



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

***NEWS Release***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Thursday, September 9, 2010**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
**Andrew Kohut, Director**  
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## More Hearing Bad News About Real Estate Values Perceptions of Economic News Remain Mixed

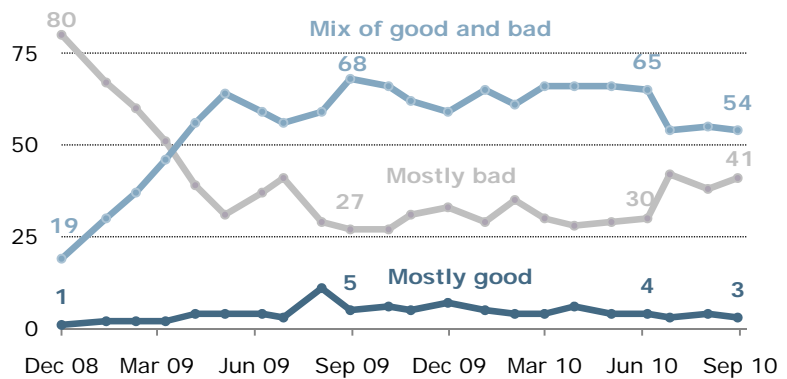
The public's perceptions of economic news remain mixed, but continue to be much more negative than they were earlier this year.

About half of the public (54%) says they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy these days, while 41% say they are hearing mostly bad news.

These views are little changed from July and August. From January through June, however, roughly two-thirds said they were hearing mixed news about the economy while about three-in-ten said the news was mostly bad. The percentage hearing good news has remained very low since late 2008; currently just 3% say they are hearing mostly good news about the economy.

The latest News Interest Index survey of 1,002 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press finds that the economy topped the public's news interest last week; 29% say they followed news about the economy more closely than other major stories. Hurricane Earl was the top story in terms of news coverage, accounting for 13% of the newshole, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). The economy accounted for 9% of coverage, putting it second on the PEJ list.

### No Change Seen in Tone of Economic News



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Perceptions of news about specific sectors of the economy also have changed little since early July – except for views of news about real estate values. Currently, 57% say news about real estate values is mostly bad, up from 49% in early July and 41% in early May.

## Views of Economic News Little Changed

Republicans are much more likely to say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy than are Democrats (56% vs. 31%), while independents fall in between (44%).

About six-in-ten Democrats (62%) say they are hearing mixed news about the economy, compared with 41% of Republicans and 53% of independents. Few in any group say they are hearing mostly good news. These views are little changed since August.

However, those who are tracking economic news very closely have a more negative perception of what they are hearing about the economy. Currently, about half (49%) of those tracking economic news very closely say the news is mostly bad, up from 41% last month. Opinions among those who are following this news less closely are essentially unchanged (35% mostly bad now, 36% in August).

### Partisan Differences in Perceptions of Economic News

<i>Recent economic news...</i>	<b>Mostly</b>			<b>DK</b>
	<b>good news</b>	<b>bad news</b>	<b>Mixed news</b>	
	%	%	%	
Total	3	41	54	2=100
Republican	2	56	41	1=100
Democrat	6	31	62	1=100
Independent	2	44	53	1=100
<i>Following economic news...</i>				
Very closely	2	49	48	1=100
Less closely	4	35	58	2=100

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Views of News about Jobs, Housing, Markets and Prices

Looking at different aspects of the economy, nearly six-in-ten (57%) say they have been hearing mostly bad news about real estate values. That is up from 49% in early July and 41% in May. About a third (32%) say they have been hearing mixed news, essentially unchanged from the 35% that said this in July but down from 42% in May.

The changing perceptions came amid reports about plunging housing sales in July – despite low mortgage interest rates. There are no significant differences among partisans on this question.

Views of other aspects of the economy show little change since July. Amid continuing high unemployment, 65% say they are hearing mostly bad news about the job situation. A similar percentage said this in July (64%), though that represented a jump from 52% in May.

Views of news about the financial markets and consumer prices are little changed in recent months: 40% say news about financial markets is mixed (43% say mostly bad) while 42% say news about consumer prices is mixed (35% say mostly bad).

