

Lula's Popularity Is Up Again in Brazil

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The government's favorable rating went from 29% in June to 38% in the latest CNI/Ibope poll which was released on Friday by the National Industrial Confederation (CNI). At the other end of the scale, the unfavorable or bad rating fell from 26% to 19%. While the middle rating - regular- was practically stable: 42% in June and 40% now. Among those interviewed, 55% said they approved of the government (up from 51% in June), and the disapproval rating dropped from 42% to 36%.

The poll also found a rise in the President's confidence rating, which went from 54% to 58%. Those who said they did not have confidence in the president fell from 43% to 37%.

The poll interviewed 2002 voters in 140 municipalities between September 9 and 14. The poll has a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points.

At the end of June, another poll by CNI/Ibope indicated an increase in the number of people worried that inflation will return. In terms of what the population expects of the economy in the next six months, the study found that 55% of the respondents believe that inflation will increase, while 12% think that it will decrease. In the previous poll, 48% believed in an increase, as against 13% who expected a decline.

The results also indicate that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's popularity continues to fall, but at a slower rate than during the previous period, between December, 2003, and March, 2004. According to the June survey, 54% of the respondents trust the President, versus 43% who do not trust him. In the Mar poll, 60% trusted him, and 36% did not.

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