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Most New Jerseyans Give Negative Ratings to State and National Economies

A majority are dissatisfied with government handling of state budget and infrastructure, but more positive about education and crime

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Apr. 16, 2026) – New Jerseyans increasingly give subpar ratings to both the state and national economies, and while overwhelming dissatisfaction with how the state handles taxes and affordability persists, views on other issues are becoming more mixed, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll in collaboration with the [New Jersey Organization for a Better State](#) (NEW JOBS) political action committee.

Three-quarters of residents rate the state’s economy negatively, with 29% rating it as “poor” and 46% as “only fair.” Twenty percent say the state economy is “good” and 1% say it is “excellent.” Overall negativity has ticked up by 6 points since October, when last polled.

Residents continue to feel slightly more negatively about the national economy. Nearly 8 in 10 rate the national economy negatively, with 46% calling it “poor” and 33% “only fair.” Seventeen percent say the national economy is “good” and 2% “excellent.” Negativity has increased by 9 points since October, with most of the increase occurring among those who label the national economy as “poor.”

“Pessimism continues to overwhelm New Jerseyans’ views on both the state and national economies, with negativity toward the national economy returning to its highest levels since

Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

spring 2025 and negativity toward the state economy up by double digits since fall 2024,” said [Ashley Koning](#), an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) at [Rutgers University-New Brunswick](#). “The message to both Trenton and especially Washington is clear: Rising costs, stagnant wages, and an ongoing affordability crisis have yet to be addressed in any way residents can feel.”

Democrats are the most pessimistic partisan about the national economy: 94% give it a negative rating (62% “poor,” 32% “only fair”) compared with 54% of Republicans (21% “poor,” 33% “only fair”). Independents fall in the middle, with nearly 8 in 10 labeling it “poor” (44%) or “only fair” (35%).

Democrats are less negative about New Jersey’s economy than the national economy, though a two-thirds majority still give it a negative rating (21% “poor,” 47% “only fair”), while Republicans are more negative at 86% (41% “poor,” 45% “only fair”). Independents again fall in the middle, with three-quarters calling the state economy “poor” (31%) or “only fair” (44%).

Across gender, race and ethnicity, age, income, region and education, in all other groups, 7 in 10 or more give a negative rating to the national economy and two-thirds or more give a negative rating to the state economy.

New Jerseyans are most dissatisfied with how the state government is handling cost of living and affordability: More than 8 in 10 say they are either “very” (52%) or “somewhat” (32%) dissatisfied. Fourteen percent are satisfied on some level (1% “very,” 13% “somewhat”). These numbers are virtually unchanged from when this question was last asked in June 2025.

“New Jersey families are clearly feeling the pressure of rising costs, and they feel like they are falling behind,” said Tony Bawidamann, chairman of NEW JOBS. “These results reflect what we are hearing across the state. Moving forward, it will be important for elected officials to focus on policies that support job growth, address affordability, and ease the burden on working families.”

About 8 in 10 residents express dissatisfaction with the state government’s handling of taxes (51% “very,” 28% “somewhat”), while less than 1 in 5 are satisfied (2% “very,” 15% “somewhat”). Again, there is virtually no change from June 2025.

“The story here is not just that New Jerseyans are dissatisfied – it is that the dissatisfaction is spreading,” Koning said. “Taxes and affordability have been chronic pain points for years, but healthcare and transportation have now crossed into net negative territory for the first time in our trend data, while education’s gains remain fragile. Government has a shrinking list of areas where it is getting credit from the public.”

New Jerseyans’ views improve on the handling of other issues, but residents are still more dissatisfied than satisfied when it comes to the state budget and government spending (58%

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dissatisfied, 28% satisfied) and transportation and infrastructure (49% dissatisfied, 40% satisfied). While satisfaction level with the budget and spending is comparable to June 2025, dissatisfaction with the state's handling of transportation and infrastructure has decreased slightly, by five points.

Views are mixed on how the state is handling health care, with 45% satisfied (8% "very," 37% "somewhat") and 46% dissatisfied (20% "very," 16% "somewhat"). Opinions have become slightly more mixed since June 2025.

