



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

May 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

May 24, 2022

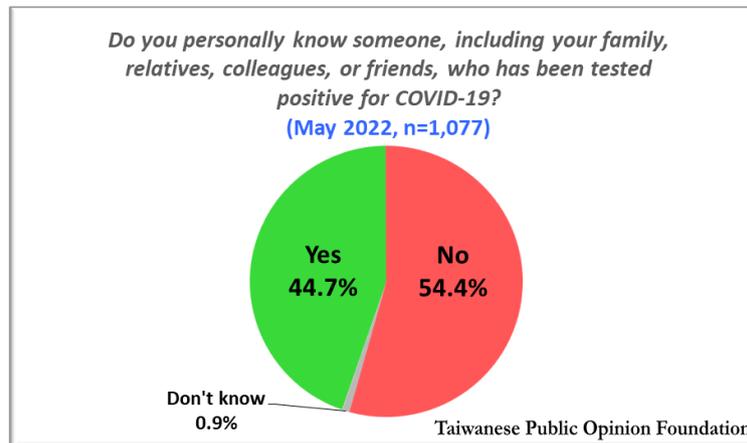
Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its May 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 69th monthly survey conducted by the TPOF aimed at tracking the development and changes in Taiwan’s public opinion. The full release in Chinese language is available on our official website www.tpof.org.

How the Survey was Conducted

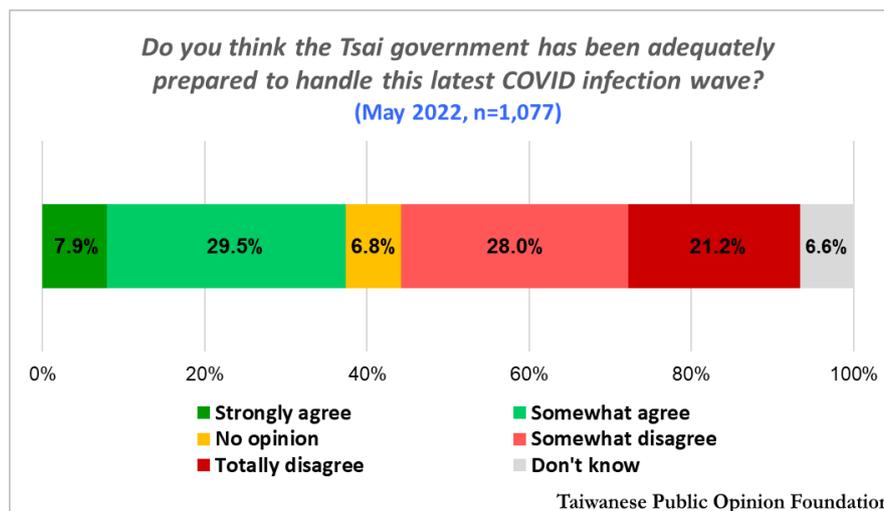
This survey was conducted on May-16-17, 2022, with a sample size of 1,077. Adults 20 years of age and older residing in Taiwan were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline numbers were drawn through random digit dialing system. The samples were demographically weighted to adjust for gender, age, education and the district of residency based on the latest statistics published by the Ministry of the Interior. Sampling error is around ± 2.99 percentage points with 95% level of confidence.

Main Findings:

1. While Taiwan is currently facing its most severe COVID outbreak with the Omicron variant, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 45% said they personally know someone (including family, relatives, colleagues, or friends) who has been tested positive for COVID.

