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Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

HOPE AND DESPAIR INDEX, 1999

Results released on: December 31, 1998



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HOPE AND DESPAIR INDEX, 1999 - December 31, 1998

Pakistanis are less hopeful about their future than they were a year ago. But they are still the ninth most hopeful nation in the world. These findings have emerged from Gallup International annual survey on Hope and Despair. It was conducted in more than fifty countries across the Globe, including Pakistan, where Gallup Pakistan carried out the survey. More than fifty thousand statistically selected men and women were interviewed across the globe as part of this study.

According to the survey 47% of Pakistanis believe that 1999 will be on the whole better for them compared to 1998. This is a decline in hope compared to last year, when 54% said they were hopeful about the new year unfolding at that time. However Pakistan has maintained its position as the Ninth most hopeful nation. It stood at the same rank last year.

It is significant to note that there is a global sense of gloom at the beginning of 1999. The number of hopefuls declined in more than half of the surveyed countries.

If the world was treated as one unit, the number of hopefuls at the beginning of 1999 is one quarter less than they were a year ago. The average of hopefuls in 1998 was 39 percent of the globally surveyed population, whereas it is 30 percent in the comparable population in 1999.

The survey carried out by Gallup International shows that East Asian nations, including Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Philippines are now emerging out of the sense of gloom which had engulfed them last year. The level of hope in these countries is still one of the lowest in the world. But, the trend has reversed. In Japan hopefuls have increased from 16% to 18%; in Korea the number has increased from 16% to 24%, in Hong Kong from 29% to 34% and in Philippines from 31% to 36%. Despite all economic odds and political uneasiness 59% of Malaysians are hopeful of a better 1999.

The survey shows that a sense of hope is returning to Germany, which betrayed a pessimistic mood a year ago. The hopefuls in Germany have increased from 34% to 46%. Apart from Germany there is a marked sense of decline in hope in both Western and Eastern Europe, and most notably in Russia. In Russia only 15% of the population is hopeful as opposed to 41% a year ago. The Russians are the least hopeful people in the World at the beginning of 1999. Last year this undesirable position was claimed by Korea. Leaving aside Germany and Spain, hopefuls have declined in every West European country surveyed in this study. In the UK hopefuls declined from 52% to 42%.

Despite the euphoria created in India following its nuclear explosion, the Indian population ranks among one of the least hopeful nations. The hopefuls declined from 43% a year ago to only 28% in the latest study.

A notable exception to the general trend towards pessimism is Australasia, where both Australia and Newzealand are hopeful about the forthcoming year: the hopefuls are 55% in Australia and 62% in Newzealand.

In Pakistan, more than one thousand statistically selected men and women coming from all ages, income and education groups spread over the four provinces of the country were asked:

Will 1999 be better, worse or the same as 1998? 47% said they believed 1999 will be better, 15% said it will be worse whereas 26% said it will remain the same. The respondents were also asked their views on economic prospects, prospects for unemployment and both internal and external unrest. The global findings on those issues are available separately, but they generally correspond with the views on overall prospects for the forthcoming year. In Pakistan the study findings show no dramatic shifts in attitudes, except a rising feeling of job insecurity, and slight feeling of relaxation about internal strife and violence.

Economic Prospects: 43% of Pakistanis believe that economic prospects will improve, 13 percent say they will decline, 33% believe there will be no difference, while 11% failed to give an answer. A year ago those hopeful of economic prospects were 42%. Thus there is no change of attitudes.

Unemployment and Job Insecurity:

Personal job insecurity has increased over the last one year. According to the survey 26% of employed Pakistanis are fearful that they may lose their job. Last year only 19% suffered from a similar fear.

Nearly half the population is apprehensive that unemployment might increase in the coming year. 21% believe it may decline, 22% expect it to remain at the present level, while 9% failed to give an answer. The comparable figures a year ago were roughly the same.

Internal Strife: Twenty percent of Pakistanis believe that internal strife and terrorism will increase in 1999, 31% believe it will decline, 33% believe there will be no difference, while 16% failed to give an answer. The fear for increasing internal strife has subsided compared to a year ago when 27% of Pakistanis were apprehensive of rising internal violence.

Global Violence: Views are divided among those who believe international conflicts will increase (24%), decrease (20%) and remain the same (35%). The remaining respondents failed to give an answer. There is no change in perceptions about global violence; the responses were roughly the same last year.

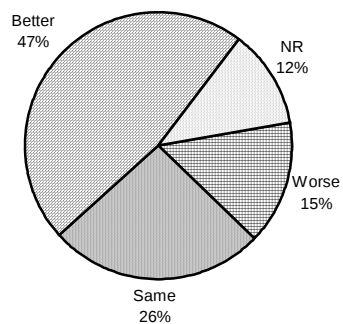
The Gallup International Survey about Hope and Despair about 1999 was conducted according to the scientific principles of survey research, and released simultaneously across the globe for publication on the eve of the new year. In Pakistan the study was supervised by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

OPTIMISTS		PESSIMISTS	
Countries in which more than 40% believe 1999 will be better than 1998		Countries in which less than 40% believe 1999 will be better than 1998	
Gulf States	73	Belgium	39
Newzealand	62	Iceland	39
Malaysia	59	Slovenia	36
Australia	55	Argentina	36
North Ireland	52	Philippines	36
Azerbaijan	50	Bolivia	36
Ireland	48	Switzerland	34
Spain	48	Hong Kong	34
Pakistan	47	Mexico	33
Sweden	46	Luxembourg	33
Germany	46	Lithuania	31
Israel	45	Latvia	31
Italy	45	Poland	31
Thailand	44	Croatia	30
Denmark	43	Bulgaria	29
South Africa	43	Ecuador	29
UK	42	India	28
Chile	41	Finland	27
Bosnia Herzegovina	41	Netherlands	27
Estonia	41	Ukraine	25
		Greece	24
		Korea	24
		Hungary	23
		Portugal	23
		Peru	23
		Austria	23
		Slovak Republic	20
		Turkey	20
		Czech. Republic	20
		Japan	18
		Romania	16
		Belarus	16
		Russia	15

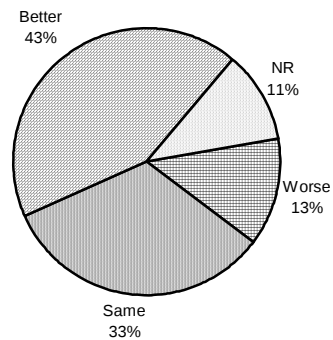
Source: Gallup International New Year Poll, 1999

Question: In your view, would the new year 1999 be better, worse or the same as the year which has just passed? and would the economic condition of Pakistan in the new year 1999 be better, worse or the same as the year which has just passed?

Views on
Overall Prospects 1999

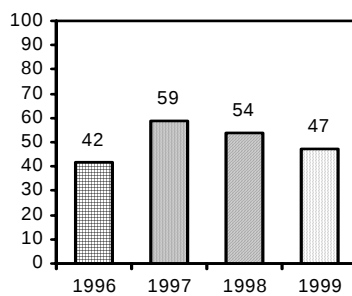


Views on
Nation's Economic Prospects 1999



Overall Prospects
COMPARATIVE DATA

Percent saying
Prospects are Better



Nation's Economic Prospects
COMPARATIVE DATA

Percent saying
Prospects are Better

