



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Support for Health Care Principles, Opposition to Package
MIXED VIEWS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AND HEALTH CARE
REFORM PERSIST

Also inside...

- Health care opponents more willing to compromise
- Approval of Dem leaders plummets
- Rep leaders' approval at 15-year low
- Few say racism major factor in criticism of Obama

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Support for Health Care Principles, Opposition to Package **MIXED VIEWS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AND HEALTH CARE** **REFORM PERSIST**

Public opinion is conflicted regarding the two major domestic issues of the day – the economy and health care reform. On the economy, most Americans remain optimistic that Barack Obama’s policies will help, but the public expresses mixed views of the steps he has taken so far and sees no clear signs of recovery at this point.

Regarding health care reform, many of the key provisions remain popular though support for the overall package has slipped. More people now generally oppose the health care reform proposals in Congress (47%) than favor them (34%). This represents a decline in support for health care reform since mid-September, shortly after President Obama’s nationally televised address to Congress on the issue.

Nonetheless, large percentages continue to support many of the essential elements of legislation being considered. Two-thirds (66%) favor mandating that all Americans have health insurance, with the government providing financial help for those unable to afford it. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) favor requiring employers to pay into a government health care fund if they do not provide health insurance coverage to their employees. A similar majority (58%) also favors raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 as a way to pay for reforms. And 55% say they favor a government health insurance plan to compete with private plans, which is largely unchanged from late July (52%).

The disconnect between support for specific elements of health care legislation and overall opposition to the proposals in Congress appears to be driven by a lack of understanding about what is being proposed, the complexity of

Support for Health Care Reform Slips				
<i>Proposals in Congress</i>	<u>July</u> %	<u>Aug</u> %	<u>Sept</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Generally favor	38	39	42	34
Generally oppose	44	46	44	47
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100	100
Despite Steady Support For Specific Elements				
<i>Percent favor...</i>	<u>July</u> %		<u>Sept</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Requiring insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions			79	82
Requiring all to have insurance, gov't aid for those unable to afford			65	66
Requiring employers to provide or pay into a government fund			61	59
Raising taxes on high income families to fund health overhaul			63	58
Government health insurance to compete with private plans			52	55
Public Hearing Less, Still Confused				
<i>Heard about bills</i>	<u>July</u> %	<u>Aug</u> %	<u>Sept</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
A lot	41	53	60	46
Little/Nothing	57	47	39	53
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Reform issue is...*</i>	<u>July</u> %	<u>Aug</u> %	<u>Sept</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Hard to understand	63	--	67	66
Easy to understand	34	--	31	33
Don't know	<u>3</u>	--	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100		100	100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
 *From News Interest Index surveys.

the topic, and declining trust in Congress. The percentage of Americans saying they have heard a lot about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system fell from 60% in mid-September to 46% currently. A separate weekly [News Interest Index survey, released Oct. 8](#), found that a substantial majority of Americans (66%) continue to find the issue of health care reform “hard to understand.”

At the same time, job approval ratings for Democratic leaders in Congress have plummeted, from 47% in March to 33% currently. Approval ratings for Republican congressional leaders now stand at 24%, which is down slightly from March (28%). This is the lowest approval measure for GOP leaders in 15 years of Pew Research Center surveys.

Obama’s job approval ratings, while lower than early this year, have been stable in recent months; currently, 52% approve of the way he is handling his job as president, while 36% disapprove. Half of Americans say they have a great deal (20%) or a fair amount (30%) of confidence in him to do the right thing on health care reform; confidence in Obama on this issue was somewhat higher in late August (56%). A larger percentage of the public says they have confidence in the president to fix the economy (59%), while nearly as many (57%) say they are optimistic his policies will improve economic conditions.

The latest survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 4 among 1,500 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds mixed reactions to many of Obama’s economic policies. Opinion is evenly split over his economic stimulus plan, with 44% approving of the \$800 billion package; in June, a 55% majority favored the stimulus. On the other hand, 70% say that the government spending billions on public works projects has been mostly good for the economy. Opinions are far less positive about the government extending loans to major financial institutions (39% mostly good) and automakers G.M. and Chrysler (37% mostly good).

Obama’s Economic Policies				
	<u>Apr</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Obama’s policies will improve economy</i>				
Optimistic	66	65	63	57
Pessimistic	26	28	28	35
Don’t know	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Confidence in Obama to fix the economy</i>				
Great deal/Fair amount	70	--	--	59
Not much/None	26	--	--	39
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	--	--	<u>2</u>
	100			100
<i>Effect of Obama’s economic policies so far</i>				
Made things better	26	26	24	31
Made things worse	17	16	21	20
No effect so far	53	53	49	46
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Economic stimulus plan</i>				
Approve	--	55	--	44
Disapprove	--	39	--	44
Don’t know	--	<u>6</u>	--	<u>12</u>
		100		100
<i>Stricter regulation of financial companies</i>				
Good idea	60	--	--	54
Bad idea	31	--	--	38
Don’t know	<u>9</u>	--	--	<u>8</u>
	100			100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

A majority (54%) continues to say that it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way financial companies to do business, down from 60% in April. Notably, just 28% say the government has made a great deal or some progress in fixing the problems that caused last fall's crisis in the financial markets.

For many, the jury is still out regarding the overall impact of Obama's policies: 46% say they have had no effect so far or that it is too soon to tell. Nearly a third (31%) says they have made the economy better, while 20% say his policies have made economic conditions worse. In July, 49% said Obama's policies had had no effect or that it was too early to tell, while about as many said they had made things worse (21%) as better (24%).

The public's assessment of Obama's impact is consistent with its own view of economic conditions. There has been no increase in recent months in the proportion of Americans who rate the national economy positively. Nor have there been increases in the percentages expecting either the nation's economy or their own financial situation to improve in the next 12 months.

As has been the case since the beginning of the year, considerably more people worry about the jobs situation than about inflation, the stock market or real estate values. Fully 79% say that jobs are hard to come by in their communities and even more (84%) say that *good* jobs are hard to find.

For all the reports about rising contentiousness over major issues, there has been little change since spring in opinions about whether the country is more politically divided than in the past. Currently, 64% say the country is more politically divided, which is largely unchanged from April (61%), though up substantially from January (46%) shortly before Obama's inauguration. The current measure is in line with opinions during President George W. Bush's second term.

	Sept 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2009	April 2009	Oct 2009
<i>Compared with the past, country is...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
More politically divided	70	66	46	61	64
Not more divided	24	28	45	34	30
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Judgments about Obama's ideology also have changed little in recent months. Currently, 44% say he listens more to liberal members of his party, compared with 32% who say he listens more to party moderates. In July, 41% said Democratic liberals had Obama's ear.

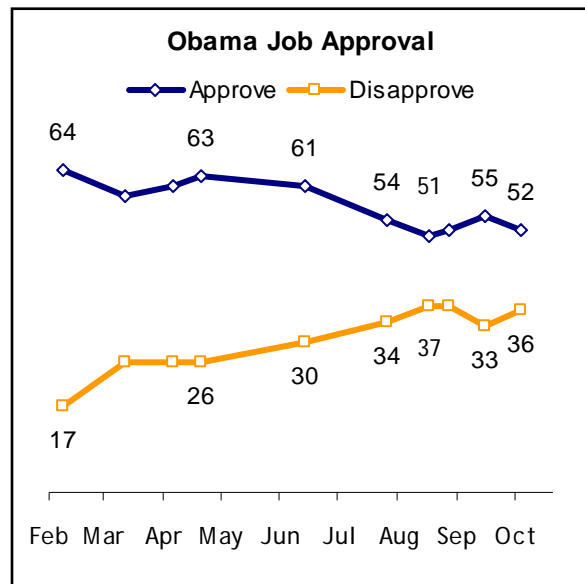
One of the more surprising findings of the current survey is the expressed willingness of the opponents of health care reform to compromise on this issue. A clear majority of opponents (62%) – many of whom say they very strongly oppose health care reform proposals – say they would prefer to see opponents compromise with supporters to make the legislation better, rather than try to prevent a bill from passing.

