Are You Better or Worse Off Than A Year Ago?

Thank you for responding to this survey about how Washington households have been affected by changes in the economy during the last year.

Your participation in this research study will help us to better understand how the lives of people in every county of our state may have changed during the past year. It will also help determine whether national efforts to stimulate the economy have benefited the lives of Washington residents. We hope the results will help state leaders understand the concerns of Washington's households.

The person who should complete this survey is an adult at your residence who can best answer questions about changes in your household's economic situation that may or may not have occurred since September 2008.

Results will be available in December and we greatly appreciate your help with this study.

Sincerely,

Don A. Dillman
Regents Professor
Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
Washington State University

Please enter your Access Code listed in the letter we sent to you:
You might want to know that...
1. You can leave the survey at any time by just exiting your browser. If you re-enter your access code you will restart the survey where you left off.
2. You can look at a previous question by clicking our survey's MCX button near the bottom of your screen. If you click your browser's back button (sometimes it's an arrow at the top of your screen) you will jump back to the beginning of the survey, but please do not worry, re-entering your access code will take you right back to where you left off.
3. Depending on how you answer certain questions you may be skipped past other questions.
4. We hope you will answer all of the questions that apply to you, but if you prefer not to answer a question it is okay to just click the NEXT button and proceed forward without answering.

Question 1 of 46
Do you consider your household's current quality of life to be:
- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

Question 2 of 46
Compared to a year ago, has your household's overall quality of life:
- Gotten better
- Stayed about the same as a year ago
- Gotten worse
- Don't know

Question 3 of 46
What about in your community? Compared to a year ago, do you think the overall quality of life for most people in your city or town has:
- Gotten better
- Stayed about the same as a year ago
- Gotten worse
- Don't know
We are conducting this survey to learn how changes in the economy during the past year have affected Washington households in areas such as work, housing, and health care.

To help us understand your situation, please start by telling us how many adults and children currently live in your household, including yourself. Please do not include others staying at your residence on a temporary basis, if any.

- [ ] Number of adults (18 and older) who are members of your household
- [ ] Number of children (under 18) who are members of your household (If none, enter 0)

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How many adult members of your household, including yourself, are:

- [ ] Employed full-time
- [ ] Employed part-time
- [ ] Unemployed but looking for work
- [ ] Unemployed and not looking for work
- [ ] Retired
- [ ] Student

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How many adult members of your household, including yourself, experienced each of the following during the past year, from September 2008 to September 2009?

- [ ] Worked fewer hours for pay
- [ ] Got laid-off, fired, or became unemployed
- [ ] Received a demotion or pay-cut
- [ ] Was forced or volunteered to retire early
- [ ] Delayed retirement to continue working
- [ ] Returned to work out of retirement

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To what extent are you concerned that any members of your household, including yourself, will lose a job, take a pay-cut, or have work hours reduced in the next few months?

- [ ] Very concerned
- [ ] Somewhat concerned
- [ ] Little concerned
- [ ] Not at all concerned

[ ] Does not apply, no members of my household are currently employed
Have any members of your household lost health insurance coverage during the past year?
- Yes
- No
- Does not apply, no one in my household has had health insurance in over a year

To what extent are you concerned about your household’s ability to afford health insurance coverage?
- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- A little concerned
- Not at all concerned

Thinking about your household’s daily activities and expenditures, have each of the following increased, stayed about the same, or decreased during the past year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Increased a lot</th>
<th>Increased a little</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Decreased a little</th>
<th>Decreased a lot</th>
<th>Does not apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eating out at a restaurant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Traveling or vacationing</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Going out for entertainment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using public transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving a car</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Money spent on household utilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Money spent on household groceries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money spent on child care</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Money spent on health care</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent are you concerned about your household’s ability to afford all the things it needs on a daily basis, such as food, clothing, gas, utilities, etc.?
- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- A little concerned
- Not at all concerned
Question 13 of 46

Is the residence where you currently live:

- [ ] Rented
- [ ] Owned with a mortgage
- [ ] Owned without a mortgage

Next >>

Question 13a of 46

(If you own your residence) since September 2008, do you think the overall dollar value of your residence has:

- [ ] Increased a lot (10% or more)
- [ ] Increased a little (less than 10%)
- [ ] Stayed about the same
- [ ] Decreased a little (less than 10%)
- [ ] Decreased a lot (10% or more)
- [ ] Don't know

Next >>

Question 13 of 46

To what extent are you concerned about your household's ability to afford to stay in this residence during the next year?

- [ ] Very concerned
- [ ] Somewhat concerned
- [ ] A little concerned
- [ ] Not at all concerned

Next >>

Question 14 of 46

How long has your household lived at your current residence?

- [ ] Over five years
- [ ] Over one year to five years
- [ ] One year or less

Next >>
Question 14 of 46
(If one year or less) were each of the following a reason for moving to your current residence during the past year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchased your current residence</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A foreclosure on your previous residence</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford rent or mortgage at your previous residence</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 15 of 46
Do you think that your household’s overall total income during 2009 will be:

- [ ] A lot more than in 2008
- [ ] A little more than in 2008
- [ ] About the same as in 2008
- [ ] A little less than in 2008
- [ ] A lot less than in 2008

Question 16 of 46
Compared to one year ago, has the amount of income that your household saves each month:

- [ ] Increased a lot
- [ ] Increased a little
- [ ] Stayed about the same
- [ ] Decreased a little
- [ ] Decreased a lot
- [ ] Does not apply, my household has not saved any income in over a year

Question 17 of 46
During the past year, has the overall value of your household’s retirement savings:

- [ ] Increased a lot
- [ ] Increased a little
- [ ] Stayed about the same
- [ ] Decreased a little
- [ ] Decreased a lot
- [ ] Does not apply, my household has not had retirement savings during the past year
To what extent are you concerned that members of your household will be unable to afford to retire when planned?
- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Little concerned
- Not at all concerned
- Does not apply, all members of my household are currently retired

Compared to one year ago, has your household's overall amount of debt:
- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased a little
- Decreased a lot
- Does not apply, my household has not had debt in over a year

To what extent are you concerned that your household will be unable to pay off its debts?
- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Little concerned
- Not at all concerned

Thinking about all the ways your household has been affected by changes in the economy during the past year, would you say your household has:
- Benefited a lot
- Benefited a little
- Neither benefited nor been harmed
- Been harmed a little
- Been harmed a lot
- Don't know
During the next year, do you expect your household’s overall quality of life to:
- Set a lot better
- Get a little better
- Stay about the same
- Get a little worse
- Get a lot worse
- Don’t know

During the next year, do you expect the economic situation in the United States to:
- Set a lot better
- Get a little better
- Stay about the same
- Get a little worse
- Get a lot worse
- Don’t know

Do you think that young people who are now becoming adults are going to be:
- More prosperous than their parents
- About the same as their parents
- Less prosperous than their parents
- Don’t know

In February 2009, an economic stimulus bill known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by the U.S. Congress to help stimulate the nation’s economy. An important part of this survey is to better understand if and how the stimulus bill has affected households throughout Washington.

During 2009, was any of your employment supported by the stimulus bill (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) in some way?
- No
- Yes
  - Does not apply, I have not worked since February 2009
(If yes) please explain in your own words how the stimulus bill (ARRA) has supported your employment. This question is very important, so please tell us all you can.

How many other household members’ employment was supported by the stimulus bill (ARRA) during 2009? (If none, enter "0")

Number of household members whose work has been supported by the stimulus bill

To the best of your knowledge, has the stimulus bill (ARRA) provided you (or members of your household) with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
<th>Do not Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A tax refund or benefit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for home purchase or improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for buying an automobile, including 'Cash for Clunkers'</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improved public services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childcare services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Overall, do you think that the stimulus bill (ARRA) has been helpful or harmful for Washington households so far?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Neither helpful nor harmful
- Somewhat harmful
- Very harmful
- Don't know
More and more it seems that communication technologies such as the Internet and cell phones are becoming important in today's economy. This next series of questions will help us understand how people across the state use these technologies during these changing economic times.

Do any adults in your household, including yourself, have a cellular phone(s)?

- No
- Yes

(If yes) approximately how many years ago did your household get its first cell phone(s)?

