



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Most Also Hearing Bad News About Food Prices As Gas Prices Spike, More See Economic News as Bad

A growing awareness of bad news about gas prices has, at least for now, reversed Americans' more positive perceptions of economic news in recent months.

Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, up from 29% in February, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted March 3-6 among 1,006 adults. Just more than half (53%) say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy, down from 64% in February. Relatively small numbers each month report hearing mostly good news about the economy (6% in February, 7% in March).

Concern about prices –especially gas prices – appears to be a key factor in the more negative perceptions. Nine-in-ten (90%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about gas prices, up from an already high 77% in February. About six-in-ten (62%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about food and consumer prices in general. That's up from 49% one month ago.

On the other hand, public perceptions of news about the job situation are largely unchanged from last month, despite the March 4 release of a federal jobs report that showed significant job gains in February. Half (50%) say they have been hearing mostly bad news about the job situation, about the same as the 52% that said this in February.

Increasing Perceptions of Bad News on Economy and Prices

	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
<i>Economic news is...</i>	%	%
Mostly bad	29	38
Mostly good	6	7
Mix of good and bad	64	53
Don't know	1	2
	100	100
<i>Percent hearing mostly bad news about...</i>		
Gas prices	77	90
Food, consumer prices	49	62
The job situation	52	50
Real estate values	51	46
Financial markets	31	33

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 3-6, 2011.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

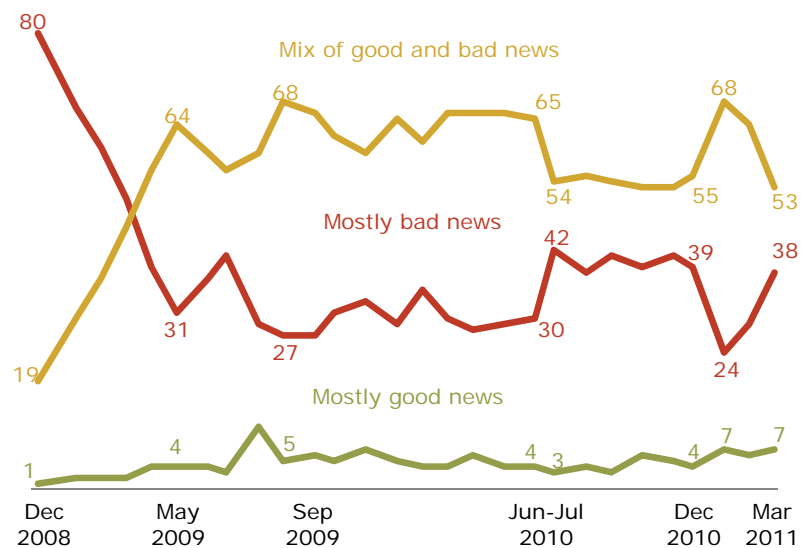
Those surveyed after the release of the federal unemployment report were less negative about job news than those surveyed just before its release; 47% of those surveyed March 4-6 say they are hearing mostly bad news about the jobs situation, while 55% of those contacted on March 3 – the day before the report was released – say the same. Meanwhile, perceptions of news about the overall economy did not shift significantly over the course of the survey period.

News about the unrest in Libya – which has had a significant impact on oil prices – topped the public's news interest last week; 23% say this was the news they followed more closely than any other story. Another 18% say they followed news about disputes between state governments and public employee unions most closely and 15% say they followed more general news about the economy that closely. Those same stories received the most coverage, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ).

In the first two months of 2011, the public saw more positive signs in economic news. In January, nearly seven-in-ten (68%) said they were hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy, up from 55% in December. Now perceptions are comparable to the latter half of 2010.

And those more negative perceptions cross partisan lines. More than four-in-ten Republicans (43%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, up from 32% in February. A third of Democrats (33%) say the same, up from 23%. Among independents, 39% say they are hearing mostly bad news. That's up from 28% one month earlier.

Views of Economic News Turn More Negative



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There also were comparable drops in those saying they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy.

