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Introduction & Methodology

From February 24 to March 1, 2023, DHM Research conducted a survey of 500 Oregon adults. The purpose of the survey was to measure Oregonians' attitudes about the direction of the state, economic conditions, their confidence in the criminal justice system, and about housing policy. Where applicable, past results are included for comparison.

Research Methodology

The online survey consisted of 500 Oregon residents. The sample was modeled to match demographic profile of the state's adult population. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted by using a professionally maintained online panel. A variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and data validation. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data were weighted by area of state, age, gender, race, education, and political party affiliation.

Statement of Limitations

Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 4.4\%$.

DHM Research Background

DHM Research has been providing opinion research and consultation throughout the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the United States for over 40 years. The firm is nonpartisan and independent and specializes in research projects to support public policy making.



DHM Panel
February 24-March 1, 2023
Oregon Residents
N=500; margin of error $\pm 4.4\%$
12 minutes

INTRO AND SCREENER QUESTIONS

1. I describe my gender as:

Response category	n=500
Male	50%
Female	50%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	1%

2. In what year were you born?

Response category	n=500
18–29	19%
30–44	27%
45–64	31%
65+	24%

3. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

Response category	n=500
African	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8%
Black/African American	4%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	9%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%
Native American/American Indian	6%
White/Caucasian	80%
Other	1%

Response category	n=500
White alone	72%
Person of color	28%

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

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	4%
High school diploma/GED	28%
Some college/2-year degree	34%
College degree/4-year degree	22%
Graduate/professional school	12%

5. In what county do you live?

Response category	n=500
Tri-county	44%
Willamette Valley	27%
Rest of state	29%

6. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=500
Democrat	32%
Republican	23%
Some other party	6%
Not affiliated with a political party	32%
Not registered to vote	6%

7. Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?

Response category	n=500
Every day	8%
Some days	5%
Not at all	87%

8. Which category best describes your gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

Response category	n=500
Less than \$25,000	17%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	20%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	15%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	20%
\$150,000 or more	12%

DIRECTION OF THE STATE AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

9. All in all, would you say Oregon is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

Date	Right direction	Wrong track	Don't know
March 2023, n=500	29%	57%	14%
August 2022	32%	54%	14%
January 2022	33%	54%	13%
September 2021	36%	45%	14%
May 2021	32%	43%	26%
March 2021	40%	45%	14%
September 2020	31%	56%	13%
July 2020	33%	46%	20%
June 2020	43%	38%	19%
April 2020	51%	34%	16%
March 2020	46%	44%	10%
February 2020	37%	51%	11%
January 2020	41%	44%	15%

10. How would you rate Oregon's economic conditions today?

Date	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
March 2023, n=500	3%	35%	43%	17%	3%
August 2022	4%	40%	37%	14%	5%
January 2022	9%	32%	42%	10%	6%
June 2020	3%	27%	46%	17%	8%
March 2020	4%	31%	37%	18%	2%
June 2019	6%	57%	26%	6%	4%

11. Would you say that economic conditions in Oregon are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Date	Better	Worse	About the same	Don't know
March 2023, n=500	14%	53%	29%	3%
August 2022	16%	45%	34%	5%
January 2022	19%	44%	32%	6%
September 2020	9%	46%	39%	5%
June 2019	25%	26%	44%	5%



12. How worried, or not, are you about your personal financial situation?

Date	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too worried	Not at all worried	Don't know
March 2023, n=500	19%	46%	26%	9%	1%
August 2022	19%	39%	30%	12%	1%
January 2022	24%	39%	28%	8%	1%
September 2021	23%	35%	27%	12%	1%
May 2021	22%	31%	30%	16%	2%
January 2021	20%	32%	21%	14%	2%
October 2020	19%	33%	32%	13%	2%
September 2020	18%	31%	32%	19%	<1%
June 2020	16%	33%	35%	16%	<1%
April 2020	19%	37%	33%	10%	2%
March 2020	23%	40%	23%	11%	2%
June 2019	13%	37%	36%	14%	--

IMPRESSIONS OF ELECTED LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Indicate if you have a positive or negative impression of the following people and organizations.

