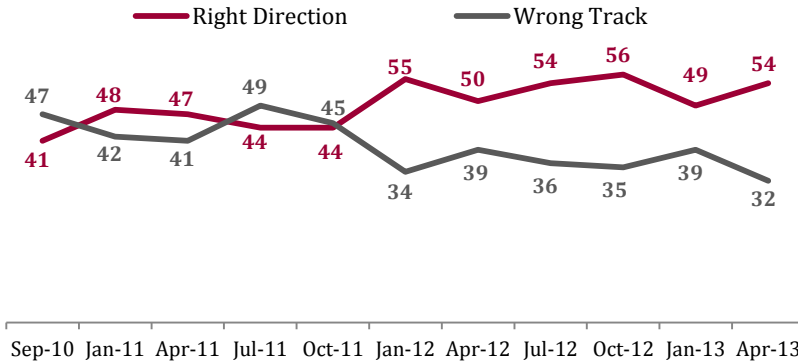


The MassINC Polling Group Trend Monitor is published once a quarter to provide a snapshot of how key metrics are changing over time. The figures contained in the Trend Monitor are based on polls¹ conducted by The MassINC Polling Group. These figures all represent general population polls, rather than voter polls.

More see Massachusetts headed in the right direction

A majority (54 percent) of Bay State residents see the state as headed in the right direction, while 32 percent see it as off on the wrong track. This 22-point net positive outlook is the strongest quarterly reading since we started measuring in September 2010, edging October 2012's 21-point net positive finding.



The dip in this number observed in our first quarter poll tracks with a similar trend in consumer confidence, discussed further below.

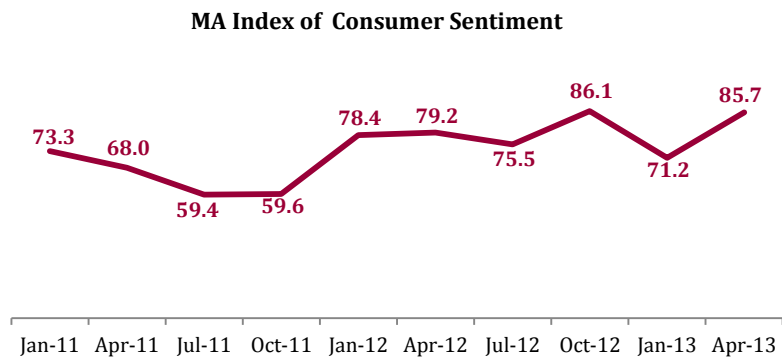
Favorables - State Police soar, Patrick sees new high in favorables

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings and closely watched search for the suspects, 61 percent hold a favorable view of Governor Deval Patrick, the highest quarterly reading since we started measuring in September 2010. The Massachusetts State Police also won near unanimous praise, with 86 percent favorable ratings compared to just 4 percent unfavorable. Other favorability figures from past Trend Monitors can be found in Appendix B.

	April 2013	Jan. 2013	Oct. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Jan. 2012	Oct. 2011	July 2011	April 2011	Jan. 2011	Sept. 2010
Elizabeth Warren	50/29	N/A	48/38	43/24	34/23	33/18	32/14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mass. State Legislature	34/30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41/37	38/38	41/37	N/A
Mass. State Police	86/4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deval Patrick	61/23	N/A	N/A	N/A	51/37	N/A	51/36	47/40	54/36	57/33	42/45