Among Republicans, 50% now say this, down from 62% in February. Nearly six-in-ten Democrats (56%) agree, down from 69%, as well as 57% of independents, down from 67%.

More See Bad News on Prices, Little Change in Other Sectors

While more Americans now say they are hearing mostly bad news about gas and consumer prices, perceptions of news about other economic sectors have changed little since early February. For example, 46% say they are hearing mostly bad news about real estate values, not much different from the 51% that said this in February. Still, that is down sharply from the 62% that said this in December. The percent hearing a mix of good and bad news about this has been gradually increasing since December, when it stood at 28%. Currently, 36% say this.

Looking at financial markets, 33% say they are hearing mostly bad news, while 47% say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news. That is largely unchanged from February (31% mostly bad, 46% mix of good and bad).

Perceptions of news about food and consumer prices have turned more negative since last summer. Six-in-ten (62%) now say they are hearing mostly bad news about prices, compared with 41% in December and 32% last July. Nearly half (48%) said they were hearing a mix of good and bad news about consumer prices last July. That dropped to 39% in February and now stands at 26%.

The high percentages that say they are hearing

Impressions of News About Economic Sectors

<i>Recent news about...</i>	Mostly good news %	Mostly bad news %	Mixed news %	DK %
The job situation				
March 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3=100
Feb. 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2=100
Dec. 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1=100
Sept. 2-6, 2010	5	65	28	2=100
July 1-5, 2010	5	64	30	1=100
May 7-10, 2010	9	52	38	2=100
Real estate values				
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10=100
Feb. 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7=100
Dec. 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4=100
Sept 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5=100
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7=100
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5=100
Financial markets				
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8=100
Feb. 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6=100
Dec. 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4=100
Sept. 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8=100
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6=100
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3=100
Food, consumer prices				
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5=100
Feb. 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5=100
Dec. 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5=100
Sept. 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10=100
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10=100
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9=100
Gas Prices				
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2=100
Feb. 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 3-6, 2011.

mostly bad news about gas prices run across demographic and political groups. About nine-in-ten say this among Republicans (92%), Democrats (91%) and independents (89%).

Nearly all of those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more (96%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about gas prices, while nearly nine-in-ten (87%) of those with incomes of less than \$30,000 say the same.

The Week's News

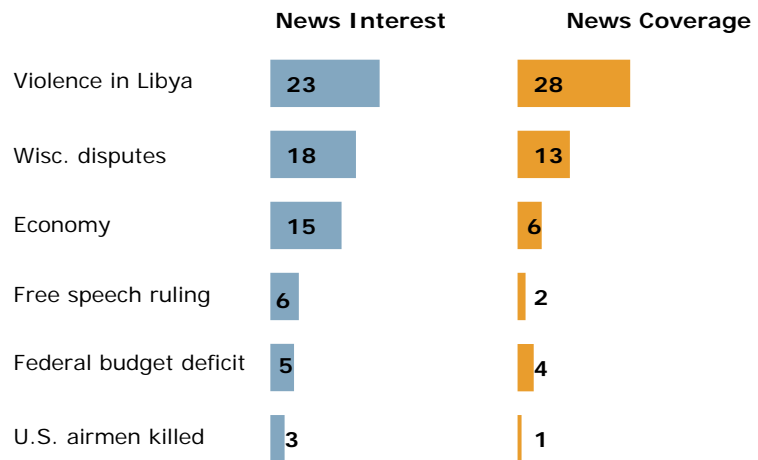
The public divided its attention last week between the ongoing violence in Libya and economic concerns at home. The latter includes various state budget battles and general economic news from around the nation. News coverage last week was largely in sync with the public's interests.

More than two-in-ten Americans (23%) say they followed news about the events in Libya most closely, making this the public's top

story last week. Libya shared the top spot one week earlier with related news about the impact of Mid-East turmoil on domestic oil prices. About three-in-ten (31%) say they followed news about Libya very closely, down slightly from one week earlier (38%). Coverage of the situation in Libya accounted for 28% of the newshole, according to PEJ.

