

*Views on Economic Inequality
in the
State of New Jersey*

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I. Executive Summary

During the Great Recession, political scientists Benjamin Page (Northwestern University) and Lawrence Jacobs (University of Minnesota) published *Class War?: What Americans Really Think About Economic Inequality* (2009). Surveying opinion data from the 1930s forward, Page and Jacobs concluded that no matter an individual's political affiliation, "When [an American's] well-being (and that of people they care about) is threatened, or when their dreams are blocked by forces beyond their control, they turn to concrete government programs for help — programs that would greatly decrease economic inequality" (Page & Jacobs, 2009, xi). In November of 2015, the Stockton Polling Institute conducted a state-wide poll to learn if Page & Jacobs conclusions and national opinions about economic inequality hold true in post-recession New Jersey.

As economic inequality has emerged as one of the hottest topics of the 2016 presidential campaign, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University is pleased to present a new project that considers the views, policy preferences, and economic experiences of New Jersey residents. Our poll offers opinions on policies such as the minimum wage, universal pre-K funding, and student loan interest rates. We also ask New Jerseyans about significant economic experiences like the loss of a job or purchase of a new home in addition to their perspectives on the Great Recession and economic futures of New Jersey families.

Our key findings include:

State of the Economy

- The sense of economic vulnerability New Jersey residents are experiencing nearly seven years after the Great Recession is profound with 55% of our sample feeling as though their income is *falling behind the cost of living* and nearly 37% suggesting their income is *just keeping pace*.
- Only 20% believe economic conditions in the state are good (14%) or excellent (6%).

- Nearly 70% of New Jerseyans believe the U.S. economy is *still in a recession*.

Lived Experience

- During the last year, most of our respondents and their family members did not experience economic hardships like the loss of a job or deep food insecurity.
- Similarly, the majority of those polled also did not enjoy economic achievements like the purchase of a new home or job promotion.
- The majority (60%) of New Jersey residents we polled predicted that today's children will be worse off financially than their parents.

Policy Tolerance

- Our poll finds overwhelming support for policy interventions designed to address poverty and income inequality.
- Poll respondents believe that government has the responsibility and capacity to disrupt economic inequality.
- New Jerseyans strongly favor (55.5%) or favor (24.2%) increasing the tax rate for Americans earning more than \$1 million annually.
- The majority of those surveyed strongly favor or favor:
 - Holding down interest rates on student loans;
 - Paid sick leave for full time employees;
 - Paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child;
 - State or federally funded pre-K; and,
 - Raising the minimum wage to \$15 hourly.
- New Jersey residents identified jobs as the most important issue influencing their vote for president in 2016.
- Residents of South Jersey are especially downcast when evaluating the state of New Jersey's economy, the condition of the national economy, and the persistence of the Great Recession.

The policy debates about economic inequality that are currently taking place at the state and federal level in addition to the policy tolerance expressed by our sample highlight the pressing post-recession needs and desires of New Jerseyans. The Great Recession may technically be over but the majority of New Jersey residents we surveyed continue to feel economically vulnerable and believe government intervention is warranted.

II. Introduction

In May 2015, The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy published the report [*Economic Indicators and Quality of Life in Southern New Jersey*](#), which explored county-level economic differences experienced by New Jersey residents. That project garnered interest from the press and public as it was featured in print, radio and Internet news reports and generated thousands of views of the accompanying [Tableau Public data visualizations](#). More importantly, the report prompted questions asking *why* Southern New Jersey counties do not fare as well as those in the Central and Northern regions of the state. The findings also fostered discussion about the consequences of economic inequality in the relatively affluent and well-educated state of New Jersey.

Economic inequality has become an important research area because there is clear evidence demonstrating that income, wages, and wealth are highly correlated with “quality of life,” which includes education access and attainment, safe neighborhoods, economic mobility, regional development, rates of civic engagement as well as concentrated affluence, poverty and individual life outcomes (Sloane, 2015). Building on the Hughes Center exploratory research and contributing to public opinion research on economic inequality, we are pleased to present a new project that considers the views, policy preferences, and economic experiences of New Jersey residents.

In November 2015, the Polling Institute at Stockton University conducted a state-wide public opinion poll by telephone with 802 adults 18 years of age and older. We asked respondents to share their perspective on the current state of the economy, as well as opinions on public policies and their individual economic futures. The poll was based on several national opinion surveys conducted within the last twenty-four months and we compare some of the views and experiences of New Jersey residents with the perspectives of other Americans. The

survey questions we replicated for our research purposes were principally drawn from two nation-wide surveys:

- The *American Values Survey* (2014), an annual survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute and disseminated cooperatively with The Brookings Institute; and,
- The most recent iteration of the Pew Research Center's *Political Survey* (2014) conducted by the Pew Research Center's U.S. Politics and Policy division and *USA TODAY*.

We also considered The Opportunity Agenda's *Opportunity Survey* (2014), a public opinion poll regarding equality of opportunity created by Langer Research Associates, and *Class War?: What Americans Really Think About Economic Inequality*, a pre-recession historical survey (Page & Jacobs, 2007), and analysis (Page & Jacobs, 2009) of evolving views on economic inequality in the United States. These polls take different approaches toward surveying individual opinions on policies such as the minimum wage and education in addition to economic experiences like the loss of a job or the purchase of a new home. The questions also address individual perspectives on the Great Recession and economic futures of New Jersey families.

In keeping with the Hughes Center mission to foster greater representation for South Jersey, the analysis of the survey considers statistically significant geographic differences between the New Jersey counties and regions. In addition to geographic differences, we also consider similarities and differences between the New Jersey and national polls.

II. Summary of Survey Findings

A. New Jersey and U.S. Economy

Roughly one-third of our poll was devoted to surveying adult opinions about the New Jersey and U.S. economy. Before the first 2016 presidential primary votes were cast, nearly sixty percent (58%) of New Jersey residents surveyed disapproved of the way Chris Christie was handling his job as governor.¹ Further, 66% of New Jersey residents believe the state is on the wrong track. President Barack Obama’s approval rating among New Jersey residents was higher than Christie’s (47%) yet, the majority (60%) of those surveyed believe the country is “on the wrong track.”

Table 1

	New Jersey	USA
Right Direction	25.9%	31.8%
Wrong Track	65.5%	60.4%

New Jersey survey respondents’ dissatisfaction with political leadership is echoed by a general lack of confidence in both the U.S. and New Jersey economy. The majority of those polled (79%) rate U.S. economic conditions as poor (23.4%) or only fair (55.1%). An even higher percentage (84.1%) believe that New Jersey’s economic conditions are either poor (28.9%) or only fair (55.2%). Only twenty percent of New Jerseyans surveyed believe economic conditions in the state are either good (14%) or excellent (6%).

¹ While our poll was conducted in November 2015, the 16 February 2016 release of the most recent Rutgers-Eagleton Poll validates our approval/disapproval rankings. Similar to our findings, Rutgers-Eagleton reported Christie’s unfavorable rating was 59%. <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/rutgers-eagleton-christie-ratings-feb2016/>

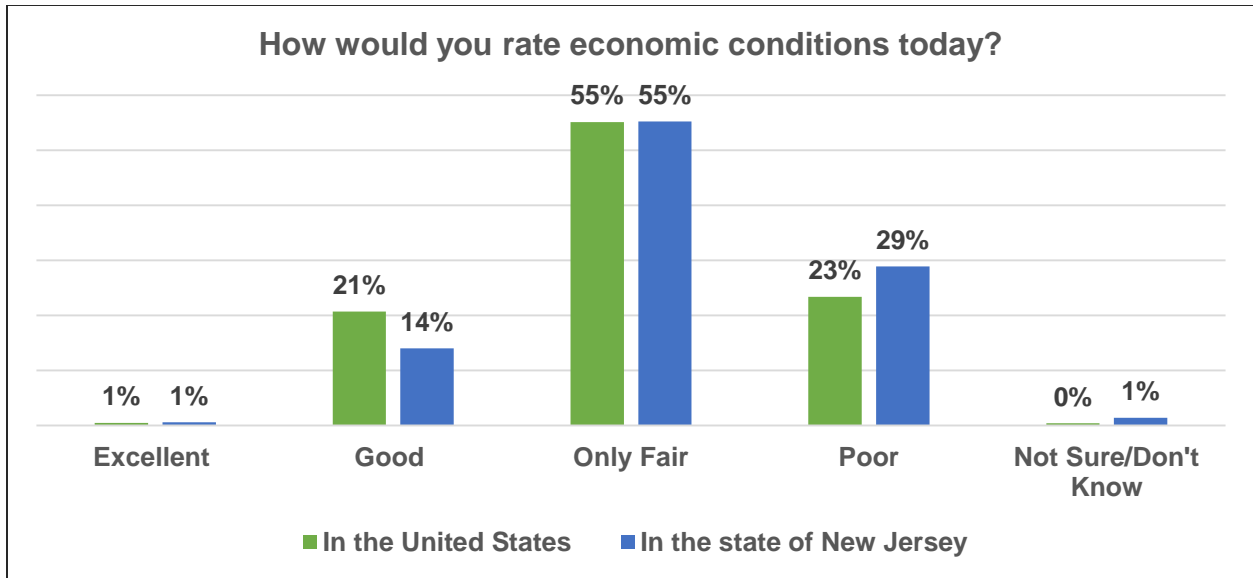


Figure 1. Economic conditions today.²

When asked if the national economy had improved or not during the last two years, New Jersey residents in our survey are divided. One-third believe the national economy has gotten better, another third feel it has gotten worse, and the final third believe the national economy has “stayed the same.”

