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Latinos' Views of the Impact of Illegal Immigration on Their Community Improve

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About the Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project

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About this Report

This report focuses on Latinos' views of the impact of unauthorized immigration on Latinos living in the U.S. It is based on findings from a Pew Research Center nationally representative survey of 5,103 Hispanic adults conducted from May 24 through July 28, 2013. It is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center's [Religion and Public Life Project](#) and the Pew Research Center's [Hispanic Trends Project](#). The survey focuses on Hispanics' religious affiliation and behaviors, Hispanic identity and views about social issues. The survey was conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia among a randomly selected sample of Hispanic adults. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish on cellular as well as landline telephones. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. Interviews were conducted for the Pew Research Center by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS).

The report was written by director Mark Hugo Lopez and research associate Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. Paul Taylor provided editorial guidance on the report. Jon Cohen, D'Vera Cohn, Cary Funk and Jessica Hamar Martínez provided comments on an earlier draft of the report. Funk and Scott Keeter provided comments on the report's methodology section. Funk, Gonzalez-Barrera, Hamar Martínez, Keeter, Luis Lugo and Taylor contributed to the development of the survey instrument. Anna Brown provided research assistance. Eileen Patten number-checked the report. Caroline Klibanoff was the copy editor.

A Note on Terminology

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably in this report.

"Native born" refers to persons who are U.S. citizens at birth, including those born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and those born abroad to parents at least one of whom was a U.S. citizen.

"Foreign born" refers to persons born outside of the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen.

"Foreign-born U.S. citizens" refers to persons who indicate they are "foreign born" and who indicate they are U.S. citizens. "Foreign-born legal residents" refers to persons who indicate they are foreign born and who say they have a green card or have been approved for one.

"Foreign born who are not legal residents and not U.S. citizens" refers to persons who indicate they are foreign born, who say they do not have a green card and have not been approved for one, and who indicate they do not hold U.S. citizenship.

“First generation” refers to foreign-born people. The terms “foreign born,” “first generation” and “immigrant” are used interchangeably in this report.

“Second generation” refers to people born in the United States, with at least one first-generation parent.

“Third and higher generation” refers to people born in the United States, with both parents born in the United States. This report uses the term “third generation” as shorthand for “third and higher generation.”

Language dominance, or primary language, is a composite measure based on self-described assessments of speaking and reading abilities. “Spanish-dominant” persons are more proficient in Spanish than in English, i.e., they speak and read Spanish “very well” or “pretty well” but rate their English-speaking and reading ability lower. “Bilingual” refers to persons who are proficient in both English and Spanish. “English-dominant” persons are more proficient in English than in Spanish.

Latinos' Views of Illegal Immigration's Impact on Their Community Improve

Hispanics' views of the impact of unauthorized immigration on the U.S. Hispanic community have grown more positive since 2010, according to a new nationwide survey of 5,103 Hispanic adults by the Pew Research Center.

Today, 45% of Hispanic adults say the impact of unauthorized immigration on Hispanics already living in the U.S. is positive, up 16 percentage points from 2010 when 29% said the same.

Views of unauthorized immigration's impact have improved more among foreign-born Hispanics than native-born Hispanics. According to the new survey, half (53%) of Hispanic immigrants say the impact of unauthorized immigration on the U.S. Hispanic community is positive, up 19 percentage points from 2010 when 34% said the same. This compares with a 12 percentage point increase in the share of native-born Hispanics who say the same—from 24% in 2010 to 35% in 2013.

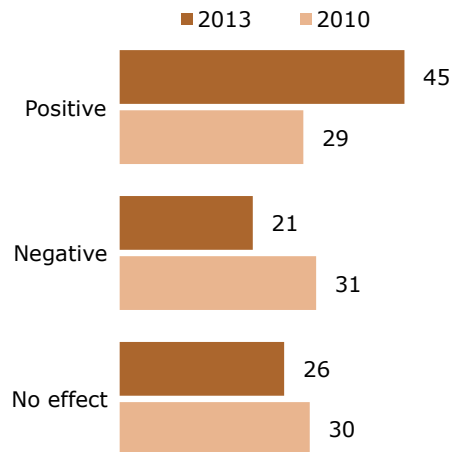
Among the native born, views of unauthorized immigration's impact on U.S. Hispanics differ by immigrant generation. Some 42% of second generation Hispanics (the native-born adult children of immigrant parents) say the impact of unauthorized immigration is positive.

By comparison, just 29% of third generation Hispanics (native-born adults of native-born parents) say the same. For both groups, the share saying the impact of unauthorized immigration is positive has grown since 2010—up 11 percentage points among second generation Hispanics and up 10 percentage points among third generation Hispanics.

