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Perceptions of Gas Prices Continue to Worsen

Views of Economic News Remain Mixed

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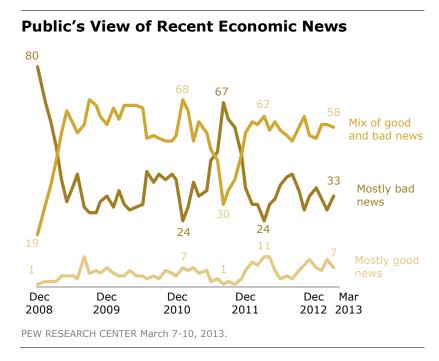
Perceptions of Gas Prices Continue to Worsen

Views of Economic News Remain Mixed

As federal spending cuts take effect and the stock market has reached record highs, the public continues to say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy. Overall, 58% say they have been hearing mixed economic news; a third (33%) have been hearing mostly bad news about the economy, while just 7% say they have been hearing

mostly good news. Views of economic news are little changed in recent months.

While the overall economic news picture remains mixed, a national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 7-10 among 1,006 adults, finds modest improvement in views of news about the financial markets. About a quarter (23%) say they are hearing mostly good news about markets, up from 18% in February. Nonetheless, more (29%) say they are hearing



mostly bad news about financial markets; 43% report hearing mixed news.

Meanwhile, impressions of news about gas prices have turned sharply negative. Nearly three-quarters (74%) say they have been hearing mostly bad news about gas prices, just 4% have been hearing mostly good news and 20% have heard mixed news. About a month ago, 53% said they had been hearing mostly bad news about gas prices. Negative impressions of news about gas prices have risen across nearly all demographic groups.

News about Economic Sectors

Aside from news about financial markets and gas prices, the public's perceptions of news about other economic sectors, including the job situation, have shown little change.

Far more continue to say they are hearing mostly bad news about the job situation (45%) than mostly good news (15%); four-in-ten (40%) say they have been hearing mixed news. Opinion is almost identical to that measured one month ago.

Views of news about consumer prices also remain gloomy. About half (52%) say the news they have been hearing about prices for food and consumer goods has been mostly bad, 40% say they have been hearing mixed news; very few (6%) say they have been hearing mostly good news about prices. Opinions are little changed from February.

Impressions of real estate news are more positive when compared with views of news about jobs and prices. Overall, about as many have been hearing mostly good news about real estate values (24%) as mostly bad (23%); 46% have been hearing mixed news. Views of news about real estate values are about the same as they were in February, but are improved from late last year.

Mostly Bad News about Gas, Consumer Prices

News about	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Change
Gas prices	%	%	
Mostly bad	53	74	+21
Mix of good and bad	32	20	-12
Mostly good	8	4	-4
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	
	100	100	
Financial markets			
Mostly bad	28	29	+1
Mix of good and bad	44	43	-1
Mostly good	18	23	+5
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	
Job situation			
Mostly bad	42	45	+3
Mix of good and bad	43	40	-3
Mostly good	12	15	+3
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	
Real estate values			
Mostly bad	24	23	-1
Mix of good and bad	40	46	+6
Mostly good	25	24	-1
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	
Food, consumer prices			
Mostly bad	50	52	+2
Mix of good and bad	38	40	+2
Mostly good	7	6	-1
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 7-10, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Modest Improvement in Financial News

Views of news about financial markets are modestly better than last month, but have shown more marked improvement since December. At that time, just 10% said they were hearing mostly good news about markets; in February, 18% reported hearing mostly good news and that figure has risen to 23% in the current survey.

Since December, there has been a 19-point jump in positive views of news about financial markets among those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more (from 13% to 32%). The rise has been comparable among college graduates (from 13% to 33%). There has been less change in opinions among those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 (seven-point increase in share hearing mostly good news) and those without a college degree (10 points).

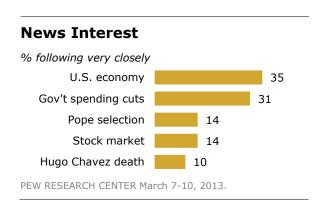
Positive impressions of financial market news are especially high among the small share of Americans (14% of the public) who say they were following news about the stock market very closely last week. Nearly half (47%) of those following the stock market very closely

New about Financial Markets						
% hearing mostly good news about	Dec 2012	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Dec- Mar change		
financial markets	%	%	%			
Total	10	18	23	+13		
Family income						
\$75,000 or more	13	31	32	+19		
\$30,000-\$74,999	9	17	21	+12		
Less than \$30,000	8	13	15	+7		
College grad+	13	31	33	+20		
Some college	9	17	19	+10		
HS or less	8	11	18	+10		
Following stock market news						
Very closely			47			
Less closely			19			
PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 7-10, 2013.						

say they have been hearing mostly good news about financial markets, compared with just 19% of those who have been following the stock market less closely.

