high school degree or less are more likely than those with a college degree to report experiencing all of these impacts.

<i>Percent saying this happened in their household</i>	Put off seeing doctor/purchasing medicine	Not able to pay a monthly bill	Received food from food bank	Had difficulty paying rent or mortgage	Received food stamps	Used payday lending	
All adults	21%	20%	19%	19%	17%	8%	
Income	Less than \$40,000	31	36	43	35	38	13
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	22	22	20	22	21	10
	\$80,000 or more	14	9	5	9	4	2
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	21	21	28	19	32	11
	Asian Americans	11	11	10	13	7	2
	Latinos	24	27	32	30	22	12
	Whites	20	14	12	14	17	6

We see similar patterns when we focus on Californians making less than \$40,000 in household income per year (the methodology on page 22 describes our oversampling of this group). Notably, those making under \$20,000 are more likely to report receiving food stamps or using a food bank than those making between \$20,000 and \$40,000 a year. Racial/ethnic differences remain in many cases, with the starkest differences found between Latinos and whites (sample sizes for Asian Americans and African Americans are too small for separate analysis). The educational divide is prevalent as well, with those with a high school degree or less more likely than those with a college degree to report being economically impacted.

Financial Worries

Californians are worrying about their financial situation at a time when about half of Californians are also saying that stress related to the coronavirus is negatively affecting their mental health. At least one in four Californians say that they worry about saving for retirement (28%) and the cost of housing (26%) either every day or almost every day. Roughly one in five report worrying about the amount of debt they have (22%), paying bills (22%), the cost of health care (20%), and job loss (19%).

“Next, how often, if ever, do you worry about each of the following?”

<i>All adults</i>	Saving for retirement	Cost of housing	Amount of debt	Paying bills	Cost of healthcare	Job loss
Every day	16%	15%	13%	12%	12%	11%
Almost every day	12	11	9	10	8	8
Sometimes	34	31	26	26	35	33
Rarely	16	19	22	24	20	21
Never	21	24	29	29	25	28

Financial worries are more common among those in households making less than \$40,000 per year compared to those with incomes of \$80,000 or more. Differences between income groups are most stark when it comes to paying bills, the amount of debt, the cost of housing, and job loss.

Financial stress is most common among Latinos on all of these dimensions except saving for retirement, where perceptions are similar across racial/ethnic groups. Californians with a high school degree or less are much more likely than college graduates—and renters are more likely than homeowners—to report worrying about these issues every day or almost every day.

At least one in five Californians across regions report worrying about saving for retirement, the cost of housing, and the amount of debt they have. The share worrying at least once a day about paying bills is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (27%) and lowest in Los Angeles (18%), while the share worrying about job loss is highest in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area (22% each) and lowest in the Central Valley (12%) and the Inland Empire (14%).

<i>Percent saying every day or almost every day</i>	Saving for retirement	Cost of housing	Amount of debt	Paying bills	Cost of healthcare	Job loss	
All adults	28%	26%	22%	22%	20%	19%	
Income	Less than \$40,000	37	37	34	34	27	27
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	28	29	25	26	21	21
	\$80,000 or more	23	18	14	13	15	13
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	31	19	26	23	13	17
	Asian Americans	25	19	10	14	12	14
	Latinos	29	32	29	31	26	29
	Whites	27	24	19	18	19	13

When looking at financial worries among lower-income Californians, those making under \$20,000 worry somewhat more about job loss than those making between \$20,000 and \$40,000. On many of the other dimensions, worries are similar. For lower-income Californians, those with a high school degree or less are more likely than those with a college degree to report worrying about job loss, paying bills, and the amount of debt they have. Regionally, lower-income adults in the San Francisco Bay Area (47%) and the Inland Empire (42%) are more likely than those elsewhere to worry about paying bills. Worry about job loss is highest in Los Angeles (36%) and lowest in the Central Valley (18%).

