BOCA RATON, Fla., Oct. 11, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Hispanics in the U.S. are souring on the direction of the economy and showing growing dissatisfaction with U.S. President Donald Trump, according to a new national consumer sentiment index conducted by the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI) in the College of Business.

The Hispanic Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI), taken from July through September, stands at 92, down nearly three points from the second quarter of 2017, when FAU conducted its last quarterly survey of Hispanic consumers nationally. Only 23 percent of Hispanics said the economy was getting better, while the number of respondents who said things were getting worse continued to climb for the third straight quarter - from 16 percent in the first quarter to 22 percent in the second and 29 percent in the third. Hispanics are still optimistic about their personal finances, however, with 65 percent saying they are better off than they were a year ago and 74 percent saying they will be better off over the next year. Overall, the percentage of Hispanics who thought it was a good time to buy a big-ticket item for their home fell three points to 61 percent. Only 53 percent thought it was a good time to buy a car, which is down 6 percent from the second quarter. However, perhaps in response to the expectations of high interest rates in the future - 50 percent of respondents expect interest rates to rise - nearly six in 10 Hispanics (58 percent) said it's a good time to buy a house, up seven points from the previous quarter.