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### Views of Housing News Turn More Negative

	Mostly Good News	Mostly Bad News	Mixed news	DK
	%	%	%	%
<i>Recent news about...</i>				
The job situation				
Sept. 2-6	5	65	28	2=100
July 1-5	5	64	30	1=100
May 7-10	9	52	38	2=100
Real estate values				
Sept 2-6	6	57	32	5=100
July 1-5	9	49	35	7=100
May 7-10	12	41	42	5=100
Financial markets				
Sept. 2-6	9	43	40	8=100
July 1-5	4	46	44	6=100
May 7-10	6	41	49	3=100
Food, consumer prices				
Sept. 2-6	12	35	42	10=100
July 1-5	9	32	48	10=100
May 7-10	8	37	46	9=100

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## Which Party Will Control the House?

About four-in-ten Americans (41%) say that – from what they have read and heard – they think it is more likely that Republicans will regain a majority of seats in the House than the Democrats will maintain their majority (34%) in the 2010 elections. Those numbers are essentially unchanged from when the question was first asked July 15-18. At that point, 40% said the GOP would take control and 33% said Democrats would hold on to enough seats to maintain their majority.

Among those following election news

very closely, more than twice as many say Republicans are more likely to gain control of the House than Democrats are to maintain their majority (63% vs. 30%). Among those following less closely, 35% see the Democrats holding on to their majority, 33% see the Republicans gaining control and 32% say they do not know.

Views among partisans are essentially unchanged since mid-July. About three-quarters of Republicans (74% in both surveys) say they think it is more likely that the GOP will regain a majority than the Democrats will hold on to theirs (8% now, 11% in July). On the other hand, Democrats are as likely as they were in July (61% in each survey) to say their party will hold on to its majority. Two-in-ten say Republicans are more likely to gain control, about the same as the 21% that said this in July.

Among independents, 41% say Republicans are more likely to gain control (44% said this in July), while 33% say Democrats are more likely to retain their majority (25% said this in July). More than quarter of independents (27%) say they do not know.

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### Democrats See Their Party Retaining House Control

*From what you've read and heard, what is more likely this fall?*

	<b>Democrats maintain majority %</b>	<b>Republicans regain majority %</b>	<b>Don't know %</b>
Total	34	41	25=100
Republican	8	74	17=100
Democrat	61	20	19=100
Independent	33	41	27=100

*Following election news...*

Very closely	30	63	7=100
Less Closely	35	33	32=100

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## The Week's News

News about the economy topped the public's news interest last week, but Americans also showed strong interest in Hurricane Earl and news about the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed news about Earl more closely than other top news as the hurricane threatened much of the east coast. Nearly three-in-ten (28%) say they followed news about Earl very closely.

According to PEJ, the media devoted 13% of coverage to the hurricane, which ultimately weakened to a tropical storm.

Another 17% say they followed news about Iraq and the combat troop withdrawal most closely; 36% say they followed this news very closely. News about the official end of combat operations in Iraq accounted for 8% of coverage.

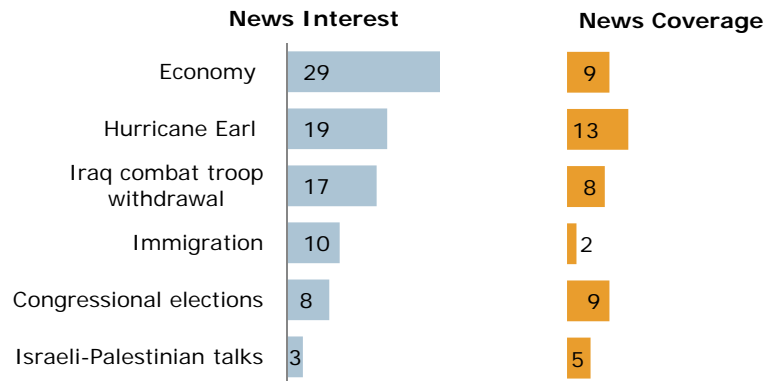
One-in-ten say they followed news about immigration issues most closely, while three-in-ten say they followed this news very closely. News about immigration amounted to 2% of the newshole.

