

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from May 12 to May 14, 2026, among 801 adults in British Columbia. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in British Columbia. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.5 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

The provincial government's latest budget projects a \$13.3 billion deficit for British Columbia in the 2026-27 fiscal year. If you had to choose only one, which of these options would you select to deal with the budget deficit in British Columbia?

Cutting programs – 45%
Raising taxes – 33%
Not sure – 21%

British Columbians Are Pessimistic on Financial Matters

Fewer than one-in-five residents expect a recovery for both the province's economy and their own household's finances.

Vancouver, BC [May 28, 2026] – Only a third of British Columbians are happy with the economic standing of the province, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample, 33% of British Columbians rate the economic conditions in the province as “very good” or “good”, while 62% consider them “bad” or “very bad”.

Residents of the province are almost evenly split when assessing their own household's finances, with 49% saying they are “very good” or “good” and 48% deeming them “bad” or “very bad”.

Positive perceptions of the provincial economy are higher among British Columbians who voted for the BC Green Party (47%) or the governing BC New Democratic Party (NDP) (43%) in the 2024 provincial election than among those who cast ballots for candidates representing the Conservative Party of British Columbia (17%).

Just over two-in-five British Columbians (41%) expect the economic conditions in the province to decline in the next six months, while 38% foresee no change and only 14% predict an improvement.

The assessment is slightly better for household finances, with just over half of British Columbians (51%) predicting no changes, 26% expecting a decline and 16% anticipating an improvement.

About a third of British Columbians (32%) think the provincial economy is worse than that of other Canadian provinces, while 41% consider it “about the same” and 14% claim it is performing better.

Half of British Columbians (50%) expect BC's economy to improve because of the way the federal government under Mark Carney is treating the province, while 61% agree that many of the setbacks that BC's economy has experienced can be blamed on the fact that Donald Trump is the President of the United States.

More than three-in-five British Columbians (64%) want the provincial government to devote more resources to expediting permits and dealing with bureaucracy and red tape—a proportion that rises to 75% among BC Conservative voters.



The provincial government's latest budget projects a \$13.3 billion deficit for British Columbia in the 2026-27 fiscal year. When asked their preferred way to deal with the budget deficit, 45% of British Columbians call for cuts to programs, while 33% favour raising taxes and 21% are undecided.

“There is a significant political divide when British Columbians ponder the budget deficit,” says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. “Almost half of those who voted for the New Democrats in 2024 (46%) would raise taxes, while more than two thirds of those who supported the BC Conservatives (68%) would cut programs.”

The provincial government has traditionally classified the economy into 13 major sectors. Right now, only five of these sectors garner positive reviews from about half of the province's residents: tourism (59%), film and television (50%), technology and innovation (also 50%), clean technology (49%) and agriculture (48%).

The level of satisfaction with the way the government is managing eight other sectors is lower: construction (46%), cannabis (also 46%), high technology (45%), fisheries and aquaculture (also 45%), mining (44%), manufacturing (42%), maritime (41%) and forestry (also 41%).

==30==

About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

==30==

Media contact:

Mario Canseco, President, Research Co.
[c] 778.929.0490
[e] mario.canseco@researchco.ca

==30==



mario.canseco@researchco.ca



mario_canseco



778.929.0490



Mario Canseco