Figure 1

Effect of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Hispanics, 2010 and 2013

Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on [Hispanics/Latinos] already living in the U.S.? Would you say it's a positive effect, a negative effect, or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other? % saying ...



Notes: N=5,103 for 2013; N=1,375 for 2010. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013; Pew Research Center 2010 National Surveys of Latinos.

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Nonetheless, not all native-born Latinos say the impact of unauthorized immigration on U.S. Latinos is positive. Among third generation Latinos, one-third (32%) say the impact of unauthorized immigration on Latinos living in the U.S. is negative, and 32% say there is no effect one way or the other. For second generation Latinos, 22% say the impact of unauthorized immigration is negative and 29% say there is no effect.

Hispanics' views of the impact of unauthorized immigration on U.S. Hispanics have nearly returned to those of 2007. Then, when asked a slightly different question,¹ half (50%) of Hispanic adults said the growing number of unauthorized immigrants overall had a positive effect on the Hispanic community, 20% said it had a negative effect and 20% said there was no effect ([Pew Hispanic Center, 2007](#)).

Today, just as in 2010 and in 2007, the nation is in the midst of a contentious discussion about comprehensive immigration reform. However, it is possible that in 2010, a combination of a weak economy and a hardening political environment around immigration may have led to a more downbeat assessment of illegal immigration's impact on U.S. Latinos. In 2010, the nation was emerging

Table 1

Views of Unauthorized Immigration's Effect on U.S. Hispanics, 2007-2013

Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on [Hispanics/Latinos] already living in the U.S.? Would you say it's a positive effect, a negative effect, or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other?

% saying ...

	2007*	2010	2013	Change 2010-2013
All Latinos				
Positive	50	29	45	16
Negative	20	31	21	-11
No effect	20	30	26	-4
Foreign born (excl. PR)				
Positive	57	34	53	19
Negative	14	27	15	-12
No effect	19	26	22	-4
Native born (incl. PR)				
Positive	41	24	35	12
Negative	29	36	27	-9
No effect	22	35	31	-4
Among native born				
Second Generation				
Positive	47	30	42	11
Negative	24	32	22	-10
No effect	20	33	29	-4
Third generation				
Positive	37	19	29	10
Negative	33	39	32	-7
No effect	24	36	32	-3

Note: N=5,103 for 2013; N=1,375 for 2010; N=2,000 for 2007. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown. *The 2007 survey asked, "Overall, what is the effect of the growing number of undocumented or illegal immigrants on [Hispanics/Latinos] living in the U.S.? Would you say it's a positive development, negative development, or would you say it has had no impact one way or the other?" Change column was computed prior to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013; Pew Research Center 2010 and 2007 National Surveys of Latinos.

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¹ In 2007, survey respondents were asked about the impact of the "growing number of undocumented or illegal immigrants" on Latinos in the U.S. ([Pew Hispanic Center, 2007](#)). In 2010 and 2013, since the number of unauthorized immigrants residing in the U.S. had fallen ([Passel and Cohn, 2010](#)) and remained flat through 2011 ([Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013](#)), the question instead asked about the effect of "undocumented or illegal immigration" on U.S. Latinos.

from the Great Recession and Arizona had passed its SB 1070 law that authorized local police to check the immigration status of anyone they suspected of being in the U.S. illegally.

The nation's unauthorized immigrant population reached its peak of 12.2 million in 2007, but then declined to a recent low of 11.3 million in 2009. Preliminary evidence suggests it may be on the rise, standing at 11.7 million in 2012 ([Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera, 2013](#)).

Overall, about three-quarters of all unauthorized immigrants are of Hispanic or Latin American origin ([Passel and Cohn, 2010](#)) and 52% of all unauthorized immigrants are from Mexico.

The Pew Research Center survey was conducted by landline and cellular telephone, in English and Spanish, from May 24 through July 28, 2013 among a nationally-representative sample of 5,103 Hispanic adults. The margin of error for the survey was plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. For details on the survey methodology, see Appendix A.

Views of Unauthorized Immigration's Impact by Hispanic Demographic Sub-Group

Views of unauthorized immigration's impact on the U.S. Hispanic community vary across demographic sub-groups of Hispanics.

For some groups of Hispanics, views of the effect of unauthorized immigration on U.S. Hispanics are positive. Dominicans (59%) and Salvadorans (57%) are the most likely to say unauthorized immigration's effect on U.S. Hispanics is positive. In addition, half (49%) of other Central Americans, 47% of Mexicans and 47% of South American Hispanics say the same.