Response category	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
13. Joe Biden					
March 2023	14%	26%	20%	35%	5%
August 2022	17%	29%	16%	36%	1%
January 2022	18%	23%	19%	35%	5%
September 2021	17%	31%	11%	33%	7%
March 2021	28%	25%	12%	28%	7%
September 2020	21%	31%	10%	34%	3%
14. Tina Kotek					
March 2023	11%	23%	18%	25%	23%
August 2022	11%	23%	11%	17%	37%
15. Donald Trump					
March 2023	11%	16%	12%	56%	4%
August 2022	18%	16%	8%	56%	1%
January 2022	17%	20%	11%	48%	4%
September 2020	23%	16%	7%	53%	1%
October 2019	20%	9%	6%	65%	1%
June 2019	24%	13%	10%	53%	--
October 2018	26%	15%	10%	45%	5%
January 2018	17%	19%	12%	47%	4%
November 2017	9%	14%	9%	68%	--
October 2016	16%	15%	11%	55%	3%
July 2016	10%	16%	10%	64%	--



Response category	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
16. Oregon Health Authority					
March 2023	13%	39%	23%	12%	12%
17. Question withheld from release					
18. Question withheld from release					
19. Question withheld from release					

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Moving on to a new topic: the criminal justice system.

Please rate your overall confidence in the following people and organizations.

Response category	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	Don't know
20. United States Supreme Court					
March 2023	12%	26%	31%	25%	5%
January 2022	19%	36%	24%	14%	8%
January 2020	12%	40%	31%	15%	2%
January 2019	12%	49%	29%	8%	3%
January 2018	14%	45%	27%	12%	2%
January 2017	15%	42%	30%	13%	1%
21. Oregon Supreme Court					
March 2023	9%	38%	27%	12%	13%
January 2022	9%	41%	27%	9%	14%
January 2019	13%	50%	17%	19%	12%
January 2018	17%	43%	21%	11%	7%
January 2017	19%	48%	23%	5%	5%
22. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)					
March 2023	15%	38%	20%	18%	9%
January 2022	19%	41%	21%	13%	7%
January 2020	15%	52%	20%	11%	1%
January 2019	19%	49%	15%	14%	3%
January 2018	17%	47%	19%	15%	3%
January 2017	14%	46%	22%	15%	3%
23. County judges in your community					
March 2023	9%	45%	23%	9%	14%
January 2022	8%	45%	23%	12%	13%
January 2019	16%	52%	15%	6%	10%
January 2018	12%	50%	15%	10%	12%
January 2017	16%	58%	13%	6%	6%

Response category	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	Don't know
24. Your county district attorney					
March 2023	6%	35%	25%	12%	21%
January 2022	13%	35%	22%	12%	19%
January 2020	13%	46%	20%	12%	8%
January 2019	15%	48%	17%	11%	10%
January 2018	10%	45%	17%	16%	13%
January 2017	15%	53%	17%	4%	10%
25. Public defenders					
March 2023	7%	33%	31%	15%	14%
26. Your county sheriff					
March 2023	18%	43%	19%	8%	12%
January 2022	13%	43%	17%	12%	15%
January 2019	28%	42%	13%	6%	11%
January 2018	21%	49%	12%	11%	17%
January 2017	28%	44%	17%	4%	7%
27. Your local police department					
March 2023	19%	45%	20%	12%	4%
January 2022	26%	37%	16%	14%	7%
January 2020	30%	44%	15%	8%	2%
January 2019	25%	46%	15%	9%	5%
January 2018	27%	45%	16%	10%	2%
January 2017	30%	49%	12%	8%	1%
28. Juries					
March 2023	10%	44%	28%	9%	10%

29. Which of the following statements about jury members is closer to what you believe? (Rotate)

Response category	March 2023 n=500	January 2020 n=539	January 2017 n=660
It is the responsibility of jury members to always follow the letter of the law, even when they believe that it will result in an unjust outcome.	48%	40%	49%
It is the responsibility of jury members to achieve the most just outcome, even if it means not following the letter of the law.	38%	53%	45%
Don't know	14%	7%	6%

30. Have you ever served on a jury?

Response category	n=500
Yes	33%
No	66%
Don't know	1%

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Oregon Legislature is now in session.

