

### 3.0 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Canadians' confidence about the short-term future of the economy continues to slide. As shown in Table 1, only one-in-four (26%, down 2% from December) believe the economy will improve over the next year. Regionally, the most pessimistic predictions come from the West (23% "will improve"), while Atlantic Canadians are the most optimistic (30% "will improve"). The greatest decline in confidence since our December survey has been in Québec ("will improve" 31%, down 10%).

Demographically, economic pessimism is most pronounced among the following subgroups:

- ▶ Women
- ▶ Less educated
- ▶ Francophones
- ▶ Lower income
- ▶ Service occupations