Job Quality

Eight in ten employed Californians (82%) and those earning under \$40,000 annually (79%) say they are satisfied with their current job. When asked about specific aspects of their current job, roughly eight in ten or more workers say that their employer takes workplace harassment and discrimination seriously and that they have stable and predictable pay and work hours. Three in four workers say they can voice their concerns at work without fear of negative consequences, and about seven in ten say that their concerns are taken into account by their employer when making decisions. Sixty-one percent of workers report that their job offers opportunities for growth and advancement.

“Please answer yes or no about each of the following in regards to your current job. Would you say that you/your...?”

<i>Employed adults</i>	Employer takes discrimination seriously	Employer takes harassment seriously	Have stable/predictable pay	Have stable/predictable work hours	Can voice concerns without fear	Concerns are taken into account	Job offers growth opportunities
Yes	86%	86%	84%	79%	74%	68%	61%
No	14	14	16	21	26	32	39

Overwhelming majorities across demographic groups and regions report their employer takes harassment and discrimination seriously, and solid majorities say that they have stable pay and hours.

Lower-income workers are much less likely than higher-income workers—and part-time workers are much less likely than full-time workers—to report having stable pay and hours and to say their job offers growth opportunities. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the least likely to report having stable pay, to say they can voice concerns without fear, and to say their concerns are taken into account.

At least two in three across regions say that they can voice their concerns at work without fear of negative consequences. Regarding whether employers consider their concerns, workers in Orange/San Diego (74%) and Los Angeles (73%) are more likely than workers elsewhere to say their employers do so when making decisions. The shares holding this view increase as education levels rise.

Solid majorities across regions say their job offers opportunities for growth and advancement at work (63% Orange/San Diego, 63% San Francisco Bay Area, 62% Central Valley, 61% Los Angeles, 59% Inland Empire). Similar proportions of employed women (62%) and men (61%) perceive that their job offers growth opportunities, while the shares saying this decrease as age rises.

Among lower-income adults, those making less than \$20,000 are less likely to say “yes” to any of these job aspects, with the exception of their concerns being taken into account by their employer.

<i>Percent saying yes</i>		Employer takes discrimination seriously	Employer takes harassment seriously	Have stable pay	Have stable hours	Can voice concerns without fear	Concerns are taken into account	Job offers growth opportunities
Employed adults		86%	86%	84%	79%	74%	68%	61%
Income	Less than \$40,000	84	82	72	66	74	67	54
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	87	84	84	79	70	64	54
	\$80,000 or more	86	88	90	83	76	71	69
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	91	93	92	79	80	66	66
	Asian Americans	89	94	93	85	76	80	71
	Latinos	83	81	76	74	69	62	58
	Whites	87	86	88	81	77	69	58

Job Benefits

In addition to take-home pay, job benefits play a crucial role in the economic well-being of employed Californians. Today, most employed adults say their current job offers paid sick leave and health care coverage. Two in three workers say their employer offers retirement savings for employees. About half of workers say their job offers educational or training assistance benefits.

“And thinking about the benefits offered at your current job, does your current job provide...?”

<i>Employed adults</i>	Paid sick leave	Health care coverage	Retirement savings	Educational or training assistance
Yes	79%	74%	65%	53%
No	21	26	35	47

Lower-income workers are far less likely than higher-income workers to report having paid sick leave, health care coverage, retirement savings, and educational training or assistance. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the least likely to report having each of these four employee benefits.

Paid sick leave is the most widely reported benefit. Regionally, three in four say their employer offers paid sick leave. About eight in ten men and women say they have this benefit. The shares with paid sick leave are similar across age groups and increase as education levels rise. Workers employed full time (87%) are far more likely to have this benefit than workers employed part time (51%).

Across regions, eight in ten in the San Francisco Bay Area (80%) and the Central Valley (80%) report having employer-provided health care, compared to fewer elsewhere (73% Orange/San Diego, 72% Los Angeles, 66% Inland Empire). Similar shares of men (76%) and women (72%) report having coverage through work. About three in four workers across age groups have this benefit, and the share receiving this benefit is higher among those with a college degree. Part-time workers (34%) are far less likely to say they have health care coverage through work than are full-time workers (85%).

Workers in the San Francisco Bay Area (71%) and the Central Valley (68%) are the most likely to say their employer offers retirement benefits. Two in three men (64%) and women (66%) receive this benefit and full-time employees (75%) are far more likely than part-time employees (27%) to say this. Two in three across age groups have this benefit, and it is more common among college graduates.

Across the state’s regions, employer-sponsored educational or training assistance is most prevalent in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%, 51% Central Valley, 50% Orange/San Diego, 49% Inland Empire, 49% Los Angeles). About half or more across age groups say their employer offers this benefit, and the shares saying this increase as education levels rise. A solid majority of full-time workers (59%) say this option is available to them, compared to only 33% of part-time workers.

Focusing on lower-income workers, those earning less than \$20,000 are far less likely than those earning \$20,000 to under \$40,000 to have these job benefits.

<i>Percent saying yes</i>		Paid sick leave	Health care coverage	Retirement savings	Educational or training assistance
Employed adults		79%	74%	65%	53%
Income	Less than \$40,000	59	48	40	33
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	81	73	59	51
	\$80,000 or more	84	84	76	60
Race/ Ethnicity	African Americans	89	90	76	64
	Asian Americans	85	84	77	59
	Latinos	72	66	57	46
	Whites	80	75	63	54

Worker Bargaining Power and Political Voice

Three in ten employed Californians report that they are in a workplace that offers membership in or affiliation with a union, occupation association, worker center, or other group that represents workers. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (53%) are far more likely to say their workplace offers this option than are Latinos (30%), whites (26%), or Asian Americans (24%). Those earning under \$40,000 (21%) are somewhat less likely than others (35% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 28% \$80,000 or more) to say that they are in a workplace that offers a membership in or affiliation with a union or other type of association or group that represents workers. Across the state’s major regions, Central Valley workers (36%) are the most likely and San Francisco Bay Area workers (23%) are the least likely to say that their workplace offers this option. Full-time workers (32%) are much more likely to have this option than part-time workers (19%).

“Does your workplace offer a membership in or affiliation with a union, occupation association, worker center, or other type of group that represents workers?”

	Employed adults	Race/Ethnicity				Income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Yes	29%	53%	24%	30%	26%	21%	35%	28%
No	71	47	76	70	74	79	65	72

About eight in ten Californians (78% adults, 78% likely voters) agree that it is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them. Across racial/ethnic groups, more than three in four Latinos (87%), African Americans (86%), and Asian Americans (79%), as well as 71 percent of whites, agree with this perspective. At least seven in ten across income groups agree that it is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them. Majorities of Democrats (90%), independents (77%), and Republicans (59%) agree with this statement. Across regions, at least seven in ten agree with this view. Overwhelming majorities of women (82%) and men (76%) think that it is important for workers to organize.

An overwhelming majority of adults (83%) and likely voters (90%) agree that voting gives people like them some say in what government does. Overwhelming majorities across racial/ethnic groups agree, with Asian Americans (94%) the most likely and whites (77%) the least likely to hold this view. More than three in four adults across income groups say that voting gives people like them some say in what the government does. Overwhelming majorities across partisan groups agree, but Democrats (94%) are more likely than independents (83%) and Republicans (80%) to agree with this view. At least three in four across regions say voting gives people like them some say in what the government does.

“Please read these two statements and say if you agree or disagree with each of the following...?”

		All adults	Race/ethnicity				Income		
			African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
It is important for workers to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them	Agree	78%	86%	79%	87%	71%	84%	82%	73%
	Disagree	21	14	21	14	29	16	18	27
Voting gives people like me some say in what government does	Agree	83	80	94	83	77	83	78	85
	Disagree	18	20	6	17	23	17	21	15

Worker Policies

When asked about policy proposals to improve the economic well-being of Californians, about eight in ten Californians favor increasing government funding for job training programs (83% adults, 82% likely voters). About three in four Californians favor increased government funding for child care programs (78% adults, 76% likely voters), a government health insurance plan similar to Medicare (77% adults, 75% likely voters), and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (73% adults, 72% likely voters). Two in three Californians favor making college tuition free (66% adults, 59% likely voters) and eliminating college debt (65% adults, 60% likely voters). Fewer favor the federal government providing a guaranteed income, sometimes called a “universal basic income” (50% adults, 43% likely voters).

Solid majorities of Democrats favor each of these seven proposals. Solid majorities of independents support six of the seven proposals, with most opposed to the federal government providing a guaranteed income. Only one of the seven proposals garners majority support from Republicans: increased funding for job training. The proposal to increase funding for job training has the most support across partisan groups.

Majorities of Californians across income groups favor six of the seven policy proposals to improve the economic well-being of Californians. The proposal for the federal government to provide a guaranteed income has less than majority support among those earning \$80,000 or more. The proposal to increase government funding for job training has the most support across income groups.

Across racial/ethnic groups, overwhelming majorities favor increased government funding for job training programs (90% African Americans, 87% Asian Americans, 85% Latinos, 80% whites). Increased funding for job training programs is also the most supported proposal across regions (88% Los Angeles, 87% Inland Empire, 87% San Francisco Bay Area, 79% Orange/San Diego, 78% Central Valley). This proposal has overwhelming support across education groups (84% high school only, 82% some college education, 83% college graduate) and age groups (84% 18 to 34, 84% 35 to 54, 83% 55 and older) as well.

Among lower-income Californians, overwhelming majorities of those earning less than \$20,000 are in favor of all seven policies to improve the economic well-being of Californians.

“Do you favor or oppose each of the following policies that could improve the economic well-being of Californians?”

Percent favor	All adults	Party			Income		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Increasing government funding for job training programs so that more workers have the skills they need for today’s jobs	83%	93%	63%	86%	85%	87%	79%
Increasing government funding so that child care programs are available for more lower-income working parents	78	90	47	81	82	82	73
The government offering a health insurance plan, similar to Medicare, that Americans can choose to purchase instead of private insurance	77	93	41	77	79	82	73
Expanding the eligibility and payments of the earned income tax credit for lower-income working families and individuals	73	87	46	72	81	78	66
A government policy to make college tuition free at both public two-year and four-year colleges	66	82	24	64	76	70	56
A government policy to eliminate college debt	65	82	26	60	74	69	56
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	50	63	16	44	63	54	39

Regional Map



Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from associate survey director Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey analysts Alyssa Dykman and Rachel Lawler. 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.

Overall findings in this report are based on a survey of 2,325 California adult residents, which includes an oversample of Californians with incomes less than \$40,000. There is a total of 1,001 lower-income Californians in the survey. The median time to complete the survey was 14.4 minutes. Interviews were conducted from November 4–23, 2020.

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 2,398 respondents completed the survey out of 4,626 panelists who were sampled, for a response rate of 58 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 3.6 minutes). We also flagged respondents if their self-reported age or gender did not match the data stored in their profile. A total of 73 cases were removed after this review process, resulting in 2,325 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 used the US Census Bureau’s 2014–2018 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. Base weights were computed to account for the differential probabilities of selection with the oversample of low-income households. These design weights were further adjusted using an iterative proportional fitting (raking) procedure that aligns sample demographics to population benchmarks from the 2014–2018 ACS data as well as party registration benchmarks from the California Secretary of State’s voter registration file. Weighting variables included additional adjustments within income levels to properly adjust for the oversample as well as demographics within the lower-income group.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 2,325 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.1 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,953 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.2 percent; for the 1,552 likely voters, it is ± 4.8 percent. The sampling error for the oversample of 1,001 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 no party preference or 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.

