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For The People & The Press

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Rising Job Worries, Bush Economic Plan Doesn't Help
PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM OF MEDIA RESONATES, BUT IRAQ
UNEASE GROWS

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Rising Job Worries, Bush Economic Plan Doesn't Help **PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM OF MEDIA RESONATES, BUT IRAQ** **UNEASE GROWS**

Many Americans agree with President Bush that news reports from Iraq are making the situation there seem worse than it really is, but that has not stemmed rising public uneasiness over the U.S. military presence in Iraq. By contrast, the trend in economic attitudes presents a much less mixed – and much more negative – message for the White House.

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say that jobs are hard to find in their communities, up from 59% in June 2002 and 44% a year earlier. Moreover, a 43% plurality believes Bush's economic policies are making the economy worse, compared with 31% who say they are not having much an effect and just 18% who feel his policies are improving the economy. Even Republicans do not give the president's economic policies a ringing endorsement. Just four-in-ten Republicans think those policies are having a positive impact, while the same number (40%) say they are not having much of an effect.

	June 2001	June 2002	Oct 2003	
<i>Job situation in your area</i>	%	%	%	
Plenty of jobs	42	31	24	
Difficult to find	44	59	66	
Mixed/DK	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	
	100	100	100	
<i>Bush's policies' effect on economy</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Better	18	40	6	13
Worse	43	13	69	46
No effect	31	40	21	34
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

Pessimism about the job market has increased in most demographic groups, but Easterners, city residents and suburbanites are notably more negative than last year. And President Bush's overall approval rating, which now stands at 50% is now even more correlated with assessments of the local job market. One piece of positive news for the administration is that just 16% of the public is paying very close attention to reports that a White House official may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent.

The latest Pew Research Center national survey, conducted Oct. 15-19 among 1,515 adults, finds that nearly four-in-ten Americans (38%) believe the news media is painting too bleak a picture of the situation in Iraq, while 36% say media reports are fairly accurate and 14% say news organizations are showing the situation there to be better than it really is.

	<i>Think that...</i>		
	Plenty of jobs	Jobs hard to find	<i>Diff</i>
<i>June, 2002</i>	%	%	
Approve	81	66	+15
Disapprove	13	24	
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	
	100	100	
<i>October, 2003</i>			
Approve	75	41	+34
Disapprove	18	52	
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	

But even as Bush’s complaints about the media “filter” of news from Iraq ring true with many Americans, an increasing number believe U.S. forces in the country should be withdrawn as soon as possible – 39% say that now, compared with 32% in late September. A 58% majority wants U.S. troops to remain in Iraq until a stable government is established, down from 64% last month.

A solid majority of Democrats (56%) now want the troops to be brought home as soon as possible, a 12-point increase in the past month. Republicans remain overwhelmingly opposed to a withdrawal (by 78% to 20%). Independents also oppose such a move, but 40% favor a troop withdrawal now, up from 33% last month.

Public support for the decision to go to war is slipping as well. Six-in-ten Americans (60%) now say it was the right decision to go to war in Iraq, down from 63% in September, 67% in July and 74% in April, shortly after the fall of Baghdad. However, the public’s assessments of the military situation, which turned much more negative in the summer, have not changed much in the past few months. Fewer than one-in-five (16%) believe things in Iraq are going very well, with a plurality (44%) saying things are going fairly well; both numbers are largely unchanged from September (15% very well, 47% fairly well). In April, 61% of Americans said the military effort was going very well.

Republicans generally are more critical of the news media than are Democrats, and this is particularly the case in opinions of coverage of Iraq. A solid majority of Republicans (55%) believe news reports are painting an excessively negative picture of the situation in Iraq; only about half as many Democrats (28%) and a third of independents (34%) agree. Similarly, 55% of those who primarily rely on the Fox News Channel – a group that includes significantly more Republicans than audiences

What to do in Iraq?				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>September, 2003</i>	%	%	%	%
Keep troops in	64	81	52	64
Bring troops home	32	16	44	33
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>October, 2003</i>				
Keep troops in	58	78	42	56
Bring troops home	39	20	56	40
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

