

Californians and Their Economic Well-Being December 2020

Time Trends – Likely Voters

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 December 2020 sampling error for the 1,552 likely voters, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 4.8 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.

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
Likely Voters - 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	59%	40%	1%	1551
May 2020	57%	35%	8%	1041

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	54%	46%	1%	1551
Jan 2009	12%	77%	11%	1389

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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	30%	69%	1%	1551
Jul 2020	17%	83%	0%	1031
Apr 2020	21%	78%	1%	1094
Jan 2020	50%	42%	8%	962
Sep 2019	37%	54%	10%	1022
May 2019	42%	48%	10%	1114
Jan 2019	45%	45%	10%	1148
Dec 2018	46%	44%	10%	1080
Oct 2018	47%	39%	14%	983
Sep 2018	55%	38%	7%	953
May 2018	50%	40%	10%	897
Jan 2018	56%	34%	10%	1036
Sep 2017	51%	42%	7%	1099
Mar 2017	50%	41%	10%	1060
Jan 2017	51%	34%	15%	1100
Oct 2016	46%	40%	14%	1019
Sep 2016	47%	42%	11%	1048
May 2016	45%	43%	12%	983
Mar 2016	46%	45%	9%	1030
Jan 2016	44%	46%	11%	1034
Dec 2015	47%	43%	10%	1106
Sep 2015	46%	44%	10%	1060
Jun 2015	44%	44%	11%	1041
Mar 2015	49%	39%	12%	1055
Jan 2015	54%	36%	10%	1001
Dec 2014	51%	40%	9%	1047
Oct 2014	42%	47%	11%	970
Sep 2014	44%	46%	10%	906
May 2014	44%	46%	10%	1033
Mar 2014	42%	48%	10%	1084
Jan 2014	46%	47%	8%	1139
Dec 2013	38%	52%	10%	1076
Sep 2013	44%	46%	10%	1095
Jun 2013	46%	44%	10%	1431
May 2013	45%	46%	9%	1117
Mar 2013	41%	52%	8%	1131
Jan 2013	44%	44%	11%	1110
Dec 2012	37%	55%	8%	1428
Oct 2012	34%	53%	12%	1329
Sep 2012	29%	63%	9%	1321
May 2012	27%	65%	9%	1242
Mar 2012	28%	62%	11%	1165

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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
Jan 2012	27%	65%	8%	1294
Dec 2011	22%	68%	10%	1288
Sep 2011	19%	74%	7%	1357
Jun 2011	20%	70%	10%	1483
Jun 2011	29%	63%	8%	1401
Mar 2011	26%	65%	8%	1362
Feb 2011	31%	57%	12%	1558
Jan 2011	28%	63%	9%	1392
Oct 2010	20%	65%	14%	1220
Sep 2010	24%	62%	13%	1206
Jul 2010	19%	74%	7%	1461
May 2010	22%	71%	7%	1243
Mar 2010	21%	72%	7%	1230
Jan 2010	17%	76%	7%	1299
Dec 2009	20%	73%	6%	1078
Nov 2009	17%	75%	7%	1627
Sep 2009	22%	71%	7%	1337
Jul 2009	13%	81%	6%	1568
Jun 2009	18%	77%	5%	1502
May 2009	19%	75%	6%	1217
Mar 2009	15%	79%	6%	1136
Feb 2009	13%	83%	4%	1565
Jan 2009	13%	82%	5%	1389
Nov 2008	17%	75%	9%	1636
Oct 2008	15%	77%	8%	1277
Sep 2008	17%	72%	11%	1281
Aug 2008	17%	75%	8%	1182
Jul 2008	14%	80%	7%	1454
Jun 2008	12%	82%	6%	1422
May 2008	16%	75%	9%	1220
Mar 2008	12%	80%	8%	1221
Jan 2008	18%	74%	9%	1227
Dec 2007	23%	68%	9%	1150
Sep 2007	29%	62%	9%	1157
Jun 2007	43%	47%	10%	1106
May 2007	41%	47%	12%	1122
Mar 2007	41%	49%	11%	1233
Jan 2007	52%	37%	11%	1274
Oct 2006	52%	35%	13%	1186
Sep 2006	48%	40%	12%	1209
Aug 2006	45%	43%	12%	1100
Jul 2006	42%	43%	15%	1351
May 2006	39%	48%	12%	1093

