

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
October 3-6, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The shutdown of the federal government					
October 3-6, 2013	43	30	15	11	*
September 25-29, 2013: <i>Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September</i>	36	25	16	23	*
September 19-22, 2013	25	24	21	30	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 14-17, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	24	26	20	29	1
March 7-10, 2013: <i>Automatic spending cuts that began on March 1st</i>	31	26	18	25	1
February 21-24, 2013: <i>News about automatic cuts to federal spending that will take effect next week, unless the president and Congress act</i>	25	26	19	29	1
January 24-27, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	23	28	19	29	1
December 13-16, 2012: <i>The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act</i>	37	28	16	18	1
December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
November 3-6, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	24	31	21	24	1
October 27-30, 2011	25	28	21	25	1
October 13-16, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	29	32	15	24	1
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>Congress working on a budget extension to avoid a government shutdown</i>	31	26	20	22	*
September 22-25, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	35	26	19	19	1
September 15-18, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation</i>	31	28	19	21	2
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i>	28	18	17	36	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	41	27	15	17	*
July 21-24, 2011	38	28	17	17	*
July 14-17, 2011	34	29	18	19	*
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>	24	26	22	28	*
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i>	39	26	17	17	1
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i>	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plan to help homeowners facing foreclosure which could cost as much as \$275 billion</i>	31	36	19	13	1
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The \$780 billion economic stimulus legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama</i>	41	37	14	8	*
February 13-16, 2009: <i>Congress passing Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	50	32	13	5	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February 6-9, 2009: <i>The debate in Congress over Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	41	33	15	11	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	36	29	22	13	*
January 16-19, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over what the government should do about the nation's economic problems</i>	35	33	17	15	*
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
October 3-6, 2008: <i>The debate in Washington over a plan to use government funds to stabilize financial markets</i>	62	26	7	5	*
September 26-29, 2008	60	22	10	8	*
September 12-15, 2008: <i>The federal government taking control of the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac</i>	28	35	19	17	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>The buyout of Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns</i>	21	26	21	32	*
February 8-11, 2008: <i>President Bush and Congress agreeing on an economic Stimulus plan</i>	22	33	23	21	1
January 25-28, 2008	24	36	19	21	*
February, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	26	33	23	16	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
August, 1997: <i>The debate in Washington about the federal budget</i>	14	34	25	26	1
May, 1997	16	38	23	22	1
February, 1997	19	28	22	29	2
March, 1996	24	35	23	18	*
January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*
September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*
August, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the federal budget</i>	18	34	27	20	1
February, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the Balanced Budget Amendment</i>	12	31	28	28	1
August, 1993: <i>The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget bill</i>	30	36	21	13	*
June, 1993	12	38	31	18	1
February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's economic plan</i>	49	36	10	5	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 1992 (RV): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i>	26	30	20	23	1
b. News about health insurance exchanges opening around the country as part of the 2010 health care law					
October 3-6, 2013	33	24	22	20	1
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect</i>	23	25	21	30	*
July 18-21, 2013	25	25	19	30	*
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i>	45	21	14	19	*
March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i>	29	27	17	27	*
November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i>	18	24	24	33	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>	25	28	19	28	1
January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>	29	29	20	21	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>	28	24	17	30	1
September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>	37	31	17	14	1
April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>	40	30	16	14	*
April 9-12, 2010	46	27	15	12	*
April 1-5, 2010	42	27	14	16	*
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
October 3-6, 2013	34	30	19	16	1
September 25-29, 2013	35	30	16	18	*
September 19-22, 2013	28	33	20	19	1
September 12-15, 2013	28	34	17	20	*
August 1-4, 2013	28	35	19	17	1
July 18-21, 2013	28	29	20	23	1
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
December 6-9, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
November 8-11, 2012	41	31	15	12	1
November 1-4, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
October 25-28, 2012	44	30	14	11	1
October 18-21, 2012	39	36	12	12	1
October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2013/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

NO QUESTION PEW.2

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Who do you think is more to blame for the federal government shutdown -- **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or **[ITEM]**?

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>		Sep 19-22 <u>2013</u> ¹
38	Republicans	39
30	The Obama administration	36
19	Both equally (VOL.)	17
2	Neither (VOL.)	2
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Monday night, the federal government was partially shut down when President Clinton and the Republican leaders in Congress could not agree on a resolution to keep the government running while they debated the federal budget. Who do you blame more for the partial government shutdown -- the Republicans in Congress or Bill Clinton?

CBS News Nov 19 <u>1995</u>	
51	Republicans in Congress
28	Clinton
15	Both equally (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Overall, who do you blame more for the recent shutdown of the federal government – President Clinton or the Republican leaders in Congress?