Assessing Iraq Coverage				
	<i>News reports are making the situation in Iraq seem...</i>			
	<u>Worse than really is</u>	<u>Better than really is</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	38	14	36	12=100
<i>Party ID</i>				
Republican	55	7	30	8=100
Democrat	28	16	45	11=100
Independent	34	19	34	13=100
<i>Main source</i>				
Newspaper	36	12	41	11=100
Radio	42	12	32	14=100
Network news	36	12	40	12=100
CNN	32	18	41	9=100
Fox News Chan.	55	10	28	7=100
<i>War was...</i>				
Right decision	45	11	35	9=100
Wrong decision	26	22	39	13=100

for other outlets – also fault the media for presenting too negative a picture of the situation in Iraq. Other news audiences have more mixed assessments of Iraq coverage: a plurality of CNN viewers (41%) think news reports from Iraq are generally accurate while 32% say those reports are making the situation seem worse than it really is.

Those who criticize news coverage of Iraq also are somewhat more likely than others to see the situation there in a positive light. Even so, a plurality of press critics (46%) say things in Iraq are going only fairly well; about the same percentage of those who think coverage has been fairly accurate agree (47%). Perceptions of media coverage of Iraq also are correlated with opinions on whether the U.S. made the right decision to go to war. Seven-in-ten (71%) of those who criticize news coverage of Iraq feel it was the right decision, compared with 58% of those who feel coverage has been generally accurate.

Views of Iraq By Opinion of Coverage			
	<i>News reports are making the situation in Iraq seem...</i>		
	Worse than	Better than	About
	<u>really is</u>	<u>really is</u>	<u>right</u>
<i>War is going...</i>	%	%	%
Very well	27	6	11
Fairly well	46	36	47
Not too well	17	35	30
Not at all well	8	20	11
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	(570)	(202)	(565)

The poll also finds widespread criticism of media reporting on the Democratic presidential nomination race: just 30% give the coverage an excellent or good rating, while 54% say news organizations are doing only a fair or poor job. Four years ago, significantly more people (42%) rated reporting of the nomination race as good or excellent. Majorities in both parties, as well as independents, have a negative view of the nomination coverage, although more Democrats than Republicans think there is too little coverage of the race (24% vs. 11%).

News Interest: Iraq, Economy

About four-in-ten Americans (38%) say they paid very close attention to news on the current situation in Iraq, down sharply from September (50%) but still more than any other news story this month. About a third (32%) tracked news on the economy very closely.

Despite massive media attention of the California recall election, it did not attract much attention outside of the West. Roughly a third (32%) of those in the West followed the election there very closely, followed by 22% in the East, 18% in the South and just 12% in the Midwest.

The reports that a White House official may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent also did not stir much national interest. Just 16% followed this story very closely; similar percentages of Democrats and Republicans tracked this story very closely (18%, 17% respectively).

News on sexual assault allegations against basketball star Kobe Bryant also attracted fairly little interest: 14% followed the story very closely, about the same as in September (17%). Twice as many African Americans as whites followed the Bryant story very closely (24% vs. 12%).

Roughly one-in-ten Americans (12%) closely followed news of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, which is down somewhat from September (17%). Interest in the race is much higher among Democrats (19%) than among independents and Republicans (10%, 8% respectively).

Top News Stories	
	<u>Following very closely</u> %
Current situation in Iraq	38
Economic conditions	32
California Recall	20
White House leak	16
Kobe Bryant case	14
Democratic primary race	12

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,515 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period October 15-19, 2003. Based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=735) or Form 2 (N=780), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