Notably, supporters of health care reform – who are less likely than opponents to register very strong opinions about the proposals – are less inclined to compromise. Fewer than four-in-ten (38%) say policymakers who support health care reform should compromise with opponents, while 57% say they should try to make the bill as strong as possible.

Health Care Opponents Prefer Compromise to Obstruction	
<i>Policymakers who oppose current proposals should...</i>	Health care <u>opponents</u>
Try to compromise with supporters to make legislation better	% 62
Try to prevent any health care legislation from passing this year	33
Don't know	<u>4</u> 100 (N=754)
Health Care Supporters Favor Stronger Bill over Compromise	
<i>Policymakers who favor current proposals should...</i>	Health care <u>supporters</u>
Try to compromise with opponents in order to be sure legislation passes	% 38
Try to make the bill as strong as possible	57
Don't know	<u>5</u> 100 (N=514)
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.	

SECTION ONE: VIEWS OF OBAMA AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Barack Obama's job approval ratings have remained stable over the course of the last several months. Currently, 52% of Americans approve of the president's job performance while 36% disapprove. Eight-in-ten (80%) Democrats approve of the way Obama is handling his job, compared with 49% of independents and just 20% of Republicans. As with his overall job rating, Obama's approval ratings within partisan groups are largely unchanged since July.



Confidence on Issues

On balance, the public has confidence in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to fixing the economy (59% a great deal or fair amount of confidence vs. 39% not too much or no confidence at all), the threat of terrorism (58% confidence vs. 38% little or no confidence), and dealing with Iran (51% confidence vs. 44% little or no confidence). However, Americans are split regarding confidence in Obama when it comes to health care reform (50% confidence vs. 48% little or no confidence) and the situation in Afghanistan (50% confidence vs. 45% little or no confidence).

<i>Will do right thing when it comes to...</i>	Great deal/ Fair amount %	Not too much/ No confidence %	Don't know %
Fixing the economy	59	39	2=100
Threat of terrorism	58	38	4=100
Dealing with Iran	51	44	5=100
Dealing with health care reform	50	48	2=100
Situation in Afghanistan	50	45	6=100

Q10F1a-e. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

As expected, there are wide partisan gaps in confidence in Obama's handling of each of these issues; substantial majorities of Democrats say they have confidence in Obama, while a third or fewer Republicans say the same. Republicans are less likely to express confidence in Obama on health care reform than on the other issues tested; just 20% of Republicans have a great deal or fair amount

	Great deal/Fair amount			R-D diff
	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	
Dealing with health care reform	20	74	48	-54
Fixing the economy	31	81	57	-50
Threat of terrorism	31	80	56	-49
Dealing with Iran	30	71	49	-41
Situation in Afghanistan	33	67	46	-34

Q10F1a-e.

of confidence he will do the right thing in dealing with health care reform, compared with 48% of independents and 74% of Democrats.

How Will Obama Do?

Most Americans (54%) say it is still too early to tell whether Barack Obama will be a successful or unsuccessful president in the long run, while 27% say he will be a successful president and 18% say he will be unsuccessful.

In January, shortly before Obama's inauguration, nearly two-thirds (65%) said it was too early to tell; 30% said he would be successful and just 4% predicted he would be unsuccessful.

Republicans and independents are now more likely to say Obama will be an unsuccessful president than they were in January. Today, 37% of Republicans say he will be unsuccessful, up from 10% in January. The proportion of independents who think that Obama will be unsuccessful has risen from just 3% in January to 19% today; about as many independents say Obama will be unsuccessful as successful (21%), though most (59%) say it is too early to tell. Opinions of Democrats about Obama's long-term prospects have shown far less change. Nearly half (45%) continue to say he will be a successful president.

Will Obama be a Successful President?			
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	%
Total			
Successful	30	27	-3
Unsuccessful	4	18	+14
Too early to tell	65	54	-11
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	
	100	100	
Among...			
Republicans			
Successful	13	10	-3
Unsuccessful	10	37	+27
Too early to tell	77	52	-25
Don't know	*	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	
Democrats			
Successful	47	45	-2
Unsuccessful	1	4	+3
Too early to tell	51	50	-1
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	
Independents			
Successful	24	21	-3
Unsuccessful	3	19	+16
Too early to tell	73	59	-14
Don't know	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	

Q3. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Obama does comparatively better on these ratings than Bill Clinton did in the fall of his first year in office. Today, the balance of opinion on this question is positive for Obama (27% successful, 18% unsuccessful). In October 1993, the balance of opinion about Clinton was negative: 18% of the public said Clinton would be a successful president while 25% said he would be unsuccessful (56% said it was too early to tell).

Striking the Right Balance?

As many as 45% now say that Obama is trying to address too many issues at once, compared with 41% who say he is doing about right in managing the number of issues. Since April, the proportion saying Obama is doing about right has steadily declined. A small, but growing, share (9%) says he is focusing on too few issues.

Fewer See Obama Striking the Right Balance of Issues

<i>So far do you think Obama is....</i>	Mid-		
	<u>April</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>
	%	%	%
Addressing too many issues	34	41	45
Focusing on too few issues	4	3	9
Doing about right	56	48	41
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100

Q15F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opinions about whether Obama is overextended continue to break along partisan lines. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say Obama is tackling too many issues; just 12% say he is doing about right. By comparison, 60% of Democrats say Obama is doing about right while 29% say he is tackling too much. Independents are about equally likely to say Obama is addressing too many issues (46%) as they are to say he is doing about right (41%).

Overall views of whether Obama listens more to his party's liberals or moderates have remained fairly stable since spring. Currently, 44% say Obama listens more to liberal members of his party while 32% say he listens more to his party's moderates.

Who Is Obama Listening to?

<i>Obama is listening more to...</i>	Mid					
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Liberals in his party	34	44	40	39	41	44
Moderates in his party	44	30	33	35	31	32
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>24</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q16. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About half of Democrats (49%) say Obama is primarily listening to moderates in their party (26% say he is listening more to liberals), up from the 41% who said Obama was listening to moderates in July. This movement is particularly pronounced among conservative and moderate Democrats; today, 53% say Obama is primarily listening to moderates, compared with 42% who said this in July.

By contrast, independents are more likely to say Obama is listening to liberal Democrats than to moderate Democrats (48% vs. 29%) and the percentage saying Obama is mostly listening to liberals has increased from 41% in July. Republicans continue to be significantly more likely to say Obama is listening to liberals than to moderates (68% vs. 15%).

Racism Not Seen as Major Factor in Obama Opposition

Most Americans say that racism either is not a factor in opposition to Obama’s policies (44%) or is a minor factor (32%); 20% think that racism is a major factor in opposition to Obama’s policies.

More than four-in-ten African Americans (43%) see racism as a major factor in opposition to Obama’s policies, compared with 16% of whites. Still, a narrow majority of blacks say that racism is either not a factor (26%) or a minor factor (25%) in opposition to Obama. Far more whites than blacks think that racism is either a non-factor (48%) or a minor factor (34%).

The partisan and ideological differences also are stark: 27% of Democrats – including 36% of liberal Democrats – say racism is a major factor in opposition to Obama’s policies. That compares with just 10% of Republicans, including 7% of conservative Republicans.

How Much Is Racism a Factor in Opposition to Obama’s Policies?				
	<u>Major factor</u> %	<u>Minor factor</u> %	<u>Not a factor</u> %	<u>Don’t know</u> %
Total	20	32	44	4=100
White non-Hispanic	16	34	48	3=100
Black non-Hispanic	43	25	26	6=100
Republican	10	25	63	2=100
Cons Rep	7	24	67	1=100
Mod/Lib Rep	13	28	58	1=100
Democrat	27	39	29	5=100
Cons/Mod Dem	24	39	33	4=100
Lib Dem	36	39	20	5=100
Independent	18	32	47	3=100
<i>Among whites</i>				
Republican	8	24	66	2=100
Democrat	24	45	27	4=100
Independent	16	33	50	1=100

Q22. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Poor Ratings for Congressional Leaders

Current job approval ratings for congressional leaders in both parties are some of the lowest seen since the Pew Research Center first asked these questions. As the job approval of Democrats has declined substantially in recent months, majorities now say they disapprove of the job leadership of both Democratic congressional leaders (53%) and their Republican counterparts (60%). Just 24% now say they approve of the job GOP leaders are doing, their worst public rating in 15 years. Democratic leaders do not fare much better; after higher ratings in the first half of 2009, their current 33% approval rating marks a return to the low levels seen in 2008.

