

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001, 4:00 P.M.

Credit Crunch and Energy Costs Shadow Financial Outlook
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY SEEN AS RISING, BOOM BYPASSES POOR

Also Inside ...

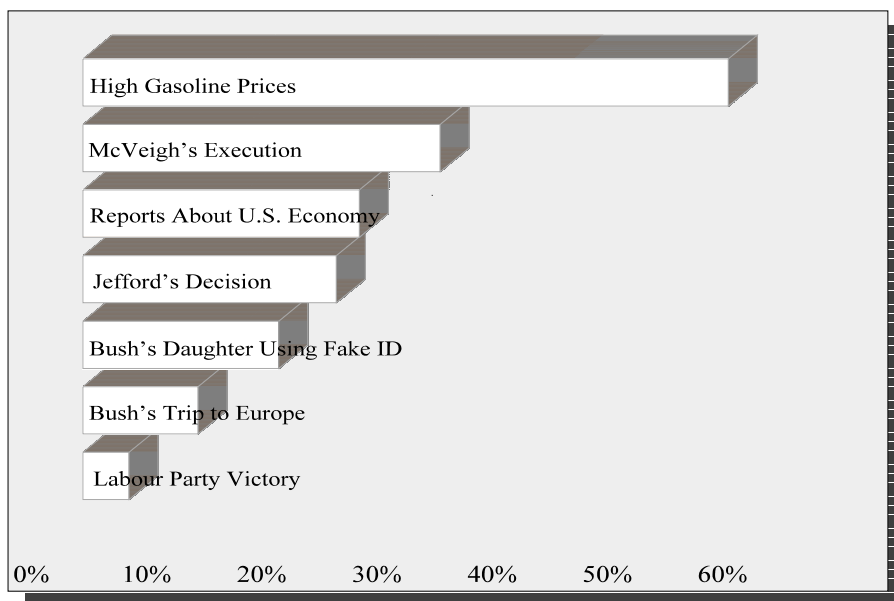
- W Bush Favors 'Haves.'
- W Deprivation as Widespread as in 70s.
- W Good Life More Affordable For Most.
- W Middle-Class Worries Trump Market Woes.
- W Public Gets C- in Economics 101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Carroll Doherty, Editor
Kimberly Parker, Research Director
Michael Dimock, Survey Director
Peyton Craighill & Nilanthi Samaranayake, Project Directors
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/293-3126
<http://www.people-press.org>

The Pew Research Center News Interest Index

Public Interest and Awareness of the News



June 2001

Credit Crunch and Energy Costs Shadow Financial Outlook

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY SEEN AS RISING, BOOM BYPASSES POOR

As the 90's economic boom fades into history, one of its legacies is the increasing number of Americans who see society as divided between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' More than four-in-ten (44%) now believe the nation is split along these lines, compared to just 26% who felt that way in 1988, when the previous decade's boom was coming to a close. Reinforcing the perception of growing economic stratification is significant evidence that the poor made only a marginal improvement in their financial well-being over the past decade, while middle- and upper-income Americans substantially bettered their lot in life.

Reports of deprivation — not having enough money to buy food, clothing or medical care — are as widespread today as they have been in the past three decades. People on the bottom third of the income scale are only slightly more satisfied with their ability to afford the necessities of life than they were in the early 1990's. At the same time, middle-income and affluent people are much more satisfied than they were then. Unlike the poor, they now say it is easier to afford housing, appliances, vacations and going out.

Still, the fizzling economy and potential for a new energy crisis have cooled the public's financial enthusiasm. Fewer Americans in all income classes rate their financial condition positively compared to 2000. Rising energy costs are often volunteered as a top problem *of any sort* facing families these days. This problem may be particularly acute for those with family incomes of less than \$50,000 a year, fully a third of whom reported occasions when they could not pay their utility bills this year. And 49% of people with family incomes of under \$30,000 a year recalled a time in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money for gasoline.¹

Inequality on the Rise

Are We a "Have/Have-Not" Society?

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK</u> |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | % | % | % |
| Current | 44 | 53 | 3=100 |
| Gallup: 1999 | 39 | 59 | 2=100 |
| Gallup: 1988 | 26 | 71 | 3=100 |
| CBS/NYT: 1984 | 31 | 61 | 8=100 |

Still Doing Without

Not Enough Money in Past Year for ...

| | <u>Food</u> | <u>Clothes</u> | <u>Health care</u> |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | % | % | % |
| Current | 16 | 21 | 27 |
| Gallup: 1998 | 11 | 18 | 22 |
| Gallup: 1989 | 13 | 17 | 21 |
| Gallup: 1987 | 15 | 19 | 21 |
| Gallup: 1984 | 20 | 26 | 25 |
| Gallup: 1976 | 14 | 19 | 15 |

¹ In addition, in May 2001 49% cited rising gasoline prices and 41% utility bills as a serious family problem. See "From News Interest to Lifestyles, Energy Takes Hold." Pew Research Center, May 24, 2001.

The record high level of consumer debt being carried by Americans is adding to their financial pressures. Compared to a comparable survey a decade ago, a larger percentage of respondents today say they owe more than they can afford. This is especially true for the middle and lower classes, who are also reeling from higher energy costs. More than a third of people with annual family incomes of under \$50,000 say they have more credit card and installment loan debt than they can afford, compared to just 7% of those with incomes of \$100,000 or more.

The poll finds affluent people — those with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or more — have been far less affected by the downturn in the stock market than poorer and middle class people have been by changes in the economy. A quarter of affluent Americans who own stock have cut back on vacation spending in response to the market slide. But many more people with lower incomes, who don't have stock portfolios, not only have put off vacations but also have delayed major purchases including new homes or home improvements.

These are the principal findings of the latest survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted among a nationwide survey of 1,200 adults from June 13-17. The survey finds that despite the public's growing economic concerns, a majority (57%) have not thought much about the tax rebate checks of up to \$600 they will be receiving later this year. Surprisingly, hard-pressed people with family incomes of \$30,000 annually or less are only marginally more likely to say they are anticipating the checks than those with incomes of at least \$75,000 (37% vs. 32%).

President Bush, whose approval ratings continue to slip amid growing worries about energy costs, appears to have made little progress in communicating his concerns for the poor. Almost as many people today (43%) think that Bush is mostly concerned about helping society's 'haves' as thought that way about former President Ronald Reagan in 1988 (49%). In another cautionary note for the administration, the survey finds more Americans now describing themselves as 'have-nots.'

| | The <u>Haves</u> % | The Have- <u>Not</u> % | Same/ <u>Neither</u> % | <u>DK</u> % |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| G.W. Bush | 43 | 4 | 42 | 11=100 |
| Ronald Reagan* | 49 | 4 | 41 | 6=100 |

* 1988 Gallup trend.

Finances Top Family Problem

Economic concerns are weighing on the minds of Americans these days. When asked in an open-ended format to name the biggest problem currently facing them and their families, most Americans (62%) cite financial concerns, and the proportion doing so is up significantly from the mid-1990s. In 1994, 56% named financial concerns first when asked about their biggest problem.

Today, fully 26% of Americans cite not having enough money to make ends meet as the biggest problem facing them and their families. Another 10% point to the high cost of living and housing. Escalating gas and fuel prices are also high on the list of public problems, with 9% volunteering this response. This marks the first time energy costs have made the list of problems facing American families.

Overall, Americans give a modest appraisal of their personal financial situations. Fewer than half (44%) say they are currently in excellent or good shape, while a majority (55%) say they are in only fair or poor shape. These ratings have fallen off somewhat since this time last year, when a slim majority (52%) said they were in excellent or good shape. The falloff since then has been sharpest among non-whites, young people, and those with annual incomes below \$20,000.

| | May <u>1992</u> | March <u>1994</u> | June <u>2000</u> | June <u>2001</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Own financial situation:</i> | % | % | % | % |
| Excellent/Good | 39 | 46 | 52 | 44 |
| Only fair/Poor | 60 | 53 | 46 | 55 |
| Don't know | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

In spite of this recent downward trend, personal financial ratings remain higher than they were in the early 1990s. In January 1992, only 36% of Americans rated their personal financial situation excellent or good, and fully 63% rated it fair or poor. There has been some improvement on this measure among middle-income Americans. But those at the lowest income level remain overwhelmingly dissatisfied with their own financial situation. In 1992, 14% of this group rated their personal financial situation as excellent or good, a figure that has risen slightly to 19% today.

Over that same period, the wealthiest Americans have grown more satisfied with their ability to afford both necessities and luxuries. Still, overall satisfaction with their personal finances has remained about where it was in 1992. Roughly three-quarters give their current financial situation an excellent or good rating.

Varying Degrees of Confidence

This month's survey shows a modest increase in those who expect their personal financial situation to improve over the next year — up from 57% in January to its current level of 63%. This parallels the recent fluctuation in consumer confidence reflected in other similar measures over the past several months.

More generally, two groups — the young and the rich — tend to be more optimistic than others that their financial situation will improve over the next year. More than eight-in-ten people under age 30 believe their financial situation will improve, compared to only 32% of those age 65 and older, who are more likely to be on a fixed retirement income. A majority of people in all income categories feel optimistic about their future finances, but those with the highest incomes are the most likely to say their finances will improve.

Deprivation Unchanged

Despite rising median incomes and only modest inflation over the past two decades, more than one-in-four Americans say there have been times during the last year when they did not have enough money to pay for health care their family needed, while 21% have not been able to buy needed clothing, and 16% say they have not had enough to buy food. These percentages remain as high as they were during the 1970s and 1980s.

Perhaps more important, this sense of deprivation tends to be concentrated in a relatively small segment of the population. If a person faces economic hardship in one area, he or she is likely to face it in others as well. Not surprisingly, income is the key factor. More than half of those in households earning under \$20,000 have faced times when they could not pay for health care, and over a third have struggled to buy food.

In particular, blacks, Hispanics and other minorities are also more likely to struggle with economic issues, even when compared to whites in the same income ranges. While 32% of whites earning less than \$30,000 annually have struggled with utility bills, as many as 54% of similarly situated minority households have faced such problems.