JOBS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

	--- June 2002 ---			--- October 2003 ---			Change in <u>Difficult to find</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	<u>Plenty are</u> <u>available</u>	<u>Difficult</u> <u>to find</u>	<u>Other/</u> <u>DK</u>	<u>Plenty are</u> <u>available</u>	<u>Difficult</u> <u>to find</u>	<u>Other/</u> <u>DK</u>		
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	31	59	10=100	24	66	10=100	+7	(1515)
Sex								
Male	36	55	9	29	63	8	+8	(701)
Female	26	64	10	19	70	11	+6	(814)
Race								
White	33	58	9	26	64	10	+6	(1242)
Non-white	22	67	11	14	79	7	+12	(255)
Black	15	72	13	9	84	7	+12	(151)
Hispanic**	30	64	6	22	77	1	+13	(89)
Race and Sex								
White Men	38	53	9	31	60	9	+7	(582)
White Women	28	62	10	22	67	11	+5	(660)
Age								
Under 30	35	58	7	24	72	4	+14	(264)
30-49	32	60	8	27	65	8	+5	(605)
50-64	26	64	10	20	70	10	+6	(377)
65+	28	55	17	22	60	18	+5	(249)
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	38	54	8	29	64	7	+10	(424)
Women under 50	29	64	8	22	71	7	+7	(445)
Men 50+	32	56	12	26	63	11	+7	(272)
Women 50+	23	63	14	16	68	16	+5	(354)
Education								
College Grad.	35	56	9	22	67	11	+11	(548)
Some College	34	59	7	28	63	9	+4	(361)
High School Grad.	28	61	11	22	70	8	+9	(487)
<H.S. Grad.	24	65	11	26	63	11	-2	(114)
Family Income								
\$75,000+	41	50	9	31	58	11	+8	(350)
\$50,000-\$74,999	33	56	11	26	66	8	+10	(256)
\$30,000-\$49,999	34	60	6	25	66	9	+6	(314)
\$20,000-\$29,999	22	63	15	18	75	7	+12	(170)
<\$20,000	22	71	7	13	77	10	+6	(209)

** The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

Continued ...

	--- June 2002 ---			--- October 2003 ---			Change in Difficult to find	(N)
	Plenty are available	Difficult to find	Other/ DK	Plenty are available	Difficult to find	Other/ DK		
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	31	59	10=100	24	66	10=100	+7	(1515)
Region								
East	31	58	11	16	74	10	+16	(273)
Midwest	29	60	11	26	65	9	+5	(388)
South	32	60	8	27	62	11	+2	(548)
West	30	60	10	23	70	7	+10	(306)
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	32	58	10	27	62	11	+4	(741)
White Protestant Evangelical	32	59	9	28	61	11	+2	(391)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	31	57	12	26	63	11	+6	(350)
White Catholic	33	53	14	25	64	11	+11	(239)
Secular	31	64	5	18	74	8	+10	(130)
Community Size								
Large City	36	53	11	22	69	9	+16	(293)
Suburb	38	50	12	25	65	10	+15	(361)
Small City/Town	26	65	9	22	67	11	+2	(539)
Rural Area	28	64	8	28	65	7	+1	(314)
Party ID								
Republican	40	51	9	39	50	11	-1	(474)
Democrat	23	69	8	12	80	8	+11	(490)
Independent	32	58	10	22	70	8	+12	(438)
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	42	46	12	44	44	12	-2	(305)
Moderate/Liberal Republican	38	57	5	30	62	8	+5	(162)
Conservative/Mod. Democrat	24	67	9	13	80	7	+13	(326)
Liberal Democrat	23	74	3	10	81	9	+7	(143)
Bush Approval								
Approve	35	56	9	35	54	11	-2	(779)
Disapprove	20	71	9	10	83	7	+12	(632)
Marital Status								
Married	31	59	10	28	62	10	+3	(877)
Unmarried	31	60	9	19	71	10	+11	(630)
Parental Status								
Parent	29	61	10	25	67	8	+6	(533)
Non-Parent	31	58	11	23	66	11	+8	(977)
Labor Union								
Union Household	26	64	10	22	69	9	+5	(211)
Non-Union Household	32	58	10	24	66	10	+8	(1293)