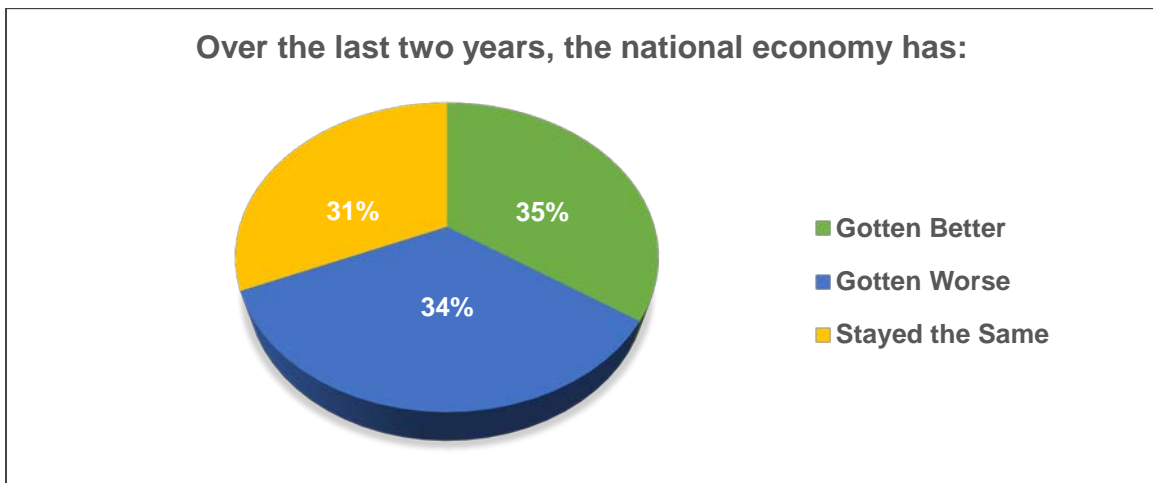


Figure 2. State of national economy.³

² Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.20.

³ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q2.

There is consensus regarding the lingering impact of the Great Recession which ended in June 2009. Similar to Americans polled in the national *American Values Survey* in 2014 and 2015, nearly 70% of New Jerseyans surveyed believe the U.S. is economy is still in a recession (Public Religion Research Institute, 2014).

Table 2

Do you think the country's economic recession is over, or do you think the economy is still in a recession? ⁴	
Recession is over	27.4%
Still in recession	70%

B. Lived Experience

Given the generally dismal views our sample holds about the state of the economy, we now shift to questions about their lived economic experiences. Notably, New Jersey is one the most affluent and highly educated states in the Union and most of the residents we spoke with acknowledge their *relative financial well-being* even when they judge the economy and their individual economic futures bleakly.

During the last year, most of our respondents and their family members did not experience economic hardships like the loss of a job or deep food insecurity. However, the majority also reported that no one in their household experienced economic achievements like the purchase of a new home or a job promotion during the last twelve months. This speaks not only to the stagnation of the U.S. and New Jersey economies, but the lingering impact of the recession at the household level.

⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q3.

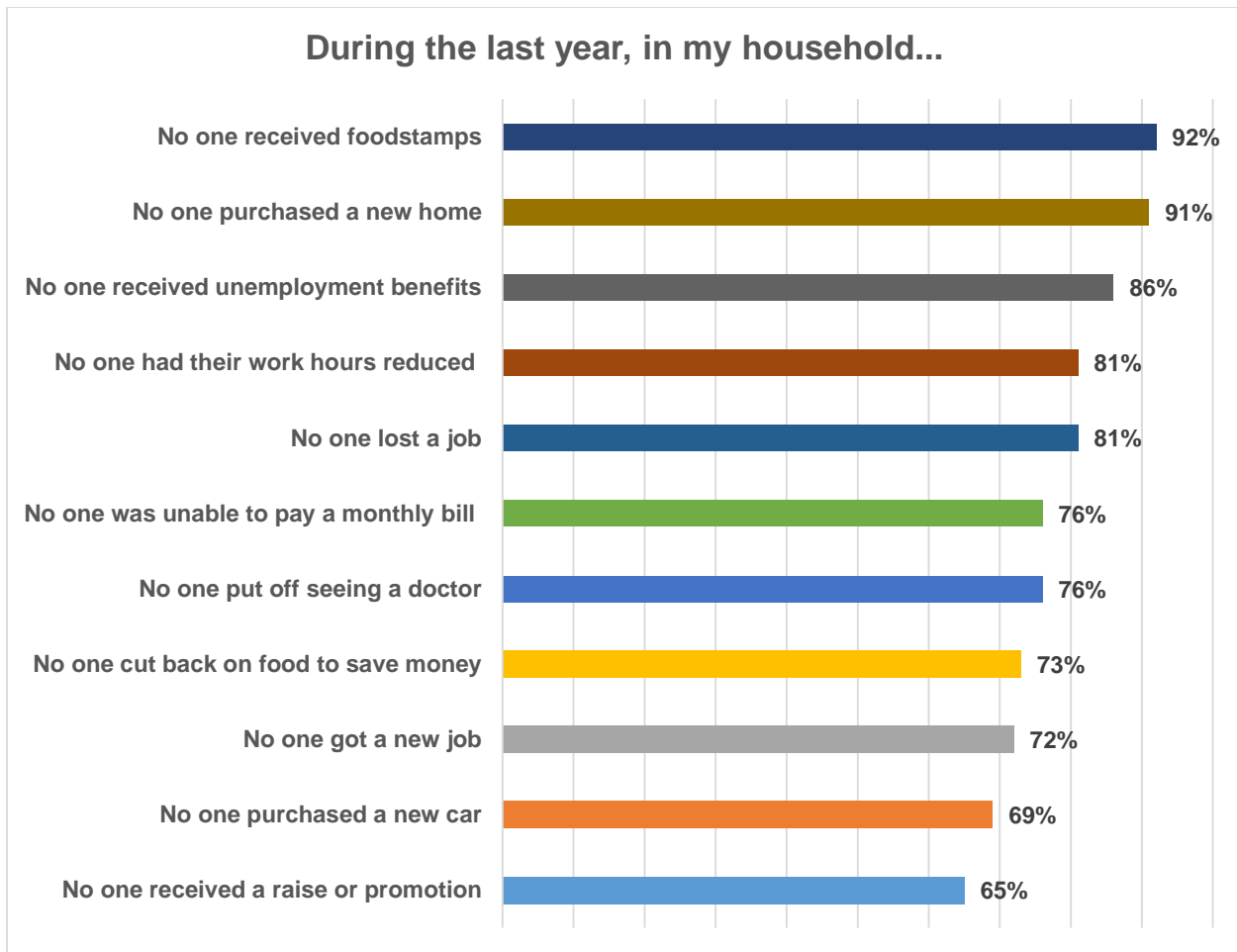


Figure 3. The last twelve months.⁵

Overall, there appears to be a sense of economic vulnerability but also cautious optimism about individual economic futures. Nearly half of our survey respondents said that their personal financial situation is either in good or excellent shape, while another 36% stated they were only in fair financial shape. Importantly, close to 14% reported their personal finances were poor.

⁵ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30.a, Q32.b, Q32.c, Q32.d, Q32.e, Q32.f, and Q32.g.

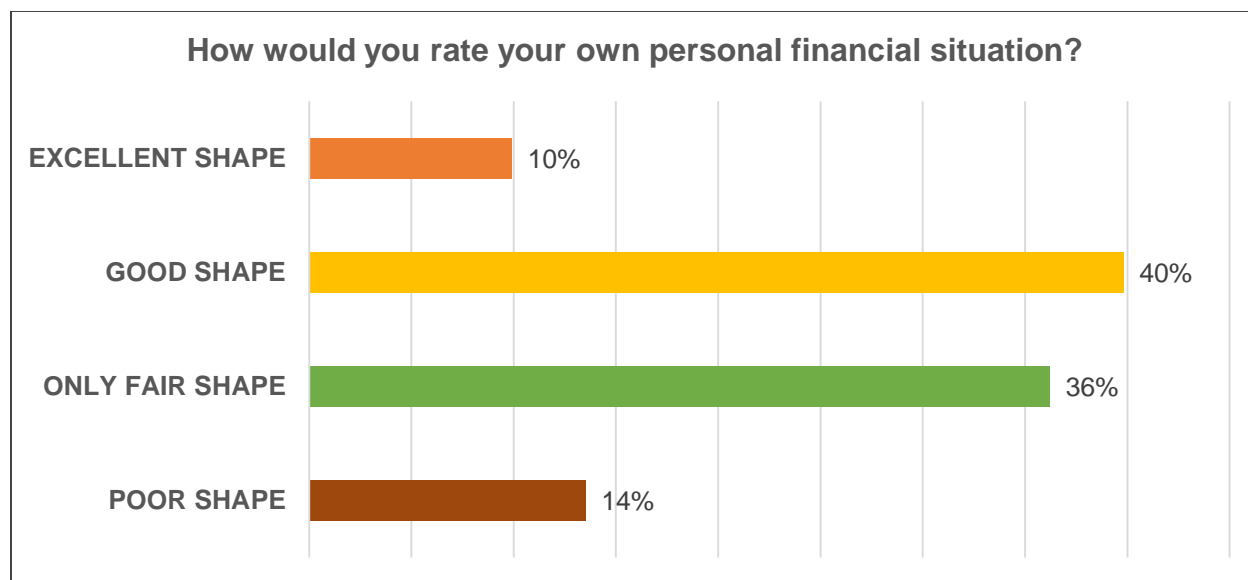


Figure 4. Personal financial situation.⁶

Nonetheless, the sense of economic vulnerability New Jersey residents are experiencing nearly seven years after the Great Recession is profound with 55% of our sample feeling as though their income is falling behind the cost of living and nearly 37% suggesting their income is just keeping pace.

