

## **SURVEY: Only Half the Country Feels the Economy has Bottomed out; 45 Percent Believe it Will Get Worse**

### ***Economic view giving rise to questions about Obama's recovery plan***

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (July 13, 2009)** – STEWART and PARTNERS today released new survey data showing that nearly half of Americans (45%) thinks the economy has not yet hit bottom and will worsen. By comparison, just one-in-three (32%) indicate the economy is now trending upward, while 20% say it is at the bottom right now.

A separate question reveals that only 27% expect their own financial situation to be better off one year from now.

President Barack Obama continues to generate a solid performance rating, with 63% approving of his overall performance in office. Beneath this, however, there are signs of stress. This is particularly true on the domestic front where a slim majority of Americans (54%) approve of Obama's handling of the economy, and just as many "strongly" disapprove of his performance on the economy (26%) versus those who "strongly" approve (24%).

"The recent drop in consumer confidence coupled with the worse-than-expected June jobless report is evident in these numbers," said Bill Cullo of STEWART and PARTNERS. "Americans are starting to ask questions about the effectiveness of the taxpayer dollars that have been spent thus far on the stimulus. As a result, the President's economic plan is at a crossroad."

Other survey findings reveal that the public is split on whether the President is on the right track (47%) or wrong track (42%) in expanding the role of government. In addition, solidifying the country's credit rating and strengthening the dollar (32%) was cited as the most important issue for the President and Congress to address. That was chosen from a list of seven leading issues that included reforming healthcare (26%), addressing the North Korea nuclear threat (9%), and curbing foreclosures (9%).

### **Survey Questions**

<i>Q: From this list of important issues, which ONE do you see as the most important for the president and congress to address? [ROTATE]</i>	
Solidifying the country's credit rating and strengthening the dollar	32%
Reforming our healthcare system	26%
Curbing the number of homeowners going into foreclosure	9%
Addressing the nuclear threat from North Korea	9%
Turning around the U.S. auto industry	5%
Strengthening our country's relations with Muslim nations	3%
Devising a plan for housing detainees before closing Guantanamo prison	2%
Other (vol.)	10%
Unsure (vol.)	4%

*Q: In thinking about the role the federal government is taking under President Obama, which of the following statements comes closest to your view? [ROTATE]*

President Obama is on the right track in expanding the role of government	47%
Unsure (vol.)	11%
President Obama is on the wrong track in expanding the role of government	42%

*Q: Thinking specifically about the economy, which of the following statements comes closest to your view of the U.S. economy? [ROTATE]*

The economy has already bottomed out and is on the upswing	32%
The economy is at bottom and not getting any better	20%
The economy has not yet bottomed out and will still get worse	45%
Unsure (vol.)	4%

*Q: Now thinking about your own financial situation – Over the next year or so, do you expect your own financial situation to be... [ROTATE]*

Better than it is today	27%
About the same as it is today	48%
Worse than it is today	23%
Unsure (vol.)	2%

*Q: Thinking specifically about Barack Obama, for each one of the following areas, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing as president.*

	APPROVE		UNSURE	DISAPPROVE	
	<i>Strg</i>	<i>Smwt</i>		<i>Smwt</i>	<i>Strg</i>
Overall performance as president	36%	27%	5%	15%	17%
Representing the U.S. to the world	41%	24%	4%	13%	18%
Handling the economy	24%	30%	5%	16%	26%
Handling health care reform issues	20%	29%	11%	15%	25%
Handling the U.S. auto industry	15%	31%	7%	21%	26%
Handling the situation with N. Korea	20%	34%	15%	16%	15%
Handling the situation with Iran	25%	31%	11%	15%	18%

**Methodology**

The inaugural edition of the America’s Point of View Survey was conducted June 26-30, 2009. Using a random-digit dial (RDD) sampling method, telephone interviews were conducted among N=813 adults 18+ years of age throughout the United States. This sample has a margin of error of 3.5% at the 95% confidence level.

**About STEWART and PARTNERS ([www.stewartandpartners.com](http://www.stewartandpartners.com))**

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