31. In your own words, what do you think is the most important issue for the Oregon Legislature to address? (**Open**)

32. Question withheld from release

Indicate which issue you think is the most important to the Democrats and Republicans in the Oregon Legislature and which is the most important to Governor Tina Kotek.

33. Democrats in the Oregon Legislature

Response category	n=500
Racial justice	12%
Climate change	12%
Abortion	11%
Homelessness	11%
Healthcare	7%
Housing affordability	7%
Cost of living	7%
Gun policy	7%
Economic inequality	4%
Crime	3%
Immigration	3%
Taxes	3%
Public education	2%
Transportation	2%
Don't know	10%



34. Republicans in the Oregon Legislature

Response category	n=500
Gun policy	18%
Taxes	15%
Crime	11%
Immigration	11%
Cost of living	8%
Abortion	5%
Homelessness	5%
Economic inequality	3%
Housing affordability	3%
Climate change	2%
Public education	2%
Transportation	2%
Healthcare	1%
Racial justice	1%
Don't know	14%

35. Governor Tina Kotek

Response category	n=500
Homelessness	33%
Housing affordability	7%
Abortion	7%
Crime	5%
Economic inequality	4%
Racial justice	4%
Climate change	4%
Healthcare	3%
Cost of living	3%
Public education	3%
Taxes	2%
Immigration	1%
Gun policy	1%
Transportation	1%
Don't know	21%



HOUSING

The next questions are about housing.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines "affordable housing" as housing that accounts for no more than 30% (or about one-third) of a household's income. This suggestion includes basic utilities like water, heat, and electricity.

36. Using this calculation, is your housing situation affordable? Your best guess is okay.

Response category	2023 n=500	2018 n=591	2017 n=701	2016 n=685
Yes	56%	65%	60%	64%
No	37%	32%	39%	33%
Don't know	7%	3%	1%	4%

37. If an emergency arose that would cost you and your household \$1,000, would you be able to pay for the emergency and pay your rent or mortgage on time?

Response category	2023 n=500	2018 n=592	2017 n=701	2016 n=687
Yes	54%	55%	60%	58%
No	34%	29%	24%	22%
I don't pay rent or a mortgage	9%	12%	14%	16%
Don't know	3%	4%	3%	4%

38. In general, do you think it is a good time or bad time to buy a home?

Response category	2023 n=500	2019 n=618	2018 n=588	2017 n=697
Good time to buy	14%	28%	25%	25%
Bad time to buy	70%	46%	49%	50%
Don't know	16%	26%	25%	25%

39. Over the next year, do you think the average price for homes in your area will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Response category	2023 n=500	2019 n=614	2018 n=588	2017 n=697
Increase	45%	62%	75%	76%
Stay about the same	29%	19%	14%	14%
Decrease	21%	10%	3%	4%
Don't know	5%	9%	8%	6%

40. Some people say that rising home prices in Oregon are a sign of economic growth and are good for the state. Do you agree or disagree?

