



More View NYS Economy as Getting Worse, Fewer See It Improving

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Friday, March 8, 2013

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Griffith
Marist College
845.575.5050

This Marist Poll Reports:

Although a majority of New York State voters -- 53% -- think the state's economy is staying about the same as it has been, there has been an uptick in the proportion of voters who think it is getting worse and a drop in the proportion who believe it is getting better. Nearly three in ten -- 29% -- say the state's economy is getting worse, and 18% report it is getting better.

"The sluggish economy continues to impact New Yorkers," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "In fact, the proportion of voters who think the economy is getting better and not worse has flipped since last spring."

When Marist last reported this question in April, nearly half -- 49% -- perceived the economy as status quo. 27% thought it was getting *better* while 23% said it was getting *worse*.

Among Republicans -- 40% -- and non-enrolled voters -- 35%, there has been an increase in the proportions of those who view the state's economy as worsening. In April, 33% of Republicans and 23% of non-enrolled voters statewide shared this view. Among Democrats, there has been little change in the proportion of those who perceive the economy as getting worse. 21% have this view now while 18% did so last spring. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of Democrats who believe the economy is about the same as it has been. 57% of Democrats currently have this view compared with 45% in April.

By region, the largest shift has occurred in the suburbs of New York City. While 35% of these voters thought the state's economy was on an upswing last spring, 15% have this impression now. However, nearly six in ten in this region -- 58% -- say the economy is status quo compared with 44% in April. Upstate, 16% of registered voters think the state's economy is getting better compared with 22% in April. A third of these voters -- 33% -- perceive the economy as worsening while 27% had this view last spring.

But, do New York voters think the Empire State is in a recession? More than six in ten -- 61% -- do while 35% do not. Four percent are unsure.

There has been a modest decrease in the proportion of voters who say the state is in a recession. In April, 67% thought New York was in a recession while 30% did not characterize the state in this way. Three percent, at that time, were unsure.

Majority Perceives Family Finances as Steady

When it comes to their own personal family finances, a majority of registered voters statewide -- 56% -- think their family finances will remain about the same in the coming year. One in four -- 25% -- say they will get better while 19% believe their financial situation will get worse.

In April, 53% of voters did not expect any change in their family finances, 31% believed they would get better while 16% said they would get worse.

Gas Prices Stretch Family Finances

Almost three in four New Yorkers who have gas expenses -- 74% -- experience some amount of financial strain on family finances due to the price of gas. This includes 31% who feel a great deal of financial strain and 43% who have a moderate amount of stress because of this expense. 15%, however, do not feel much economic strain while 11% feel none at all.

When Marist last reported this question in April, 78% felt, at least, a moderate amount pain at the pump. 12% didn't experience much financial strain due to the price of gas while 10% underwent none at all.

But, are drivers adjusting their transportation choices because of the high price of gas? A slim majority -- 51% -- say they are. 49% are not. In April, 58% of drivers reported they changed their driving habits because of gas prices while 42% said they did not.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: New York State Poll of 814 Adults

This survey of 814 adults was conducted February 26th through February 28th, 2013. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the state of New York were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results for adults are statistically significant within ± 3.4 percentage points. There are 673 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.8 percentage points. Registered voters were balanced to reflect the difference in registration in New York City, the suburbs, and upstate New York as reported by state election officials. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample - New York State

