



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 5, 2009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Michael Remez, Senior Writer

Republicans Increasingly Critical of Obama
STATES' BUDGET WOES REGISTER WITH PUBLIC

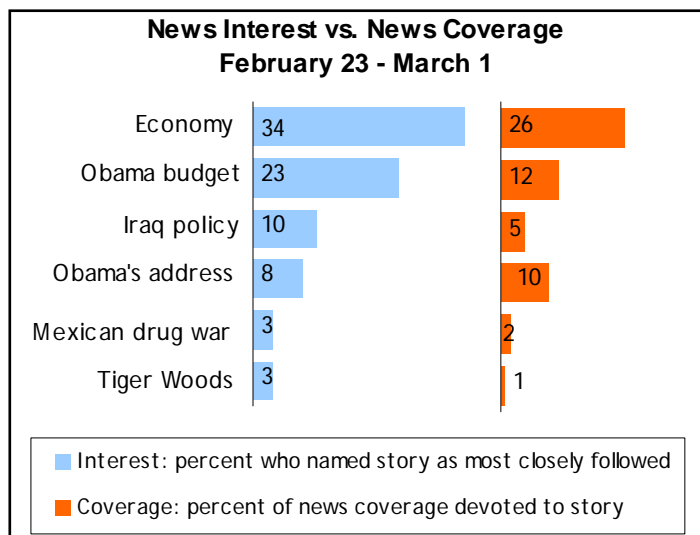
With Americans closely tracking news about the struggling economy, most are aware of the impact the recession is having on state and local budgets and the burgeoning federal deficit.

A majority (57%) says they have heard “a lot” about worsening state and local budget

problems as governments at all levels struggle to deal with declining tax revenues and increasing costs. An identical majority (57%) has heard “a lot” about the Obama administration’s projection that the federal deficit will hit \$1.75 trillion this year as Washington implements programs intended to steady troubled business sectors, boost employment and spur lending.

The economic crisis and the administration’s response continued to be the top stories last week in terms of both public interest and media coverage. About a third of Americans (34%) say they followed news about the condition of the U.S. economy more closely than any other story last week, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted Feb. 27-March 2 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the

	A lot	A little	Nothing at all	DK
<i>How much have you heard about...</i>	%	%	%	%
Worsening state and local budgets	57	31	12	*=100
Obama administration projecting a \$1.75 trillion budget deficit	57	30	12	1=100
GM’s \$30 billion loss for 2008	44	40	16	*=100
Gov’t taking a larger share of Citigroup	40	32	28	*=100
Pentagon ending ban on news coverage of returning service members’ coffins	24	43	33	*=100
Criticism of Obama’s housing plan by CNBC correspondent	21	33	46	*=100



Press. Another 23% list President Obama’s budget proposal – with its mix of priority shifts and new spending to address current and longer-term concerns – as their top story of the week.

The crisis and efforts to stop the economic slide also dominated news coverage. According to the Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ), 26% of the newshole was devoted to economic storylines. Obama’s budget proposal took up another 12% and the president’s policy speech before Congress accounted for another 10% of the newshole.

In the survey, most people (88%) say they had heard either a lot or a little about worsening state and local budget problems; only 12% say they had heard nothing at all. The breakdown is about the same for the federal deficit projection: 87% had heard either a lot or a little, while 12% had heard nothing at all.

The public was very aware of other economic stories as well, such as the government’s agreement to take a larger stake in Citigroup (40% heard a lot, 32% heard a little) and the steep losses reported by General Motors (44% heard a lot; 40% heard a little.) The share that had heard a lot about GM’s 2008 losses was similar to the share that had heard a lot last October (48%) about GM’s stock falling to its lowest level in 58 years.

The highly critical on-air comments by a CNBC correspondent about Obama’s housing plan, which caused a brief television and internet tempest, did not register as widely with the public. Nonetheless, 21% say they had heard a lot about the comments by Rick Santelli, 33% heard a little and 46% say they heard nothing at all.

On a separate subject, a comparable share (24%) say they heard a lot about the Pentagon decision, announced Feb. 26, to end the ban on news coverage of the return of coffins of U.S. service members killed overseas. More than four-in-ten (43%) heard a little about the decision, while 33% heard nothing at all.

