

**Economy in Decline But Canadians
Doubt That Their Own Household Incomes Will Be Affected**
National Poll for the *Ottawa Citizen*



COMPAS Inc.
Public Opinion and Customer Research
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1.0. Economy in Decline But Households Not Affected

The Canadian public sees the national economy as declining over the next six months, but the decline is not expected to impact on their own households, according to a nation-wide COMPAS poll completed for the *Ottawa Citizen* on May 12, 2008.

Negative feeling is especially strong among households dependent on the public sector for income, as shown in table 1a. The economic confidence index is especially low among Canadians who draw their income from government or the public sector (scores of 50 and 48).

Table 1a: (Q1) How do you think the Canadian economy will be in six months? Will it...(Percent)

| | All | All Income from Public Sector | Income Mainly from Public Sector | Income Equally from Public and Private Sector | Income Mainly from Private Sector | All Income from Private Sector | French | CEOs ¹ |
|--|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Get a lot better | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Get somewhat better | 8 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 14 |
| Remain about the same | 34 | 28 | 25 | 34 | 37 | 38 | 29 | 34 |
| Get somewhat worse | 41 | 47 | 52 | 38 | 43 | 36 | 39 | 48 |
| Get a lot worse | 14 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 18 | 3 |
| UNPROMPTED Don't know | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| COMPAS Economic Confidence Index Score | 59 | 50 | 48 | 66 | 57 | 61 | 51 | 68 |

¹ Source: COMPAS business panel, May 5, 2008.



Gas Prices and the Economy
National Poll for the Ottawa Citizen

Table 1b: COMPAS Economic Confidence Index

| Public | All Income from Public Sector | Income Mainly from Public Sector | Income Equally from Public and Private Sector | Income Mainly from Private Sector | All Income from Private Sector | French | CEOs ² |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 59 | 50 | 48 | 66 | 57 | 61 | 51 | 68 |

Table 1c: (Q2) How about income received by your own household in six months? If you had to guess, would you predict that your household's income will... (Percent) ROTATE POLES

| | All | All Income from Public Sector | Income Mainly from Public Sector | Income Equally from Public and Private Sector | Income Mainly from Private Sector | All Income from Private Sector | French |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Get a lot better | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Get somewhat better | 12 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| Remain about the same | 63 | 60 | 67 | 67 | 65 | 61 | 59 |
| Get somewhat worse | 14 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 16 |
| Get a lot worse | 5 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| UNPROMPTED Don't know | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Public sentiment is especially negative about Canada's economic prospects over the next six months compared to sentiment in COMPAS' business panel of CEOs and business leaders, as shown in table 1b.

Though negative about the economy as a whole, members of the public are not particularly negative about their own household incomes. Most Canadians believe that their own household incomes will remain constant, as shown in

² Source: COMPAS business panel, May 5, 2008.



table 1c. Those who foresee a decrease in household income are matched almost equally by those who foresee an increase.

2.0. Methodology

The national COMPAS poll was undertaken for the *Ottawa Citizen*, completed May 12, 2008. By convention the sample of $n > 500$ is deemed accurate to within 4.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

