

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**September 19-22, 2013 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] [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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. The shooting at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. where 13 people were killed					
September 19-22, 2013	33	32	22	12	*
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
December 14-16, 2012: <i>A deadly shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut</i>	57	26	10	5	2
December 13, 2012: <i>The shooting at a shopping mall near Portland, Oregon</i>	19	28	33	20	1
August 9-12, 2012: <i>A deadly shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin</i>	20	31	23	25	1
July 26-29, 2012: <i>The shooting at a movie theater near Denver, Colorado</i>	41	33	16	9	1
July 20-22, 2012	48	25	15	11	1
April 5-8, 2012: <i>A shooting at a small college in Oakland, California, that killed seven people</i>	21	28	25	25	2
March 1-4, 2012: <i>A deadly school shooting near Cleveland, Ohio</i>	26	31	22	19	1
December 8-11, 2011: <i>Deadly shootings at Virginia Tech University</i>	20	27	29	24	1
January 13-16, 2011: <i>News about a Congresswoman and others shot in Tucson, Arizona</i>	49	28	12	11	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>A shooter killing 13 people at Fort Hood Army post in Texas</i>	44	34	14	8	*
August 7-10, 2009: <i>A shooting at a fitness club in Pennsylvania, killing four</i>	13	28	25	34	1
June 12-15, 2009: <i>A deadly shooting at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.</i>	26	34	17	23	*
April 3-6, 2009: <i>A shooter killing several people at an immigration services center in Binghamton, New York</i>	26	32	19	23	*
March 13-16, 2009: <i>A shooting spree in Alabama that resulted in the death of 11 people</i>	18	33	24	25	*
February 15-18, 2008: <i>The shootings at Northern Illinois University that resulted in the death of 7 people</i>	26	40	19	15	0
February 8-11, 2008: <i>A shooting at a city council meeting in Missouri where six people were killed</i>	13	28	25	33	1
December 14-17, 2007: <i>Shootings at two religious centers in Colorado</i>	17	31	24	27	1
December 7-10, 2007: <i>A shooting at a shopping mall in Omaha, Nebraska where eight people were killed</i>	30	36	18	15	1

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The shooting at a high school in Cleveland, Ohio</i>	22	32	25	20	1
April 20-23, 2007: <i>The shootings at Virginia Tech University that resulted in the death of 33 people</i>	45	37	13	5	*
October, 2006: <i>Recent shootings at schools in Pennsylvania and other states</i>	46	33	12	8	1
March, 2001: <i>The shooting of students and teachers at a San Diego high school</i>	39	37	16	7	1
March, 2000: <i>The shooting of a 6-year-old girl at a Michigan school</i>	40	38	15	7	*
September, 1999: <i>The shootings in a Jewish community center in Los Angeles</i>	29	34	22	14	1
Late April, 1999: <i>The shooting of students and teachers by two students at a Colorado high school</i>	68	24	6	2	*
June, 1998: <i>The shooting at a high school in Springfield, Oregon</i>	46	36	14	4	*
March, 1998: <i>The shooting at a middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas</i>	49	33	12	5	1
b. Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September					
September 19-22, 2013	25	24	21	30	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
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

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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	*
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

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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	*
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
c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
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	*
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	*

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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>

d. Diplomatic efforts aimed at getting Syria to give up control of its chemical weapons					
September 19-22, 2013	33	32	17	17	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
September 12-15, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria and diplomatic efforts to have Syria give up control of its chemical weapons</i>	45	31	12	11	*
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons</i>	39	29	15	16	*
June 14-16, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	15	30	20	33	2
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	23	22	42	*
May 9-12, 2013	17	24	25	33	1
April 25-28, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	18	25	24	33	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
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
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 15-18, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	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	*
e. Floods in Colorado					
September 19-22, 2013	26	30	19	25	0
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
May 23-26, 2013: <i>A deadly tornado in Oklahoma</i>	47	32	13	7	1
July 5-8, 2012: <i>Strong storms in the Midwest and East and continued power outages</i>	27	32	20	20	1
March 1-4, 2012: <i>Deadly storms and tornadoes in the Midwest</i>	33	31	17	18	1
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Deadly tornadoes in the Midwest</i>	45	33	13	9	*
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Flooding along the Mississippi River</i>	30	34	20	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	28	33	20	18	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Tornadoes and flooding in the South and Midwest</i>	41	37	15	7	*
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Deadly storms in the South</i>	45	29	14	12	1
April 21-25, 2011: <i>Deadly storms in the South and Midwest</i>	29	33	18	20	*
June 13-16, 2008: <i>A tornado that killed four Boy Scouts at a camp in Iowa</i>	32	35	17	16	*
May 30-June 2, 2008: <i>Violent storms and tornadoes in the Midwest</i>	30	33	21	15	1
February 8-11, 2008: <i>Tornadoes and violent storms in the South and Midwest</i>	25	42	19	13	1
May 11-14, 2007: <i>Tornadoes and floods in the Midwest</i>	22	35	23	19	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>Tornadoes and violent storms in the South and Midwest</i>	33	38	18	11	*
January, 2006: <i>The floods in California</i>	20	31	28	20	1
April, 2001: <i>The floods in the Midwest</i>	20	34	24	22	*
May, 1999: <i>Oklahoma and Kansas</i>	38	40	15	6	1
March, 1995: <i>The floods in California</i>	37	40	18	5	*
August, 1993: <i>The floods in the Midwest</i>	65	27	6	2	*

**NO PEW.2-PEW.3**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about the budget debate in Washington...

PEW.4 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? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>		
		<i>Gallup</i>		
Sep 19-22 <u>2013</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u> <sup>1</sup>	Feb <u>2011</u> <sup>2</sup>	Aug <u>1995</u> <sup>3</sup>
33	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down [OR]	36	32	35
57	Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with	55	60	60
10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	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 <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 Just your best guess, do you think **[Republicans in Congress]** and **[the Obama administration]** will or will not reach a budget agreement before the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline? **[RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]**

Sep 19-22 <u>2013</u>	
46	Yes, will
45	No, will not
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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?"