- Number of years ago your household got its first cell phone(s)

On average, approximately how often does your household use a cell phone(s) to do each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Several times a week</th>
<th>Several times a month</th>
<th>Once a month or less</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talk with others</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Text message others</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the Internet and/or email</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If adults of your household could not use a cell phone at all tomorrow, how much would this affect their daily routines and activities?

- A lot
- Some
- A little
- Not at all
Question 30 of 46
During the past year, has your household cancelled or made any changes in regards to a cell phone(s) or cell phone service in order to save money?

☐ No
☐ Yes
☐ Does not apply, members of my household have not had a cell phone in over a year

Question 31 of 46
Does your household currently have landline telephone service?

☐ No
☐ Yes

Question 32 of 46
During the past year, has your household cancelled or made any changes to landline telephone service in order to save money?

☐ No
☐ Yes
☐ Does not apply, my household has not had landline telephone service in over a year

Question 33 of 46
Do you personally use the Internet for any reason?

☐ No
☐ Yes

Question 34 of 46
Overall, approximately how often do you personally use the Internet?

☐ Several times a day
☐ Several times a week
☐ Several times a month
☐ Once a month or less
How often do you personally use the Internet to do each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Several times a week</th>
<th>Several times a month</th>
<th>Once a month or less</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicate by e-mail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Find medical information online</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read or view news, sports, or entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Find information on products or services</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy products or services</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage finances, bills, or banking</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Whether or not you personally use it, do you have Internet service at your residence?

- No
- Yes

(IF yes) What type of Internet service do you have at your residence?

- Dial-up
- DSL (Direct Subscriber Line)
- High-speed cable
- Other (please specify):
- Don't know

Approximately how many years has your household had Internet service?

- Number of years your household has had Internet service

On average, approximately how often is the Internet used in your household?

- Several times a day
- Several times a week
- Several times a month
- Once a month or less
Question 36 of 46
If your household could not use the Internet at all tomorrow, how much would this affect your household's daily routines and activities?
- A lot
- Some
- A little
- Not at all
- Don't know

Question 37 of 46
During the past year, has your household cancelled or reduced the quality of Internet service in order to save money?
- No
- Yes
- Does not apply, my household has not had Internet service in over a year

Question 38 of 46
Finally, a few background questions to help us know if we've heard from all the different types of people who live in Washington.

What month and year were you born?

MM YYYY

Question 39 of 46
What is your gender?
- Female
- Male
Question 40 of 46

Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?
- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Spanish/Hispanic/Latino (please specify):
- Refer not to say

Question 41 of 46

Do you consider yourself...? (feel free to select more than one)
- American Indian or Alaska native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Other (please specify):
- Refer not to say

Question 42 of 46

Which of the following best describes your political beliefs and attitudes?
- Conservative
- Liberal
- Moderate
- Other (please specify):

Question 43 of 46

Which one of the following best describes your marital status?
- Now married
- Living together, unmarried
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed
- Never married
Question 44 of 46

What best describes your highest level of education?

- Less than 12th grade
- High school graduate (includes GED)
- Some college, no degree
- 2 year college degree (Associate, Technical, etc.)
- 4 year college degree (Bachelor’s)
- Graduate or Professional degree (Master’s, Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)

Question 45 of 46

Which of the following categories best describes your household’s total income from all sources in 2008, before taxes?

- Less than $10,000
- $10,000 to under $25,000
- $25,000 to under $50,000
- $50,000 to under $75,000
- $75,000 to under $100,000
- $100,000 or more
- Refer not to say

Question 46 of 46

If you could choose how to answer surveys like this, which of the following would you most prefer?

- Filling out a paper questionnaire sent by mail
- Filling out a questionnaire on the Internet
- Answering questions over the telephone

Thanks again for completing this survey!

If you would like to clarify any of your answers, or share additional thoughts about how your household has been affected during this last year by changes in the economy, please do that here.
You are about to finish this survey.
To submit the survey click the "Submit survey" button below.
Or to review and revise your answers before submitting them, click the "Review your answers" button.

Submit survey  Review your answers

Your completed questionnaire has been received.

Thank You!