

PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
MAY 12-15, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1006

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about? **[OPEN END. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT READ PRECODE LIST. DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS]**

May 12-15

2011

| | |
|----|--|
| 36 | Osama bin Laden/Pakistan |
| 4 | Flooding along the Mississippi |
| 4 | Weather |
| 4 | The economy/jobs/financial markets |
| 3 | Gas prices |
| 1 | The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton |
| 1 | 2012 elections |
| 1 | Barack Obama |
| 1 | The earthquake/tsunami in Japan |
| 1 | The Casey Anthony trial |
| 19 | Other (VOL.) |
| 24 | No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 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. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 32 | 32 | 17 | 18 | 2 |
| May 5-8, 2011 | 40 | 35 | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| April 21-25, 2011 | 41 | 33 | 12 | 14 | * |
| April 14-17, 2011 | 44 | 30 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| April 7-10, 2011 | 46 | 30 | 14 | 10 | * |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 42 | 31 | 16 | 11 | 0 |
| March 24-27, 2011 | 36 | 32 | 17 | 15 | * |
| March 17-20, 2011 | 38 | 32 | 17 | 13 | * |
| March 10-13, 2011 | 40 | 30 | 16 | 13 | * |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 37 | 31 | 17 | 13 | 1 |
| February 24-27, 2011 | 49 | 29 | 11 | 10 | * |
| February 17-20, 2011 | 35 | 33 | 14 | 17 | * |
| February 10-13, 2011 | 36 | 34 | 13 | 16 | * |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 35 | 37 | 14 | 14 | * |
| January 20-23, 2011 | 37 | 33 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| January 13-16, 2010 | 37 | 29 | 15 | 18 | 1 |
| January 6-9, 2011 | 39 | 37 | 11 | 12 | 1 |
| December 16-19, 2010 | 39 | 31 | 14 | 15 | 2 |
| December 9-12, 2010 | 39 | 30 | 14 | 16 | 1 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 52 | 28 | 11 | 9 | * |
| November 18-21, 2010 | 46 | 31 | 11 | 11 | * |
| November 11-14, 2010 | 38 | 30 | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| November 4-7, 2010 | 44 | 32 | 11 | 13 | * |
| October 28-November 1, 2010 | 39 | 34 | 11 | 15 | 1 |
| October 21-24, 2010 | 41 | 29 | 14 | 14 | 1 |
| October 14-17, 2010 | 42 | 33 | 12 | 13 | * |
| October 7-10, 2010 | 36 | 33 | 15 | 15 | 1 |
| September 30-October 3, 2010 | 43 | 35 | 10 | 11 | 1 |
| September 23-26, 2010 | 43 | 34 | 13 | 9 | 1 |

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 16-19, 2010 | 37 | 30 | 16 | 16 | 1 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 43 | 31 | 13 | 12 | * |
| August 19-22, 2010 | 39 | 31 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| August 5-8, 2010 | 39 | 33 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| July 29-August 1, 2010 | 51 | 33 | 11 | 5 | * |
| July 22-25, 2010 | 46 | 33 | 14 | 6 | 1 |
| July 15-18, 2010 | 37 | 33 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| July 8-11, 2010 | 36 | 33 | 15 | 16 | * |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 48 | 30 | 13 | 8 | * |
| June 24-27, 2010 | 37 | 37 | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| June 17-20, 2010 | 38 | 34 | 15 | 13 | * |
| June 10-13, 2010 | 39 | 35 | 17 | 9 | * |
| June 3-6, 2010 | 35 | 33 | 16 | 14 | 1 |
| May 27-30, 2010 | 43 | 29 | 13 | 15 | * |
| May 20-23, 2010 | 40 | 35 | 13 | 11 | * |
| May 13-16, 2010 | 49 | 32 | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 42 | 34 | 11 | 12 | * |
| April 30-May 3, 2010 | 32 | 37 | 17 | 14 | 1 |
| April 23-26, 2010 | 42 | 31 | 13 | 14 | * |
| April 16-19, 2010 | 40 | 32 | 14 | 14 | 0 |
| April 9-12, 2010 | 40 | 32 | 15 | 13 | * |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 33 | 34 | 14 | 19 | * |
| March 19-22, 2010 | 41 | 32 | 14 | 13 | * |
| March 12-15, 2010 | 41 | 35 | 12 | 12 | * |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 40 | 34 | 12 | 13 | * |
| February 26-March 1, 2010 | 31 | 33 | 17 | 19 | * |
| February 19-22, 2010 | 38 | 34 | 15 | 12 | * |
| February 12-15, 2010 | 35 | 34 | 15 | 16 | * |
| February 5-8, 2010 | 43 | 36 | 13 | 9 | * |
| January 29-February 1, 2010 | 45 | 32 | 13 | 10 | * |
| January 22-25, 2010 | 41 | 34 | 14 | 10 | * |
| January 15-18, 2010 | 37 | 38 | 14 | 11 | * |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 39 | 33 | 15 | 12 | * |
| December 18-21, 2009 | 45 | 31 | 14 | 10 | 0 |
| December 11-14, 2009 | 42 | 31 | 14 | 13 | * |
| December 4-7, 2009 | 41 | 36 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| November 13-16, 2009 | 38 | 33 | 14 | 15 | * |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 34 | 32 | 17 | 16 | * |
| October 23-26, 2009 | 44 | 30 | 15 | 10 | 1 |
| October 9-12, 2009 | 41 | 29 | 16 | 13 | * |
| October 2-5, 2009 | 44 | 30 | 15 | 11 | 0 |
| September 25-28, 2009 | 44 | 37 | 10 | 10 | * |
| September 18-21, 2009 | 44 | 34 | 15 | 7 | * |
| September 11-14, 2009 | 45 | 32 | 14 | 9 | * |
| September 3-6, 2009 | 41 | 31 | 15 | 13 | * |
| August 28-31, 2009 | 45 | 30 | 13 | 12 | 1 |
| August 21-24, 2009 | 50 | 27 | 13 | 10 | 1 |
| August 14-17, 2009 | 41 | 37 | 11 | 12 | * |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 42 | 34 | 13 | 10 | * |
| July 31-August 3, 2009 | 46 | 34 | 11 | 8 | * |
| July 24-27, 2009 | 45 | 35 | 12 | 8 | * |
| July 17-20, 2009 | 43 | 35 | 11 | 11 | 1 |
| July 10-13, 2009 | 37 | 38 | 13 | 11 | * |
| July 2-5, 2009 | 38 | 35 | 15 | 12 | * |
| June 19-22, 2009 | 42 | 33 | 15 | 10 | * |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 41 | 35 | 12 | 12 | * |
| June 5-8, 2009 | 41 | 34 | 11 | 14 | * |
| May 29-June 1, 2009 | 43 | 37 | 11 | 8 | * |
| May 21-24, 2009 | 44 | 35 | 13 | 9 | * |