Table 3

Is your household income keeping pace with the cost of living?⁷	
Going up faster than the cost of living	6.6%
Staying about even with the cost of living	36.7%
Or falling behind the cost of living?	55.4%

C. Economic Futures

The economic experiences of our survey respondents not only speak to the stagnation of the national and state economy but also the sluggishness of many New Jersey households.

⁶ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30 and Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.23.

⁷ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.25.

Although people continue to feel anxious about the economy and their economic futures, there are also glimmers of hopefulness. When we asked our respondents about their economic “forecast,” in keeping with persistent American optimism, close to 60% of survey respondents said their financial situation will improve “some” or “a lot” during the next year.

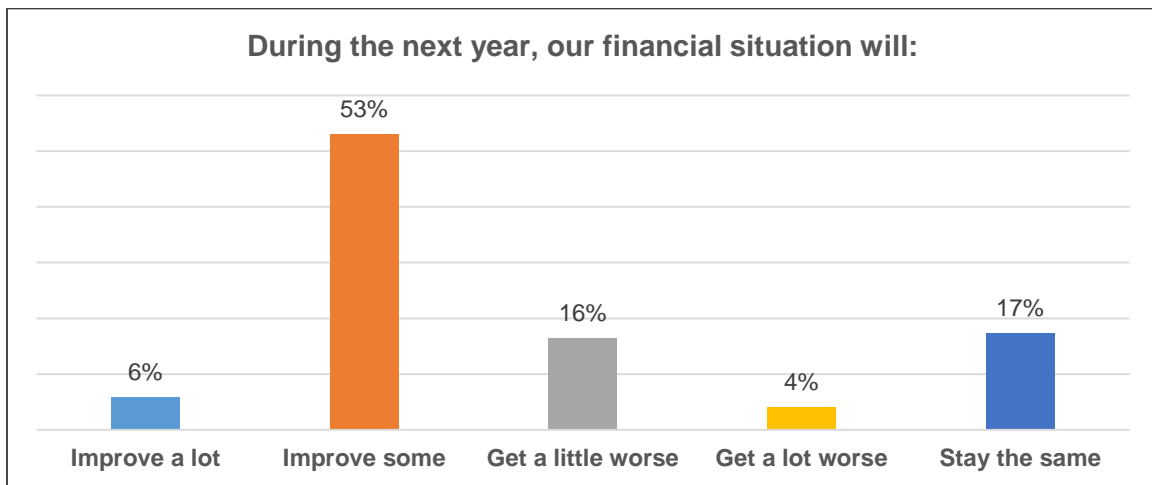


Figure 5. Financial situation.⁸

Compared with other Americans, the majority (82%) of New Jersey survey respondents feel they are doing better (55%) or the same (26.8%) economically as others. Only 15% percent reported doing worse than other Americans.

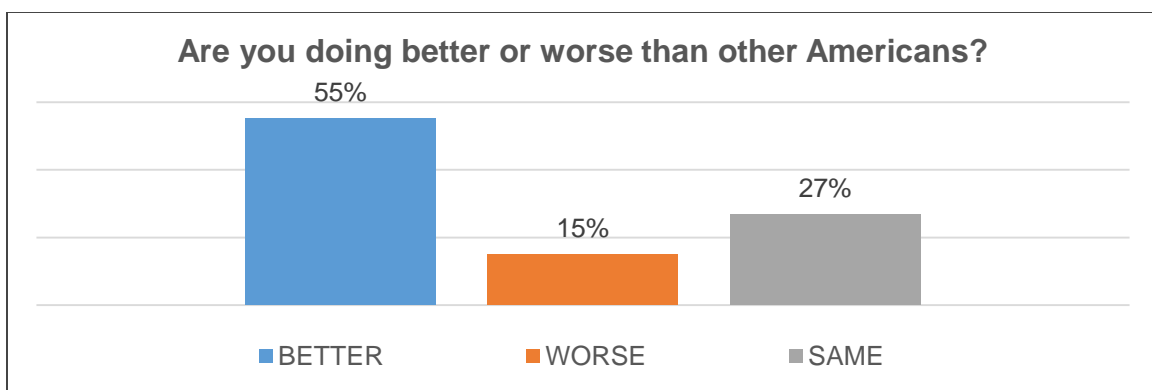


Figure 6. Better or same.⁹

⁸ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.24.

⁹ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q.31.

The majority (54%) of those surveyed believe that economic conditions will be the same a year from now and 27% predict it will be better. Similarly, 54% of those surveyed project that 2016 will be better than 2015. Despite these relatively optimistic outlooks, similar to national survey findings, the majority (60%) of New Jersey residents we polled predict that today's children will be worse off financially than their parents.

Table 4

When children today in the United States grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?¹⁰	
Better Off	28.3%
About the same	6.1%
Worse Off	60.2%

D. Policy Tolerance

New Jersey residents overwhelmingly support economic policies designed to decrease or prevent economic inequality. When developing our survey, we compiled a list of topics that might influence votes in the 2016 presidential election. The list was based on candidate platforms as of the first week of September 2015 and was compiled directly from candidate websites and issue briefs. Even though women's reproductive rights, immigration, social security, and federal taxes are important issues being highlighted and debated by the 2016 presidential candidates, New Jersey residents identified jobs (27.5%) as the most important issue influencing their vote for president in 2016. In addition to pronounced concern about employment, the top issues identified by our sample for consideration during this long campaign season are taxes, healthcare, Social Security, and affordable higher education.

¹⁰ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q23.

In addition to asking New Jerseyans their opinions on the state and national economy, we also wanted to learn more about their views on specific economic policies. The individuals we spoke with *overwhelmingly* support policy interventions designed to address poverty and income inequality. With regard to tolerance for poverty policy, 88% percent of New Jersey residents participating in our survey believe the government *should do* “a lot” or “some” to reduce poverty. Further, 81% believe government policy *can do* “a lot” or some” to reduce poverty even though government policies and programs “haven’t done much” as of November 2015. Forty-three percent of those surveyed said the government hadn’t “done much” and 21% said the government had done “nothing at all” to reduce poverty.

Where it concerns the wealth gap, 45% of survey respondents said the government *should do* “a lot” to “reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else” while an additional 32.2% believe government *should do* “some.” The belief that the government has the responsibility and capacity to disrupt economic inequality has been consistent since the 1940s (Page & Jacobs, 2009).

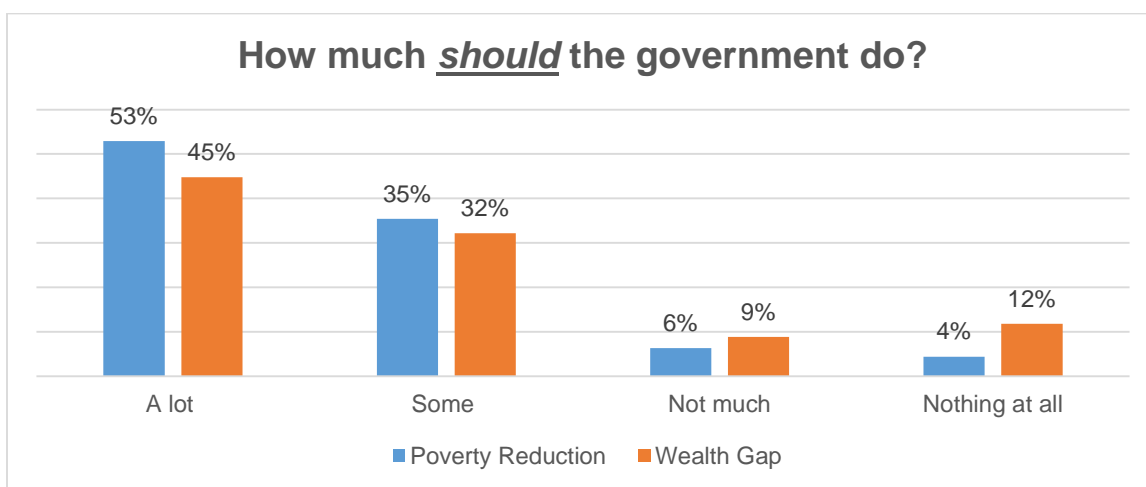


Figure 7. Government should.¹¹

¹¹ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.13F2 and Q.14F1.

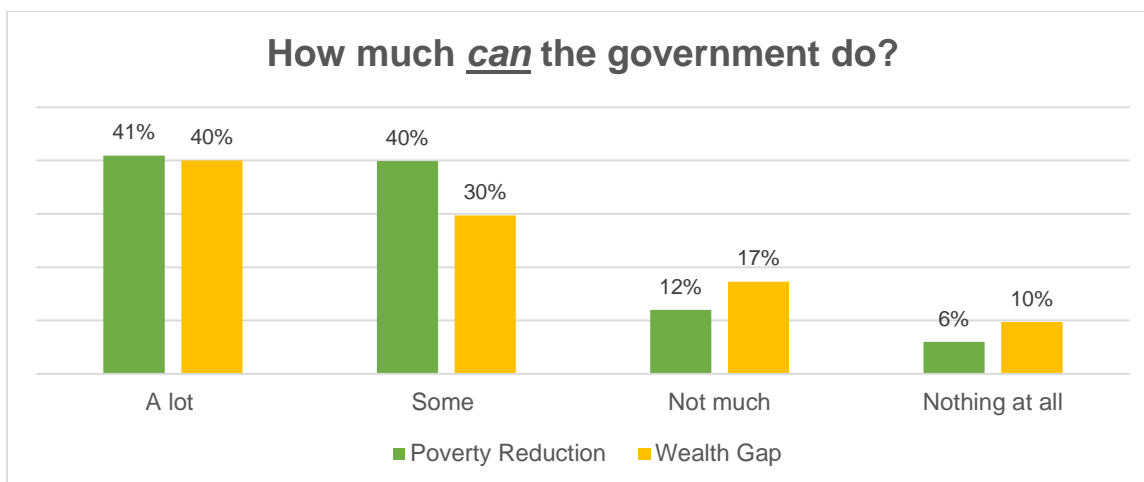


Figure 8. Government can.¹²

We also tested policy tolerance for the so-called millionaire tax by asking respondents about incremental shifts in income. In each case, the majority of poll respondents strongly favor or favor increasing the tax rate for Americans earning more than \$250,000, \$500,000 and \$1 million annually.