Although approval of Democratic congressional leaders has declined across the board, the ratings slip is most pronounced among independents and members of their own party. Independents are now more than twice as likely to say they disapprove (60%) of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing than to say they approve (24%); in March, independent opinion of Democratic leaders was nearly evenly split. Among Democrats a smaller majority approve of the party's congressional leaders than did so in the spring (57% today, 77% in March). There has been less shift in views of Democratic congressional leaders among Republicans, which remain overwhelmingly negative (12% approve, 76% disapprove).

The decline in approval ratings of Republican congressional leaders has been less dramatic; beginning earlier in the year, GOP ratings have declined steadily from their previously low levels. Independents are now more than three times as likely to say they disapprove (64%) than approve (20%) of the minority party's leadership. Disapproval of GOP leaders among independents has risen 13 points since March, from 51% to 64%. Democrats continue to largely disapprove of GOP congressional leadership (15% approve, 70% disapprove), while Republicans are now about equally likely to approve as to disapprove (42% vs. 41%) of the job their party's congressional leaders are doing.

Low Ratings for Democratic Leaders in Congress				
	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<i>Mar-Oct</i> <i>change</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total				
Approve	47	42	33	-14
Disapprove	35	45	53	+18
Among...				
Democrats				
Approve	77	71	57	-20
Disapprove	11	18	30	+19
Independents				
Approve	41	33	24	-17
Disapprove	37	53	60	+23
Republicans				
Approve	18	17	12	-6
Disapprove	68	75	76	+8
Lower Ratings for GOP Leaders				
	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<i>Mar-Oct</i> <i>change</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total				
Approve	28	29	24	-4
Disapprove	51	56	60	+9
Among...				
Republicans				
Approve	43	47	42	-1
Disapprove	37	41	41	+4
Independents				
Approve	26	25	20	-6
Disapprove	51	60	64	+13
Democrats				
Approve	19	21	15	-4
Disapprove	65	67	70	+5
Figures read down. Q8/Q9.				

SECTION TWO: OPINIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS

There is strong majority support for many of the key elements of the health care reform legislation being considered on Capitol Hill. But the percentage that generally supports the proposals being discussed is far lower – just 34% in the current survey, down from 42% in the immediate aftermath of President Obama’s Sept. 9 address to Congress. Opposition has not moved much; currently, 47% oppose the proposals, compared with 44% last month. At the same time, however, many of those opposed say they would like to see policymakers try to compromise with supporters to make the legislation better, rather than try to prevent any health care legislation from passing this year.

Intense support for the health care proposals being discussed in Congress also has fallen since September. Currently, 20% favor the proposals very strongly, down from 29% last month. Very strong opposition is essentially unchanged at 35% in the current poll (34% in September). Nearly one-in-five (19%) offer no opinion, compared with 14% last month.

One of the largest declines in support from a month ago has come among independents, particularly among those who lean Democratic. Overall, 26% of independents now say they generally favor the bills being discussed in Congress, down from 37% last month. About four-in-ten (42%) Democratic-leaning independents favor the proposals, compared with 62% in September. Democratic support for the legislation also has declined over the same period, from 68% to 59%. Opinion among Republicans and Republican-

	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favor	38	39	42	34
<i>Very strongly</i>	--	25	29	20
Oppose	44	46	44	47
<i>Very strongly</i>	--	34	34	35
Don't know	18	15	14	19
	100	100	100	100

Q46-46a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>N</u>
<i>% who favor health care proposals</i>	%	%	%	%	
Total	38	39	42	34	1500
Republican	12	13	17	14	365
Democrat	61	64	68	59	473
Independent	34	37	37	26	543
Republican-leaning	15	14	15	15	216
Democratic-leaning	59	63	62	42	201
Men	37	39	39	33	760
Women	39	40	45	36	740
White, non-Hispanic	33	29	37	30	1127
Black, non-Hispanic	50	71	68	58	149
18-29	44	45	48	40	197
30-49	34	39	42	35	406
50-64	45	41	43	33	485
65+	29	30	34	30	369
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	35	38	46	34	445
\$30,000-74,999	37	38	38	35	477
Less than \$30,000	44	48	48	35	375
College grad+	39	43	50	40	560
Some college	38	37	41	34	410
HS or less	38	39	38	32	508
Have health insurance	37	--	--	34	1295
No health insurance	44	--	--	37	197
<i>Heard about health care proposals</i>					
A lot	36	33	46	36	812
A little/nothing	40	41	38	34	673

Q46.

leaning independents is mostly unchanged.

The debate over health care reform continues to attract extensive coverage. It was the most heavily covered news story Sept. 28-Oct. 4, accounting for 11% of all news coverage, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism’s News Coverage Index. However, health care reform received considerably more coverage at the time of Obama’s speech to Congress (32% of all coverage).

The proportion of Americans saying they have heard a lot about congressional bills to overhaul the health care system has declined substantially over this period. Currently, 46% say they have heard a lot, down from 60% in the immediate aftermath of Obama’s health care address, and only slightly higher than the number reported in July (41%).

Public Hearing Less about Issue, Still Views It as Hard to Understand				
	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
<i>Heard about bills</i>	%	%	%	%
A lot	41	53	60	46
A little/nothing	57	47	39	53
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Reform issue is*...</i>				
Hard to understand	63	--	67	66
Easy to understand	34	--	31	33
Don't know	<u>3</u>	--	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100		100	100

Q45. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
*From weekly News Interest Index surveys.

As was the case in July and August – though not last month – people who have heard a lot about the health care bills are much more likely to oppose the proposals than are those who have heard less about them. Currently, 54% of those who have heard a lot about the bills oppose the proposals, while 36% favor them and 10% have no opinion. Views are more divided among those who have heard less about the bills: 41% oppose the proposals, 34% favor them, while 26% offer no opinion.

Notably, a majority of the public continues to find the health care debate difficult to understand. Pew Research’s separate weekly News Interest Index survey, conducted Oct. 2-5, finds that 66% say the issue of health care reform is hard to understand, which is largely unchanged from September (67%) and July (63%).

Many Opponents Favor Compromise

The survey finds there is a greater appetite for compromise on health care reform among the bill's opponents than among its supporters. Among the public overall, 42% favor compromise on health care legislation; this includes 29% of those who oppose the legislation and 13% of those who favor it.

By comparison, 36% of the public rejects compromise; this includes 20% of the supporters of health care proposals, who want policymakers who support the bill to try to make it as strong as possible, and 16% of the bill's opponents, who want policymakers who oppose the bill to try to prevent any health care legislation from passing this year.

Nearly four-in-ten Republicans (39%) oppose the bill and want policymakers who oppose the measure to attempt to reach a compromise; that compares with 33% of Republicans who oppose the bills and think policymakers who agree with them should try to prevent anything from passing this year.

More than a third (35%) of Democratic supporters of the health care proposals in Congress want policymakers to make the legislation as strong as possible, while 21% want policymakers to try to compromise to be sure the legislation passes.

Liberal Democrats, in particular, would rather see the bill become stronger than compromise to make sure legislation passes. Half of liberal Democrats favor the legislation in Congress and think policymakers should make the bill as strong as possible; just 18% want policymakers to compromise to get something passed. Conservative and moderate Democrats who favor the proposals are more divided, with 30% in favor of making the bill as strong as possible and 23% willing to compromise.

Most independents oppose the health care proposals in Congress, but a relatively large proportion favors compromise on the issue. Nearly half of independents (47%), including 37% who oppose the bills, prefer to see supporters and opponents compromise on health care reform.

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Favor, make bill strong as possible	20	6	35	16
Favor, try to compromise	13	6	21	10
Oppose, try to compromise	29	39	15	37
Oppose, prevent bill from passing	16	33	5	16
Don't know*	<u>23</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>21</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q46-48. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
* Includes those who had no opinion of the proposals or whether policymakers should compromise.