Aside from their income, there is one defining characteristic which unifies these financially strapped Americans, and that is their recognition of the precariousness of their position. When asked which label best describes their household, 15% of the public think of themselves as not of the professional, business or working class, but as “struggling families.” Minorities are twice as likely as whites, 27% to 13%, to choose this label. Nearly two-thirds of self-described struggling families report being unable to afford necessary health care or medical costs, and roughly as many have not been able to pay for gasoline, utilities, and clothing. More than half say they have faced times within the last year when they have not been able to pay for food or rent.

| “Struggling” Families | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| --- Self-described “Class” --- | | | |
| | <u>Struggling</u> | <u>Working</u> | <u>Professional/ Business</u> |
| <i>Not enough to pay for:</i> | % | % | % |
| Medical care | 64 | 27 | 10 |
| Gasoline | 67 | 22 | 8 |
| Utilities | 60 | 21 | 8 |
| Clothing | 62 | 18 | 6 |
| Home/Rent | 52 | 14 | 6 |
| Food | 54 | 11 | 4 |
| <i>NET: Trouble affording ...</i> | | | |
| No items | 11 | 54 | 80 |
| Any one item | 7 | 17 | 11 |
| Two or more items | <u>82</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>9</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Number of cases</i> | (164) | (536) | (396) |

Not surprisingly, deprivation of this sort is rare at the other end of the economic spectrum. While 82% of those who think of themselves as struggling have faced two or more of these economic crises, the same proportion of those who think of themselves as members of the professional or business classes have faced *none* of these difficulties.

Greater Polarization

While middle-class and affluent Americans have become increasingly comfortable over the past decade — with larger percentages satisfied with the quality of life they can afford — poorer Americans remain largely dissatisfied. This increasing polarization affects both the way people live their lives and their perceptions of national economic conditions.

Since 1992, the proportion of Americans saying it is fairly easy for them to afford the things they want has risen from 39% to 50%. But among those in the lowest income category, that percentage has grown only two points, from 24% in 1992 to 26% today. By contrast, people at the

| Affording the Good Life | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>1992</u> | <u>2001</u> |
| <i>Easy to afford things they want:</i> | % | % |
| Total | 39 | 50 |
| Low income | 24 | 26 |
| Middle | 33 | 51 |
| Upper middle | 42 | 64 |
| High income | 65 | 81 |

top of the economic ladder are feeling considerably more comfortable with what they can afford. In 1992, roughly 65% of the wealthiest Americans said it was easy for them to afford the things in life that they wanted; 81% say so today.²

This growing disparity between rich and poor is seen even more clearly in the public's satisfaction with their ability to afford housing, cars, furnishings and other items. In 1992, few Americans at any income level were very satisfied with the housing, cars, furnishings, vacations and entertainment that they could afford. For example, in 1992 just 5% of low income respondents were very satisfied with the car they could afford, compared to 11% of those in the top fifth of incomes.

Today, this disparity is much greater. While the poorest third remains almost as dissatisfied as they were in 1992, the affluent are much happier with their standard of living; fully 31% are very satisfied with the car they can afford. This same pattern holds for virtually all major purchases including housing, major home furnishings, vacations, and even the amount of money families have for entertainment.

| A Widening Satisfaction Gap | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | ---- 1992 ---- | | | | -----2001 ---- | | | |
| | <i>Household Income</i> | | | | <i>Household Income</i> | | | |
| | Under \$20K | \$20- \$30K | \$30- \$50K | Over \$50K | Under \$30K | \$30- \$50K | \$50- \$75K | Over \$75K |
| <i>Housing</i> | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very Satisfied | 8 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 20 | 24 | 42 |
| Total Satisfied | 69 | 77 | 82 | 87 | 65 | 85 | 84 | 91 |
| <i>Car</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 5 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 32 |
| Total Satisfied | 53 | 61 | 66 | 80 | 53 | 69 | 79 | 89 |
| <i>Furnishings</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 31 |
| Total Satisfied | 33 | 45 | 52 | 70 | 45 | 64 | 71 | 87 |
| <i>Vacations</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 21 |
| Total Satisfied | 20 | 34 | 40 | 58 | 24 | 48 | 60 | 72 |
| <i>Going Out</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Very Satisfied | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 27 |
| Total Satisfied | 31 | 52 | 57 | 71 | 41 | 67 | 75 | 85 |

² To create comparable income categories for 1992 and 2001, figures were adjusted to account for rising incomes. "Low income" households are defined as those on roughly the bottom-third of the income range, which corresponds to those earning less than \$20,000 in 1992 and less than \$30,000 in 2001. "High income" households are defined as those on roughly the top-20% of the income range, which corresponds to those earning \$50,000 or more in 1992 and \$75,000 or more in 2001. Middle and upper middle income categories are also adjusted accordingly. See box above.

Rising Debt

Since 1992, the proportion of annual income owed in consumer debt has risen substantially. Increasingly, Americans are feeling overextended — 28% of Americans say they owe more than they can afford on credit cards and other non-mortgage related debts, up from 21% in 1992.

The impact of this growing debt burden has been greatest on lower income families. In 1992, Americans in the lowest third of the income range were no more likely than middle- and upper-middle income households to feel overextended — just under one-fourth of all of these groups said they owed more than they could afford.

| | <i>Owing More than They Can Afford</i> | |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| | <u>1992</u> | <u>2001</u> |
| | % | % |
| Total | 21 | 28 |
| Low income | 24 | 38 |
| Middle | 21 | 31 |
| Upper middle | 23 | 25 |
| High income | 14 | 13 |

Since then, there has been virtually no change in perceptions of affluent and upper middle-class families in terms of their indebtedness, but the proportion of mid- to low-income households who are overextended has risen dramatically. Fully 31% of middle-income households (\$30,000-\$50,000) say they owe more than they can afford, and nearly four-in-ten (38%) low-income households (under \$30,000) say they are overextended.

That sense is particularly prevalent among women, minorities and younger people with modest incomes. Roughly 40% of women in households earning under \$50,000 feel overextended, compared to just 28% of similarly situated men. Minorities in households earning under \$30,000 are nearly twice as likely as whites earning the same to say they owe more than they can afford (56% to 30%). And while 49% of Americans under 50 who earn less than \$30,000 say they owe more than they can afford, just 24% of those age 50 and older in the same income bracket say the same.

The rising debt in low-to-middle income households is affecting overall economic perceptions. Middle-income households (earning between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually) who feel overextended are nearly twice as likely as those who do not to rate their economic situation as fair or poor (79% to 42%), and are much more likely to have cut back on major purchases as a result of the weaker economic climate. But these same people have not lost all hope. Fully three-quarters of the middle-income respondents who feel they owe more than they can afford think their financial situation will improve over the next year.

Economic Conditions In the Eye of the Beholder

Not surprisingly, income is a major factor in how people view the economy. Those at the bottom of the economic ladder see much more inflation, fewer jobs, a weaker business environment, and overall are less satisfied with the state of the nation than their more affluent counterparts. These differences in the perceptions of the rich and poor are greater than in the past.

Overall, 63% of Americans say that prices have been going up a lot over the last five years. Lower-income Americans, particularly those age 50 and older, are by far the most likely to see rising prices. Fully three-quarters of people in households earning less than \$30,000 perceive high inflation, compared to less than half of those in households earning \$75,000 and over. Within that lowest income category, 84% of those age 50 and older say prices have been rising a lot, compared to 68% of those under age 50.

| Are Prices Going Up? | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| --- Household Income --- | | | | |
| | Under <u>\$30K</u> | \$30- <u>50K</u> | \$50- <u>75K</u> | <u>\$75K+</u> |
| <i>Prices up:</i> | % | % | % | % |
| A lot | 75 | 61 | 58 | 46 |
| A little | 21 | 35 | 36 | 44 |
| Not much at all | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| Don't know | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Women in all income categories are significantly more sensitive to rising prices than are men. Fully 80% of women in households earning under \$30,000 think inflation has been severe over the past five years, compared to 68% of similarly situated men. Even at the highest end — households earning \$75,000 and over — 58% of women feel that prices have gone up a lot, compared to 39% of men.

Split Over Jobs Picture

Similarly, judgments about jobs are more income-based now than they were a decade ago. Overall, the public recognizes that the jobs picture has brightened considerably since 1992. Fully 42% of Americans now say there are plenty of jobs available in their community, up from just 12% in January 1992. But just 30% of those with annual household incomes under \$30,000 say jobs are plentiful, while 57% say jobs are difficult to find in their community. By contrast, more than six-in-ten (61%) of those making more than \$75,000 a year say jobs are plentiful in their area.

This income gap did not exist in 1992. Those in the lowest income group and those in the highest income group had virtually identical perceptions of the job situation in their communities. Roughly eight-in-ten of those with annual incomes under \$20,000 said jobs were hard to find. A similar proportion of those making \$50,000 or more a year agreed.

Job Situation Much Improved for Wealthy

| <i>Job situation in your community:</i> | -----1992----- | | | | -----2001----- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | <i>Household Income</i> | | | | <i>Household Income</i> | | | |
| | Under \$20K | \$20K- 30K | \$30K- 50K | \$50K+ | Under \$30K | \$30K- 50K | \$50K- 75K | \$75K+ |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Plenty of jobs | 10 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 30 | 41 | 52 | 61 |
| Jobs hard to find | 82 | 80 | 78 | 78 | 57 | 47 | 35 | 27 |
| Depends (VOL) | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 4 |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>8</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Currently, those living in the suburbs are among the most likely to say jobs are easy to come by, while those living in small towns and rural areas are less upbeat. Better than half of suburban residents (56%) say jobs are widely available, compared to 36% and 33%, respectively, of those in small towns in rural areas.

Business Climate Only Fair

Americans give a lukewarm assessment of the nation's current business climate. Less than half (46%) rate business conditions in their community as excellent or good. Slightly more (51%) say their local businesses are in only fair shape or poor shape. This does represent an improvement from 1992, when roughly three-in-ten said businesses in their community were in excellent or good shape, and fully two-thirds said they were in only fair or poor shape.

Again, these perceptions are very much shaped by income level. Nearly two-thirds of those with annual incomes of \$75,000 and over say business conditions in their community are excellent or good. This compares with only about a third of those making under \$30,000. In 1992, most Americans shared a gloomy assessment of business conditions, regardless of income level.

Differing Perceptions of Business Conditions

| <i>Business conditions in your community:</i> | --- Household Income --- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | Under \$30K | \$30K- 50K | \$50K- 75K | \$75K+ |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Excellent/Good | 33 | 46 | 54 | 65 |
| Only fair/Poor | 63 | 51 | 46 | 33 |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> | * | <u>2</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

For the most part, Americans are finding real estate to be relatively affordable these days, and this is one area in which the rich and the poor agree. A majority of all Americans (57%) say housing is very or fairly affordable in their community. Fewer than four-in-ten (37%) say housing is not too affordable or not at all affordable. Those with household incomes under \$30,000 a year are just as likely as those making \$75,000 and over a year to consider their local housing market

affordable (53% in each group). Middle-income Americans are slightly more likely than either group to find the housing in their community to be affordable (63%).

