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Washington, DC – A new Ipsos/McClatchy poll of Americans indicates that consumer confidence remains weak in the wake of the Wall Street financial crisis. Six in ten Americans (59%) are not confident that the government can restore the confidence of consumers and investors after recent events. This poll indicates attitudes have not changed compared to an Ipsos/McClatchy poll conducted September 16-17, 2008 (when 60% reported they were not confident in the government restoring consumer confidence).

Present Effects Remain Negative...

In thinking about the effect recent events will have on jobs and the economy, Americans continue to have a ubiquitous negative perception – nine in ten Americans (87%) believe the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, as well as the Merrill Lynch and Wachovia sales will have a negative effect on the economy, with only 13% believing events will have a positive effect. This compares to 90% perceiving a negative effect in an Ipsos/McClatchy poll conducted September 16-17, 2008.

Americans Resigned to Continued Hard Times...

The poll also indicates a lingering perception that the effect of recent events will persist at least in the short term. Currently three quarters (76%) of Americans believe the home mortgage crisis will continue to get worse; only one quarter (24%) feel the worst of the mortgage crisis is over and things will begin to improve. Compared to an Ipsos/McClatchy poll conducted September 16-17, 2008, results from the current poll are unchanged.

Effects Not Limited to Mortgage Sector...

Looking forward, Americans remain pessimistic about the state of the overall U.S. economy. Only one in five (22%) believe the U.S. economy will be better off six months from now; just over one third (38%) see the economy about the same as now, and four in ten (40%) believe the economy will be worse off six months from now. This compares



closely to the results of an Ipsos/McClatchy poll conducted September 16-17, 2008 (18% better off; 45% worse off; 36% about the same).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos online poll conducted October 1-2, 2008. For this survey, a national sample of 1008 adults from Ipsos' U.S. online panel was interviewed online. Weighting then was employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the U.S. adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls because they are based on samples drawn from opt-in online panels, not on random samples that mirror the population within a statistical probability ratio. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

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