

CAR Polling Report

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Recent surveys show that a majority of Americans think now is a GOOD time to buy a house, that increasing numbers believe the country is headed in the right direction, and that significant numbers expect their economic situation to stabilize in the coming year – all good news compared to surveys taken this time last year.

A Gallup survey, released last week, shows that nearly three-quarters of Americans (71%) report that now is a good time to buy a house. This is a huge improvement from this time last year when only half of those surveyed (53%) said it was a good time to buy. The same survey reports that almost half of those surveyed (48%) believe that the current recession will last a year or less. The rest are split, with almost a quarter saying the recession will last two years and a quarter saying it will last more than two years. This is an improvement from a February survey that showed 39% believing the recession would last a year or less and 63% saying it would last two years or more.

The Gallup Poll of 1,027 adults nationwide was conducted between April 6-9, 2009. The margin of error for this sample is ± 3 percentage points. For more information on this survey go to <http://www.gallup.com/video/117529/Large-Majority-Think-Good-Time-Buy-House.aspx>

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) reports an increasing number of Americans see the country as heading in the right direction. The survey found, for the first time this year, that more Americans believe the country is heading in the right direction (49%) than in the wrong direction (40%). When looking specifically at registered voters, the survey finds that more than half (52%) see the country moving in the right direction.

Half of those surveyed expect their personal economic situation to stabilize in the upcoming year. The rest of the country splits with slightly more than a quarter (28%) predicting their economic situation will improve, and slightly less than a quarter (22%) expecting things to be worse this time next year. The poll finds that Americans are cautious in their optimism. Most Americans say they have significantly cut back on their spending. Sixty one percent of those surveyed say they have recently made significant cuts to their family's budget. The survey reports that more than eight-in ten (87%) Americans have "rethought their eating habits and the food they buy in order to reduce costs."

The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion surveyed 1,118 adults nationwide was conducted between April 1-3, 2009. The margin of error for this sample is ± 3 percentage points. For more information on this survey go to: <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/415-future-of-the-economy>