There are significant regional differences on this question, partly reflecting the expensive real estate market in California. Those living in the West are much more likely than those living in the South or the Midwest to say housing is hard to afford in their area. More than half (54%) of Westerners say real estate in their area is not affordable, with a quarter (24%) stating it is not at all affordable.

| | Mid- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | <u>East</u> | <u>west</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
| <i>Housing in your community:</i> | % | % | % | % |
| Very affordable | 8 | 10 | 11 | 5 |
| Fairly affordable | 44 | 52 | 54 | 37 |
| Not too affordable | 29 | 25 | 21 | 30 |
| Not at all affordable | 13 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| Don't know | <u>6</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>4</u> |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Nearly Half Own Stock

Not surprisingly, given the market downturn, there has not been an influx of new investors into stocks and mutual funds over the past year. If anything, the proportion who say they own stock or shares in mutual funds is down slightly since April 2000, from 49% to 45%. The number of active traders — those who buy stock through a broker or online account — is largely unchanged.

Clearly, it has been a bad time for investors, with 59% reporting that the value of their portfolio has declined over the past year, and nearly a third (32%) saying their investments have lost a lot of value. Just 23% say their portfolios have gained ground, with a fortunate 3% reaping sizable profits.

Impact of the Downturn

The market's decline has had the greatest impact on investors' vacation travel and retirement plans. Three-in-ten say they have cut back on vacations because of the stock market fluctuations and a quarter say they have adjusted retirement plans.

For all of the media attention on struggling investors, however, the overall economic slump has affected non-stock owners more seriously than the market decline has affected investors. While 30% of investors changed vacation plans because of the market's decline, nearly half (48%) of those who don't own stock say they have cut back on their vacation plans because of the slowing economy.

| | --- Stock Owners --- | | | Non-Stock Owners |
|---|----------------------|---------|-------|------------------|
| | | Value | Value | |
| | All | Up/Same | Down | |
| <i>Effects:</i> | % | % | % | % |
| Cut back vacation spending | 30 | 23 | 35 | 48 |
| Adjust retirement plans | 25 | 20 | 28 | 21 |
| Delay buying new car | 18 | 16 | 20 | 33 |
| Delay buying new home/ making improvements | 18 | 13 | 21 | 33 |
| Delay buying major home appliance | 17 | 13 | 20 | 34 |

* Stock owners were asked about effects of the stock market; Non-stock owners were asked about the effects of the economy.

The only area in which stock owners have felt a greater impact from the market downturn is in their retirement plans, and there only slightly. A quarter of investors have adjusted their retirement plans in the wake of the market decline, compared to 21% of non-investors who changed their retirement plans because of the economy.

Surprisingly, non-stock owners are feeling the impact of the slowing economy even more than those investors who have lost money in the market. Again, the only exception is retirement plans, which shows the extent to which investors, using 401(k)s and other accounts, have put their retirement funds into the market.

Economic Knowledge Varies

The public has a fairly good sense of the economic information that hits close to home, but is generally uninformed when it comes to more esoteric economic concepts. The vast majority of Americans have a clear understanding of the impact of changes in interest rates on the economy — 85% are aware that the government cuts interest rates, at least in part, to encourage consumers to spend more.

About half (51%) know that the minimum wage is about \$5 an hour; the current national minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. Another 28% believe the minimum wage is about \$6. Although that response overstates the level of the minimum wage, it shows that nearly eight-in-ten (79%) are reasonably well informed on this point.

Beyond that, however, the public's understanding of economics is murkier. About four-in-ten (39%) know that when unemployment falls wages tend to go up. A smaller percentage (23%) are aware that the typical family income is about \$40,000 a year, but as with the minimum wage, this somewhat understates the number who have broad familiarity with this fact. Another 38% say that the typical family income is about \$30,000 annually, while 13% believe it is about \$50,000.

Fiscal policy is the public's weakest area, as few are aware of the relative tax burden of American citizens and whether the government is running a surplus or deficit. Just 22% know that Americans pay less in taxes than citizens of Western Europe; nearly twice as many (42%) believe, incorrectly, that people in this country have a greater tax burden.

Even fewer (19%) know that the government is taking in more in revenues than it is spending. Indeed, many more people (46%) still believe that the government is spending more than it is taking in. Despite the budget surplus, the proportion answering this question incorrectly has risen since February 2000 when 34% wrongly believed that the government was running a deficit.

Education, Income Matters

Well-educated, high-income Americans tend to be most knowledgeable about economic matters. For example, a plurality of college graduates (43%) is aware that Western Europeans pay more in taxes than Americans, while 36% say Americans pay more. That is the only educational category in which a plurality answered this question correctly.

| What They Know ... | |
|---|-----------|
| Interest rate cuts ... | % |
| Increase consumer spending (<i>correct</i>) | 85 |
| Decrease consumer spending | 9 |
| Neither/Don't know | <u>6</u> |
| | 100 |
| The current minimum wage is ... | |
| Less than \$5.00 | 4 |
| About \$5.00 (<i>correct \$5.15</i>) | 51 |
| About \$6.00 | 28 |
| About \$7.00 or more | 11 |
| Don't know | <u>6</u> |
| | 100 |
| What They Don't ... | |
| When unemployment is low ... | |
| Wages usually go up (<i>correct</i>) | 39 |
| Wages usually go down | 37 |
| Neither/Depends/Don't know | <u>24</u> |
| | 100 |
| The annual household income is ... | |
| About \$20,000 | 17 |
| About \$30,000 | 38 |
| About \$40,000 (<i>correct median \$40,816</i>) | 23 |
| About \$50,000 | 13 |
| \$75,000 or more | 4 |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |
| | 100 |
| Compared to Western Europeans, Americans pay ... | |
| Less in taxes (<i>correct</i>) | 22 |
| More in taxes | 42 |
| No difference | 9 |
| Don't know | <u>27</u> |
| | 100 |
| The Federal government is spending ... | |
| Less than it's taking in (<i>correct</i>) | 19 |
| More than it's taking in | 46 |
| About equal/Don't know | <u>35</u> |
| | 100 |

About one-third (32%) of those with annual family incomes of at least \$75,000 correctly answered the budget surplus question, as did 29% of college graduates. Still, pluralities in both groups (42% of those with family incomes of at least \$75,000, 37% of college graduates) think that the government is spending more than it is taking in. Among those with less education and lower incomes, this belief is more prevalent; a near majority (49%) of those with less than a college degree say the government is still running a deficit, compared to 15% who are aware of the surplus.

But this pattern does not hold for the minimum wage. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) of those with family incomes of less than \$20,000 know the level of the minimum wage, compared to 42% of those with family incomes of at least \$75,000.

Political Knowledge

A majority of Americans (56%) are aware that, with the defection of Sen. James Jeffords from the Republican Party in May, Democrats now control the Senate. Just 12% still think that the GOP controls the Senate. Not surprisingly, those who followed the Jeffords story very closely were best informed about which party controls the Senate, with nine-in-ten (91%) answering this question correctly.

But the unexpected shift in Senate control appears to have confused many people about which party has a majority in the House. People are almost evenly divided on this question, with 35% unable to come up with an answer, 34% saying the Democrats are in charge, and just 31% correctly identifying the Republicans. In the past, the public has had a better grasp of which party controls the House. In August 1999, more than half (55%) of Americans correctly identified the Republicans as the majority party.

Gas Prices Top News Story Again

For the second consecutive month, gas prices were the most closely followed news story, with 56% of the public following the story very closely. Interest was highest in rural areas (61%) and in the Midwest (62%). In May, 61% followed this story very closely.

The execution of Timothy McVeigh was followed very closely by 31% of the public, which is about the same proportion that paid very close attention to the delay in McVeigh's execution last month. About a quarter of Americans (24%) followed reports on the U.S. economy very closely. This percentage is down from the 34% who tracked this story very closely in May.

About one-in-five Americans (21%) paid very close attention to Jeffords' decision to leave the Republican Party. Liberal Democrats were more likely than conservative Republicans to follow this story (37%-24%). Less than one-in-five (17%) paid very close attention to stories about President Bush's daughter using a fake ID to buy alcohol.

Only 10% of Americans said they paid very close attention to George W. Bush's trip to Europe, with another 25% following this story fairly closely. Interest in Bush's trip was less than for those of his predecessors — about four-in-ten paid at least fairly close attention to former President Clinton's visits to China and Africa (42% and 43%, respectively).

Bush's father attracted considerable public interest for his trips to Colombia and Malta. More than six-in-ten (62%) paid at least some attention to former President Bush's 1990 visit to Colombia for a drug summit, and 55% closely followed Bush's summit on Malta in 1989 with Mikhail Gorbachev.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

| | High Gasoline <u>Prices</u> % | McVeigh's <u>Execution</u> % | Reports About U.S. <u>Economy</u> % | Jefford's <u>Decision</u> % | Bush's Daughter Using <u>Fake ID</u> % | Bush's Trip to <u>Europe</u> % | Labour Party <u>Victory</u> % | (N) |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--------|
| Total | 56 | 31 | 24 | 22 | 17 | 10 | 4 | (1200) |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 55 | 30 | 28 | 24 | 14 | 11 | 4 | (576) |
| Female | 57 | 31 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 10 | 4 | (624) |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 56 | 29 | 23 | 22 | 15 | 10 | 4 | (935) |
| Non-white | 60 | 38 | 27 | 20 | 25 | 12 | 4 | (241) |
| Black | 62 | 35 | 26 | 22 | 28 | 12 | 5 | (159) |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 55 | 34 | 12 | 9 | 16 | 7 | 1 | (231) |
| 30-49 | 55 | 30 | 25 | 19 | 15 | 9 | 4 | (469) |
| 50+ | 58 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 20 | 14 | 5 | (480) |
| Education | | | | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 51 | 29 | 34 | 38 | 16 | 15 | 6 | (357) |
| Some College | 58 | 34 | 26 | 26 | 16 | 10 | 3 | (300) |
| H.S. Grad. | 57 | 31 | 20 | 13 | 17 | 8 | 4 | (397) |
| <H.S. Grad | 60 | 29 | 14 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 2 | (136) |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| East | 53 | 34 | 24 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 4 | (243) |
| Midwest | 62 | 29 | 24 | 21 | 14 | 10 | 3 | (288) |
| South | 55 | 32 | 27 | 21 | 18 | 10 | 4 | (432) |
| West | 54 | 28 | 19 | 25 | 18 | 11 | 4 | (237) |
| Party ID | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 57 | 33 | 26 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 3 | (317) |
| Democrat | 57 | 34 | 24 | 23 | 20 | 10 | 4 | (473) |
| Independent | 56 | 28 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 10 | 6 | (323) |
| Internet User | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 57 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 17 | 11 | 3 | (764) |
| No | 54 | 28 | 22 | 16 | 17 | 8 | 5 | (436) |

