



Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation

June 2022 Public Opinion Poll – English Excerpt

Released:

June 21, 2022

Taiwanese Public Opinion Foundation (TPOF) today released the result of its June 2022 nation-wide poll. This marks the 70th 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](#).

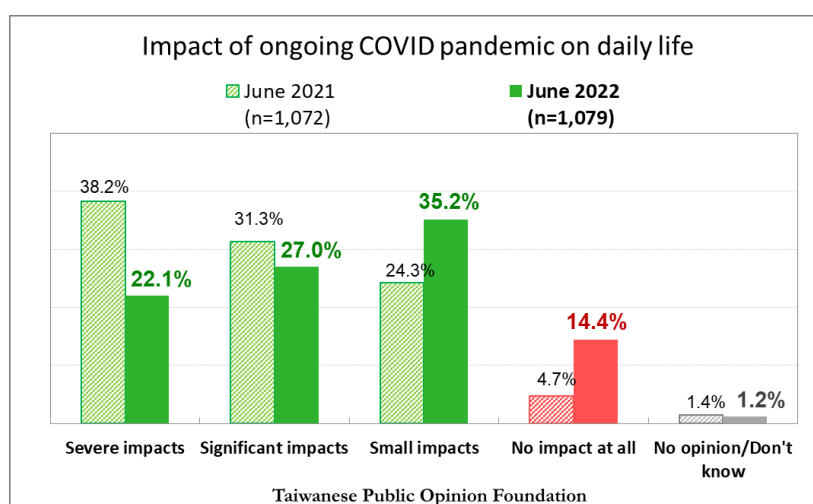
How the Survey was Conducted

This survey was conducted on June 12-14, 2022, with a sample size of 1,079. 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. Taiwan is still grappling with a serious outbreak of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 pandemic. How did this affect the daily life of the Taiwanese public? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 84.3% of

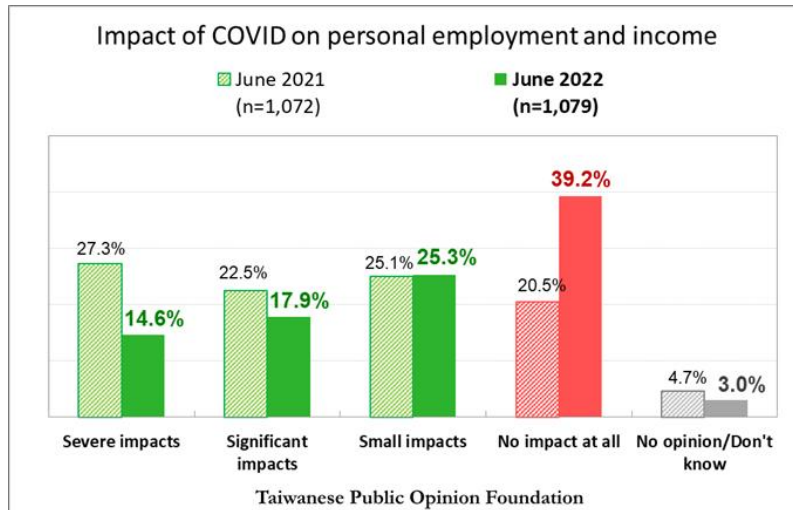
those surveyed said they felt the impact on their daily life to various extents, only 14.4% responded they felt no impact. A comparison with the poll conducted last June, during which time Taiwan was also grappling with a severe COVID outbreak dominated by earlier variants, shows that many Taiwanese are now feeling less impacts from the pandemic despite this current Omicron wave infected millions of Taiwanese and took the lives of thousands.



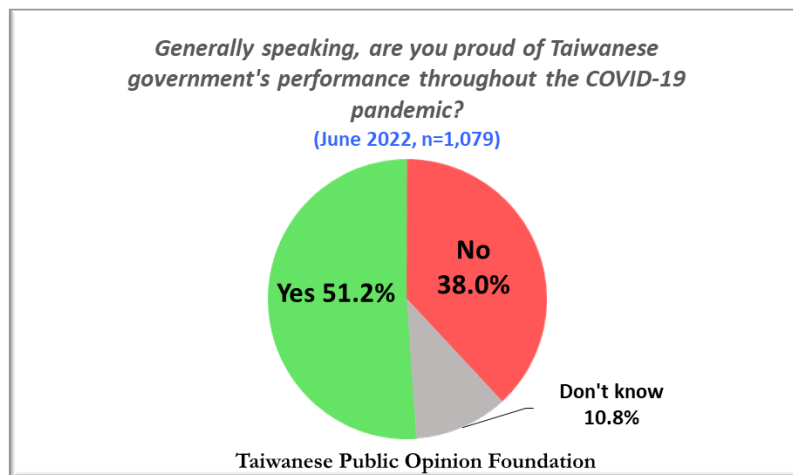
Why are Taiwanese public feeling less impacts now despite the exponentially more cases and deaths comparing to the May 2021 infection wave? Likely reasons are:

- In May 2021 Taiwan’s ruling government immediately declared a “Level 3” pandemic alert which effectively ground most social activities, restaurants, and business to a halt. This year however the government did not escalate its pandemic alert level.
- In May 2021 few Taiwanese were vaccinated and the country was experiencing a severe shortage of scientifically-proven vaccines, while the ruling government’s push for a domestically-produced Medigen vaccine candidate was widely controversial due to its lack of evidence of efficacy. This year however Taiwan has already vaccinated a large segment of population and scientifically-proven vaccines are readily available.
- After experiencing a de facto lockdown during the May 2021 pandemic wave, Taiwanese public are now more adjusted to the reality of life under COVID, and the ruling government’s messaging downplaying the severity of Omicron variant might have successfully contained the public’s fear and anxiety over rising cases and deaths.

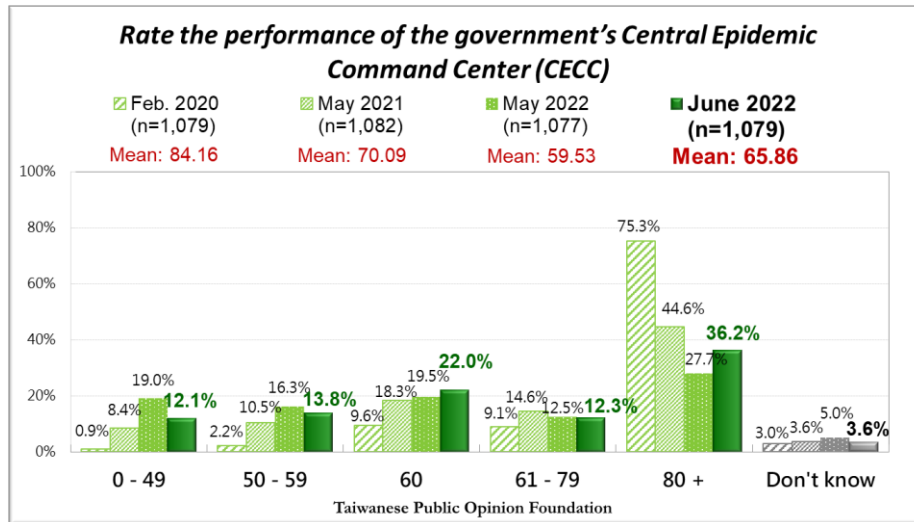
2. How did this year's Omicron outbreak wave affect the employment and income of Taiwanese public? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 57.8% said their jobs and income have been impacted to various extents, while 39.2 felt no impact. Again, Taiwanese public felt less impacts from this year's Omicron wave comparing to the May 2021 outbreak.



