

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
November 29-December 2, 2012, OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

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 ITEMS b-e WITH ITEM a ALWAYS LAST] [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 debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act					
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
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 16-20, 2012: <i>Congress passing a bill to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits¹</i>	24	27	21	27	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Congress and the president agreeing to cut federal spending and raise the debt limit</i>	46	25	13	14	1
December 16-19, 2010 ² : <i>The extension of tax cuts and unemployment benefits approved by Congress and signed by President Obama</i>	37	27	15	19	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The agreement reached between Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits</i>	37	29	15	17	1
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
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

¹ The wording of item PEW.1d was changed after the first night of interviewing (February 16, 2012) to reflect Congress passing this legislation. On February 16, 2012, the item wording was "Negotiations in Congress to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

² The wording of item PEW.1c was changed after the first night of interviewing (December 16, 2010), to reflect Congress passing and Obama signing this legislation. On December 16, 2010 the item read "The debate in Washington over extending tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

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 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	*
May, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	25	36	22	15	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>Debate in Congress over G.W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>G.W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
September, 1999: <i>The debate in Washington over how much to cut taxes</i>	18	30	28	23	1
July, 1999	14	34	21	31	*
June, 1997: <i>Competing proposals on ways to cut taxes as part of the recent bipartisan budget agreement</i>	11	27	28	33	1
September, 1992 (RVs): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
b. Debate over whether UN Ambassador Susan Rice should become Secretary of State					
November 29-December 2, 2012	21	19	17	42	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 15-18, 2012: <i>Investigations into the September attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya</i>	28	26	21	24	2
October 18-21, 2012: <i>Investigations into last month's attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya</i>	31	30	19	20	1
October 12-14, 2012	28	28	19	23	1
October 4-7, 2012: <i>Investigations into the attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya earlier this month</i>	27	24	20	28	1
September 13-16, 2012: <i>Attacks on American embassies and consulates in the Middle East and the killing of the U.S. ambassador in Libya</i>	43	24	15	17	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>The announcement that Leon Panetta would become Secretary of Defense and David Petraeus would become Director of the CIA</i>	9	17	22	50	1
February 6-9, 2009: <i>Tom Daschle withdrawing his nomination for a cabinet post over a tax-related controversy</i>	25	29	19	27	*
January 23-26, 2009: <i>Hillary Clinton becoming Secretary of State</i>	24	30	24	22	*
November 2-5, 2007: <i>George Bush's nomination of Michael Mukasey to be the next U.S. Attorney General</i>	10	19	24	46	1
September 21-24, 2007	9	22	26	43	*
January, 1994: <i>Bobby Inman's withdrawal as the nominee for Secretary of Defense</i>	7	19	29	44	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>
June 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's nomination and then withdrawal of Lani Guinier as civil rights division head</i>	21	30	24	24	1
October, 1991: <i>The nomination of Robert Gates to head the C.I.A.</i>	12	24	31	32	1
c. Political violence in Syria					
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-28, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
May 5-8, 2011	14	27	30	28	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	29	25	27	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
d. Debate about the status of the Palestinian territories at the UN					
November 29-December 2, 2012	14	21	22	42	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	27	22	24	26	1
November 15-18, 2012: <i>Renewed violence between Israel and Palestinians</i>					
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Debate about how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute</i>	18	23	24	34	*
September 30-October 3, 2010: <i>Israeli-Palestinian peace talks</i>	11	26	29	24	1
September 16-19, 2010	13	21	26	40	*
September 2-6, 2010: <i>Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Washington</i>	14	24	27	35	1
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Reports about tensions between Israel and the United States</i>	20	27	21	31	1
March 19-22, 2010: <i>Reports about tensions in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians</i>	15	28	27	30	1
June 19-22, 2009: <i>The situation between Israelis and Palestinians</i>	15	26	30	29	1

