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Canadians a little more optimistic

Sun, August 31, 2008
POLL: Fewer residents losing sleep over job security and personal debt

By **CHRISTINA SPENCER, SUN MEDIA NATIONAL BUREAU**

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OTTAWA -- Almost one in three Canadians feels worse off financially than he or she felt a year ago. But half see no change in their personal financial status and almost one in five thinks things are actually going better.

Canadians are also more optimistic about job security and personal debt, according to the latest Nanos Research poll conducted for Sun Media.

Although the findings don't add up to anything approaching giddy confidence, they do suggest a streak of silver lining for the government amid the dark economic clouds that have gathered this year, according to pollster Nik Nanos.

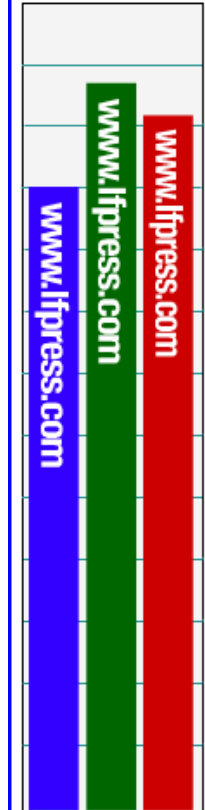
"We just aren't as gloomy as we were 90 days ago," said Nanos.

"It doesn't mean things couldn't slide again; it does show marginal improvement in the psychological-economic mood."

Twenty-eight per cent of Canadians think they are worse off financially than a year ago, the same number who felt that way in May, whereas 19 per cent feel they're better off, a slight dip from May.



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Fifty per cent see no change.

But two-thirds of Canadians feel their own jobs are secure or somewhat secure, up more than three percentage points from when the same question was asked in May.

Fewer people say their personal debt is increasing.

However, they are more concerned about interest rates, with almost 84 per cent saying they think that rates will increase or at least stay the same.



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