## National Economy



## Personal Finances



## Buying It Now



C onsidering the cost of things today and your own personal finances, would you say now is an excellent time, a good time, a not so good time, or a poor timeto buy the things you want and need?


Positive ratings

| 2001 |  | 2002 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| July 1 | 52\% | January 6 | 31\% |
| August 5 | 51 | February 3 | 33 |
| September 2 | 45 | March 3 | 37 |
| October 7 | 45 | April 7 | 44 |
| November 4 | 37 | May 5 | 42 |
| December 2 | 36 | May 19 | 41 |
| Highest recorded* (1/16/00) | 80\% | Lowest recorded* (2/9/92) | 7\% |
|  |  | Average* | 42\% |
| *Since 1985 |  |  |  |


| Positiveratings |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2001 |  | 2002 |  |
| July 1 | 61\% | January 6 | 56\% |
| August 5 | 65 | February 3 | 58 |
| September 2 | 64 | March 3 | 60 |
| October 7 | 65 | April 7 | 62 |
| November 4 | 61 | May 5 | 60 |
| December 2 | 62 | May 19 | 61 |
| Highest recorded* (1/23/00) | 70\% | Lowest recorded* (3/14/93) | 42\% |
|  |  | Average* | 57\% |
| *Since 1985 |  |  |  |

*Since 1985

| Positive ratings |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2001 |  | 2002 |  |
| July 1 | 41\% | January 6 | 43\% |
| August 5 | 41 | February 3 | 41 |
| September 2 | 41 | March 3 | 42 |
| October 7 | 43 | April 7 | 44 |
| November 4 | 45 | May 5 | 42 |
| December 2 | 47 | May 19 | 41 |
| Highest recorded* <br> (1/16/00) | 57\% | Lowest recorded* <br> (11/2/90) | 20\% |
|  |  | Average* | 39\% |

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## Credit Check

Question:

Thinking about all credit cards, including department stores, retail chain stores as well as general bank credit cards such as Visa and M asterC ard, how many credit cards do you have?


H ow do you generally pay your credit card(s) each month? D o you al wayspay thefull amount, do you usually pay thefull amount, but not always, do you always pay as much as you can, but usually leave balances, do you usually pay theminimum amount due, but not much more, or do you sometimes pay less than the minimum amount due?



H ow worried areyou about ...not being able to make the minimum payments on your credit cards? Are you...?


Source: Survey by the G allup $O$ rganization, April 6-8, 2001.

## Question:

Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans (excluding your mortgage), would you say you ...?

## Q uestion:

O ne year from now, do you expect to have more debt than you have now, less debt, or about the same amount of debt as now?


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates/Pew Research Center, June 13-17, 2001.


Source: Survey by the LosAngeles Times, N ovember 10-13, 2001.

## A Penny Saved

## Q uestion:

[ $N$ ow I am going to ask you about how well somestatements describe you.] ...I am disciplined at saving... W ould you say that it describes you very well, well, not too well, or not at all?


Source: Survey by M atthew Greenwald \& Associates, January 2-23, 2002.
Note: Asked of registered voters.
Source: Survey by O pinion D ynamics/Fox N ews, M arch 12-13, 2002.


[^0]:    Source: Surveys by ABC News/M oney, latest that of May 19, 2002.