Nearly one-in-ten (8%) say they followed news about this year's congressional elections most closely; 26% say they followed this news very closely. News about primaries and the fight for control of Congress accounted for 9% of coverage.

Just 3% say they followed news about the start of peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders most closely; 14% say they followed this news very closely. News about the talks in Washington made up 5% of coverage.

On three of last week's top stories, Republicans showed greater interest than Democrats or independents. Close to four-in-ten Republicans (39%) say they followed news about

### News Interest vs. Coverage



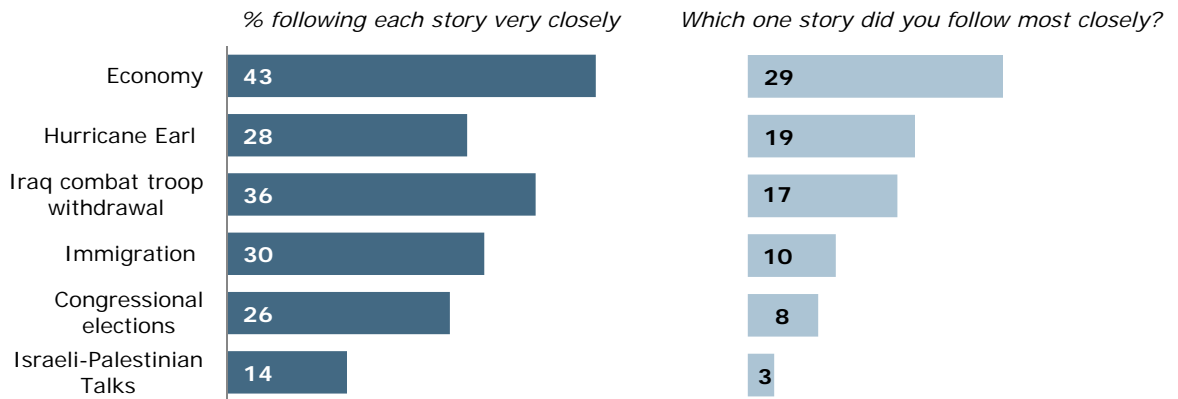
News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, September 2-6, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, August 30-September 5, 2010.

the 2010 elections very closely, compared with 23% of Democrats and 21% of independents.

More than half (54%) of Republicans say they followed news about the economy very closely, compared with 43% of Democrats and 40% of independents. And 42% of Republicans say they followed immigration news very closely, compared with 24% of Democrats and 33% of independents.

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### Measuring News Interest



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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 August 30-September 5, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected September 2-6, from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 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. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to [www.journalism.org](http://www.journalism.org).) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,002 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from September 2-6, 2010 (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 126 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. 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	1,002	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	264	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	317	7.0 percentage points
Independents	324	7.0 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 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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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to [www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org).

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**SEPTEMBER 2-6, 2010 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1002**

**ASK ALL:**

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

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August 7-10, 2009	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	*
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