Continued Support for Major Elements of Reform

Since July, there has been virtually no change in the large proportions of the public favoring many of the key elements of the reform packages. More than eight-in-ten (82%) favor requiring insurance companies to sell coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing medical conditions.

Two-thirds (66%) favor the so-called “individual mandate,” which would require that all Americans have insurance, with the government providing financial help to those who cannot afford it. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) favor requiring employers to pay into a health care fund if they do not provide insurance to their employees, and a similar percentage favors raising taxes on upper-income families to help pay for the changes (58%). The so-called “public option,” described to respondents as “a government health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans,” is supported by 55% of the public, essentially unchanged from July (52%).

The idea of limiting awards in medical malpractice lawsuits, which has been promoted by congressional Republicans but is not in the main bills before Congress, also is very popular with the public. Two-thirds (66%) favor limits on the amount of money patients can collect in medical malpractice lawsuits. Just 27% oppose this.

All of these proposed changes to the system attracted majority support among Democrats and independents. Republican support is considerably lower for all of the changes except malpractice reform and the requirement that insurance companies cover people with pre-existing conditions. But even among Republicans, more than a third support the individual mandate (43%), requiring employers who do not offer insurance to pay into a government fund (37%), tax increases on wealthy households (37%), and even the “public option” (34%).

No Decline in Support for Elements of Reform		
	Favor %	Oppose %
Requiring insurance companies to sell health coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing medical conditions <i>July 2009</i>	82 79	14 15
Requiring that all Americans have health insurance, with the government providing financial help for those who can't afford it <i>July 2009</i>	66 65	30 29
Limits on the amount of money that patients can collect in medical malpractice lawsuits	66	27
Requiring employers to pay into a gov't health care fund if they do not provide health insurance to their employees <i>July 2009</i>	59 61	36 33
Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 as a way to pay for changes to the health care system <i>July 2009*</i>	58 63	39 32
A government health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans <i>July 2009</i>	55 52	38 37
Q49a-f. Figures read across. * July survey asked about raising taxes on families w/ incomes of more than \$350,000 and individuals w/ incomes of more than \$280,000.		

Many Opponents Favor Bills' Key Elements

The specific elements of the health care legislation before Congress attract overwhelming support from those who generally favor the proposals. Majorities of opponents of the bills oppose these specific proposals, but even contentious elements of the proposals attract support from sizable minorities.

More than four-in-ten (44%) opponents of the bills being discussed in Congress favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance, and 40% support requiring employers to pay into a fund if they do not cover their workers. Nearly as many (37%) support a government health insurance plan to compete with private insurance plans. In addition, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) opponents of the congressional bills favor requiring insurance companies to sell policies to people with pre-existing medical conditions.

	How Supporters and Opponents View Health Care Proposals		
	<i>Opinion of health care bills...</i>		
<i>% who favor...</i>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>opinion</u>
	%	%	%
Requiring insurance companies to sell health coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing medical conditions	89	78	79
Requiring that all Americans have health insurance with the government providing financial help for those who can't afford it	91	44	78
Requiring employers to pay into a gov't health care fund if they do not provide health insurance to their employees	78	40	73
Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 as a way to pay for changes to the health care system	78	38	71
A government health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans	76	37	61
N	514	754	232
Q49a-f.			

SECTION THREE: VIEWS OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Less Support for Financial Regulation

Most Americans say the government has made little or no progress toward fixing the problems that caused the crisis in the financial markets last fall. Just 28% say the government has made a great deal or some progress in this regard.

At the same time, support for stricter government regulation of the way major financial companies do business has slipped. Currently, 54% say it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way financial companies do business, down from 60% in April.

Republicans are the most critical of the government's progress toward fixing the problems that caused last year's crisis. Just 18% give the government positive marks, while 47% say they have made just a little progress, and 34% say no progress at all. Yet Republicans generally oppose more strictly regulating the way major financial companies do business (57% say this is a bad idea). Four-in-ten Democrats (40%) say the government has made at least some progress toward fixing problems in the markets, and 70% say it is a good idea to increase regulations.

Government Progress Fixing Causes of Last Year's Financial Crisis

<i>How much progress?</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Great deal	2	*	3	3
Some	26	18	37	21
Just a little	46	47	45	50
None at all	23	34	13	24
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

NET: Great deal/
Some combined 28 18 40 24

Q33. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Declining Support for Stricter Financial Regulation

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
October				
Good idea	54	33	70	52
Bad idea	38	57	22	41
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100
April				
Good idea	60	38	75	61
Bad idea	31	54	16	31
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q17. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Fewer Approve of Stimulus Package

Nearly eight months after its passage, the public has grown less supportive of the economic stimulus plan passed in February. Currently, as many disapprove as approve (44% each) of Barack Obama's \$800 billion economic stimulus plan. As recently as June, 55% approved and 39% disapproved.

But one of the most visible elements of that plan – spending additional billions of dollars on public works projects – remains overwhelmingly popular. Seven-in-ten (70%) say this spending has been good for the economy, while just 21% say it has been bad.

Fewer Approve of Stimulus Bill...					
<i>The \$800 billion stimulus plan passed in February...</i>					
<u>March 2009</u>	%	<u>June 2009</u>	%	<u>October 2009</u>	%
Good idea	56	Approve	55	Approve	44
Bad idea	35	Disapprove	39	Disapprove	44
Don't know	<u>9</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	Don't know	<u>12</u>
	100		100		100
But Public Works Spending Still Seen as Beneficial					
<i>Spending billions on roads, bridges and public works...</i>					
<u>March 2009</u>	%	<u>June 2009</u>	%	<u>October 2009</u>	%
Right thing to do	77	Approve	73	Good for economy	70
Wrong thing to do	19	Disapprove	23	Bad for economy	21
Don't know	<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>	Other/Don't know	<u>9</u>
	100		100		100
Q31 & Q32a. March and June trends for comparison shown where available. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.					

By comparison, other major government policies to improve the economy are viewed far less positively. Government aid to U.S. automakers has never been popular, and by a 54% to 37% margin more say government loans to General Motors and Chrysler have been bad for the economy than good for the economy. And by a 52% to 39% margin more say government loans to major U.S. banks and financial institutions have done more harm than good.

Public Views of Auto, Financial Bailouts Remain Negative					
<i>Gov't loans to General Motors and Chrysler...</i>					
<u>March 2009</u>	%	<u>June 2009</u>	%	<u>October 2009</u>	%
Right thing to do	30	Approve	36	Good for economy	37
Wrong thing to do	63	Disapprove	58	Bad for economy	54
Don't know	<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	Other/Don't know	<u>10</u>
	100		100		100
<i>Gov't loans to major banks and financial institutions...</i>					
				<u>October 2009</u>	%
				Good for economy	39
				Bad for economy	52
				Other/Don't know	<u>9</u>
					100
Q32b & Q32c. March and June trends for comparison shown where available. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.					

Support for February’s stimulus bill has dropped across partisan lines. In June, 78% of Democrats approved of the stimulus plan – 69% say the same today. Among Republicans, approval fell from 27% to 17%. And a positive balance of opinion among independents in June (52% approve, 42% disapprove) has now turned around (40% approve, 48% disapprove).

While most Republicans and a plurality of independents disapprove of Obama’s \$800 billion stimulus plan, majorities of both groups believe that a key component of that plan – billions in government spending on roads, bridges and other public works projects – has been effective. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) and independents (63%) say this spending has been good for the economy, while barely a quarter (26% respectively) say it has been bad for the economy. Roughly eight-in-ten (81%) Democrats say this spending has been good for the economy.

	Obama’s \$800 billion stimulus bill		Gov’t spending billions on roads projects	
	<u>App-rove</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>Good for economy</u> %	<u>Bad for economy</u> %
Total	44	44	70	21
Republican	17	73	65	26
Democrat	69	19	81	13
Independent	40	48	63	26
18-29	56	30	67	24
30-49	44	43	70	23
50-64	44	49	71	22
65+	32	54	70	15

Q31 & Q32a. Figures read across.

