

Borrowers' Views on the Debt Buyout Plan



Suan Dusit Poll surveyed a sample of 1,153 people who currently have debt, using both online and field methods, during March 18-21, 2025

Key Findings:



51.60%

The majority have formal debt, such as loans from financial institutions, banks, or credit cards



25.09%

Manage debt by paying only the minimum amount due each installment



62.19%

Agree with Thaksin's idea to buy people's debt from the system



57.73%

Believe that this debt-buying idea could help solve debt problems entirely



67.45%

The government should restructure debts

Most Borrowers Hold Formal Debt, Make Only Minimum Payments

The majority of respondents with debt hold formal debt, such as loans from financial institutions, banks, or credit cards, accounting for 51.60%. This is followed by those with informal debt from loan sharks or personal lenders, at 29.75%. In terms of debt management, most choose to pay only the minimum amount due each installment (25.09%), while a significant portion (21.96%) occasionally default on payments. These figures reflect borrowing behaviors that may signal financial fragility among the public, who remain dependent on loans from formal financial institutions but struggle to make full payments, often resorting to minimum payments or occasional defaults. This situation highlights the economic hardship currently faced by many.

Support for Debt Buyout Plan, but Concerns Over Long-term Impact

Most indebted respondents support Thaksin's proposal to buy out debt from the banking system, with 62.19% agreeing, citing benefits such as debt consolidation and lower interest rates. However, 37.81% oppose the idea, citing concerns about transparency and the potential erosion of financial discipline. When asked whether the plan could effectively resolve debt issues, 57.73% believe it could help by easing debt burdens and reducing reliance on informal lenders, while 42.27% think it would not solve the root causes and might encourage further borrowing. Additionally, many suggest that if the buyout plan is not implemented, the government should prioritize debt restructuring, such as extending repayment terms or reducing installment amounts (67.45%), or lowering the cost of living, including utility and transportation expenses (64.76%). While there is significant support for Thaksin's approach to debt resolution, concerns about its long-term consequences persist, and the public ultimately emphasizes the need for practical measures to reduce everyday financial burdens.

The poll results reflect the "distress" experienced by Thai people who are burdened with debt and face financial vulnerability. While there is hope that new measures such as the "debt-buying" proposal may help ease this burden, concerns remain that it could become a partial and unsustainable solution in the long term. The majority, therefore, call on the government to restructure debts, reduce the cost of living, and lower interest rates to provide meaningful relief to the public.



Pornpan Buathong
Director of Suan Dusit Poll
Suan Dusit University



The poll shows that people with debt want short-term solutions to ease their financial burden, but they are still worried about transparency and long-term effects. Most support the idea of buying people's debt from banks, believing it could help solve the debt problem. If this plan is not used, many think debt restructuring would be a better long-term fix. Lowering the cost of living and interest rates are also popular options. Most people have formal debt with banks or financial institutions, but informal debt is still a serious issue, especially for those who can't access formal loans. Many people manage debt by paying only the minimum each month. The government could use this information to create policies that both support people and protect the country's financial system.



Reach Us Out

Shaping Tomorrow with Today's Insights



suandusitpoll@dusit.ac.th
<https://dusitpoll.dusit.ac.th/>
[+66 2244 5210](tel:+6622445210)

Assistant Professor Montree Panichyanuwat
Executive Committee Member of the Public Law
and Justice Administration Program
School of Law and Politics,
Suan Dusit University