By comparison, assessments are less positive among Cubans and Puerto Ricans. Among Cubans, 38% say the impact of unauthorized immigration is positive, but 28% say the impact is negative and 27% say there is no impact one way or the other. Among Puerto Ricans, roughly equal shares say the impact of unauthorized immigration on U.S. Hispanics is positive (34%), negative (29%) or has no effect (29%).

Spanish-dominant Hispanics are positive about the impact of unauthorized immigrants on the Hispanic community with 55% saying their impact is positive. By contrast, opinions are split among English-dominant Hispanics—31% see a positive effect of unauthorized immigration,

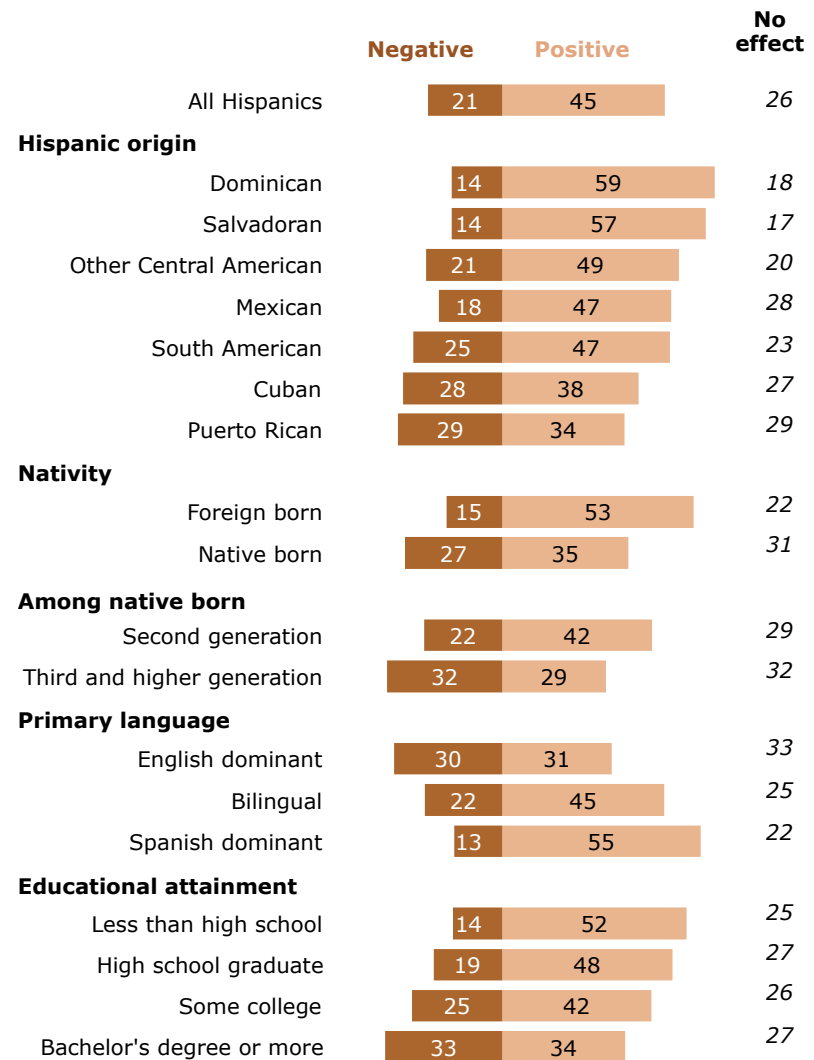
30% see a negative effect and 33% say there is no impact one way or the other.

Educational attainment is also linked to views of unauthorized immigration's effect on Latinos already living in the U.S. Half (52%) of Latinos who have less than a high school diploma and half (48%) of Latinos who are high school graduates say the impact of unauthorized immigration on U.S. Latinos is positive. By contrast, among Latinos with a bachelor's degree, views are not as positive. Just one-third (34%) say the effect of unauthorized immigration is positive, 33% say it is negative and 27% say there has been no effect.²

Figure 2

Effect of Unauthorized Immigration on U.S. Hispanics, by Selected Characteristics

Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on [Hispanics/Latinos] already living in the U.S.? Would you say it's a positive effect, a negative effect, or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other? % saying ...



Note: N=5,103. Hispanic origin ranked by share responding "positive effect." "Don't know/refused responses" not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013.

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² Differences by language and differences by educational attainment remain regardless of other factors such as nativity, age, and country of origin.

