

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 30-October 4, 2009
N=1500

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
September 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
August 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
August, 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
July 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
June 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	October, 2003	38	56	6
April 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	August, 2003	40	53	7
April 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
January 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	November, 2002	41	48	11
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	September, 2002	41	55	4
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
August, 2008	21	74	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
July, 2008	19	74	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
June, 2008	19	76	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
March, 2008	22	72	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	February, 2001	46	43	11
October, 2007	28	66	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
February, 2007	30	61	9	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
December, 2006	28	65	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	August, 1999	56	39	5
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	August, 1997	49	46	5
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
December, 2004	39	54	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	October, 1995	23	73	4

¹ In September 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1995	25	73	2	January, 1993	39	50	11
April, 1995	23	74	3	January, 1992	28	68	4
July, 1994	24	73	3	November, 1991	34	61	5
March, 1994	24	71	5	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3
October, 1993	22	73	5	August, 1990	47	48	5
September, 1993	20	75	5	May, 1990	41	54	5
May, 1993	22	71	7	January, 1989	45	50	5
				September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
September 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
August 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
August, 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
July 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
June 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
April 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
March 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
March 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
February 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

ASK ALL:

Q.3 In the long run, do you think Barack Obama will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	Too early <u>to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Obama	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Obama	January 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
Bush	January, 2007	24	45	27	4
Bush	January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Bush	Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
Bush	January, 2005	36	27	35	2
Bush	December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Bush	Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
Bush	January, 2001	26	15	58	1
Clinton	January, 1999	44	24	29	3
Clinton	Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
Clinton	February, 1995	18	34	43	5
Clinton	October, 1994	14	35	48	3
Clinton	May, 1994	21	26	52	1
Clinton	January, 1994	21	19	57	3
Clinton	October, 1993	18	25	56	1
Clinton	September, 1993	22	22	54	2
Clinton	August, 1993	13	25	60	2

ASK ALL:

Q.4 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Sept <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
64	More politically divided	61	46	66	70	66
30	Not more divided	34	45	28	24	26
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	9	6	6	8

NO QUESTIONS 5 THROUGH 7

RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9

ASK ALL:

Q.8 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>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17	May, 1999	38	44	18
June 10-14, 2009	29	56	15	March, 1999	38	47	15
March 9-12, 2009	28	51	21	February, 1999	37	51	12
February 4-8, 2009	34	51	15	January, 1999	38	50	12
Early October, 2006	33	56	11	Early December, 1998	38	49	13
June, 2006	30	53	17	November, 1998	41	48	11
March, 2006	32	50	18	Early September, 1998	44	37	19
January, 2006	33	52	15	Early August, 1998	43	37	20
Early November, 2005	33	50	17	June, 1998	42	38	20
Early October, 2005	32	52	16	May, 1998	40	41	19
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15	April, 1998	41	40	19
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15	March, 1998	43	39	18
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17	January, 1998	43	41	16
Early February, 2004	41	42	17	November, 1997	41	43	16
January, 2003	48	37	15	August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 2002	50	34	16	June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 2002	49	34	17	May, 1997	40	44	16
February, 2002	56	24	20	April, 1997	40	44	16
Early September, 2001	43	39	18	February, 1997	44	42	14
June, 2001	40	40	20	January, 1997	38	47	15
May, 2001	45	36	19	November, 1996	40	43	17
April, 2001	45	30	25	July, 1996	38	48	14
January, 2001	43	36	21	June, 1996	36	50	14
July, 2000	36	46	18	April, 1996	39	46	15
May, 2000	40	42	18	March, 1996	35	51	14
March, 2000	38	43	19	February, 1996	33	53	14
February, 2000	40	43	17	January, 1996	36	54	10
January, 2000	39	41	20	October, 1995	36	51	13
December, 1999	38	42	20	September, 1995	36	50	14
October, 1999	34	50	16	August, 1995	38	45	17
Late September, 1999	34	46	20	June, 1995	41	45	14
August, 1999	40	44	16	April, 1995	44	43	13
July, 1999	36	45	19	March, 1995	43	39	18
June, 1999	37	46	17	December, 1994	52	28	20

RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9

ASK ALL:

Q.9 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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
June 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
March 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
February 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ²	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22

2 In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.10F1 How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**—a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all?...How about when it comes to **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	No confidence at all	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F1	Fixing the economy					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	21	38	18	21	2
	March 31-April 6, 2009 ³	32	38	13	13	4
	January 7-11, 2009	33	42	14	7	4
b. F1	Dealing with health care reform					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	20	30	21	27	2
	August 20-27, 2009 ⁴	26	30	21	22	3
c. F1	The threat of terrorism					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	20	38	21	17	4
	January 7-11, 2009 ⁵	31	40	16	9	4
d.F1	Dealing with Iran					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	17	34	24	20	5
e.F1	The situation in Afghanistan					
	September 30-October 4, 2009	16	34	24	21	6

NO QUESTION 11

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.12F2 AND Q.13F2:

