

Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • February 26, 2015

Middle Class Lacking Financial Confidence: Economic confidence averaged +3 in January 2015, the first positive response since before the recession. However, a recent Gallup [poll](#) found that only 50% of Americans feel better about their present financial situation. Of those earning \$24,000 to \$59,999 a year, only 51% feel better. Less than half of Americans (49%) feel "pretty good" about the amount of money they have to spend.

This lack of confidence, especially among the middle class, is not surprising. The average middle class income declined 4.3% from 2009-2013, according to a recent [24/7 Wall St. article](#). California, Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island top the list of ten states where the middle class is suffering the most, with income declines of 6.9%, 5.9%, 5.8% and 5.6%, respectively. In 2013, five of these ten states had average middle class incomes below the national median household income (\$51,939).

President Barack Obama continuously promises to rebuild the middle class, but he has presided over the first recovery in which median household income declined. Despite increased confidence in the national economy, it will take real change before Americans regain confidence in their personal finances.