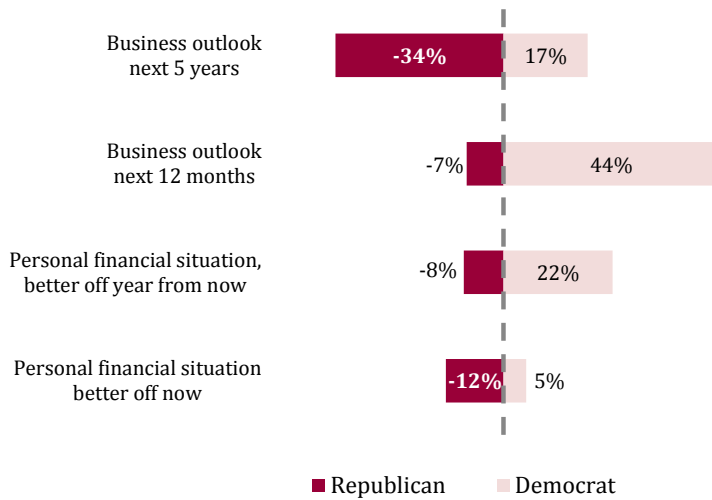
Consumer Sentiment rebounds after weak January

After a sharp downturn in January, consumer confidence rebounded, with the MA Index of Consumer Sentiment nearing the record high attained in October 2012 (see chart). The burst of optimism is likely reflective of strong first quarter economic performance in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts economy grew faster in the first quarter than the U.S. economy, according to preliminary reports, which likely partially accounts for the strong reading. More people are now optimistic than pessimistic on each of the 5 component questions of the index. Full trend data on the index and component questions are shown in Appendix A of this report.



The quick rebound also suggests that January’s down reading was in part due to the President and Congress’s failure to reach a deal to prevent the so-called “sequester”. As the slow motion budget drama continues, consumer sentiment has fallen during period when brinksmanship is particular intense. National consumer sentiment polling indicates a major source of consumer anxiety is questions about the federal government’s collective ability to address the nation’s economic and budgetary challenges.

Net positive/negative outlook: Republicans & Democrats



The strong partisan divide in consumer confidence continues, with Bay State Democrats far more optimistic than Republicans. Overall, Democrats have a net positive outlook on each of the component questions (see chart), whereas Republicans have a net negative outlook on four of the five. Independents had a net positive outlook but by a much narrower margin than among Democrats. The one area of partisan agreement was when residents were asked whether now was a good or bad time to make major purchases. More Democrats (47/29) and Republicans (44/30) thought it was a good time to make such purchases than a bad time, and Independents (55/29) were most optimistic of all.

Questions or comments?

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¹ **About the Polls** - These results are based on questions from The MassINC Polling Group statewide polls of Massachusetts residents. Live telephone interviews are conducted via both landline and cell phone using conventional random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methods. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. Question wording and additional methodological details are available upon request, but are excluded from this document for simplicity and length.

² **About the Index of Consumer Sentiment** - The national Index of Consumer Sentiment is a consumer confidence index published monthly by the University of Michigan and Thomson Reuters. The ICS is made up two component indices, the Index of Current Economic Conditions, which measures present sentiments, and the Index of Consumer Expectations, which represents future prospects. The consumer confidence measures were devised in the late 1940’s by George Katona at the University of Michigan. The measures have now developed into an ongoing, nationally representative survey based on telephonic household interviews. The Index of Consumer Sentiment (ICS) is developed from these interviews. The Index of Consumer Expectations (a sub-index of ICS) is included in the Leading Indicator Composite Index published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Appendix A – Consumer Sentiment Historical Data

	MA Index of Consumer Sentiment	MA Index of Current Economic Conditions	MA Index of Consumer Expectations
Apr 2013	85.7	86.7	85.2
Jan 2013	71.2	74.0	69.4
Oct 2012	86.1	82.5	88.4
Jul 2012	75.5	76.9	74.6
Apr 2012	79.2	78.4	79.8
Jan 2012	78.4	80.2	77.2
Oct 2011	59.6	64.2	56.5
Jul 2011	59.4	64.5	56.1
Apr 2011	68.0	71.0	66.1
Jan 2011	73.3	72.8	73.7

The Massachusetts Index of Consumer Sentiment measures views of both current and future economic conditions. The ICS is made up two component indices, the Index of Current Economic Conditions, which measures present sentiments, and the Index of Consumer Expectations, which represents future prospects. The ICS is scaled such that the 1966 national ICS represents 100.

