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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

38% of Urban Pakistanis term Unemployment as the Nation's Foremost Problem

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38% of Urban Pakistanis term Unemployment as the Nation's Foremost Problem - January 14, 2000

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of urban Pakistani's believe the nation's foremost problem is unemployment. The second most important problem in popular perceptions is inflation; it was mentioned by 14%. These findings emerged from a national urban poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan which posed the question: "In your view what is Pakistan's number one problem these days?" while 38% mentioned unemployment and 14% mentioned inflation, 8% mentioned economic instability; 5 percent mentioned corruption, and 4% believed poverty was the nation's big problem. Thus nearly 70% of urban Pakistanis view economic view economic issues as the most serious problem. In contrast ,only 3% mentioned law and order problems,6%were concerned about political instability and the remaining 20% mentioned a variety of domestic and foreign policy issues.

It is notable that while Gallup surveys conducted over the last twenty yeas have always found economic issues on top of the list, the number one and number two position have fluctuated between inflation and unemployment solely .Until the mid-nineties inflation took precedence over un employment .But in recent years , concern about unemployment have by far overtaken concern about inflation.

It is further notable that even in their personal lives, a majority of Pakistanis perceive economic problems to be their principal problem. Responding to a question: "In your personal life, what is the most important problem these days?" 60% of men and women listed economic problems as the number one problem, 18% identified family problems, 11% mentioned law and order problems and the remaining mentioned other miscellaneous issues.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among a representative sample of men and women in all the four provinces of Pakistan. The error margin in a survey of this kind is around 3 percent at 95 percent confidence level. The complete text of Gallup weekly poll may be seen on the internet at www.gallup.com.pk.