Stockton Polling Institute
Economy Poll Spring 2022
Feb. 16-26, 2022

Q1 - In general, do you think New Jersey is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Right direction	34%	223
2	Wrong direction	50%	330
3	Neutral	8%	55
4	Not sure	7%	47
5	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	655

Q2 - How would you rate the current state of New Jersey's economy? Would you say it's excellent, good, fair, or poor?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Excellent	1%	8
2	Good	22%	141
3	Fair/Average	41%	269
4	Poor	21%	135
5	Terrible	13%	88
6	Not sure	2%	15
7	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	655

Q3 - Which of the following best describes how you view the future of New Jersey's economy? Are you very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	VERY OPTIMISTIC	10%	68
2	SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC	38%	251
3	SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC	28%	185
4	VERY PESSIMISTIC	19%	125
5	NEUTRAL	3%	18
6	NOT SURE	1%	9
7	REFUSE	0%	0
	Total	100%	655

Q4 - The following questions are asking about your experiences in the past six months: Has your household income increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Increased	23%	150
2	Decreased	19%	128
3	About the same	57%	371
4	Not sure	1%	5
5	Refuse	0%	1
	Total	100%	655

Q5 - Which best describes your spending. Have you been purchasing more services and goods than usual, less, or about the same?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	More	14%	95
2	Less	33%	219
3	About the same	51%	337
4	Not sure	0%	3
5	Refuse	0%	1
	Total	100%	655

Q6 - How would you describe your overall financial situation during this period? Would you say it's gotten:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Much better	6%	39
2	Somewhat better	10%	68
3	About the same	51%	331
4	Somewhat worse	20%	133
5	Much worse	12%	78
6	Not sure	0%	2
7	Refuse	1%	4
	Total	100%	655

Q7 - Have rising costs made it more difficult for you to afford food, rent or mortgage, and gas, or can you still comfortably afford these living expenses despite the increases?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	More difficult	51%	335
2	Can still afford it	46%	303
3	Do not have any of these expenses	1%	10
4	Not sure	1%	7
5	Refuse	0%	1
	Total	100%	655

Q8 - If you have been looking to buy a home, have rising costs made it more difficult for you to afford one or are you still able to afford a home?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	More difficult	24%	159
2	Can still afford it	7%	47
3	Not looking, does not apply	66%	432
4	Not sure	1%	8
5	Refuse	1%	9
	Total	100%	655

Q9 - If you have been looking to buy a car, have rising costs made it more difficult for you to afford one or are you still able to afford a car?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	More difficult	26%	173
2	Can still afford it	13%	87
3	Not looking, does not apply	58%	383
4	Not sure	1%	5
5	Refuse	1%	7
	Total	100%	655

Q10. - Which of the following best describes how many businesses closed down indefinitely in your area:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Many	24%	155
2	Some	51%	335
3	Hardly any	15%	99
4	None	3%	21
5	Not sure	6%	42
6	Refuse	0%	2
	Total	100%	655

Q11 - How would you rate the availability of products you need in the stores near you. Would you say you come across empty shelves when shopping:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Always	8%	54
2	Most of the time	21%	141
3	Sometimes	44%	291
4	Rarely	19%	121
5	Never	5%	33
6	Not sure	2%	12
7	Refuse	0%	2
	Total	100%	655

Q12 - Would you say you experience shipping delays for products you order:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Always	7%	43
2	Most of the time	15%	99
3	Sometimes	42%	275
4	Rarely	20%	130
5	Never	9%	58
6	Not sure	4%	24
7	Refuse	4%	25
	Total	100%	655

Q13 - As a reminder, these questions are asking about the past six months only. Which of the following describes your employment status. You can choose more than one if your status changed at some point.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Employed at any point	58%	410
2	Unemployed and looking for work at any point	10%	72
3	Retired	20%	137
4	Out of the workforce for some other reason	10%	73
5	Refuse	2%	11
	Total	100%	703

Q13a - Which of the following best describes the industry in which you were or still are employed:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Construction or manufacturing	11%	45
2	Education	9%	36
3	Financial services	9%	37
4	Government	8%	31
5	Healthcare	18%	72
6	Information technology	8%	32
7	Retail	4%	16
8	Service industry	13%	52
9	Or some other field? (Please specify)	7%	28
10	Refuse	0%	2
11	Arts, Creative, Media	2%	7
12	Legal	1%	6
13	Transportation, Distribution	3%	14
14	Professional Services	4%	17
15	Real Estate	2%	8
16	Non-profit, human services	2%	7
	Total	100%	410

Q13b - Has your place of employment been short-staffed at any jobs you've held during this time or have you not experienced this?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes, short-staffed	58%	239
2	No	38%	156
3	Not sure	3%	13
4	Refuse	0%	2
	Total	100%	410

