

Introduction & Methodology

From September 26 to October 1, 2024, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregonians to assess their opinions about the state, public education, and variety of current issues.

Research Methodology

The online survey consisted of 500 Oregon adults. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

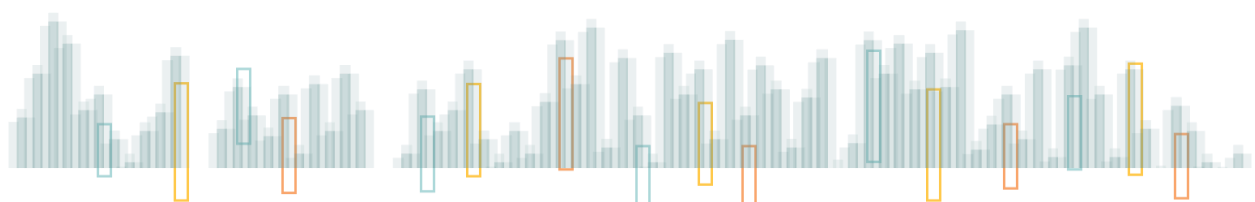
Respondents were members of a professionally maintained online panel who were invited to the survey via email. A variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation. To match the demographic makeup of the adult population, quotas and weighting by age, gender, race, area of state, voter registration, and education were used.

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 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 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.



**Oregon Statewide Survey
September 26-October 1, 2024**

**Oregon Adults
N=500; margin of error ±4.4%**

DHM Research

QUOTA DEMOGRAPHICS

S1. How do you describe your gender?

Response category	n=500
Man	48%
Woman	48%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Another way [Open]	1%

S2. In what year were you born? **[Open]**

[Autofill age as:]

Response category	n=500
18-29	19%
30-44	27%
45-64	31%
65+	23%

S3. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? *You may choose more than one.*

[Allow for multiple responses]

Response category	n=500
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%
Black/African American	6%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	10%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%
Native American/American Indian	7%
White/Caucasian	80%
Other	1%
White alone	72%
POC	28%

S4. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response category	n=500
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma/GED	29%
Some college/2-year degree	34%
College degree/4-year degree	17%
Graduate/professional school	17%

S5. What is your party registration?

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

S6. In which county do you live? **[Dropdown box of all Oregon counties]**

[Autofill area as]:

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

GENERAL MOOD

1. All things considered, would you say Oregon is headed in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?

Date	Right direction	Wrong track	Don't know
September 2024, n=500	34%	48%	17%
June 2024	31%	51%	18%
December 2023	34%	45%	21%
August 2023	31%	55%	14%
April 2023	26%	57%	17%
February 2023	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%

2. What do you think is the most important problem facing Oregon today? **[Open]**

Response category	n=500
Homelessness	49%
Drugs / Addiction / Mental health	20%
Housing affordability	15%
Cost of living	15%
Crime	10%
Economy / Jobs	7%
Poor leadership / Government / mismanagement	3%
Taxes	2%
Education / schools	2%
Healthcare	2%
Wildfires / Forest management	2%
Abortion	2%
Democrats / Liberals	1%
Immigration / Illegal immigration	1%
Gun violence / Gun control	1%
Climate change	1%
Political divisions / partisanship	1%
Budget / Wasteful spending	1%
Environment / Pollution	1%
Overpopulation / Overcrowded	1%
Minimum wage / Salary	1%
Racism / Race	1%
Lack of police presence	1%
Gas prices	<1%
Be for the people / state	<1%
Economic inequality	<1%
Roads / Infrastructure / Traffic	<1%
Need more social services	<1%
Corruption / Greed	<1%
Ethics / Morals / Values	<1%
None	--
Other	4%
Don't know	1%

Q3-Q20 withheld

EDUCATION

The next questions are about K-12 public education in Oregon.

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of the following?

Response category	NET Positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	NET Negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Don't know
21. Your local school district							
n=500	60%	14%	46%	30%	20%	10%	10%
22. Unions that represent public school teachers							
n=500	51%	12%	39%	33%	21%	13%	15%
23. Oregon Department of Education							
n=500	49%	12%	37%	39%	24%	15%	12%

24. What do you think is the average starting annual salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree in Oregon? Please enter a whole number without a dollar sign or commas. **[Open]**

Response category	n=459
\$10,000-\$19,999	2%
\$20,000-\$29,000	5%
\$30,000-\$39,000	21%
\$40,000-\$49,000	27%
\$50,000-\$59,999	22%
\$60,000-\$69,000	10%
\$70,000-\$79,000	6%
\$80,000-\$89,000	2%
\$90,000-\$99,000	1%
\$100,000+	3%
Mean	\$49,100
Median	\$45,000

25. What do you think the average starting annual salary should be for a teacher with a bachelor's degree in Oregon? Please enter a whole number without a dollar sign or commas. **[Open]**

Response category	n=451
\$10,000-\$19,999	<1%
\$20,000-\$29,000	2%
\$30,000-\$39,000	4%
\$40,000-\$49,000	15%
\$50,000-\$59,999	25%
\$60,000-\$69,000	18%
\$70,000-\$79,000	16%
\$80,000-\$89,000	6%
\$90,000-\$99,000	3%
\$100,000+	9%
Mean	\$63,500
Median	\$60,000

How effective do you believe the following in evaluating the quality of schools in your community?