WHAT TO DO WITH U.S. MILITARY TROOPS IN IRAQ

	--- September 2003 ---			--- October 2003 ---			Change in <u>Bring Home</u>
	<u>Keep There</u> %	<u>Bring Home</u> %	<u>Don't Know</u> %	<u>Keep There</u> %	<u>Bring Home</u> %	<u>Don't Know</u> %	
Total	64	32	4=100	58	39	3=100	+7
Sex							
Male	71	26	3	70	28	2	+2
Female	57	38	5	47	48	5	+10
Race							
White	70	26	4	63	34	3	+8
Non-white	41	56	3	33	63	4	+7
Black	31	66	3	27	69	4	+3
Hispanic**	56	41	3	43	56	1	+15
Race and Sex							
White Men	77	20	3	74	24	2	+4
White Women	62	32	6	53	43	4	+11
Age							
Under 30	59	38	3	48	49	3	+11
30-49	64	33	3	60	37	3	+4
50-64	74	22	4	66	31	3	+9
65+	56	38	6	53	42	5	+4
Sex and Age							
Men under 50	71	27	2	66	31	3	+4
Women under 50	55	41	4	46	50	4	+9
Men 50+	73	23	4	74	24	2	+1
Women 50+	59	34	7	48	47	5	+13
Education							
College Grad.	72	23	5	72	24	4	+1
Some College	67	28	5	59	38	3	+10
High School Grad.	58	39	3	52	45	3	+6
<H.S. Grad.	57	40	3	44	52	4	+12
Family Income							
\$75,000+	73	24	3	70	28	2	+4
\$50,000-\$74,999	74	21	5	70	27	3	+6
\$30,000-\$49,999	66	29	5	59	37	4	+8
\$20,000-\$29,999	60	37	3	48	50	2	+13
<\$20,000	48	48	4	37	59	4	+11

** The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

Continued ...

	--- September 2003 ---			--- October 2003 ---			Change in <u>Bring Home</u>
	<u>Keep There</u> %	<u>Bring Home</u> %	<u>Don't Know</u> %	<u>Keep There</u> %	<u>Bring Home</u> %	<u>Don't Know</u> %	
Total	64	32	4=100	58	39	3=100	+7
Region							
East	60	35	5	53	44	3	+9
Midwest	61	35	4	58	37	5	+2
South	65	31	4	59	37	4	+6
West	67	28	5	58	39	3	+11
Religious Affiliation							
Total White Protestant	71	24	5	66	30	4	+6
White Protestant Evangelical	73	23	4	67	29	4	+6
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	70	24	6	65	32	3	+8
White Catholic	65	31	4	63	35	2	+4
Secular	66	31	3	60	38	2	+7
Community Size							
Large City	59	37	4	48	49	3	+12
Suburb	64	32	4	65	33	2	+1
Small City/Town	64	31	5	57	40	3	+9
Rural Area	68	29	3	60	35	5	+6
Party ID							
Republican	81	16	3	78	20	2	+4
Democrat	52	44	4	42	56	2	+12
Independent	64	33	3	56	40	4	+7
Party and Ideology							
Conservative Republican	84	13	3	82	16	2	+3
Moderate/Liberal Republican	75	20	5	70	27	3	+7
Conservative/Mod. Democrat	51	45	4	39	59	2	+14
Liberal Democrat	53	42	5	49	48	3	+6
Bush Approval							
Approve	78	19	3	75	23	2	+4
Disapprove	46	51	3	38	59	3	+8
Use of Force in Iraq							
Right Decision	76	22	2	72	26	2	+4
Wrong Decision	46	50	4	37	59	4	+9
Male Veteran							
Yes	72	23	5	76	22	2	-1
No	72	26	2	67	30	3	+4
Labor Union							
Union Household	61	34	5	64	33	3	-1
Non-Union Household	64	32	4	57	40	3	+8

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY “VERY CLOSELY”