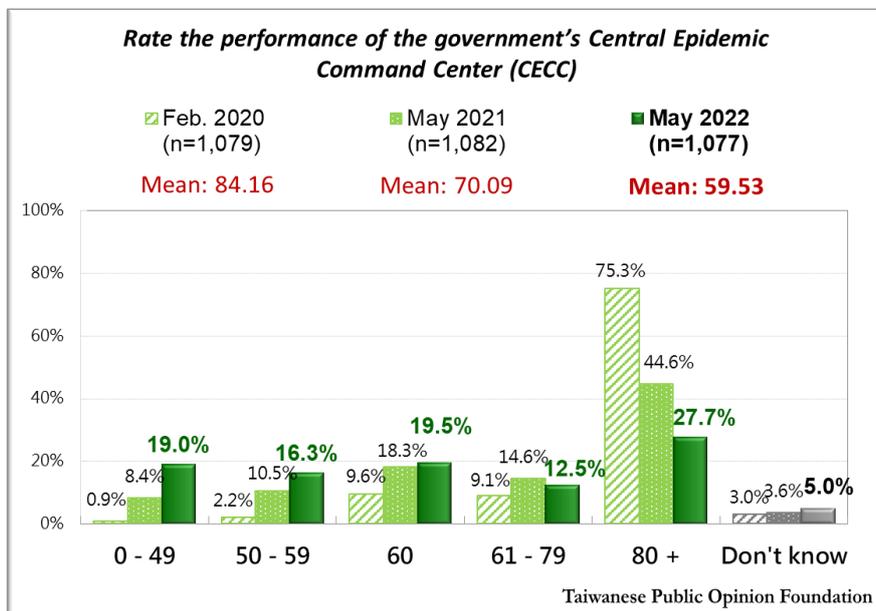


2. Concerning public perceptions toward President Tsai Ing-wen government's handling of the Omicron infection wave, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 38% said they think the government has been adequately prepared to handle it, while 49% said it is not. The majority of Taiwanese people currently do not see the government as having prepared to handle the latest infection wave.

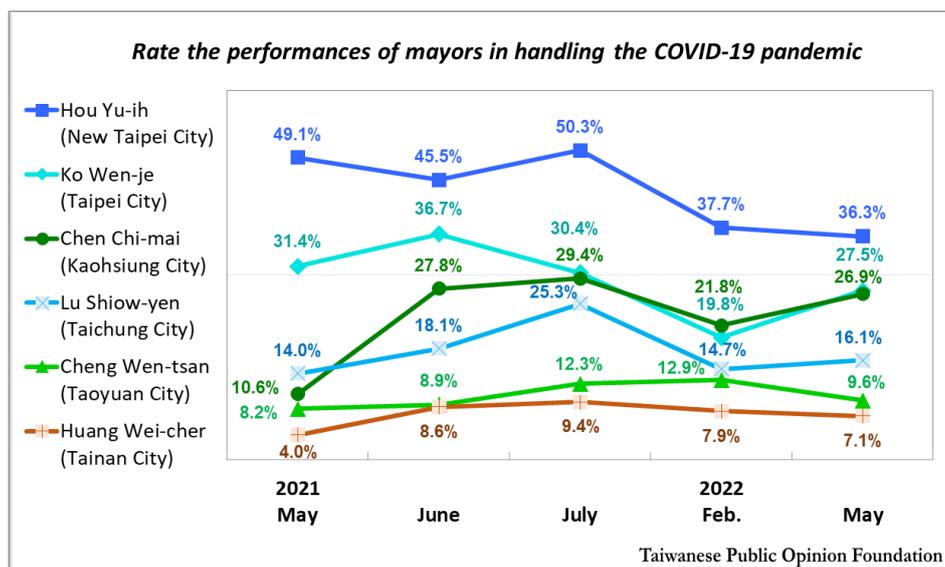


3. How do Taiwanese rate the performance of the government's Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) headed by health minister Chen Shih-chung? The poll finds on a scale of 0-100, 40% of those surveyed rated CECC a score of above 60,

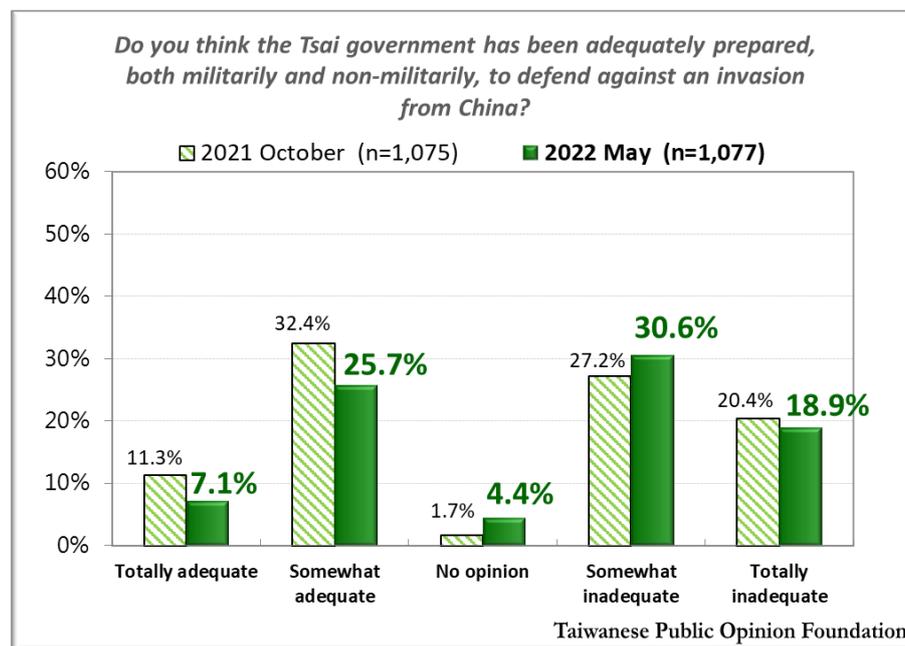
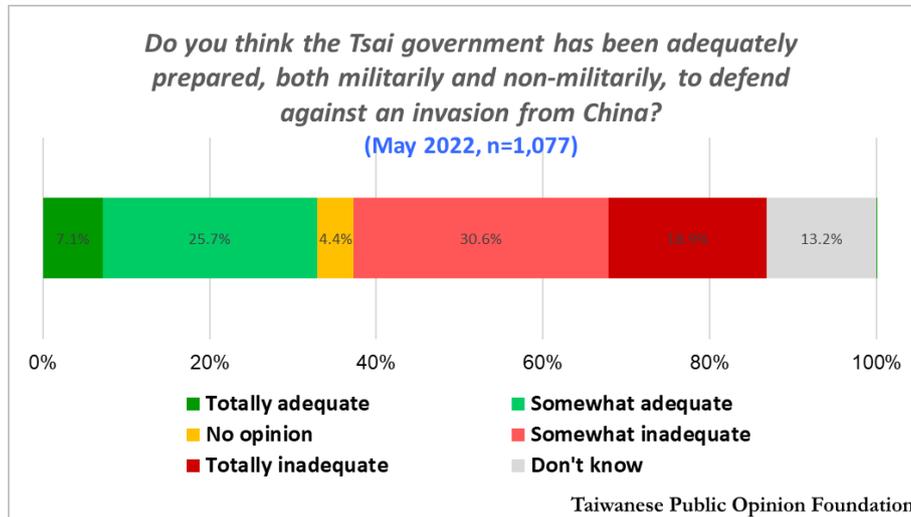
20% rated a passing score of 60, while 35% rated failing scores. The mean score is 59.53. Comparing to our past polls, Taiwanese people's assessments of Minister Chen's pandemic fighting leadership have diminished significantly amidst the latest infection wave, though the majority is still willing to award a passing score.



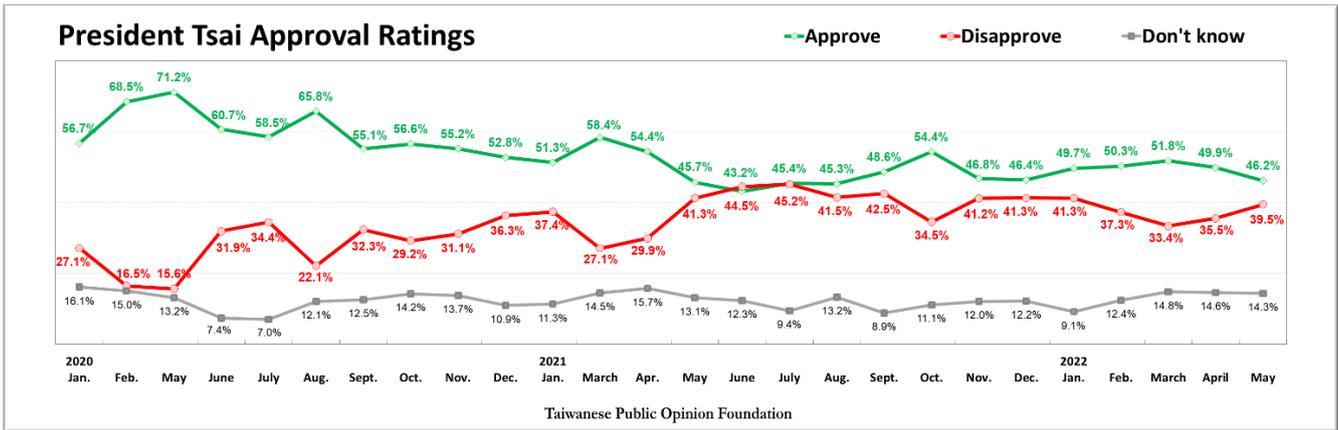
4. How do Taiwanese rate the performances of the various mayors in handling the COVID-19 pandemic? The poll finds among adults aged 20 years and older, New Taipei City Mayor Hou Yu-ih retained the top spot with 36% approval, Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je came second with 27%, then Kaohsiung City Mayor Chen Chi-mai at 26%, Taichung City Mayor Lu Shiow-yen at 16%, Taoyuan City Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan at 9%, Tainan City Mayor Huang Wei-cher came last with just 7% approval.



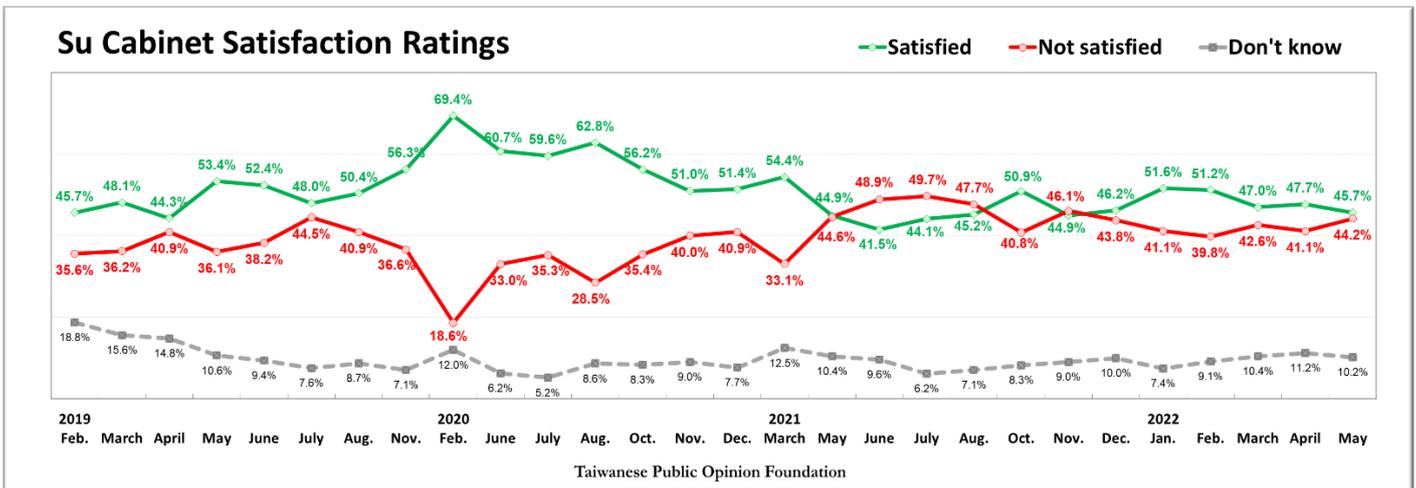
5. Do Taiwanese people feel the ruling Tsai government has been adequately prepared, both militarily and non-militarily, to defend against an invasion from China? The poll finds among adults aged 20 years and older, 50% said they feel the government’s preparations are somewhat or totally inadequate, while only 33% feel they are adequate.



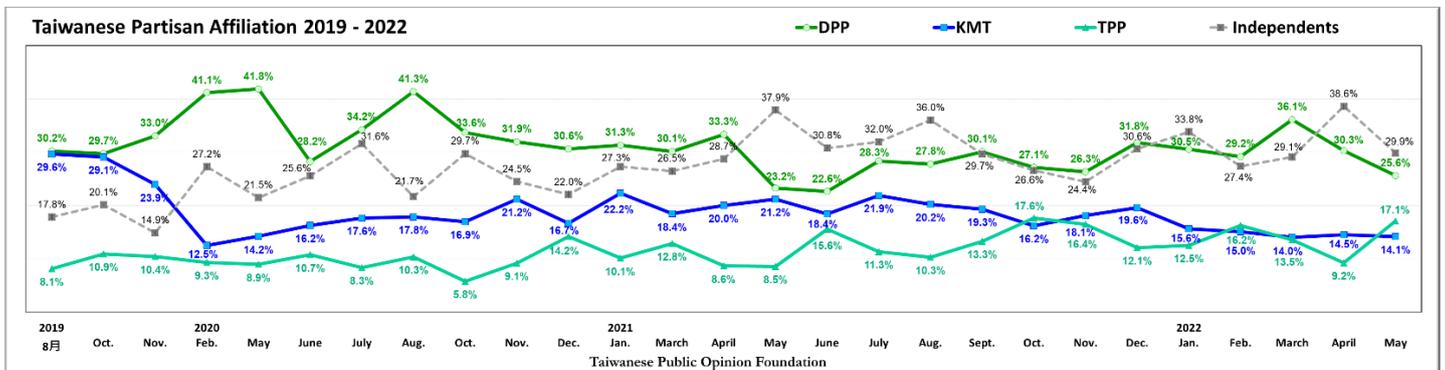
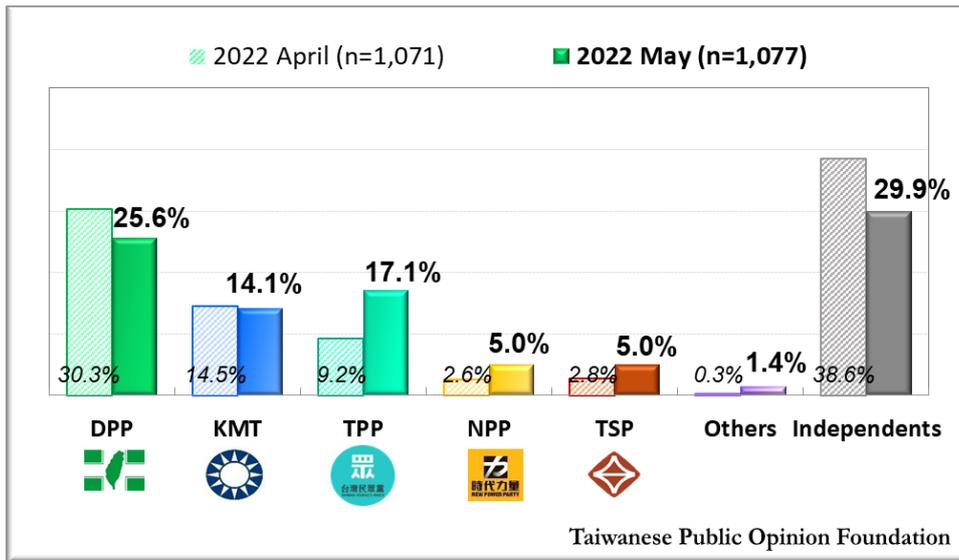
6. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 46.2% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 39.5% expressed disapproval.



7. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 45.7% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 44.2% were not satisfied.



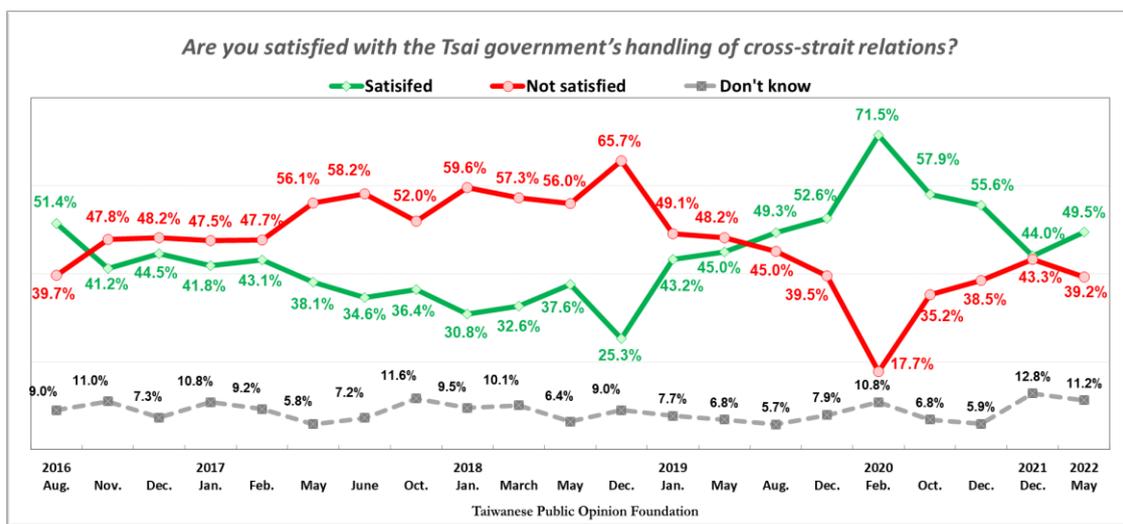
8. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 25.6% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 14.1% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 17.1% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 5% support the New Power Party (NPP), 5% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 29.9% respondents identified themselves as independents.