There also continues to be a substantially different reaction between how younger and older Americans view the stimulus bill. While those younger than 30 approve of the bill by a 56% to 30% margin, the balance of opinion among those 65 and older is nearly the reverse (32% approve, 54% disapprove). There is far less difference of opinion between young and old when it comes to the positive impact of spending on public works.

SECTION FOUR: ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS

Americans continue to rate national economic conditions and their own personal financial situation quite negatively, but many still say they expect things to improve in the next year. Jobs remain at the top of people's economic concerns and are largely seen as difficult to find. In the midst of these rather bleak ratings, much of the public says that Obama's economic policies have not had an effect so far, and there is somewhat less optimism than in July that his policies will improve the economy and reduce the deficit in the long term.

A plurality of Americans (46%) say that Obama's policies have not had an effect on economic conditions so far or that is too early to tell. But a slightly larger proportion now says that his policies have made things better than did so in July (31% vs. 24%). One-in-five say that his policies have made things worse, virtually unchanged from a few months ago.

A majority of independents (51%) say Obama's policies have had no effect so far or it is too early to tell, but more now say his policies have made the economy better than worse (30% vs. 20%). In July, 21% said his policies had made things better while 27% said they had made things worse.

Half of Democrats say Obama's policies have made economic conditions better, up slightly from 42% in July. More than a third (37%) says his policies have not had an effect so far. By comparison, 48% of Republicans say that the administration's policies have not had an effect on economic conditions yet and another 40% say they have made things worse.

More See Obama's Policies Helping Now

<i>Effect of Obama's policies on economy so far</i>	<u>Mar</u> %	<u>Apr</u> %	<u>June</u> %	<u>July</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Made conditions better	14	26	26	24	31
Made conditions worse	15	17	16	21	20
No effect so far/Too soon	68	53	53	49	46
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

But Less Optimism about Long Term Impact

Obama's policies will ...

<i>Improve economy</i>					
Optimistic	--	66	65	63	57
Pessimistic	--	26	28	28	35
Don't know	--	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
		100	100	100	100
<i>Reduce deficit in long term</i>					
Optimistic	--	54	55	54	48
Pessimistic	--	36	36	36	42
Don't know	--	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
		100	100	100	100

Q12F2-14F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Many Still Say Obama Policies Have Had No Effect

<i>Effect of Obama's policies on economy so far...</i>	Republicans		Democrats		Independents	
	<u>July</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %	<u>July</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %	<u>July</u> %	<u>Oct</u> %
Made conditions better	7	10	42	50	21	30
Made conditions worse	35	40	5	7	27	20
No effect/Too soon	55	48	49	37	47	51
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	184	180	247	239	284	268

Q14F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Less Optimism About Economic Policies

The public is somewhat less optimistic than they were a few months ago that Barack Obama's policies will improve the economy and reduce the budget deficit. A majority (57%) of the public says they are optimistic that Obama's policies will improve the economy while 35% are pessimistic. In July, 63% were optimistic and 28% were pessimistic that his policies would improve the economy.

When it comes to the deficit, the public is more divided about the influence of Obama's policies; 48% say they are optimistic while 42% are pessimistic that his policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long run. In July, 54% expressed optimism that his policies would reduce the budget deficit compared with 36% who were pessimistic.

<i>Obama's policies will ...</i>	Republicans		Democrats		Independents	
	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>
<i>Improve economy</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Optimistic	32	23	84	80	64	56
Pessimistic	60	71	8	11	28	37
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Reduce deficit in long term</i>						
Optimistic	24	19	79	73	52	42
Pessimistic	68	76	13	16	38	48
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	189	185	258	234	248	275

Q12F2 & 13F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The decline in optimism is coming mostly from independents and Republicans. A majority (56%) of independents still say they are optimistic that Obama's policies will improve the economy, which is down slightly from 64% in July. When it comes to the effect of his policies on reducing the deficit, independents are now divided (48% pessimistic, 42% optimistic). In July, a majority (52%) of independents were still optimistic, compared with 38% who said they were pessimistic.

Not surprisingly, Republicans continue to say they are pessimistic about Obama's policies. About seven-in-ten (71%) say they are pessimistic that his policies will improve the economy, up from 60% in July. Similarly, about three-fourths (76%) of Republicans say they are pessimistic that his policies will reduce the deficit, up slightly from 68% in July. Democrats remain overwhelmingly optimistic that his policies will improve the economy (80%) and reduce the deficit in the long term (73%).

National and Personal Economic Ratings Stable

Americans continue to offer negative views of national economic situation. Only 9% rate economic conditions as excellent or good, largely unchanged from last month. More than four-in-ten (43%) say economic conditions are fair and another 48% say economic conditions are poor. In August, 38% said the economic situation was only fair and 52% said it was in poor shape. Ratings of the national economy have remained low since they plummeted in the first few months of last year.

People rate their own personal financial situations more positively than national conditions, but here, too, ratings remain relatively low. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they are in excellent (6%) or good (32%) shape financially while 38% rate their situation as only fair and 22% say they are in poor shape financially. These numbers are virtually unchanged since August. Historically, personal financial ratings are much more stable than ratings of the national economy, both in economic good times as well as bad ones.



Americans remain optimistic that economic conditions as a whole will get better in the next year; 45% say they expect conditions to be better than they are at present while 38% expect them to be about the same as now. Only 15% say they think the economy will be worse.

Similarly, nearly six-in-ten (59%) think the financial situation of their family will improve a lot (10%) or some (49%) over the course of the next year. About a quarter (23%) think it will get worse while 13% volunteer that they think their financial situation will stay the same.

Many See Improvements on the Horizon

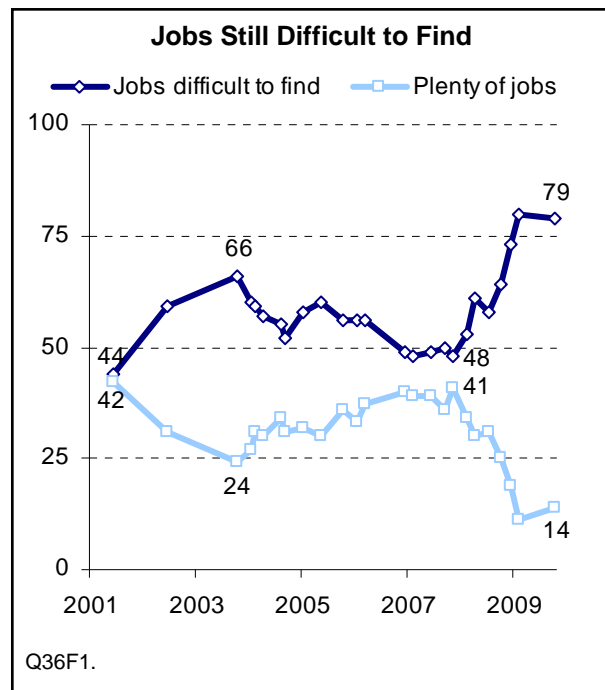
	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	June 2009	Aug 2009	Oct 2009
Over next year					
<i>Economy will ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Better	43	40	48	45	45
Worse	17	18	16	19	15
Same	36	38	34	33	38
Don't know (Vol.)	4	4	2	3	3
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Personal finances will...</i>					
Improve	56	54	63	55	59
Get worse	27	29	24	25	23
Stay the same (Vol.)	13	13	9	15	13
Don't know (Vol.)	4	4	4	5	4
	100	100	100	100	100

Q26 & Q28. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Jobs Continue to be Top Personal Worry

The job situation remains the economic issue that worries the public most when it comes to their own financial situation – 46% say the job situation is their biggest worry. Jobs have been the top economic worry since February. More than quarter (27%) cites rising prices as the economic issue that worries them the most, only 14% say problems in the financial markets and 7% cite declining real estate values. These numbers have been fairly stable since June.

Americans also overwhelmingly express a negative view of the local job market. About eight-in-ten (79%) say that jobs are difficult to find in their community; only 14% say there are plenty of jobs available. This is largely unchanged from early February.



When a separate group of respondents was asked about *good* jobs in their area, slightly more say that good jobs are hard to find than those who were asked about jobs in general (84% vs. 79%). In July 2008, the last time both questions were asked, 73% said good jobs were hard to find, but only 58% said jobs were difficult to find. As views of the job market have grown more negative over the past year, the gap between the ratings of jobs and good jobs has narrowed.

The increase in the proportion saying good jobs are difficult to find is especially high among those in the Midwest. Now, 94% of Midwesterners say that good jobs are hard to find – higher than people living in any other region – and an increase from 73% in July 2008. The increases in other regions have been more modest.

More Say Good Jobs Difficult to Find

Percent who say <i>good jobs are difficult to find</i>	July 2008 %	Oct 2009 %	<i>Change</i>	Oct <i>N</i>
Total	73	84	+11	753
Northeast	76	84	+8	141
Midwest	73	94	+21	178
South	72	81	+9	280
West	70	80	+10	154
Republican	60	85	+25	185
Democrat	79	84	+5	234
Independent	75	85	+10	275
18-29	67	84	+17	93
30-49	76	85	+9	198
50-64	73	88	+15	256
65+	72	80	+8	179
College Grad	64	79	+15	290
Some College	74	84	+10	207
HS or less	77	87	+10	242
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	65	81	+16	228
\$30,000-74,999	77	86	+9	240
Less than \$30,000	82	86	+4	183

Q37.

There also has been a dramatic shift among Republicans in perceptions of the availability of good jobs; 85% now say that good jobs are hard to find, up 25 points from July 2008. The changes among independents and Democrats have been much more modest. The partisan gap in evaluations of the job market that was evident last year has now disappeared. There have also been increases in the proportion saying good jobs are difficult to find across most age, education and income groups.

With the national unemployment rate rising, 42% of Americans currently say there has been a time when a member of their household has been without a job and looking for work over the past twelve months. This is up from 35% in December of last year.

A majority of young people continue to experience household unemployment; 61% of those younger than 30 say a member of their household has been out of work, far more than in any other age group. In addition, nearly half (49%) of those with incomes less than \$30,000 have dealt with household unemployment, compared with 28% of those with family incomes.

In Past Year, Has Someone in Household Been Unemployed?				
	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>N</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	35	39	42	1500
18-29	55	59	61	197
30-49	34	38	43	406
50-64	32	34	38	485
65+	16	19	21	369
College grad	25	25	37	560
Some college	40	39	48	410
HS or less	39	46	41	508
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	24	23	28	445
\$30,000-74,999	37	40	46	477
Less than \$30,000	46	52	49	375
Republican	27	33	35	365
Democrat	37	36	45	473
Independent	39	47	43	543
Q34.				

There has been little change since early this year in how working people view the financial condition of their employers. Six-in-ten working Americans rate the financial condition of their employers as excellent (18%) or good (42%). About a quarter (27%) say their employer is in only fair shape and 10% say the company or organization that employs them is in poor shape. In February, 58% rated the financial condition of their employer as excellent or good, while 39% rated it as only fair or poor.

Financial Shape of Employers					
<i>Financial condition of employer is...</i>	Feb <u>2008</u>	Oct <u>2008</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	Oct <u>2009</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	69	66	63	58	60
Only fair/Poor	27	30	35	39	37
Other/DK	4	4	2	3	3
	100	100	100	100	100
Q35. Based on those who are employed full- or part-time (N=859). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.					

Real Estate Slump Continues

Americans continue to rate their local real estate markets negatively. Only 21% say that home prices in their area have gone up over the past year (13% a little, 8% a lot) while two-thirds say that home prices in their area have gone down (35% a little, 31% a lot).

These ratings are virtually unchanged from December of last year and remain more negative than they were a year ago. In October 2008, a third said that home prices in their area have gone up while 54% say that they had gone down.

Most Still Say Home Prices Have Gone Down

	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Oct 2009
<i>Over past year, local home prices have:</i>	%	%	%
Gone up	33	22	21
Gone down	54	67	66
Stayed the same (Vol.)	4	5	6
Don't know (Vol.)	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

Q38. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

DETAILED TABLES

	Obama Job Approval*			Health Care Proposals*			(N)
	Approve %	Dis- approve %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %	Favor %	Oppose %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %	
TOTAL	52	36	12	34	47	19	1500
SEX							
Men	49	38	13	33	48	19	760
Women	56	34	11	36	46	18	740
AGE							
18-49	55	31	14	37	44	19	603
50+	49	42	9	31	51	18	854
DETAILED AGE							
18-29	67	23	11	40	42	18	197
30-49	48	36	16	35	46	19	406
50-64	48	44	8	33	53	14	485
65+	50	39	11	30	47	24	369
SEX BY AGE							
Men 18-49	51	33	16	34	46	20	305
Men 50+	47	44	9	32	50	18	434
Women 18-49	60	28	12	40	42	18	298
Women 50+	50	41	9	31	51	18	420
RACE							
White NH	45	45	11	30	54	16	1127
Total Non-White	71	14	15	45	31	24	337
Black NH	85	2	13	58	22	19	149
EDUCATION							
College grad	58	35	7	40	45	15	560
Some college	52	38	11	34	52	14	410
HS or less	50	35	15	32	46	22	508
INCOME							
\$75,000+	50	43	8	34	55	11	445
\$30,000-\$74,999	48	40	12	35	49	16	477
<\$30,000	59	26	15	35	38	27	375
DETAILED INCOME							
\$100,000+	48	48	4	33	56	11	275
\$75,000-\$99,999	52	35	14	37	52	11	170
\$50,000-\$74,999	45	42	12	32	53	16	221
\$30,000-\$49,999	51	38	11	37	47	16	256
<\$30,000	59	26	15	35	38	27	375
REGISTERED VOTER	52	38	10	33	50	17	1250
PARTY ID							
Republican	20	69	11	14	76	10	365
Democrat	80	10	10	59	21	20	473
Independent	49	39	12	26	55	19	543
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY							
Conservative Republican	15	80	5	9	83	8	252
Mod/Lib Republican	28	50	22	23	64	13	107
Mod/Cons Democrat	78	12	11	56	23	20	297
Liberal Democrat	89	9	2	70	15	14	160

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Q.46 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

DETAILED TABLES CONT...

	Obama Job Approval*			Health Care Proposals*			(N)
	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE							
Total White NH Prot.	33	53	13	24	61	16	616
White NH evang. Prot.	25	60	15	18	67	15	327
White NH mainline Prot.	44	44	11	31	52	17	289
Total Catholic	60	33	7	36	47	16	317
White NH Cath.	55	39	6	32	54	14	251
Unaffiliated	64	26	10	40	39	21	219
CHURCH ATTENDANCE							
More than once a week	38	49	14	31	54	15	215
Once a week	50	38	11	28	53	19	412
Once or twice a month	52	39	9	34	49	17	190
A few times a year	58	28	14	40	43	17	249
Seldom/Never	58	31	11	39	40	21	390
REGION							
Northeast	64	27	9	41	38	21	287
Midwest	57	33	10	35	50	16	350
South	48	39	13	31	53	16	555
West	46	39	15	35	42	24	308
MARITAL STATUS							
Married	44	45	11	29	54	17	857
Not married	63	24	13	41	38	20	618
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX							
Married men	42	46	13	28	53	20	469
Married women	46	45	10	30	56	14	388
Unmarried men	60	27	14	41	41	18	276
Unmarried women	66	22	12	42	36	23	342
EMPLOYMENT							
Employed	53	35	12	36	48	16	859
Not employed	52	36	12	32	45	23	634
AMONG REPUBLICANS							
Men	21	65	14	15	72	12	189
Women	19	74	7	12	79	9	176
18-49	21	65	13	18	70	12	143
50+	19	74	7	9	82	9	214
AMONG DEMOCRATS							
Men	78	10	11	57	19	24	206
Women	81	10	8	61	22	17	267
18-49	85	7	8	66	18	16	192
50+	75	14	12	52	24	25	274
AMONG INDEPENDENTS							
Men	45	43	13	27	57	16	298
Women	54	35	11	25	52	23	245
18-49	52	32	16	26	52	22	226
50+	44	49	7	27	58	15	312

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Q.46 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

DETAILED TABLES CONT...

	Obama Job Approval			Health Care Proposals			(N)
	Approve %	Dis- <u>approve</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	Favor %	<u>Oppose</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	
AMONG WHITES							
Men	40	48	13	27	56	17	568
Women	49	42	9	33	52	15	559
18-49	45	41	14	31	51	18	400
50+	44	49	7	29	57	15	710
East	58	33	9	36	42	22	225
Midwest	54	38	8	31	54	15	294
South	34	54	12	23	63	14	384
West	37	49	14	34	50	16	224
College grad	53	39	8	36	52	12	442
Some college or less	41	47	12	28	55	18	685
\$75,000+	45	48	7	32	61	7	352
\$30,000-\$74,999	41	50	9	29	59	12	376
<\$30,000	46	38	16	28	42	29	252
Republican	16	74	10	11	79	10	325
Democrat	79	13	8	61	20	19	304
Independent	42	47	12	23	62	15	431

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Q.46 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Abt/SRBI Inc. among a nationwide sample of 1,500 adults, 18 years of age or older, from September 30-October 4, 2009 (1125 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 375 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 141 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. 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/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2008 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 within the landline sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1500	3 percentage points
Form 1	747	4 percentage points
Form 2	753	4 percentage points
Republicans	365	6 percentage points
Democrats	473	5 percentage points
Independents	543	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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

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
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Research Associates
Alec Tyson, Research Analyst

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 30-October 4, 2009
N=1500

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
September 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
August 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
August, 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
July 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
June 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	October, 2003	38	56	6
April 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	August, 2003	40	53	7
April 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
January 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	November, 2002	41	48	11
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	September, 2002	41	55	4
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
August, 2008	21	74	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
July, 2008	19	74	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
June, 2008	19	76	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
March, 2008	22	72	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	February, 2001	46	43	11
October, 2007	28	66	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
February, 2007	30	61	9	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
December, 2006	28	65	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	August, 1999	56	39	5
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	August, 1997	49	46	5
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
December, 2004	39	54	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	October, 1995	23	73	4

¹ In September 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1995	25	73	2	January, 1993	39	50	11
April, 1995	23	74	3	January, 1992	28	68	4
July, 1994	24	73	3	November, 1991	34	61	5
March, 1994	24	71	5	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3
October, 1993	22	73	5	August, 1990	47	48	5
September, 1993	20	75	5	May, 1990	41	54	5
May, 1993	22	71	7	January, 1989	45	50	5
				September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
September 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
August 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
August, 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
July 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
June 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
April 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
March 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
March 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
February 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

ASK ALL:

Q.3 In the long run, do you think Barack Obama will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	Too early <u>to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Obama	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Obama	January 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
Bush	January, 2007	24	45	27	4
Bush	January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Bush	Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
Bush	January, 2005	36	27	35	2
Bush	December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Bush	Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
Bush	January, 2001	26	15	58	1
Clinton	January, 1999	44	24	29	3
Clinton	Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
Clinton	February, 1995	18	34	43	5
Clinton	October, 1994	14	35	48	3
Clinton	May, 1994	21	26	52	1
Clinton	January, 1994	21	19	57	3
Clinton	October, 1993	18	25	56	1
Clinton	September, 1993	22	22	54	2
Clinton	August, 1993	13	25	60	2

ASK ALL:

Q.4 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Sept <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
64	More politically divided	61	46	66	70	66
30	Not more divided	34	45	28	24	26
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	9	6	6	8

NO QUESTIONS 5 THROUGH 7

RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17	May, 1999	38	44	18
June 10-14, 2009	29	56	15	March, 1999	38	47	15
March 9-12, 2009	28	51	21	February, 1999	37	51	12
February 4-8, 2009	34	51	15	January, 1999	38	50	12
Early October, 2006	33	56	11	Early December, 1998	38	49	13
June, 2006	30	53	17	November, 1998	41	48	11
March, 2006	32	50	18	Early September, 1998	44	37	19
January, 2006	33	52	15	Early August, 1998	43	37	20
Early November, 2005	33	50	17	June, 1998	42	38	20
Early October, 2005	32	52	16	May, 1998	40	41	19
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15	April, 1998	41	40	19
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15	March, 1998	43	39	18
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17	January, 1998	43	41	16
Early February, 2004	41	42	17	November, 1997	41	43	16
January, 2003	48	37	15	August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 2002	50	34	16	June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 2002	49	34	17	May, 1997	40	44	16
February, 2002	56	24	20	April, 1997	40	44	16
Early September, 2001	43	39	18	February, 1997	44	42	14
June, 2001	40	40	20	January, 1997	38	47	15
May, 2001	45	36	19	November, 1996	40	43	17
April, 2001	45	30	25	July, 1996	38	48	14
January, 2001	43	36	21	June, 1996	36	50	14
July, 2000	36	46	18	April, 1996	39	46	15
May, 2000	40	42	18	March, 1996	35	51	14
March, 2000	38	43	19	February, 1996	33	53	14
February, 2000	40	43	17	January, 1996	36	54	10
January, 2000	39	41	20	October, 1995	36	51	13
December, 1999	38	42	20	September, 1995	36	50	14
October, 1999	34	50	16	August, 1995	38	45	17
Late September, 1999	34	46	20	June, 1995	41	45	14
August, 1999	40	44	16	April, 1995	44	43	13
July, 1999	36	45	19	March, 1995	43	39	18
June, 1999	37	46	17	December, 1994	52	28	20

RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
June 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
March 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
February 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ²	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22

2 In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.10F1 How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**—a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all?...How about when it comes to **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	No confidence at all	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F1	Fixing the economy					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	21	38	18	21	2
	March 31-April 6, 2009 ³	32	38	13	13	4
	January 7-11, 2009	33	42	14	7	4
b. F1	Dealing with health care reform					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	20	30	21	27	2
	August 20-27, 2009 ⁴	26	30	21	22	3
c. F1	The threat of terrorism					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	20	38	21	17	4
	January 7-11, 2009 ⁵	31	40	16	9	4
d.F1	Dealing with Iran					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	17	34	24	20	5
e.F1	The situation in Afghanistan					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	16	34	24	21	6

NO QUESTION 11

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.12F2 AND Q.13F2:

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.12F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will improve economic conditions in the country?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
57	Optimistic	63	65	66
35	Pessimistic	28	28	26
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	7	8

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.12F2 AND Q.13F2:

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.13F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
48	Optimistic	54	55	54
42	Pessimistic	36	36	36
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	9	10

3 Item asked in a list about confidence in Obama, Democratic leaders in Congress, and Republican leaders in Congress.

4 Item asked in a list about confidence in Obama, Democratic leaders in Congress, and Republican leaders in Congress.

5 Question was worded "Preventing terrorist attacks."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.14F1 Since taking office, have Barack Obama’s economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
31	Better	24	26	26	14
20	Worse	21	16	17	15
42	No effect so far	46	49	47	64
4	Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)	3	4	6	4
3	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	6	4	4	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.15F1 So far, do you think Barack Obama is [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
45	Trying to address too many issues at once	41	34	35
9	Focusing on too few issues [OR]	3	4	4
41	Doing about right	48	56	56
6	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	8	6	5

ASK ALL:

Q.16 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... [READ, RANDOMIZE]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>
44	Liberal members of his party [OR]	41	39	40	44	34
32	Moderate members of his party	31	35	33	30	44
24	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	27	26	27	26	22

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

On a different subject...

Q.17F2 All in all, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business?

IF ‘GOOD IDEA’ (1 IN Q.17F2) ASK [N=415]:

Q.18F2 Is increased government regulation of major financial companies [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
54	Good idea	60
34	Something you strongly support	34
17	Something you have reservations about	21
3	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	5
38	Bad idea	31
8	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	9

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

On a different subject...

Q.19F1 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

Sep 30-Oct 4 2009		Late-				-----CBS/New York Times-----					
		Mar 9-12 2009	Oct 2008	Nov 2007	Jan 2007	Nov 2003	July 2003	Jan 2002	Jan 2001	Sept 1999	Feb 1996
51	Smaller government, fewer services	48	42	47	45	45	48	46	51	46	61
40	Bigger government, more services	40	43	42	43	42	40	40	36	43	30
4	Depends (VOL.)	3	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4
6	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	9	11	7	8	9	7	11	8	6	5

NO QUESTIONS 20 AND 21

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Now thinking about opposition to Barack Obama's policies, do you think that racism is a major factor, a minor factor or not a factor in opposition to Barack Obama's policies?