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 online surveys conducted in April and July. 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.

Questionnaire and Results: All Adults

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

November 4–23, 2020

2,325 California Adult Residents

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

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.1\%$ 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 issue of jobs and the economy?

58% approve
40 disapprove
1 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?

53% approve
45 disapprove
2 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]

6% just about always
44 most of the time
49 only some of the time
1 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?

31% good times
68 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?

40% good times
59 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?

27% big problem
61 somewhat of a problem
12 not a problem
1 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: "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California or outside of the state?")

32% yes
6 yes, elsewhere in California
26 yes, outside the state
– yes, other
68 no
1 don't know

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

- 16% better off
- 24 worse off
- 59 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?

- 23% better off
- 16 worse off
- 60 about the same
- don't know

10. How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say you live comfortably, meet your basic needs with a little left for extras, just meet your basic expenses, or don't even have enough to meet basic expenses?

- 31% live comfortably
- 41 meet your basic needs with a little left for extras
- 24 just meet your basic expenses
- 4 don't even have enough to meet basic expenses
- 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 for this expense?

[rotate order top to bottom]

- 55% not too difficult
- 24 somewhat difficult
- 13 very difficult
- 8 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?

- 38% still holds true
- 16 never held true
- 45 once held true, but 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?

- 11% easier to achieve
- 58 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?

- 35% 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
- 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?

- 61% be larger
- 10 be smaller
- 28 will be the same
- 1 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 through 28]

17. Been laid off or lost their job?

- 12% yes, happened to me
- 12 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 3 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 72 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

18. Had work hours reduced or pay cut?

- 17% yes, happened to me
- 14 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 10 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 60 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
- 4 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

20. Was not able to pay a monthly bill?

- 9% yes, happened to me
- 5 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 6 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 81 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

21. Received food stamps?

- 8% yes, happened to me
- 5 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 4 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 82 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

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

- 11% yes, happened to me
- 3 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 10 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 76 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

23. Received unemployment benefits?

- 12% yes, happened to me
- 14 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 5 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 68 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
- 6 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 80 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

25. Used a payday lending service?

- 4% yes, happened to me
- 2 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 2 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 93 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

26. Helped friends or family financially?

- 19% yes, happened to me
- 7 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 8 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 65 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

27. Received help from friends or family?

- 10% yes, happened to me
- 5 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 6 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 78 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

28. Had difficulty paying rent or mortgage?

- 8% yes, happened to me
- 5 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 6 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 80 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 29 to 36]

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

- 11% every day
- 8 almost every day
- 33 sometimes
- 21 rarely
- 28 never
- don't know

30. The cost of healthcare for you and your family?

- 12% every day
- 8 almost every day
- 35 sometimes
- 20 rarely
- 25 never
- don't know

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

- 15% every day
- 11 almost every day
- 31 sometimes
- 19 rarely
- 24 never
- don't know

32. Paying your bills?

- 12% every day
- 10 almost every day
- 26 sometimes
- 24 rarely
- 29 never
- don't know

33. The cost of childcare?

- 4% every day
- 2 almost every day
- 12 sometimes
- 11 rarely
- 71 never
- don't know

34. The amount of debt you have?

- 13% every day
- 9 almost every day
- 26 sometimes
- 22 rarely
- 29 never
- don't know

35. Being able to save enough for your children's college education?

- 9% every day
- 6 almost every day
- 18 sometimes
- 14 rarely
- 53 never
- don't know

36. Being able to save enough for your retirement?

- 16% every day
- 12 almost every day
- 34 sometimes
- 16 rarely
- 21 never
- don't know

37. [employed adults only] Overall, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with your job?

- 82% satisfied
- 18 dissatisfied
- don't know

[rotate questions 38 to 45]

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

84% yes
16 no
– don't know

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

79% yes
21 no
– don't know

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

61% yes
39 no
– don't know

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

84% yes
16 no
– don't know

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

74% yes
26 no
– don't know

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

68% yes
32 no
– don't know

44. [employed adults only] Would you say that your employer takes discrimination in the workplace seriously?

