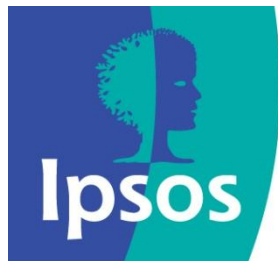


Two-Thirds (65%) of Canadians Optimistic For Economy in 2013, Especially In West

*While Half (49%) Approve of Federal Government's Stewardship,
Only 37% Approve of their Provincial Government's Efforts*

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Toronto, ON – Looking ahead to the New Year, most Canadians have a positive outlook on Canada's economy, especially those living in the west, according to a new poll conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. Two-thirds (65%) of Canadians expect 2013 to be a 'good' (8% very/57% somewhat) year for the Canadian economy, while one in three (35%) believe it will be a 'bad' (6% very/29% somewhat) year going forward.

Highlighting a tale of two countries, western Canadians appear to have the brightest outlook for the Canadian economy going into 2013. Albertans (77%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (76%), and British Columbians (72%) are most likely to believe that next year will be a 'good' year for the Canadian economy, while Ontarians (66%), Atlantic Canadians (65%), and Quebecers (53%) are considerably less optimistic.

Despite a majority believing that Canada is heading into a good year, economically, for the country, there are others who believe the outlook is not so rosy. Four in ten (40%) Canadians 'agree' (8% strongly/32% somewhat) that they 'believe that Canada will enter into an economic recession in 2013'. A majority (60%), however, 'disagree' (9% strongly/50% somewhat) that Canada will enter into a recession in the next year. Quebecers (47%) and Atlantic Canadians (47%) are most likely to 'agree' that Canada will fall back into a recession

in 2013, followed by Ontarians (40%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (36%), British Columbians (35%), and Albertans (30%).

Reflecting on 2012, six in ten (61%) think that 2012 was a 'good' year (4% very/57% somewhat) for the Canadian economy, compared to four in ten (39%) who believe that 2012 was a 'bad' year (7% very/32% somewhat) for Canada's economy.

Residents of Alberta (76%) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (73%) are most likely to believe that 2012 was a 'good' year for the Canadian economy, followed by those from British Columbia (64%), Atlantic Canada (61%), Ontario (59%), and Quebec (53%). Quebecers (47%) and Ontarians (41%), however, most believe that this year was a 'bad' one for the Canadian economy, ahead of Atlantic Canadians (39%), British Columbians (36%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (27%), and Albertans (24%).

Federal/Provincial Economic Management...

While a majority of Canadians have a positive review of Canada's economic performance in 2012 and heading into 2013, they are split on the federal government's overall management of the Canadian economy. Half (49%) of Canadians 'approve' (9% strongly/40% somewhat) of the federal government's overall management of the Canadian economy, compared to the other half (51%) who 'disapprove' (17% strongly/35% somewhat). Approval of the federal government's management of the economy is down 5 points since February.

Albertans (60%) and Ontarians (51%) most 'approve' of the federal government's overall management of the Canadian economy, followed by residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (50%), British Columbians (49%), Atlantic Canadians (44%), and Quebecers (41%).

Despite the mixed review of the federal government's management of the economy, it is decidedly better than what Canadians have to say about their provincial government's management of the economy. Just four in ten (37%), overall, 'approve' (4% strongly/33% somewhat) of their provincial government's overall management of the economy, compared to two-thirds (63%) who 'disapprove' (25% strongly/38% somewhat) of their province's economic management.

Residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (56%) are most likely to 'approve' of their provincial government's overall management of the economy, followed by a minority of Albertans (44%), Atlantic Canadians (41%), Quebecers (40%), British Columbians (33%), and Ontarians (31%). Conversely, Ontarians (69%) and British Columbians (67%) most 'disapprove' of their provincial government's overall management of the Canadian economy, ahead of Quebecers (60%), Atlantic Canadians (59%), Albertans (56%), and those from Saskatchewan and Manitoba (44%).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 7th to 12th, 2012, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,021 Canadians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case the poll is accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points of the entire Canadian adult population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.



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