Table 5

	Tax Bracket		
	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1 million
Strongly Favor	27.4%	41.2%	55.5%
Favor	35.3%	32.8%	24.2%
Oppose	23.5%	15.2%	11.7%
Strongly Oppose	11.3%	8.9%	7.2%

New Jersey survey respondents overwhelmingly support policy prescriptions many economists believe can reduce economic inequality including a number of policies currently being debated by state representatives. From interest rates on student loans to paid sick leave and universal pre-K, New Jersey residents favor or strongly favor policies that can improve the quality their lives and relieve the financial pressures many have experienced since at least 2008.

¹² Pew Research Center, 214, Q.15F2 and Q.16F1.

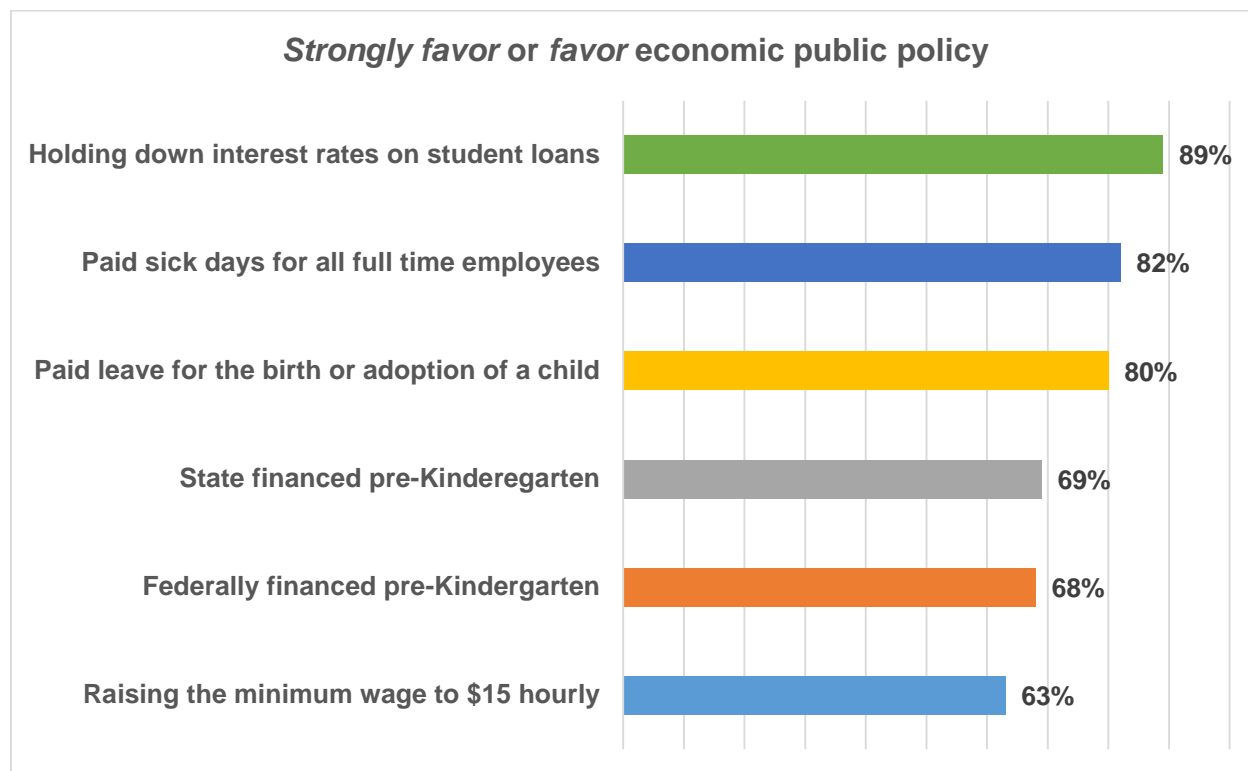


Figure 9. Public policy tolerance.¹³

The Hughes Center has been monitoring state policy debates about economic inequality and policy interventions during the last year. Media attention and discourse on inequality has only grown as economic policy has become a primary source of debate in the 2016 presidential contest. Since conducting our survey, there has been an increased sense of urgency in debates about inequality, education and labor policy at the national *and* state level. Last month, New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, Representative Donald Norcross and Senator Shirley K. Turner announced “collaborative plans to introduce legislation to require a \$15.00 per hour minimum wage.” (Wisniewski, 2016) In response, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and other “business groups” are forming a

¹³ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12 series; The Opportunity Agenda Survey, 2014, Q 29g; and Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.46.

coalition to block efforts to increase the minimum wage or the implementation of mandatory paid sick leave which they argue will cause “suffering” for New Jersey businesses and employees. (Marcus, 2016)

Similar debates are percolating on the education policy front. According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, in 2014, only 19% of three year olds and 29% of four year olds residing in the state of New Jersey were enrolled in preschool programs (National Institute for Early Education Research, 2014). In early February 2016, Senate Education Chair M. Teresa Ruiz introduced legislation to expand early childhood education in New Jersey (Clark, 2016). In Washington, D.C., higher education costs remain a hot legislative topic. A roundtable including New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez was held in February to better understand the long-term implications of student loan debt (Jackson, 2016). As we have previously reported, there is a relationship between educational attainment, employment and life outcomes. These policy debates and the tolerance expressed by our sample highlight the pressing post-recession needs and desires of New Jerseyans.

E. Regional Differences

There were few statistically significant regional differences in our poll. This suggests that no matter where New Jerseyans live, our respondents hold similar views regarding the economy and display strong consensus in favor of economic policies designed to decrease inequality. The Hughes Center and Stockton University Polling Institute define the Central, North and Southern geographic regions by county clusters in Figure 10.

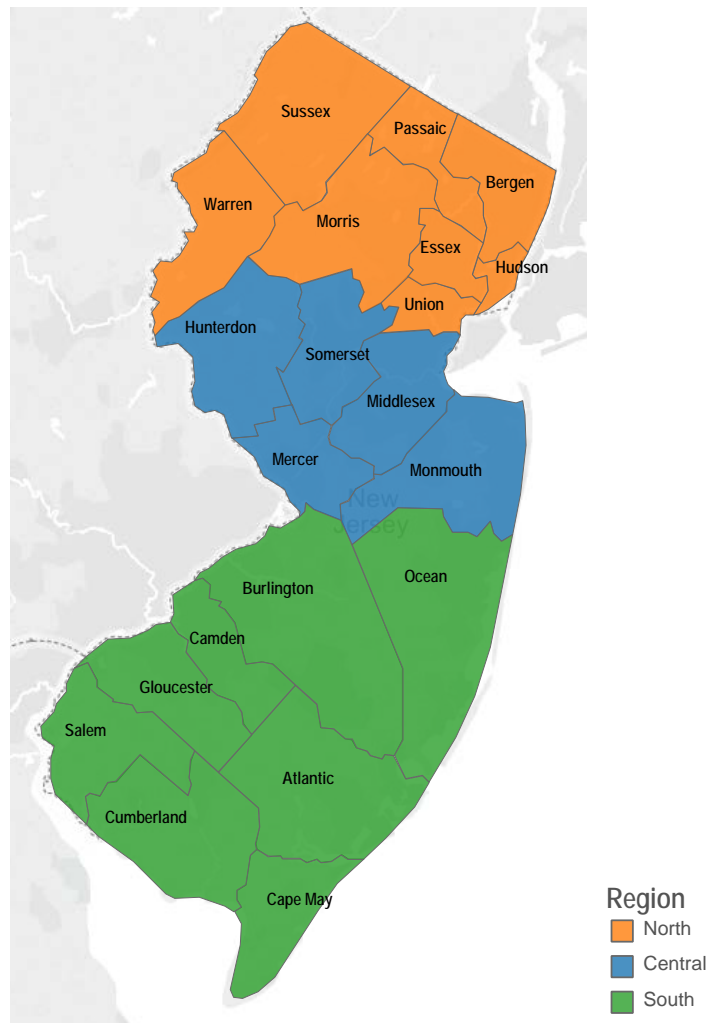


Figure 10. New Jersey regions.

The most significant and telling regional differences in this poll were related to opinions about the current state of the economy. Residents we surveyed in South Jersey were especially downcast when evaluating the state of New Jersey's economy, the condition of the national economy, and the persistence of the Great Recession. While the majority of New Jersey residents disapprove of both Governor Christie and President Obama's job performance, they also believe that New Jersey and the United States are heading in the wrong direction. Notably, 69% of South Jersey survey respondents believe the country is "on the wrong track" and 70% feel the state is faltering.

