

Californians and Their Economic Well-Being December 2020

Time Trends – All Respondents

Methodology Note:

Findings for December 2020 are based on a survey of 2,325 California adult residents, conducted online using the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified or traditional), Vietnamese, and Korean according to the respondents' preferences. The median time to complete the survey was 14.4 minutes. Interviewing took place from November 4–23, 2020.

The sampling error for December 2020, 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. 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.

Please note that the December 2020, July 2020, and April 2020 surveys were conducted using an online methodology while all other surveys were conducted using a random-digit dialing methodology.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact surveys@ppic.org

**PPIC Statewide Survey
Californians and Their Economic Wellbeing - December 2020
All Adults - Time Trends**

Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way
that Governor Newsom is handling the issue of
jobs and the economy?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	58%	40%	1%	2306
May 2020	59%	32%	9%	1691

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way
 that the California Legislature is handling the
 issue of jobs and the economy?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	53%	45%	2%	2310
Jan 2009	15%	74%	11%	1997

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Q4. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	Good times	Bad times	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	31%	68%	1%	2321
Jul 2020	19%	80%	1%	1558
Apr 2020	19%	79%	1%	1631
Jan 2020	49%	43%	8%	1694
Sep 2019	41%	50%	10%	1694
May 2019	44%	47%	9%	1702
Jan 2019	49%	42%	9%	1697
Dec 2018	46%	45%	9%	1687
Oct 2018	48%	39%	12%	1693
Sep 2018	53%	37%	10%	1689
May 2018	51%	39%	10%	1694
Jan 2018	56%	35%	10%	1695
Sep 2017	51%	40%	9%	1728
Mar 2017	51%	40%	9%	1696
Jan 2017	53%	35%	12%	1691
Oct 2016	47%	38%	15%	1696
Sep 2016	48%	40%	12%	1693
May 2016	50%	39%	11%	1691
Mar 2016	51%	40%	9%	1695
Jan 2016	49%	43%	8%	1693
Dec 2015	48%	41%	11%	1689
Sep 2015	48%	42%	9%	1700
Jun 2015	48%	42%	10%	1695
Mar 2015	52%	38%	10%	1686
Jan 2015	58%	34%	8%	1691
Dec 2014	52%	39%	9%	1684
Oct 2014	45%	44%	11%	1694
Sep 2014	44%	45%	10%	1687
May 2014	44%	47%	9%	1689
Mar 2014	46%	45%	10%	1693
Jan 2014	49%	45%	6%	1692
Dec 2013	43%	48%	9%	1692
Sep 2013	46%	44%	10%	1694
Jun 2013	46%	42%	12%	2468
May 2013	48%	44%	8%	1685
Mar 2013	44%	49%	8%	1691
Jan 2013	49%	40%	11%	1695
Dec 2012	41%	50%	9%	1987
Oct 2012	37%	53%	11%	1995
Sep 2012	33%	57%	10%	1983
May 2012	31%	61%	8%	1986
Mar 2012	34%	56%	10%	1994

PPIC Statewide Survey
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All Adults - Time Trends (cont.)

