

OUTSOURCING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Prepared for the
 Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation

Information assembled by
 UCLA Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies

INTRODUCTION

Public opinion surveys can play an important role in decision making as they gather information that complements data from standard sources such as the Decennial Census and Current Population Survey. This Information Sheet presents findings from a recently completed survey of Southern California residents (those living in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura). The information from the survey can help better inform elected officials about the public's concerns and priorities, such as the issue of job outsourcing. Our main finding is that only a minority of Southern Californians report working for a firm that practice outsourcing. The proportion varies with the characteristics of the firms but not with the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Half of the sample was asked, "Has your employer moved jobs out of Southern California to another region or outsourced to another country?" While much of the national discussion has been around the problem of outsourcing to foreign countries, moving jobs to other regions in the United States is relevant because it can affect Southern California's economy and its people. Figure 1 reports the responses to the survey question. Roughly one in six stated that she or he worked for a firm that relocated work outside the region.

Figure 1: Employer Outsourced Jobs?
(N=407)

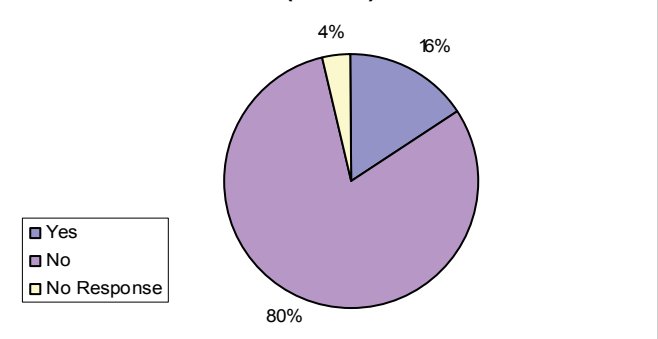
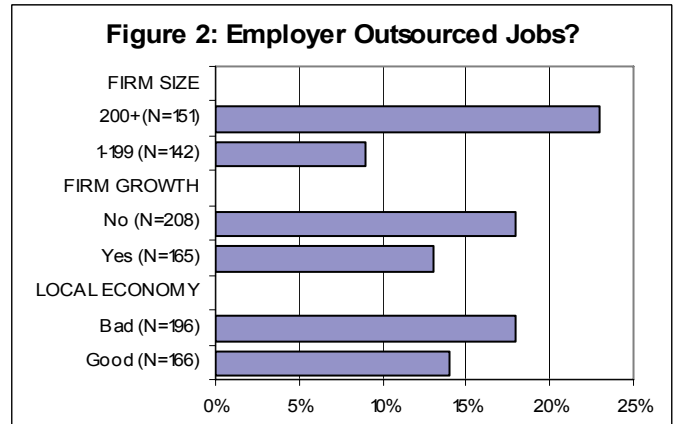


Figure 2 presents the responses to the outsourcing question by sub-groups. Those working in larger firms (with 200 or more employees) and no-growth firms are more likely to state that their firms are outsourcing. Those who believe that the economy in Southern California is in "bad times" are also more likely to state that their firms are outsourcing, although the difference between the proportion stating "good times" and the proportion stating "bad times" is not statistically significant ($p=.11$). What is interesting is that there is no statistical difference in the responses to the outsourcing question when the respondents are disaggregated by socioeconomic characteristics (age, education, household income, or ethnicity).

Figure 2: Employer Outsourced Jobs?



ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2005 Southern California Public Opinion Survey is supported by the UCLA Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, and was developed with input from campus and community organizations. UCLA units include the Center for Communications and Community, the Institute of Transportation Studies, the Center for Civil Society, and the Anderson School of Management. Three public agencies participated in the process: the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA), and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Several UCLA faculty provided valuable input: Professors Vickie Mays, Michael Stoll, Brian Taylor, Amy Zegart, Frank Gilliam, Helmut Anheier, Chris Thornberg, and Ed Leamer.

The Survey was conducted in English and Spanish during the months of January and February 2005 using random digit dialing, and the data were collected by The Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton. There are 1544 completed surveys for the five counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The sample is divided proportionally by county household population. The characteristics of the sample by age, ethnicity, income, and home ownership categories are consistent with the 2004 March Current Population Survey.

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DISCLAIMER

Neither the University of California, the School of Public Affairs nor the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies either support or disavow the findings in any project, report, paper, or research listed herein. University affiliations are for identification only; the University is not involved in or responsible for the project.

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