86% yes
14 no
– don't know

45. [employed adults only] Would you say that your employer takes harassment in the workplace seriously?

86% yes
14 no
– 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?

29% yes
71 no
– don't know

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

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

74% yes
26 no
– don't know

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

79% yes
21 no
– don't know

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

65% yes
35 no
– don't know

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

53% yes
47 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.

- 41% completely agree
- 37 somewhat agree
- 14 somewhat disagree
- 7 completely disagree
- don't know

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

- 41% completely agree
- 42 somewhat agree
- 10 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 well-being 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?

- 66% favor
- 34 oppose
- don't know

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

- 65% favor
- 35 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?

- 78% favor
- 22 oppose
- don't know

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

- 83% favor
- 17 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?

- 73% favor
- 27 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?

- 50% favor
- 50 oppose
- don't know

On another topic,

60. How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak?

- 39% a lot
- 39 some
- 17 just a little
- 5 not at all
- don't know

[rotate questions 61 and 62]

61. How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will get sick from the coronavirus? Are you...

- 31% very worried
- 41 somewhat worried
- 19 not too worried
- 9 not at all worried
- don't know

62. How worried, if at all, are you that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on the personal finances of you and your family? Are you...

- 27% very worried
- 38 somewhat worried
- 24 not too worried
- 11 not at all worried
- don't know

63. Do you feel that worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on your mental health, or not? (if yes, ask: "Was that a major impact or a minor impact?")

- 19% yes, major impact
- 32 yes, minor impact
- 49 no
- don't know

Because of the coronavirus outbreak...

[rotate questions 64 to 66]

64. Have you or anyone in your household been laid off or lost their job?

- 25% yes
- 75 no
- don't know

65. Have you or anyone in your household had work hours reduced or pay cut?

- 38% yes
- 62 no
- don't know

66. Have you or anyone in your household been working remotely from home?

- 47% yes
- 53 no
- don't know

On another topic,

67. 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?

- 53% big problem
- 30 somewhat of a problem
- 11 small problem
- 7 not a problem at all
- don't know

68. Was there a time in the last 12 months when you felt you were treated unfairly at your place of work because of your racial or ethnic background?

- 8% yes
- 91 no
- don't know

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

- 34% a great deal
- 38 a fair amount
- 20 not too much
- 8 not at all
- don't know

On another topic,

70. 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?

- 53% big problem
- 34 somewhat of a problem
- 12 not much of a problem
- don't know

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

- 28% very serious
- 36 somewhat serious
- 37 not too serious
- don't know

72. 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?

- 41% a great deal
- 45 only some
- 14 hardly any confidence
- don't know

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

- 71% yes [ask q73a]
- 29 no [ask q74b]

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

- 45% Democrat [ask q74]
- 24 Republican [skip to q74a]
- 2 another party (specify) [skip to q75]
- 29 independent [skip to q74b]

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

- 54% strong
- 46 not very strong
- don't know

[skip to q75]

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

- 60% strong
- 40 not very strong
- don't know

[skip to q75]

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

- 31% Republican Party
- 64 Democratic Party
- 4 neither (volunteered)
- don't know

75. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[rotate order top to bottom]

- 11% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 41 middle-of-the-road
- 18 somewhat conservative
- 8 very conservative
- 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?

- 20% great deal
- 33 fair amount
- 34 only a little
- 14 none
- don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

Questionnaire and Results: Adults Earning Less Than \$40,000 Annually

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

November 4–23, 2020

1,001 California Adult Residents Earning Less Than \$40,000 Annually

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

MARGIN OF ERROR ±5% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR LESS THAN \$40,000 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 issue of jobs and the economy?

58% approve
 39 disapprove
 3 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?