Q4. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	Good times	Bad times	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Jan 2012	35%	56%	9%	1988
Dec 2011	31%	60%	9%	1986
Sep 2011	25%	67%	8%	1993
Jun 2011	26%	63%	11%	2479
Jun 2011	34%	58%	8%	1995
Mar 2011	30%	61%	8%	1987
Feb 2011	34%	54%	11%	2481
Jan 2011	36%	56%	7%	1989
Oct 2010	25%	62%	13%	1971
Sep 2010	29%	59%	12%	1984
Jul 2010	25%	67%	7%	2487
May 2010	28%	65%	8%	1990
Mar 2010	27%	65%	8%	1991
Jan 2010	25%	67%	8%	1990
Dec 2009	28%	66%	6%	1995
Nov 2009	23%	69%	8%	2487
Sep 2009	26%	67%	7%	1996
Jul 2009	18%	75%	7%	2493
Jun 2009	24%	69%	7%	2498
May 2009	25%	67%	8%	1998
Mar 2009	22%	71%	6%	1999
Feb 2009	22%	73%	6%	2496
Jan 2009	18%	77%	5%	1998
Nov 2008	20%	71%	10%	2489
Oct 2008	18%	74%	8%	1995
Sep 2008	20%	68%	11%	1996
Aug 2008	21%	71%	8%	1995
Jul 2008	15%	78%	6%	2498
Jun 2008	15%	78%	7%	2495
May 2008	17%	73%	10%	1988
Mar 2008	16%	76%	9%	1998
Jan 2008	20%	72%	9%	1991
Dec 2007	25%	65%	10%	1993
Sep 2007	33%	59%	8%	1992
Jun 2007	40%	49%	10%	1987
May 2007	38%	50%	12%	1990
Mar 2007	40%	51%	9%	1989
Jan 2007	50%	39%	11%	2009
Oct 2006	50%	37%	13%	1994
Sep 2006	45%	43%	12%	1999
Aug 2006	43%	46%	12%	1993
Jul 2006	39%	46%	15%	2494
May 2006	37%	52%	12%	1994

**PPIC Statewide Survey
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 All Adults - Time Trends (cont.)**

Q4. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think
 that during the next 12 months we will have good times
 financially or bad times?

	Good times	Bad times	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Mar 2006	45%	43%	12%	1989
Feb 2006	42%	45%	13%	1995
Jan 2006	48%	42%	11%	1997
Jan 2006	41%	46%	13%	2487
Oct 2005	34%	56%	10%	1990
Sep 2005	32%	58%	10%	1993
Aug 2005	38%	51%	11%	1994
Jul 2005	42%	43%	15%	2489
May 2005	39%	49%	12%	1990
Apr 2005	38%	51%	11%	2492
Jan 2005	47%	39%	13%	1992
Oct 2004	42%	43%	14%	2007
Sep 2004	46%	40%	14%	1990
Aug 2004	45%	40%	15%	1989
Jul 2004	48%	40%	12%	2488
Jun 2004	41%	46%	13%	2479
May 2004	42%	44%	14%	1991
Feb 2004	43%	44%	13%	1974
Jan 2004	49%	36%	15%	1983
Nov 2003	39%	47%	14%	1985
Oct 2003	36%	43%	22%	1965
Sep 2003	32%	50%	18%	1959
Aug 2003	30%	53%	17%	1967
Jul 2003	34%	55%	10%	1977
Jun 2003	32%	58%	10%	1972
Feb 2003	20%	71%	10%	1978
Nov 2002	44%	46%	10%	1964
Oct 2002	38%	51%	12%	1960
Sep 2002	43%	46%	10%	1976
Aug 2002	39%	51%	10%	1976
Feb 2002	46%	47%	7%	2021
Jan 2002	48%	46%	6%	1950
Dec 2001	37%	56%	7%	1969
Nov 2001	33%	59%	9%	1970
Jul 2001	41%	50%	9%	1983
May 2001	38%	56%	6%	1984
Jan 2001	51%	38%	11%	1975
Aug 2000	72%	21%	7%	1970
Feb 2000	78%	15%	7%	2028
Dec 1999	76%	19%	6%	1992
Sep 1999	72%	23%	5%	1997

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q8. 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?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	16%	24%	59%	0%	2321
May 2020	16%	29%	54%	0%	1692
Nov 2019	23%	22%	54%	1%	1706
Dec 2013	22%	24%	54%	1%	1697
Dec 2011	15%	35%	49%	1%	1998
Dec 2009	9%	53%	36%	1%	2000
Sep 2002	30%	23%	45%	1%	1976
Dec 2001	21%	25%	53%	1%	1971
Jan 2001	38%	14%	48%	0%	1978
Sep 2000	42%	10%	47%	0%	1993
Sep 1999	36%	12%	52%	0%	2001
Jan 1999	31%	14%	55%	1%	1971
Oct 1998	35%	11%	53%	1%	2003
Sep 1998	33%	12%	54%	1%	1998
May 1998	36%	13%	50%	0%	2002
Apr 1998	37%	12%	51%	0%	1982

