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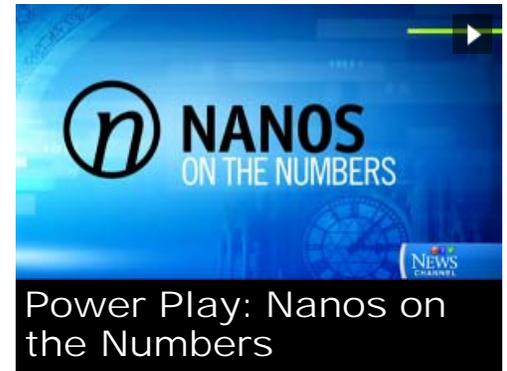
Half of Canadians plan to delay major purchases: Nanos/CTV News poll

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Nik Nanos, CTV News Pollster
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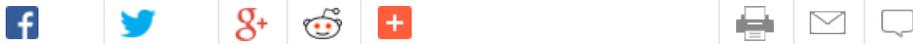
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Approximately half of Canadians plan to delay major purchases in the next three months, according to a new poll.



CTVNews.ca Staff

Published Wednesday, March 4, 2015 10:00PM EST

Interpreting the declining value of the Canadian dollar as a sign of a weakening economy, approximately half of Canadians plan to delay major purchases in the near future, according to a new Nanos/CTV News poll.

The random survey of 1,000 Canadians shows that half of them think a lower Canadian dollar suggests the economy is getting weaker. Meanwhile, 53 per cent of those surveyed said they are likely or somewhat likely to delay a major purchase in the next three months.

Camilla Sutton, Scotiabank's chief currency strategist, said the decline in oil prices has shaken confidence in our economy.

"There is this feeling of uncertainty that's looming because we have had this major change in oil prices, a major change in the economic outlook," she said.

When it comes to owing money, 56 per cent of Canadians said they are unconcerned or somewhat unconcerned about their current level of debt, such as mortgage, credit cards and loans. Nineteen

per cent said they are concerned and another 26 per cent said they are somewhat concerned about debt.

On the plus side, the poll found that the majority of Canadians are not worried about their job status. More than 70 per cent said they are unconcerned or somewhat unconcerned about their current employment situation.

More than 60 per cent of those surveyed didn't worry that property values in their neighbourhoods could decline. Only 12 per cent said they were concerned, and another 26 per cent said they were somewhat concerned.

The hybrid telephone and online poll was randomly conducted between Feb. 22 and Feb. 27 as part of an omnibus survey. Live agents called both landlines and cellphones.

The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



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