

December 2020 | Abhinav S. Krishnan

Spotlight on Evaluations of National Economic Situations in Latin America and the Caribbean

Most in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region do not believe their country's economic situation is improving

In almost all countries, less than 10% report an improving national economic situation

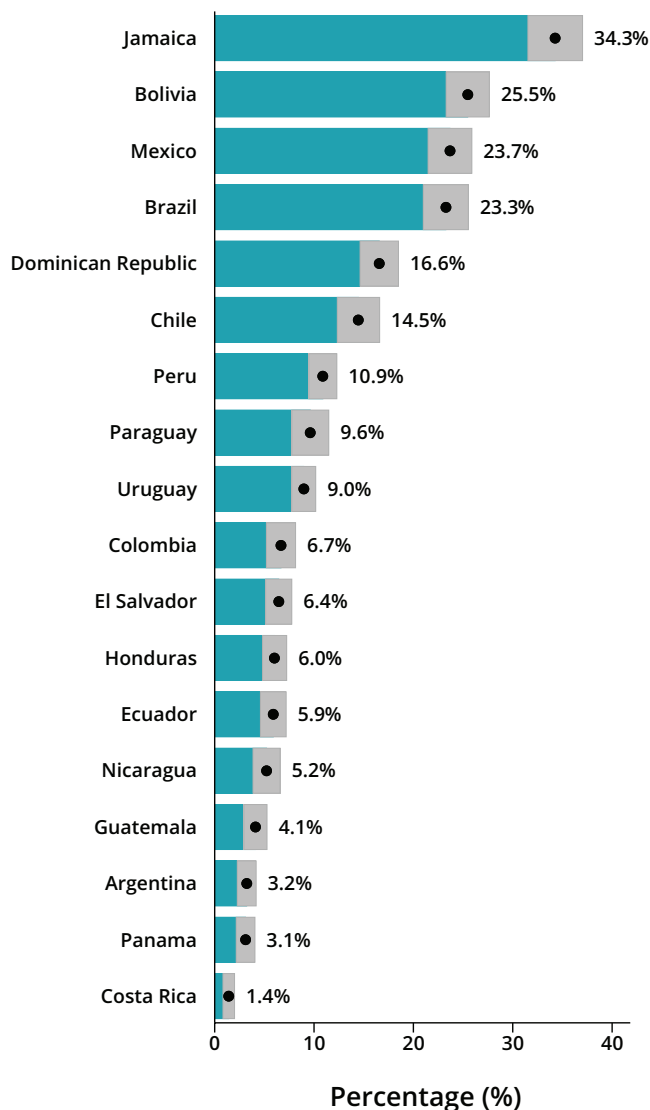
Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured people's evaluations of their country's economic situation by asking the following question:

SOCT2. Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago?

In the 2018/19 round, this question was included in surveys in 18 LAC countries. Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the region that evaluated their country's current economic situation as better than 12 months prior to the survey.

The country with the highest rate of people who evaluate their country's economic situation as better in is Jamaica (34.3%), while Costa Rica (1.4%) holds the lowest rate. Most in the LAC region do not believe their country's economic situation is improving. On average in the region, slightly over one in ten adults believe their country's economic situation is better than a year ago.

National Economic Situation is Better, 2018/19



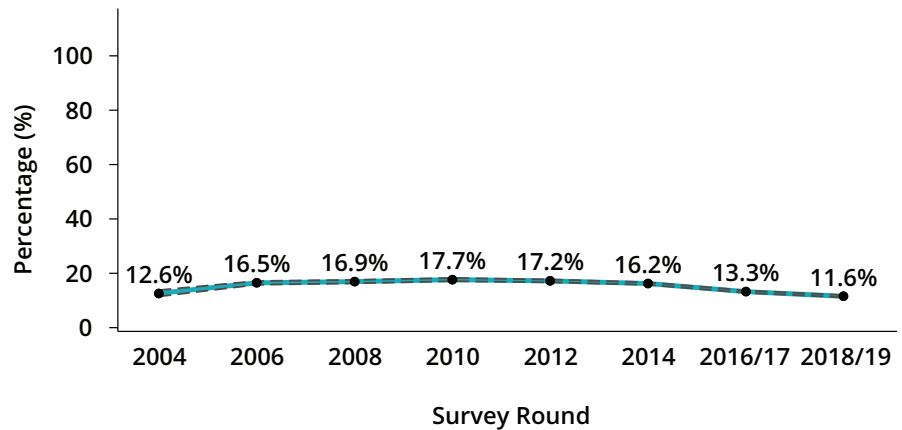
95% Confidence Interval
(with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0

Perceptions of an improving national economic situation are worsening

In the average LAC country, the perception of a better economic situation has decreased slightly but steadily since 2010, when it reached its highest recorded level (17.7%). The average rate of respondents who believe their country's economic situation had improved reached its lowest recorded level in 2018/19 (11.6%).

National Economic Situation is Better in the LAC Region, 2004–2018/19



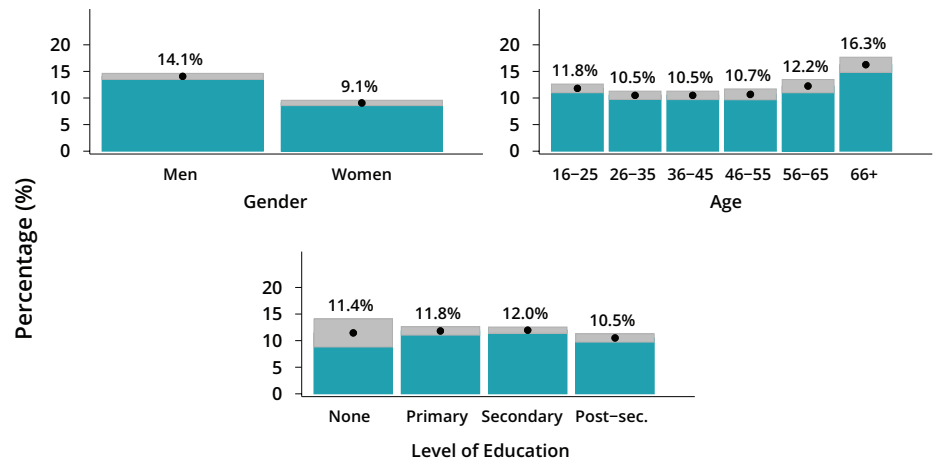
— 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004–2018/19; GM1.0

Positive evaluations of the economic situation are higher among men, older adults, and the less educated

What characteristics of individuals predict a more positive evaluation of the economic situation in the LAC region? On average, men are more likely to report a better evaluation of the economic situation compared to women (14.1% and 9.1%, respectively). Younger cohorts are more likely to report a lower evaluation of the economic situation than older cohorts. Finally, individuals with primary and secondary levels of education are more likely to report a better evaluation of the economic situation compared to individuals with post-secondary level of education and those with no education.¹

National Economic Situation is Better in the LAC Region, 2018/19



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0



Interested in knowing more about the LAPOP Lab's AmericasBarometer study?
 Consult the data and our reports at
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¹ Place of residence (urban/rural) and wealth quintiles are not statistically significant predictors of better economic evaluations in the LAC region in 2018/19.

As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, the LAPOP Lab is committed to routine disclosure of our data collection and reporting processes. More information about the AmericasBarometer sample designs can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.php

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