Obama’s Image Declines among Reps

For most Americans, opinions of Barack Obama have not changed substantially in recent weeks, though partisan differences appear to be widening as Obama lays out specifics of his agenda. Overall, 23% of Americans say their opinion of Obama has become more favorable in the past few weeks, while 20% say their opinion has become less

	Feb 6-9		Feb 27- Mar 2		Change in
	More fav	Less fav	More fav	Less fav	
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	23	16	23	20	+4
Republican	15	30	9	42	+12
Democrat	36	5	40	4	-1
Independent	17	17	19	21	+4

Question: In the past few weeks, have you come to have a MORE favorable opinion of Barack Obama, a LESS favorable opinion Barack Obama, or hasn't your opinion of him changed lately?

favorable; 56% say their opinion has not changed recently.

Views of Obama have remained stable among Democrats and independents, but the balance of opinion among Republicans has become more negative. In the current poll, 42% of Republicans say their opinion of Obama has become less favorable in the past few weeks, while just 9% say their opinion has become more favorable. In a poll conducted Feb. 6-9, 30% of Republicans said their opinion of the president had become less favorable and 15% said their view of him had become more favorable.

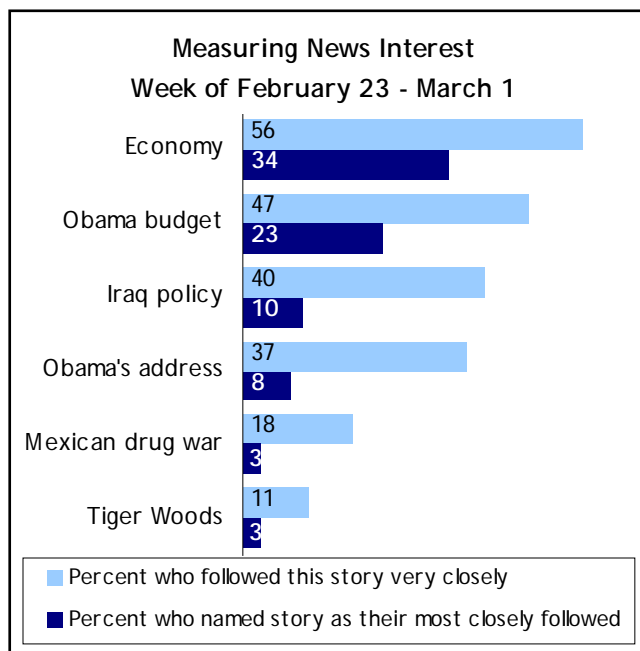
Top Stories of the Week

For the public, the economic crisis and the president's budget proposal were the dominant stories of the week. Amid reports about a projected \$1.75 trillion federal budget deficit and a grim week on Wall Street, 56% of Americans say they paid very close attention to news about the economy, and 34% say it was the news they followed most closely.

Obama's budget proposal attracted the very close attention of 47% and was the top story for about one-in-four (23%). Republicans and Democrats were equally likely to have followed this story very closely. Obama's budget blueprint received more public attention than George W. Bush's first budget proposal in February 2001. Less than a third (31%) at that time said they followed news of the Bush plan, which included his first large round of tax cut proposals, very closely.

In what was a busy week for the new administration, Obama also announced plans to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010. Four-in-ten followed this story very closely. For 10%, it was the news they followed more closely than any other last week. More Democrats than Republicans say they paid very close attention to news about the troop drawdown (46% vs. 34%, respectively).

News about Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress attracted the very close attention of 37% of the public. Interest in Obama's speech, laying out key elements of his economic agenda, was comparable to interest in Bush's 2003 State of the Union, when he made his case for going to war in Iraq (36% followed that speech very closely). According to PEJ,



news about Obama's address to the nation accounted for 10% of the newshole last week, rivaling the coverage devoted to the president's budget proposal. Democrats were more likely than Republicans to say they paid very close attention to news about Obama's speech (46% vs. 27%, respectively).