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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
Mar 2006	50%	38%	12%	1000
Feb 2006	46%	42%	12%	1232
Jan 2006	49%	40%	11%	1252
Jan 2006	43%	45%	12%	1446
Oct 2005	35%	54%	11%	1159
Sep 2005	33%	57%	10%	1110
Aug 2005	42%	47%	12%	1054
Jul 2005	45%	39%	16%	1459
May 2005	44%	45%	11%	1241
Apr 2005	38%	51%	11%	1470
Jan 2005	47%	38%	15%	1227
Oct 2004	45%	40%	15%	1209
Sep 2004	48%	39%	14%	1195
Aug 2004	46%	40%	14%	1181
Jul 2004	50%	39%	12%	1445
Jun 2004	42%	45%	12%	1336
May 2004	43%	43%	14%	1099
Feb 2004	42%	45%	13%	1007
Jan 2004	51%	34%	15%	979
Nov 2003	40%	45%	15%	1183
Oct 2003	34%	44%	22%	1119
Sep 2003	31%	51%	18%	1133
Aug 2003	27%	56%	17%	1057
Jul 2003	29%	62%	9%	1153
Jun 2003	25%	66%	9%	1025
Feb 2003	15%	76%	9%	1075
Nov 2002	45%	46%	9%	913
Oct 2002	35%	53%	12%	1046
Sep 2002	40%	50%	10%	1036
Aug 2002	35%	53%	12%	969
Feb 2002	46%	47%	7%	950
Jan 2002	46%	48%	6%	971
Dec 2001	35%	59%	6%	947
Jan 2001	52%	36%	12%	1090
Aug 2000	78%	16%	7%	1013
Feb 2000	81%	11%	8%	1012
Dec 1999	79%	15%	6%	910
Sep 1999	76%	19%	5%	914

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	17%	22%	61%	0%	1551
May 2020	17%	25%	58%	1%	1043
Nov 2019	22%	22%	57%	0%	1015
Dec 2013	20%	23%	57%	0%	1078
Dec 2011	11%	36%	53%	0%	1295
Dec 2009	9%	52%	38%	1%	1077
Sep 2002	29%	26%	45%	0%	1035
Dec 2001	21%	27%	51%	0%	949
Jan 2001	38%	14%	47%	0%	1094
Sep 2000	43%	9%	48%	0%	1095
Sep 1999	34%	12%	54%	0%	914
Jan 1999	29%	15%	56%	0%	1054
Oct 1998	36%	11%	53%	0%	1110
Sep 1998	33%	12%	55%	0%	1046
May 1998	34%	13%	52%	0%	950
Apr 1998	37%	12%	52%	0%	992

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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	22%	17%	60%	0%	1551
Sep 2002	39%	8%	48%	5%	1035
Dec 2001	39%	9%	50%	2%	949
Jan 2001	38%	12%	45%	5%	1093
Sep 2000	46%	4%	45%	6%	1093
Sep 1999	38%	7%	53%	2%	912
Jan 1999	39%	8%	52%	2%	1055
Oct 1998	42%	6%	49%	2%	1110
Sep 1998	38%	7%	53%	3%	1045
Apr 1998	42%	6%	50%	2%	993

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	30%	69%	0%	1%	1551
Dec 2018	30%	60%	3%	7%	1087
Dec 2014	28%	65%	3%	4%	1050

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	76%	2%	21%	0%	1552
Jan 2020	68%	2%	28%	1%	970
Mar 2019	72%	3%	23%	2%	1111
May 2017	66%	2%	28%	4%	1016

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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	47%	43%	6%	4%	0%	1552
Dec 2015	32%	47%	12%	8%	1%	1111

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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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	43%	39%	15%	3%	0%	1552
Jul 2020	49%	36%	13%	2%	0%	1032
Apr 2020	52%	36%	10%	2%	0%	1094

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)	Unweighted n
Dec 2020	31%	42%	19%	8%	0%	1552
Jul 2020	40%	37%	17%	6%	0%	1031
Apr 2020	39%	41%	16%	3%	0%	1094

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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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	25%	39%	26%	11%	0%	1552
Jul 2020	30%	37%	24%	9%	0%	1032
Apr 2020	40%	34%	21%	5%	0%	1094

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	21%	33%	45%	0%	1522
Jul 2020	18%	33%	49%	0%	1011
Apr 2020	25%	24%	50%	0%	1092

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%	1552
May 2020	28%	71%	1%	1047

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%	1552
May 2020	46%	54%	0%	1045

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	56%	26%	11%	7%	0%	1552
Jul 2020	61%	22%	12%	5%	0%	1032

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	54%	34%	12%	0%	1552
Jul 2020	52%	32%	15%	0%	1032
Mar 2019	46%	29%	25%	1%	1112

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%	1552
Jul 2020	36%	56%	8%	0%	0%	1031
Dec 2007	42%	44%	8%	3%	2%	1150

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding