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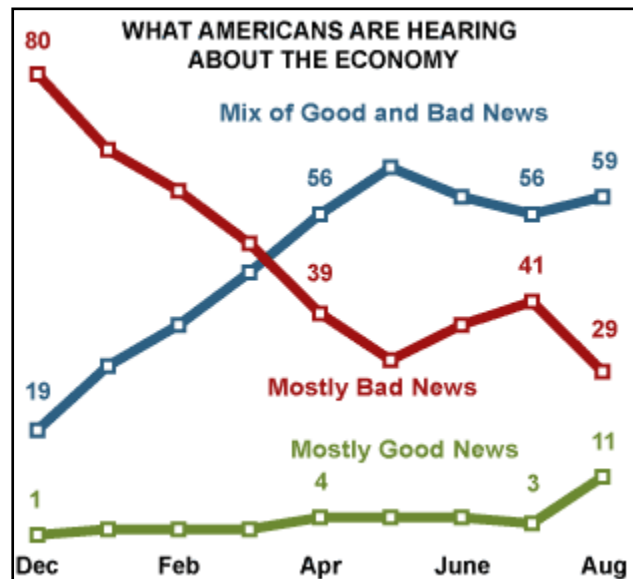
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Little Protest over Town Hall Protests **NEWS ABOUT ECONOMY SEEN AS LESS DIRE, MORE HOPEFUL**

News about the economy and the debate over health care reform continue to dominate public attention. A growing proportion of Americans say they are hearing mostly good news about the economy, while the percentage saying the news is mostly bad has fallen since July. On health care, protests at contentious town hall meetings with lawmakers are drawing widespread attention. And a majority of those who have heard about the meetings say that the way people have been protesting against current proposals is appropriate (61%).

About three-in-ten (29%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, down from 41% in July, while the number hearing mostly good news is up from 3% to 11%. The percentage hearing a mix of good and bad is largely unchanged (59% now; 56% in July).

The latest News Interest Index survey, conducted August 7-10 among 1,004 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, also finds that the public is hearing better news about financial markets than in June. Today, 20% say they are hearing mostly good news about those markets, compared with 9% in June. The number hearing mostly bad news dropped 12 points to 31%.



Despite strong interest in news about the economy, the public again followed news about the health care debate more closely than any other major story last week (36%). About two-in-

ten (21%) say they followed reports about the economy most closely, making these the week’s top stories.

Nearly eight-in-ten say they heard a lot (49%) or a little (29%) about the at-times angry community meetings. By a 58% to 43% margin, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to say they heard a lot about the protests over health care at town hall meetings.

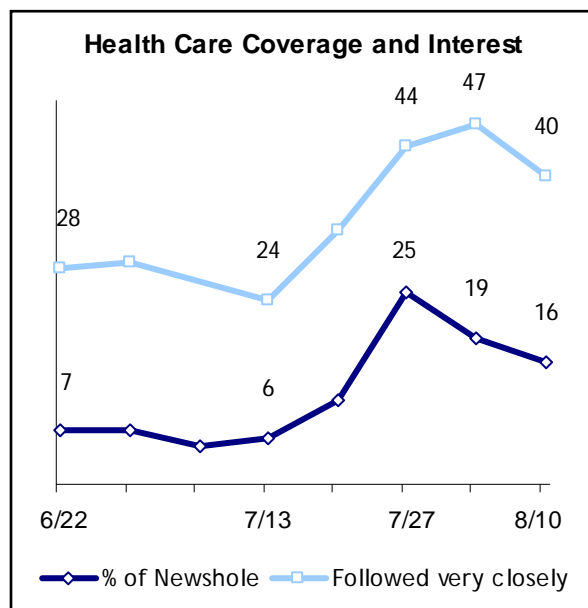
Of those who had heard at least a little about the meetings, 61% say they think the way people have been protesting is appropriate; 34% say they see the protests as inappropriate. Not surprisingly, there is a large partisan divide: 80% of Republicans see the protests as appropriate, compared with 40% of Democrats and 64% of independents. A majority of Democrats (56%) say the way people have been protesting is inappropriate, compared with 15% of Republicans and 30% of independents.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Protests are...</i>	%	%	%	%
Appropriate	61	80	40	64
Inappropriate	34	15	56	30
Don't know	5	5	4	6
N	846	234	261	315

Based on those who had heard at least a little about the protests. Figures read down.

With Congress wrapping up work for its August recess, much of the coverage of the health care debate shifted to the town hall meetings last week. Health care maintained its spot atop the media’s agenda for the third straight week, though coverage was down slightly, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism.

The story accounted for 16% of the newshole, down from 19% the previous week and 25% the week before that. Meanwhile, four-in-ten Americans say they followed health care news very closely last week, down from the 47% that said the same the week before.



A separate [July survey](#) by the Pew Research Center found that the public’s impression of the health care legislation under discussion by lawmakers was more negative than positive. By a slim margin, more Americans said they “generally oppose” (44%) the health care proposals being discussed in Congress than “generally favor” them (38%). The survey showed a large partisan divide with Democrats far more likely to look favorably on health care reform than

Republicans. Two of the most frequently mentioned concerns of opponents were the cost of the proposals and the extent of government involvement in health care. Variations on those concerns are among those frequently raised at the town hall meetings.

Meanwhile, interest groups engaged in the health care debate appear to have followed through on plans to air more commercials on the issue. In the current survey, about six-in-ten people (62%) say they have seen or heard ads about the debate in the past few weeks. That’s up from 50% in mid-July.

About two-in-ten (22%) say the ads they have seen or heard had a mostly negative message about health care reform; another 22% say the ads were a mix of positive and negative. A smaller percentage (16%) say they have seen or heard ads with a mostly positive message; 2% say they do not remember the tone of the ads they had seen. A total of 35% say they have not seen a health care ad, down from 47% that said the same in mid-July.

Public Sees Modest Improvement in Economic News

Though a majority of Americans say they have been hearing mostly bad news about the nation’s job situation, they report mixed impressions of other elements of the economy. In addition, the percentage hearing mostly bad news about jobs and financial markets has lessened over the past two months, with slightly more now saying they’ve heard mixed or good news.

	--- June 12-15 ---			--- August 7-10 ---			Change in "bad"
	Good	Bad	Mixed	Good	Bad	Mixed	
<i>News about ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Financial markets	9	43	45	20	31	43	-12
Job situation	1	71	27	6	61	32	-10
Real estate values	11	45	40	11	40	41	-5
Price for food and consumer goods	9	39	46	10	36	46	-3
Figures read across.							

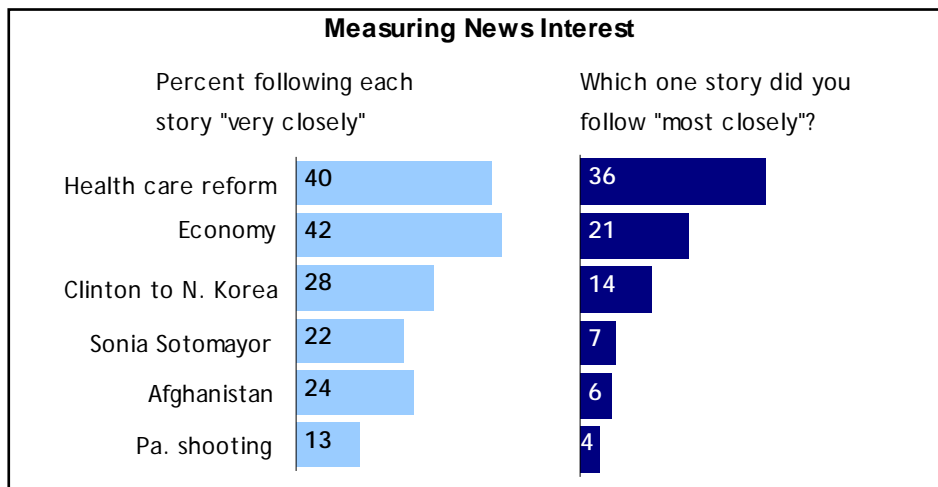
About six-in-ten (61%) say they’ve been hearing mostly bad news about the job situation, 32% say they’ve heard mixed news and just 6% say they have heard good news. While still negative, impressions of the job situation have become less dour since mid-June. In the last two months – and following the recent announcement of a largely stable unemployment rate – the percent who say they’ve been hearing mostly bad news has declined 10 points, while percentages saying they’ve heard mixed or good news have each ticked up 5 points.