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

STATE OF THE NATION

| | --- January 2001 --- | | | --- June 2001 --- | | | Change in <u>Satisfied</u> | <u>(N)</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | <u>Satisfied</u> | <u>Dissatisfied</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Satisfied</u> | <u>Dissatisfied</u> | <u>DK</u> | | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | | |
| Total | 55 | 41 | 4=100 | 43 | 52 | 5=100 | -12 | (1200) |
| Sex | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 60 | 37 | 3 | 49 | 46 | 5 | -11 | (576) |
| Female | 51 | 45 | 4 | 38 | 57 | 5 | -13 | (624) |
| Race | | | | | | | | |
| White | 55 | 41 | 4 | 46 | 49 | 5 | -9 | (935) |
| Non-white | 52 | 44 | 4 | 32 | 62 | 6 | -20 | (241) |
| Black | 45 | 52 | 3 | 30 | 65 | 5 | -15 | (159) |
| Hispanic* | 57 | 39 | 4 | 44 | 51 | 5 | -13 | (100) |
| Race and Sex | | | | | | | | |
| White Men | 60 | 37 | 3 | 52 | 43 | 5 | -8 | (456) |
| White Women | 52 | 44 | 4 | 39 | 55 | 6 | -13 | (479) |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 61 | 36 | 3 | 44 | 51 | 5 | -17 | (231) |
| 30-49 | 56 | 40 | 4 | 46 | 50 | 4 | -10 | (469) |
| 50-64 | 47 | 49 | 4 | 36 | 59 | 5 | -11 | (273) |
| 65+ | 55 | 41 | 4 | 45 | 46 | 9 | -10 | (207) |
| Sex and Age | | | | | | | | |
| Men under 50 | 62 | 35 | 3 | 51 | 46 | 3 | -11 | (347) |
| Women under 50 | 42 | 3 | 40 | 55 | 5 | -15 | (353) | |
| Men 50+ | 54 | 42 | 4 | 46 | 47 | 7 | -8 | (219) |
| Women 50+ | 47 | 48 | 5 | 35 | 59 | 6 | -12 | (261) |
| Education | | | | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 63 | 34 | 3 | 56 | 37 | 7 | -7 | (357) |
| Some College | 59 | 37 | 4 | 43 | 54 | 3 | -16 | (300) |
| High School Grad. | 53 | 43 | 4 | 41 | 54 | 5 | -12 | (397) |
| <H.S. Grad. | 41 | 55 | 4 | 29 | 64 | 7 | -12 | (136) |
| Family Income | | | | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 67 | 31 | 2 | 58 | 39 | 3 | -9 | (199) |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 58 | 38 | 4 | 55 | 42 | 3 | -3 | (201) |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 52 | 44 | 4 | 39 | 56 | 5 | -13 | (274) |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 57 | 39 | 4 | 38 | 58 | 4 | -19 | (160) |
| <\$20,000 | 47 | 49 | 4 | 28 | 65 | 7 | -19 | (205) |

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: I'd like your views on the state of the nation. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

Continued ...

| | --- January 2001 --- | | | --- June 2001 --- | | | Change in Satisfied | (N) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|-------|---------------------|--------|
| | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | DK | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | DK | | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | | |
| Total | 55 | 41 | 4=100 | 43 | 52 | 5=100 | -12 | (1200) |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| East | 60 | 36 | 4 | 45 | 49 | 6 | -15 | (243) |
| Midwest | 57 | 38 | 5 | 44 | 51 | 5 | -13 | (288) |
| South | 51 | 45 | 4 | 43 | 52 | 5 | -8 | (432) |
| West | 54 | 44 | 2 | 41 | 54 | 5 | -13 | (237) |
| Religious Affiliation | | | | | | | | |
| Total White Protestant | 50 | 46 | 4 | 44 | 50 | 6 | -6 | (504) |
| White Protestant Evangelical | 43 | 53 | 4 | 42 | 54 | 4 | -1 | (242) |
| White Prot. Non-Evangelical | 58 | 38 | 4 | 47 | 46 | 7 | -11 | (262) |
| White Catholic | 66 | 32 | 2 | 49 | 47 | 4 | -17 | (212) |
| Secular | 52 | 45 | 3 | 45 | 50 | 5 | -7 | (129) |
| Community Size | | | | | | | | |
| Large City | 57 | 40 | 3 | 42 | 53 | 5 | -15 | (247) |
| Suburb | 57 | 39 | 4 | 49 | 47 | 4 | -8 | (288) |
| Small City/Town | 56 | 40 | 4 | 40 | 54 | 6 | -16 | (428) |
| Rural Area | 49 | 48 | 3 | 46 | 51 | 3 | -3 | (213) |
| Party ID | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 45 | 52 | 3 | 58 | 37 | 5 | +13 | (317) |
| Democrat | 63 | 34 | 3 | 35 | 60 | 5 | -28 | (473) |
| Independent | 58 | 38 | 4 | 42 | 54 | 4 | -16 | (323) |
| Party and Ideology | | | | | | | | |
| Conservative Republican | 40 | 57 | 3 | 59 | 36 | 5 | +19 | (205) |
| Moderate/Liberal Republican | 53 | 45 | 2 | 58 | 38 | 4 | +5 | (102) |
| Conservative/Moderate Democrat | 60 | 38 | 2 | 37 | 58 | 5 | -23 | (308) |
| Liberal Democrat | 70 | 26 | 4 | 32 | 64 | 4 | -38 | (140) |
| Bush Approval | | | | | | | | |
| Approve | n/a | n/a | n/a | 57 | 40 | 3 | n/a | (592) |
| Disapprove | n/a | n/a | n/a | 26 | 70 | 4 | n/a | (412) |
| 2000 Presidential Vote | | | | | | | | |
| Bush | n/a | n/a | n/a | 58 | 38 | 4 | n/a | (359) |
| Gore | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 59 | 4 | n/a | (386) |
| Marital Status | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 55 | 41 | 4 | 46 | 49 | 5 | -9 | (595) |
| Unmarried | 55 | 41 | 4 | 40 | 55 | 5 | -15 | (593) |
| Parental Status | | | | | | | | |
| Parent | 56 | 42 | 2 | 44 | 52 | 4 | -12 | (397) |
| Non-Parent | 54 | 41 | 5 | 43 | 51 | 6 | -11 | (794) |
| Labor Union | | | | | | | | |
| Union Household | 55 | 43 | 2 | 33 | 63 | 4 | -22 | (185) |
| Non-Union Household | 55 | 41 | 4 | 45 | 50 | 5 | -10 | (993) |

PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

| | ----- June 2000 ----- | | | ----- June 2001 ----- | | | Change in Excellent/ Excellent/ |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| | Excellent/ <u>Good</u> | Only Fair/ <u>Poor</u> | <u>DK</u> | Excellent/ <u>Good</u> | Only Fair/ <u>Poor</u> | <u>DK</u> | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| Total | 52 | 46 | 2=100 | 44 | 55 | 1=100 | -8 |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Male | 54 | 44 | 2 | 47 | 52 | 1 | -7 |
| Female | 50 | 48 | 2 | 41 | 58 | 1 | -9 |
| Race | | | | | | | |
| White | 55 | 44 | 1 | 48 | 51 | 1 | -7 |
| Non-white | 40 | 59 | 1 | 28 | 72 | * | -12 |
| Black | 36 | 63 | 1 | 23 | 77 | * | -13 |
| Hispanic* | 39 | 59 | 2 | 34 | 66 | 0 | -5 |
| Race and Sex | | | | | | | |
| White Men | 56 | 42 | 2 | 51 | 48 | 1 | -5 |
| White Women | 52 | 47 | 1 | 45 | 54 | 1 | -7 |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 52 | 47 | 1 | 34 | 65 | 1 | -18 |
| 30-49 | 50 | 48 | 2 | 47 | 53 | * | -3 |
| 50-64 | 57 | 42 | 1 | 45 | 54 | 1 | -12 |
| 65+ | 50 | 48 | 2 | 49 | 48 | 3 | -1 |
| Sex and Age | | | | | | | |
| Men under 50 | 53 | 46 | 1 | 47 | 53 | * | -6 |
| Women under 50 49 | 50 | 1 | 38 | 61 | 1 | -11 | |
| Men 50+ | 56 | 42 | 2 | 49 | 49 | 2 | -7 |
| Women 50+ | 52 | 47 | 1 | 45 | 54 | 1 | -7 |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 70 | 29 | 1 | 66 | 33 | 1 | -4 |
| Some College | 57 | 42 | 1 | 45 | 54 | 1 | -12 |
| High School Grad. | 47 | 52 | 1 | 39 | 60 | 1 | -8 |
| <H.S. Grad. | 30 | 68 | 2 | 22 | 77 | 1 | -8 |
| Family Income | | | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 81 | 19 | * | 74 | 26 | 0 | -7 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 70 | 30 | 0 | 57 | 43 | 0 | -13 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 52 | 47 | 1 | 46 | 53 | 1 | -6 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 39 | 61 | 0 | 28 | 72 | 0 | -11 |
| <\$20,000 | 29 | 70 | 1 | 13 | 87 | 0 | -16 |

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: 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?