The questions shown below are the components of the Index of Consumer Sentiment.

We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living there) are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?			
	Better off	The same	Worse off
Apr 2013	37	30	31
Jan 2013	29	24	46
Oct 2012	38	26	34
Jul 2012	30	30	38
Apr 2012	30	27	41
Jan 2012	32	29	38
Oct 2011	25	27	47
Jul 2011	25	24	49
Apr 2011	29	24	45
Jan 2011	27	27	45

Now looking ahead--do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?			
	Better off	The same	Worse off
Apr 2013	29	55	11
Jan 2013	24	48	24
Oct 2012	36	43	8
Jul 2012	30	49	13
Apr 2012	33	45	14
Jan 2012	31	50	13
Oct 2011	21	54	18
Jul 2011	19	54	23
Apr 2011	25	52	20
Jan 2011	28	51	17

Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole--do you think that during the next twelve months we'll have good times financially or bad times?

	Good times	Mixed, or both good and bad times	Bad times
Apr 2013	51	11	31
Jan 2013	37	9	47
Oct 2012	46	11	30
Jul 2012	33	14	43
Apr 2012	41	14	37
Jan 2012	40	10	44
Oct 2011	22	8	62
Jul 2011	25	6	64
Apr 2011	35	7	53
Jan 2011	43	10	43

Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely--that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during the next five years or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression?

	Good times	Mixed, or both good and bad times	Widespread unemployment or depression
Apr 2013	39	15	37
Jan 2013	38	5	51
Oct 2012	43	11	32
Jul 2012	34	13	42
Apr 2012	38	10	41
Jan 2012	40	7	45
Oct 2011	22	9	62
Jul 2011	27	5	62
Apr 2011	32	8	55
Jan 2011	35	10	52

About the big things people buy for their homes--such as furniture, a refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking, do you think now is a good or bad time for people to buy major household items?

	Good time to buy	Mixed, or both good and bad time	Bad time to buy
Apr 2013	48	9	31
Jan 2013	45	6	38
Oct 2012	44	10	35
Jul 2012	41	12	35
Apr 2012	47	10	34
Jan 2012	49	5	37
Oct 2011	35	7	48
Jul 2011	38	6	49
Apr 2011	41	7	43
Jan 2011	45	9	40

**Note: Totals for this battery of questions do not add up to 100% due to "Don't know" and "Refused" responses.*

Appendix B – Favorables: People and Groups, All Periods

The table below contains results of people and groups included in past MPG Trend Monitors, where we asked about the person or group at least twice.

Favorable / Unfavorable Ratios

	April 2013	Jan. 2013	Oct. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Jan. 2012	Oct. 2011	July 2011	April 2011	Jan. 2011	Sept. 2010
Elizabeth Warren	50/29	N/A	48/38	43/24	34/23	33/18	32/14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mass. State Legislature	34/30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41/37	38/38	41/37	N/A
Mass. State Police	86/4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deval Patrick	61/23	N/A	N/A	N/A	51/37	N/A	51/36	47/40	54/36	57/33	42/45
Scott Brown	N/A	48/32	47/39	48/30	44/31	50/28	47/30	48/30	50/28	51/25	57/24
U.S. Congress	N/A	24/49	N/A	29/55	28/59	N/A	N/A	27/63	N/A	46/41	N/A
Barack Obama	N/A	N/A	64/34	63/30	64/33	N/A	N/A	57/41	N/A	N/A	58/38
Mitt Romney	N/A	N/A	36/56	35/52	N/A	42/45	N/A	N/A	42/40	N/A	N/A
John Kerry	N/A	N/A	50/33	N/A	50/34	N/A	53/29	N/A	56/28	N/A	59/31
The Tea Party	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28/42	26/45	29/47	30/46	37/35

**Note: Totals do not add up to 100% due to "Don't know" and "Refused" responses. People and groups included in the favorables section change each quarter.*