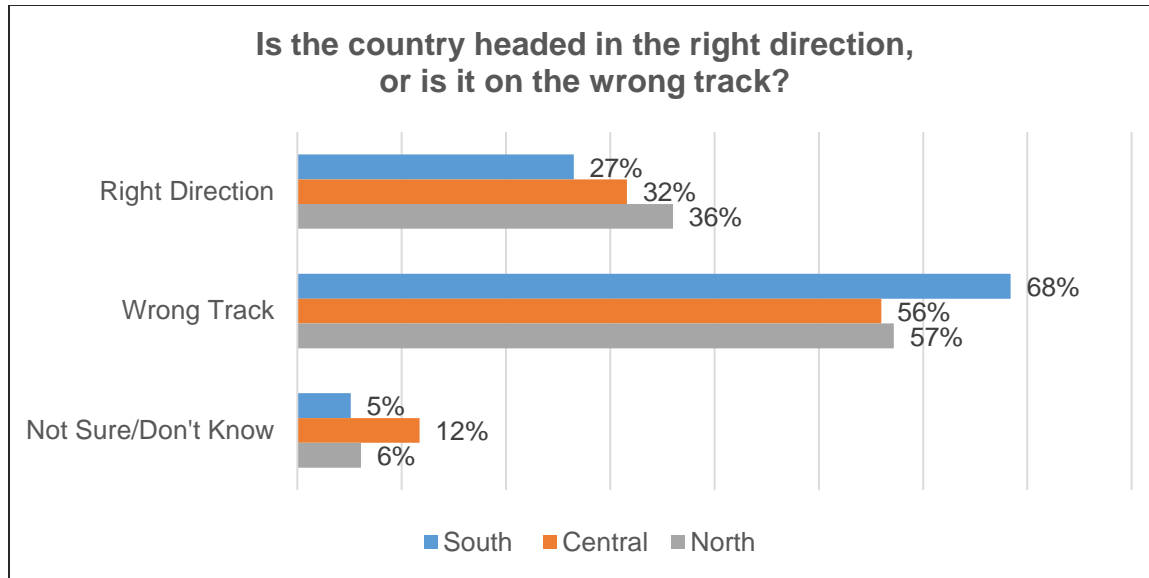


Figure 11. United States wrong track.

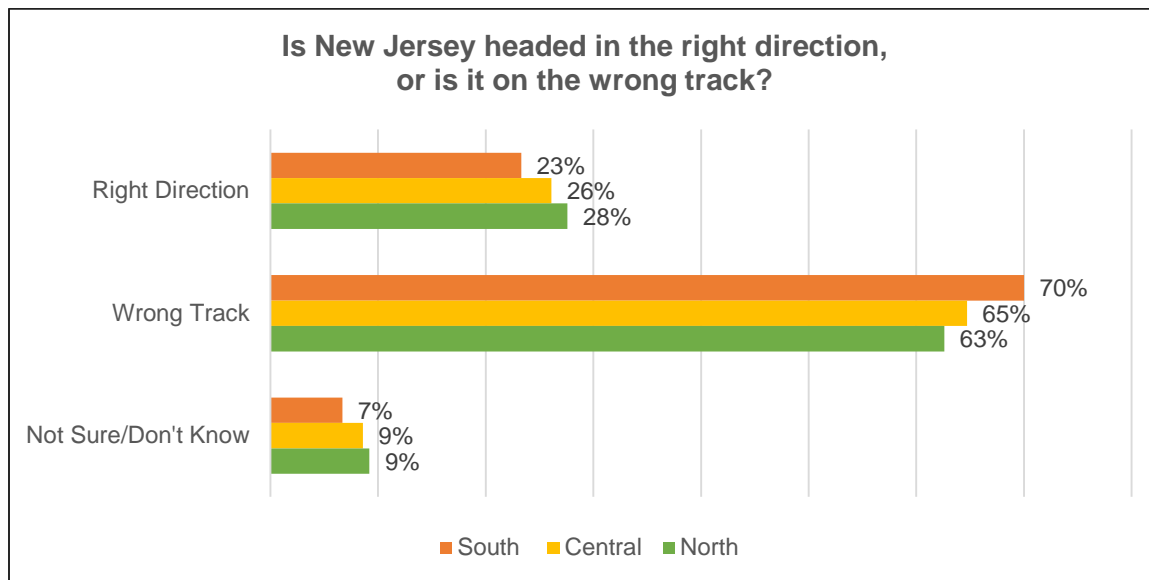


Figure 12. New Jersey wrong track.

Considering the economic challenges many South Jersey residents have endured since the recession, it is not surprising that our poll respondents exhibit some geographic differences with regard to the state of New Jersey’s economy. Thirty-nine percent of South Jersey respondents believe the national economy has gotten worse compared with 31% Central and 32% North

Jersey residents. A testament to the lack of development and opportunity, 76% of South Jersey residents believe the United States is still in economic recession compared with 65% in Central and 68% in North Jersey. South Jersey residents have a similarly despondent view of the state economy. Thirty-six percent of South Jersey respondents rated economic conditions in the state of New Jersey “poor” and 51% “only fair.” See Dr. Oliver Cooke’s most recent edition of [The South Jersey Economic Review](#) for in-depth analysis of South Jersey’s post-recession economy.

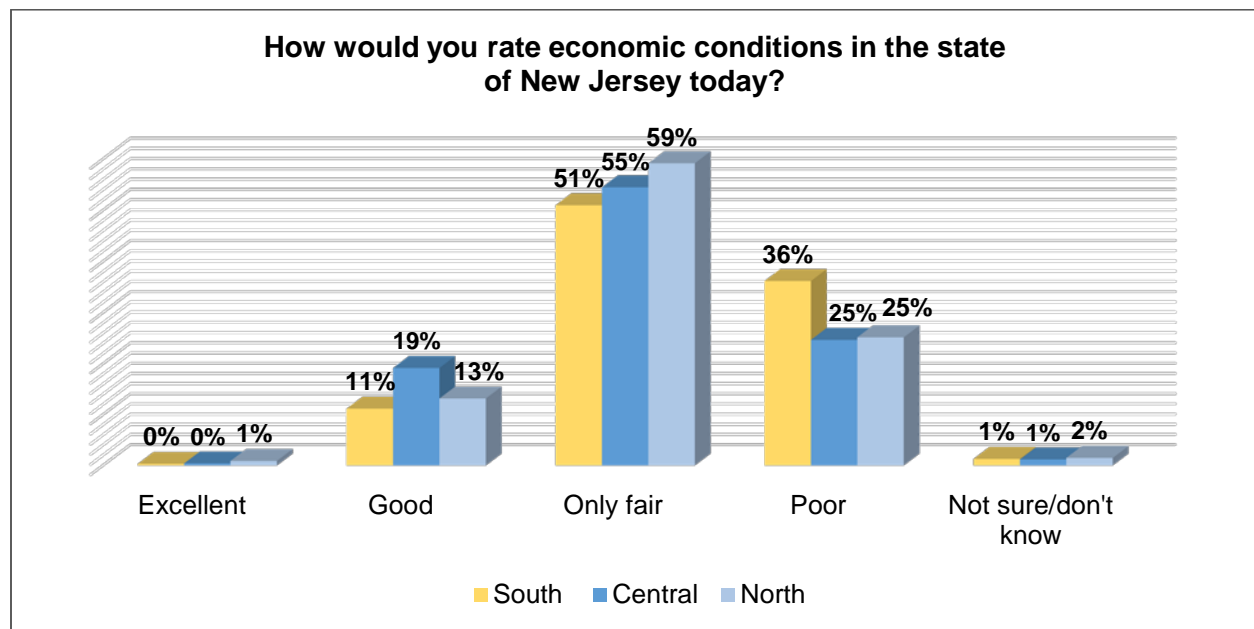


Figure 13. Economic conditions.¹⁴

F. New Jersey and National Surveys: Similarities and Differences

As noted in the introduction, we created our survey by reviewing and adapting questions from several national polls investigating economic inequality. These polls helped define the parameters of our survey as each took different approaches to consider knowledge, feelings, and “lived experience” of economic inequality as well as public views regarding “opportunity” policy interventions. The majority of questions we adapted or replicated come from the Pew

¹⁴ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.20.

Research Center/USA Today “Pew Political Survey” (January 2014) and the Public Religion Research Institute/The Brookings Institution “American Values Survey” (September 2014).

The *Pew Political Survey* is a national survey (1500 adults, January 2014) that explores opinions on economic inequality and is attentive to: partisan differences; policy preferences/solutions; and, the ideological dispositions of survey respondents regarding fairness and hard work. Similar to the Hughes Center, the Pew Research Center is non-partisan. The Public Religion Research Institute’s *American Values Survey* is a national poll (4500 adults, July-August 2014) that considers economic inequality from multiple angles. The survey addresses opinions; partisanship; lived experience with emphasis on economic security; ideological dispositions regarding fairness and equality of opportunity; outlook; and, policy solutions. The Public Religion Research Institute partners with Brookings to conduct joint studies. The Public Religion Research Institute is non-profit, non-partisan, and “dedicated to research at the intersection of religion, values and public life” (<http://publicreligion.org/about/#.VXhWo89VhBc>).

When comparing similarities and differences between the national survey findings and our November 2015 poll of New Jersey residents, we learned:

- Like many New Jersey residents, most Americans believe the government “should do a lot” (53%) or “some” (29%) to reduce poverty in the United States.¹⁵ Similarly, 69% of Americans believe the government “should do a lot” or “some” to address the wealth gap¹⁶ between the “rich and everyone else.”
- Americans continue to feel economically vulnerable in this post-recession period. Similar to the majority of New Jerseyans we surveyed, the majority of Americans surveyed by

¹⁵ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.12F2.

¹⁶ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.14F1.

Pew regard their personal financial situation as only fair (38%) or poor (22%). The *American Values Survey* recorded similar sentiments with 37% regarding their financial situation as “fair” and 20% “poor.”¹⁷

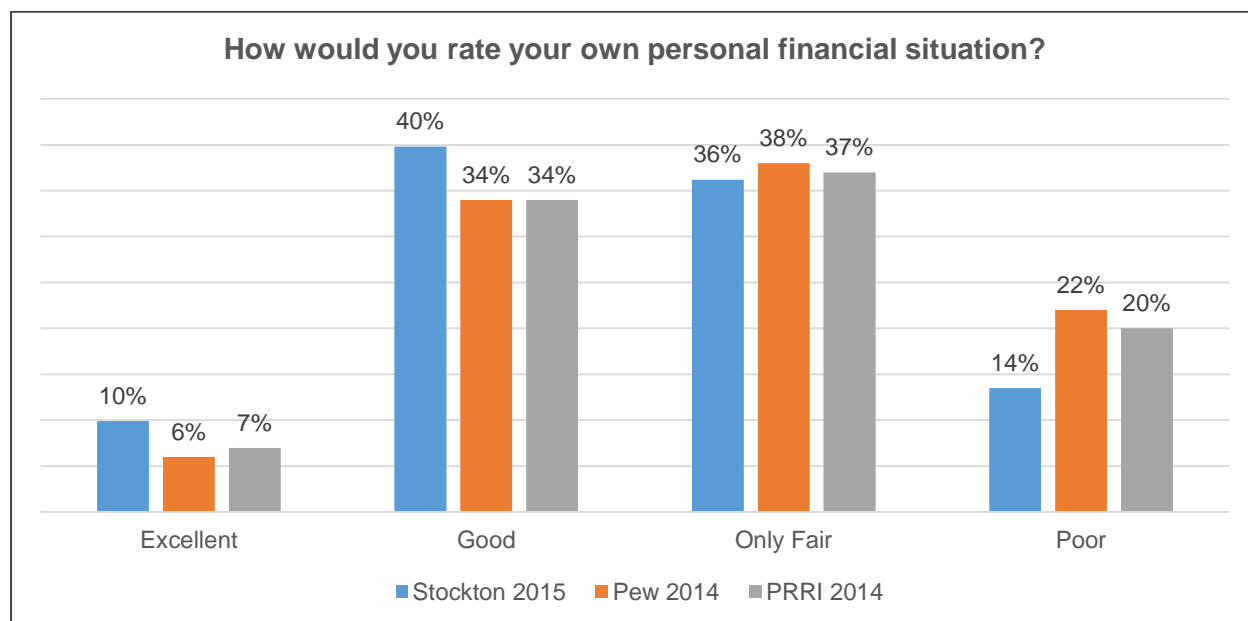


Figure 14. Stockton, Pew and PRRI poll personal finances.¹⁸

- When asked about their economic futures, the majority (50%) of Americans surveyed anticipated their personal financial situation would improve some during the next year. Importantly, 17% expected their finances to get worse, 14% to stay the same, and only 10% project a lot of improvement.¹⁹ These projections are comparable to New Jerseyans in November 2015.

¹⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30.

¹⁸ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30 and Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.23.

¹⁹ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.24.

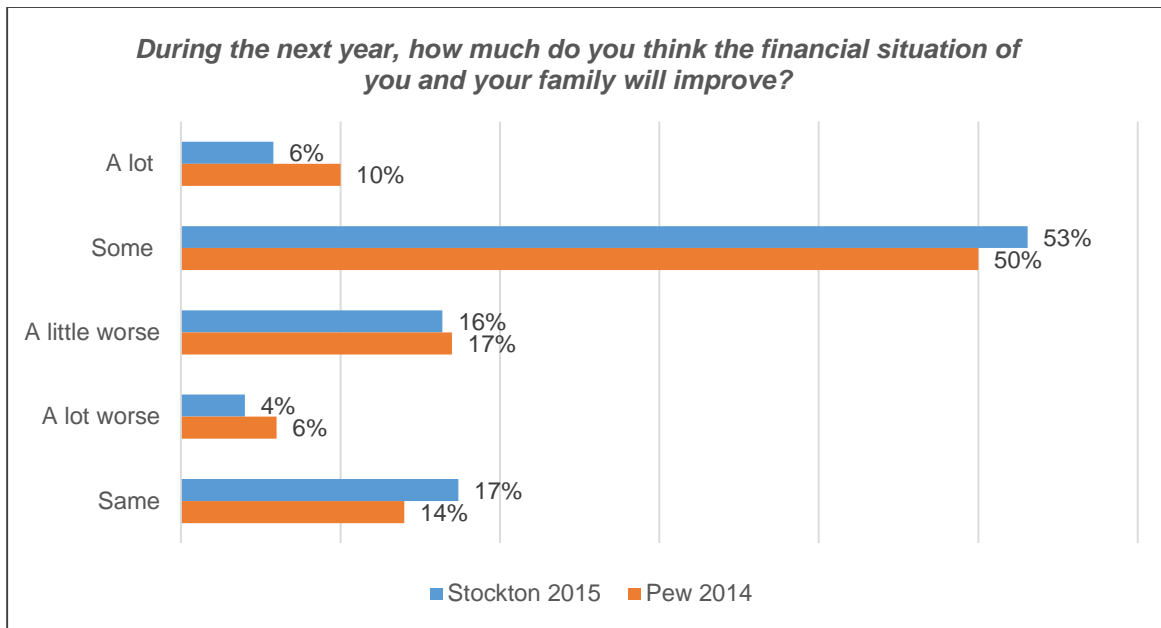


Figure 15. Pew and Stockton poll economic futures.²⁰

- The majority (57%) of Americans surveyed felt their incomes were falling behind the cost of living. Thirty-four percent believed they were keeping pace and 7% reported they felt the cost of living was going up faster than their incomes.²¹
- There was more hardship reported in the *American Values Survey* including 36% of respondents reporting they reduced meals or cut back on food to save money and 29% stating they were unable to pay a monthly bill.²² In our New Jersey sample, only 17% reported food insecurity and 17% the inability to pay a monthly bill.

²⁰ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.24.

²¹ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.25.

²² Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32d and Q32f.

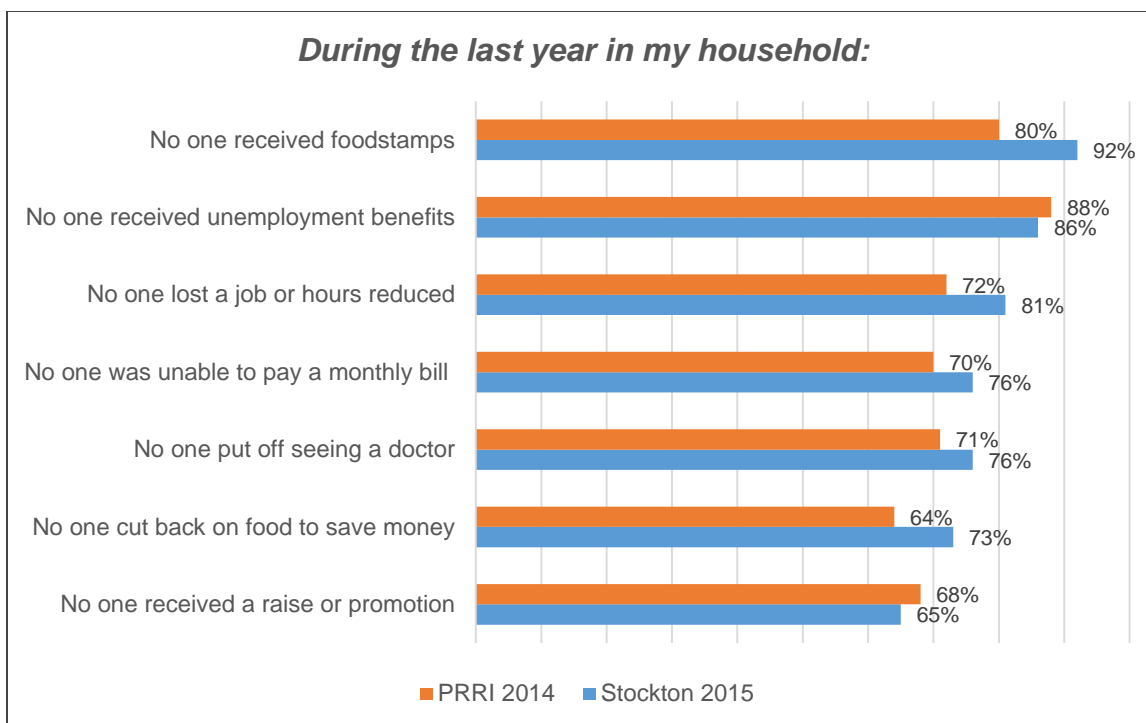


Figure 16. Stockton and PRRI poll economic hardship.²³

- Similar to New Jerseyans, only 21% of Americans polled by the *American Values Survey* believe the recession is over.²⁴
- And, the *American Values Survey* found that most (58%) of Americans believe they are doing better financially than others. Fifteen percent of Americans surveyed report doing the same while 19% feel they are doing worse.²⁵ This is slightly lower than New Jersey residents reporting 55% “better” and 27% the “same” as other Americans.

²³ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q.30.a, Q32.b, Q32.c, Q32.d, Q32.e, Q32.f, and Q32.g.

²⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q3.

²⁵ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q31.

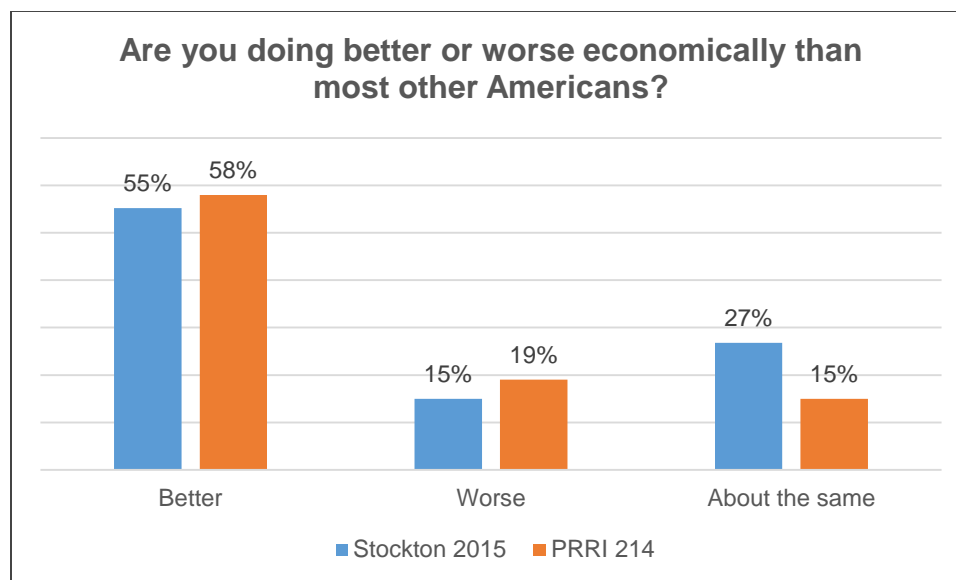


Figure 17. Stockton and PRRI poll financial wellbeing.²⁶

G. Demographics

The New Jersey residents who participated in this public opinion poll are highly educated, with close to 97% reporting they graduated from high school and 53% earned a BA/BS or higher degree. This sample is higher educated than other New Jerseyans aged 25 and older, as 88% of the general population has attained a high school diploma (equivalency or higher) and 36% hold a BA/BS or higher. New Jersey's educational attainment rankings are higher than the U.S. population average of 86% high school graduate or higher and bachelor degree or higher attainment average of 36% for adults age twenty-five and older (Sloane, 2015, 21-25).

In terms of economic status, 91% of our survey respondents self-identify as middle, lower-middle, or upper-middle class. Only 6.1% identify as poor and 2% as "better off than" middle-class. Because economic self-identity is a highly subjective measure, economically "vulnerable" classes might include those identifying as poor or lower-middle class (close to 29% of our sample). The median household income in the state of New Jersey is \$70,000, and the

²⁶ Adapted from the Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q31.

majority of our sample reported earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually (Sloane, 2015, 10).

The majority of our survey respondents are fifty years of age or over (67.1%) and seventy-nine percent are white. Seven percent of our sample identify as Latina/o or Hispanic, close to 10% percent are African American, and 6% identify as belonging to more than one race. The party identification for our sample is well distributed with 23% identifying as Republican, 34% Democrat, and 31% Independent. The majority of those surveyed consider themselves politically moderate. We achieved well-balanced geographic representation and close to a fifty-fifty heteronormative gender balance. Our findings were weighted to account for educational attainment, geography, age, income, race, and ethnicity.

IV. Survey Questions and Data

Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as New Jersey Governor?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
APPROVE	250	30.7	30.7	30.7
DISAPPROVE	472	57.9	57.9	88.7
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	90	11	11	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q2. Do you believe that <u>New Jersey</u> is headed in the right direction, or is it on the wrong track?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
RIGHT DIRECTION	211	25.9	25.9	25.9
WRONG TRACK	533	65.5	65.5	91.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	68	8.3	8.3	99.6
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?²⁷				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
APPROVE	385	47.3	47.3	47.3
DISAPPROVE	375	46	46	93.2
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	55	6.8	6.8	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q4. Do you believe that the <u>country</u> is headed in the right direction, or is it on the wrong track?²⁸				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
RIGHT DIRECTION	259	31.8	31.8	31.8
WRONG TRACK	492	60.4	60.4	92.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	59	7.3	7.3	99.6
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

²⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q1; Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.1.

²⁸ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q2; Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.2.

Q5. What do you think is the most important issue facing <u>New Jersey</u>?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
OTHER ISSUE (SPECIFY)	139	17.1	17.1	17.1
ECONOMY	133	16.3	16.3	33.4
TAXES	131	16.1	16.1	49.5
JOBS	118	14.4	14.4	63.9
TAXES, PROPERTY	108	13.3	13.3	77.2
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	40	4.9	4.9	82.1
EDUCATION	37	4.5	4.5	86.6
EDUCATION (K-12)	19	2.4	2.4	89
HEALTH CARE	18	2.2	2.2	91.2
IMMIGRATION	12	1.4	1.4	92.6
PENSIONS/BENEFITS	11	1.3	1.3	94
GUN CONTROL	9	1	1	95
TAXES, INCOME	8	1	1	96
ENVIRONMENT	8	1	1	97
TRANSPORTATION	7	0.9	0.9	97.9
ROADS/INFRASTRUCTURE	5	0.6	0.6	98.5
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	5	0.6	0.6	99.1
EDUCATION (HIGHER), COLLEGES	3	0.4	0.4	99.4
SANDY RECOVERY	2	0.3	0.3	99.7
BUSINESS TAXES	2	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q6. What do you think is the most important issue facing <i>the country</i>?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
OTHER ISSUE (SPECIFY)	315	38.7	38.7	38.7
ECONOMY	206	25.3	25.3	63.9
JOBS	74	9.1	9.1	73
IMMIGRATION	53	6.5	6.5	79.5
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	38	4.7	4.7	84.2
HEALTH CARE	26	3.2	3.2	87.4
TAXES	21	2.6	2.6	90
EDUCATION	15	1.8	1.8	91.8
GUN CONTROL	13	1.5	1.5	93.4
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	9	1.1	1.1	94.5
ENVIRONMENT	7	0.9	0.9	95.4
GAY MARRIAGE	5	0.6	0.6	96
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	4	0.5	0.5	96.5
EDUCATION (K-12)	4	0.5	0.5	97
TAXES, PROPERTY (STATE)	3	0.4	0.4	97.4
MINIMUM WAGE	3	0.4	0.4	97.8
SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS	3	0.4	0.4	98.2
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	98.6
EDUCATION (HIGHER), COLLEGES	3	0.3	0.3	99
ROADS/INFRASTRUCTURE	3	0.3	0.3	99.3
TAXES, INCOME	1	0.1	0.1	99.4
TAXES, SALES (STATE)	1	0.1	0.1	99.6
TRANSPORTATION	1	0.1	0.1	99.7
AID TO THE DISABLED	1	0.1	0.1	99.8
BUSINESS TAXES	1	0.1	0.1	99.9
ABORTION	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q7. Of the following issues, which one would you say is MOST important to your vote for President next year?²⁹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION	96	11.8	11.8	11.8
HEALTH CARE	125	15.4	15.4	27.2
IMMIGRATION	95	11.7	11.7	38.8
JOBS	225	27.6	27.6	66.4
SOCIAL SECURITY	98	12.1	12.1	78.5
TAXES	104	12.7	12.7	91.2
WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS	34	4.1	4.1	95.4
SOME OTHER ISSUE	22	2.7	2.7	98.1
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	16	1.9	1.9	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q8. How would you rate economic conditions in the United States today?³⁰				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
EXCELLENT	4	0.5	0.5	0.5
GOOD	168	20.7	20.7	21.1
ONLY FAIR	449	55.1	55.1	76.3
OR POOR?	190	23.4	23.4	99.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q9. How would you rate economic conditions in the state of <u>New Jersey</u> today?³¹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
EXCELLENT	5	0.6	0.6	0.6
GOOD	114	14	14	14.5
ONLY FAIR	450	55.2	55.2	69.8
OR POOR?	235	28.9	28.9	98.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	11	1.4	1.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

²⁹ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q10.

³⁰ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.20.

³¹ Adapted from Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.20.

Q10. In the last ten years, do you think the gap between the rich and everyone else in the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?³²

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
INCREASED	605	74.2	74.2	74.2
DECREASED	52	6.4	6.4	80.7
STAYED THE SAME	144	17.6	17.6	98.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	14	1.7	1.7	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q11. Over the last two years do you think the national economy has:³³

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
GOTTEN BETTER	278	34.2	34.2	34.2
GOTTEN WORSE	274	33.6	33.6	67.8
OR STAYED THE SAME?	254	31.2	31.2	99
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	0.9	0.9	99.9
REFUSE	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q12. Do you think the country's economic recession is over, or do you think the economy is still in a recession? ³⁴

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
RECESSION OVER	223	27.4	27.4	27.4
STILL IN RECESSION	570	70	70	97.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	22	2.7	2.7	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q13. A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, worse, or just about the same as now?³⁵

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BETTER	216	26.6	26.6	26.6
WORSE	112	13.7	13.7	40.3
ABOUT THE SAME	438	53.8	53.8	94.1
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	48	5.9	5.9	100
Total	814	100	100	

³² Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.34.

³³ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q2.

³⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q3.

³⁵ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.21.

Q14. Looking ahead, so far as you are concerned, do you think that 2016 will be better or worse than 2015?³⁶				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BETTER	440	54	54	54
WORSE	183	22.5	22.5	76.5
ABOUT THE SAME	145	17.8	17.8	94.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	46	5.7	5.7	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q15. How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce poverty?³⁷				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	431	52.9	52.9	52.9
SOME	288	35.4	35.4	88.3
NOT MUCH	51	6.3	6.3	94.6
NOTHING AT ALL	36	4.4	4.4	99
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1	1	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q16. How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in this country?³⁸				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	333	40.9	40.9	40.9
SOME	325	39.9	39.9	80.8
NOT MUCH	98	12	12	92.8
NOTHING AT ALL	49	6	6	98.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	10	1.2	1.2	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q17. How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else?³⁹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	365	44.8	44.8	44.8
SOME	262	32.2	32.2	77
NOT MUCH	72	8.8	8.8	85.8
NOTHING AT ALL	96	11.8	11.8	97.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	19	2.4	2.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

³⁶ Adapted from Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.3F1.

³⁷ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.13F2.

³⁸ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.15F2.

³⁹ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.14F1.