	Current situation in <u>Iraq</u> %	Condition of <u>economy</u> %	CA Recall <u>Election</u> %	Leak of CIA Agent <u>Identity</u> %	Kobe Bryant Assault <u>Case*</u> %	Dem Pres. <u>Nom.*</u> %	<u>(N)</u>
Total	38	32	20	16	14	12	(1515)
Sex							
Male	41	36	21	17	13	11	(701)
Female	35	28	20	14	14	13	(814)
Race							
White	39	31	19	17	12	11	(1242)
Non-white	34	35	26	11	21	15	(255)
Black	36	33	22	15	24	18	(151)
Hispanic**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	14	(89)
Race and Sex							
White Men	41	34	19	17	11	10	(582)
White Women	37	28	19	16	13	12	(660)
Age							
Under 30	22	20	16	10	19	10	(264)
30-49	31	31	19	16	10	11	(605)
50-64	56	38	24	18	15	13	(377)
65+	50	38	24	18	14	14	(249)
Education							
College Grad.	43	38	26	20	11	14	(548)
Some College	42	31	18	17	11	10	(361)
H.S. Grad or Less	34	28	19	12	16	12	(601)
Region							
East	39	34	22	17	12	14	(273)
Midwest	32	28	12	14	12	10	(388)
South	44	34	18	18	16	13	(548)
West	32	30	32	12	14	10	(306)
Party ID							
Republican	41	26	23	17	9	8	(474)
Democrat	41	38	24	18	18	19	(490)
Independent	33	33	16	14	15	10	(438)

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

* These items were asked of the full sample; all other items were split-form. N’s presented are based on the full sample.

** The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

n/a - Sample size was too small to be representative.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2003 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
October 15 - 19, 2003
N=1515

ON FORM ONE Q.1 PRECEDES Q.2 --- ON FORM TWO, Q.2 PRECEDES Q.1

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
October, 2003	50	42	8=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
June, 2003	62	27	11=100
May, 2003	65	27	8=100
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
February, 2003	54	36	10=100
January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

ON FORM ONE Q.1 PRECEDES Q.2 --- ON FORM TWO, Q.2 PRECEDES Q.1

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
October, 2003	38	56	6=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100
April, 2003 ¹	50	41	9=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100
September, 2002 ²	41	55	4=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100
March, 2002	50	40	10=100
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
June, 2001	43	52	5=100
March, 2001	47	45	8=100
February, 2001	46	43	11=100
January, 2001	55	41	4=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100
January, 1999	53	41	6=100
November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

¹ Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395.

² The September 2002 trend is from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

NO QUESTION 3

Q.4 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a.	The race for the Democratic presidential nomination	12	27	28	32	1=100
	September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1=100
	May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1=100
	January, 2003 ³	14	28	29	28	1=100
	December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1=100
	October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1=100
	September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
	July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
	June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
	September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*=100
	August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*=100
	June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1=100
	December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*=100
	October, 1991	12	26	31	29	2=100
	November, 1987	15	28	35	21	1=100
	September, 1987	14	34	37	14	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=735]:

b.F1	The California recall election	20	35	23	21	1=100
	September, 2003	19	28	28	24	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	15	25	24	35	1=100
c.F1	News about the current situation in Iraq	38	40	14	7	1=100
	September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
	Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
	June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
	May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
	April 11-16, 2003 ⁴	47	40	10	2	1=100
	April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
	March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
	March 13-16, 2003 ⁵	62	27	6	4	1=100
	February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
	January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
	December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
	Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
	Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
	Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

³ In January 2003, the story was listed as “Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004.” In 1999, the story was listed as “News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election.” In 1995, the story was listed as “News about the Republican presidential candidates.” In September 1987, the story was listed as “Coverage of the Democratic and Republican candidates for the presidential nomination.”

⁴ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.”

⁵ From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq.” In Early September 2002 the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq.”

Q.4 CONTINUED.....