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.12F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama’s policies will improve economic conditions in the country?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
57	Optimistic	63	65	66
35	Pessimistic	28	28	26
8	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	9	7	8

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.12F2 AND Q.13F2:

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.13F2 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama’s policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
48	Optimistic	54	55	54
42	Pessimistic	36	36	36
10	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	9	9	10

3 Item asked in a list about confidence in Obama, Democratic leaders in Congress, and Republican leaders in Congress.

4 Item asked in a list about confidence in Obama, Democratic leaders in Congress, and Republican leaders in Congress.

5 Question was worded “Preventing terrorist attacks.”

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.14F1 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
31	Better	24	26	26	14
20	Worse	21	16	17	15
42	No effect so far	46	49	47	64
4	Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)	3	4	6	4
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	4	4	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.15F1 So far, do you think Barack Obama is [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
45	Trying to address too many issues at once	41	34	35
9	Focusing on too few issues [OR]	3	4	4
41	Doing about right	48	56	56
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	6	5

ASK ALL:

Q.16 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... [READ, RANDOMIZE]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>
44	Liberal members of his party [OR]	41	39	40	44	34
32	Moderate members of his party	31	35	33	30	44
24	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	27	26	27	26	22

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

On a different subject...

Q.17F2 All in all, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business?

IF 'GOOD IDEA' (1 IN Q.17F2) ASK [N=415]:

Q.18F2 Is increased government regulation of major financial companies [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
54	Good idea	60
34	Something you strongly support	34
17	Something you have reservations about	21
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5
38	Bad idea	31
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

On a different subject...

Q.19F1 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

Sep 30-Oct 4 2009		Late-				-----CBS/New York Times-----					
		Mar 9-12 2009	Oct 2008	Nov 2007	Jan 2007	Nov 2003	July 2003	Jan 2002	Jan 2001	Sept 1999	Feb 1996
51	Smaller government, fewer services	48	42	47	45	45	48	46	51	46	61
40	Bigger government, more services	40	43	42	43	42	40	40	36	43	30
4	Depends (VOL.)	3	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4
6	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	9	11	7	8	9	7	11	8	6	5

NO QUESTIONS 20 AND 21

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Now thinking about opposition to Barack Obama's policies, do you think that racism is a major factor, a minor factor or not a factor in opposition to Barack Obama's policies?

20	Major factor
32	Minor factor
44	Not a factor
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 23 AND 24

RANDOMIZE Q.25-Q.26/Q.27-Q.28 IN BLOCKS

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.25 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Only		(VOL.)
			Fair	Poor	DK/Ref
September 30-October 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
August 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
June 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
March 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
February 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2

Q.25 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 ⁶	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.26 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
August 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
June 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
March 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
February 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4

6 Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3

RANDOMIZE Q.25-Q.26/Q.27-Q.28 IN BLOCKS

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.27 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 financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only</u> <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
August 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
June 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
February 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	33	46	16	1
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	34	40	19	1
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	5	30	47	17	1

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	35	45	15	1
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	32	45	18	1

ASK ALL:

Q.28 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?

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>Stay the same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 30-October 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
August 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
June 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
February 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5

ASK ALL:

Q.29 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
46	The job situation	44	42	42	45	26	18	19
27	Rising prices	26	29	22	21	31	38	49
14	Problems in the financial markets [OR]	14	15	21	21	29	31	14
7	Declining real estate values	9	8	10	9	9	8	12
2	Other (VOL.)	4	2	1	1	1	2	2
2	None / not worried about any (VOL.)	2	2	2	1	2	1	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	2	2	2	2	2

NO QUESTION 30

ASK ALL:

Q.31 From what you've read and heard, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress in February?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jun 10-14 ⁷ <u>2009</u>
44	Approve	55
44	Disapprove	39
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Now I'd like to ask you about some steps the federal government has taken over the past year in reaction to economic problems facing the nation. First, has **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy? Next, has **[NEXT ITEM]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

		Mostly <u>good</u>	Mostly <u>bad</u>	(VOL.) <u>No effect</u>	(VOL.) <u>Kept from getting worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The government spending billions on roads, bridges, and other public works projects	70	21	3	1	5
b.	The government giving loans to major U.S. banks and financial institutions	39	52	1	1	7
c.	The government giving loans to General Motors and Chrysler	37	54	2	1	7

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Since the crisis in the financial markets last fall, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis **[READ]**?

2	A great deal of progress
26	Some progress
46	Just a little progress [OR]
23	No progress at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

7 In June 2009, the question was worded "roughly 800 billion ..."

ASK ALL:

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

46	Full-time
15	Part-time
39	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF NOT FULL TIME (2-9 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=826]:

RETIRED Are you currently retired?

36	Yes
5	Yes, semi-retired or "still do some type of work" (VOL.)
59	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.34 Over the past 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your household has been without a job and looking for work, or not?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Feb 4-8 ⁸ <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	May <u>2005</u>
42	Yes	39	35	28	31
58	No	61	65	71	69
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	*

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=859]:

Q.35 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?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	June <u>2001</u>	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>			
							Oct <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1992</u>	May <u>1992</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>
18	Excellent shape	15	20	22	30	31	27	23	25	22
42	Good shape	43	43	44	39	39	38	40	40	39
27	Only fair shape	29	27	25	21	20	23	26	22	24
10	Poor shape	10	8	5	6	7	10	9	11	12
2	Does not apply (VOL.)	*	1	2	2	2	--	--	--	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3

8 In February 2009, those who were not employed and looking for work, identified on an earlier question, were not asked this question, but are included in "yes."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:

Q.36F1 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?

	Plenty of jobs available	Jobs are difficult to find	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, few of others	(VOL.) DK/ Refused
September 30-October 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
February 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	15	76	6	3
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	16	77	4	3
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	12	79	6	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.37F2 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available or are good jobs difficult to find?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		July <u>2008</u>	June <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>
10	Plenty of GOOD jobs available	22	36	28
84	GOOD jobs are difficult to find	73	55	64
2	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)	1	3	3
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	6	5

ASK ALL:

Q.38 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>
8	Gone up a lot	11	19	20	28	28
13	Gone up a little	11	14	13	18	22
35	Gone down a little	33	29	32	23	25
31	Gone down a lot	34	25	24	18	15
6	Stayed about the same (VOL.)	5	4	5	3	3
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	9	6	10	7

**NO QUESTIONS 39 AND 40
QUESTIONS 41 THROUGH 44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Now thinking about health care...

Q.45 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system? Have you heard...[READ]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>
46	A lot	60	53	41
43	A little [OR]	34	40	47
10	Nothing at all	5	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.46 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

ASK IF Q.46=1,2 [N=1268]:

Q.46a Do you (favor/oppose) these health care proposals very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sept 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>
34	Generally favor	42	39	38
20	Very strongly	29	25	--
13	Not so strongly	11	13	--
1	Don't know (how strongly)	2	1	--
47	Generally oppose	44	46	44
35	Very strongly	34	34	--
11	Not so strongly	10	12	--
1	Don't know (how strongly)	*	1	--
19	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	15	18

ASK IF 'FAVOR' (Q.46=1) [N=514]:

Q.47 What would you rather see policymakers who support the health care proposals currently being discussed in Congress do [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 38 Try to compromise with opponents in order to be sure legislation passes [OR]
- 57 Try to make the bill as strong as possible
- 5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF 'OPPOSE' (Q.46=2) [N=754]:

Q.48 What would you rather see policymakers who oppose the health care proposals currently being discussed in Congress do [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 62 Try to compromise with supporters to make the legislation better [OR]
- 33 Try to prevent any health care legislation from passing this year
- 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.49 Now I'd like to ask you about some of the specific proposals being considered to address health care. (First,) Would you favor or oppose [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? What about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Requiring that all Americans have health insurance, with the government providing financial help for those who can't afford it			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	66	30	4
	July 22-26, 2009	65	29	6
b.	A government health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	55	38	8
	July 22-26, 2009	52	37	10
c.	Requiring insurance companies to sell health coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing medical conditions			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	82	14	4
	July 22-26, 2009	79	15	6
d.	Requiring employers to pay into a government health care fund if they do not provide health insurance to their employees ⁹			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	59	36	5
	July 22-26, 2009	61	33	6
e.	Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 as a way to pay for changes to the health care system			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	58	39	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	July 22-26, 2009 ¹⁰	63	32	5
f.	Limits on the amount of money that patients can collect in medical malpractice lawsuits			
	September 30-October 4, 2009	66	27	7

⁹ In July 2009, this item was part of a list asking about "some ways to pay for changes to the health care system."

¹⁰ In July 2009, item asked about "Raising taxes on families with incomes of more than \$350,000 and individuals earning more than \$280,000" and was part of a list asking about "some ways to pay for changes to the health care system."

NO QUESTION 50

ASK ALL:

Q.51 Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? [**READ IF NECESSARY:** A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid]

ASK IF COVERED IN Q.51 (Q.51=1) [N=1295]:

Q.52 Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through an employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else? [**INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: DO NOT NEED TO READ FULL LIST IF RESPONDENT INTERRUPTS TO ANSWER 1 OR 2, BUT VERIFY** "So your main source of health insurance coverage is not by Medicare, Medicaid or any other form of government insurance?"]

Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>		Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>
80	Covered by health insurance	81	81
48	Plan through an employer	45	--
8	Plan you purchased yourself	9	--
13	Medicare	14	--
4	Medicaid	3	--
4	Other government program	4	--
3	Somewhere else	4	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	--
20	Not covered by health insurance	19	18
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

NO QUESTIONS 53 AND 54

QUESTIONS 55 AND 56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 57 AND 58

QUESTIONS 59 THROUGH 64 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY [N=662], ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/</u>	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--