Continued ...

| | ----- June 2000 ----- | | | ----- June 2001 ----- | | | Change in Excellent/ Good |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| | Excellent/ Good | Only Fair/ Poor | DK | Excellent/ Good | Only Fair/ Poor | DK | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| Total | 52 | 46 | 2=100 | 44 | 55 | 1=100 | -8 |
| Region | | | | | | | |
| East | 51 | 48 | 1 | 46 | 53 | 1 | -5 |
| Midwest | 50 | 48 | 2 | 44 | 55 | 1 | -6 |
| South | 51 | 47 | 2 | 40 | 59 | 1 | -11 |
| West | 57 | 42 | 1 | 50 | 50 | * | -7 |
| Religious Affiliation | | | | | | | |
| Total White Protestant | 57 | 42 | 1 | 48 | 51 | 1 | -9 |
| White Protestant Evangelical | 53 | 46 | 1 | 46 | 53 | 1 | -7 |
| White Prot. Non-Evangelical | 61 | 38 | 1 | 50 | 49 | 1 | -11 |
| White Catholic | 56 | 42 | 2 | 53 | 45 | 2 | -3 |
| Secular | 46 | 49 | 5 | 40 | 60 | 0 | -6 |
| Community Size | | | | | | | |
| Large City | 47 | 51 | 2 | 39 | 60 | 1 | -8 |
| Suburb | 66 | 32 | 2 | 58 | 41 | 1 | -8 |
| Small City/Town | 49 | 50 | 1 | 40 | 59 | 1 | -9 |
| Rural Area | 47 | 51 | 2 | 42 | 57 | 1 | -5 |
| Party ID | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 61 | 38 | 1 | 57 | 42 | 1 | -4 |
| Democrat | 49 | 50 | 1 | 38 | 62 | * | -11 |
| Independent | 49 | 50 | 1 | 42 | 57 | 1 | -7 |
| Party and Ideology | | | | | | | |
| Conservative Republican | 64 | 35 | 1 | 58 | 41 | 1 | -6 |
| Moderate/Liberal Republican | 53 | 46 | 1 | 57 | 43 | 0 | +4 |
| Conservative/Moderate Democrat | 48 | 50 | 2 | 38 | 62 | * | -10 |
| Liberal Democrat | 52 | 47 | 1 | 38 | 62 | 0 | -14 |
| Bush Approval | | | | | | | |
| Approve | n/a | n/a | n/a | 50 | 49 | 1 | n/a |
| Disapprove | n/a | n/a | n/a | 39 | 60 | 1 | n/a |
| 2000 Presidential Vote | | | | | | | |
| Bush | n/a | n/a | n/a | 59 | 40 | 1 | n/a |
| Gore | n/a | n/a | n/a | 42 | 58 | * | n/a |
| Marital Status | | | | | | | |
| Married | 59 | 39 | 2 | 52 | 47 | 1 | -7 |
| Unmarried | 43 | 56 | 1 | 36 | 63 | 1 | -7 |
| Parental Status | | | | | | | |
| Parent | 48 | 51 | 1 | 43 | 56 | 1 | -5 |
| Non-Parent | 53 | 46 | 1 | 44 | 55 | 1 | -9 |
| Labor Union | | | | | | | |
| Union Household | 53 | 46 | 1 | 51 | 49 | * | -2 |
| Non-Union Household | 51 | 48 | 1 | 43 | 56 | 1 | -8 |

HAVES vs. HAVE-NOTS

| | <i>Is American Society Divided?</i> | | | <i>Which Group Are You In?</i> | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Haves</u> | <u>Have- Nots</u> | (VOL) | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | <u>Neither</u> | <u>DK</u> |
| Total | 44 | 53 | 3=100 | 52 | 32 | 10 | 6=100 |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Male | 44 | 54 | 2 | 53 | 31 | 11 | 5 |
| Female | 44 | 52 | 4 | 51 | 33 | 10 | 6 |
| Race | | | | | | | |
| White | 41 | 56 | 3 | 55 | 28 | 11 | 6 |
| Non-white | 61 | 35 | 4 | 41 | 50 | 6 | 3 |
| Black | 65 | 32 | 3 | 39 | 52 | 7 | 2 |
| Hispanic* | 45 | 53 | 2 | 38 | 45 | 8 | 9 |
| Race and Sex | | | | | | | |
| White Men | 41 | 57 | 2 | 55 | 28 | 12 | 5 |
| White Women | 41 | 55 | 4 | 55 | 28 | 11 | 6 |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 44 | 53 | 3 | 45 | 40 | 11 | 4 |
| 30-49 | 43 | 55 | 2 | 54 | 33 | 9 | 4 |
| 50-64 | 48 | 50 | 2 | 51 | 32 | 10 | 7 |
| 65+ | 44 | 48 | 8 | 59 | 21 | 11 | 9 |
| Sex and Age | | | | | | | |
| Men under 50 | 42 | 56 | 2 | 52 | 34 | 10 | 4 |
| Women under 50 | 53 | 3 | 50 | 37 | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| Men 50+ | 49 | 48 | 3 | 55 | 27 | 12 | 6 |
| Women 50+ | 43 | 50 | 7 | 54 | 28 | 9 | 9 |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| College Grad. | 41 | 57 | 2 | 70 | 15 | 11 | 4 |
| Some College | 42 | 56 | 2 | 53 | 34 | 11 | 2 |
| High School Grad. | 43 | 54 | 3 | 50 | 36 | 9 | 5 |
| <H.S. Grad. | 56 | 37 | 7 | 30 | 47 | 11 | 12 |
| Family Income | | | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 42 | 57 | 1 | 82 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 37 | 62 | 1 | 62 | 23 | 12 | 3 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 44 | 54 | 2 | 54 | 29 | 14 | 3 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 51 | 46 | 3 | 44 | 41 | 8 | 7 |
| <\$20,000 | 55 | 39 | 6 | 22 | 67 | 4 | 7 |

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the “haves” and the “have-nots,” while others think it’s incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don’t you think of America that way?
If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

Continued...

| | <i>Is American Society Divided?</i> | | | <i>Which Group Are You In?</i> | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Have-</u> | <u>(VOL)</u> | | |
| | % | % | % | <u>Have</u> | <u>Nots</u> | <u>Neither</u> | <u>DK</u> |
| <i>Total</i> | 44 | 53 | 3=100 | 52 | 32 | 10 | 6=100 |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | | | |
| East | 45 | 53 | 2 | 48 | 35 | 11 | 6 |
| Midwest | 45 | 52 | 3 | 51 | 33 | 10 | 6 |
| South | 45 | 51 | 4 | 52 | 32 | 10 | 6 |
| West | 41 | 56 | 3 | 57 | 28 | 10 | 5 |
| <i>Religious Affiliation</i> | | | | | | | |
| Total White Protestant | 40 | 57 | 3 | 57 | 27 | 11 | 5 |
| White Protestant Evangelical | 38 | 59 | 3 | 57 | 26 | 11 | 6 |
| White Prot. Non-Evangelical | 42 | 55 | 3 | 55 | 29 | 11 | 5 |
| White Catholic | 37 | 59 | 4 | 56 | 25 | 13 | 6 |
| Secular | 56 | 43 | 1 | 47 | 45 | 4 | 4 |
| <i>Community Size</i> | | | | | | | |
| Large City | 50 | 48 | 2 | 48 | 34 | 10 | 8 |
| Suburb | 44 | 54 | 2 | 63 | 21 | 12 | 4 |
| Small City/Town | 44 | 53 | 3 | 47 | 38 | 10 | 5 |
| Rural Area | 39 | 56 | 5 | 53 | 34 | 8 | 5 |
| <i>Party ID</i> | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 34 | 65 | 1 | 63 | 22 | 11 | 4 |
| Democrat | 52 | 44 | 4 | 51 | 36 | 8 | 5 |
| Independent | 44 | 53 | 3 | 48 | 35 | 12 | 5 |
| <i>Party and Ideology</i> | | | | | | | |
| Conservative Republican | 33 | 66 | 1 | 64 | 20 | 13 | 3 |
| Moderate/Liberal Republican | 37 | 62 | 1 | 64 | 25 | 8 | 3 |
| Conservative/Moderate Democrat | 53 | 44 | 3 | 46 | 41 | 8 | 5 |
| Liberal Democrat | 54 | 43 | 3 | 63 | 25 | 10 | 2 |
| <i>Bush Approval</i> | | | | | | | |
| Approve | 34 | 64 | 2 | 57 | 28 | 11 | 4 |
| Disapprove | 58 | 39 | 3 | 50 | 39 | 6 | 5 |
| <i>2000 Presidential Vote</i> | | | | | | | |
| Bush | 31 | 67 | 2 | 66 | 21 | 10 | 3 |
| Gore | 51 | 46 | 3 | 51 | 34 | 10 | 5 |
| <i>Marital Status</i> | | | | | | | |
| Married | 41 | 56 | 3 | 58 | 26 | 11 | 5 |
| Unmarried | 48 | 48 | 4 | 47 | 38 | 10 | 5 |
| <i>Parental Status</i> | | | | | | | |
| Parent | 44 | 54 | 2 | 49 | 35 | 11 | 5 |
| Non-Parent | 44 | 52 | 4 | 54 | 30 | 10 | 6 |
| <i>Labor Union</i> | | | | | | | |
| Union Household | 49 | 47 | 4 | 53 | 32 | 10 | 5 |
| Non-Union Household | 44 | 53 | 3 | 52 | 32 | 11 | 5 |

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,200 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period June 13-17, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=600) or Form 2 (N=600), the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 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.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing one or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least 5 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2000). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
JUNE 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
JUNE 13-17, 2001
N=1,200

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF "DON'T KNOW", ENTER AS CODE 9. IF "DEPENDS," PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL "DEPENDS," ENTER AS CODE 9.]