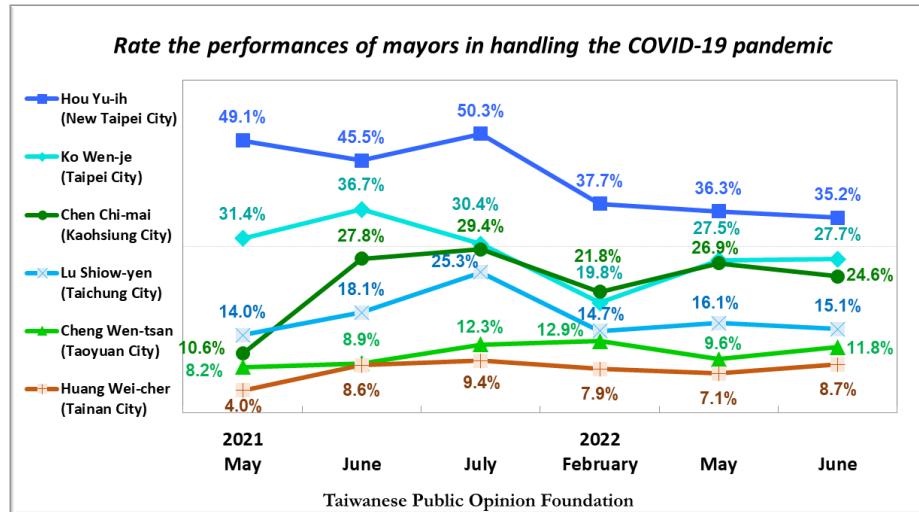
3. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 51.2% said they are proud of the government's performance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, while 38% answered negatively.



4. 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, 48.5% of those surveyed rated CECC a score of above 60, 22% rated a passing score of 60, while 25.9% rated failing scores. The mean score is 65.86. Comparing to our May poll, public confidence in government's pandemic leadership has recovered slightly after the beginning of the Omicron wave, though still short of the high level of confidence shown in 2020-2021.



5. How do Taiwanese rate 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 35.2%, Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je came second with 27.7%, then Kaohsiung City Mayor Chen Chi-mai at 24.6%, Taichung City Mayor Lu Shioh-yen at 15.1%, Taoyuan City Mayor Cheng Wen-tsan at 11.8%, Tainan City Mayor Huang Wei-cher came last with just 8.7% approval.

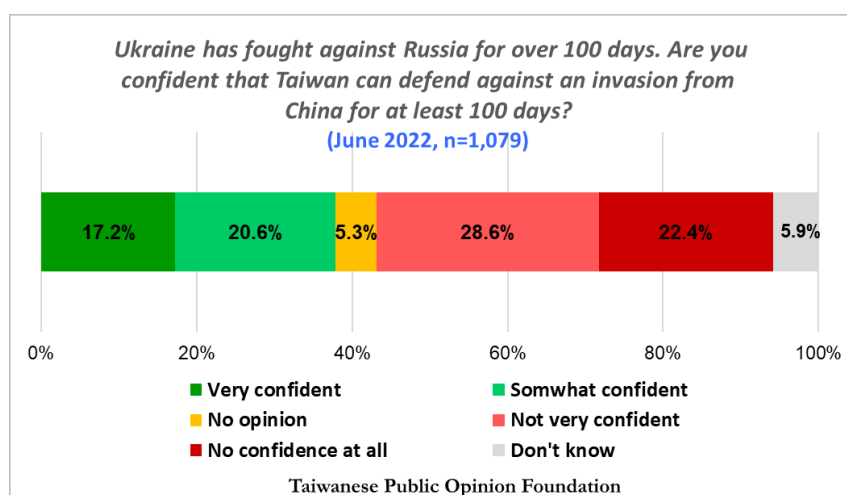


6. Russia's invasion of Ukraine since February had ignited a flurry of discussion among international media and pundits comparing Ukraine's situation with that of Taiwan. How do Taiwanese public themselves perceive the similarities or dissimilarities? Are they confident in Taiwan's ability to defend against an invasion from China for over 100 days, a feat that Ukraine has done so fighting against Russia? The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, only 37.8% are somewhat or totally confident, while 51% have few or no