Residents are more positive when it comes to crime and safety and education and schools. Fifty-four percent express satisfaction with the state government's management of crime and safety (10% "very," 44% "somewhat") versus 41% who feel dissatisfied (18% "very," 23% "somewhat"). Slightly more than half are satisfied with the state's handling of education (11% "very," 41% "somewhat") versus 37% dissatisfied (16% "very," 21% "somewhat"). Satisfaction with the handling of crime has marginally decreased and dissatisfaction has increased slightly, while satisfaction with education has increased slightly, by five points.

"There is a lot of work to be done as the state's business leaders, and we are encouraged by the Sherrill administration's engagement with the business community through her first 100 days," Bawidamann said. "But we need to continue this momentum and work closely with elected officials to create public policy that makes it easier for businesses of all sizes to grow and flourish here."

On all these issues, Democrats feel more positively than Republicans (and vice versa – Republicans feel more negatively than Democrats), while independents fall somewhere in the middle.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,568 adults contacted through the probability-based [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from March 27 to March 30. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points.

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ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING

Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based statewide polling operations in the United States. Now in its 56th year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP's mission is to provide scientifically sound, nonpartisan information about public opinion. In addition to its public polling, ECPIP partners with organizations, foundations, and public agencies to design and conduct custom survey research on issues of public concern. To learn more about ECPIP, explore our published research and data archive, or inquire about our research services, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT THE RUTGERS-EAGLETON/SSRS GARDEN STATE PANEL

The [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. The panel is managed and maintained by [SSRS](#), a full-service research firm based in Glen Mills, PA. Panelists are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. The ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service, which provide population coverage in the 98%-99% range. The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. Internet households participate via web while all non-internet households (including those who have internet but are unwilling to take surveys online) participate via phone. Panelists also have the option of taking surveys in their preferred language (English or Spanish).

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK

Rutgers University-New Brunswick is where Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world's top 60 universities, Rutgers's flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference's most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.

ABOUT NEW JOBS PAC

[The New Jersey Organization for a Better State](#) (NEW JOBS), the state's largest business political action committee, is a nonpartisan organization whose trustees promote a pro-business climate in New Jersey by endorsing and supporting legislative candidates who actively support economic growth, the creation of private-sector jobs, and the lowering of business costs.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey adults 18+ unless otherwise noted; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Taxes

Very satisfied	2%
Somewhat satisfied	15%
Somewhat dissatisfied	28%
Very dissatisfied	51%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%
Smwht sat.	23%	13%	4%	17%	13%	14%	13%	20%	17%	20%	13%	10%	17%
Smwht dissat.	35%	28%	17%	25%	31%	25%	37%	34%	28%	34%	28%	24%	26%
Very dissat.	32%	53%	78%	53%	49%	56%	37%	41%	49%	36%	53%	60%	52%
Don't know	7%	4%	1%	3%	6%	3%	12%	5%	4%	9%	3%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
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	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	4%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%
Smwht sat.	12%	14%	16%	18%	25%	13%	15%	14%	9%	12%	12%	17%	19%
Smwht dissat.	34%	28%	28%	24%	26%	26%	26%	31%	35%	28%	28%	27%	29%
Very dissat.	44%	52%	52%	55%	39%	57%	49%	49%	53%	51%	57%	50%	46%
Don't know	8%	4%	3%	2%	9%	3%	6%	5%	3%	7%	3%	4%	4%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

The state budget and government spending

Very satisfied	4%
Somewhat satisfied	24%
Somewhat dissatisfied	27%
Very dissatisfied	31%
Don't know	15%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	6%	2%	1%	5%	3%	3%	4%	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%
Smwht sat.	36%	21%	9%	24%	24%	22%	30%	27%	21%	25%	22%	21%	27%
Smwht dissat.	27%	30%	24%	28%	27%	25%	28%	30%	34%	35%	29%	24%	23%
Very dissat.	11%	34%	59%	32%	30%	37%	17%	22%	24%	22%	30%	37%	34%
Don't know	20%	13%	8%	12%	17%	12%	22%	18%	15%	15%	17%	14%	13%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	2%	4%	5%	4%	2%	3%	7%	5%	2%	1%	4%	5%	5%
Smwht sat.	26%	22%	24%	23%	29%	26%	23%	19%	19%	23%	21%	23%	27%
Smwht dissat.	28%	26%	28%	27%	29%	25%	24%	29%	31%	24%	27%	28%	30%
Very dissat.	27%	33%	29%	33%	24%	32%	28%	33%	33%	35%	37%	28%	24%
Don't know	17%	15%	13%	12%	16%	13%	18%	14%	14%	16%	12%	15%	14%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Education and schools

Very satisfied	11%
Somewhat satisfied	41%
Somewhat dissatisfied	21%
Very dissatisfied	16%
Don't know	11%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	19%	8%	2%	11%	11%	11%	7%	13%	13%	14%	8%	13%	9%
Smwht sat.	47%	42%	30%	43%	39%	38%	57%	42%	40%	37%	46%	44%	38%
Smwht dissat.	16%	22%	27%	22%	20%	21%	15%	21%	24%	27%	20%	18%	19%
Very dissat.	5%	17%	30%	15%	16%	18%	10%	14%	13%	13%	18%	17%	15%
Don't know	12%	11%	10%	9%	13%	12%	10%	11%	10%	9%	8%	9%	19%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	10%	8%	13%	12%	6%	10%	16%	13%	11%	9%	9%	13%	12%
Smwht sat.	36%	38%	43%	48%	46%	46%	39%	35%	34%	39%	37%	39%	49%
Smwht dissat.	22%	24%	20%	17%	29%	17%	15%	24%	22%	20%	21%	24%	18%
Very dissat.	15%	17%	15%	16%	10%	15%	19%	17%	19%	16%	22%	14%	12%
Don't know	18%	12%	9%	7%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%	16%	11%	9%	9%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Crime and safety

Very satisfied	10%
Somewhat satisfied	44%
Somewhat dissatisfied	23%
Very dissatisfied	18%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	1567

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	14%	10%	4%	11%	9%	10%	11%	11%	8%	8%	10%	12%	10%
Smwht sat.	55%	41%	29%	47%	42%	43%	47%	35%	54%	43%	45%	40%	48%
Smwht dissat.	16%	26%	30%	20%	26%	25%	16%	25%	22%	24%	25%	23%	21%
Very dissat.	8%	18%	34%	19%	16%	18%	15%	24%	12%	18%	15%	22%	16%
Don't know	7%	5%	4%	3%	7%	5%	11%	5%	3%	8%	6%	3%	5%
Unwt N=	670	581	315	669	890	1076	135	178	177	259	421	457	430

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	9%	9%	8%	14%	8%	10%	13%	9%	9%	7%	7%	11%	15%
Smwht sat.	40%	39%	49%	48%	44%	44%	43%	45%	41%	42%	42%	44%	47%
Smwht dissat.	22%	28%	22%	21%	28%	22%	20%	20%	27%	22%	23%	25%	22%
Very dissat.	21%	19%	16%	15%	16%	18%	15%	18%	19%	22%	23%	15%	11%
Don't know	9%	5%	5%	2%	3%	5%	9%	7%	4%	7%	4%	5%	5%
Unwt N=	342	429	300	488	165	478	312	353	258	254	339	428	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Transportation and infrastructure

Very satisfied	5%
Somewhat satisfied	35%
Somewhat dissatisfied	31%
Very dissatisfied	18%
Don't know	11%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	6%	3%	4%	6%	4%	5%	6%	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Smwht sat.	43%	35%	23%	36%	35%	34%	43%	41%	30%	30%	34%	39%	38%
Smwht dissat.	30%	30%	34%	32%	31%	31%	31%	30%	33%	36%	29%	29%	31%
Very dissat.	9%	21%	26%	20%	16%	18%	9%	19%	23%	19%	21%	19%	12%
Don't know	10%	10%	13%	7%	14%	12%	11%	7%	9%	9%	11%	8%	14%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	4%	4%	7%	5%	5%	4%	7%	6%	4%	3%	4%	7%	5%
Smwht sat.	33%	37%	38%	34%	33%	41%	30%	31%	35%	33%	35%	33%	40%
Smwht dissat.	29%	33%	29%	32%	37%	26%	33%	32%	34%	34%	31%	31%	29%
Very dissat.	17%	16%	15%	23%	17%	20%	18%	16%	16%	14%	20%	21%	17%
Don't know	17%	10%	11%	6%	8%	9%	12%	15%	11%	16%	10%	9%	8%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Cost of living and affordability

Very satisfied	1%
Somewhat satisfied	13%
Somewhat dissatisfied	32%
Very dissatisfied	52%
Don't know	2%
Unweighted N=	1567