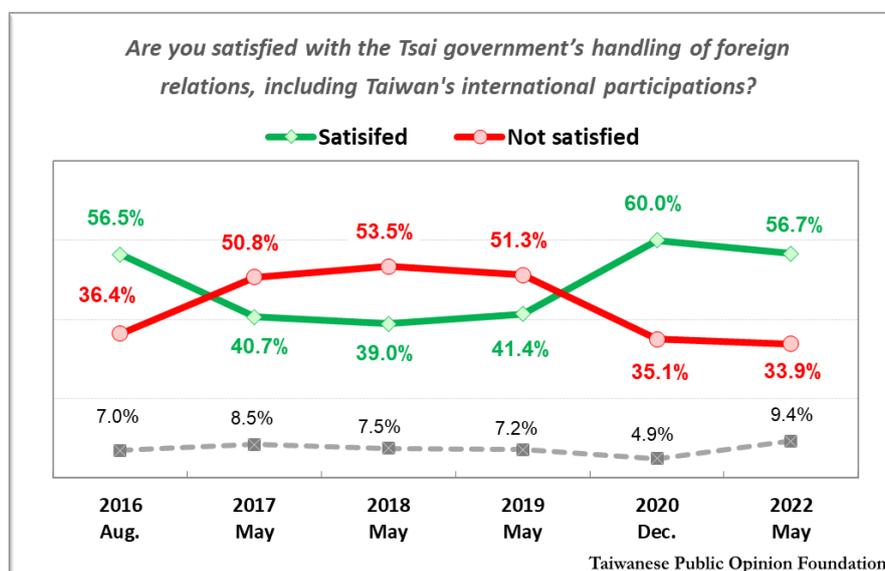
Tsai government's approval rating by handling of issues

This month's poll asked several questions regarding public approval of Tsai government's performance on several national issues. The poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older:

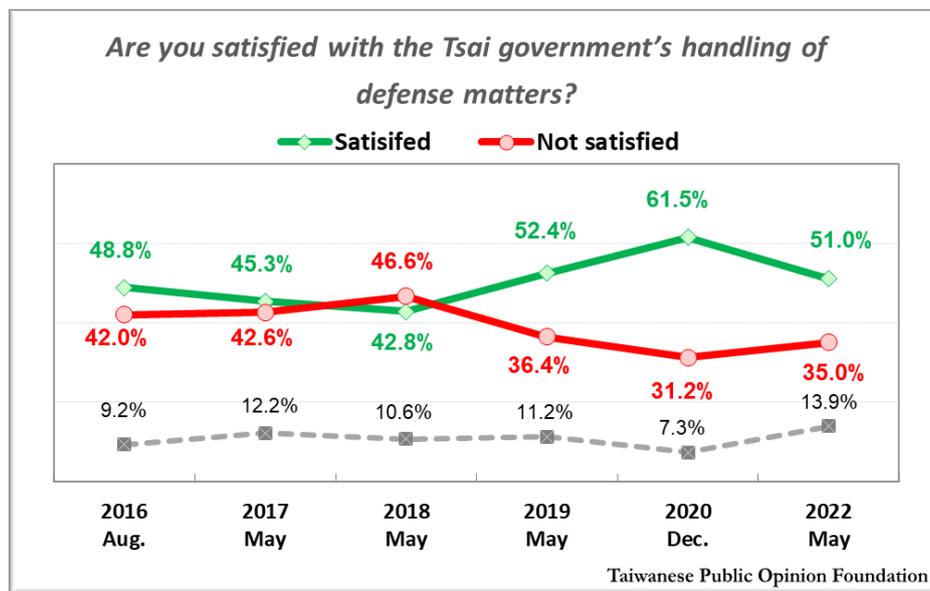
- On Tsai government's handling of cross-strait relations with China, 49.5% are satisfied, while 39.2% are not satisfied. This shows that the majority of Taiwanese people still approved of the way the government is handling relations with China, despite the escalating rhetoric and increasingly assertive military maneuvers posed by Beijing.



