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Hispanics More Confident of Personal Finances and the U.S. Economy Compared to a Year Ago, Latest FAU Poll Says

BOCA RATON, Fla. (Aug. 18, 2015) – Hispanics have grown steadily more confident in their personal finances over the past year, as well as the U.S. economy as a whole, according to the latest survey conducted by the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative ([FAU BEPI](#)) in the College of Business.

The July survey completes BEPI's first full year of polling Hispanics nationally, providing an evolving perspective of consumer sentiment over the last 12 months.

The Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) dropped slightly in July from the previous month, but at 93.8 posted a significant increase from where it stood in August 2014, when the CSI was just 68.3. The CSI hit a high of 100.7 in January 2015. All five components that make up the index have increased consistently compared to August 2014. Specifically, when Hispanics were asked about their current personal finances, 62 percent reported they are better off than a year ago, up from 45 percent in August 2014.

In addition, when asked their perceptions of personal finances a year from now, 72 percent of Hispanics surveyed expect their financial situation to be better in 2016, up from 50 percent in August 2014. Optimism toward business conditions also improved as the percentage of those who expect the country to experience good times financially in the next 12 months rose to 54 percent in July compared to 40 percent in August 2014. Finally, the percentage of Hispanics who are optimistic about the economic conditions of the country over the next five years rose to 56 percent from 36 percent in August 2014.

“The positive trend in Hispanic consumer confidence can be due to the moderate recovery of the economy and the creation of new jobs,” said Monica Escaleras, Ph.D., director of BEPI.


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The Current Economic Conditions (CEC) index dropped nearly five points from an all-time high of 103.49 in June to 98.08 in July, its third-highest mark since the study began in August 2014. In addition, the Index of Consumer Expectations (ICE) dropped slightly to 91.03 in July from 95.19 in June, but stands higher than when the poll began in August 2014 (63.7).

The survey was conducted nationally July 1-31. The polling sample consisted of 500 Hispanics with a margin of error of +/- 4.33 percent and a 95 percent confidence level. For more information, visit [BEPI](#) or contact Monica Escaleras, Ph.D. at 561-297-1312, BEPI@fau.edu.

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About FAU BEPI:

The Florida Atlantic University Business and Economic Polling Initiative Conducts surveys on business, economic, political and social issues with a focus on Hispanic attitudes and opinions at regional, state and national levels via planned monthly national surveys. The initiative subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research and is a resource for public and private organizations, academic research and media outlets. In addition, the initiative is designed to contribute to the educational mission of the University by providing students with valuable opportunities to enhance their educational experience by designing and carry out public opinion research.

About Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.