Q13C - Has this caused your place of employment to adjust operating hours or have hours stayed the same?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes, hours changed	34%	82
2	No, hours stayed the same	64%	153
3	Not sure	2%	4
4	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	239

Q14 - Have you quit a job in the past six months?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	7%	30
2	No	93%	389
3	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	419

Q14a - What is the main reason you quit if you had to narrow it down to one?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Wages	21%	6
2	Short-staffed, not enough help	3%	1
3	Lack of childcare or other caregiving	8%	2
4	COVID/Safety concerns	0%	0
5	Switched careers/industries	13%	4
6	Stress, mistreatment	24%	7
7	Other (Please specify)	31%	9
8	Not sure	0%	0
9	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	30

Q15 - How would you describe the number of jobs available in your area? Would you say there are many, some, hardly any, or none?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Many	28%	20
2	Some	40%	29
3	Hardly any	17%	12
4	None	4%	3
5	Not sure	9%	6
6	Refuse	2%	1
	Total	100%	72

Q16 - How would you rate the quality of the jobs available when it comes to the wages and working conditions? Are you:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very satisfied	11%	8
2	Somewhat satisfied	23%	16
3	Somewhat dissatisfied	31%	22
4	Very dissatisfied	30%	22
5	Not sure	6%	4
6	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	72

Demographics

AGE - Please confirm that you are an adult. Which category describes your age?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Younger than 18	0%	0
2	18-29	15%	97
3	30-49	31%	200
4	50-64	32%	212
5	65 and older	22%	146
6	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	655

COUNTY - What New Jersey county do you live in?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Atlantic	6%	38
2	Bergen	6%	42
3	Burlington	6%	40
4	Camden	7%	44
5	Cape May	2%	13
6	Cumberland	2%	13
7	Essex	10%	69
8	Gloucester	3%	22
9	Hudson	5%	34
10	Hunterdon	1%	9
11	Mercer	5%	30
12	Middlesex	7%	49
13	Monmouth	8%	52
14	Morris	7%	44
15	Ocean	6%	41
16	Passaic	3%	19

17	Salem	1%	8
18	Somerset	3%	20
19	Sussex	2%	14
20	Union	7%	44
21	Warren	1%	10
23	Other county	0%	0
24	Refuse	0%	0
	Total	100%	655

PHONE - We're almost done. These last few questions allow us to combine responses into statistics. Have I reached you on a cell phone or on a regular landline telephone?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Cell phone	86%	561
2	Landline phone	14%	91
3	Computer/VOIP	0%	2
4	Refuse	0%	1
	Total	100%	655

Q26 - Do you consider yourself to be a:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Republican	22%	144
2	Democrat	30%	194
3	Independent	32%	211
4	Or something else?	11%	70
5	Not sure	2%	13
6	Refuse	3%	22
	Total	100%	655

Q27 - Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	18%	115
2	No	81%	531
3	Not sure	0%	3
4	Refuse	1%	6
	Total	100%	655

Q28 - Which of the following best describes your race:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	White	62%	405
2	Black or African American	12%	80
3	Asian or Pacific Islander	3%	22
4	Native American	1%	5
5	Some other race alone	10%	67
6	More than one race	8%	51
7	Not sure	1%	7
8	Refuse	3%	19
	Total	100%	655

Q29 - Which of the following best describes your highest level of education?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Did not graduate high school	4%	27
2	High school or vo-tech graduate	22%	143
3	Some college or an associate's degree	24%	160
4	A four-year college degree	28%	186
5	A graduate degree	21%	135
6	Refuse	1%	4
	Total	100%	655

Q30 - Which of the following general categories best represents your household income last year before taxes:

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Less than $25,000	9%	61
2	$25,000 to less than $50,000	17%	113
3	$50,000 to less than $100,000	24%	159
4	$100,000 to $150,000	19%	123
5	More than $150,000	19%	124
6	Not sure	4%	25
7	Refuse	8%	50
	Total	100%	655

Q31 - Lastly, what is your gender?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Man	48%	316
2	Woman	50%	329
3	Identify another way	1%	7
4	Refuse	0%	3
	Total	100%	655

Methodology

The poll of New Jersey adults was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy February 16-26, 2022. Live interviewers who are mostly Stockton University students called cell phones and landlines from the Stockton University campus. Opinion Services supplemented a portion of the fieldwork. Overall, 86 percent of interviews were conducted on cell phones and 14 percent on landline phones. A total of 655 New Jersey adults were interviewed. Both cell and landline samples consisted of random digit dialing (RDD) sample. Data are weighted based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data for New Jersey on variables of age, race, ethnicity, education level, sex, and region. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.8 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets.