

AN OK TIME TO BE ALIVE

OREGONIANS' REFLECTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

DHM Panel December Survey Results

January 21, 2020

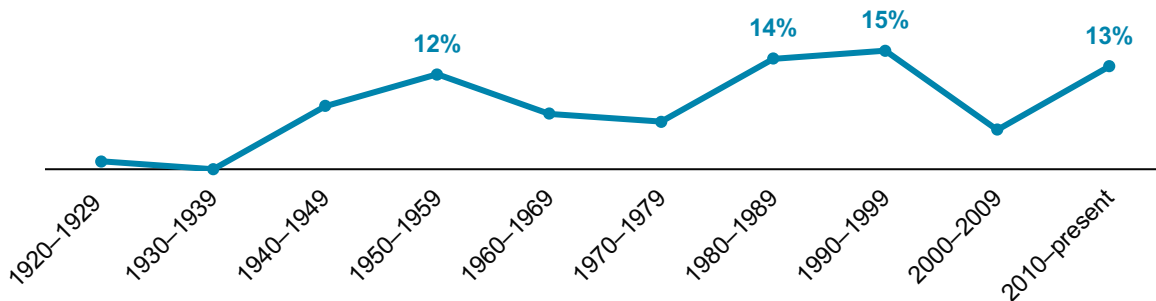
As the 2010s wrapped up and we headed into a new decade, we are curious to know what Oregonians think of previous decades and what their expectations are for the decade to come.

These findings come from the December 2019 fielding of our DHM Panel. The survey was conducted from December 11 to 17, 2019, and surveyed 564 Oregonians. The results were weighted by age, gender, area of the state, political party, and level of education to ensure a representative sample of Oregon voters. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 4.13\%$.

Looking back, Oregonians think most fondly of the 50s, 80s, 90s, and 2010s. They agree that the past decade was better for some groups of people than others.

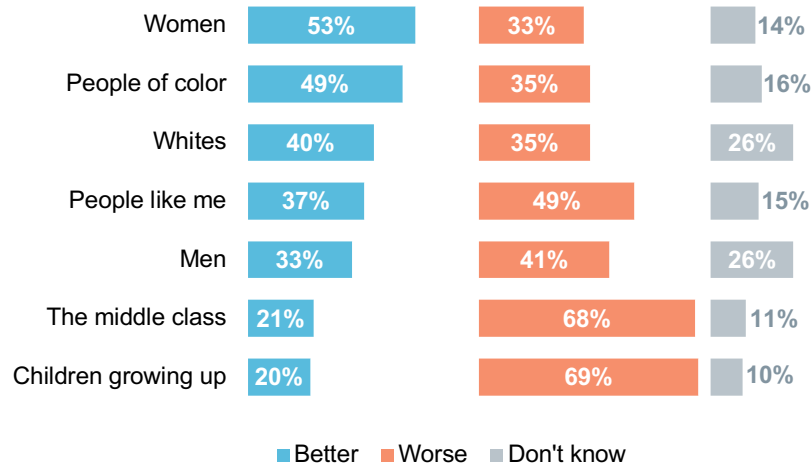
When asked to reflect on previous decades, Oregonians shared clear preferences. While 18% answered that they were unsure, favor was distributed almost evenly between the 1950s, 1980s, 1990s, and the 2010s.

In which decade was America at its very best?



While the 2010s were one of the decades viewed more positively by Oregonians, they believe that this decade was better for some groups of people than for others. About one-half of Oregonians believe the 2010s were better for women and people of color than previous decades. A majority of Oregonians, almost seven in ten, feel that this past decade was worse for the middle class and for children growing up during this time, than in previous decades.

Was 2010–2019 better or worse for the following groups?

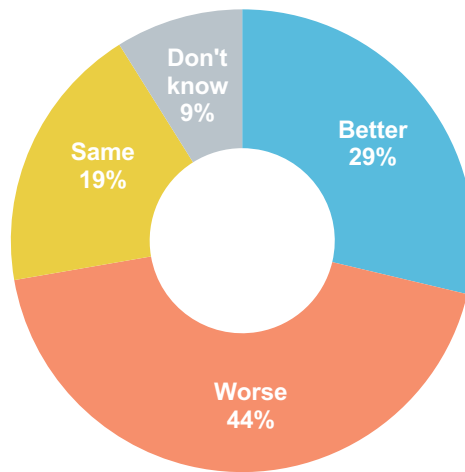


Just over one-quarter of Oregonians are unsure whether this past decade was better or worse for whites and men.

In general, Oregonians are not too optimistic about the next decade.

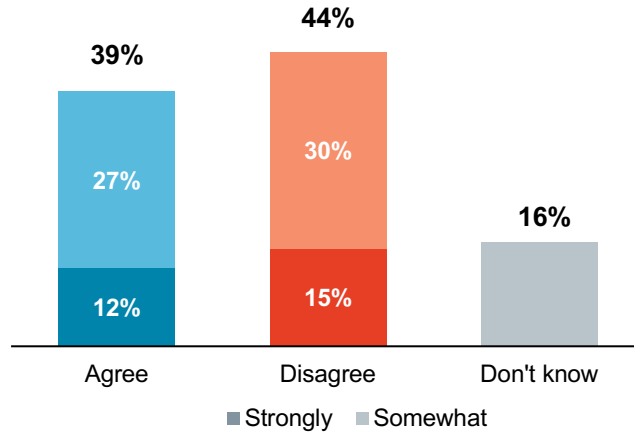
When thinking generally about the future of our state, 63% of Oregonians expect conditions to either stay the same or worsen. Fewer are optimistic, expecting things in the state to improve in the next ten years (29%).

The 2020's in Oregon will be:



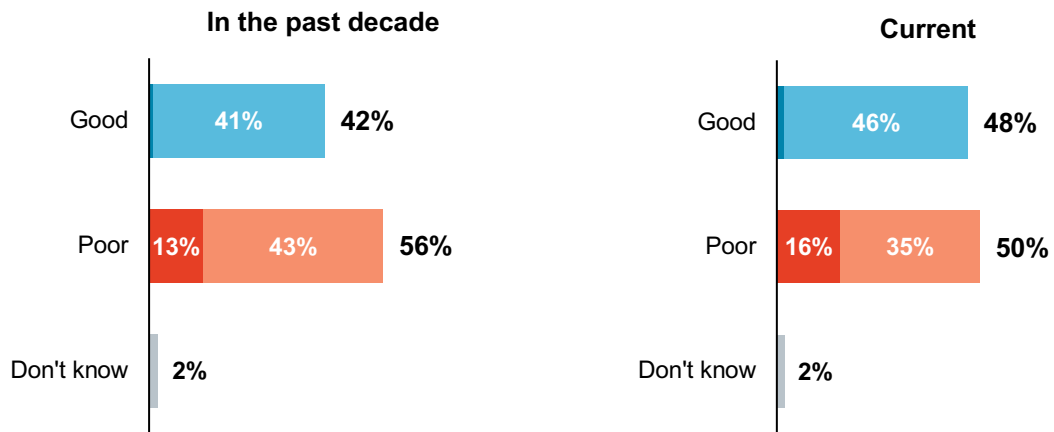
Though Oregonians may not be too optimistic about the upcoming decade, most do not agree that Oregon's best days are behind us (44%).

"Oregon's best days are behind us."



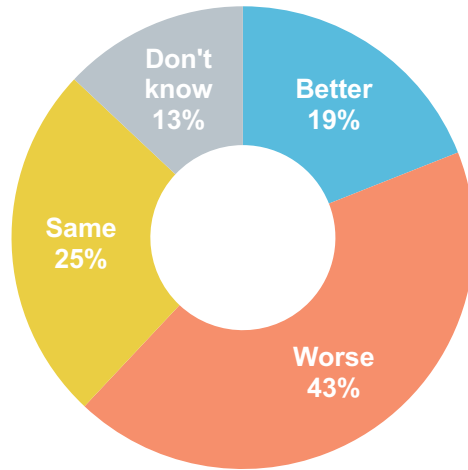
Oregonians are divided in their opinions of the current economic conditions those of the recent past. Few expect them to improve.

When asked to reflect on the overall economic conditions in the past decade as well as the current economic conditions in the state of Oregon, responses were mostly consistent between the two. A slight majority lean negative in their perceptions of the current conditions (50%) and those of the recent past (56%).