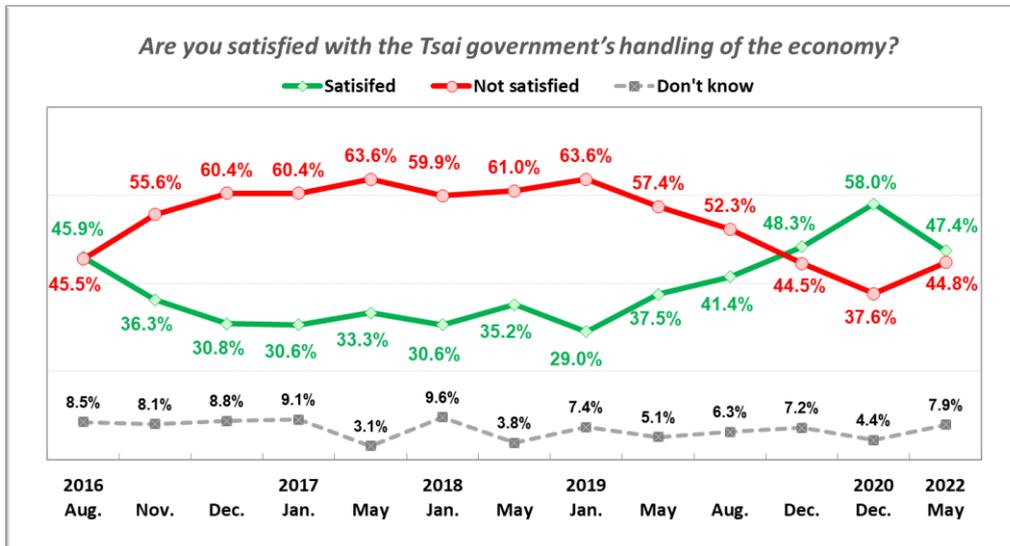
- On Tsai government's handling of foreign relations with other countries and Taiwan's participation in international organizations, 56.7% are satisfied, while 33.9% are not satisfied.



- On Tsai government's handling of Taiwan's defense matters (including the Taiwanese military, its training, equipment, and conscription policies), 51% are satisfied while 35% are not satisfied. The pattern observed in recent years suggests as Taiwanese concern over a Chinese invasion increases, any display of "defense improvements" from the ruling government, regardless of their actual substance, would increase the public's satisfaction on defense matters. However, witnessing the Russian invasion of Ukraine started in February 2022 clearly had an impact on the Taiwanese public as about 10% are no longer satisfied with defense in this latest poll.



- On Tsai government's handling of Taiwan's economy, 47.4% are satisfied while 44.8% are not satisfied. Since the start of President Tsai's term economic performance has always been among the least satisfied part of her administration. Although it has increased substantially since 2019 coincided with Taiwan's booming economic growth, the impacts from 2021-2022 COVID waves on the economy clearly put a halt to this as Taiwan's service sector especially tourism industry and restaurants took heavy tolls due to the pandemic.



- On Tsai government's COVID-19 vaccine policies which put a heavy emphasis on promoting Taiwan's own domestically-developed vaccines, 43% said they are satisfied with the government's approach, but 49% said they are not satisfied.
- On Tsai government's handling of Taiwan's long debated judicial system reform, 37.4% said they are satisfied with the changes so far, but 43.9% said they are not satisfied. Judicial system reform has been among the most anticipated since President Tsai took office in 2016 and was considered a key DPP policy platform for decades, and yet the majority of Taiwanese people clearly are not satisfied with the little changes Tsai government has made so far.