

Banjul, Gambia
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News release

Gambians decry economic conditions, say the country is heading in the wrong direction

A large majority of Gambians say their country is heading in the wrong direction, and few believe that economic conditions will improve in the next year, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Only one in three citizens view their personal living conditions as good, and even fewer assess the country's economic condition favourably.

Gambia is currently developing a "green recovery-focused" national development plan (2023-2027) that prioritises recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic along with forward-looking climate and environmental policies. The plan outlines development goals for democratic governance, macroeconomic stability and growth, human capital development, natural resource management, and other areas.

Key findings

- Almost eight in 10 Gambians (79%) say the country is heading in "the wrong direction," a 50-percentage-point increase since 2018 (29%) (Figure 1).
- Fewer than two in 10 Gambians (17%) describe the country's economic condition as "fairly good" or "very good," a 41-point drop since 2018 (58%) (Figure 2).
- Only about one-third (32%) of Gambians describe their personal living conditions as "fairly good" or "very good," a 34-percentage point drop since 2018 (66%) (Figure 3).
- Three-fourths (75%) of Gambians say economic conditions in the country have gotten "worse or "much worse" over the last year, and only 25% expect things to improve over the next 12 months (Figure 4).

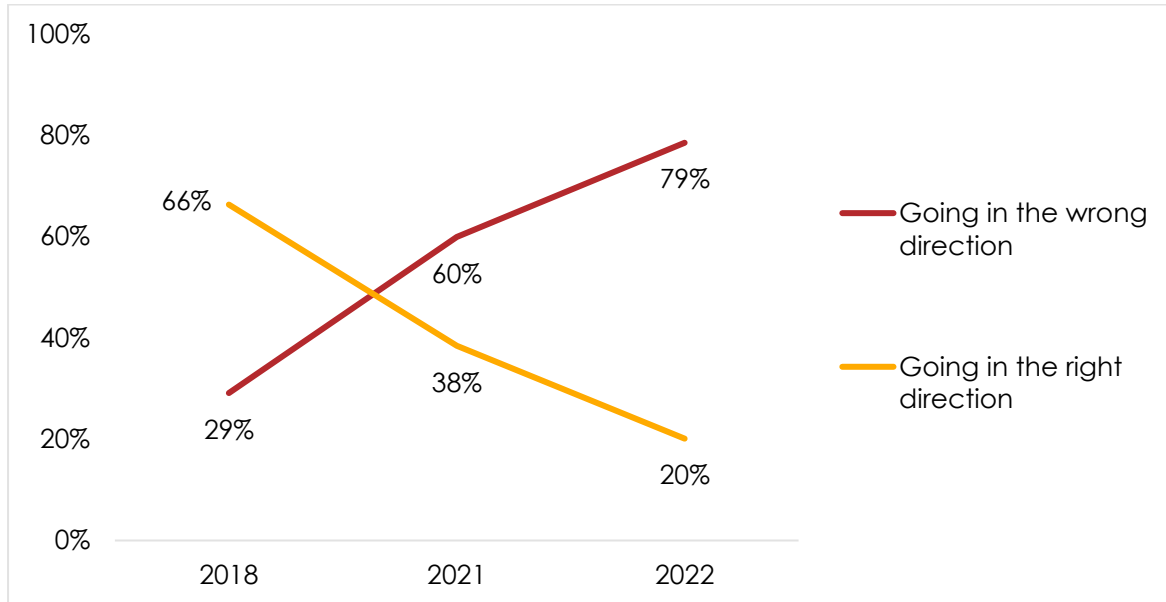
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999, and Round 9 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in the Gambia, led by the Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies (CepRass), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens between 30 August and 19 September 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in the Gambia in 2018 and 2021.