51% approve
 45 disapprove
 4 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
 40 most of the time
 51 only some of the time
 2 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?

32% good times
 67 bad times
 2 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?

35% good times
 64 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?

31% big problem
 59 somewhat of a problem
 8 not a problem
 2 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: "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California or outside of the state?")

35% yes
 8 yes, elsewhere in California
 27 yes, outside the state
 64 no
 2 don't know

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

- 12% better off
- 34 worse off
- 54 about the same
- 1 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?

- 22% better off
- 21 worse off
- 55 about the same
- 1 don't know

10. How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say you live comfortably, meet your basic needs with a little left for extras, just meet your basic expenses, or don't even have enough to meet basic expenses?

- 9% live comfortably
- 33 meet your basic needs with a little leftover for extras
- 47 just meet your basic expenses
- 10 don't even have enough to meet basic expenses
- 1 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 for this expense?

[rotate order top to bottom]

- 23% not too difficult
- 31 somewhat difficult
- 23 very difficult
- 22 nearly impossible
- 1 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?

- 30% still holds true
- 22 never held true
- 48 once held true, but not anymore
- 1 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?

- 8% easier to achieve
- 55 harder to achieve
- 35 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?

- 43% better off
- 54 worse off
- 3 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?

- 58% getting larger
- 9 getting smaller
- 31 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?

- 57% be larger
- 11 be smaller
- 30 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 through 28]

17. Been laid off or lost their job?

- 18% yes, happened to me
- 11 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 6 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 65 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

18. Had work hours reduced or pay cut?

- 22% yes, happened to me
- 10 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 11 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 57 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

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

- 20% yes, happened to me
- 4 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 7 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 69 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

20. Was not able to pay a monthly bill?

- 20% yes, happened to me
- 7 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 9 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 65 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

21. Received food stamps?

- 22% yes, happened to me
- 8 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 8 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 62 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

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

- 23% yes, happened to me
- 5 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 14 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 58 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

23. Received unemployment benefits?

- 16% yes, happened to me
- 15 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 5 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 64 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

24. Received food from a food bank or pantry?

- 24% yes, happened to me
- 7 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 12 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 57 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

25. Used a payday lending service?

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

26. Helped friends or family financially?

- 18% yes, happened to me
- 7 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 9 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 66 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

27. Received help from friends or family?

- 21% yes, happened to me
- 7 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 11 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 61 did not happen to anyone in my household
- don't know

28. Had difficulty paying rent or mortgage?

- 18% yes, happened to me
- 8 yes, happened to someone in my household
- 9 yes, happened to me and someone in my household
- 64 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 29 to 36]

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

- 18% every day
- 9 almost every day
- 30 sometimes
- 15 rarely
- 28 never
- don't know

30. The cost of healthcare for you and your family?

- 18% every day
- 9 almost every day
- 31 sometimes
- 18 rarely
- 24 never
- don't know

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

- 25% every day
- 12 almost every day
- 31 sometimes
- 16 rarely
- 17 never
- don't know

32. Paying your bills?

- 23% every day
- 11 almost every day
- 35 sometimes
- 15 rarely
- 16 never
- don't know

33. The cost of childcare?

- 7% every day
- 2 almost every day
- 8 sometimes
- 12 rarely
- 70 never
- don't know

34. The amount of debt you have?

- 22% every day
- 12 almost every day
- 25 sometimes
- 18 rarely
- 23 never
- don't know

35. Being able to save enough for your children's college education?

- 13% every day
- 8 almost every day
- 13 sometimes
- 14 rarely
- 53 never
- don't know

36. Being able to save enough for your retirement?

- 22% every day
- 15 almost every day
- 25 sometimes
- 14 rarely
- 24 never
- don't know

37. [employed adults only] Overall, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with your job?