<sup>2</sup> 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?"

<sup>3</sup> 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?"



**PEW.5 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**2012 Fiscal Cliff

*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 1<sup>st</sup>, or not?*

Dec 13-16 <u>2012</u>		(WP) Nov 29-Dec 2 <u>2012</u>	(WP) Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>
40	Yes, will	40	38
49	No, will not	49	51
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	11	11

2011 Debt Ceiling

*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?*

*Just your best guess, do you think Barack Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline?*

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		ABC/Wash Post Jul 14-17 <u>2011</u> <sup>4</sup>
56	Will	54
38	Will not	43
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3

1995 Government Shutdown

*Do you think the budget disagreement between President Clinton and Congress will lead to a major shutdown of the federal government, or do you think they will reach an agreement in time to avoid a shutdown?*

NBC/Wall Street Journal <u>Oct 1995</u>		NBC/Wall Street Journal <u>Sep 1995</u>
13	Disagreement will lead to a shutdown	15
79	Will reach agreement in time to avoid shutdown	77
8	Not sure <b>(VOL.)</b>	8

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 If an agreement is not reached and there is a government shutdown, do you think this would have a major effect, minor effect or no effect on the U.S. economy?

Sep 19-22

<u>2013</u>	
61	Major effect
30	Minor effect
6	No effect
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>4</sup> Jul 14-17, 2011 ABC News/Washington Post question was worded, "Just your best guess, do you think Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline the administration has set for raising the debt limit?"

**PEW.6 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**2013 Sequester

*If automatic federal spending cuts take place, do you think they would have a major effect, a minor effect, or no effect on...the U.S. economy?*

(WP)	
Feb 21-24	
<u>2013</u>	
60	Major effect
25	Minor effect
5	No effect
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

2012 Fiscal Cliff

*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?*

Nov 29-Dec 2		Nov 8-11	
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	
64	Major effect	68	
20	Minor effect	21	
7	No effect	22	
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	10	

**ASK IF EFFECT (PEW.6=1,2) [N=899]:**

PEW.7 And would the effect on the U.S. economy be mostly positive or mostly negative?

		(WP)		
		<i>Sequester</i>	<i>Fiscal cliff</i>	
Sep 19-22		Feb 21-24	Nov 29-Dec 2	Nov 8-11
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>
12	Mostly positive	21	23	23
83	Mostly negative	73	71	70
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	6	7

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.8 If the federal government shuts down because **[RANDOMIZE: Republicans and the Obama administration]** can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame: **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE: Republicans or the Obama administration]**?<sup>5</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> This question was asked on the same survey as the National Journal's Congressional Connection poll, also released Sept. 23, 2013.

**PEW.8 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**2013 Sequester

*If an agreement to prevent automatic federal spending cuts is not reached before next week's deadline, who do you think would be more to blame [READ AND RANDOMIZE: Republicans in Congress or President Obama]?*

(WP) Feb 21-24 <u>2013</u>		(U) Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u> <sup>6</sup>
45	Republicans in Congress	49
32	President Obama	31
13	Both equally (VOL.)	11
1	Neither (VOL.)	1
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

2012 Fiscal Cliff

*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 1<sup>st</sup>, or not? 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 8-11 <u>2012</u>	
53	Republicans in Congress
29	President Obama
10	Both equally (VOL.)
2	Neither (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

2011 Government Shutdown Threat

*If the federal government shuts down because [RANDOMIZE: Republicans and the Obama administration] can't agree on a budget, who do you think would be more to blame: [READ IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE: Republicans or the Obama administration]?*

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>		Feb 24-27 <u>2011</u>
39	Republicans	36
36	The Obama administration	35
16	Both equally (VOL.)	17
2	Neither (VOL.)	1
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10

1995 Government Shutdown

*There's a possibility the federal government might have to shut down in the next few days because the Clinton administration and the Republicans in Congress can't agree on a plan to keep it running while they work on a new budget. Whose fault do you think this mainly is—Clinton's or the Republicans' in Congress?*

## ABC News/Wash Post

Nov 10-13 <u>1995</u>	
27	Clinton
46	Republicans in Congress
20	Both equally (VOL.)
2	Neither (VOL.)
5	Don't know/No opinion (VOL.)

<sup>6</sup> In February 13-18, 2013 survey, question was worded: "If a deficit reduction agreement is not reached before the deadline, who do you think would be more to blame?"

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.9 As you may know, Republicans in the House of Representatives have said that funding for the 2010 health care law must be cut off as part of any budget agreement. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Sep 19-22

2013

38	Support
50	Oppose
13	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

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**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls
(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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