Q18. How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else in this country?⁴⁰				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	326	40	40	40
SOME	242	29.7	29.7	69.8
NOT MUCH	141	17.3	17.3	87.1
NOTHING AT ALL	79	9.7	9.7	96.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	24	2.9	2.9	99.8
REFUSE	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q19. How much good do you think government policies and programs have done to reduce poverty?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	56	6.9	6.9	6.9
SOME	234	28.7	28.7	35.6
NOT MUCH	346	42.5	42.5	78.1
NOTHING AT ALL	172	21.1	21.1	99.2
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	0.8	0.8	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q20. How much good do you think government policies and programs have done to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
A LOT	24	2.9	2.9	2.9
SOME	160	19.7	19.7	22.6
NOT MUCH	341	41.8	41.8	64.4
NOTHING AT ALL	279	34.2	34.2	98.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	11	1.4	1.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁴⁰ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.16F1.

Q21. How do you feel about increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than \$250,000 a year?⁴¹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	223	27.4	27.4	27.4
FAVOR	288	35.3	35.3	62.7
OPPOSE	191	23.5	23.5	86.2
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	92	11.3	11.3	97.5
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	18	2.3	2.3	99.8
REFUSE	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q22. How do you feel about increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than \$500,000 a year?⁴²				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	336	41.2	41.2	41.2
FAVOR	267	32.8	32.8	74
OPPOSE	124	15.2	15.2	89.2
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	73	8.9	8.9	98.2
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	13	1.6	1.6	99.8
REFUSE	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q23. How do you feel about increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than one million dollars a year?⁴³				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	452	55.5	55.5	55.5
FAVOR	197	24.2	24.2	79.7
OPPOSE	95	11.7	11.7	91.4
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	59	7.2	7.2	98.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1	1	99.6
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁴¹ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.c.

⁴² Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.c.

⁴³ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.c.

Q24. How do you feel about requiring companies to provide all full-time employees with paid sick days if they or an immediate family member gets sick?⁴⁴				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	385	47.3	47.3	47.3
FAVOR	285	34.9	34.9	82.2
OPPOSE	100	12.3	12.3	94.5
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	26	3.2	3.2	97.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	15	1.9	1.9	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q25. How do you feel about holding down interest rates on student loans?⁴⁵				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	480	58.9	58.9	58.9
FAVOR	246	30.2	30.2	89.1
OPPOSE	46	5.6	5.6	94.7
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	26	3.1	3.1	97.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	17	2.1	2.1	99.9
REFUSE	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q26. How do you feel about increasing the New Jersey minimum wage from \$8.38 an hour to \$15 an hour?⁴⁶				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	279	34.3	34.3	34.3
FAVOR	230	28.3	28.3	62.5
OPPOSE	180	22.1	22.1	84.6
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	99	12.1	12.1	96.7
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	27	3.3	3.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁴⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.d.

⁴⁵ The Opportunity Agenda, 2014, Q29.g.

⁴⁶ Adapted Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.e.

Q27. How do you feel about requiring companies to provide all full-time employees with paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child?⁴⁷				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	352	43.2	43.2	43.2
FAVOR	318	39.1	39.1	82.3
OPPOSE	90	11	11	93.4
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	24	2.9	2.9	96.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	28	3.5	3.5	99.7
REFUSE	2	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

PREKFED. Would you favor or oppose using <i>federal</i> money to fund pre-kindergarten education?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	185	22.7	22.7	22.7
FAVOR	367	45	45	67.8
OPPOSE	200	24.5	24.5	92.3
STRONGLY OPPOSE	47	5.8	5.8	98.1
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	15	1.8	1.8	99.9
REFUSE	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	814	100	100	

PREKSTATE. Would you favor or oppose using <i>state</i> money to fund pre-kindergarten education?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
STRONGLY FAVOR	152	18.7	18.7	18.7
FAVOR	417	51.2	51.2	69.9
OPPOSE	191	23.4	23.4	93.3
OR STRONGLY OPPOSE	43	5.2	5.2	98.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	12	1.4	1.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁴⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q12.f.

Q28. When children today in the United States grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?⁴⁸

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BETTER OFF	230	28.3	28.3	28.3
ABOUT THE SAME	50	6.1	6.1	34.4
WORSE OFF	490	60.2	60.2	94.6
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	43	5.3	5.3	99.9
REFUSE	1	0.1	0.1	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q29. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?⁴⁹

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
EXCELLENT SHAPE	81	9.9	9.9	9.9
GOOD SHAPE	324	39.8	39.8	49.7
ONLY FAIR SHAPE	295	36.2	36.2	85.9
POOR SHAPE	110	13.5	13.5	99.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	2	0.3	0.3	99.6
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q30. Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will:⁵⁰

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
IMPROVE A LOT	47	5.8	5.8	5.8
IMPROVE SOME	433	53.1	53.1	58.9
GET A LITTLE WORSE	134	16.4	16.4	75.3
OR GET A LOT WORSE?	33	4	4	79.4
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	24	2.9	2.9	82.3
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	82.6
STAY THE SAME	141	17.4	17.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁴⁸ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q23.

⁴⁹ Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30 and Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.23.

⁵⁰ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.24.

Q31. Do you think your family's income is:⁵¹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
GOING UP FASTER THAN THE COST OF LIVING	54	6.6	6.6	6.6
STAYING ABOUT EVEN WITH THE COST OF LIVING	299	36.7	36.7	43.3
OR FALLING BEHIND THE COST OF LIVING?	451	55.4	55.4	98.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1	1	99.8
REFUSE	2	0.2	0.2	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32a. Did you or anyone in your household <u>receive a raise or promotion</u> during the last 12 months?⁵²				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	141	17.3	17.3	17.3
FAMILY MEMBER	99	12.2	12.2	29.5
BOTH	32	4	4	33.5
NOT ANYONE	530	65	65	98.5
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1	1	99.5
REFUSE	4	0.5	0.5	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32b. Did you or anyone in your household <u>get a new job</u> during the last 12 months?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	99	12.1	12.1	12.1
FAMILY MEMBER	101	12.4	12.4	24.5
BOTH	21	2.5	2.5	27.1
NOT ANYONE	585	71.9	71.9	98.9
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	6	0.7	0.7	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁵¹ Pew Research Center, 2014, Q.25.

⁵² Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q30.a.

Q32c. During the last year, did you or anyone in your household <u>lose a job</u>?⁵³				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	72	8.9	8.9	8.9
FAMILY MEMBER	58	7.2	7.2	16.1
BOTH	15	1.8	1.8	17.9
NOT ANYONE	660	81	81	98.9
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	6	0.7	0.7	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32d. During the last year, did you or anyone in your household have your <u>work hours reduced</u>?⁵⁴				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	82	10	10	10
FAMILY MEMBER	44	5.4	5.4	15.4
BOTH	26	3.2	3.2	18.6
NOT ANYONE	653	80.2	80.2	98.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	0.8	0.8	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32e. Did you or anyone in your household <u>pay off a debt</u> during the last year?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	228	28	28	28
FAMILY MEMBER	54	6.6	6.6	34.6
BOTH	95	11.6	11.6	46.3
NOT ANYONE	420	51.5	51.5	97.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	14	1.8	1.8	99.5
REFUSE	4	0.5	0.5	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁵³ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.b.

⁵⁴ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.b.

Q32f. During the last twelve months, did you or anyone in your household put off seeing a doctor for financial reasons? ⁵⁵				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	106	13	13	13
FAMILY MEMBER	42	5.2	5.2	18.2
BOTH	44	5.4	5.4	23.6
NOT ANYONE	615	75.5	75.5	99
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	5	0.6	0.6	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32g. Were you or anyone in your household <u>unable to pay a monthly bill</u> during the last year? ⁵⁶				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	93	11.4	11.4	11.4
FAMILY MEMBER	46	5.6	5.6	17
BOTH	45	5.5	5.5	22.4
NOT ANYONE	621	76.2	76.2	98.7
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1	1	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32h. During the last twelve months, did you or anyone in your household <u>purchase a new home</u>?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	36	4.4	4.4	4.4
FAMILY MEMBER	23	2.8	2.8	7.1
BOTH	12	1.4	1.4	8.6
NOT ANYONE	738	90.6	90.6	99.1
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	4	0.5	0.5	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32i. During the last twelve months, did you or anyone in your household <u>purchase a new car</u>?				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent

⁵⁵ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.c.

⁵⁶ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.d.

YOU	128	15.7	15.7	15.7
FAMILY MEMBER	83	10.1	10.1	25.8
BOTH	35	4.4	4.4	30.2
NOT ANYONE	562	69	69	99.1
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	4	0.6	0.6	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32j. Did you or anyone in your household <u>receive food stamps</u> during the last year?⁵⁷				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	38	4.6	4.6	4.6
FAMILY MEMBER	18	2.2	2.2	6.8
BOTH	10	1.3	1.3	8
NOT ANYONE	743	91.2	91.2	99.3
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	3	0.4	0.4	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q32k. Did you or anyone in your household <u>reduce your meals or cut back on food to save money?</u>⁵⁸				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	119	14.7	14.7	14.7
FAMILY MEMBER	16	2	2	16.6
BOTH	75	9.3	9.3	25.9
NOT ANYONE	591	72.6	72.6	98.5
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	9	1.1	1.1	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁵⁷ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.e.

⁵⁸ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.f.

Q32I. In the last year, did you or anyone in your household <i>receive unemployment benefits</i>? ⁵⁹				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
YOU	51	6.3	6.3	6.3
FAMILY MEMBER	47	5.7	5.7	12
BOTH	6	0.8	0.8	12.8
NOT ANYONE	700	86	86	98.8
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	0.9	0.9	99.7
REFUSE	3	0.3	0.3	100
Total	814	100	100	

Q44. Overall, would you say you are doing better or worse economically than most other Americans? ⁶⁰				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
BETTER	449	55.2	55.2	55.2
WORSE	122	15	15	70.2
ABOUT THE SAME	218	26.8	26.8	97
NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	22	2.6	2.6	99.6
REFUSE	3	0.4	0.4	100
Total	814	100	100	

⁵⁹ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q32.g.

⁶⁰ Adapted from Public Religion Research Institute, 2014, Q31.

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