



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

September 2021 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

September 28, 2021

Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its nation-wide poll for the month of August 2021. This marks the 61st monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan's public opinion. The [full release](#) in Chinese language is available on our official website www.tpof.org.

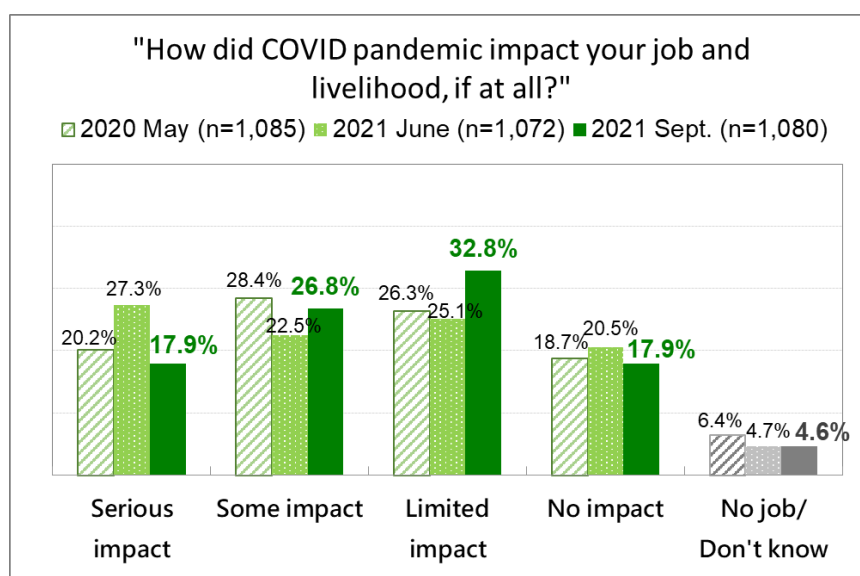
How the Survey was Conducted

This survey with 1,080 effective sample was conducted September 22-23, 2021. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing. The samples were weighted to adjust for demographic distribution, age, sex, and education attainment based on the latest statistics published by the Ministry of the Interior. Sampling error is around ± 2.98 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

Main Findings:

1. Taiwan experienced a serious COVID-19 outbreak starting May of this year, although new confirmed cases and deaths have reportedly decreased in recent

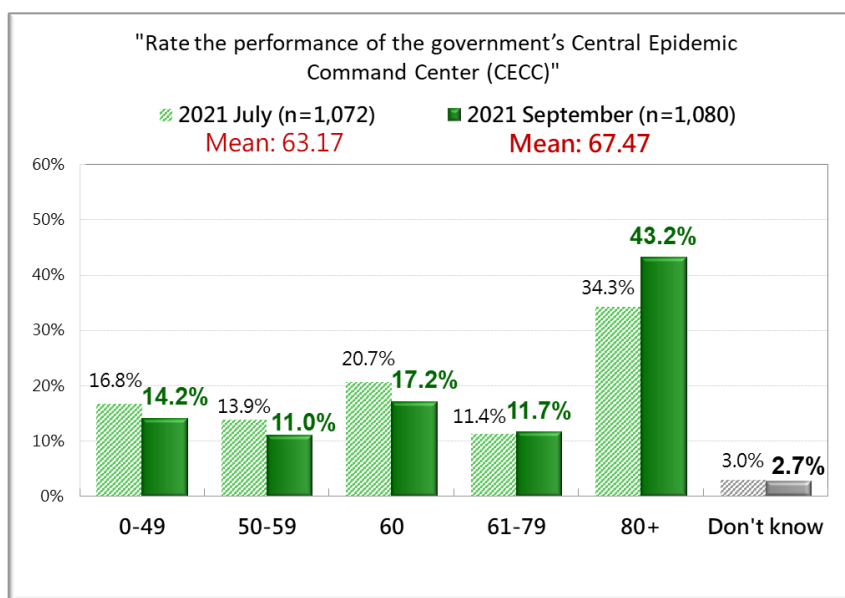
months and the government began gradually lifting pandemic control restrictions. Against this backdrop, how is COVID impacting the jobs and economic livelihood of the Taiwanese public now? The poll finds that as pandemic recedes, 50.7% said that they feel little or no impact anymore, while 44.7% said they still feel such impact to various degrees. A full 18% of those surveyed, proportionally as many as 3.5 million Taiwanese, said their jobs or economic livelihood are being hit hard by the pandemic. This means that economic impacts caused by COVID outbreak are still being felt in Taiwan, albeit to slightly lesser extent compared to previous months.