Response category	2023 n=500	2019 n=619	2018 n=588	2016 n=674
Strongly agree	2%	3%	4%	3%
Somewhat agree	20%	35%	40%	43%
Somewhat disagree	39%	32%	32%	29%
Strongly disagree	32%	24%	20%	21%
Don't know	6%	6%	4%	4%

41. What is your current housing status?

Response category	n=500
Own your home	66%
Rent your home	27%
Some other arrangement	7%

42. (If own home in Q41) In the next five years, would you prefer that the value of your home increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Response category	n=330
Increase	68%
Decrease	5%
Stay about the same	25%
Don't know	2%

43. In the next five years, would you prefer the value of the typical home in your community increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Response category	n=500
Increase	38%
Decrease	27%
Stay about the same	29%
Don't know	6%

44. What should be the greater priority for policymakers in Oregon?

Response category	n=500
Increase home values	13%
Decrease home values	27%
Maintain home values at current levels	39%
Don't know	20%

Now consider homes and apartments for rent.

45. What should be the greater priority for policymakers in Oregon?

Response category	n=500
Increase average rents	7%
Decrease average rents	63%
Maintain rents at their current levels	25%
Don't know	5%

46. Which would you prefer in the community where you live?

Response category	n=500
Increase the rate of home construction	25%
Slow the rate of home construction	40%
Continue the current rate of home construction	28%
Don't know	7%

47. Which would you prefer in Oregon?

Response category	n=500
Slow the rate of home construction	35%
Increase the rate of home construction	29%
Continue the current rate of home construction	26%
Don't know	11%



The next questions are about bills that the Oregon Legislature is considering about housing. Indicate if you would support or oppose each.

Response category	NET support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	NET oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
48. Eliminating the mortgage tax deduction for second homes							
	41%	18%	23%	41%	21%	20%	18%
49. Freezing property taxes on primary residences for people ages 67 or older							
	81%	54%	27%	12%	6%	6%	7%
50. Question withheld from release							
51. Allow local governments to permit housing developments in areas currently protected as farm and forestlands							
	20%	8%	12%	71%	26%	45%	8%
52. Providing tax incentives to convert office buildings into housing							
	64%	25%	39%	20%	11%	9%	16%
53. Create a tax deduction for renting out a room in a person's primary home							
	61%	19%	42%	27%	16%	10%	12%

The Oregon Legislature is considering diverting money that would otherwise go to the state's "rainy day" fund to pay for projects and services to address housing affordability and homelessness in the state. Indicate if you would support or oppose each.

Response category	NET support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	NET oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
54. Diverting \$34 million to provide rent assistance and eviction prevention services							
	62%	31%	32%	31%	14%	17%	7%
55. Diverting \$55 million to house people currently without shelter							
	65%	29%	35%	28%	13%	15%	7%
56. Diverting \$24 million for 600 new shelter beds across the state and to connect homeless Oregonians to shelter							
	69%	30%	39%	26%	14%	13%	5%
57. Diverting \$3 million to expand guarantees and incentives for landlords							
	44%	11%	32%	41%	24%	17%	15%

How effective, or not, do you think the following would be at encouraging more homes to be built in Oregon?

Response category	NET effective	Very effective	Somewhat effective	NET ineffective	Not too effective	Not at all effective	Don't know
58. Tax reductions for the development of low-income housing developments							
	71%	22%	49%	22%	16%	6%	7%
59. Government directly building low-income housing							
	62%	23%	39%	32%	19%	12%	6%
60. Relax building codes on new development							
	37%	13%	25%	53%	25%	27%	10%



HOMELESSNESS

The next set of questions are about homelessness in Oregon.

61. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own views?

Response category	2023 n=500	Sept 2022 n=600	Feb 2022 n=600
Homelessness is mostly the result of a lack of affordable places to live	38%	28%	24%
Homelessness is mostly the result of mental illness and drug addiction	56%	61%	67%
Don't know	6%	10%	10%

62. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own views?

Response category	2023 n=500	2020 n=600	2019 n=535	2015 n=464
With the right policies and resources, homelessness is a problem that can be solved in my community	62%	57%	53%	59%
No matter how hard we try, homelessness will always be a problem in my community	33%	37%	39%	37%
Don't know	5%	7%	8%	4%