LABarometer Tracking Report

from

The Livability & Affordability Survey

Wave 4

Release Date:
December 19, 2023
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Background and Methods

The LABarometer Livability & Affordability survey tracks neighborhood livability and affordability stress in Los Angeles County, guided by the principle that a livable neighborhood is in one in which residents feel happy, healthy, safe, socially connected, and have access to affordable goods, services, and amenities.

The survey covers the following topics: life satisfaction, stress, housing quality and plans, neighborhood satisfaction, crime and safety, social engagement, as well as the accessibility and affordability of four key resources in Los Angeles County – housing, healthcare, food, and education. The survey also includes LABarometer’s consumer sentiment index, a set of six questions designed to monitor individual finances and the economy.

This document tracks key outcomes of interest from Waves 1-4 of the Livability & Affordability survey. For an exhaustive list of variables included in the Livability & Affordability surveys, please refer to the Longitudinal File codebook.

Survey Methodology

All LABarometer surveys are fielded to the LABarometer Panel, a probability-based Internet panel of adults living in households throughout Los Angeles County. From 2019 to 2022, LABarometer survey waves comprise four surveys, fielded three to six months apart. The surveys cover the following topics: Livability, Mobility, Sustainability & Resilience, and Affordability & Prosperity.

In 2022, LABarometer moved to a biannual survey frequency and these four surveys were combined and reduced in size to two surveys, one on Livability & Affordability and one Mobility & Sustainability. The Mobility & Sustainability survey is fielded in January of each year and the Livability & Affordability Survey is fielded in July of each year. Field periods range from 8-12 weeks.

All LABarometer surveys are fielded in English and in Spanish. To participate in a survey, panel members can use any computer, cell phone, or tablet with Internet access. The majority of panel members have their own internet access. Panel members who do not have access to internet are provided with an internet-enabled tablet to ensure their regular participation in our surveys.

Survey and Sample Information

A total of 1,178-1,523 Los Angeles County residents participated in any given wave of the Livability & Affordability survey. Participants were recruited from the LABarometer Panel and survey participation rates ranged from 71% to 79%.

Details for each survey, including links to individual survey toplines, are provided in the informational table below. For waves 1 and 2, "L" is used to denote the Livability survey module and "A" is used to denote the Affordability survey module.
Variable names and question wording are not provided in this release. To see the questions used in any given survey, please refer to the associated survey codebook, questionnaire, or topline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>UAS #</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
<th>Field Dates</th>
<th>Topline Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wave 1 (L)</td>
<td>UAS 194</td>
<td>1440</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Jul 19, 2019 – Sep 30, 2019</td>
<td>[UAS 194 Topline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 1 (A)</td>
<td>UAS 312</td>
<td>1326</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Sep 30, 2020 – Nov 1, 2020</td>
<td>[UAS 312 Topine]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 2 (L)</td>
<td>UAS 320</td>
<td>1386</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Nov 9, 2020 – Jan 7, 2021</td>
<td>[UAS 320 Topline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 2 (A)</td>
<td>UAS 403</td>
<td>1256</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Jul 19, 2021 – Sep 5, 2021</td>
<td>[UAS 403 Topline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 3</td>
<td>UAS 468</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>Jun 22, 2022 – Sep 4, 2022</td>
<td>[UAS 468 Topline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 4</td>
<td>UAS 566</td>
<td>1523</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Jul 13, 2023 – Sep 30, 2023</td>
<td>[UAS 566 Topline]</td>
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</table>

**Survey Weights**

The method for creating sample weights for the tracking survey follows the general procedure for UAS surveys described in CESR’s online methodology documentation. Sample weights are constructed in two steps. First, we calculate a base weight that corrects for unequal probabilities of selection of different households into the UAS. Second, we generate post-stratification weights, which align sample distributions of key demographics, namely gender, race/ethnicity, age, education, and geographic location, with their population counterparts. Population benchmarks are derived from the Basic Monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The provided sample weights bring the sample in line with the L.A. County adult population.

**About the Panel**

The LABarometer Panel is a probability-based, Internet panel of approximately 2,000 adults living in households throughout Los Angeles County. It is a sub-panel of the Understanding America Study (UAS), a national Internet panel of 10,000 Americans maintained by the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research. Following UAS procedures, LABarometer panel members are recruited in batches and refreshed through address-based sampling using postal codes. Eligible individuals are all non-institutionalized adults aged 18 and older living in a contacted household in Los Angeles County.

**About LABarometer**

LABarometer is a research center housed at the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR). We conduct basic and applied social science research on issues affecting Los Angeles County residents, with the aim of informing academic research, public discourse, and policy. At the heart of our research is the LABarometer Panel, a probability-based Internet survey.
panel of approximately 2,000 adults randomly selected from households throughout Los Angeles County.

LABarometer surveys are fielded to the LABarometer Panel on a biannual basis to monitor social and economic conditions in Los Angeles County. These longitudinal surveys focus on four dimensions of individual and community well-being: livability, affordability, mobility, and sustainability. LABarometer surveys include questions about residents’ lives, their attitudes and behaviors, and the challenges they encounter in their communities, filling data gaps on topics ranging from housing insecurity and climate resilience, to transportation behavior and the economy.

Survey Team

Kyla Thomas, Ph.D., is the Director of LABarometer and a Sociologist at the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research.

Marco Angrisani, Ph.D., is the Survey Methodologist for LABarometer and a Senior Economist at the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research.

Evan Sandlin, Ph.D. is the Data Analyst for LABarometer and a Research Manager at the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research.

Michele Warnock is Center Assistant for the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research.
Report Highlights

Snapshot of L.A. County Residents

- Mental health and well-being
  - 36% report good or excellent health
  - 38% recently experienced symptoms of psychological distress
- Housing arrangements
  - 52% rent or lease their home
  - 53% live in a single-family home; 30% live in an apartment/dorm/guesthouse
  - 3% plan to move out of Los Angeles in the next year
- Housing affordability and access
  - Median rent is $1,450; median mortgage is $2,000
  - 64% of renters and 20% of homeowners are housing-cost-burdened
  - 17% live in overcrowded homes (more than 2 people per bedroom)
- Neighborhood conditions
  - 64% are satisfied with their current neighborhood
  - ~30% report high crime, vandalism, loitering in their neighborhood
- Food affordability and access
  - 16% recently experienced mild to severe food insecurity
- Health care affordability and access
  - 83% have medical insurance; 10% report medical debt
  - 11% delayed necessary primary medical care in the last year due to cost
- Social relations
  - 13% socialize often with neighbors -- down from 20% pre-pandemic
  - 49% experienced day-to-day discrimination in the last year
- Consumer confidence scores: 57 (personal), 48 (national), 50 (LA County)

Notable Changes from Last Year (2022)

- Housing costs increased
  - Median rent increased 12%, from $1300 to $1450
  - Median rent perceived as "affordable" increased 17%, from $1500 to $1750
  - Median mortgage increased 8%, from $1846 to $2000
- Perceived neighborhood conditions improved
  - Reports of high crime, vandalism, loitering declined
- Signs of increased social and economic strain among residents
  - Food insecurity increased from 11% to 16%
  - 20% of renters who moved say they moved due a rent increase -- up from 13%
  - Percent reporting day-to-day discrimination increased from nearly 40% to 49%
    - Increase is particularly strong among Hispanics and adults aged 18-39
- Signs of economic growth in communities
  - Confidence in U.S. and L.A. economies increased 4 and 5 points, respectively
  - Upward trend in reports of new housing development in neighborhoods
Health and Well-Being

Average Life Satisfaction (Maximum 7)

- Aug 2019: 4.8
- February 2021: 4.7
- Jun 2022: 4.6
- Jul 2023: 4.6

Good or Excellent Health

- Oct 2020: 42.3
- Oct 2021: 41.6
- Jun 2022: 36.9
- Jul 2023: 35.8
Housing Arrangements

Rent or Lease Current Residence

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>52.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Own Current Residence

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>46.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Plan to Move to New Residence in Same Neighborhood in the Next Year

Plan to Move to New Residence in Different LA County Neighborhood in the Next Year
Plan to Move Out of LA County in the Next Year

- Aug 2019: 7.5%
- Nov 2020: 9.6%
- Jun 2022: 3.3%
- Jul 2023: 2.6%
Housing Affordability and Access

Satisfied with Housing

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Agree</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>59.7</td>
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</table>

Median Rent

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median $</td>
<td>1300.0</td>
<td>1300.0</td>
<td>1300.0</td>
<td>1450.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evicted/Told to Leave Previous Residence if Moved in Last Year

Eviction Notice/Told to Leave Current Residence
Neighborhood Conditions

Satisfied with Neighborhood

- Aug 2019: 71.8%
- Nov 2020: 66.7%
- Jun 2022: 61.8%
- Jul 2023: 64.2%

Vandalism is Common in Neighborhood

- Aug 2019: 33.1%
- Nov 2020: 35.9%
- Jun 2022: 36.4%
- Jul 2023: 33.4%
Food Affordability and Access

Food Insecurity

Distance to Food Over Two Miles
Healthcare Affordability and Access

Has Medical Insurance

- Oct 2020: 89.0%
- Oct 2021: 87.8%
- Jun 2022: 89.0%
- Jul 2023: 87.8%

Has Dental Insurance

- Oct 2020: 68.9%
- Oct 2021: 71.6%
- Jun 2022: 68.9%
- Jul 2023: 71.6%
Delayed Seeing Speciality Doctor Due to Cost

Percent


8.7  6.9

Delayed Mental Health Care Due to Cost

Percent


4.9  5.1
Social Relations

Socialize with Neighbors Often/Very Often

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Aug 2019</th>
<th>Nov 2020</th>
<th>Jun 2022</th>
<th>Jul 2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
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</table>

 Experienced Day-to-Day Discrimination

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Aug 2019</th>
<th>Nov 2020</th>
<th>Jun 2022</th>
<th>Jul 2023</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>49.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Reason for Day to Day Discrimination:
Sexual Orientation

Experienced Major/Institutional Discrimination
Consumer Confidence

Confidence in Personal Financial Situation

Confidence in US Business Conditions

Aug 2019 | February 2021 | Jun 2022 | Jul 2023

Aug 2019 | February 2021 | Jun 2022 | Jul 2023