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Q9. 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?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	23%	16%	60%	0%	2320
Sep 2002	44%	7%	44%	4%	1974
Dec 2001	41%	9%	47%	3%	1970
Jan 2001	41%	12%	43%	5%	1980
Sep 2000	48%	4%	43%	5%	1991
Sep 1999	44%	6%	48%	2%	1999
Jan 1999	43%	7%	48%	3%	1973
Oct 1998	45%	6%	47%	2%	2002
Sep 1998	40%	7%	51%	3%	1996
Apr 1998	44%	6%	48%	2%	1983

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q14. When children today in California grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same (vol)	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	35%	63%	0%	1%	2320
Dec 2018	40%	50%	2%	8%	1691
Dec 2014	37%	55%	3%	5%	1687

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q15. 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?

	Getting larger	Getting smaller	Stayed the same	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	69%	6%	25%	0%	2321
Jan 2020	63%	3%	32%	2%	1703
Mar 2019	67%	5%	26%	3%	1702
May 2017	61%	2%	33%	4%	1702

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q52. Next, please read these two statements and say if you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with each one.
 Voting gives people like me some say in what the government does.

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	41%	42%	10%	8%	0%	2316
Dec 2015	31%	44%	13%	9%	2%	1696

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Q60. How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak?						
	A lot	Some	Just a little	Not at all	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	39%	39%	17%	5%	0%	2323
Jul 2020	46%	37%	15%	3%	0%	1557
Apr 2020	48%	36%	12%	4%	0%	1632

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q61. How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will get sick from the coronavirus? Are you...

	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too worried	Not at all worried	Don't know (vol)
Dec 2020	31%	41%	19%	9%	0%
Jul 2020	41%	36%	17%	6%	0%
Apr 2020	41%	36%	17%	5%	1%

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	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	2322
Jul 2020	1557
Apr 2020	1632

(cont.)

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Q62. How worried, if it all, are you that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on the personal finances of you and your family? Are you...

	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too worried	Not at all worried	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	27%	38%	24%	11%	0%	2322
Jul 2020	35%	36%	20%	8%	0%	1556
Apr 2020	41%	34%	19%	6%	0%	1631

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q63. Do you feel that worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on your mental health, or not?					
	Yes, major impact	Yes, minor impact	No	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	19%	32%	49%	0%	2325
Jul 2020	21%	30%	49%	0%	1521
Apr 2020	27%	23%	50%	0%	1626

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q64. Because of the coronavirus outbreak...Have you or anyone in your household been laid off or lost their job?

	Yes	No	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	25%	75%	0%	2321
May 2020	35%	64%	1%	1699

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q65. Because of the coronavirus outbreak...Have you or anyone in your household had work hours reduced or pay cut?

	Yes	No	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	38%	62%	0%	2321
May 2020	51%	49%	0%	1697

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q67. How big of a problem is racism in the U.S. today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?						
	Big problem	Somewhat of a problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	53%	30%	11%	7%	0%	2321
Jul 2020	60%	25%	10%	5%	0%	1552

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q70. 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?

	Big problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not much of a problem	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	53%	34%	12%	0%	2323
Jul 2020	48%	36%	16%	0%	1559
Mar 2019	40%	30%	29%	0%	1705

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q72. 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?

	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any confidence	None (vol)	Don't know (vol)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	41%	45%	14%	0%	0%	2321
Jul 2020	35%	56%	9%	0%	0%	1554
Dec 2007	40%	43%	11%	5%	2%	1995

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding