

4 IN 10 SOUTH AFRICANS DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT GRANTS

With Child Support and Social Relief of Distress grants dominating

Ipsos in South Africa
21 August 2026

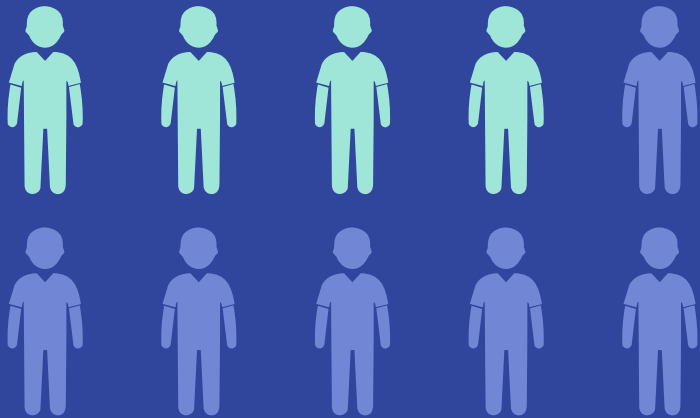


Government grants in South Africa

4 in 10

South Africans

receive at least one
government grant



*That's more than 17 million South Africans
receiving support from the government.*

4 in 10 South Africans depend on government grants, with Child Support and Social Relief of Distress grants dominating (21 August 2026)

Source: Ipsos Khayabus | © Ipsos 2026

Which government grant/s do you receive?

% of grant recipients (multiple responses possible)



Child Support Grant (CSG)

40%

to aid biological parent(s) or permanent caregivers who may not have the means to support their child/children



Social Relief of Distress (SRD)

37%

Created to give temporary assistance to people in dire need, formed during the Covid-19 pandemic



Older Person's Grant

28%

(also known as an old age grant or old age pension) is for individuals over the age of 60



Disability Grant (DG)

4%

available to individuals who are unable to work owing to a disability



Care Dependency Grant (CDG)

1%

designed to fund a caregiver of a severely physically/mentally disabled child



Other Grants

1%

Grant-in-Aid (GIA)
War Veterans Grant (WVG)

Young grant recipients are far more likely to rely on the SRD grant

Among South Africans who receive a social grant, the SRD grant is disproportionately concentrated among younger adults.



73%

Receive SRD grant



53%

Receive SRD grant



37%

Receive SRD grant



14%

Receive SRD grant

18 – 24 years

34% receiving any grant

25 – 34 years

37% receiving any grant

35 – 49 years

31% receiving any grant

50+ years

59% receiving any grant

South Africa population distribution by age



18%

of the population



24%

of the population



31%

of the population



27%

of the population

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Nearly half of South African households rely on a single income earner.

