

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**RESPONSE TO TERRORISM TRACKING POLL**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**September 21-25, 2001**  
**N=1,488**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK, ENTER AS DK. 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 DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 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>
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
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
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

**Q.2 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3=100
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

And thinking about your own personal finances...

E.1 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 &amp; World Report</i>				
		June	June	Aug	May	Sept	Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Oct	Aug	May	Jan		
		<u>2001</u>	<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>		
7	Excellent shape	6	9	6	7	8	8	5	5	4	6	5	4	4		
40	Good shape	38	43	43	43	47	39	41	34	33	34	30	35	32		
37	Only fair shape	39	35	41	38	34	38	40	45	46	40	47	45	45		
14	OR poor shape	16	11	9	11	10	14	13	15	16	19	17	15	18		
<u>2</u>	DK/Ref	<u>1</u>	<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	100		

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

Q.3 So far, does George W. Bush seem to be a stronger leader than you expected, a weaker leader, or is he about as strong as you expected?

		<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today</i>	
		April	<b>Clinton</b>
		<u>2001</u>	<u>Jan 1993</u>
45	Stronger leader than expected	21	13
4	Weaker leader than expected	13	12
45	About as strong as expected	59	68
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

Now a few questions about the terrorist attacks...

Q.4 If you had to choose, what should get a higher priority now **[READ AND ROTATE]**...?

33	Building our defenses at home to prevent future terrorist attacks
	--OR--
44	Taking military action to destroy terrorist networks around the world
16	Both ( <b>VOL.</b> )
<u>7</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Q.4a How confident are you that U.S. forces will be able to complete their mission to destroy terrorist networks around the world? Are you ... **[READ]**

39	Very confident
37	Somewhat confident
15	Not too confident
5	Not at all confident
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Q.5 Which is your greater concern ... that we will take military action against the terrorists **TOO QUICKLY**, or that we will wait **TOO LONG** to take military action?

34	Take action too quickly
49	Wait too long
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ROTATE Q.6A AND Q.6B**

Q.6a How important to you is it that our military actions against the terrorists **PUNISH** them for their attacks against the U.S.? **[READ]**

79	Very important
11	Fairly important
4	Not very important
2	Not at all important
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.6b How important to you is it that our military actions against the terrorists **PREVENT** them from making future attacks against the U.S.? **[READ]**

88	Very important
7	Fairly important
1	Not very important
1	Not at all important
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**IF “VERY IMPORTANT” IN BOTH Q.6A AND Q.6B ASK [N=1,070]:**

Q.6c Which is MORE important to you? [READ AND ROTATE]

- 22 That our military actions PUNISH terrorists for their attacks against the U.S.
- OR--
- 58 That our military actions PREVENT future terrorist attacks against the U.S.
- 18 Both [VOL.]
- 2 Don't know/Refused
- 100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.7 Do you think we are getting the support that we need from our traditional allies around the world for our plans to take action against terrorist organizations, or not?

- 74 Yes, we are getting the support we need
- 15 No, we are not getting the support that we need
- 11 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.8 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are [READ]

		-----Gallup-----				
		Sept 14-15	Sept 11	Aug	July	April
		<u>2001<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>2001<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995<sup>3</sup></u>
17	Very worried	18	23	10	13	14
36	Somewhat worried	33	35	22	26	28
31	Not too worried	35	24	38	34	33
15	Not at all worried	13	16	29	27	24
*	Already victim (VOL)	*	1	--	--	--
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.9 Since the terrorist attacks, have you yourself become more suspicious of people who you think are of Middle-Eastern descent, or not?

- 28 Yes, more suspicious
- 70 No, not more suspicious
- 2 Don't know/Refused
- 100

<sup>1</sup> For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with wording, "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

<sup>2</sup> For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with wording, "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

<sup>3</sup> For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded, "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

**ROTATE Q.10A AND Q.10B**

Q.10a What's your impression, do you think that many people in Europe and other western nations believe the U.S. itself bears some responsibility for the hatred that lead to the terrorist attacks, or don't you think many of them feel this way?

38 Yes, many believe U.S. bears some responsibility  
47 No, don't think may feel this way  
15 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.10b What's your impression, do you think that many people in the Middle-East and other non-western nations believe the U.S. itself bears some responsibility for the hatred that lead to the terrorist attacks, or don't you think many of them feel this way?

59 Yes, many believe U.S. bears some responsibility  
27 No, don't think may feel this way  
14 Don't know/Refused  
100

On a related topic,

Q.11 President Bush promised not to spend the Social Security surplus except in times of economic distress or war. What about now after the terrorist attacks? Do you think President Bush still should not spend the Social Security surplus or should Bush spend the surplus in response to the attacks?

53 No, should not spend surplus  
37 Yes, should spend surplus  
10 Don't know/Refused [VOL.]  
100

**Q.12 ASKED SEPTEMBER 21-23 ONLY [N=666]:**

Q.12 And finally, do you think there is anything the US has done wrong in its dealings with other countries that might have motivated the terrorist attacks, or not?

33 Yes, dealings may have motivated attacks  
55 No  
12 Don't know/Refused  
100

**Q.13 AND Q.14 ASKED SEPTEMBER 24-25 ONLY [N=822]:**

Q.13 And finally just two more questions. Do you think there is any way that the U.S. has been unfair in its dealings with other countries that might have motivated the terrorist attacks, or not?

21 Yes, unfair dealings may have motivated attacks  
70 No  
9 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.14 Do you think the U.S. not being tough enough in its dealing with other countries might have motivated the terrorist attacks, or not?

48 Yes, not being tough enough may have motivated attacks  
43 No  
9 Don't know/Refused  
100