



WNBC/Marist Poll

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

National Poll: Making Ends Meet

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This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Most Americans believe the country is in an economic recession:** 78% of Americans think the U.S. economy is in a recession. People who live in the eastern part of the country are most likely to share this view.

Question Wording: Do you think the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?

Americans	Yes	No	Unsure
May 2008	78%	17%	5%
East	87%	8%	5%
Midwest	69%	26%	5%
South	77%	18%	5%
West	82%	13%	5%

- **Many Americans are having difficulty making ends meet:** 65% of Americans say they worry that their income will not be enough to meet their bills and expenses either always or sometimes. People with a family income of less than \$50,000 a year are especially hard hit.

Question Wording: How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills: always, sometimes, seldom, or never?

Americans	Having Difficulty	Always	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
May 2008	65%	32%	33%	16%	19%
Less \$50,000	80%	44%	36%	8%	12%
\$50,000 or more	53%	22%	31%	22%	25%

- **Americans feel the financial squeeze from the gas pump to the housing crunch:** Most Americans are feeling the financial strain of increased costs for gasoline, food, health care, or housing. A majority of people have experienced a great deal of financial pressure from the cost of gasoline. Many are also feeling the pinch on family budgets in the supermarket and in meeting health care costs. When it comes to housing costs, about one in six family budgets are stressed out.

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of each of the following put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

Americans	A Great Deal	A Moderate Amount	Not Very Much	No Strain at All
Gasoline	56%	26%	8%	10%
Food at the supermarket	25%	43%	14%	18%
Health care	23%	29%	15%	33%
Your mortgage or rent	15%	23%	13%	49%

- **Americans expect the national average of the cost of a gallon of gasoline to top \$4.00 by Memorial Day:** Many Americans expect the unofficial start of summer to usher in higher gas prices. Although a gallon of gas has already hit \$4.00 in some places, many people around the country expect the national average to top that price by Memorial Day.

Question Wording: What do you expect a gallon of gas where you live will cost by Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer?

	Average Cost Per Gallon by Memorial Day
Americans	\$4.03
East	\$4.06
Midwest	\$4.01
South	\$3.93
West	\$4.15

Nature of the Sample: 615 Americans

This survey was conducted April 24th through April 27th, 2008. 615 adults 18 years of age or older within the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. The results of the entire survey are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.