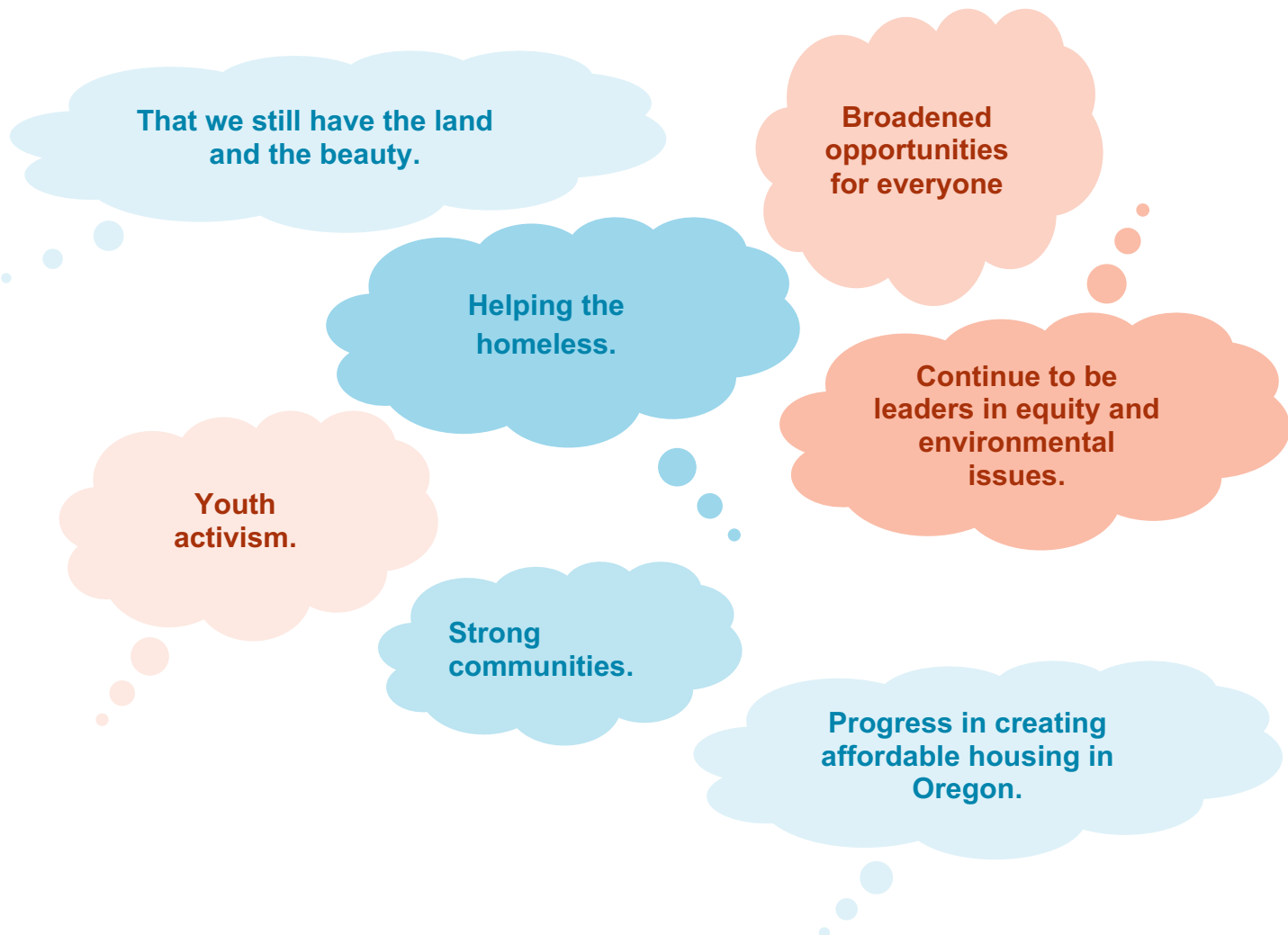


Oregonians also lean negative when asked to predict the economic conditions in Oregon ten years from now. One-quarter think the conditions will remain the same, and 43% expect conditions to worsen.

Economic conditions in Oregon in 2029 will be:



Though Oregonians tend to be pessimistic about the future of our state, they still remain hopeful in some areas. When asked what they are most hopeful for in 2020, Oregonians shared a wide variety of answers, some of which can be seen below.