On balance, the public has a more positive impression of news about consumer prices, financial markets, and real estate values. In the case of consumer prices and financial markets, pluralities say they have been hearing a mix of good and bad news about the subject. On real estate values, 41% say the news has been mixed, while 40% say it has been mostly bad. Still, the percentages who say they've heard mostly bad news about each element of the economy continue to outpace the percentages who report hearing mostly good news by wide margins.

On three out of the four economic items tested, Republicans are significantly more likely than Democrats to report having heard mostly bad news. For example, 69% of Republicans say they have been hearing mostly bad news about the job situation compared with 49% of Democrats, a 20-point gap in opinion.

Top News Stories

While more people name health care as their top story of the week, news about the condition of the U.S. economy continues to be near the top of the public's news agenda: 42% say they followed economic news very closely and 21% say they followed reports about the economy more closely than any other story. Media coverage of economic news was also robust: 15% of the newshole was devoted to reports on the economy, a close second to the health care debate (16%), according to PEJ.



In other news, Bill Clinton's trip to North Korea to secure the release of two American journalists was followed very closely by 28% of the public with 14% calling it their top story of the week. Democrats (44% very closely) were more likely than Republicans (21% very closely) to say they were following the story. Coverage of Clinton's diplomatic trip accounted for 11% of the newshole.

More than two-in-ten (22%) say they followed the Senate confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court very closely, though just 7% named it their top story. In 2005, 28% said they followed news about the confirmation of John Roberts as chief justice of the court very closely. As with news about Bill Clinton, more Democrats closely followed news about Sotomayor than Republicans.

Almost one-in-four (24%) followed the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan very closely and 13% say they followed a shooting at a fitness club in Pennsylvania very closely; 6% name Afghanistan their top story of the week, 4% name the Pennsylvania shooting.

Health Care Town Halls Register Widely

Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say they have heard at least a little about protests over health care at town hall meetings held by members of Congress; about half (49%) say they have heard a lot about this. Republicans (58%) are more likely than Democrats (43%) to say they have heard a lot about the health care town halls.

About six-in-ten heard at least a little about a woman who killed eight people while driving drunk the wrong way on a New York highway. News that Paula Abdul will not return to the popular television program “American Idol” registered with 69% of the public, though more heard a lot about the New York car crash (32%) than heard a lot about Abdul’s departure (24%).

What the Public’s Hearing About ...			
	A lot %	A little %	Nothing at all %
Protests over health care at town hall meetings held by members of Congress	49	29	22
A woman who killed eight driving drunk the wrong way on NY highway	32	30	38
News that Paula Abdul will not return to American Idol	24	45	30
Service outages at popular websites Twitter and Facebook	15	35	48
Figures read across.			

Fewer say they heard about service outages at popular websites Twitter and Facebook: 15% heard a lot about this, 35% a little. Those younger than 40 were slightly more likely than those 65 and older to have heard about the website outages.

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 August 3-9, 2009 and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected August 7-10, 2009 from a nationally representative sample of 1,004 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 Monday through Sunday) 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:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
August 7-10, 2009 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1004

Q. 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?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. Debate in Washington over health care reform	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹					
May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
c. Bill Clinton securing the release of two American journalists held by North Korea	28	35	20	15	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON					
April, 2001: <i>The release of the U.S. air crew held in China</i>	55	31	9	5	*

¹ May 15-18, 2009 asked about: "Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans." March 6-9, 2009 asked about: "Barack Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling the U.S. health care system." September, 1993 through September, 1994 asked about: "The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals." May, 1993 through August, 1993 asked about: "Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton."

Q.1 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, 1992: <i>The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon</i>	44	40	11	5	0
January, 1991: <i>The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait</i>	51	37	8	3	1
d. The confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court	22	29	25	24	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
July 17-20, 2009: <i>The confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor</i>	20	32	20	27	1
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>The nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court</i>	29	29	19	23	1
January, 2006: <i>The nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court</i>	14	23	25	36	2
December, 2005	14	20	31	32	3
Early November, 2005	21	28	24	25	2
Early October, 2005: <i>The confirmation of John Roberts as chief justice of the Supreme Court</i>	28	33	18	20	1
Early October, 2005: <i>The nomination of Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court</i>	22	33	21	23	1
Early September, 2005: <i>The nomination of John Roberts as chief justice of the Supreme Court</i>	18	26	25	29	2
August, 1993: <i>The nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsberg to the Supreme Court</i>	18	30	27	24	1
October 1991: <i>Nomination of Clarence Thomas</i>	28	35	18	18	1
July, 1991	33	33	19	14	1
August, 1990: <i>Nomination of David Souter</i>	16	27	27	29	1
September, 1987: <i>Nomination of Robert Bork</i>	17	23	29	29	2
e. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009 ²	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1

² February 20-23, 2009 asked about “The Obama administration’s decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan.” From June 20-23, 2008 to October 10-13, 2008 the story was listed as “The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters.”

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1
f. A shooting at a fitness club in Pennsylvania, killing four	13	28	25	34	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
June 12-15, 2009: <i>A deadly shooting at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.</i>	26	34	17	23	*
April 3-6, 2009: <i>A shooter killing several people at an immigration services center in Binghamton, New York</i>	26	32	19	23	*
March 13-16, 2009: <i>A shooting spree in Alabama that resulted in the death of 11 people</i>	18	33	24	25	*
February 15-18, 2008: <i>The shootings at Northern Illinois University that resulted in the death of 7 people</i>	26	40	19	15	0
February 8-11, 2008: <i>A shooting at a city council meeting in Missouri where six people were killed</i>	13	28	25	33	1
December 14-17, 2007: <i>Shootings at two religious centers in Colorado</i>	17	31	24	27	1
December 7-10, 2007: <i>A shooting at a shopping mall in Omaha, Nebraska where eight people were killed</i>	30	36	18	15	1
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The shooting at a high school in Cleveland, Ohio</i>	22	32	25	20	1
April 20-23, 2007: <i>The shootings at Virginia Tech University that resulted in the death of 33 people</i>	45	37	13	5	*
October, 2006: <i>Recent shootings at schools in Pennsylvania and other states</i>	46	33	12	8	1
March, 2000: <i>The shooting of a 6-year-old girl at a Michigan school</i>	40	38	15	7	*
September, 1999: <i>The shootings in a Jewish community center in Los Angeles</i>	29	34	22	14	1
Late April, 1999: <i>The shooting of students and teachers by two students at a Colorado high school</i>	68	24	6	2	*
June, 1998: <i>The shooting at a high school in Springfield, Oregon</i>	46	36	14	4	*
March, 1998: <i>The shooting at a middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas</i>	49	33	12	5	1

Q.2 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.]

- 36 Debate in Washington over health care reform
- 21 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 14 Bill Clinton securing the release of two American journalists held by North Korea
- 7 The confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court
- 6 The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan
- 4 A shooting at a fitness club in Pennsylvania, killing four
- 6 Some other story (VOL.)
- 7 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

On another topic...

Q.3 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 <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
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	*

Q.4 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 <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
a. The financial markets	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation	6	61	32	1
June 12-15, 2009	1	71	27	1

Q.5 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. News that Paula Abdul will not return to American Idol	24	45	30	2
b. Service outages at popular websites Twitter and Facebook	15	35	48	2
c. Protests over health care at town hall meetings held by members of Congress	49	29	22	*
d. A woman who killed eight people driving drunk the wrong way on a New York highway	32	30	38	*

ASK IF Q.5c=1,2 [N=846]:

Q.6 From what you've seen and heard, do you think the way people are protesting at town hall meetings over health care reform is appropriate or inappropriate?

61	Appropriate
34	Inappropriate
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.7 In the past few weeks, have you seen or heard any ads on the subject of health care reform? [If Yes, were these ads mostly a positive message about efforts to reform the health care system or mostly a negative message about efforts to reform health care?]

[DO NOT READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER.]

	July 17-20 <u>2009</u>
62 Yes [NET]	50
16 Yes, have seen, mostly a positive message about health care reform	16
22 Yes, have seen, mostly a negative message about health care reform	18
22 Yes have seen, mix of positive and negative (VOL.)	14
2 Yes, have seen, don't remember whether positive or negative (VOL.)	2
35 No haven't seen	47
3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2