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| June, 2001 | 50 | 33 | 17=100 |
| May, 2001 | 53 | 32 | 15=100 |
| April, 2001 | 56 | 27 | 17=100 |
| February, 2001 | 53 | 21 | 26=100 |

ROTATE Q.2 AND Q.3

Q.2 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]

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 50 | Approve |
| 28 | Disapprove |
| <u>22</u> | Don't know/Refused (VOL) |
| 100 | |

Q.3 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>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| June, 2001 | 40 | 40 | 20=100 |
| May, 2001 | 45 | 36 | 19=100 |
| April, 2001 | 45 | 30 | 25=100 |
| January, 2001 | 43 | 36 | 21=100 |
| July, 2000 | 36 | 46 | 18=100 |
| May, 2000 | 40 | 42 | 18=100 |
| March, 2000 | 38 | 43 | 19=100 |
| February, 2000 | 40 | 43 | 17=100 |
| January, 2000 | 39 | 41 | 20=100 |
| December, 1999 | 38 | 42 | 20=100 |
| October, 1999 | 34 | 50 | 16=100 |
| Late September, 1999 | 34 | 46 | 20=100 |
| September, 1999 | 35 | 48 | 17=100 |
| August, 1999 | 40 | 44 | 16=100 |
| July, 1999 | 36 | 45 | 19=100 |
| June, 1999 | 37 | 46 | 17=100 |
| May, 1999 | 38 | 44 | 18=100 |
| March, 1999 | 38 | 47 | 15=100 |
| February, 1999 | 37 | 51 | 12=100 |

Q. 3 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mid-January, 1999 | 36 | 51 | 13=100 |
| January, 1999 | 38 | 50 | 12=100 |
| Late December, 1998 | 39 | 56 | 5=100 |
| Early December, 1998 | 38 | 49 | 13=100 |
| November, 1998 | 41 | 48 | 11=100 |
| September 21-22, 1998 | 44 | 44 | 12=100 |
| September 19-20, 1998 | 46 | 41 | 13=100 |
| Early September, 1998 | 44 | 37 | 19=100 |
| Late August, 1998 | 48 | 36 | 16=100 |
| Early August, 1998 | 43 | 37 | 20=100 |
| June, 1998 | 42 | 38 | 20=100 |
| May, 1998 | 40 | 41 | 19=100 |
| April, 1998 | 41 | 40 | 19=100 |
| March, 1998 | 43 | 39 | 18=100 |
| January, 1998 | 43 | 41 | 16=100 |
| November, 1997 | 41 | 43 | 16=100 |
| August, 1997 | 42 | 44 | 14=100 |
| June, 1997 | 33 | 50 | 17=100 |
| May, 1997 | 40 | 44 | 16=100 |
| April, 1997 | 40 | 44 | 16=100 |
| February, 1997 | 44 | 42 | 14=100 |
| January, 1997 | 38 | 47 | 15=100 |
| November, 1996 | 40 | 43 | 17=100 |
| July, 1996 | 38 | 48 | 14=100 |
| June, 1996 | 36 | 50 | 14=100 |
| April, 1996 | 39 | 46 | 15=100 |
| March, 1996 | 35 | 51 | 14=100 |
| February, 1996 | 33 | 53 | 14=100 |
| January, 1996 | 36 | 54 | 10=100 |
| October, 1995 | 36 | 51 | 13=100 |
| September, 1995 | 36 | 50 | 14=100 |
| August, 1995 | 38 | 45 | 17=100 |
| June, 1995 | 41 | 45 | 14=100 |
| April, 1995 | 44 | 43 | 13=100 |
| March, 1995 | 43 | 39 | 18=100 |
| December, 1994 | 52 | 28 | 20=100 |

On another subject...

Q.4 I'd like your views on the state of the nation. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

| | <u>Satisfied</u> | <u>Dissatisfied</u> | <u>No Opinion</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| June, 2001 | 43 | 52 | 5=100 |
| March, 2001 | 47 | 45 | 8=100 |
| February, 2001 | 46 | 43 | 11=100 |
| January, 2001 | 55 | 41 | 4=100 |
| September, 2000 | 51 | 41 | 8=100 |
| June, 2000 | 47 | 45 | 8=100 |
| April, 2000 | 48 | 43 | 9=100 |

Q. 4 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Satisfied</u> | <u>Dissatisfied</u> | <u>No Opinion</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| August, 1999 | 56 | 39 | 5=100 |
| January, 1999 | 53 | 41 | 6=100 |
| November, 1998 | 46 | 44 | 10=100 |
| Early September, 1998 | 54 | 42 | 4=100 |
| Late August, 1998 | 55 | 41 | 4=100 |
| Early August, 1998 | 50 | 44 | 6=100 |
| February, 1998 | 59 | 37 | 4=100 |
| January, 1998 | 46 | 50 | 4=100 |
| September, 1997 | 45 | 49 | 6=100 |
| August, 1997 | 49 | 46 | 5=100 |
| January, 1997 | 38 | 58 | 4=100 |
| July, 1996 | 29 | 67 | 4=100 |
| March, 1996 | 28 | 70 | 2=100 |
| October, 1995 | 23 | 73 | 4=100 |
| June, 1995 | 25 | 73 | 2=100 |
| April, 1995 | 23 | 74 | 3=100 |
| July, 1994 | 24 | 73 | 3=100 |
| March, 1994 | 24 | 71 | 5=100 |
| October, 1993 | 22 | 73 | 5=100 |
| September, 1993 | 20 | 75 | 4=100 |
| May, 1993 | 22 | 71 | 7=100 |
| January, 1993 | 39 | 50 | 11=100 |
| January, 1992 | 28 | 68 | 4=100 |
| November, 1991 | 34 | 61 | 5=100 |
| <i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i> | <i>66</i> | <i>31</i> | <i>3=100</i> |
| August, 1990 | 47 | 48 | 5=100 |
| May, 1990 | 41 | 54 | 5=100 |
| January, 1989 | 45 | 50 | 5=100 |
| September, 1988 (RVs) | 50 | 45 | 5=100 |
| May, 1988 | 41 | 54 | 5=100 |
| January, 1988 | 39 | 55 | 6=100 |

Next, I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them...

ASK FORM 1 RESPONDENTS ONLY: [N=600]

Q.5F1 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. Senate?

| | <u>Sept</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>May</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> |
| 12 Republican | 10 | 17 | 17 |
| 56 Democratic (<i>Correct Answer</i>) | 57 | 52 | 55 |
| <u>32</u> Can't Say | <u>33</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>28</u> |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.6F1 Do you happen to know if the federal government is spending MORE money than it is taking in this year, or spending LESS money than it is taking in?

| | | <u>Feb 2000</u> | <u>Aug 1999</u> | <u>Feb 1989³</u> |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 46 | Spending more than it is taking in | 34 | 41 | 81 |
| 19 | Spending less than it is taking in (<i>Correct Answer</i>) | 29 | 31 | 6 |
| 1 | (DO NOT READ) About equal | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| <u>34</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>36</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>10</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=600]:

Q.7F2 Compared to the citizens of Western Europe, do you think Americans pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes, a smaller percentage of their income in taxes, or don't you think there's much difference in the percentage of their income that they pay in taxes?

| | | <u>Feb 1989</u> |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 42 | Americans pay more in taxes | 38 |
| 22 | Americans pay less in taxes (<i>Correct Answer</i>) | 37 |
| 9 | No difference | 10 |
| <u>27</u> | Don't Know/Refused | <u>15</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

Q.8F2 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

| | | <u>Aug 1999</u> | <u>Dec 1998</u> | <u>June 1997</u> | <u>April 1996</u> | <u>June 1995</u> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 31 | Republican (<i>Correct Answer</i>) | 55 | 56 | 50 | 70 | 73 |
| 34 | Democratic | 8 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| <u>35</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>37</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>22</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

NO Q.9 OR Q.10

³ In February 1989 the correct answer was "spending more than it is taking in."

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?
[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]

| | Very Closely | Fairly Closely | Not too Closely | Not at all Closely | DK/Ref |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| a. The decision by Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords to leave the Republican Party | 21 | 27 | 18 | 34 | *=100 |
| b. George W. Bush's trip to Europe | 10 | 25 | 27 | 37 | 1=100 |
| c. The high price of gasoline these days | 56 | 31 | 7 | 5 | 1=100 |
| May, 2001 | 61 | 26 | 6 | 6 | 1=100 |
| Early October, 2000 | 56 | 25 | 12 | 6 | 1=100 |
| June, 2000 ⁴ | 61 | 25 | 9 | 5 | *=100 |
| March, 2000 | 58 | 28 | 10 | 4 | *=100 |
| October, 1990 | 62 | 26 | 8 | 4 | *=100 |
| September, 1990 | 56 | 28 | 11 | 5 | *=100 |
| August, 1990 | 57 | 27 | 10 | 5 | 1=100 |
| d. President Bush's daughter using a fake ID to buy alcohol | 17 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 1=100 |
| e. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy | 24 | 41 | 18 | 16 | 1=100 |
| May, 2001 | 34 | 36 | 15 | 15 | 0=100 |
| April, 2001 | 36 | 34 | 16 | 13 | 1=100 |
| February, 2001 | 30 | 39 | 18 | 12 | 1=100 |
| January, 2001 | 32 | 38 | 17 | 11 | 2=100 |
| June, 1995 | 26 | 41 | 22 | 11 | *=100 |
| March, 1995 | 27 | 45 | 19 | 9 | *=100 |
| February, 1995 | 23 | 41 | 22 | 13 | 1=100 |
| December, 1994 | 28 | 43 | 20 | 9 | *=100 |
| October, 1994 | 27 | 40 | 20 | 12 | 1=100 |
| June, 1994 | 25 | 42 | 23 | 10 | *=100 |
| May, 1994 | 33 | 40 | 16 | 10 | 1=100 |
| January, 1994 | 34 | 39 | 16 | 10 | 1=100 |
| Early January, 1994 | 36 | 44 | 13 | 7 | *=100 |
| December, 1993 | 35 | 41 | 15 | 8 | 1=100 |
| October, 1993 | 33 | 38 | 20 | 9 | *=100 |
| September, 1993 | 37 | 40 | 14 | 8 | 1=100 |
| Early September, 1993 | 39 | 39 | 14 | 9 | *=100 |
| August, 1993 | 41 | 36 | 14 | 9 | *=100 |
| May, 1993 | 37 | 38 | 18 | 6 | 1=100 |
| February, 1993 | 49 | 36 | 10 | 5 | *=100 |
| January, 1993 | 42 | 39 | 12 | 7 | *=100 |
| September, 1992 | 43 | 37 | 13 | 6 | *=100 |
| May, 1992 | 39 | 39 | 15 | 6 | 1=100 |
| March, 1992 | 47 | 38 | 11 | 4 | *=100 |

4

In August 1990 through June 2000 the question was worded "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

Q.11 CONTINUED...

| | | Very Closely | Fairly Closely | Not too Closely | Not at all Closely | DK/Ref |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Item e cont. | | | | | | |
| | February, 1992 | 47 | 37 | 10 | 6 | *=100 |
| | January, 1992 | 44 | 40 | 11 | 5 | *=100 |
| | October, 1991 | 36 | 38 | 16 | 9 | 1=100 |
| f. | The Labour Party's victory in the British elections | 4 | 11 | 21 | 63 | 1=100 |
| g. | Timothy McVeigh's execution | 31 | 34 | 23 | 11 | 1=100 |
| | May, 2001 ⁵ | 32 | 39 | 20 | 8 | 1=100 |

On another subject...