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Appendix A: Survey Methodology

Results for this study are based on telephone interviews conducted by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS), an independent research company, among a nationally representative sample of 5,103 Latino respondents ages 18 and older. It was conducted on cellular and landline telephones from May 24 through July 28, 2013. The survey covers a range of topics including Hispanics' religious affiliation and behaviors, views of Hispanic identity, and views about social issues. The survey used a stratified sampling design, oversampling areas with higher densities of Latino residents and oversampling areas with a higher concentration of Latinos with a non-Mexican heritage. The survey also included an oversample of non-Catholic Latinos. Several stages of statistical adjustment or weighting were used to account for the complex nature of the sample design, including a correction for oversampling and other differences in the probability of selection as well as sample balancing to population totals for the U.S. Hispanic adult population.

For the full sample, a total of 2,224 respondents were native born (including Puerto Rico), and 2,879 were foreign born (excluding Puerto Rico). Also 2,346 were of Mexican origin, 659 were Puerto Rican, 349 were Cuban, 271 were Salvadoran, and 338 were Dominican. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

2013 Hispanic Survey Details

	<i>Sample Size</i>	<i>Margin of error 95% confidence level</i>
Total Latinos	5,103	+/- 2.1% points
Native born (incl. PR)	2,224	+/- 3.2% points
Foreign born (excl. PR)	2,879	+/- 2.7% points
Mexican	2,346	+/- 2.8% points
Puerto Rican	659	+/- 6.7% points
Cuban	349	+/- 7.9% points
Salvadoran	271	+/- 9.3% points
Dominican	338	+/- 9.5% points

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For this survey, SSRS used a staff of Spanish-speaking interviewers who, when contacting a household, were able to offer respondents the option of completing the survey in Spanish or English. A total of 2,725 respondents (53%) were surveyed in Spanish, and 2,378 respondents (47%) were interviewed in English. Any person ages 18 or older of who said they are of Latino origin or descent was eligible to complete the survey.

To ensure the highest possible coverage of the eligible population, the study employed a dual-frame landline/cellular telephone design. The sample consisted of a landline sampling frame (yielding 2,698 completed interviews) and a cell phone sampling frame (2,405 interviews)³. Both the landline and cell phone sampling frames used a stratified sampling design, oversampling areas with higher densities of Latino residents. The same sampling plan was used for the main sample and the non-Catholic oversample.

For the landline sampling frame, the sample was compared with InfoUSA and other household databases, and phone numbers associated with households that included persons with known Latino surnames were subdivided into a Surname stratum. The remaining, unmatched and unlisted landline sample was divided into the following mutually exclusive strata, based on Census estimates of the density of the Hispanic population in each: Very High, High and Medium Latino.⁴ These strata were then further subdivided into Low Mexican and High Mexican strata.

Marketing System Group's (MSG) GENESYS sample generation system was used to generate cell phone sample, which was divided into High and Medium Latino strata. These were then further divided into Low Mexican and High Mexican strata.

Samples for the low-incidence landline and low-incidence cell strata were drawn from previously interviewed respondents in SSRS's weekly dual-frame Excel omnibus survey. Respondents who indicated they were Latino on the omnibus survey were eligible to be re-contacted for the present survey. In addition, the incidences in the Medium landline and cell phone strata were lower than anticipated, so additional interviews with Latinos prescreened from the Excel omnibus survey were used to gather additional interviews in these strata. This resulted in a total of two additional strata for both the landline and cell phone sampling frames. The number of interviews completed in each stratum is shown in the table below.

It is important to note that the existence of a surname stratum does not mean the survey was a surname sample design. The sample is RDD, with the randomly selected telephone numbers divided by whether or not they were found to be associated with a Spanish surname. This was done simply to increase the number of strata and thereby increase the ability to meet ethnic

³ According to calculations by the National Center for Health Statistics National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), from July to December 2011, 43.3% of Hispanic adults were living in wireless-only households and 17.0% were in wireless-mostly households (Blumberg and Luke, 2013).

⁴ Due to lower than expected incidence in some landline strata, the sampling frame was changed early in the field period; the change subdivided the high Latino strata into a high and very high strata, per earlier NSL sampling designs.

targets and ease administration by allowing for more effective assignment of interviewers and labor hours.