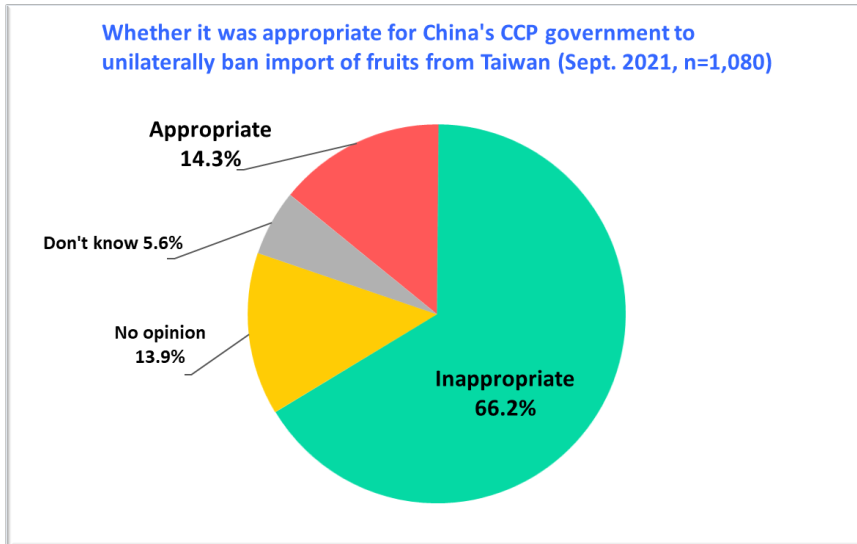
2. Regarding public satisfaction and perception of fairness in Taiwanese government's handlings of vaccine rollout and the order in which population groups received vaccines, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 53.5% said they are somehow satisfied or very satisfied with vaccine rollout so far, while 35.5% said they are somehow unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. In other word, a significant minority of Taiwan's public, proportionally as many as 6.9 million Taiwanese, are still unsatisfied with the way government is handling vaccine rollout. This is a warning sign that Taiwanese public's satisfaction and trust in the government and public health authority in terms of vaccine rollout have yet to recover following a string of [controversies](#) surrounding the government's vaccine policy and rollout, in particular the scandals in which government officials and even politically-connected individuals to gain priority access to vaccines ahead of general public.

3. How do Taiwanese rate the performance of the government's Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) headed by health minister Chen Shih-chung? The poll

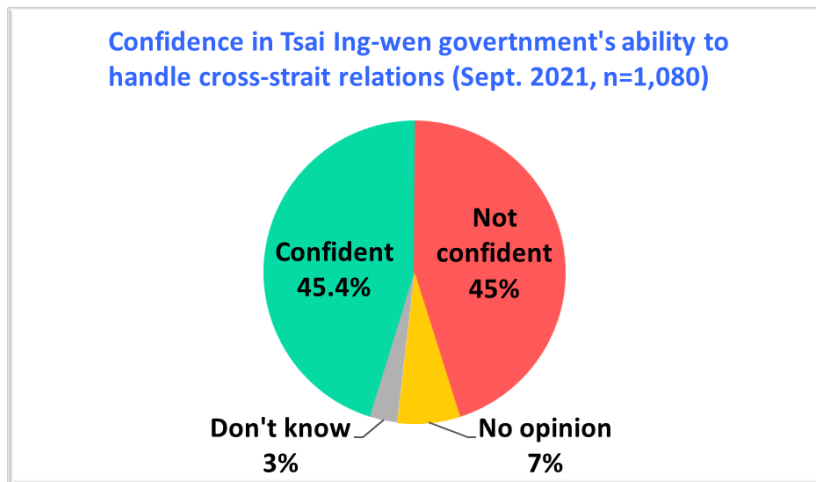
finds on a scale of 0-100, 54.9% of those surveyed rated CECC a score of above 60, while 17.2% rated a passing score of 60, while 25.2% rated failing scores. The mean score is 67.5, a noticeable improvement over the previous month's mean of 63.2. As the pandemic recedes or at least appears to be under control, Taiwanese public's rating of the government's pandemic control also improved correspondingly.



- Concerning China's recently announced [ban on imports of several fruits from Taiwan](#) (citing "bugs" found in some fruit samples during inspection as a justification), the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 66.2% said that it was inappropriate for China to take such measure, while only 14.3% thought it was an appropriate measure. Just like China's earlier [ban on import of pineapple](#) from Taiwan, such measures by Beijing clearly only served to provoke more anger and negative reaction toward China on the part of Taiwan's public opinion.



5. Do Taiwanese people have confidence in President Tsai Ing-wen government's ability to handle cross-strait relations and/or conflicts with China successfully? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 45.4% said they have confidence in Tsai government's handling of challenges in cross-strait relations, while the other 45% said they have no such confidence. This shows Taiwanese public's confidence in Tsai government's handling of cross-strait relations is equally divided.