Q.12 What is the biggest problem facing you and your family these days? [OPEN END. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

| | | <i>(RVs)</i> | | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | |
|----|---|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Sept 1996 | March 1994 | Dec 1993 | Aug 1992 | May 1992 | Jan 1992 |
| 26 | Not enough money/Paying bills/Making ends meet | 22 | 28 | 27 | 22 | 20 | 24 |
| 10 | High prices/High cost of living and housing | 4 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| 9 | High gas/Fuel prices | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 8 | Unemployment/Low paying jobs | 8 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 26 | 28 |
| 8 | Taxes/High taxes | 14 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | Economy/Recession/Business (general) | 5 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 30 | 19 |
| 6 | Healthcare/High cost of health insurance | 8 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| 3 | Child care/Costs of education | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 3 | Family/Personal/Health problems | 5 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | Fear of Crime/Violence | 5 | 4 | 6 | * | * | * |
| 2 | Government/Government corruption | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | * |
| 2 | Issues facing the elderly | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | * | * |
| 2 | Quality of Education/What's going on in schools | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | * | * |
| 2 | Morality/Family values | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | * | * |
| 1 | Environment | * | * | * | 1 | 1 | * |
| 1 | Recession | * | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 19 | Other | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 4 |
| 18 | No problems/Don't know | 21 | 28 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 11 |

⁵

In May, 2001, the question was worded "The delay in Timothy McVeigh's execution."

Now, thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.13 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?

| | | <i>(RVs)</i> | | | | | | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | June | Aug | May | Sept | Feb | Mar | Dec | Jan | Oct | Aug | May | Jan |
| | | <u>2000</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>1997</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1993</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> |
| 6 | Excellent shape | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 38 | Good shape | 43 | 43 | 43 | 47 | 39 | 41 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 30 | 35 | 32 |
| 39 | Only fair shape | 35 | 41 | 38 | 34 | 38 | 40 | 45 | 46 | 40 | 47 | 45 | 45 |
| 16 | OR poor shape | 11 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 18 |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.14 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?

| | | | | | | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Jan | Jan | May | Feb | March | Oct | Aug | May | Jan |
| | | <u>2001</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>1997</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> |
| 11 | Improve a lot | 11 | 17 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 52 | Improve some | 46 | 55 | 56 | 53 | 57 | 51 | 50 | 49 | 46 |
| 14 | Stay the same (VOL) | 12 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 16 |
| 15 | Get a little worse | 18 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 19 |
| 4 | Get a lot worse | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| <u>4</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>4</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.15 In general, how easy is it for you to afford the things in life that you want — very easy, easy, difficult or very difficult?

| | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | <u>Jan 1992</u> | |
| 7 | Very Easy | 4 | |
| 43 | Easy | 35 | |
| 36 | Difficult | 46 | |
| 12 | Very Difficult | 12 | |
| <u>2</u> | Don't Know | <u>3</u> | |
| 100 | | 100 | |

Q.16 Have there been times during the last year when you did not have enough money **[INSERT ITEM]** your family needed?

| [ROTATE ITEMS A-C FIRST] | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | To buy food | 16 | 84 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: May, 1998</i> | 11 | 89 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: June, 1989</i> | 13 | 87 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1987</i> | 15 | 84 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1984</i> | 20 | 79 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1976</i> | 14 | 86 | *=100 |
| b. | To buy clothing | 21 | 78 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: May, 1998</i> | 18 | 82 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: June, 1989</i> | 17 | 83 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1987</i> | 19 | 80 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1984</i> | 26 | 73 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1976</i> | 19 | 81 | *=100 |
| c. | To pay for medical and health care | 27 | 72 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: May, 1998</i> | 22 | 78 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: June, 1989</i> | 21 | 79 | *=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1987</i> | 21 | 78 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1984</i> | 25 | 74 | 1=100 |
| | <i>Gallup: January, 1976</i> | 15 | 85 | *=100 |

**[ROTATE ITEMS D-F ...
ALWAYS FOLLOWING ITEMS A-C]**

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|-------|
| d. | To make home-payments or pay the rent | 17 | 83 | *=100 |
| e. | To pay for gasoline or other transportation costs | 25 | 74 | 1=100 |
| f. | To pay electric or gas utility bills | 23 | 77 | *=100 |

Q.17 Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

| | | Late | | | Early | | May | June | Feb | July | March |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Jan | Sept | Aug | Sept | Nov | May | June | Feb | July | March |
| | | <u>2001</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1997</u> | <u>1997</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1994</u> | <u>1994</u> |
| 54 | Full-time | 52 | 56 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 53 | 57 | 55 | 55 | 53 |
| 11 | Part-time | 12 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 14 |
| 35 | Not employed | 35 | 31 | 30 | 33 | 33 | 35 | 30 | 34 | 33 | 32 |
| * | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>*</u> | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK OF NOT EMPLOYED ONLY (3 in Q.17):

Q.17a Is that because you are retired, because you choose not to work, or because you've lost or quit a job?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 17 | Retired |
| 4 | Choose not to work |
| 4 | Lost or quit a job |
| 10 | Other reason (VOL) |
| * | Don't know/Refused |
| <u>35%</u> | |

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Do you or does anyone else in your household work at more than one job?

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 14 | Yes |
| 86 | No |
| * | Don't know/Refused |
| <u>100</u> | |

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in Q.17) [N=784]:

Q.19 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?

| | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>Oct 1992</u> | <u>Aug 1992</u> | <u>May 1992</u> | <u>Jan 1992</u> |
| 31 | Excellent shape | 27 | 23 | 25 | 22 |
| 39 | Good shape | 38 | 40 | 40 | 39 |
| 20 | Only fair shape | 23 | 26 | 22 | 24 |
| 7 | Poor shape | 10 | 9 | 11 | 12 |
| 2 | Does not apply (VOL) | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ASK ALL:

Q.20 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?

| | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>Aug 1992</u> | <u>May 1992</u> | <u>Jan 1992</u> |
| 42 | Plenty of jobs available | 15 | 16 | 12 |
| 44 | Jobs are difficult to find | 76 | 77 | 79 |
| 8 | Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL) | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.21 All in all, over the last five years, would you say that prices have been going up a lot, a little, or not much at all?

63 A lot
 31 A little
 5 Not much at all
 0 Prices have gone down (VOL)
1 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.22 How would you judge business conditions in your community? Would you say that local businesses are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape?

| | | <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>Oct 1992</u> | <u>Aug 1992</u> | <u>May 1992</u> | <u>Jan 1992</u> |
| 4 | Excellent shape | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 42 | Good shape | 29 | 28 | 32 | 25 |
| 41 | Only fair shape | 48 | 49 | 49 | 51 |
| 10 | Poor shape | 19 | 18 | 15 | 20 |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.23 What's your impression about the real estate market in your community? Is housing very affordable, fairly affordable, not too affordable, or not at all affordable?

9 Very affordable
 48 Fairly affordable
 25 Not too affordable
 12 Not at all affordable
6 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.24 Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the "haves" and the "have-nots," while others think it's incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don't you think of America that way?

| | | <i>--- Gallup ---</i> | | <i>CBS/NY Times</i> |
|----------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | | <u>Oct 1999</u> | <u>Aug 1988</u> | <u>Aug 1984</u> |
| 44 | Yes, divided into "haves" and "have-nots" | 39 | 26 | 31 |
| 53 | No | 59 | 71 | 61 |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>8</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.25 If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

| | | --- Gallup --- | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>Oct 1999</u> | <u>Aug 1988</u> |
| 52 | Haves | 67 | 59 |
| 32 | Have-nots | 24 | 17 |
| 10 | Neither (VOL) | 6 | 15 |
| <u>6</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>3</u> | <u>9</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 |

Q.26 On the whole, do you think the Bush Administration is doing more to help the haves or the have-nots, or do you think it is treating both groups about the same?

| | | Reagan <i>Gallup</i> <u>Aug 1988⁶</u> |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| 43 | Helping the haves | 49 |
| 4 | Helping the have-nots | 4 |
| 40 | About the same | 39 |
| 2 | Neither (VOL) | 2 |
| <u>11</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

NO Q.27 OR Q.28

Now I have a couple questions about the economy...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=600]:

M.1F1 When the Government LOWERS interest rates, is it done to encourage consumers to spend more or to encourage them to spend less?

| | |
|----------|---|
| 85 | Encourage consumers to spend more (<i>Correct Answer</i>) |
| 9 | Encourage consumers to spend less |
| 2 | Neither (VOL) |
| <u>4</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

6

Question was worded "On the whole, do you think the Reagan Administration has done more to help the haves or the have-nots, or do you think it has treated both groups about the same?"

M.2F1 To the best of your knowledge, what is the current NATIONAL minimum wage? Is it **[READ RESPONSES, IN ORDER]**

* About \$3 an hour
 4 About \$4 an hour
 51 About \$5 an hour (*Correct Answer: \$5.15*)
 28 About \$6 an hour
 8 About \$7 an hour
 3 OR over \$7 an hour?
6 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=600]:

M.3F2 When unemployment is low, do wages usually go up or do wages usually go down?

39 Wages usually go up (*Correct Answer*)
 37 Wages usually go down
 8 Neither/Depends (**VOL**)
16 Don't know/Refused
 100

M.4F2 If you had to guess, what would you say is the annual income in the typical American household today, before taxes. Would you say it is **[READ RESPONSES, IN ORDER]**

17 About \$20,000 a year
 38 About \$30,000 a year
 23 About \$40,000 a year (*Correct Median: \$40,816 in 1999*)
 13 About \$50,000 a year
 3 About \$75,000 a year
 1 OR About \$100,000 a year
5 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.29 Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans (excluding your mortgage), would you say you...

U.S. News & World Report

Jan 1992

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 13 | Owe a lot more than you can afford? | 7 |
| 15 | Owe a little more than you can afford? | 14 |
| 31 | Owe about what you can afford? | 32 |
| 18 | OR owe less than you can afford? | 19 |
| 12 | Do not have any debts (VOL — DO NOT READ) | 16 |
| 10 | No credit cards or loans (VOL — DO NOT READ) | 11 |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

Q.30 How satisfied are you with each of the following — very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied? **[READ AND ROTATE LIST]** (Would you say you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?) What about **[NEXT ITEM]**...?

| | | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | (VOL) N/A | Don't Know |
|----|--|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| a. | The housing you are able to afford | 21 | 57 | 14 | 6 | 2 | *=100 |
| | <i>US News & World Rpt: Jan 1992</i> | 10 | 68 | 16 | 5 | 1 | *=100 |
| b. | The amount of money you have for going out | 11 | 52 | 23 | 11 | 2 | 1=100 |
| | <i>US News & World Rpt: Jan 1992</i> | 4 | 47 | 30 | 13 | 5 | 1=100 |
| c. | The kind of car you can afford | 14 | 54 | 18 | 10 | 4 | *=100 |
| | <i>US News & World Rpt: Jan 1992</i> | 7 | 56 | 24 | 9 | 4 | *=100 |
| d. | Your ability to purchase new home furnishings and appliances | 12 | 51 | 23 | 11 | 2 | 1=100 |
| | <i>US News & World Rpt: Jan 1992</i> | 3 | 45 | 32 | 13 | 6 | 1=100 |
| e. | The amount of money you have for vacations | 8 | 39 | 28 | 20 | 4 | 1=100 |
| | <i>US News & World Rpt: Jan 1992</i> | 3 | 33 | 37 | 20 | 6 | 1=100 |

Q.31 Do you currently own shares in a mutual fund that includes stock?