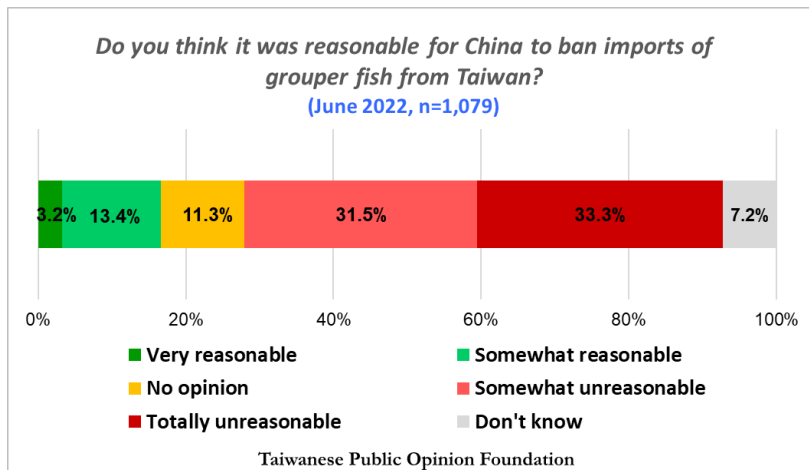
confidence that Taiwan can hold off China for that long.

Some additional observations are:

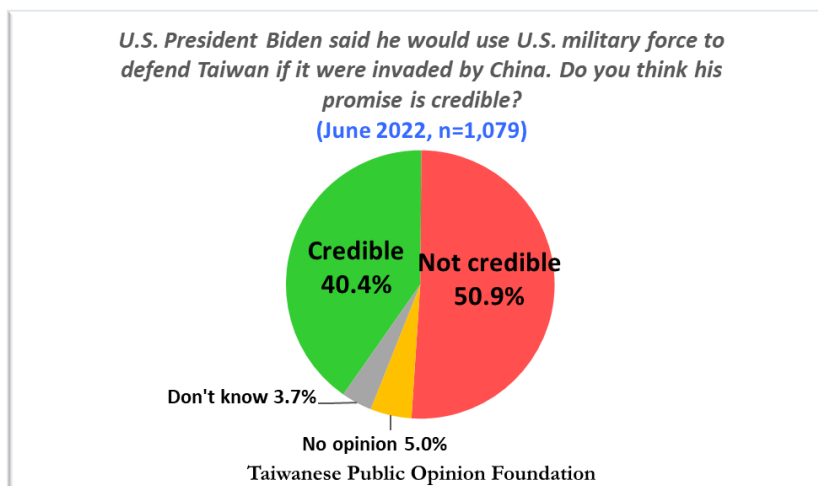
- More educated respondents are relatively more skeptical of Taiwan's ability to defend itself. 59% of those with college or higher education attainments have few or no confidence at all.
- Among men, a slim majority of 47% have confidence versus 46% who don't. While among women a majority of 56% have no confidence versus 29% who do.
- Among the supporters of ruling party DPP a majority of 62% have confidence versus 29% who don't. While among the supporters of opposition party KMT only 22% have confidence and 72% don't.