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 23-26, 2009: <i>Conflict between the Israeli military and Hamas forces in Gaza</i>	31	31	18	20	*
January 16-19, 2009	24	31	22	22	1
January 9-12, 2009	34	35	18	13	0
January 2-4, 2009	28	32	22	18	*
March 7-10, 2008: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	20	33	26	21	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about President Bush attending peace talks in Israel</i>	16	30	23	30	1
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2007: <i>The Middle East Peace Summit in Annapolis, Maryland</i>	11	25	24	39	1
August, 2006: <i>The military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon</i>	40	34	14	10	2
September, 2003: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	31	36	20	13	*
June, 2003: <i>President Bush's summit meeting with world leaders and with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority</i>	20	36	24	19	1
Early June, 2003: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	26	40	20	13	1
December, 2002	29	36	22	12	1
Early October, 2002	32	39	20	8	1
June, 2002	38	33	18	10	1
April, 2002	38	37	14	10	1
Early April, 2002	44	33	13	9	1
December, 2001	31	40	19	9	1
Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1
April, 2001: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East</i>	22	34	24	19	1
January, 2001: <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	32	29	17	1
Mid-October, 2000: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	30	38	18	13	1
Early October, 2000: <i>Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i>	21	30	27	21	1
July, 2000: <i>The Middle East peace summit at Camp David</i>	15	30	24	31	*
November, 1998: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	18	33	28	19	2
Early October, 1998 (RVs): <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	40	27	12	*
January, 1997: <i>Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron</i>	12	23	29	35	1
October, 1996: <i>Renewed violence between Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem</i>	17	34	26	23	*

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, 1995: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	11	32	29	27	1
Late September, 1993: <i>The peace accords between Israel and the PLO</i>	23	33	24	19	1
Early September, 1993: <i>Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho</i>	19	31	23	26	1
January, 1993: <i>Israel's expulsion of 400 Moslem fundamentalists following the murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank</i>	10	25	31	33	1
October, 1991: <i>President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel</i>	15	25	30	29	1
June, 1990: <i>The incident in Gaza in which a deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West Bank riots that followed</i>	11	28	30	30	1
May, 1988: <i>The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories</i>	18	37	34	9	2
e. Political turmoil and protests in Egypt					
November 29-December 2, 2012	14	26	23	37	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 14-17, 2012: <i>The political situation in Egypt</i>	13	20	24	42	*
May 24-27, 2012: <i>The presidential election in Egypt</i>	4	15	22	57	1
December 1-4, 2011: <i>The recent elections in Egypt</i>	7	16	28	48	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*

NO QUESTIONS PEW.2-PEW.3**ASK ALL:**

PEWWP.4 How well do you feel you understand what would happen if these automatic spending cuts and tax increases were to go into effect in January? **[READ]**

Nov 29-Dec 2 <u>2012</u>		Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>
28	Very well	26
29	Fairly well	32
22	Not too well	23
19	Not at all well	17
1	Don't know (VOL.)	1
*	Refused (VOL.)	1

RANDOMIZE PEWWP.5 AND PEWWP.6 IN BLOCK WITH PEWWP.7 AND PEWWP.8**ASK ALL:**

PEWWP.5 If these automatic spending cuts and tax increases go into effect, do you think they would have a major effect, minor effect or no effect on the U.S. economy?³

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>
64	Major effect	68
20	Minor effect	21
7	No effect	2
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10

RANDOMIZE PEWWP.5 AND PEWWP.6 IN BLOCK WITH PEWWP.7 AND PEWWP.8**ASK IF EFFECT (PEWWP.5=1,2) [N=866]:**

PEWWP.6 And would the effect on the U.S. economy be mostly positive or mostly negative?

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>
23	Mostly positive	23
71	Mostly negative	70
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

RANDOMIZE PEWWP.5 AND PEWWP.6 IN BLOCK WITH PEWWP.7 AND PEWWP.8**ASK ALL:**

PEWWP.7 If these automatic spending cuts and tax increases go into effect, do you think they would have a major effect, minor effect or no effect on your personal financial situation?

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>
43	Major effect	44
35	Minor effect	38
14	No effect	9
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

RANDOMIZE PEWWP.5 AND PEWWP.6 IN BLOCK WITH PEWWP.7 AND PEWWP.8**ASK IF EFFECT (PEWWP.7=1,2) [N=807]:**

PEWWP.8 And would the effect on your personal financial situation be mostly positive or mostly negative?

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>
17	Mostly positive	20
77	Mostly negative	73
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.9 Do you think President Obama and Republicans in Congress will reach an agreement to prevent automatic spending cuts and tax increases from going into effect before January 1st, or not?

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>
40	Yes, will	38
49	No, will not	51
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11

³ Questions PEWWP.4-PEWWP.10 asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.10

If an agreement is not reached, who do you think would be more to blame: **[READ AND RANDOMIZE: Republicans in Congress or President Obama]**?

Nov 29-Dec 2

2012

53	Republicans in Congress
27	President Obama
12	Both equally (VOL.)
2	Neither (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Nov 8-11

2012

53
29
10
2
7