



IRI Indonesia Index

Indicators

Indonesians are split on the condition of their country, both the situation in general and the economy in particular. Respondents were somewhat optimistic about the country's economic future, with a slim majority feeling the economy would improve in the year ahead.

- When asked if they thought things in Indonesia were headed in the right direction or the wrong direction, 51 percent said the right direction while 37 percent said the country was headed in the wrong direction.
- When asked how they would describe the current economic situation in Indonesia, 46 percent described it in positive terms (two percent very good / 44 percent good) while 50 percent described it negatively (44 percent bad / seven percent very bad).
- When asked about their personal household situation, 36 percent reported that it has improved over the past year, while 43 percent said it has stayed the same and 20 percent said it has worsened.

Indonesians were more positive when it came to their future economic outlook, as 53 percent said that they expected their personal economic situation to improve in the year ahead, while 28 percent said they thought it would stay the same and eight percent predicted it would worsen.

Issues

The economy and corruption emerged as the two issues that concern Indonesians the most. They were named as the top problems besetting the country in an open-ended question and large numbers rated them as very serious problems on an issue-specific scale.

- When asked what they felt was the biggest problem facing Indonesia, 43 percent named an economic issue and 20 percent cited corruption.
- When given a list of individual issues and asked to what extent they felt each was a problem, 61 percent of respondents identified corruption as a very serious problem, 43 percent said the same about price increases as did 42 percent in regards to unemployment.

Government Approval Ratings

The nation's leadership received mixed reviews on its job performance. Bare majorities rated the government as a whole positively, with the numbers for the national parliament being considerably worse. The government also has a problem with its performance on specific issues. The survey asked respondents to rate the government's performance on a list of problems and the government scored the worst on the issues that Indonesians cared about the most.

- The government's overall performance was rated positively by 51 percent (five percent very good / 46 percent good) and negatively by 44 percent (five percent very bad / 39 percent bad), for a net of positive seven points. Although these numbers are slightly positive, they are soft in the sense that they lack intensity.

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- The People’s Representative Council did not fare as well in its approval rating, with only 31 percent saying that they approved of the job it was doing while a fairly strong 59 percent said that they disapproved, for a net of negative 28 points.
- The survey also tested the government’s job approval rating on specific issues. While the government received high marks on issues such as education and infrastructure, it fared much worse on the issues that Indonesians care most about. Only 35 percent rated the government’s performance positively on corruption while 60 percent rated it negatively, for a net of negative 25 points. Moreover, nearly a fifth (18 percent) rated the government’s performance in the most intense category of very poor, one of the few examples in the entire survey where Indonesians expressed sentiments with such intensity. However, respondents were more positive of the quality of work provided by the Corruption Eradication Commission with 55 percent of respondents approving its work.
- The government also received poor marks on specific economic issues. On employment, it was rated positively by 31 percent, while 65 percent rated its job performance negatively (net negative 34 points), and was rated positively by only 30 percent when it came to controlling inflation, while 67 percent had an unfavorable opinion, a net of negative 37 points.
- The International Republican Institute’s survey also tested the favorability ratings of various institutions, finding that most were rated positively by a majority. In fact, only the parliament and the nation’s political parties failed to break the 50 percent threshold.
 - The army (81 percent favorable / 10 percent unfavorable / net positive 72 points);
 - The Ministry of Health (75 percent favorable / 14 percent unfavorable / positive 61 points);
 - The media (74 percent favorable / 11 percent unfavorable / positive 63 points); and
 - The Ministry of National Education (69 percent favorable / 18 percent unfavorable / positive 51 points).

Elections

Indonesians were generally positive about the elections and a majority felt that they will be credible. They also expressed a strong intent to turn out and vote on Election Day.

- When asked if they agreed or disagreed that elections in Indonesia are mostly free, fair and credible, nine percent responded that they strongly agreed and 55 percent said they somewhat agreed, for a combined 64 percent responding favorably; 25 percent said they somewhat disagreed, while two percent reported that they strongly disagreed, for a total of 27 percent responding in the negative.
- Indonesians reported a strong inclination to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections, with 76 percent saying that they would definitely vote, 18 percent reporting that they might and only five percent saying that they would not. While these are strong numbers, it has been IRI’s experience that respondents usually overstate their intention to vote. The actual turnout number will be likely less than these numbers would otherwise indicate.

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Democracy

High numbers expressed support for democracy, although these numbers were soft and lacked intensity. Additionally, a significant proportion of respondents were slightly critical of its ability on certain functions, like security and running the economy.

- When asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement, ‘while democracy may have some problems,’ it’s still better than any other form of government, 68 percent (nine percent strongly agree / 59 percent somewhat agree) said they agreed, while 12 percent did not.
- When asked if they agreed or disagreed that, ‘democracies are too indecisive and have too much squabbling,’ 21 percent said they agreed with the statement and 56 percent said they did not.
- Similarly, 21 percent agreed and 54 percent disagreed that, ‘in a democracy the economic system runs poorly.’

Finally, less favorable numbers were seen in regards to democracy’s ability to uphold security. Nearly a third, 32 percent, agreed that democracies are not good at maintaining law and order, while 42 percent said they disagreed.

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