**DHM Panel
December 2019
N=564; ±4.13%.**

LOOKING BACK

As the 2010s are wrapping up and we head into a new decade, we would like to know what you think of previous decades.

1. Since the year 1900, in which decade do you think America was at its very best?

Response category	n=564
1901–1909	<1%
1910–1919	--
1920–1929	1%
1930–1939	<1%
1940–1949	8%
1950–1959	12%
1960–1969	7%
1970–1979	6%
1980–1989	14%
1990–1999	15%
2000–2009	5%
2010–present	13%
Don't know	18%

2. Why do you think that decade is best? **[Open]**

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3. In comparison to previous decades, do you think this past decade (2010-2019) was better or worse in America for each of the following groups of people?

Response category	Better	Worse	Don't know
The middle class	21%	68%	11%
Children growing up	20%	69%	10%
Whites	40%	35%	26%
People of color	49%	35%	16%
Men	33%	41%	26%
Women	53%	33%	14%
People like me	37%	49%	15%

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4. We're interested in how people think about the last decade, that is, from 2010 through 2019. Just from your own perspective, what one word or phrase best describes your impression of the last decade? **[Open]**

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LOOKING AHEAD

For these next few questions, we will ask you to look ahead to the 2020s.

5. Looking ahead, what's your best guess? For the state of Oregon as a whole, do you think that the next decade will be better or worse than the current decade?

Response category	n=539
Better	29%
Worse	44%
Same/no different	19%
Don't know	9%

[New page]

Now thinking about the state's economy:

6. How would you describe the current economic conditions in Oregon?

Response category	n=539
Excellent	2%
Good	46%
Only fair	35%
Poor	16%
Don't know	2%

7. How would you rate economic conditions in Oregon in the past decade?

Response category	n=536
Excellent	1%
Good	41%
Only fair	43%
Poor	13%
Don't know	2%

8. Ten years from now, do you expect that economic conditions in Oregon will be better than they are at present, worse, or just about the same as now?

Response category	n=539
Better	19%
Worse	43%
Same/no different	25%
Don't know	13%

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Now thinking about foreign trade:

9. Even if neither matches your thoughts exactly, which of the following statements about foreign trade is closer to your opinion?

Response category	n=538	2016 n=612
Foreign trade is <u>more of an opportunity</u> for economic growth through increased US exports.	68%	53%
Foreign trade is <u>more of a threat</u> to the economy through increased imports.	18%	36%
Don't know	14%	10%

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Now thinking about the state in general:

10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Oregon's best days are behind us.

Response category	n=538
Strongly agree	12%
Agree	27%
Disagree	30%
Strongly disagree	15%
Don't know	16%

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11. Thinking about our state, what are you most hopeful for in the 2020s? [Open]

DEMOGRAPHICS

These last questions are for demographic purposes only. Your responses are confidential.

12. What is your zip code? [Open]

13. In what year were you born?

Response category	n=529
18–34	6%
35–44	18%
45–54	39%
55–64	17%
65+	20%

14. With which of the following gender identities do you identify? Check all that apply.

Response category	n=530
Male	49%
Female	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Trans	1%
Other	n=2

15. With which of the following races and ethnicities do you identify? Check all that apply.

Response category	n=522
African	n=2
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino	4%
Middle Eastern or North African	n=2
Native American or American Indian	5%
Slavic	3%
White or Caucasian	94%
Other	3%

16. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=527
Democrat	47%
Republican	29%
Independent Party of Oregon	8%
Registered with some other party	3%
Not registered as a member of a party (non-affiliated voter)	13%

Response category	n=527
Not registered to vote	--

17. When it comes to politics and elections, are you:

Response category	n=526
Very liberal	18%
Somewhat liberal	29%
Middle of the road	34%
Somewhat conservative	25%
Very conservative	9%

18. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Response category	n=527
Less than high school diploma	1%
High school diploma	15%
2-year degree/some college/trade	57%
4-year degree	13%
Graduate degree	15%

19. What was your total household income in 2018? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is okay.

Response category	n=518
Less than \$25,000	10%
\$25,00– \$49,999	20%
\$50,000–\$74,999	19%
\$75,000–\$99,999	20%
\$100,000–\$149,999	20%
\$150,000 or more	10%

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20. The questions this month were chosen based on feedback from previous respondents. Is there a topic you would like to see covered in next month's survey? **[Open]**