



Majority of Americans See More Economic Hardships Ahead

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

When thinking about the future of the U.S. economy, a majority of national adults -- 53% -- think the worst is yet to come. However, 39% are more optimistic and report that the worst is behind us. Eight percent are unsure. In Marist's November 29th survey, 51% said the worst was ahead while 45% thought it was behind us. At that time, 5% were unsure. The results are similar among registered voters, as well.

In fact, nearly eight in ten residents -- 79% -- think the U.S. is in a recession. However, 19% do not, and 2% are unsure. Similar proportions held these views in late September when 80% of Americans thought we were in a recession, 18% said we were not, and 2% were unsure.

"The public clearly does not think we've turned the economic corner," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Their frustration over financial matters continues."

Personal Finances Considered Status Quo By Majority of Americans

A majority of Americans -- 52% -- believe their personal family finances will stay about the same in the coming year. Nearly three in ten -- 29% -- report they expect their family finances to get better in the next twelve months while 19% think they will get worse.

Little has changed since Marist last asked this question in its September 21st survey. Three months ago, 52% believed their family finances would be status quo, 30% thought their personal financial situation would take a turn for the better, and 18% expected it to get worse.

Americans who think the worst of the nation's economic problems are behind us are more optimistic than are those who believe the worst is yet to come. Among those who are more positive, 44% expect their family finances to improve. However, just 18% of those who say the worst of the country's economic conditions are ahead of us believe their money matters will get better. In Marist's previous survey, 39% who thought the worst was over predicted

their financial circumstances would improve compared with just 22% who reported the worst was still to come.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,029 Adults

This survey of 1,029 adults was conducted on December 2nd through December 8th, 2010. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in 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. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 873 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - National Adults		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Registered Voters		85%
Region	Northeast	19%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Income	Less \$50,000	51%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	31%
	\$100,000 or more	18%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	51%
	\$50,000 or more	49%
Race	White	67%
	African American	10%
	Latino	11%
	Other	11%
Race	White	67%
	Non-white	33%
Age	Under 45	40%
	45 or older	60%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	37%
	No children in household	63%
Interview Type	Landline	73%
	Cell Phone	27%

December 2010 Marist Poll National Adults N=1029
 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
		The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		53%	39%	8%
Registered Voters		52%	40%	8%
Party ID	Democrat	39%	55%	6%
	Republican	64%	28%	8%
	Independent	53%	38%	9%
Tea Party Supporters		74%	21%	5%
Party ID by Gender	Democrat men	39%	54%	7%
	Democrat women	39%	56%	6%
	Republican men	56%	38%	6%
	Republican women	71%	20%	9%
	Independent men	48%	45%	7%
	Independent women	59%	31%	10%
Political Party	Liberal	39%	53%	8%
	Moderate	43%	51%	6%
	Conservative	65%	28%	8%
Region	Northeast	53%	39%	8%
	Midwest	49%	45%	6%
	South	58%	33%	9%
	West	48%	44%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	54%	36%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	45%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	56%	35%	9%
	College graduate	47%	46%	7%
Age	Under 45	49%	41%	9%
	45 or older	55%	38%	7%
Age	18 to 29	53%	39%	8%
	30 to 44	47%	43%	11%
	45 to 59	57%	38%	5%
	60 or older	53%	38%	9%
Race	White	55%	38%	7%
	Non-white	47%	42%	11%
Gender	Men	49%	43%	8%
	Women	56%	35%	9%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	52%	39%	9%
	No children in household	53%	39%	8%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	38%	9%
	Cell Phone	52%	42%	6%

December 2010 Marist Poll National Residents N=1029 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		79%	19%	2%
Registered Voters		78%	19%	2%
Party ID	Democrat	75%	24%	1%
	Republican	82%	15%	4%
	Independent	79%	19%	2%
Tea Party Supporters		87%	11%	1%
Party ID by Gender	Democrat men	73%	27%	<1%
	Democrat women	77%	22%	1%
	Republican men	78%	20%	1%
	Republican women	84%	10%	6%
	Independent men	79%	20%	1%
	Independent women	79%	19%	2%
Political Party	Liberal	72%	27%	1%
	Moderate	80%	16%	4%
	Conservative	80%	19%	1%
Region	Northeast	85%	13%	2%
	Midwest	76%	22%	2%
	South	78%	20%	2%
	West	76%	20%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	80%	17%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	75%	24%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	78%	18%	3%
	College graduate	79%	20%	1%
Age	Under 45	76%	23%	1%
	45 or older	80%	17%	3%
Age	18 to 29	72%	26%	2%
	30 to 44	79%	20%	<1%
	45 to 59	81%	17%	2%
	60 or older	79%	16%	4%
Race	White	80%	17%	3%
	Non-white	75%	23%	1%
Gender	Men	78%	21%	1%
	Women	79%	17%	4%
Views of U.S. Economy	The worst is yet to come	86%	12%	2%
	The worst is behind us	68%	30%	2%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	77%	22%	1%
	No children in household	79%	18%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	79%	18%	3%
	Cell Phone	79%	21%	<1%

December 2010 Marist Poll National Residents N=1029 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		National Adults		
		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 %
National Adults		29%	19%	52%
Registered Voters		28%	20%	52%
Party ID	Democrat	39%	13%	47%
	Republican	16%	27%	57%
	Independent	27%	21%	52%
Tea Party Supporters		18%	32%	50%
Party ID by Gender	Democrat men	39%	12%	50%
	Democrat women	40%	15%	45%
	Republican men	23%	27%	50%
	Republican women	10%	27%	63%
	Independent men	29%	15%	57%
	Independent women	25%	28%	47%
Political Party	Liberal	44%	12%	44%
	Moderate	24%	11%	65%
	Conservative	24%	29%	47%
Region	Northeast	28%	20%	52%
	Midwest	27%	14%	59%
	South	29%	25%	47%
	West	31%	15%	54%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	31%	19%	50%
	\$50,000 or more	30%	16%	54%
Education	Not college graduate	30%	20%	51%
	College graduate	28%	18%	54%
Age	Under 45	44%	12%	44%
	45 or older	19%	24%	58%
Age	18 to 29	53%	10%	37%
	30 to 44	36%	14%	50%
	45 to 59	26%	21%	52%
	60 or older	11%	26%	63%
Race	White	22%	20%	58%
	Non-white	44%	15%	40%
Gender	Men	30%	17%	53%
	Women	27%	21%	51%
Views of U.S. Economy	The worst is yet to come	18%	32%	49%
	The worst is behind us	44%	4%	52%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	39%	15%	46%
	No children in household	23%	22%	55%
Interview Type	Landline	23%	21%	56%
	Cell Phone	44%	15%	41%

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