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=780]:					
d.F2	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy				
	32	39	16	12	1=100
	September, 2003				
	39	30	18	12	1=100
	March, 2003				
	40	35	16	8	1=100
	February, 2003				
	42	33	15	10	*=100
	January, 2003				
	40	35	13	11	1=100
	December, 2002				
	38	34	17	10	1=100
	February, 2002				
	35	40	15	9	1=100
	January, 2002				
	30	44	16	9	1=100
	December, 2001				
	37	40	13	8	2=100
	Mid-November, 2001				
	41	36	15	7	1=100
	June, 2001				
	24	41	18	16	1=100
	May, 2001				
	34	36	15	15	0=100
	April, 2001				
	36	34	16	13	1=100
	February, 2001				
	30	39	18	12	1=100
	January, 2001				
	32	38	17	11	2=100
	June, 1995				
	26	41	22	11	*=100
	March, 1995				
	27	45	19	9	*=100
	February, 1995				
	23	41	22	13	1=100
	December, 1994				
	28	43	20	9	*=100
	October, 1994				
	27	40	20	12	1=100
	June, 1994				
	25	42	23	10	*=100
	May, 1994				
	33	40	16	10	1=100
	January, 1994				
	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994				
	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993				
	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993				
	33	38	20	9	*=100
	September, 1993				
	37	40	14	8	1=100
	Early September, 1993				
	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993				
	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993				
	37	38	18	6	1=100
e.F2	Reports that a White House official may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent				
	16	32	24	27	1=100
ASK ALL:					
f.	Basketball star Kobe Bryant being accused of sexual assault				
	14	28	29	28	1=100
	August, 2003				
	17	30	28	24	1=100

Q.5 In general, do you think news reports are making the situation in Iraq seem WORSE than it really is or BETTER than it really is, or are reports showing the situation about the way it really is?

38 Worse
 14 Better
 36 About the way it really is
12 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=735]:

Q.6F1 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 2004 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		April <u>2003</u> ⁶	June <u>2000</u>	March <u>2000</u>	Feb <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>	March <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Sept <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Nov <u>1987</u>
23	Too much	15	19	25	22	28	18	29	18	22	19	12	24	21
17	Too little	38	16	10	10	14	13	10	18	11	15	22	7	16
51	Right amount	38	60	61	63	49	59	58	60	62	62	58	62	58
<u>9</u>	DK/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=780]:

Q.7F2 How good a job are news organizations doing at reporting about the race for the Democratic presidential nomination? An excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

		Sept <u>1999</u> ⁷
3	Excellent	6
27	Good	36
44	Only Fair	37
10	Poor	12
<u>16</u>	DK/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

⁶ In April 2003, the question was asked as part of a list and was worded "The race for the Democratic presidential nomination."

⁷ In September 1999, the question was asked as part of a list.

ASK ALL:

Q.8 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? **[ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]**

	Television	Newspapers	Radio	Magazines	Internet	Other (VOL)	Don't Know/Refused
October, 2003	80	50	18	4	20	2	1
August, 2003	79	46	15	3	18	2	1
Early July, 2003	79	45	16	5	19	1	*
March, 2003 ⁸	89	24	19	*	11	2	*
February, 2003	83	42	19	4	15	3	*
January, 2003	81	44	22	4	17	2	1
January, 2002	82	42	21	3	14	2	*
Mid-September, 2001 ⁹	90	11	14	*	5	1	1
Early September, 2001	74	45	18	6	13	1	*
February, 2001	76	40	16	4	10	2	1
October, 1999	80	48	19	5	11	2	*
January, 1999	82	42	18	4	6	2	*
January, 1996	88	61	25	8	--	2	*
September, 1995 ¹⁰	82	63	20	10	--	1	1
January, 1994	83	51	15	10	--	5	1
September, 1993	83	60	17	9	--	3	*
January, 1993	83	52	17	5	--	1	1
Early January, 1991 ¹¹	82	40	15	4	--	1	*

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.8 ASK Q.9. IF NOT, SKIP TO Q.10

Q.9 Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from **[READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 2 THRU 4 AND 5 THRU 8 SEPARATELY, AND RANDOMIZE SETS OF ITEMS (LOCAL; NETWORK; CABLE). ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

BASED ON TOTAL:		Early		
		Aug <u>2003</u>	July <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>
20	CNN Cable news	26	27	28
17	The Fox News Cable Channel	18	22	16
17	Local news programming	17	17	16
13	NBC Network news	15	14	15
12	ABC Network news	12	12	11
8	CBS Network news	10	11	11
6	MSNBC Cable news	7	9	8
--	CNBC Cable news ¹²	3	3	4
4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4	3	2

⁸ In March 2003, the question was worded "news about the war in Iraq."

⁹ In Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "news about the terrorist attacks."

¹⁰ In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

¹¹ In Early January 1991 the question asked about "the latest developments in the Persian Gulf."

