POLLS SHOW RISING ECONOMIC OPTIMISM

An Economist/YouGov poll this week showed a significant turnaround from a year ago in views on "the U.S. economy in the new year." Last January 47% were pessimistic, with only 29% optimistic; last week's poll showed 41% optimistic, with pessimists dropping to 32%.

Gallup reported positive feedback on two personal questions: Whether respondents are satisfied with their standard of living and whether they think it is improving. The December reading of +50 was up from +41 at the start of the year.