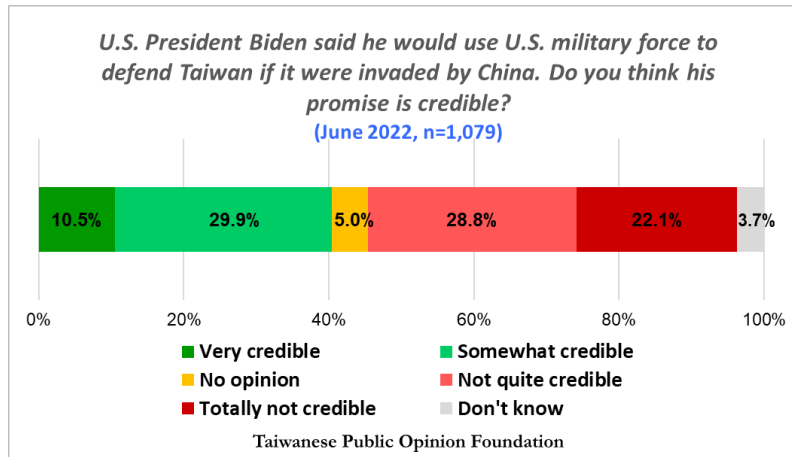


7. China recently [announced a ban](#) on imports of grouper fish from Taiwan, citing the discovery of banned chemicals and food safety concerns. Like other bans on agricultural imports from Taiwan announced in recent years, Beijing's move was met with a round of condemnations from Taiwan's ruling government and politicians. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 64.8% considered it an unreasonable move by China while only 16.6% thought it was within reason.



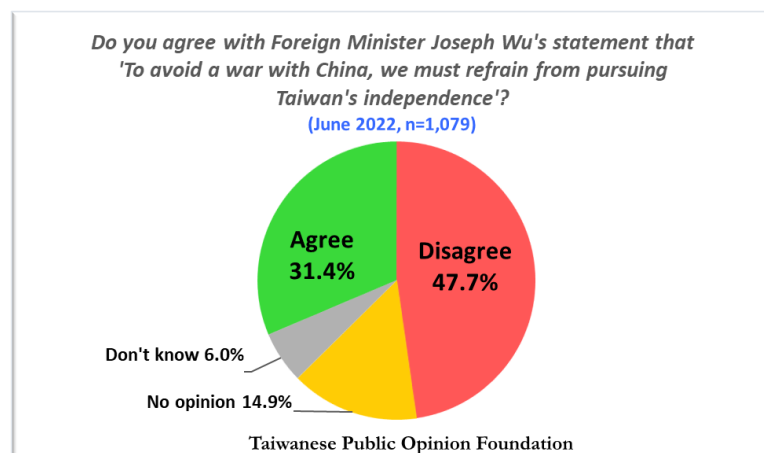
8. On May 23, United States President Joe Biden made [a statement in Tokyo](#) which signaled that he would commit U.S. military force to defend Taiwan if it were attacked by China. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older 40.4% said Biden’s promise is credible, while 50.9% said it is not. Despite Biden’s pledge, the majority of Taiwanese public still do not believe that U.S. leadership will commit U.S. troops to Taiwan’s defense in a war with China. Though Biden’s statement might have boosted the number of “believers” of U.S. intervention by a few percentages comparing to our [past polls](#).