The Week's News

News about the condition of the U.S. economy and the government spending cuts that began taking effect March 1 were the public's two top stories last week. Overall, 35% said they followed economic news very closely; 31% followed news about the spending cuts very closely. Republicans and Democrats were about equally likely to follow news about the automatic federal spending cuts.



The public paid far less attention to Catholic cardinals meeting in Rome to select a new pope (14% very closely) and reports about the U.S. stock market (14% very closely). And just 10% paid very close attention to the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 7-10, 2013 among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 505 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 242 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and Universal Survey under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: http://people-press.org/methodology/.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus
Total sample	1,006	3.7 percentage points
Republicans	241	7.6 percentage points
Democrats	342	6.4 percentage points
Independents	353	6.3 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 7-10, 2013 OMNIBUS FINAL TOPLINE N=1,006

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]

		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Reports about the condition of the					
	U.S. economy	25	20	1.0	10	*
	March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	
	January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1 *
	January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	
	January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
	December 6-9, 2012	38 41	30	16	14 12	1 1
	November 1 4 2012	38	31	15 16		1
	November 1-4, 2012	36 44	30 30	16 14	14 11	1
	October 25-28, 2012 October 18-21, 2012	39	36	12	12	1
	October 13-21, 2012 October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
	October 12 14, 2012 October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
	September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
	September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
	September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
	September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
	August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
	August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
	August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
	August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
	August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
	July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
	July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
	July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
	July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
	June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
	June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
	June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
	June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
	May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
	May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
	May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
	May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
	May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
	April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
	April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
	April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
	April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
	March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
	March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
	March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
	March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
	March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
	February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
	February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
	February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
	February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1 *
	January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	-TP

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

PE	W.1 CONTINUED					
	January 10, 22, 2012	Very <u>closely</u> 35	Fairly <u>closely</u> 30	Not too <u>closely</u> 16	Not at all <u>closely</u> 19	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January 19-22, 2012	33	32	14	20	1 1
	January 12-15, 2012 January 5-8, 2012	33 39	31	15	20 15	*
CE	E TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: http://www.pec					
<u>5E</u>	E TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: http://www.pec	<u>opie-press.</u>	org/mes/20)13/U1/N11	-ECOHOITIY-LI	<u>ena.par</u>
b.	Automatic government spending cuts that					
	began on March 1st					
	March 7-10, 2013	31	26	18	25	1
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
	February 21-24, 2013: News about					
	automatic cuts to federal spending that will					
	take effect next week, unless the president					
	and Congress act	25	26	19	29	1
	December 13-16, 2012: The debate in					
	Washington over automatic spending cuts					
	and tax increases that would take effect in					
	January unless the President and Congress					
	act	37	28	16	18	1
	December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
	November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
	November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
	November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
	July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
c.	Reports about the U.S. stock market					
	March 7-10, 2013	14	22	24	39	*
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
	September 15-18, 2011: Recent ups and					
	downs in the stock market	24	27	18	30	1
	August 11-14, 2011	32	28	16	24	1
	July 28-31, 2011	18	23	20	39	1
	January 27-30, 2011: Recent gains in the					
	stock market	13	17	20	49	1
	August 12-15, 2010: Recent ups and					
	downs in the stock market	17	21	20	42	1
	March 26-29, 2010	13	23	23	40	1
	October 16-19, 2009: Recent gains in the					
	stock market	15	23	19	43	*
	July 24-27, 2009	23	25	24	28	*
	March 13-16, 2009	38	31	14	17	0
	March 6-9, 2009: Recent major drops in	25	2.4	4-	4.0	ala
	the U.S. stock market	35	31	15	19	*
	February 20-23, 2009	31	32	20	17	*
	November 21-24, 2008	50	23	15	12	*
	October 17-20, 2008: Recent major ups			_	_	
	and downs in the U.S. stock market	54	31	9	6	*
	October 10-13, 2008: Recent major drops					
	in the U.S. stock market	59	26	9	6	*
	July 3-7, 2008: Recent major ups and					
	downs in the U.S. stock market	22	29	23	26	*
	March 14-17, 2008	25	31	23	21	*
	January 25-28, 2008	29	28	19	23	1
	August 17-20, 2007	21	24	22	33	*
	July 27-30, 2007	15	26	21	37	1
	March 2-5, 2007: The recent drop in the	21	28	25	26	*
	U.S. stock market					
	Early September, 2002: Recent major ups	27	30	20	22	1
	and downs in the U.S. stock market					
	Late July, 2002	33	33	15	18	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