		NYS Adults	NYS Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
NYS Adults		100%	
Registered Voters		83%	100%
Party Registration	Democrat	n/a	48%
	Republican	n/a	24%
	Non-enrolled	n/a	25%
	Other	n/a	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	n/a	25%
	Moderate	n/a	43%
	Conservative	n/a	32%
Region	New York City	42%	30%
	Suburbs	21%	24%
	Upstate	37%	46%
Income	Less \$50,000	47%	43%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	29%	31%
	\$100,000 or more	24%	26%
Income	Less than \$50,000	47%	43%
	\$50,000 or more	53%	57%
Education	Not college graduate	54%	53%
	College graduate	46%	47%
Age	Under 45	48%	43%
	45 or older	52%	57%
Age	18 to 29	21%	18%
	30 to 44	27%	25%
	45 to 59	26%	28%
	60 or older	25%	30%
Race	White	60%	66%
	African American	14%	12%
	Latino	17%	15%
	Other	9%	7%
Race	White	60%	66%
	Non White	40%	34%
Gender	Men	48%	45%
	Women	52%	55%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	41%	40%
	No children in household	59%	60%
Interview Type	Landline	70%	72%
	Cell Phone	30%	28%

Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=814 MOE +/- 3.4 percentage points. Registered Voters: N=673 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll New York State Tables

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Right now, do you think the New York State economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?		
		Getting better	Getting worse	Staying about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		18%	29%	53%
Party	Democrat	22%	21%	57%
Registration	Republican	11%	40%	49%
	Non-enrolled	15%	35%	51%
Political Ideology	Liberal	23%	20%	57%
	Moderate	20%	28%	52%
	Conservative	13%	37%	50%
Region	New York City	24%	23%	53%
	Suburbs	15%	27%	58%
	Upstate	16%	33%	51%
Income	Less \$50,000	18%	32%	50%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	16%	27%	57%
	\$100,000 or more	19%	29%	52%
Income	Less than \$50,000	18%	32%	50%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	28%	55%
Education	Not college graduate	14%	33%	53%
	College graduate	23%	24%	53%
Age	Under 45	15%	32%	54%
	45 or older	20%	26%	53%
Age	18 to 29	10%	32%	58%
	30 to 44	19%	31%	50%
	45 to 59	22%	30%	48%
	60 or older	19%	23%	58%
Race	White	10%	20%	37%
	Non White	8%	10%	16%
Gender	Men	21%	24%	55%
	Women	15%	33%	52%
Interview Type	Landline	19%	28%	53%
	Cell Phone	16%	31%	54%

Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=673 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NYS Registered Voters			
Right now, do you think the New York State economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?			
Date	Getting better	Getting worse	Staying about the same
March 2013	18%	29%	53%
April 2012	27%	23%	49%
January 2012	26%	25%	49%
November 2011	13%	36%	51%
May 2011	16%	37%	47%
February 2011	19%	31%	50%
September 28, 2010	12%	46%	42%
May 12, 2010	15%	48%	37%
April 8, 2010	12%	54%	34%
February 2, 2010	11%	49%	40%
November 24, 2009	15%	39%	46%
September 14, 2009	19%	29%	52%
July 9, 2009	8%	46%	46%
Marist Poll New York Registered Voters			

Marist Poll New York State Tables

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Do you think that New York State is currently in a recession, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		61%	35%	4%
Party	Democrat	57%	40%	3%
Registration	Republican	65%	32%	3%
	Non-enrolled	67%	31%	2%
Political Ideology	Liberal	55%	41%	4%
	Moderate	61%	36%	2%
	Conservative	65%	31%	4%
Region	New York City	58%	39%	3%
	Suburbs	56%	41%	3%
	Upstate	66%	30%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	63%	34%	2%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	60%	37%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	65%	34%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	63%	34%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	62%	35%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	33%	3%
	College graduate	58%	38%	4%
Age	Under 45	66%	31%	3%
	45 or older	59%	39%	3%
Age	18 to 29	64%	31%	5%
	30 to 44	68%	30%	2%
	45 to 59	65%	33%	2%
	60 or older	53%	43%	4%
Race	White	65%	31%	4%
	Non White	55%	43%	2%
Gender	Men	59%	39%	2%
	Women	63%	32%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	60%	36%	4%
	Cell Phone	65%	34%	1%

Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=673 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll New York State Tables