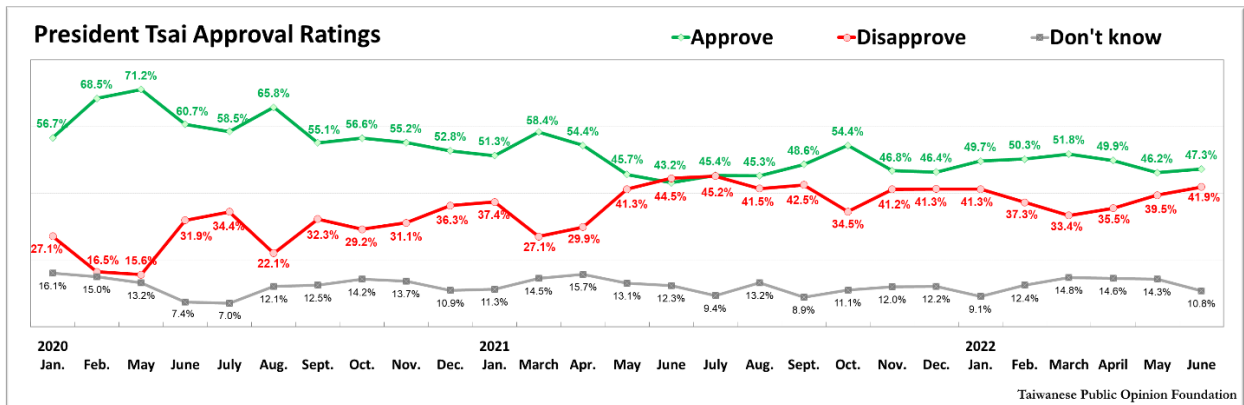


9. In a May 24 interview with U.S. National Public Radio (NPR), Taiwan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu [declared](#) that in order to avoid a war, Taiwan under the ruling Tsai government will “not seek formal independence”. The statement generated controversy within Taiwan not least because it involves Tsai Ing-wen administration attempting to usurp Taiwanese people’s constitutional rights at settling an undetermined, long debated national future question. The poll finds that among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 47.7% disagreed with Wu’s statement and only 31.4% agreed with it. Notably:

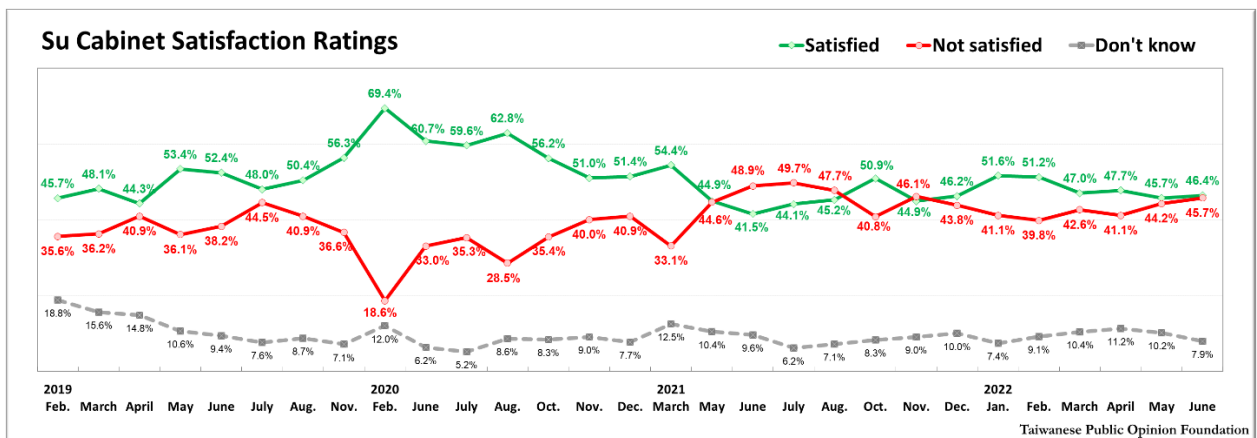
- Even among the supporters of ruling DPP a majority of 57.3% disagreed with the statement while 27% agreed with it. In fact, the majority among all political parties except Taiwan People’s Party (TPP) disagreed with the statement.
- The majority among all Taiwan’s social-ethnic subgroups disagreed with the statement. Particularly among the “Mainlanders” (post-WWII immigrants from mainland China) of whom 52% disagreed and only 25% agreed.



10. On the Presidential job approval rating, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, a majority of 47.3% approved of the way Tsai Ing-wen is handling her job as the President, while a minority of 41.9% expressed disapproval.



11. On the performance of Premier Su Tseng-chang cabinet, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 46.4% were satisfied of the way Su cabinet is handling the government, while the other 45.7% were not satisfied.



12. On political party affiliation, the poll finds among Taiwanese adults aged 20 years and older, 32.6% said they support the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 17.9% support the Kuomintang (KMT), 11.6% support the Taiwan People's Party (TPP), 2.2% support the New Power Party (NPP), 3.3% support the Taiwan State-building Party (TSP), and 30.6% respondents identified themselves as independents. DPP's rebound this month is particularly noticeable, possibly due to public backlash against China's import ban of Taiwan's grouper fish.