In other news, reports about growing drug-related violence in Mexico received a modest share of both public interest and news coverage last week. Nearly two-in-ten (18%) followed reports about the drug related violence that has contributed to more than 7,000 deaths since 2007. Overall, 3% of the public say this was their top story of the week. Residents of the states that border Mexico (Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas) were somewhat more likely than non-border state residents to name the drug war in Mexico as the story they followed most closely (7% vs. 2%, respectively). In terms of news coverage, 2% of reporting across the media sectors was devoted to the Mexican drug war, though it accounted for 5% of newspaper coverage.

Only about one-in-ten (11%) paid very close attention to news that Tiger Woods returned to golf after recovering from knee surgery; 17% say they followed this story fairly closely. Though Obama was by far the largest newsmaker last week according to PEJ, Woods was among the top newsmakers, with stories about his return making up 1% of the newshole.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected from February 23-March 1, 2009 and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected February 27-March 2, 2009 from a nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events.

This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Sunday through Friday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for the weekly surveys are based on telephone interviews among a nationwide sample of approximately 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, conducted under the direction of ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 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, and that results based on subgroups will have larger margins of error.

For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Kim Parker, Senior Researcher
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley
Research Associates
Kathleen Holzward and Alec Tyson, Research Analysts

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 2, 2009 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
TOPLINE
N=1,003

Q.1 In the past few weeks, have you come to have a MORE favorable opinion of Barack Obama, a LESS favorable opinion of Barack Obama, or hasn't your opinion of him changed lately?

	<u>More favorable</u>	<u>Less favorable</u>	<u>Opinion has not changed</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
Barack Obama	23	20	56	1=100
February 6-9, 2009	23	16	60	1=100
2008 CAMPAIGN				
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹				
October 31-November 3, 2008	25	25	49	1=100
October 24-27, 2008	24	21	52	3=100
October 17-20, 2008	33	23	43	1=100
October 10-13, 2008	29	21	48	2=100
October 3-6, 2008	28	23	47	2=100
September 26-29, 2008	31	23	45	1=100
September 19-22, 2008	25	20	53	2=100
September 12-15, 2008	20	20	58	2=100
September 5-8, 2008	20	20	59	1=100
August 29-31, 2008	29	19	50	2=100
August 22-25, 2008	22	21	54	3=100
August 15-18, 2008	16	21	60	3=100
August 8-11, 2008	15	18	64	3=100
August 1-4, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 25-28, 2008	17	21	59	3=100
July 18-21, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 11-14, 2008	15	17	64	4=100
July 3-7, 2008	17	17	62	4=100
June 27-30, 2008	21	19	56	4=100
June 20-23, 2008	16	16	66	2=100
June 13-16, 2008	17	15	64	4=100
June 6-9, 2008	19	17	61	3=100
May 30-June 2, 2008	17	21	58	4=100
May 22-25, 2008	18	20	60	2=100
May 16-19, 2008	19	19	59	3=100
May 9-12, 2008	20	23	55	2=100
May 2-5, 2008	11	25	59	5=100
April 25-28, 2008	16	24	58	2=100
April 18-21, 2008	18	24	54	4=100
March 28-31, 2008	18	27	52	3=100
March 20-24, 2008	22	30	46	2=100

¹ For March 20-24, 2008 through October 31-November 3, 2008 the introduction read, "In the past few days." For September 12-15 through October 31-November 3, 2008 the question asked respondents to "Please think about each of the following candidates," Barack Obama, John McCain, Joe Biden and Sarah Palin in the 2008 presidential and vice presidential elections. For June 13-16, 2008 through September 5-8, 2008, the question was worded, "Please think about each of the following *presidential* candidates..." and asked about Barack Obama and John McCain. For March 20-24, 2008 through June 6-9, 2008 the list of presidential candidates included Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain.