Q.32 Do you currently own stock in any individual companies besides a company that you or someone else in your household works for?

| | | <u>April 2000</u> | <u>Nov 1997</u> |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 45 | Yes, own mutual fund or stock (NET) | 49 | 40 |
| 42 | Yes, own mutual fund | 45 | 36 |
| 26 | Yes, own stocks | 30 | 22 |
| 53 | No, don't own | 50 | 58 |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 |

Q.33 Do you, personally, ever trade stocks -- that is, buy or sell individual stocks through a broker or online account? **[IF YES, ASK: When is the last time you bought or sold a stock? Was it within the last week, within the last month, within the last six months, within the last year, or more than a year ago?]**

| | | <u>April 2000</u> |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 17 | Yes | 20 |
| 2 | Yes, within last week | 4 |
| 4 | Yes, within last month | 6 |
| 5 | Yes, within last 6 months | 5 |
| 3 | Yes, within last year | 2 |
| 3 | Yes, More than a year ago | 2 |
| * | Don't know | 1 |
| 82 | No | 79 |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>1</u> |
| 100 | | 100 |

ASK OF THOSE WHO OWN STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS (1 “YES” in Q.31 or Q.32) [N=578]:

Q.34 Over the past year, has the value of your stock and mutual fund investments gone up a lot, gone up a little, stayed about the same, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 3 | Gone up a lot |
| 20 | Gone up a little |
| 16 | Stayed about the same |
| 27 | Gone down a little |
| 32 | Gone down a lot |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

ASK OF THOSE WHO OWN STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS (1 “YES” in Q.31 or Q.32) [N=578]:

Q.35 As a result of what's been happening with the stock market, have you [INSERT ITEM: ROTATE], or haven't you done this? Have you [NEXT ITEM], or haven't you done this?

| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|----|--|------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements | 18 | 81 | 1=100 |
| b. | Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car | 18 | 81 | 1=100 |
| c. | Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance | 17 | 82 | 1=100 |
| d. | Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel | 30 | 69 | 1=100 |
| e. | Adjusted your plans for retirement | 25 | 74 | 1=100 |

ASK OF THOSE WHO DO NOT OWN STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS (2,9 “No/DK” in Q.31 AND Q.32) [N=622]:

Q.36 As a result of what's been happening with the economy, have you [INSERT ITEM: ROTATE], or haven't you done this? Have you [NEXT ITEM], or haven't you done this?

| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|----|--|------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. | Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements | 33 | 66 | 1=100 |
| b. | Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car | 33 | 66 | 1=100 |
| c. | Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance | 34 | 66 | *=100 |
| d. | Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel | 48 | 51 | 1=100 |
| e. | Adjusted your plans for retirement | 21 | 75 | 4=100 |

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.37 I'd like your opinion of some programs and proposals being discussed in this country today. Please tell me if you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each one. The first one is... **(READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH d, WITH e ALWAYS LAST)**

| | | Strongly | | Oppose | Strongly | | DK/Ref |
|----|--|----------|-------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | | Favor | Favor | | Oppose | Oppose | |
| a. | Making prescription drug benefits part of the Medicare system | 50 | 39 | 5 | 3 | 3=100 | |
| | September, 2000 (RVs) | 57 | 34 | 5 | 2 | 2=100 | |
| b. | An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.45 an hour | 49 | 38 | 8 | 4 | 1=100 | |
| | October, 1999 | 48 | 34 | 12 | 4 | 2=100 | |
| | February, 1998 ⁷ | 48 | 32 | 14 | 5 | 1=100 | |
| c. | Allowing patients to sue insurance companies which deny or delay medical treatments | 40 | 37 | 12 | 5 | 6=100 | |
| | October, 1999 | 47 | 35 | 11 | 4 | 3=100 | |
| d. | Allowing churches and other houses of worship to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them? | 30 | 42 | 15 | 10 | 3=100 | |
| | March, 2001 | 30 | 45 | 13 | 8 | 4=100 | |
| | February, 2001 | 28 | 36 | 19 | 11 | 6=100 | |
| | September, 2000 ⁸ | 32 | 35 | 17 | 12 | 4=100 | |
| e. | Banning the unlimited campaign contributions that corporations and unions can now make to political parties | 29 | 25 | 24 | 12 | 10=100 | |
| | October, 1999 | 29 | 27 | 24 | 15 | 5=100 | |

Q.38 In your view, how important is it that campaign finance reform is signed into law this year? Do you think this should be a top priority, some priority, or little or no priority?

| | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 25 | Top priority |
| 42 | Some priority |
| 25 | Little or no priority |
| 8 | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

⁷ In February 1998, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour."

⁸ Based on registered voters. Item was worded "Allowing religious organizations to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them."

Q.39 In your opinion, should the federal government create national standards to protect the rights of patients in HMOs and managed health care plans, OR would this get the government too involved in health care?

| | | <i>(RVs)</i> | | Early | Early |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Sept | Oct | Sept | Aug |
| | | <u>2000</u> | <u>1999</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1998</u> |
| 58 | Government should create national standards | 58 | 64 | 48 | 53 |
| 30 | Too much government involvement | 36 | 30 | 44 | 35 |
| <u>12</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>12</u> |
| 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Q.40 As you may know, most Americans will be receiving a tax rebate from the Government later this year. Have you been looking forward to getting your federal income tax rebate, or hadn't you thought much about it to this point?

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 36 | Looking forward to getting rebate |
| 57 | Hadn't thought much about it |
| 2 | Didn't know about it (VOL) |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100 | |

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.41 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| June, 2001 | 72 | 28 | *=100 |
| May, 2001 | 75 | 25 | *=100 |
| April, 2001 | 72 | 28 | *=100 |
| February, 2001 | 72 | 28 | 0=100 |
| January, 2001 | 71 | 29 | *=100 |
| July, 2000 | 68 | 31 | 1=100 |
| June, 2000 | 68 | 31 | 1=100 |
| April, 2000 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| March, 2000 ⁹ | 72 | 28 | 0=100 |
| February, 2000 | 67 | 33 | *=100 |
| January, 2000 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| December, 1999 | 67 | 33 | *=100 |
| October, 1999 | 67 | 33 | *=100 |
| Late September, 1999 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| September, 1999 | 70 | 30 | *=100 |
| August, 1999 | 67 | 33 | *=100 |
| July, 1999 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| June, 1999 | 64 | 35 | 1=100 |
| May, 1999 | 66 | 33 | 1=100 |
| April, 1999 | 71 | 29 | *=100 |
| March, 1999 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| February, 1999 | 68 | 32 | *=100 |
| January, 1999 | 69 | 31 | *=100 |

⁹

In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

Q.41 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Early December, 1998 | 64 | 36 | *=100 |
| Early September, 1998 | 64 | 36 | *=100 |
| Late August, 1998 | 66 | 34 | 0=100 |
| Early August, 1998 | 66 | 34 | *=100 |
| April, 1998 | 61 | 39 | *=100 |
| January, 1998 | 65 | 35 | *=100 |
| November, 1997 | 66 | 34 | *=100 |
| June, 1997 | 60 | 40 | 0=100 |
| Early September, 1996 | 56 | 44 | *=100 |
| July, 1996 | 56 | 44 | *=100 |
| April, 1996 | 58 | 42 | *=100 |
| March, 1996 | 61 | 39 | *=100 |
| February, 1996 | 60 | 40 | 0=100 |
| January, 1996 | 59 | 41 | 0=100 |

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.41, ASK:

Q.42 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

| | <u>Goes Online</u> | <u>Doesn't Go Online</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| June, 2001 | 62 | 38 | 0=100 |
| May, 2001 | 64 | 36 | 0=100 |
| April, 2001 | 62 | 38 | 0=100 |
| February, 2001 | 60 | 40 | *=100 |
| January, 2001 | 61 | 39 | 0=100 |
| July, 2000 | 55 | 45 | *=100 |
| June, 2000 | 56 | 44 | *=100 |
| April, 2000 | 54 | 46 | *=100 |
| March, 2000 | 61 | 39 | 0=100 |
| February, 2000 | 52 | 48 | 0=100 |
| January, 2000 | 52 | 48 | *=100 |
| December, 1999 | 53 | 47 | 0=100 |
| October, 1999 | 50 | 50 | 0=100 |
| Late September, 1999 | 52 | 48 | *=100 |
| September, 1999 | 53 | 47 | 0=100 |
| August, 1999 | 52 | 48 | 0=100 |
| July, 1999 | 49 | 51 | 0=100 |
| June, 1999 | 50 | 50 | *=100 |
| May, 1999 | 48 | 52 | 0=100 |
| April, 1999 | 51 | 49 | *=100 |
| March, 1999 | 49 | 51 | *=100 |
| February, 1999 | 49 | 51 | *=100 |
| January, 1999 | 47 | 53 | *=100 |
| Early December, 1998 | 42 | 58 | 0=100 |
| November, 1998 | 37 | 63 | *=100 |
| Early September, 1998 | 42 | 58 | *=100 |
| Late August, 1998 | 43 | 57 | *=100 |
| Early August, 1998 | 41 | 59 | *=100 |
| April, 1998 | 36 | 64 | 0=100 |
| January, 1998 | 37 | 63 | 0=100 |
| November, 1997 | 36 | 63 | 1=100 |

Q.42 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Goes Online</u> | <u>Doesn't Go Online</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| July, 1996 | 23 | 77 | 0=100 |
| April, 1996 | 21 | 79 | *=100 |
| March, 1996 | 22 | 78 | 0=100 |
| February, 1996 | 21 | 79 | *=100 |
| January, 1996 | 21 | 79 | 0=100 |
| June, 1995 ¹⁰ | 14 | 86 | *=100 |

D.15 Which of the following labels best describes your household: **[READ ITEMS, IN ORDER]**

- 29 Professional or Business Class
- 47 Working Class
- 15 or a Struggling Family or Household?
- 2 More than One Apply (**VOL**)
- 4 None Apply (**VOL**)
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 100

¹⁰

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?