



## Turning the Economic Corner? Majority Predict Better Economic Days Ahead

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, January 19, 2011**

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

### **This Marist Poll Reports:**

Could the worst of the nation's economic woes be over? That's the view of a majority of Americans. According to this national Marist Poll, 54% of adults believe, when thinking about the U.S. economy, the worst is behind us. 39%, however, say the worst is yet to come, and 7% are unsure. These findings are in stark contrast to Marist's poll just last month. In that December survey, a majority -- 53% -- thought more bad news was on the economic horizon, and 39% reported the worst had passed. Eight percent, at the time, were unsure.

"Americans are beginning to see the light at the end of the economic tunnel," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, they still think there's a long way to go."

Most Democrats -- 74% -- and a majority of independents -- 58% -- state the worst of the country's troubling economic times are behind us. Although a majority of Republicans -- 52% -- still see difficult times ahead, 43% are positive about the country's economic future.

### **Recession a Reality in Americans' Minds**

Despite Americans' views about the future of the U.S. economy, more than seven in ten U.S. residents still believe the nation is in a recession. 71% have this opinion while 24% do not. Only 5% are unsure. There has been a slight change on this question. When Marist last asked it in December, 79% thought the country was in a recession while 19% said it was not. Two percent, at that time, were unsure.

### **Fewer Voters Disapprove of Obama's Handling of the Economy**

President Obama is receiving a boost from voters' more positive views toward the future of the economy. While voters nationally divide about the president's handling of the economy,

fewer now disapprove of Mr. Obama's approach when compared with Marist's late November survey. Currently, 48% disapprove of the way Mr. Obama is dealing with the economy while 44% approve. Eight percent are unsure. In Marist's previous survey, a majority -- 55% -- disapproved, 42% approved, and 4% were unsure.

Not surprisingly, 60% of voters who believe the worst of the nation's economic conditions are behind us approve of the president's handling of the economy while 75% of those who think there is more bad economic news in the future disapprove of his performance on this issue.

Americans still don't blame President Obama for the country's economic troubles. 63% of registered voters think Mr. Obama inherited them from his predecessor while 25% believe they are a result of his own policies. 12% are unsure. When Marist last reported on this question in its November 29<sup>th</sup> survey, similar proportions held these views. 65% thought the president inherited the nation's economic conditions while 28% attributed them to the president's policies. Eight percent were unsure.

## How the Survey was Conducted

---

### **Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,018 Adults**

This survey of 1,018 adults was conducted on January 6<sup>th</sup> through January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. 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  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points. There are 827 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations. The days when the poll was conducted include the Saturday when the tragic shooting occurred in Tucson, Arizona.

## Nature of the Sample: Adults

---

Nature of the Sample - National Adults		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Registered Voters		81%
Region	Northeast	19%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	52%
	\$50,000 or more	48%
Race	White	68%
	African American	10%
	Latino	11%
	Other	10%
Race	White	68%
	Non-white	32%
Age	Under 45	42%
	45 or older	58%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	72%
	Cell Phone	28%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=1018 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

---

Nature of the Sample - Registered Voters		
		Registered Voters
		Col %
Registered Voters		100%
Party ID	Democrat	35%
	Republican	28%
	Independent	36%
	Other	1%
Support Tea Party	Yes	29%
Political Party	Liberal	23%
	Moderate	34%
	Conservative	42%
Region	Northeast	18%
	Midwest	23%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%
	\$50,000 or more	51%
Race	White	72%
	African American	11%
	Latino	9%
	Other	9%
Race	White	72%
	Non-white	28%
Age	Under 45	37%
	45 or older	63%
Gender	Men	48%
	Women	52%
Interview Type	Landline	78%
	Cell Phone	22%

**Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=827 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

**Marist Poll  
National Survey  
January 2011**

		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		39%	54%	7%
Registered Voters		35%	58%	6%
Party ID	Democrat	21%	74%	5%
	Republican	52%	43%	5%
	Independent	36%	58%	6%
Tea Party Supporters		53%	41%	7%
Political Party	Liberal	21%	74%	4%
	Moderate	28%	67%	6%
	Conservative	50%	44%	6%
Region	Northeast	30%	63%	7%
	Midwest	39%	54%	7%
	South	43%	51%	6%
	West	40%	51%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	51%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	36%	59%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	45%	47%	8%
	College graduate	29%	66%	5%
Age	Under 45	39%	56%	5%
	45 or older	40%	52%	8%
Age	18 to 29	39%	55%	6%
	30 to 44	39%	56%	5%
	45 to 59	40%	53%	7%
	60 or older	40%	51%	9%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	40%	54%	5%
	Gen X (31-46)	38%	56%	6%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	40%	53%	7%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	41%	50%	9%
Race	White	40%	53%	7%
	Non-white	37%	56%	7%
Gender	Men	38%	53%	8%
	Women	40%	54%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	40%	54%	6%
	Cell Phone	37%	53%	9%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=1018 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		71%	24%	5%
Registered Voters		72%	24%	4%
Party ID	Democrat	66%	29%	5%
	Republican	81%	17%	2%
	Independent	72%	25%	3%
Tea Party Supporters		83%	16%	1%
Political Party	Liberal	69%	27%	4%
	Moderate	69%	27%	4%
	Conservative	79%	19%	3%
Region	Northeast	62%	34%	4%
	Midwest	74%	21%	4%
	South	72%	23%	5%
	West	74%	20%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	72%	22%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	71%	27%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	72%	22%	6%
	College graduate	71%	26%	3%
Age	Under 45	68%	26%	6%
	45 or older	73%	23%	4%
Age	18 to 29	64%	27%	9%
	30 to 44	72%	25%	4%
	45 to 59	73%	25%	2%
	60 or older	74%	21%	5%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	64%	27%	9%
	Gen X (31-46)	71%	25%	3%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	73%	23%	3%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	74%	20%	6%
Race	White	74%	22%	4%
	Non-white	65%	29%	6%
Gender	Men	71%	25%	5%
	Women	72%	23%	5%
Views of U.S. Economy	The worst is yet to come	78%	17%	5%
	The worst is behind us	66%	30%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	72%	23%	5%
	Cell Phone	68%	26%	6%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=1018 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.



		Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		44%	48%	8%
Party ID	Democrat	76%	15%	10%
	Republican	7%	88%	5%
	Independent	42%	50%	8%
Tea Party Supporters		16%	81%	3%
Political Party	Liberal	74%	19%	7%
	Moderate	51%	37%	13%
	Conservative	19%	76%	5%
Region	Northeast	46%	42%	11%
	Midwest	43%	48%	9%
	South	43%	52%	5%
	West	43%	47%	10%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	44%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	42%	51%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	41%	51%	8%
	College graduate	47%	45%	8%
Age	Under 45	48%	43%	8%
	45 or older	41%	51%	8%
Age	18 to 29	52%	38%	10%
	30 to 44	46%	47%	7%
	45 to 59	44%	50%	6%
	60 or older	38%	53%	9%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	51%	39%	10%
	Gen X (31-46)	47%	46%	7%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	42%	50%	8%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	37%	54%	8%
Race	White	37%	56%	7%
	Non-white	62%	28%	9%
Gender	Men	41%	52%	6%
	Women	46%	44%	10%
Views of U.S. Economy	The worst is yet to come	18%	75%	7%
	The worst is behind us	60%	33%	8%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	86%	8%	5%
	Disapprove	3%	95%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	42%	49%	9%
	Cell Phone	51%	44%	5%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=827 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Do you think the current economic conditions are mostly something President Obama inherited or are they mostly a result of his own policies?		
		Economic conditions mostly inherited	Economic conditions mostly result of his own policies	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		63%	25%	12%
Party ID	Democrat	84%	10%	6%
	Republican	36%	46%	18%
	Independent	66%	25%	9%
Tea Party Supporters		30%	55%	15%
Political Party	Liberal	87%	8%	6%
	Moderate	76%	14%	10%
	Conservative	39%	45%	16%
Region	Northeast	67%	19%	14%
	Midwest	67%	22%	11%
	South	56%	29%	15%
	West	66%	26%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	67%	22%	12%
	\$50,000 or more	65%	25%	10%
Education	Not college graduate	59%	29%	12%
	College graduate	68%	20%	13%
Age	Under 45	67%	20%	12%
	45 or older	61%	27%	12%
Age	18 to 29	70%	19%	11%
	30 to 44	66%	21%	13%
	45 to 59	69%	22%	9%
	60 or older	53%	33%	14%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	68%	20%	12%
	Gen X (31-46)	66%	23%	11%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	66%	22%	11%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	51%	34%	15%
Race	White	59%	28%	13%
	Non-white	73%	18%	10%
Gender	Men	63%	26%	11%
	Women	63%	24%	13%
Views of U.S. Economy	The worst is yet to come	45%	39%	15%
	The worst is behind us	74%	17%	9%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	88%	7%	4%
	Disapprove	34%	48%	18%
Interview Type	Landline	62%	26%	12%
	Cell Phone	68%	20%	12%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 6th through 10th, 2011, N=827 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.