Gallup/CNN/USA Today Nov 17-18 <u>1995</u>	
25	Clinton
47	Republican leaders
21	Both equally (VOL.)
1	Neither (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION PEW.4**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is handling negotiations over the government shutdown?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama Oct 3-6, 2013	38	50	12
b.	Republican leaders in Congress Oct 3-6, 2013	19	69	12
c.	Democratic leaders in Congress Oct 3-6, 2013	29	58	13

NO QUESTIONS PEW.6-PEW.7

¹ In September the question was worded "If the federal government shuts down because Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame?" It was asked on the same survey as the National Journal's Congressional Connection poll, also released Sept. 23, 2013.

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 In the current debate over the government shutdown, what would you like lawmakers who share your views to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		--- Gallup ---			
Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>		Sep 19-22 <u>2013</u> ²	Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u> ³	Feb <u>2011</u> ⁴	Aug <u>1995</u> ⁵
29	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shutdown continues [OR]	33	36	32	35
61	Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they reach a deal you disagree with	57	55	60	60
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	10	8	5

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

How much, if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might go into default if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a plan to raise the federal debt limit by August second?

*What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]***

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	
23	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government goes into default [OR]
68	Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they strike a deal you disagree with
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 How concerned, if at all, are you about the government shutdown's effect on the U.S. economy? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>	
48	Very concerned
29	Somewhat concerned
14	Not too concerned
9	Not at all concerned
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS PEW.10-PEW.11

² In Sept. 2013 the question was worded "If there is not a budget agreement by the end of September the federal government will have to shut down many of its operations until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

³ In April 2011, the question was worded: "If there is not a budget agreement by the end of next week the federal government will have to shut down nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

⁴ In February 2011, the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Obama do not agree on federal spending goals by March 4, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the budget to do in this situation? Should they hold out for the basic budget plan they want, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they agree to a compromise budget plan, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

⁵ In August 1995 the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Clinton do not agree on federal spending goals this fall, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. How would you like the people in government who represent your point of view toward the budget to act in this situation — should they stand by their principles throughout the debate, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise in the debate, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

ASK ALL:

PEW.12 Have you or a member of your family been personally inconvenienced by the shutdown of the federal government? **[ASK IF "YES": "Was it a major inconvenience or a minor inconvenience?"]**

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>		Jan <u>1996</u>
28	NET Inconvenienced	16
15	Yes, major	7
13	Yes, minor/DK	9
71	No, not inconvenienced	84
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 Have you contacted a public official or signed a petition to express your opinion about the shutdown, or not?

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>	
13	Yes
87	No
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION PEW.14**ASK ALL:**

PEW.15 As you may know, the main point of disagreement in the government shutdown is over whether changes to the 2010 health care law should be included in a budget deal. **[RANDOMIZE: Obama has said any budget deal must NOT include cuts or delays to the health care law because they are separate issues. / Republican leaders have said that any budget deal must include cuts or delays to the health care law because the law is bad for the country.]** Who do you think should give ground in this disagreement? **[RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER]**

IF OBAMA SHOULD GIVE GROUND (PEW.15=1) [N=425]:

PEW.16 If the only way to end the shutdown soon is for Republican leaders to agree to a bill without cuts or delays to the health care law, would this be acceptable or unacceptable to you

IF REPUBLICANS SHOULD GIVE GROUND (PEW.15=2) [N=446]:

PEW.17 If the only way to end the shutdown soon is for Obama to agree to a bill that includes cuts or delays to the health care law, would this be acceptable or unacceptable to you?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>	
42	Should Obama agree to a bill that INCLUDES cuts or delays to the health care law
14	Acceptable if Republicans agree to bill without cuts or delays
26	Unacceptable if Republicans agree to bill without cuts or delays
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
	[OR]
44	Should Republican leaders agree to a bill WITHOUT cuts or delays to the health care law
13	Acceptable if Obama agrees to bill with cuts or delays
29	Unacceptable if Obama agrees to bill with cuts or delays
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.18 As you may know, the deadline to raise the nation's debt limit is also approaching, as soon as October 17th. From what you've read and heard, do you think **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**, or do you think **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>		Jul 15-17 <u>2011</u> ⁶
47	It is absolutely essential that the federal debt limit be raised to avoid an economic crisis [OR]	40
39	The country can go past the deadline for raising the debt limit without major economic problems	39
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	21

ASK ALL:

PEW.19 And all in all, are Republican leaders in Congress paying too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to the ideas and positions of the Tea Party?

Oct 3-6 <u>2013</u>		Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>	Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>
35	Too much	30	27	22
26	Too little	31	32	28
19	Right amount	20	23	25
19	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	20	19	25

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In July 2011, the question was worded "From what you've read and heard, do you think it is absolutely essential that the federal debt limit be raised by August 2nd to avoid an economic crisis, or do you think the country can go past the August 2nd date for when the government reaches its debt limit without major economic problems?"