20	Major factor
32	Minor factor
44	Not a factor
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 23 AND 24

RANDOMIZE Q.25-Q.26/Q.27-Q.28 IN BLOCKS

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.25 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Only		(VOL.)
			Fair	Poor	DK/Ref
September 30-October 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
August 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
June 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
March 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
February 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2

Q.25 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 ⁶	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.26 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
August 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
June 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
March 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
February 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4

6 Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3

RANDOMIZE Q.25-Q.26/Q.27-Q.28 IN BLOCKS

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.27 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only</u> <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
August 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
June 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
February 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	33	46	16	1
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	34	40	19	1
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	5	30	47	17	1

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	35	45	15	1
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	32	45	18	1

ASK ALL:

Q.28 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>Stay the same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
August 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
June 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
February 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5

ASK ALL:

Q.29 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
46	The job situation	44	42	42	45	26	18	19
27	Rising prices	26	29	22	21	31	38	49
14	Problems in the financial markets [OR]	14	15	21	21	29	31	14
7	Declining real estate values	9	8	10	9	9	8	12
2	Other (VOL.)	4	2	1	1	1	2	2
2	None / not worried about any (VOL.)	2	2	2	1	2	1	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	2	2	2	2	2

NO QUESTION 30

ASK ALL:

Q.31 From what you've read and heard, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress in February?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jun 10-14 ⁷ <u>2009</u>
44	Approve	55
44	Disapprove	39
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Now I'd like to ask you about some steps the federal government has taken over the past year in reaction to economic problems facing the nation. First, has **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy? Next, has **[NEXT ITEM]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

		Mostly <u>good</u>	Mostly <u>bad</u>	(VOL.) <u>No effect</u>	(VOL.) <u>Kept from getting worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The government spending billions on roads, bridges, and other public works projects	70	21	3	1	5
b.	The government giving loans to major U.S. banks and financial institutions	39	52	1	1	7
c.	The government giving loans to General Motors and Chrysler	37	54	2	1	7

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Since the crisis in the financial markets last fall, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis **[READ]**?

2	A great deal of progress
26	Some progress
46	Just a little progress [OR]
23	No progress at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

7 In June 2009, the question was worded "roughly 800 billion ..."

ASK ALL:

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

46	Full-time
15	Part-time
39	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF NOT FULL TIME (2-9 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=826]:

RETIRED Are you currently retired?

36	Yes
5	Yes, semi-retired or "still do some type of work" (VOL.)
59	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.34 Over the past 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your household has been without a job and looking for work, or not?

Sep 30-Oct 4 2009		Feb 4-8 ⁸ 2009	Dec 2008	Early Feb 2008	May 2005
42	Yes	39	35	28	31
58	No	61	65	71	69
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	*

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=859]:

Q.35 How would you rate the financial condition of the company or organization that employs you? Would you say it is in excellent financial shape, good shape, only fair shape or in poor shape?

Sep 30-Oct 4 2009		Feb 4-8 2009	Dec 2008	Early Oct 2008	Early Feb 2008	June 2001	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>			
							Oct 1992	Aug 1992	May 1992	Jan 1992
18	Excellent shape	15	20	22	30	31	27	23	25	22
42	Good shape	43	43	44	39	39	38	40	40	39
27	Only fair shape	29	27	25	21	20	23	26	22	24
10	Poor shape	10	8	5	6	7	10	9	11	12
2	Does not apply (VOL.)	*	1	2	2	2	--	--	--	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3

8 In February 2009, those who were not employed and looking for work, identified on an earlier question, were not asked this question, but are included in "yes."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.36F1 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?

	Plenty of jobs available	Jobs are difficult to find	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, few of others	(VOL.) DK/ Refused
September 30-October 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
February 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	15	76	6	3
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	16	77	4	3
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	12	79	6	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.37F2 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available or are good jobs difficult to find?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		July <u>2008</u>	June <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>
10	Plenty of GOOD jobs available	22	36	28
84	GOOD jobs are difficult to find	73	55	64
2	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)	1	3	3
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	6	5

ASK ALL:

Q.38 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>
8	Gone up a lot	11	19	20	28	28
13	Gone up a little	11	14	13	18	22
35	Gone down a little	33	29	32	23	25
31	Gone down a lot	34	25	24	18	15
6	Stayed about the same (VOL.)	5	4	5	3	3
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	9	6	10	7

**NO QUESTIONS 39 AND 40
QUESTIONS 41 THROUGH 44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about health care...

Q.45 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system? Have you heard...[READ]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>
46	A lot	60	53	41
43	A little [OR]	34	40	47
10	Nothing at all	5	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.46 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

ASK IF Q.46=1,2 [N=1268]:

Q.46a Do you (favor/oppose) these health care proposals very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sept 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>
34	Generally favor	42	39	38
20	Very strongly	29	25	--
13	Not so strongly	11	13	--
1	Don't know (how strongly)	2	1	--
47	Generally oppose	44	46	44
35	Very strongly	34	34	--
11	Not so strongly	10	12	--
1	Don't know (how strongly)	*	1	--
19	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	15	18

ASK IF 'FAVOR' (Q.46=1) [N=514]:

Q.47 What would you rather see policymakers who support the health care proposals currently being discussed in Congress do [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 38 Try to compromise with opponents in order to be sure legislation passes [OR]
- 57 Try to make the bill as strong as possible
- 5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF 'OPPOSE' (Q.46=2) [N=754]:

Q.48 What would you rather see policymakers who oppose the health care proposals currently being discussed in Congress do [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 62 Try to compromise with supporters to make the legislation better [OR]
- 33 Try to prevent any health care legislation from passing this year
- 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.49 Now I'd like to ask you about some of the specific proposals being considered to address health care. (First,) Would you favor or oppose [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? What about [NEXT ITEM]?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Requiring that all Americans have health insurance, with the government providing financial help for those who can't afford it			
September 30-October 4, 2009	66	30	4
July 22-26, 2009	65	29	6
b. A government health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans			
September 30-October 4, 2009	55	38	8
July 22-26, 2009	52	37	10
c. Requiring insurance companies to sell health coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing medical conditions			
September 30-October 4, 2009	82	14	4
July 22-26, 2009	79	15	6
d. Requiring employers to pay into a government health care fund if they do not provide health insurance to their employees ⁹			
September 30-October 4, 2009	59	36	5
July 22-26, 2009	61	33	6
e. Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 as a way to pay for changes to the health care system			
September 30-October 4, 2009	58	39	3
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
July 22-26, 2009 ¹⁰	63	32	5
f. Limits on the amount of money that patients can collect in medical malpractice lawsuits			
September 30-October 4, 2009	66	27	7

⁹ In July 2009, this item was part of a list asking about "some ways to pay for changes to the health care system."

¹⁰ In July 2009, item asked about "Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 and individuals earning more than \$280,000" and was part of a list asking about "some ways to pay for changes to the health care system."

NO QUESTION 50

ASK ALL:

Q.51 Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? [**READ IF NECESSARY:** A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid]

ASK IF COVERED IN Q.51 (Q.51=1) [N=1295]:

Q.52 Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through an employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else? [**INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: DO NOT NEED TO READ FULL LIST IF RESPONDENT INTERRUPTS TO ANSWER 1 OR 2, BUT VERIFY** "So your main source of health insurance coverage is not by Medicare, Medicaid or any other form of government insurance?"]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>
80	Covered by health insurance	81	81
48	Plan through an employer	45	--
8	Plan you purchased yourself	9	--
13	Medicare	14	--
4	Medicaid	3	--
4	Other government program	4	--
3	Somewhere else	4	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	--
20	Not covered by health insurance	19	18
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

NO QUESTIONS 53 AND 54

QUESTIONS 55 AND 56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 57 AND 58

QUESTIONS 59 THROUGH 64 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY [N=662], ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/</u>	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--