Q.2 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?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ refused</u>
a. Barack Obama’s plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010	40	37	13	9	1=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:²					
December 12-15, 2008	24	35	25	16	*=100
November 21-24, 2008	32	31	24	13	0=100
November 14-17, 2008	24	33	27	16	*=100
October 31-November 3, 2008	30	35	22	12	1=100
October 24-27, 2008	29	35	25	11	*=100
October 10-13, 2008	23	34	30	13	*=100
October 3-6, 2008	29	33	28	10	*=100
September 5-8, 2008	24	37	26	13	*=100
August 29-31, 2008	22	32	29	16	1=100
August 22-25, 2008	26	31	27	15	1=100
August 1-4, 2008	27	40	23	10	*=100
July 25-28, 2008	28	33	22	17	*=100
July 18-21, 2008	33	35	20	12	*=100
July 11-14, 2008	24	35	24	16	1=100
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	25	15	*=100
June 20-23, 2008	25	36	24	15	*=100
May 9-12, 2008	29	35	21	14	1=100
May 2-5, 2008	26	35	25	13	1=100
April 25-28, 2008	29	35	23	12	1=100
April 18-21, 2008	29	39	20	11	1=100
April 11-14, 2008	25	39	20	15	1=100
April 4-7, 2008	25	37	23	15	*=100
March 28-31, 2008	29	40	19	11	1=100
March 20-24, 2008	30	38	19	13	*=100
March 14-17, 2008	29	38	23	10	*=100
March 7-10, 2008	28	39	18	15	*=100
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	40	19	13	*=100
February 8-11, 2008	24	35	25	16	*=100
February 1-4, 2008	28	39	22	11	*=100
January 25-28, 2008	23	35	26	16	*=100
January 18-21, 2008	31	33	20	15	1=100
January 11-14, 2008	25	38	21	16	*=100
January 4-7, 2008	27	38	20	15	*=100
December 14-17, 2007	26	32	24	18	*=100
December 7-10, 2007	28	37	21	14	*=100
November 23-26, 2007	25	37	21	16	1=100
November 16-19, 2007	31	37	19	12	1=100
November 9-12, 2007	29	38	19	13	1=100
November 2-5, 2007	31	35	18	15	1=100
October 26-29, 2007	28	37	21	13	1=100

² March 30-April 2, 2007 through December 12-15, 2008 asked about “the current situation and events in Iraq.” From May, 2003 to March 23-26, 2007, the story was listed as “News about the current situation in Iraq.” From March 20-24, 2003 to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.” From Early 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.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ refused</u>
October 19-22, 2007	28	37	20	15	*=100
October 12-15, 2007	26	36	18	19	1=100
October 5-8, 2007	29	33	22	16	*=100
September 28 – October 1, 2007	30	41	18	11	*=100
September 21-24, 2007	32	38	17	13	*=100
September 14-17, 2007	31	36	18	15	0=100
September 7-10, 2007	32	34	20	14	*=100
August 30 – September 2, 2007	31	34	18	16	1=100
August 24-27, 2007	34	36	18	12	*=100
August 17-20, 2007	33	34	18	15	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	36	37	14	13	*=100
August 3-6, 2007	29	40	19	12	*=100
July 27-30, 2007	28	36	19	16	1=100
July 20-23, 2007	28	34	21	16	1=100
July 13-16, 2007	25	41	17	16	1=100
July 6-9, 2007	36	34	18	12	*=100
June 29-July 2, 2007	32	35	19	13	1=100
June 22-25, 2007	30	36	18	15	1=100
June 15-18, 2007	30	37	20	13	*=100
June 8-11, 2007	32	38	15	14	1=100
June 1-4, 2007	30	36	20	13	1=100
May 24-27, 2007	33	36	18	12	1=100
May 18-21, 2007	36	34	15	14	1=100
May 11-14, 2007	30	34	18	17	1=100
May 4-7, 2007	38	37	15	10	*=100
April 27-30, 2007	27	35	21	16	1=100
April 20-23, 2007	28	35	22	15	*=100
April 12-16, 2007	34	33	20	13	*=100
April 5-9, 2007	33	39	16	11	1=100
March 30-April 2, 2007	34	37	16	13	*=100
March 23-March 26, 2007	31	38	18	12	1=100
March 16-19, 2007	34	34	17	15	*=100
March 9-12, 2007	34	37	16	13	*=100
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1=100
February 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*=100
February 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1=100
February 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*=100
February 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*=100
January 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*=100
January 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1=100
January 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1=100
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1=100
January 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0=100
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*=100
November 30-December 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ refused</u>
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	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	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	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
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	56	30	8	6	*=100
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*=100
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*=100
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0=100
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*=100
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*=100
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*=100
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*=100
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*=100
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*=100
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*=100
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*=100
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1=100
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*=100
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*=100