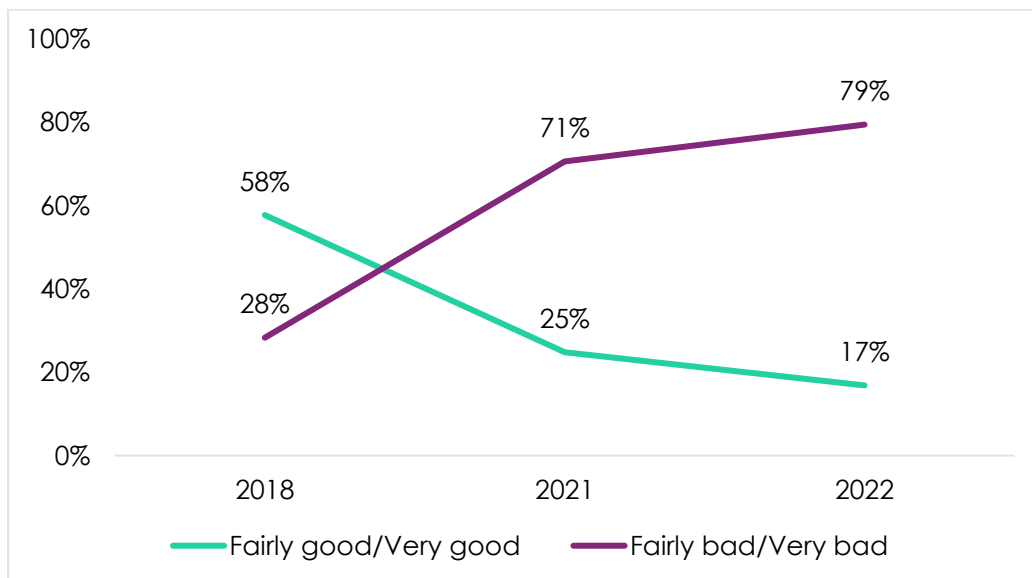
Charts

Figure 1: Is the country going in the right direction? | Gambia | 2018-2022



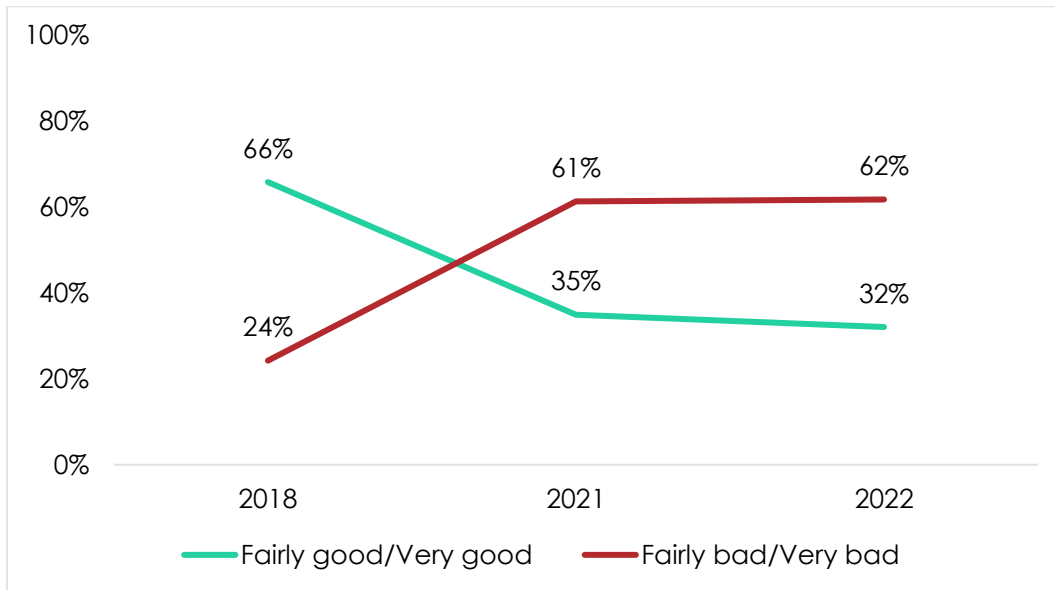
Respondents were asked: *Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?*

Figure 2: Evaluation of country's economic condition | Gambia | 2018-2022



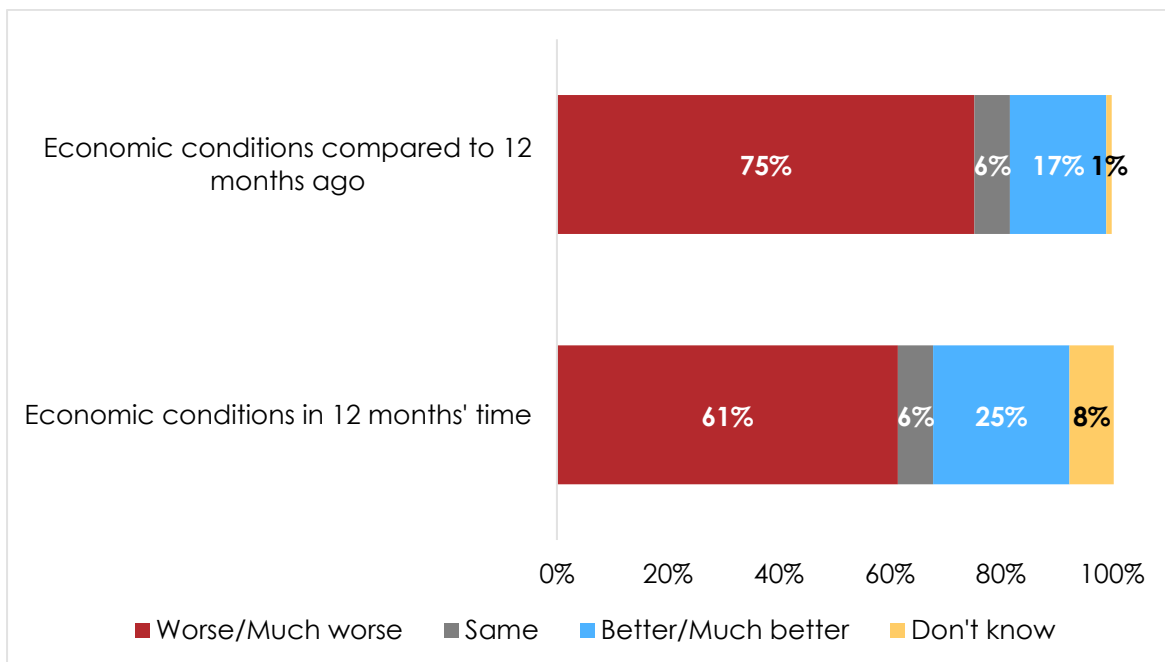
Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?*

Figure 3: Evaluation of personal living conditions | Gambia | 2018-2022



Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions?*

Figure 4 : Retrospective and prospective assessments of economic conditions | Gambia | 2022



Respondents were asked:

*Looking back, how do you rate economic conditions in this country compared to 12 months ago?
 Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?*



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