- 79% satisfied
- 21 dissatisfied
- don't know

[rotate questions 38 to 45]

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

- 72% yes
- 28 no
- don't know

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

- 66% yes
- 34 no
- don't know

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

- 54% yes
- 46 no
- don't know

41. [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

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

- 74% yes
- 26 no
- don't know

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

- 67% yes
- 33 no
- don't know

44. [employed adults only] Would you say that your employer takes discrimination in the workplace seriously?

- 84% yes
- 16 no
- don't know

45. [employed adults only] Would you say that your employer takes harassment in the workplace seriously?

- 82% yes
- 18 no
- 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?

- 21% yes
- 79 no
- don't know

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

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

- 48% yes
- 52 no
- don't know

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

- 59% yes
- 41 no
- don't know

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

- 40% yes
- 60 no
- don't know

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

- 33% yes
- 67 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.

- 49% completely agree
- 35 somewhat agree
- 11 somewhat disagree
- 5 completely disagree
- don't know

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

- 38% completely agree
- 45 somewhat agree
- 10 somewhat disagree
- 7 completely disagree
- don't know

On another topic, do you favor or oppose each of these policies that could improve the economic well-being 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?

- 76% favor
- 24 oppose
- don't know

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

- 74% favor
- 26 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?

- 82% favor
- 18 oppose
- don't know

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

- 85% favor
- 15 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?

- 79% favor
- 21 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?

- 81% favor
- 19 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?

- 63% favor
- 37 oppose
- don't know

On another topic,

60. How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak?

- 40% a lot
- 37 some
- 18 just a little
- 4 not at all
- don't know

[rotate questions 61 and 62]

61. How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will get sick from the coronavirus? Are you...

- 40% very worried
- 37 somewhat worried
- 18 not too worried
- 6 not at all worried
- don't know

62. How worried, if at all, are you that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on the personal finances of you and your family? Are you...

- 38% very worried
- 39 somewhat worried
- 15 not too worried
- 7 not at all worried
- don't know

63. Do you feel that worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on your mental health, or not? (if yes, ask: "Was that a major impact or a minor impact?")

- 23% yes, major impact
- 29 yes, minor impact
- 48 no
- don't know

Because of the coronavirus outbreak...

[rotate questions 64 to 66]

64. Have you or anyone in your household been laid off or lost their job?

- 31% yes
- 69 no
- don't know

65. Have you or anyone in your household had work hours reduced or pay cut?

- 42% yes
- 58 no
- don't know

66. Have you or anyone in your household been working remotely from home?

- 27% yes
- 73 no
- don't know

On another topic,

67. 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?

- 56% big problem
- 31 somewhat of a problem
- 8 small problem
- 5 not a problem at all
- don't know

68. Was there a time in the last 12 months when you felt you were treated unfairly at your place of work because of your racial or ethnic background?

- 13% yes
- 86 no
- don't know

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

- 33% a great deal
- 44 a fair amount
- 17 not too much
- 7 not at all
- don't know

On another topic,

70. 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?

- 53% big problem
- 36 somewhat of a problem
- 11 not much of a problem
- don't know

71. 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?

- 30% very serious
- 41 somewhat serious
- 30 not too serious
- don't know

72. 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?

- 46% a great deal
- 44 only some
- 10 hardly any confidence
- 1 don't know

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

- 58% yes *[ask q73a]*
- 42 no *[ask q74b]*

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

- 43% Democrat *[ask q74]*
- 21 Republican *[skip to q74a]*
- 2 another party *(specify) [skip to q75]*
- 35 independent *[skip to q74b]*

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

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

[skip to q75]

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

- 59% strong
- 41 not very strong
- don't know

[skip to q75]

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

- 24% Republican Party
- 71 Democratic Party
- 5 neither *(volunteered)*
- don't know

75. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[rotate order top to bottom]

- 9% very liberal
- 15 somewhat liberal
- 48 middle-of-the-road
- 15 somewhat conservative
- 10 very conservative
- 2 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?

- 14% great deal
- 28 fair amount
- 34 only a little
- 23 none
- 1 don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

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