PRESS RELEASE | Canada

Carney Extends Lead on Economic Management in Canada

Just under three-in-five Canadians rate the country's economic conditions as "poor" or "very poor".

Vancouver, BC [September 10, 2026] – The gap between Canada's prime minister and the leader of the Official Opposition on financial matters has grown over the past seven months, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 59% of Canadians say they trust Mark Carney to do the right thing to help the economy, up six points since a similar Research Co. poll [conducted in February](#).

Fewer than two-in-five Canadians (38%, -2) trust Pierre Poilievre to do the right thing to help the economy. The rating is slightly higher for Governor of the Bank of Canada Tiff Macklem (40%, +2).

Majorities of Canadians aged 18-to-34 (53%), aged 35-to-54 (57%) and aged 55 and over (66%) express confidence in Carney's economic management. Poilievre does best with Canadians aged 18-to-34 (46%) but drops markedly among Canadians aged 35-to-54 (38%) and aged 55 and over (29%).

About three-in-five Canadians (59%, -1) rate the economic conditions in Canada today as "poor" or "very poor", while 36% (+1) deem them "very good" or "good".

Just over one-in-four Albertans (27%, -9) think Canada's financial standing is currently "very good" or "good". The proportions are higher in Ontario (35%, +2), British Columbia (also 35%, +1), Atlantic Canada (36%, +4), Quebec (39%, +1) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (46%, +14).

More than three-in-ten Canadians (31%, -4) think the Canadian economy will decline over the next six months, while 44% (+3) foresee no changes and 17% (+2) predict an improvement.

There is little fluctuation on the question related to household finances, with 51% of Canadians (+2) describing their own situation as "very good" or "good" (51%, +2) while 44% (-2) consider it "poor" or "very poor".

Two thirds of Canadians who voted for the Liberal Party in last year's federal election (66%) provide a positive assessment of their own financial standing. The proportions are lower among those who cast ballots for candidates representing the Conservative Party (50%) and the New Democratic Party (NDP) (35%).

Methodology:
Results are based on an online survey conducted from August 31 to September 2, 2026, among 1,002 adults in Canada. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Canada. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.1 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

How would you rate the economic conditions in Canada today?

Very good / Good – 36% (+1)
Poor / Very poor – 59% (-1)
Not sure – 5% (=)

Over the next six months, do you think the Canadian economy will improve, remain the same, or decline?

Improve – 17% (+2)
Remain the same – 44% (+3)
Decline – 31% (-4)
Not sure – 8% (-1)

More than half of Canadians expect to pay more for a week's worth of groceries (75%, =), gasoline (also 75%, +18), a new car (63%, -2), a new television set (53%, +3) and real estate (51%, +3) in the next six months.

"Most Canadians aged 18-to-34 (57%) foresee higher real estate prices in the next six months," says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. "The proportions are lower among their counterparts aged 35-to-54 (50%) and aged 55 and over (45%)."

A third of Canadians (34%, +1) say they have worried "frequently" or "occasionally" in the past couple of months about their employer running into serious financial trouble.

Larger proportions of Canadians—but short of a majority—have been concerned about unemployment affecting their household (38%, -2), being able to pay their mortgage or rent (39%, -3), the value of their investments (44%, -4) or the safety of their savings (45%, -3).

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About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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