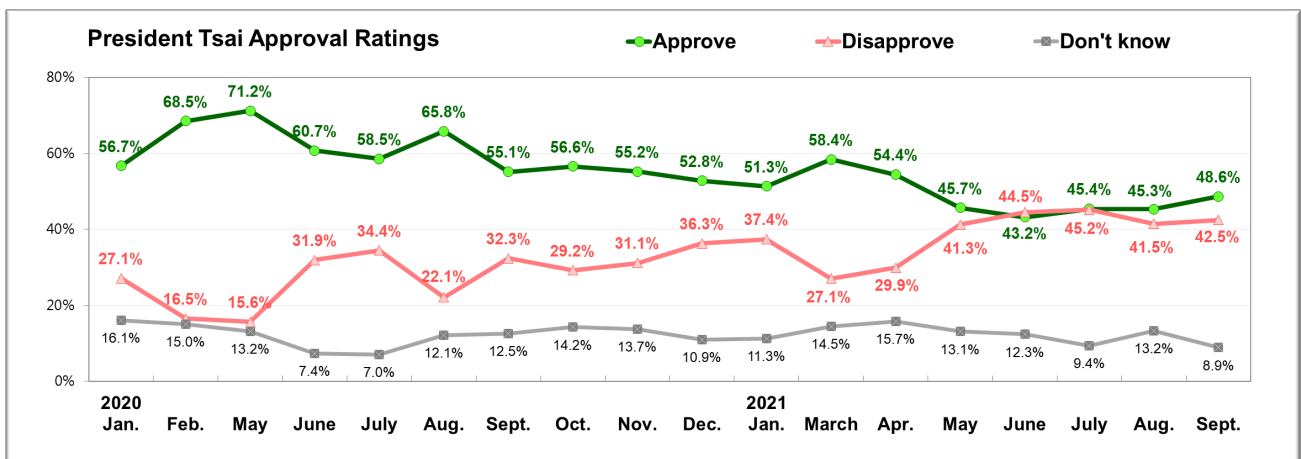


6. Concerning Hsinchu City Mayor Lin Chih-chien's recent proposal to merge Hsinchu City and Hsinchu County into a unified city and therefore upgrade it to become the nation's seventh special municipality, the poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 42.1% support the proposal for a merger, while 33.9% oppose it. This new proposal therefore appears to have the initial support of the majority of Taiwanese public. It is important to point out

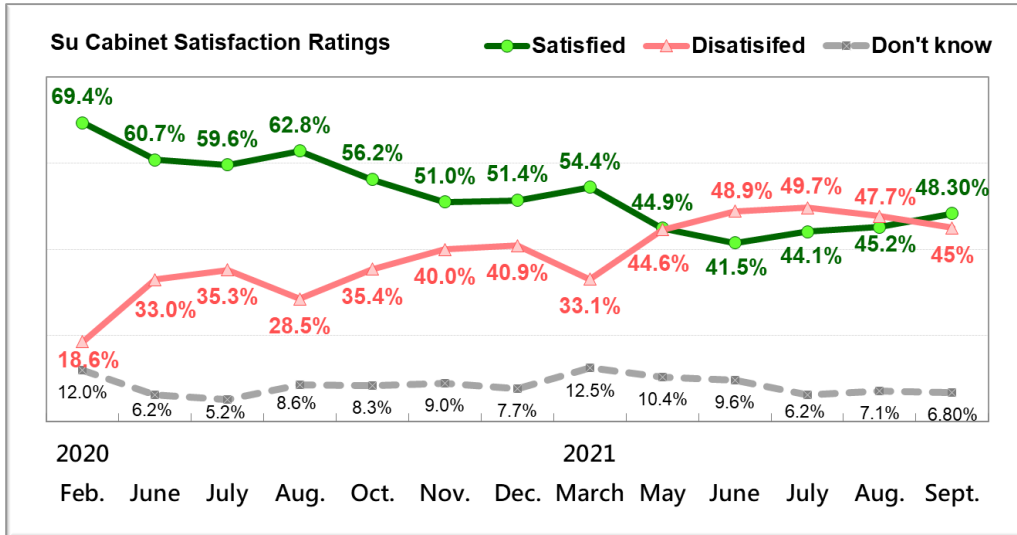
however, that as practical challenges facing such proposal emerge and opposition forces coalesce over time, we could expect this proposal to be more critically discussed among the public and opinions could become more divided.

7. As a follow-up question to Hsinchu City Mayor Lin’s merger proposal, we are interested in whether the Taiwanese public agrees with the opinion long-held by a number of commentators and scholars that Taiwan’s administrative divisions and political system design put too much power into Taiwan’s central government at the expense of local governments. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 60.2% agreed with the statement that political power is too concentrated in the hands of central government and therefore should be decentralized, while 27% do not have an issue with it. This means that the majority of Taiwanese public does see central government as having too much power and desires some form of change or reform.

8. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 11.9% rated strongly approve, 36.7% somewhat approve, 23.5% somewhat disapprove, and 19% strongly disapprove. A slim majority of 48.6% approved of the way President Tsai Ing-wen is handling the country’s top priorities, while another 42.5% expressed disapproval. In other word, President Tsai’s approval rating continues to recover slowly from the low point during the worst of the local COVID outbreak since May. Overall, Taiwanese public opinion is still very divided on President Tsai’s performance.



9. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 48.3% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 45% were not satisfied. This means that Su cabinet finally regained a majority satisfaction level since the COVID outbreak in May, albeit a very slim majority.



10. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 30.1%% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 19.3%% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 13.3% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 3% support the New Power Party (NPP), 2.4% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 29.7% respondents identified themselves as independents. It is worth noting that the KMT had its hotly-contested party chairperson election in the weeks lead up to this poll, which might have influenced the KMT party affiliation to some extent.