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Smwht sat.	20%	11%	5%	13%	13%	12%	16%	12%	16%	13%	10%	11%	18%
Smwht dissat.	41%	31%	21%	34%	31%	31%	37%	32%	35%	28%	34%	29%	38%
Very dissat.	36%	54%	73%	51%	52%	54%	42%	55%	46%	57%	52%	58%	40%
Don't know	2%	3%	0%	1%	2%	2%	4%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Unwt N=	669	582	315	670	889	1076	135	179	176	259	421	456	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Smwht sat.	13%	11%	14%	15%	18%	13%	16%	9%	9%	11%	11%	13%	17%
Smwht dissat.	29%	34%	31%	35%	30%	30%	38%	36%	30%	30%	25%	34%	39%
Very dissat.	53%	54%	53%	47%	49%	53%	43%	51%	59%	55%	61%	50%	41%
Don't know	4%	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Unwt N=	341	429	301	488	165	478	312	353	258	254	339	428	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

NJ2. Below are some specific areas where we would like you to tell us how satisfied you are with how they are being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Healthcare

Very satisfied	8%
Somewhat satisfied	37%
Somewhat dissatisfied	26%
Very dissatisfied	20%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	1567

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very sat.	11%	6%	6%	8%	8%	9%	9%	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%	12%
Smwht sat.	43%	35%	29%	39%	35%	35%	39%	41%	37%	34%	35%	40%	38%
Smwht dissat.	22%	26%	31%	27%	25%	27%	25%	25%	24%	29%	29%	24%	22%
Very dissat.	13%	24%	26%	18%	22%	19%	17%	23%	25%	24%	21%	22%	14%
Don't know	10%	10%	9%	8%	11%	11%	10%	5%	7%	6%	9%	8%	14%
Unwt N=	670	581	315	669	890	1075	135	179	177	259	421	457	430

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very sat.	8%	6%	7%	11%	6%	10%	10%	6%	6%	6%	6%	9%	11%
Smwht sat.	32%	38%	40%	38%	42%	36%	30%	36%	39%	37%	32%	34%	43%
Smwht dissat.	28%	25%	27%	23%	27%	25%	27%	23%	28%	27%	27%	27%	22%
Very dissat.	21%	23%	18%	18%	16%	22%	19%	21%	19%	18%	28%	22%	14%
Don't know	11%	8%	7%	11%	9%	7%	14%	13%	8%	11%	7%	8%	11%
Unwt N=	342	428	301	488	165	479	312	352	258	254	339	428	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

M1. How would you rate the condition of each of the following?

The national economy

Excellent	2%
Good	17%
Only fair	33%
Poor	46%
Don't know	2%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	<1%	2%	5%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%
Good	5%	16%	39%	21%	13%	22%	7%	10%	12%	9%	12%	23%	22%
Only fair	32%	35%	33%	36%	31%	33%	29%	38%	32%	28%	36%	29%	40%
Poor	62%	44%	21%	39%	51%	41%	59%	48%	52%	58%	47%	43%	35%
Don't know	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	1%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Excellent	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Good	17%	14%	20%	18%	10%	17%	21%	20%	17%	20%	18%	14%	16%
Only fair	33%	32%	32%	36%	34%	33%	32%	30%	37%	33%	31%	33%	35%
Poor	43%	52%	45%	42%	51%	46%	43%	46%	43%	44%	46%	48%	45%
Don't know	5%	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

M1. How would you rate the condition of each of the following?

New Jersey's economy

Excellent	1%
Good	20%
Only fair	46%
Poor	29%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	1568

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%
Good	27%	19%	11%	23%	18%	22%	18%	11%	24%	15%	18%	20%	27%
Only fair	47%	44%	45%	48%	44%	44%	42%	54%	48%	51%	46%	40%	46%
Poor	21%	31%	41%	26%	32%	29%	32%	31%	25%	27%	30%	36%	24%
Don't know	4%	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	7%	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	670	582	315	670	890	1076	135	179	177	259	421	457	431

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Excellent	1%	2%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Good	16%	17%	19%	29%	21%	22%	21%	20%	16%	15%	17%	20%	29%
Only fair	43%	45%	49%	46%	46%	46%	46%	44%	47%	45%	44%	46%	47%
Poor	34%	34%	29%	21%	28%	27%	28%	32%	34%	36%	33%	28%	19%
Don't know	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Unwt N=	342	429	301	488	165	479	312	353	258	254	339	429	546

Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

Methodology

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted using the [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) Omnibus platform. The Garden State Panel Omnibus is a quarterly, New Jersey statewide, probability-based survey. Data collection was conducted from March 27 to 30, 2026, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,568 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. The survey was conducted via web and administered in English and Spanish.

The Garden State Panel Omnibus is conducted on the Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel. The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a joint research venture between the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick and SSRS. It is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults ages 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected.

The Rutgers/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. For this poll, only Internet households were invited to participate via web; non-internet households were not included. Sample was drawn using a probability proportional to size (PPS) methodology to ensure adequate representation of each demographic group while minimizing the variability of the final weights. The sample was additionally stratified by preferred survey language to meet the sample size targets for each group.

Data were weighted to represent the residential adult population of New Jersey. The data were weighted by first applying a base weight then balancing the demographic profile of the sample to target population parameters.

With the base weight applied, the data were weighted to balance the demographic profile of the sample to the target population parameters.

Data were weighted to distributions of age, race/ethnicity by nativity, gender/sex by age, gender/sex by education, age by education, NJ region, home tenure, number of household adults, civic engagement, frequency of Internet use, and 2024 presidential recalled vote.

The following table shows the data sources used for calibration totals.

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

Table 1. Calibration Variable Sources

Calibration Variables	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Age • Education • Race • Ethnicity • Hispanic nativity • Number of adults in household • Home tenure 	2025 Current Population Survey ¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ Region 	ACS 2024 1-Year Estimates ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet frequency 	SSRS Opinion Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement 	September 2023 CPS Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement ³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Presidential recalled vote⁴ 	National Election Pool

Final calibrated weights are trimmed at the 5th and 95th percentiles to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey-derived estimates.

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 1.70.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,568 New Jersey adults is +/-2.5 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. The design effect is 1.70, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.2 percentage points. Thus, if 50% of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95% sure that the true figure is between 46.8 and 53.2% (50 +/- 3.2) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

¹ Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Daniel Backman, Grace Cooper, Julia A. Rivera Drew, Stephanie Richards, Renae Rodgers, Jonathan Schroeder, and Kari C.W. Williams. IPUMS USA: Version 16.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V16.0>

² U.S. Census Bureau. "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, 2024

³ Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles, J. Robert Warren, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Megan Schouweiler, and Michael Westberry (2024). Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 12.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V12.0>

⁴ Recalled vote in the 2024 presidential election is defined as the chosen candidate of panelists who are currently registered to vote, specifically among the following listed candidates: Kamala Harris, Donald Trump, Jill Stein, Chase Oliver, and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Panelists who are not currently registered to vote or voted for a non-listed candidate are counted along with those who did not vote in the election.

Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

Sampling error is only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as selection bias, non-response bias, question wording, context effects, or reporting accuracy, which may contribute additional error.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by SSRS through the Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Ashley Koning and Jessica Roman led analysis and preparation of this release, with assistance from David Martin. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

**Economic Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Weighted Demographics
1,568 New Jersey Adults 18+
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 3.2 percentage points**

Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.

		deff	MOE
Democrat	39%	1.79	+/- 5.1%
Independent	38%	1.70	+/- 5.3%
Republican	23%	1.54	+/- 6.8%
Man	46%	1.72	+/- 5.0%
Woman	54%	1.67	+/- 4.2%
White	59%	1.72	+/- 3.9%
Black	12%	1.45	+/- 10.1%
Hispanic	14%	1.67	+/- 9.5%
Other	15%	1.47	+/- 8.9%
18-34	23%	1.48	+/- 7.4%
35-49	25%	1.71	+/- 6.2%
50-64	25%	1.72	+/- 6.0%
65+	26%	1.73	+/- 6.2%
<50K	24%	1.71	+/- 6.9%
50K-<100K	29%	1.65	+/- 6.1%
100K-<150K	20%	1.68	+/- 7.3%
150K+	27%	1.72	+/- 5.8%
Urban	16%	1.41	+/- 9.1%
Suburb	35%	1.53	+/- 5.5%
Exurban	14%	1.87	+/- 7.6%
Phil/South	18%	1.85	+/- 7.1%
Shore	16%	1.68	+/- 7.9%
HS or less	28%	1.33	+/- 7.1%
Some college	21%	1.67	+/- 6.9%
4-yr college grad	26%	1.65	+/- 6.1%
Grad work	25%	1.68	+/- 5.4%