		Very	Fairly	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	March, 2001	<u>closely</u> 27	<u>closely</u> 27	18	27	<u>DK/Rei</u> 1
		20	26	23	31	1
	Mid-October, 2000	20 18	28		31	*
	April, 2000	_		23		*
	Early April, 2000	19	29	20	32	
	March, 2000	23	29	21	26	1
	March, 1999	18	29	22	31	
	January, 1999	24	28	19	28	1 *
	Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*
	Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*
	January, 1998	21	25	23	31	
	Mid-November, 1997	25	36	18	20	1
	Early November, 1997: Thinking about last					
	Monday when the stock market dropped,					
	how closely did you follow what was					
	happening?	16	29	22	33	*
	September, 1997: Recent major ups and	14	22	23	40	1
	downs in the stock market					
	April, 1997	17	21	22	40	*
	February, 1996	12	20	25	42	1
d.	The death of Hugo Chavez, the president of					
	Venezuela					
	March 7-10, 2013	10	22	29	39	1
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
	October 20-23, 2011: The death of former					
	Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi	25	32	19	23	*
e.	Catholic cardinals meeting in Rome to select					
	a new pope					
	March 7-10, 2013	14	23	26	36	*
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
	February 14-17, 2013: Pope Benedict					
	announcing that he would step down as					
	head of the Catholic Church	18	26	27	29	1
	March 29-April 1, 2012: Pope Benedict's					
	visit to Cuba and Mexico	5	15	23	57	*
	September 16-19, 2010: Pope Benedict's					
	visit to Great Britain and his comments on					
	the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse					
	scandals	10	16	26	47	1

PEW.2-PEW.3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about recent economic news...

PEW.4 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

	Hearing mostly good news	Hearing mostly bad news	A mix of good and bad news	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 7-10, 2013	7	33	58	1
January 31-February 3, 2013	10	28	59	3
January 3-6, 2013	6	32	59	2
December 6-9, 2012	7	36	54	2
November 1-4, 2012	10	33	55	2
October 4-7, 2012	8	28	62	2
September 7-9, 2012	6	35	58	1
August 2-5, 2012	3	41	53	3
July 5-8, 2012	4	40	55	2
May 31-June 3, 2012	3	37	57	3
May 3-6, 2012	6	32	60	2
April 5-8, 2012	11	30	57	2
March 8-11, 2012	11	24	62	2
February 2-5, 2012	8	30	59	3
January 5-8, 2012	9	30	60	1
December 1-4, 2011	6	36	56	1
November 10-13, 2011	3	48	48	1
October 6-9, 2011	1	58	39	2
September 1-4, 2011	2	61	35	1
August 4-7, 2011	1	67	30	2
July 7-10, 2011	3	49	46	2
June 2-5, 2011	2	46	50	1
May 12-15, 2011	6	35	56	2
March 31-April 3, 2011	5	33	60	2
March 3-6, 2011	7	38	53	2
February 3-6, 2011	6	29	64	1
January 6-9, 2011	7	24	68	1
December 2-5, 2010	4	39	55	1
November 11-14, 2010	5	41	53	2
October 7-10, 2010	6	39	53	2
September 2-6, 2010	3	41	54	2
August 5-8, 2010	4	38	55 54	3
July 1-5, 2010	3	42	54	1
June 10-13, 2010	4	30	65 66	1
May 7-10, 2010	4	29	66	1 *
April 1-5, 2010	6 4	28 30	66 66	1
March 5-8, 2010	4	35	61	*
February 5-8, 2010 January 8-11, 2010	5	29	65	1
December 4-7, 2009	7	33	59	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	5	31	62	2
October 9-12, 2009	6	27	66	1
September 3-6, 2009	5	27	68	1
August 7-10, 2009	11	29	59	1
July 2-5, 2009	3	41	56	*
June 12-15, 2009	4	37	59	*
May 8-11, 2009	4	31	64	1
April 9-13, 2009	4	39	56	1
March 13-16, 2009	2	51	46	1
February 13-16, 2009	2	60	37	1
January 16-19, 2009	2	67	30	1
December 5-8, 2008	1	80	19	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		Hearing mostly good news	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and bad news	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	The financial markets	good news	<u>baa news</u>	<u>baa news</u>	<u>Digitor</u>
	March 7-10, 2013	23	29	43	5
	January 31-February 3, 2013	18	28	44	10
	December 6-9, 2012	10	36	47	7
	November 1-4, 2012	12	31	48	9
	October 4-7, 2012	16	26	50	8
	September 7-9, 2012	14	37	41	7
	August 2-5, 2012	6	41	44	9
	July 5-8, 2012	6	35 47	50	8
	May 31-June 3, 2012	5 15	47 29	42 48	6 8
	March 8-11, 2012 November 10-13, 2011	4	50	41	5
	August 4-7, 2011	2	69	25	4
	June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
	May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11
	March 31-April 3, 2011	13	30	51	6
	March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
	February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
	December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
	September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
	July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
	May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
	April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
	March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
	January 8-11, 2010 October 30-November 2, 2009	16 12	32 33	47 48	6 7
	August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
	June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b.	Real estate values				
	March 7-10, 2013	24	23	46	7
	January 31-February 3, 2013	25	24	40	10
	December 6-9, 2012	25	31	34	11
	November 1-4, 2012	22	35	35	8
	October 4-7, 2012	23	32	38	7
	September 7-9, 2012	20	43	32	5
	August 2-5, 2012 July 5-8, 2012	11 14	41 39	36 41	11 7
	May 31-June 3, 2012	14	43	36	6
	March 8-11, 2012	9	39	42	10
	November 10-13, 2011	6	55	32	7
	August 4-7, 2011	4	63	27	6
	June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9
	May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11
	March 31-April 3, 2011	6	48	38	8
	March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
	February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7
	December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
	September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
	July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35 43	7
	May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42 20	5
	April 1-5, 2010 March 5-8, 2010	12 8	44 45	38 42	6 5
	January 8-11, 2010	0 11	43	42	5
	January 0 11, 2010	11	73	70	5