¹² In October 2003, CNBC Cable news item was not listed due to a programming error.

QUESTIONS 10-12, T1-T6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=735]:

Q.13F1 Some people say we should have a third major political party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans. Do you agree or disagree?

		Early							ABC/ Washington Post ¹³		
		June 2000	Aug 1999	Sept 1998	Aug 1997	July 1996	Oct 1995	April 1995	July 1994	Jan 1984	Sept 1982
46	Agree	52	54	46	47	58	59	57	53	41	44
44	Disagree	42	40	47	46	37	37	38	43	48	44
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=780]:

Q.14F2 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

		May 2002	July 2001	May 2001	July 2000	Aug 1999	Aug 1998	Nov 1997	Aug 1997	June 1997	Oct 1995	Aug 1993
21	Working together more	44	30	34	21	20	27	38	43	34	21	20
55	Opposing each other more	31	46	41	54	68	51	45	46	49	72	57
10	Same as in past (VOL)	8	10	9	10	4	8	7	3	6	3	13
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Are George W. Bush's economic policies making the U.S. economy better, making the U.S. economy worse, or have they not had much of an effect?

18	Better
43	Worse
31	Not much effect
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.16 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

		U.S. News & World Report				
		June 2002	June 2001	Aug 1992	May 1992	Jan 1992
24	Plenty of jobs available	31	42	15	16	12
66	Jobs are difficult to find	59	44	76	77	79
5	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL)	4	8	6	4	6
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

¹³ In January 1984, the ABC/Washington Post trend was worded: "Can you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following statement, of if, perhaps, you have no opinion about the statement: We should have a third major political party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans." In September 1982, the ABC/Washington Post trend was worded: "I'm going to read a few statements. For each, can you please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with it, or if, perhaps, you have no opinion about the statements... We should have a third party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans."

QUESTIONS 17-19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about Iraq...

Q.20 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

		Early						----- March 2003 -----				Late
		Sept	Aug	July	---- April ----						Jan	
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>10-16</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>2-7</u>	<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>	<u>1991</u>
60	Right decision	63	63	67	74	74	72	69	74	74	71	77
33	Wrong decision	31	30	24	19	19	20	25	21	21	22	15
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.21 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

		Early						--- March 2003 ---		
		Sept	Aug	July	---- April ----					
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>10-16</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>2-7</u>	<u>25-4/1</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>
16	Very well	15	19	23	61	60	55	39	45	65
44	Fairly well	47	43	52	32	32	37	46	41	25
25	Not too well	26	24	16	3	3	3	8	6	2
11	Not at all well	9	11	5	1	3	2	2	2	1
<u>4</u>	DK/Ref.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.22 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

IF "KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ" (1 IN Q.22) ASK:

Q.23 Do you think more coalition troops are needed in Iraq right now, or do you think there are already enough troops there to do the job?

		Sept
		<u>2003</u>
58	Keep troops in Iraq	64
32	More troops needed	34
21	Have enough there to do the job	25
*	Reduce number of troops (VOL.)	*
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5
39	Bring troops home	32
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=735]:

Q.24F1 Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?

		Sept <u>2003</u>
35	Has a clear plan	32
54	Doesn't have a clear plan	58
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=780]:

Q.25F2 Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly his plans for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or do you think he has not explained his plans clearly enough?

		Sept <u>2003</u>	March <u>2003</u> ¹⁴	Feb <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2003</u>	Dec <u>2002</u>	Late Oct <u>2002</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2002</u>	Late Aug <u>2002</u>	NY Times Aug <u>1990</u> ¹⁵
32	Explained clearly	30	49	53	42	48	48	52	37	50
63	Not clearly	63	47	40	53	45	45	37	52	41
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 26-44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹⁴ From 2002 through March 2003, the question was worded: "Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly what's at stake as to why the U.S. might use military force to end the rule of Saddam Hussein, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?"

¹⁵ New York Times trend was worded "Do you think George Bush has explained clearly what's at stake and why the U.S. is sending troops to Saudi Arabia, or do you think ..."