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ refused</u>
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*=100
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*=100
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*=100
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*=100
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1=100
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*=100
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*=100
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0=100
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*=100
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*=100
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1=100
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1=100
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*=100
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*=100
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1=100
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1=100
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*=100
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*=100
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*=100
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1=100
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8=100
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1=100
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*=100
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1=100
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1=100
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1=100
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1=100
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1=100
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	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

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ refused</u>
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
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
c. News about growing drug-related violence in Mexico	18	28	23	31	*=100
d. Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs	47	34	9	10	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:³					
February, 2002: <i>Debate in Congress over G.W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1=100
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*=100
February, 2001: <i>G.W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1=100
e. Barack Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress	37	26	14	23	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:⁴					
February 1-4, 2008: <i>Bush</i>	18	17	20	45	*=100
January 26-29, 2007: <i>Bush</i>	25	26	20	28	1=100
February, 2006: <i>Bush</i>	24	22	19	34	1=100
February, 2003: <i>Bush</i>	36	24	15	24	1=100
January, 1994: <i>Clinton</i>	26	25	18	31	*=100
February, 1992: <i>Bush</i>	26	26	20	27	1=100

³ April, 2001 and February, 2002 asked about "The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan." February, 2001 asked about "George W. Bush's tax-cut plan."

⁴ February 1-4, 2008 asked about "President Bush's State of the Union address." January 26-29, 2007, asked about "Reports about George Bush's State of the Union address." February, 2006 and February, 2007, asked about "George W. Bush's State of the Union address." January, 1994, asked about "Reports about Bill Clinton's State of the Union address." February, 1992 asked about "President Bush's State of the Union Address."

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/refused</u>
f. News that Tiger Woods is returning to golf after recovering from knee surgery	11	17	27	45	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:⁵					
June 20-23, 2008: Tiger Woods/knee surgery	15	24	27	33	1=100

Q.3 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

- 34 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 23 Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs
- 10 Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010
- 8 Barack Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress
- 3 News about growing drug-related violence in Mexico
- 3 News that Tiger Woods is returning to golf after recovering from knee surgery
- 10 Some other story (VOL.)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

Q.4 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a. The criticism of Barack Obama's housing plan by a CNBC correspondent	21	33	46	*=100
b. The government agreeing to take a much larger share of Citigroup	40	32	28	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
October 3-6, 2008: Wachovia bank being sold to Wells Fargo	42	42	16	*=100
September 26-29, 2008: Mortgage lender Washington Mutual being seized by the federal Government and sold to JPMorgan Chase	56	32	12	*=100
September 9-12, 2008: The insurance company AIG receiving a loan of up to \$85 billion from the Federal Reserve Bank	64	24	12	*=100
September 9-12, 2008: The investment bank Lehmann Brothers filing for bankruptcy	59	28	13	*=100
September 9-12, 2008: Merrill Lynch being sold to Bank of America	49	37	14	*=100
July 18-21, 2008: Reports about bank failures and bank runs at IndyMac Bank Corporation	48	30	22	*=100
c. Worsening state and local budget problems	57	31	12	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
October 3-6, 2008: Reports that the State of California may need an emergency loan of \$7 billion from the federal government	20	39	41	*=100

⁵ June 20-23, 2008 asked about "News that Tiger Woods will be having knee surgery following his victory in the U.S. Open."

Q.4 CONTINUED...

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
d. General Motors posting \$30 billion in losses for 2008	44	40	16	*=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
October 10-13, 2008: General Motors stock falling to its lowest level in 58 years	48	38	14	*=100
October 3-6, 2008: Major U.S. automakers announcing steep drops in auto sales	32	52	16	*=100
July 3-7, 2008: Ford and General Motors announcing steep drops in auto sales	34	44	22	*=100
e. The Obama administration projecting a \$1.75 trillion budget deficit for this year	57	30	12	1=100
f. The Pentagon ending the ban on news coverage of the return of the coffins of U.S. service members killed overseas	24	43	33	*=100