Response category	NET Very/ Somewhat	Very effective	Somewhat effective	NET Not too/ Not at all	Not too effective	Not at all effective	Don't know
26. Standardized test scores							
n=500	49%	12%	37%	46%	29%	16%	6%
27. Grade point averages							
n=500	57%	12%	45%	38%	31%	7%	5%
28. High school graduation rates							
n=500	72%	24%	48%	23%	17%	7%	5%
29. The rate of students who enroll in college							
n=500	58%	14%	44%	35%	27%	8%	7%
30. Students' assessments of school quality							
n=500	57%	16%	41%	35%	27%	8%	7%
31. Parent assessments of their children's school quality							
n=500	54%	11%	42%	39%	30%	9%	7%
32. Local employers' assessments of school quality							
n=500	48%	11%	37%	41%	28%	13%	11%

The next questions ask your opinions about how schools in your community handled the Covid pandemic and its aftermath.

33. All things considered, do you approve or disapprove of how schools in your community managed the Covid pandemic?

Response category	n=500
NET Approve	60%
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	43%
NET Disapprove	32%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	16%
Don't know	9%

34. Indicate which is closer to your opinion about how schools in your community managed the Covid pandemic.

Response category	n=500
Schools were too concerned about the health risks of Covid	50%
Schools were not concerned enough about the health risks of Covid	24%
Don't know	26%

35. Indicate which is closer to your opinion about how schools in your community managed the Covid pandemic.

Response category	n=500
Schools were too concerned about student learning	20%
Schools were not concerned enough about student learning	60%
Don't know	20%

36. Indicate which is closer to your opinion about how schools in your community managed the Covid pandemic.

Response category	n=500
Schools were too concerned about student social and mental well-being	22%
Schools were not concerned enough about student social and mental well-being	60%
Don't know	18%

37. Which statement best describes the Covid pandemic's effect on students' academic success?

Response category	n=500
Students fell behind academically during the pandemic, and they remain behind	61%
Students fell behind academically during the pandemic, but they are back on track now	26%
Students stayed on track academically during the pandemic, and they remain on track	6%
Don't know	7%

38. Which statement best describes the Covid pandemic's effect on students' social and mental well-being?

Response category	n=500
Students social and mental well-being was harmed during the pandemic, and they continue to struggle	60%
Students social and mental well-being was harmed during the pandemic, but they are doing well now	28%
Students social and mental well-being was not harmed during the pandemic, and they remain well	5%
Don't know	8%

Q39-Q68 withheld

ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

The following are a few questions on a variety of topics.

69. Not counting your family, how many close friends do you have?

Response category	n=500
0	5%
1	6%
2	17%
3	20%
4	13%
5	15%
6	7%
7	2%
8	2%
9	--
10 or more	10%
Don't know	3%

In the last 12 months, how often did you get news and information from the following sources?

Response category	NET Frequently	Basically every day	A few times per week	NET Infrequently	A few times per month	Once a month	Less than once a month	Not at all	Don't know
70. Cable television									
n=500	40%	26%	14%	21%	8%	4%	9%	38%	1%
71. Social media									
n=500	59%	39%	20%	19%	10%	3%	6%	21%	1%
72. Local newspaper									
n=500	29%	10%	19%	32%	11%	7%	14%	38%	1%

73. Are you more of an optimist who expects mostly good things to happen or a pessimist who mostly expects bad things to happen?

Response category	n=500
More of an optimist	59%
More of a pessimist	31%
Don't know	9%

74. About how many times have you traveled outside of the United States?

Response category	n=500
0	32%
1	10%
2	10%
3	8%
4	6%
5 or more	32%
Don't know	1%

75. How long have you lived in Oregon?

Response category	n=500
Fewer than 4 years	10%
5 to 10 years	14%
11 to 20 years	18%
More than 20 years	57%
Don't know	<1%

76. 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	20%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	20%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	19%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	18%
\$150,000 or more	10%

77. Do any children under age 18 live in your home?

Response category	n=500
Yes	26%
No	74%