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By Theophilus Erdus | Last updated: 2015 10:28 AM ET | 1 Comment | Email | Print
 State of the Union Address.
 Canadians are conflicted.
 Tune in 1/20 at 8pm.

Insiders call it a sneak peek.
 Cynics call it suits standing and clapping.
 We call it politics.

Cheaper gasoline is leaving them with more disposable income and feeling good about their personal finances. At the same time, they're nervous about the effect plunging oil prices will have on the wider economy.

Every week, Nanos Research asks Canadians for their views on personal finances, [job security](#), the outlook for the economy and where real estate prices are headed. This is what the survey data, which is compiled for [Bloomberg News](#), have captured with prices for crude, and gasoline, at the lowest since 2009:

*As far as their own pocketbooks are concerned, Canadians haven't been more content in at least seven years. The [share](#) of respondents who say their personal finances have improved over the past 12 months rose last week to 23.1 percent, the most since Nanos began the surveys in 2008. The percentage who say their finances have worsened dropped to 21.6 percent last week, about the lowest in seven years.

*Yet the economic [mood](#) among Canadians is darkening. For 15 consecutive weeks, the percentage of respondents who see a weaker economy in the next six months outnumbered those who foresee an improvement. Canadians have become slightly less pessimistic in January, after scores hit post-recession lows at the end of December.

*Falling oil prices haven't had a major impact on feelings of job security, with the Nanos readings showing sentiment holding steady at elevated levels since the summer. The share of Canadians who describe their job as at least somewhat secure was 69.1 percent last week, in line with the average since the end of June, when benchmark crude prices began their plunge from about \$107 a barrel to less than \$50 now. The trend might reflect the acceleration in [Canada's job market](#) in the second half of 2014, when employers created a net 132,900 jobs, even as [oil prices](#) collapsed.

*Canadians are also concerned about real estate values. When asked whether [home prices](#) will rise in the next six months, the share of those responding yes has fallen to 31.1 percent, the least since May 2013, and down from about 46 percent in July. The impact on Calgary's

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Some call it a waste of time.
 Others call it an ambitious blueprint.
 We call it politics.

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housing market is already evident, where sales of existing homes fell 25 percent in December, the most since the 2008 credit crunch.

*The broad impact on consumer sentiment has been negative. The Bloomberg Nanos Canadian Confidence Index -- a composite score based on the four survey questions -- has fallen in recent weeks to the lowest since March 2013. Still, Canadians may have already discounted the worst. After hitting an 18-month low in the last week of December, the index has pared some of those losses since 2015 began.

The survey, based on phone interviews with 1,000 people, uses a four-week rolling average of 250 respondents. The results are accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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