Nearly two-in-ten (18%) say they followed news about the disputes in Wisconsin and other states between lawmakers and public employee unions most closely. The state budget conflicts accounted for 13% of coverage. About three-in-ten (29%) say they followed news about these stories very closely, down from 36% the previous week.

News Coverage vs. News Interest



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Mar. 3-6, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, Feb. 28-Mar. 6, 2011.

There is a significant age gap in attentiveness to this news. Among those 65 and older, 37% say they followed these stories very closely; few (12%) under 30 followed that closely. About half (51%) of young people did not follow this news at all closely.

News about U.S. economic conditions was the most closely followed story for 15% of the public. Coverage – highlighted by news about fuel prices and new federal unemployment data – accounted for 6% of the newshole. Close to four-in-ten (37%) followed economic news very closely, comparable to the levels of interest in early January and early February of this year, but down from the 49% that said they were following this news very closely one week earlier.

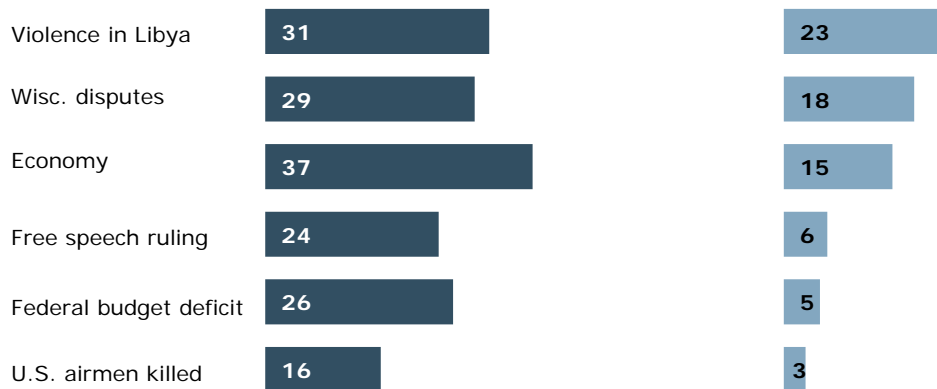
About one quarter (24%) say they very closely followed news about a Supreme Court decision that protects the free speech rights of protestors at military funerals. Interest was greater than in October, when 18% said they were very closely following the case about a Baptist Church that had organized anti-gay protests at the funerals of U.S. soldiers. The court's ruling last week was the most closely followed story for 6% of the public and received 2% of coverage.

The debate in Washington over the federal budget deficit was the most closely followed story for 5%. Last week, budget news centered on Congress approving a plan to temporarily avoid a government shutdown. About a quarter (26%) say they followed this news very closely. News about the budget debate accounted for 4% of coverage. More Republicans (33%) say they followed the budget debate very closely than either Democrats or independents (24% each).

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?



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Reports that two U.S. airmen were shot and killed by a gunman outside the airport in Frankfurt, Germany was the most closely followed story for 3% of the public. Just 16% tracked this story very closely. This news accounted for about 1% of the newshole.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected February 28-March 6, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected March 3-6, from a nationally representative sample of 1,006 adults.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 3-6, 2011 among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (674 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 144 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/detailed>.

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 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is 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 2010 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 sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1006	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	270	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	336	6.5 percentage points
Independents	296	7.0 percentage points

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

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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

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

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

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
MARCH 3-6, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1006

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>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2010	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1
December 16-19, 2010	39	31	14	15	2
December 9-12, 2010	39	30	14	16	1
December 2-5, 2010	52	28	11	9	*
November 18-21, 2010	46	31	11	11	*
November 11-14, 2010	38	30	15	16	1
November 4-7, 2010	44	32	11	13	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	39	34	11	15	1
October 21-24, 2010	41	29	14	14	1
October 14-17, 2010	42	33	12	13	*
October 7-10, 2010	36	33	15	15	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	43	35	10	11	1
September 23-26, 2010	43	34	13	9	1
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
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	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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	*
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	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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
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