		NYS Registered Voters		
		In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?		
		Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		25%	19%	56%
Party	Democrat	31%	13%	55%
Registration	Republican	16%	28%	56%
	Non-enrolled	22%	19%	59%
Political Ideology	Liberal	25%	14%	62%
	Moderate	23%	19%	58%
	Conservative	28%	20%	52%
Region	New York City	35%	12%	52%
	Suburbs	21%	15%	65%
	Upstate	21%	25%	55%
Income	Less \$50,000	26%	18%	57%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	22%	21%	57%
	\$100,000 or more	28%	21%	51%
Income	Less than \$50,000	26%	18%	57%
	\$50,000 or more	25%	21%	54%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	20%	57%
	College graduate	27%	17%	56%
Age	Under 45	34%	16%	50%
	45 or older	19%	21%	60%
Age	18 to 29	39%	14%	47%
	30 to 44	30%	17%	52%
	45 to 59	26%	24%	50%
	60 or older	14%	17%	69%
Race	White	19%	21%	59%
	Non White	35%	14%	51%
Gender	Men	29%	19%	52%
	Women	21%	19%	60%
Interview Type	Landline	23%	18%	59%
	Cell Phone	29%	21%	50%

Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=673 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NYS Registered Voters			
In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?			
Date	Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
March 2013	25%	19%	56%
April 2012	31%	16%	53%
January 2012	30%	15%	55%
November 2011	23%	22%	55%
May 2011	31%	22%	47%
February 2011	27%	19%	54%
September 28, 2010	26%	16%	58%
May 12, 2010	27%	19%	54%
April 8, 2010	22%	19%	59%
February 2, 2010	26%	18%	56%
November 24, 2010	24%	20%	56%
September 14, 2010	27%	18%	55%
July 9, 2009	20%	25%	55%
Marist Poll New York Registered Voters			

Marist Poll New York State Tables

		NYS HH with Gasoline Expense			
		Has the higher cost of gasoline put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
		A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS HH with Gasoline Expense		31%	43%	15%	11%
Region	New York City	29%	38%	17%	17%
	Suburbs	28%	48%	14%	10%
	Upstate	34%	45%	15%	7%
Income	Less \$50,000	37%	38%	15%	10%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	34%	47%	12%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	19%	45%	22%	14%
Education	Not college graduate	36%	43%	12%	9%
	College graduate	25%	43%	19%	14%
Age	Under 45	25%	49%	18%	8%
	45 or older	34%	38%	14%	14%
Age	18 to 29	22%	48%	19%	11%
	30 to 44	28%	49%	17%	6%
	45 to 59	34%	38%	15%	14%
	60 or older	35%	38%	13%	14%
Race	White	28%	45%	16%	11%
	African American	36%	39%	14%	11%
	Latino	31%	45%	13%	12%
Gender	Men	26%	42%	20%	13%
	Women	35%	44%	11%	10%
Interview Type	Landline	31%	41%	15%	13%
	Cell Phone	30%	47%	15%	8%

Marist Poll NYS HH with Gasoline Expense: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=688 MOE +/- 3.7 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll New York State Tables

		NYS Drivers	
		Have you changed your driving habits because of high gas prices?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
NYS Drivers		51%	49%
Region	New York City	46%	54%
	Suburbs	57%	43%
	Upstate	53%	47%
Income	Less \$50,000	59%	41%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	54%	46%
	\$100,000 or more	41%	59%
Education	Not college graduate	53%	47%
	College graduate	49%	51%
Age	Under 45	51%	49%
	45 or older	52%	48%
Age	18 to 29	44%	56%
	30 to 44	56%	44%
	45 to 59	50%	50%
	60 or older	54%	46%
Race	White	50%	50%
	African American	47%	53%
	Latino	52%	48%
Gender	Men	51%	49%
	Women	51%	49%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	47%
	Cell Phone	46%	54%

Marist Poll NYS Drivers: Interviews conducted February 26th through 28th, 2013, N=653 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.