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

October 30-November 2, 2009 August 7-10, 2009 June 12-15, 2009	Hearing mostly good news 13 11 11	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u> 43 40 45	A mix of good and bad news 37 41 40	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> 6 7 3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods	6 7 9 9 5 7 7 9 7 5 4 5 3 7 7 16 12 9 8 10 9 12 12 10 9	52 50 48 50 51 58 54 45 46 50 52 62 58 59 62 49 41 35 32 37 35 34 37 39 36 39	40 38 37 35 40 31 33 40 40 38 36 28 30 32 34 26 39 39 42 48 46 46 50 45 42 46 46	3 5 5 5 5 4 4 5 6 7 6 7 5 6 6 4 5 5 5 5 10 10 9 7 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 9 6 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7
d. The job situation March 7-10, 2013 January 31-February 3, 2013 December 6-9, 2012 November 1-4, 2012 October 4-7, 2012 September 7-9, 2012 August 2-5, 2012 July 5-8, 2012 May 31-June 3, 2012 March 8-11, 2012 December 1-4, 2011 November 10-13, 2011 August 4-7, 2011 June 2-5, 2011 May 12-15, 2011 March 31-April 3, 2011 March 3-6, 2011 February 3-6, 2011 December 2-5, 2010 September 2-6, 2010 July 1-5, 2010 May 7-10, 2010 April 1-5, 2010 March 5-8, 2010	15 12 17 14 17 12 6 9 8 17 10 5 4 5 9 12 10 9 6 5 5 9 9 5	45 42 47 46 42 55 55 51 55 38 51 64 74 58 51 43 50 52 66 65 64 52 55	40 43 35 37 40 34 35 38 35 42 37 28 21 34 37 42 37 27 28 30 38 33 35	1 3 1 3 2 2 4 3 2 2 2 3 3 2 2 2 3 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	January 8-11, 2010 October 30-November 2, 2009 August 7-10, 2009 June 12-15, 2009	Hearing mostly good news 6 3 6 1	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u> 61 68 61 71	A mix of good and bad news 31 27 32 27	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> 2 2 1 1
e.	Gas prices				
	March 7-10, 2013	4	74	20	2
	January 31-February 3, 2013	8	53	32	7
	December 6-9, 2012	22	42	30	5
	November 1-4, 2012	16	50	30	4
	October 4-7, 2012	4	72	21	2
	September 7-9, 2012	3	75	19	2 3 5 2
	August 2-5, 2012	10	58	28	5
	July 5-8, 2012	31	31	35	
	May 31-June 3, 2012	19	48	31	2
	March 8-11, 2012	2	85	12	2
	November 10-13, 2011	9	47	36	8
	August 4-7, 2011	4	66	26	4
	June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2
	May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1
	March 31-April 3, 2011	1	88	10	1
	March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
	February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3

NO QUESTION PEW.6

QUESTIONS PEW.7-PEW.17 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE