

# The Bermuda Omnibus Survey

## Top-Line Highlights – Fourth Quarter 2007

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The following are Top-Line Highlights from the latest Bermuda Omnibus Survey, a syndicated quarterly survey of Bermuda residents. The survey consisted of telephone interviews with a representative sample of 407 Bermuda residents that were conducted between December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. A sample of this size drawn from the population provides results accurate to within plus or minus 4.9 percent in 95 out of 100 samples. A detailed report on the results of this survey will be provided to subscribers.

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### Important Issues in Bermuda Today

- **Most Important Issue.** Two issues are equally identified as the most important single issue facing Bermuda today. More specifically, one-quarter of residents mention **housing and the cost of housing** as the most important issue (25%, down 2 points since Q3), while a similar percentage consider **education** to be the single most important issue (24%, up 3 points since Q3). Other issues residents consider to be important include **crime** (12%), the **government** (11%), **racism** (6%) and the **economy or cost of living** in Bermuda (6%). No other single issue was mentioned by more than one percent of the population.
- **Independence.** Opposition to independence remains high this quarter, with close to three-quarters (73%, down 3 points from Q3) either strongly or generally **opposing** an independent Bermuda. Since last quarter, an increasing number of residents are **strongly** opposed to independence (58%, up 6 points). There remains a much smaller group of residents who **support** independence, representing less than two in ten of the population (19%).

### Economic Mood

- **Consumer Confidence.** Consumer confidence declined notably in the fourth quarter of 2007. The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) currently stands at 92 (down 11 points from Q3). This also represents a significant drop compared to this time last year when the CCI stood at 97 and is the lowest CCI recorded since the second quarter of 2006.
- **Bermuda Economy.** Perceptions of Bermuda's economic performance in the past year are less optimistic than reported last quarter. More specifically, residents are slightly less likely to believe the overall state of the economy in Bermuda is **much or somewhat better** than 12 months ago (25%, down 4 points from Q3). At the same time, close to half believe the state of Bermuda's economy is the **same** compared with 12 months ago (47%, down 10 points). The greatest change over last quarter is that one-quarter of residents (24%, up 11 points) believe the economy has **worsened** in the past year.