

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority thinks Canada in a recession

Oil price crash seen as cause

TORONTO July 21st, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1208 Canadian voters, close to 6-in-10 see the country as being in a recession (58%), while 1-in-3 do not (29%) and one tenth don't have an opinion (13%). Fear of a recession is especially common to the youngest (under 45 - 62%), males rather than females (62% to 54%), higher income groups (\$80K to \$100K - 64%), in Alberta (65%), among New Democrat voters (70%) but not among Conservatives (37%).

Most think oil price crash led to recession

The plurality of those who think we are in recession blame it on the crash in oil prices (28%), followed by one quarter who blame global circumstances in general (24%). Canadian government monetary policy is also blamed (17%), and some think the recession of 2009 never ended (14%). Few blame the recession on the situation in Greece (1%). Conservative voters are especially likely to blame the crash in oil prices (38%) or the global downturn (30%), whereas fewer Liberals (26% and 23%, respectively) or New Democrats (29% and 23%) do. Liberals (20%) and New Democrats (22%) are especially likely to blame government monetary policies, while Conservatives are not (3%).

"While the official marker of a recession is two quarters of negative growth, recessions really start when people believe they do, which seems to have occurred already. While government supporters are eager to pin the blame on a general global economic downturn, opposition parties are much more eager to lay blame at the government's feet, either because of their poor monetary policy or their single minded focus on Canada's energy sector," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 6-in-10 see the country as being in a recession (58%), while 1-in-3 do not (29%) and one tenth don't have an opinion (13%).
- The plurality of those who think we are in recession blame it on the crash in oil prices (28%), followed by one quarter who blame global circumstances in general (24%).
- "While the official marker of a recession is two quarters of negative growth, recessions really start when people believe they do, which seems to have occurred already. While government supporters are eager to pin the blame on a general global economic downturn, opposition parties are much more eager to lay blame at the government's feet, either because of their poor monetary policy or their single minded focus on Canada's energy sector," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
forumresearch.com

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1208 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on July 19-20th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Canada in Recession

'As far as you know, is Canada in a recession or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1208	209	148	219	294	338	646	562
Yes	58	62	62	54	58	52	62	54
No	29	28	29	34	30	26	30	29
Don't know	13	10	9	12	12	22	8	17

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1208	139	209	190	149	102	235
Yes	58	50	59	56	56	64	61
No	29	32	25	31	35	30	30
Don't know	13	18	16	14	9	6	9

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1208	99	304	450	53	141	161	935	273
Yes	58	59	63	54	56	65	56	57	62
No	29	22	26	33	37	30	25	30	26
Don't know	13	19	11	13	7	5	19	13	12

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1208	320	303	353	67	55	58
Yes	58	37	60	70	57	60	71
No	29	47	28	19	30	34	19
Don't know	13	16	12	11	12	6	10

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Cause of Recession

‘What has caused this recession?’

[Believe in recession]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	693	131	94	121	173	174	392	301
Downturn in the global economy	24	31	20	18	23	22	19	28
Greek bailout	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	1
Crash in oil prices	28	28	34	27	20	25	28	28
Canadian government monetary policy	17	11	14	23	21	25	20	14
Recession of 2009 never ended	14	12	17	20	14	11	16	13
Lack of productivity	7	7	4	5	12	9	7	7
Something else	6	7	6	6	6	4	6	6
Don't know	3	2	4	0	4	3	2	3

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	693	72	121	98	84	64	142
Downturn in the global economy	24	29	24	23	12	18	33
Greek bailout	1	4	4	2	0	0	1
Crash in oil prices	28	17	25	26	36	30	27
Canadian government monetary policy	17	8	17	21	25	20	14
Recession of 2009 never ended	14	19	15	14	11	16	14
Lack of productivity	7	10	8	3	6	7	5
Something else	6	11	5	7	8	7	3
Don't know	3	1	3	4	1	1	4

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	693	55	189	238	29	90	92	526	167
Downturn in the global economy	24	21	31	21	27	21	19	21	33
Greek bailout	1	0	1	2	0	0	5	2	1
Crash in oil prices	28	33	25	23	30	44	28	29	23

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Canadian government monetary policy	17	16	13	21	10	12	23	19	13
Recession of 2009 never ended	14	8	13	20	15	7	11	16	11
Lack of productivity	7	13	9	5	9	7	4	6	11
Something else	6	7	6	6	7	5	7	6	7
Don't know	3	2	2	2	3	5	4	3	2

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	693	120	186	244	40	33	39
Downturn in the global economy	24	30	23	23	14	42	5
Greek bailout	1	1	1	0	0	0	14
Crash in oil prices	28	38	26	29	21	19	15
Canadian government monetary policy	17	3	20	22	22	12	22
Recession of 2009 never ended	14	13	16	13	14	4	25
Lack of productivity	7	8	6	6	12	12	2
Something else	6	5	6	3	13	11	18
Don't know	3	2	2	4	3	0	0

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For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

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Tel: (416) 960-9603

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