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, 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. Disputes in Wisconsin and other states between state governments and public employee unions					
March 3-6, 2011	29	24	19	27	1
February 24-27, 2011	36	22	15	26	1
c. Growing violence in Libya					
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON					
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January 13-16, 2010: <i>The collapse of the Lebanese government</i>	4	11	20	64	*
May 20-23, 2010: <i>A government crackdown on protestors in Thailand</i>	7	14	27	52	1
July 31-August 3, 2009: <i>The Iranian government's crackdown on opposition protestors</i>	18	23	26	31	2
July 2-5, 2009: <i>News about controversy surrounding the recent Iranian election</i>	22	31	23	23	*
June 26-29, 2009: <i>The Iranian government's crackdown on election protestors</i>	31	27	18	23	1
June 19-22, 2009: <i>Protests in Iran over disputed elections</i>	28	28	21	22	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>Violent protests in Tibet against the Chinese government</i>	12	27	26	35	*
September 28-October 1, 2007: <i>Pro- democracy protests by Buddhist monks in Burma</i>	13	27	20	39	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
March 17-21, 2005: <i>Protests and political changes in Lebanon</i>	10	28	25	36	1
January 6-11, 2004: <i>Reports that Libya will end its weapons program and cooperate with UN inspectors</i>	14	30	28	27	1
October 6-8, 2000: <i>Civil unrest and rioting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia</i>	18	27	24	31	*
January 9-12, 1997: <i>Protests and demonstrations in Belgrade against Serbian President Milosevic</i>	7	14	29	49	1
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1
d. A Supreme Court ruling protecting free speech rights of protesters at military funerals					
March 3-6, 2011	24	22	17	36	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 7-10, 2010: <i>A case before the Supreme Court involving a fundamentalist pastor's anti-gay protests at military funerals</i>	18	22	22	37	1
January 22-25, 2010: <i>The Supreme Court overturning campaign finance limits on corporations and unions paying for ads about political candidates</i>	18	21	25	34	1
December, 2003: <i>The Supreme Court decision upholding campaign finance reform legislation</i>	8	17	28	45	2
July, 1990: <i>The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the Constitution</i>	24	39	25	11	1
July, 1989: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the burning of the U.S. flag</i>	51	32	12	4	1
May, 1992: <i>The Supreme Court's deliberations about the legality of restrictions on abortion in Pennsylvania</i>	28	34	24	13	1
May, 1989: <i>The Supreme Court's hearing of arguments in a Missouri abortion case</i>	25	29	21	24	1
e. U.S. airmen killed at an airport in Frankfurt, Germany					
March 3-6, 2011	16	22	19	42	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 7-10, 2007: <i>German officials stopping a terrorist plot to bomb several locations including a U.S. military base in Germany</i>	20	27	23	28	2
f. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit					
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1990	19	30	27	23	1
July, 1990: <i>President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit</i>	30	34	22	14	*
June, 1990: <i>Special meetings between the Bush administration and congressional leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit</i>	18	33	28	20	1
April, 1990: <i>The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit</i>	10	22	26	42	*

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.**]

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23	Growing violence in Libya
18	Disputes in Wisconsin and other states between state governments and public employee unions
15	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
6	A Supreme Court ruling protecting free speech rights of protesters at military funerals
5	Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit
3	U.S. airmen killed at an airport in Frankfurt, Germany
12	Some other story (VOL.)
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO PEW.3**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about recent economic news...

ASK ALL:

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?

	<u>Hearing mostly good news</u>	<u>Hearing mostly bad news</u>	<u>A mix of good and bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 3-6, 2011	7	38	53	2
February 3-6, 2011	6	29	64	1
January 6-9, 2011	7	24	68	1
December 2-5, 2010	4	39	55	1
November 11-14, 2010	5	41	53	2
October 7-10, 2010	6	39	53	2
September 2-6, 2010	3	41	54	2
August 5-8, 2010	4	38	55	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

PEW.4 CONTINUED...	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The financial markets				
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	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				
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7
December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	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				
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5
February 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5
December 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10

PEW.5 CONTINUED...	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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				
March 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3
February 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2
December 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1
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
e. Gas prices				
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3