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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	*
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	*
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. The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq					
September 2-6, 2010	36	37	15	11	*
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
August 26-29, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	25	36	24	15	1
August 19-22, 2010: <i>The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq</i>	31	33	19	17	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August 5-8, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	23	35	22	18	1
May 13-16, 2010	31	34	21	13	2
March 12-15, 2010	22	36	28	14	*
March 5-8, 2010	26	34	20	20	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	23	33	27	17	*
January 15-18, 2010	20	35	28	17	*
October 16-19, 2009	23	30	24	23	*
September 11-14, 2009	21	33	30	16	*
August 21-24, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
August 14-17, 2009	19	38	23	18	*
July 2-5, 2009: <i>U.S. troops withdrawing from Iraqi cities</i>	25	34	20	21	0
April 24-27, 2009: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	21	35	25	19	*
March 20-23, 2009	25	37	21	17	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010</i>	40	37	13	9	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	24	35	25	16	*
November 21-24, 2008	32	31	24	13	0
November 14-17, 2008	24	33	27	16	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	30	35	22	12	1
October 24-27, 2008	29	35	25	11	*
October 10-13, 2008	23	34	30	13	*
October 3-6, 2008	29	33	28	10	*
September 5-8, 2008	24	37	26	13	*
August 29-31, 2008	22	32	29	16	1
August 22-25, 2008	26	31	27	15	1
August 1-4, 2008	27	40	23	10	*
July 25-28, 2008	28	33	22	17	*
July 18-21, 2008	33	35	20	12	*
July 11-14, 2008	24	35	24	16	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	25	15	*
June 20-23, 2008	25	36	24	15	*
May 9-12, 2008	29	35	21	14	1
May 2-5, 2008	26	35	25	13	1
April 25-28, 2008	29	35	23	12	1
April 18-21, 2008	29	39	20	11	1
April 11-14, 2008	25	39	20	15	1
April 4-7, 2008	25	37	23	15	*
March 28-31, 2008	29	40	19	11	1
March 20-24, 2008	30	38	19	13	*
March 14-17, 2008	29	38	23	10	*
March 7-10, 2008	28	39	18	15	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	40	19	13	*
February 8-11, 2008	24	35	25	16	*
February 1-4, 2008	28	39	22	11	*
January 25-28, 2008	23	35	26	16	*
January 18-21, 2008	31	33	20	15	1
January 11-14, 2008	25	38	21	16	*
January 4-7, 2008	27	38	20	15	*
December 14-17, 2007	26	32	24	18	*
December 7-10, 2007	28	37	21	14	*
November 23-26, 2007	25	37	21	16	1
November 16-19, 2007	31	37	19	12	1
November 9-12, 2007	29	38	19	13	1
November 2-5, 2007	31	35	18	15	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
October 26-29, 2007	28	37	21	13	1
October 19-22, 2007	28	37	20	15	*
October 12-15, 2007	26	36	18	19	1
October 5-8, 2007	29	33	22	16	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	30	41	18	11	*
September 21-24, 2007	32	38	17	13	*
September 14-17, 2007	31	36	18	15	0
September 7-10, 2007	32	34	20	14	*
August 30 – September 2, 2007	31	34	18	16	1
August 24-27, 2007	34	36	18	12	*
August 17-20, 2007	33	34	18	15	*
August 10-13, 2007	36	37	14	13	*
August 3-6, 2007	29	40	19	12	*
July 27-30, 2007	28	36	19	16	1
July 20-23, 2007	28	34	21	16	1
July 13-16, 2007	25	41	17	16	1
July 6-9, 2007	36	34	18	12	*
June 29-July 2, 2007	32	35	19	13	1
June 22-25, 2007	30	36	18	15	1
June 15-18, 2007	30	37	20	13	*
June 8-11, 2007	32	38	15	14	1
June 1-4, 2007	30	36	20	13	1
May 24-27, 2007	33	36	18	12	1
May 18-21, 2007	36	34	15	14	1
May 11-14, 2007	30	34	18	17	1
May 4-7, 2007	38	37	15	10	*
April 27-30, 2007	27	35	21	16	1
April 20-23, 2007	28	35	22	15	*
April 12-16, 2007	34	33	20	13	*
April 5-9, 2007	33	39	16	11	1
March 30-April 2, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 23-March 26, 2007: <i>News about the current situation in Iraq</i>	31	38	18	12	1
March 16-19, 2007	34	34	17	15	*
March 9-12, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1
February 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*
February 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1
February 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*
February 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*
January 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*
January 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1
January 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1
January 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*
November 30-December 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*
April 11-16, 2003: <i>News about the war in Iraq</i>	47	40	10	2	1
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1
March 13-16, 2003: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq</i>	62	27	6	4	1
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1
Early September, 2002: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq</i>	48	29	15	6	2
c. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Washington September 2-6, 2010	14	24	27	35	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
January 18-21, 2008: <i>George Bush's recent trip to the Middle East and news about renewed efforts at peace in the region</i>	17	30	25	28	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about President Bush attending peace talks in Israel</i>	16	30	23	30	1
November 30-December 3, 2007: <i>The Middle East peace summit in Annapolis, MD</i>	11	25	24	39	1
June, 2003: <i>President Bush's summit meeting with world leaders and with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority</i>	20	36	24	19	1
January, 2001: <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	32	29	17	1
July, 2000: <i>The Middle East peace summit at Camp David</i>	15	30	24	31	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
November, 1998: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	18	33	28	19	2
Early October, 1998 (RVs): <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	40	27	12	*
September, 1995: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	11	32	29	27	1
Late September, 1993: <i>The peace accords between Israel and the PLO</i>	23	33	24	19	1
Early September, 1993: <i>Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho</i>	19	31	23	26	1
d. News about this year's congressional elections					
September 2-6, 2010	26	24	23	26	1
August 26-29, 2010	20	27	23	28	1
August 19-22, 2010	19	23	24	33	1
August 12-15, 2010	20	22	19	38	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 10-13, 2010	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*

<sup>1</sup> In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."  
In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."



## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
e. Hurricane Earl					
September 2-6, 2010	28	31	19	21	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
September 19-22, 2008: <i>(Hurricane Ike)</i>	42	37	16	5	*
September 12-15, 2008 <i>(Hurricane Ike)</i>	50	32	13	5	*
September 5-8, 2008: <i>Hanna (Southeast)</i>	34	37	19	10	0
September 5-8, 2008: <i>Gustav (Gulf coast)</i>	42	35	17	6	*
August 29-31, 2008: <i>Gustav (Gulf coast)</i>	33	30	23	14	*
July 25-28, 2008: <i>Dolly (Texas coast)</i>	19	29	29	23	*
November 2-5, 2007: <i>Noel (Bahamas and Cuba)</i>	11	22	31	35	1
September 7-10, 2007: <i>Felix and Henriette (Mexico and Central America)</i>	14	29	29	27	1
August 24-27, 2007: <i>Dean (Mexico and Caribbean)</i>	18	39	24	18	1
November, 2005: <i>Wilma (Mexico and Florida)</i>	34	37	21	8	*
September, 2005: <i>Katrina (New Orleans and Gulf Coast)</i>	70	21	7	2	*
July, 2005: <i>Recent hurricanes (Gulf coast)</i>	38	37	17	8	*
September, 2003: <i>Isabel</i>	47	28	15	10	*
Early October, 2002: <i>Recent hurricanes (Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana)</i>	38	34	18	10	*
f. The issue of immigration					
September 2-6, 2010	30	31	19	20	1
August 12-15, 2010	27	31	19	21	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect</i>	40	32	17	10	1
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law</i>	30	27	19	23	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	34	30	20	14	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>A new AZ law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants</i>	38	27	13	21	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.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.]**

29	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
19	Hurricane Earl
17	The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq
10	The issue of immigration
8	News about this year's Congressional elections
3	Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Washington
5	Some other story <b>(VOL.)</b>
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 From what you've read and heard about the Congressional elections this fall, what do you think is more likely to happen? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 2-6 <u>2010</u>		Jul 15-18 <u>2010</u>
34	The Democratic Party will maintain its majority in the House of Representatives	33
	<b>[OR]</b>	
41	The Republican Party will regain a majority in the House of Representatives	40
25	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	27

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about recent economic news ...

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

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

**ASK ALL:**

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

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The financial markets				
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	16	32	47	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	33	48	7
August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values				
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	12	44	38	6
March 5-8, 2010	8	45	42	5
January 8-11, 2010	11	43	40	5
October 30-November 2, 2009	13	43	37	6
August 7-10, 2009	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods				
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9
April 1-5, 2010	10	35	46	9
March 5-8, 2010	9	34	50	7
January 8-11, 2010	12	37	45	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	39	42	7
August 7-10, 2009	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation				
September 2-6, 2010	5	65	28	2
July 1-5, 2010	5	64	30	1
May 7-10, 2010	9	52	38	2
April 1-5, 2010	9	56	33	2
March 5-8, 2010	5	59	35	1
January 8-11, 2010	6	61	31	2
October 30-November 2, 2009	3	68	27	2
August 7-10, 2009	6	61	32	1
June 12-15, 2009	1	71	27	1