
Attitudes Still Overwhelmingly Negative on Economy and Job Market

Two in five Americans say economy will not start growing again for at least a year or more

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – June 23, 2009 – After a few months of drifting upwards, attitudes on the economy have moved back down this month. In May, one-quarter of Americans (25%) thought their household's financial situation would be getting better in the next six months while three in ten (30%) thought it would get worse and 45% said it would remain the same. Now, just one in five (21%) say their household's financial situation will get better while one-third of Americans (33%) believe it will get worse and 45% still think it will remain the same.

These are some of the results of The Harris Poll of 2,177 U.S. adults surveyed online between June 8 and 15, 2009 by Harris Interactive.

When the Economy Will Begin to Grow

Two in five Americans (41%) believe that it will not happen for another year or longer, while over one-quarter (28%) say it will start growing in 6 to 12 months. Just over one in ten U.S. adults (12%) say the economy will start growing in the next 6 months and only 7% believe it has already started growing.

There are definitely political differences on this issue. Over half of Republicans (53%) believe the economy will not start growing again for another year or longer compared to just 35% of Democrats and 38% of Independents. Democrats are more likely than Republicans, however, to believe that the economy will begin growing in 6 to 12 months (35% vs. 19%).

The Job Market

The current job market and expectations for the future job market are not looking good:

Just under one in ten Americans (9%) rate the current job market of their region of the country as good while 72% rate it as bad. This is down from April when 12% of U.S. adults rated it as good and two-thirds (66%) rated it as bad;

Regionally, those in the South are more optimistic about the job market with 12% rating it as good and seven in ten (70%) rating it as bad. Midwesterners are most negative with over three-quarters (77%) saying the job market in their region is bad;

Looking to the future, one in five Americans (21%) believe the job market in their region of the country will be better in six months, while just under half (47%) believe it will stay the same and one-third (32%) say it will get worse. This is also a change from April when 23% of Americans believed the job market would be better, 42% said things would remain the same and 36% believed things would be worse in six months; and,

While almost three in five Americans (58%) say they are not concerned that the main income earner in their household will become unemployed in the next six months, 42% of Americans are concerned this might happen. This is almost unchanged from April when 57% of Americans were not concerned and 43% were concerned.

So What?

With American optimism low and continued worries about the economy, President Obama’s honeymoon seems to be on the wane. Any hope that the economy would turn around quickly seems to have dissipated. Besides the national economy there are other global issues such as Iran and North Korea, as well as the domestic push on healthcare that are major issues being dealt with by the White House. Americans may believe that economic issues will get pushed downwards in terms of importance and this is something that will not sit well with them.

**TABLE 1
HOUSEHOLDS’ FINANCIAL CONDITIONS 6 MONTHS FROM NOW – TREND**

“Thinking about your household’s current financial situation, do you expect it to be better or worse in the next six months?”

Base: All adults

	Feb 2008	March 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Nov 2008	Jan 2009	Mar 2009	April 2009	May 2009	June 2009
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
BETTER (NET)	39	33	40	36	24	20	20	23	25	21
Will remain the same	28	28	25	25	43	48	46	46	45	45
WORSE (NET)	34	39	36	39	33	32	35	31	30	33

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Note: Prior to November, there were three categories for Better and Worse

**TABLE 2
HOUSEHOLDS’ FINANCIAL CONDITIONS 6 MONTHS FROM NOW – BY REGION**

“Thinking about your household’s current financial situation, do you expect it to be better or worse in the next six months?”

Base: All adults

	Total	Region			
		East	Midwest	South	West
	%	%	%	%	%
BETTER (NET)	21	21	19	26	17
Will be much better	5	2	3	8	4
Will be somewhat better	17	19	16	18	13
Will remain the same	45	46	46	38	55
WORSE (NET)	33	32	34	37	28
Will be somewhat worse	25	26	27	25	20
Will be much worse	9	6	7	12	9

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 3
WHEN ECONOMY WILL GROW AGAIN

“When do you believe the economy will start growing again?”

Base: All adults

	Total	Political Party		
		Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
	%	%	%	%
Already has started growing	7	4	7	10
WITHIN NEXT SIX MONTHS (NET)	12	9	14	12
Between now and 3 months from now	4	4	3	3
Between 3 and 6 months from now	8	5	11	9
Between 6 and 12 months from now	28	19	37	27
Not for another year or longer	41	53	35	38
Not at all sure	13	14	8	13

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 4
RATING OF CURRENT JOB MARKET IN YOUR REGION

“How would you rate the current job market of your region of the country?”

Base: All adults

	Total	Region			
		East	Midwest	South	West
	%	%	%	%	%
GOOD (NET)	9	7	7	12	8
Very good	1	*	1	2	*
Somewhat good	8	7	6	10	7
Neither good nor bad	19	22	17	19	18
BAD (NET)	72	71	77	70	74
Somewhat bad	43	46	41	45	37
Very bad	30	24	35	25	37

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Note: * indicates less than 0.5%

TABLE 5
RATING OF CURRENT JOB MARKET - TREND

“How would you rate the current job market of your region of the country?”

Base: All adults

	June 2008	July 2008	Jan 2009	April 2009	June 2009
	%	%	%	%	%
GOOD (NET)	28	30	6	12	9
Neither good nor bad	18	19	18	20	19
BAD (NET)	53	51	76	68	72

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Note: Prior to January, there were three categories for Good and Bad

TABLE 6
EXPECTATIONS FOR JOB MARKET IN YOUR REGION IN SIX MONTHS

“How do you think that the job market in your region of the nation will change over the next 6 months?”

Base: All adults

	Total	Region			
		East	Midwest	South	West
	%	%	%	%	%
BETTER (NET)	21	17	19	26	21
Will be much better	2	1	2	3	4
Will be somewhat better	19	16	18	23	17
Will remain the same	47	53	43	44	47
WORSE (NET)	32	30	37	30	32
Will be somewhat worse	24	22	29	22	25
Will be much worse	8	7	9	8	7

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Note: * indicates less than 0.5%

TABLE 7
EXPECTATIONS FOR JOB MARKET IN SIX MONTHS – TREND

“How do you think that the job market in your region of the nation will change over the next 6 months?”

Base: All adults

	Jan. 2009	April 2009	June 2009
	%	%	%
BETTER (NET)	15	23	21
Will be much better	1	3	2
Will be somewhat better	14	20	19
Will remain the same	36	42	47
WORSE (NET)	49	36	32
Will be somewhat worse	36	29	24
Will be much worse	14	7	8

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 8
CONCERN OVER BECOMING UNEMPLOYED

“How concerned are you that the main income earner in your household might become unemployed in the next 6 months?”

Base: All adults

	April 2009	June 2009
	%	%
CONCERNED (NET)	43	42
Very concerned	17	16
Somewhat concerned	26	27
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	57	58
Not very concerned	26	27
Not at all concerned	31	31

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

The Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States June 8 and 15, 2009, among 2,177 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words “margin of error” as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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