Household earners



No income earners



9%



One earner



43%



Two earners



30%



Three+ earners



6%

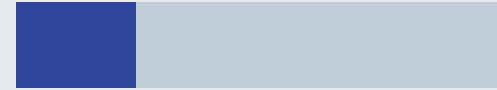
% of households

Household size



1 Person

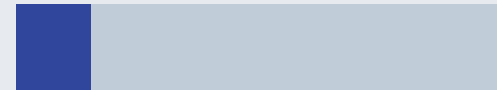
ONE EARNER HOUSEHOLDS



24%



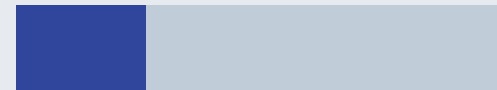
2 People



15%



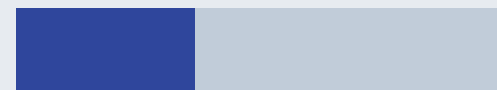
3 People



26%

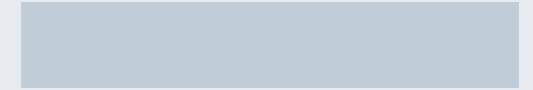


4+ People

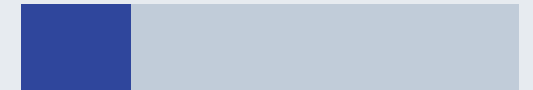


36%

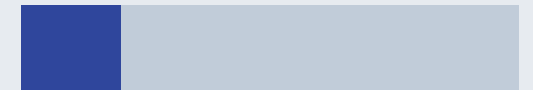
TWO EARNER HOUSEHOLDS



-



22%



20%

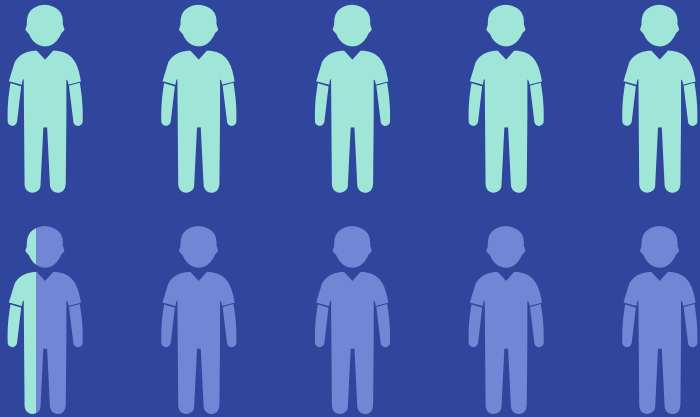


58%

Personal monthly income

More than half of South Africans

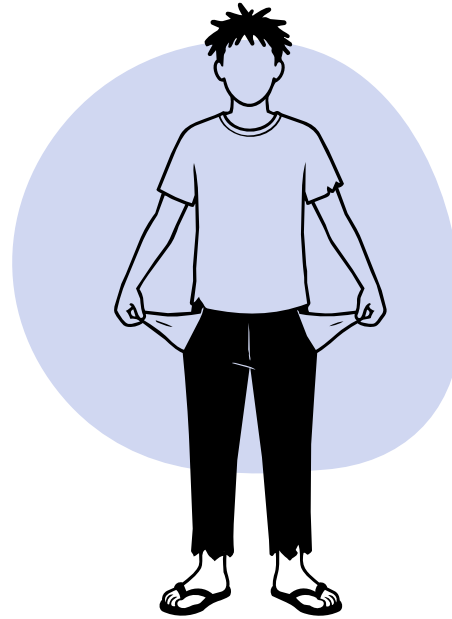
earn less than R9,000 per month.



15% of respondents preferred not to disclose their income. Analysis of the non-disclosure group showed that respondents were spread across all income levels and demographic groups, rather than being concentrated among either the highest- or lowest-income households.

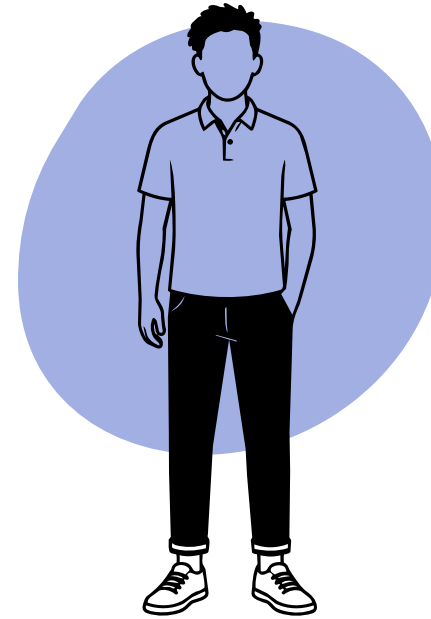
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Source: Ipsos Khayabus | © Ipsos 2026



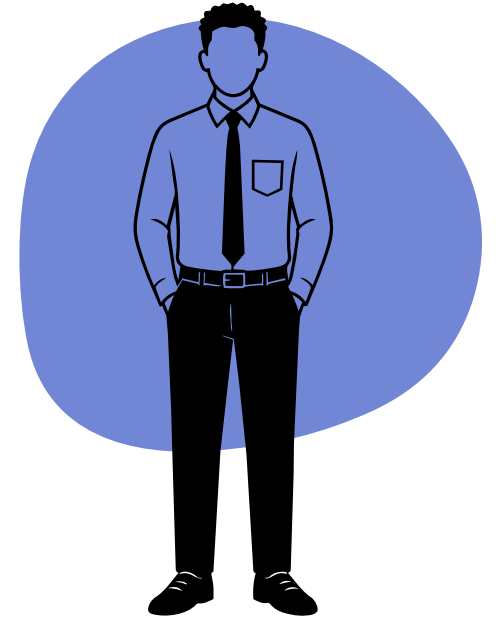
9%

**No personal
income**



53%

**R1 – R8,999
per month**



24%

**Above R9,000
per month**



Grant dependency in South Africa

is sharply gendered in the types of grants they receive



Men

31%

Receive any grant



Women

49%

Receive any grant

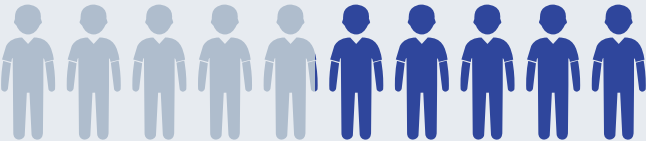
AMONG GRANT RECIPIENTS

12%



Child Support Grant

51%



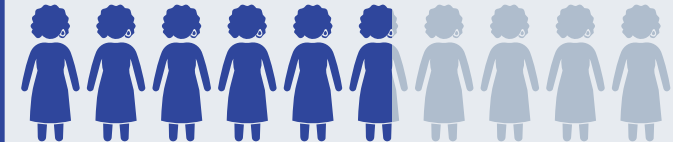
Social Relief of Distress Grant

33%



Older Person's Grant

57%



28%



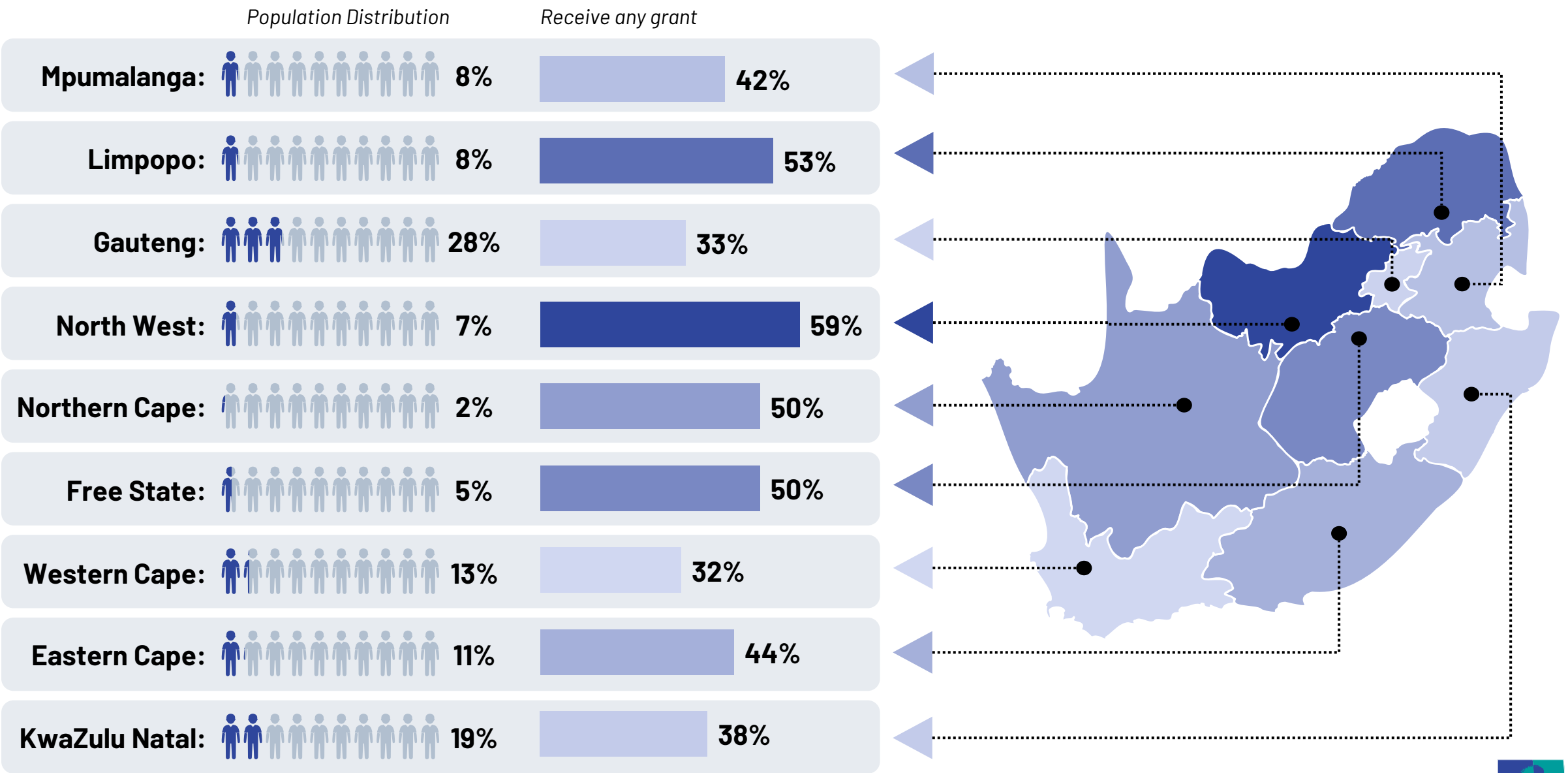
26%



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Grant dependency across South Africa by province

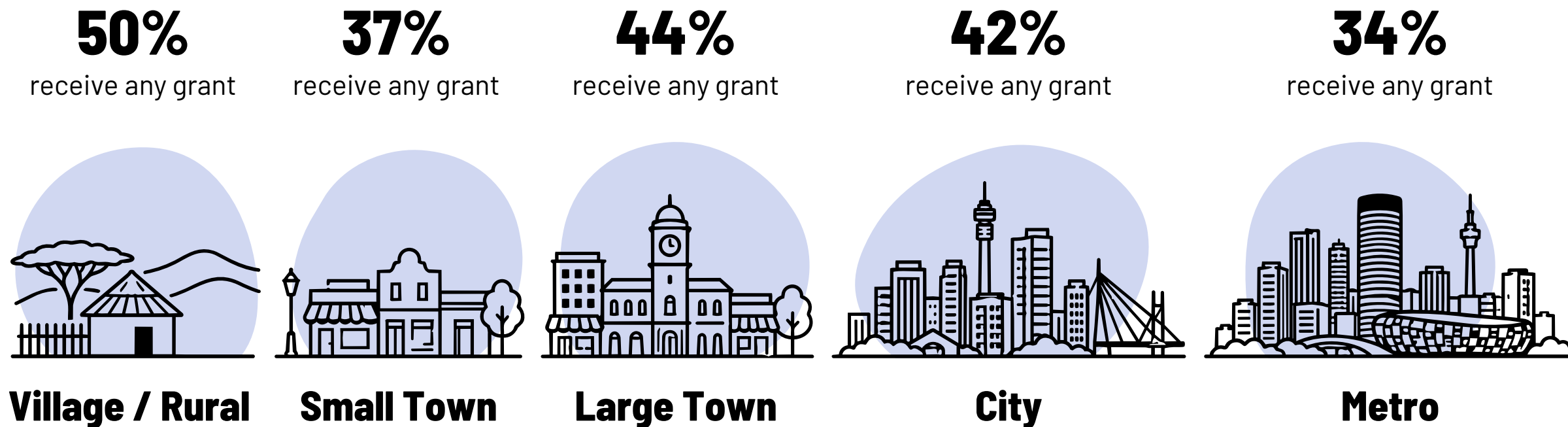


4 in 10 South Africans depend on government grants, with Child Support and Social Relief of Distress grants dominating (21 August 2026)

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Grant dependency in South Africa

varies by community type highlighting the differing needs and circumstances of communities



South Africa population distribution by area type



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Survey Methodology in detail

Ipsos Khayabus:

This press release is based on the views of 3,600 randomly selected respondents. Interviews were conducted by trained Ipsos interviewers in the homes and home languages of respondents.

Interviews were conducted between June and July 2026.

A scientific process of multi-stage stratified random selection distributed interviews in all areas of the county, including deep rural areas. This methodology ensured that the results are representative of the views of the universe (adult South Africans) and that findings can be weighted and projected to the universe.

Trained quantitative fieldworkers were responsible for the interviewing and CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used.

All results were collated and analysed in an aggregate format to protect the identity and confidentiality of respondents.

All sample surveys are subject to a margin of error, determined by sample size, sampling methodology and response rate. The sample error for this sample at a 95% confidence level is a maximum of plus or minus 1.9%.

THANK YOU

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