Interviews by Strata

		Landline		Cell Phone	
		Total interviews* (% of total)	Estimated % among U.S. population**	Total interviews* (% of total)	Estimated % among U.S. population**
Surname	Low Mexican	771 (28.6)	11.3		
	High Mexican	444 (16.5)	20.8		
Very High	Low Mexican	251 (9.3)	3.5		
	High Mexican	227 (8.4)	10.3		
High	Low Mexican	128 (4.7)	3.3	619 (25.7)	6.1
	High Mexican	110 (4.1)	9.0	705 (29.3)	16.8
Medium	Low Mexican	115 (4.3)	6.9	335 (13.9)	12.6
	High Mexican	77 (2.9)	11.8	152 (6.3)	21.8
Medium (prescreened)	Low Mexican	97 (3.6)	6.9	84 (3.5)	12.6
	High Mexican	88 (3.3)	11.8	95 (4.0)	21.8
Low (prescreened)	Low Mexican	175 (6.5)	10.0	184 (7.7)	18.9
	High Mexican	215 (8.0)	13.1	231 (9.6)	23.9
Total		2,698	100.0	2,405	100.0

Notes: *Total interviews includes the prescreened omnibus interviews that were not subject to geographic stratification

**The estimated population breakdown is based on counts from Claritas provided by Marketing System Group (MSG). The over- or under-sampling of strata was corrected in weighting.

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A multi-stage weighting procedure was used to ensure an accurate representation of the national Hispanic population.

- An adjustment was made for all persons found to possess both a landline and a cell phone, as they were twice as likely to be sampled as were respondents who possessed only one phone type.
- The sample was corrected for a potential bias associated with re-contacting previously interviewed respondents in certain strata.
- The sample was corrected for the likelihood of within-household selection, which depended upon the likelihood that the respondent's age group would be selected, and within that age group, the particular respondent would be selected.
- The sample was corrected for the over sampling of telephone number exchanges known to have higher densities of Latinos and the corresponding undersampling of exchanges known to have lower densities of Latinos.

- Finally, the data were put through a post-stratification sample balancing routine to population totals for the U.S. Hispanic adult population based on the 2012 U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, March Supplement. Iterative proportional fitting, or raking, was completed for the following parameters: age by state (California, Florida, New York, Texas and all other states combined), gender by state, heritage by state, education by state, U.S. born or years in the U.S. by state, Census region, phone use (i.e., cell phone only, cell phone mostly, mixed/landline only/landline mostly) and density of the Latino population.
- Both the base weights and the post-stratification weights were trimmed to range from 0.10 to 5.0.
- After the data were raked to resemble the population distribution for Latino adults, the weighted data were used to determine the benchmark for a Catholic/non-Catholic parameter, which was used in adjustments for the oversample of non-Catholic Latinos.

Appendix B: Survey Topline

Pew Research Center
Final Topline
May 24 - July 28, 2013
Total N=5,103 Hispanic Adults

The study was conducted for the Pew Research Center via telephone by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS), an independent research company. All numbers are percentages. Columns/rows may not total 100% due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all trends reference surveys from the Pew Research Center Hispanic Trends Project. For this survey, a total of 2,698 respondents were contacted via landline and a total of 2,405 respondents were contacted on their cellphone; 2,725 interviews were conducted in Spanish and 2,378 in English.

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
Total Hispanic respondents	5,103	+/- 2.1% points
<i>Native born (including Puerto Rico)</i>	2,224	+/- 3.2% points
<i>Foreign born (excluding Puerto Rico)</i>	2,879	+/- 2.7% points
<i>Mexican</i>	2,346	+/- 2.8% points
<i>Puerto Rican</i>	659	+/- 6.7% points
<i>Cuban</i>	349	+/- 7.9% points
<i>Salvadoran</i>	271	+/- 9.3% points
<i>Dominican</i>	338	+/- 9.5% points

ASK ALL

(INSERT "Hispanics" IF Q.2=1, INSERT "Latinos" IF Q.2=2, 3, D, R)
 Q105. Overall, what is the effect of UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigration on (HISPANICS/LATINOS) already living in the U.S.? Would you say it's **(READ LIST)?**

<u>Total</u>		<i>Native born</i>	<i>Foreign born</i>
45	A positive effect	35	53
21	A negative effect	27	15
26	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	31	22
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9

<u>Total</u>		<i>Mexican</i>	<i>Puerto Rican</i>	<i>Cuban</i>	<i>Salvadoran</i>	<i>Dominican</i>
45	A positive effect	47	34	38	57	59
21	A negative effect	18	29	28	14	14
26	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	28	29	27	17	18
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	8	8	12	9

Latinos' Views of the Impact of Illegal Immigration on Their Community Improve

QUESTION 105 CONTINUED**Trend:**

May 24- July 28 <u>2013</u>		Sep <u>2010</u>
45	A positive effect	29
21	A negative effect	31
26	Or would you say it has had no effect one way or the other	30
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Overall, what is the effect of the growing number of undocumented or illegal immigrants on (HISPANICS/LATINOS) living in the U.S.? Would you say it's (READ LIST)?

	Nov <u>2007</u>
A positive development	50
A negative development	20
Or would you say it has had no impact one way or the other	20
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

ALL OTHER QUESTIONS IN THE SURVEY HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE