

**WBUR Massachusetts Statewide Poll**  
 Topline Results  
 Survey of 500 Massachusetts Residents  
 Field Dates: November 28-November 30, 2011

Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Massachusetts today? Would you say it is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	2003	2011
Excellent	7%	9%
Very good	22%	23%
Good	42%	26%
Fair	21%	25%
Poor	7%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

Looking ahead, do you think the next generation will be financially better off when they are your age, financially worse off, or about the same?

	Sep 2010	Apr 2011	Jul 2011	Nov 2011
Better off	20%	20%	17%	8%
Worse off	46%	38%	48%	58%
About the same	31%	37%	31%	32%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	5%	4%	3%

How would you rate your personal financial situation today? Would you say you are in excellent financial shape, very good shape, good shape, fair shape, or poor shape?

	2003	2011
Excellent	5%	4%
Very good	16%	10%
Good	35%	29%
Fair	30%	33%
Poor	13%	23%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

How much of an effect do you think the current economic situation will have on each of the following? A major effect, a minor effect, or no effect at all?

<b>RANDOMIZE ORDER</b>	Major effect	Minor effect	No effect at all	Don't Know / Refused
You and your family's holiday travel plans	30%	22%	47%	1%
The amount you and your family will spend on gifts for the holidays this year	33%	40%	24%	3%

Do you own or rent your home?

Own	56%
Rent	40%
Another arrangement (do not read)	4%
Don't Know / Refused	0%

Please tell me if any of the following have happened to you or your family over the past five years. (First,) have you or your family **READ FIRST ITEM**. And have you **READ NEXT ITEM**?

<b>RANDOMIZE ORDER</b>	Date	Yes, has happened	No, has not happened	Don't Know / Refused
Felt a lot of stress because of financial problems	2011	55%	45%	0%
	2003	47%	52%	1%
Taken on more debt than you could handle	2011	26%	73%	1%
	2003	25%	74%	1%
Been unable to keep up with payments on a loan, including a student loan	2011	22%	77%	1%
	2003	16%	83%	1%
Postponed a major purchase like buying a house or taking a vacation due to financial concerns	2011	51%	48%	1%
	2003	42%	57%	2%
Maxed out your credit cards	2011	23%	76%	1%
	2003	17%	82%	2%
Lost a significant amount of money in the stock market	2011	31%	69%	0%
Worked in a job below your skill level just to have a paycheck coming in	2011	34%	64%	2%
<b>AMONG HOMEOWNERS.</b> Seen the value of your home decrease substantially	2011	64%	32%	4%
Worked for three or more years with no increase in your salary	2011	43%	55%	2%

Now, as I read you some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you. (First,) how concerned are you about **READ FIRST ITEM**--very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned? And how concerned are you about **READ NEXT ITEM**?

<b>RANDOMIZE ORDER</b>	Date	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't Know / Refused
Not having enough money for retirement	2011	45%	25%	15%	14%	1%
	2003	30%	36%	12%	18%	3%
Being unable to maintain your current standard of living	2011	31%	32%	19%	17%	0%
	2003	23%	36%	18%	21%	1%
Not being able to afford to stay in your current home	2011	23%	21%	21%	35%	1%

Thinking again about your personal situation....If you had the opportunity within the next few years, would you like to move out of your community, or would you rather stay where you are?

**IF WOULD LIKE TO MOVE ASK:** Would you like to move somewhere else in Massachusetts, to another state in New England or out of New England altogether?

	2003	2011
Would not like to move	63%	69%
Somewhere else in Massachusetts	8%	7%
To another state in New England	8%	7%
Out of New England altogether	18%	14%
Don't know / Refused	2%	3%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Race / Ethnicity

White / Caucasian	78%
All others	19%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

### Age

18 to 29	21%
30 to 44	27%
45 to 59	28%
60+	24%

### Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

### Education

High School or less	39%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	21%
Advanced degree	14%
Don't know / Refused	1%

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**About the Poll:** These results are based on a survey of 500 Massachusetts residents conducted November 28-30, 2011. Live telephone interviews were conducted via both landline and cell phone using conventional random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methods. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence. The results of some questions have been held for later release. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.

**About the 2003 Poll:** The Massachusetts Quality of Life Survey, sponsored by MassINC, obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 1001 adults living in Massachusetts telephone households. The interviews were conducted in English by Princeton Data Source, LLC from January 20 to February 2, 2003. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is 3%.