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| May 15-18, 2009 | 44 | 35 | 12 | 8 | * |
| May 8-11, 2009 | 42 | 34 | 12 | 12 | * |
| May 1-4, 2009 | 47 | 36 | 11 | 5 | 1 |
| April 17-20, 2009 | 52 | 30 | 10 | 7 | 1 |
| April 9-13, 2009 | 48 | 29 | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| March 27-30, 2009 | 48 | 32 | 10 | 10 | * |
| March 20-23, 2009 | 52 | 34 | 8 | 6 | * |
| March 13-16, 2009 | 48 | 33 | 9 | 10 | * |
| February 27-March 2, 2009 | 56 | 30 | 8 | 6 | * |
| February 13-16, 2009 | 55 | 29 | 10 | 6 | * |
| January 30-February 2, 2009 | 52 | 31 | 12 | 5 | * |
| January 23-26, 2009 | 57 | 30 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| January 16-19, 2009 | 43 | 35 | 13 | 9 | * |
| January 2-4, 2009 | 42 | 36 | 15 | 7 | * |
| December 12-15, 2008 | 51 | 33 | 9 | 7 | * |
| December 5-8, 2008 | 42 | 38 | 13 | 7 | * |
| November 21-24, 2008 | 59 | 24 | 9 | 8 | * |
| November 14-17, 2008 | 56 | 29 | 9 | 6 | * |
| November 7-10, 2008 | 54 | 31 | 8 | 7 | * |
| October 31-November 3, 2008 | 63 | 27 | 6 | 4 | * |
| October 24-27, 2008 | 52 | 35 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| October 17-20, 2008 | 62 | 29 | 6 | 3 | * |
| October 10-13, 2008 | 65 | 25 | 7 | 3 | * |
| October 3-6, 2008 | 69 | 23 | 5 | 3 | * |
| September 26-29, 2008 | 70 | 22 | 5 | 3 | * |
| September 19-22, 2008 | 56 | 27 | 12 | 5 | * |
| September 5-8, 2008 | 44 | 33 | 16 | 7 | * |
| August 29-31, 2008 | 41 | 34 | 13 | 11 | 1 |
| August 15-18, 2008 | 39 | 36 | 15 | 10 | * |
| August 8-11, 2008 | 39 | 35 | 16 | 10 | * |
| August 1-4, 2008 | 47 | 34 | 11 | 8 | 0 |
| July 25-28, 2008 | 46 | 32 | 10 | 12 | * |
| July 18-21, 2008 | 45 | 33 | 13 | 9 | * |
| July 11-14, 2008 | 44 | 33 | 12 | 10 | 1 |
| June 27-30, 2008 | 49 | 31 | 12 | 7 | 1 |
| June 13-16, 2008 | 42 | 33 | 14 | 11 | * |
| May 9-12, 2008 | 45 | 31 | 13 | 11 | * |
| May 2-5, 2008 | 43 | 31 | 15 | 10 | 1 |
| April 18-21, 2008 | 41 | 35 | 13 | 10 | 1 |
| April 4-7, 2008 | 39 | 37 | 12 | 12 | * |
| March 28-31, 2008 | 42 | 36 | 14 | 8 | * |
| March 20-24, 2008 | 45 | 33 | 13 | 9 | * |
| February 29-March 3, 2008 | 38 | 35 | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| February 15-18, 2008 | 37 | 36 | 11 | 16 | 8 |
| February 1-4, 2008 | 40 | 37 | 14 | 8 | 1 |
| January 18-21, 2008 | 42 | 31 | 16 | 11 | * |
| January 11-14, 2008 | 36 | 32 | 15 | 16 | 1 |
| November 2-5, 2007 | 27 | 37 | 16 | 19 | 1 |
| October 19-22, 2007 | 25 | 34 | 20 | 21 | * |
| August 10-13, 2007 | 28 | 36 | 18 | 18 | * |
| Mid-November, 2006 | 31 | 40 | 17 | 11 | 1 |
| December, 2005 | 35 | 35 | 18 | 11 | 1 |
| Early November, 2005 | 35 | 39 | 17 | 9 | * |
| Mid-May, 2005 | 30 | 39 | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| January, 2005 | 35 | 41 | 17 | 7 | * |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 30 | 43 | 16 | 10 | 1 |
| Early September, 2004 | 39 | 34 | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| Mid-January, 2004 | 37 | 41 | 15 | 7 | * |
| December, 2003 | 35 | 38 | 14 | 11 | 2 |

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| November, 2003 | 40 | 34 | 15 | 10 | 1 |
| October, 2003 | 32 | 39 | 16 | 12 | 1 |
| September, 2003 | 39 | 30 | 18 | 12 | 1 |
| March, 2003 | 40 | 35 | 16 | 8 | 1 |
| February, 2003 | 42 | 33 | 15 | 10 | * |
| December, 2002 | 38 | 34 | 17 | 10 | 1 |
| February, 2002 | 35 | 40 | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| January, 2002 | 30 | 44 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| December, 2001 | 37 | 40 | 13 | 8 | 2 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 41 | 36 | 15 | 7 | 1 |
| June, 2001 | 24 | 41 | 18 | 16 | 1 |
| May, 2001 | 34 | 36 | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| April, 2001 | 36 | 34 | 16 | 13 | 1 |
| February, 2001 | 30 | 39 | 18 | 12 | 1 |
| January, 2001 | 32 | 38 | 17 | 11 | 2 |
| June, 1995 | 26 | 41 | 22 | 11 | * |
| March, 1995 | 27 | 45 | 19 | 9 | * |
| February, 1995 | 23 | 41 | 22 | 13 | 1 |
| December, 1994 | 28 | 43 | 20 | 9 | * |
| October, 1994 | 27 | 40 | 20 | 12 | 1 |
| June, 1994 | 25 | 42 | 23 | 10 | * |
| May, 1994 | 33 | 40 | 16 | 10 | 1 |
| January, 1994 | 34 | 39 | 16 | 10 | 1 |
| Early January, 1994 | 36 | 44 | 13 | 7 | * |
| December, 1993 | 35 | 41 | 15 | 8 | 1 |
| October, 1993 | 33 | 38 | 20 | 9 | * |
| September, 1993 | 37 | 40 | 14 | 8 | 1 |
| Early September, 1993 | 39 | 39 | 14 | 9 | * |
| August, 1993 | 41 | 36 | 14 | 9 | * |
| May, 1993 | 37 | 38 | 18 | 6 | 1 |
| February, 1993 | 49 | 36 | 10 | 5 | * |
| January, 1993 | 42 | 39 | 12 | 7 | * |
| September, 1992 | 43 | 37 | 13 | 6 | 1 |
| May, 1992 | 39 | 39 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| March, 1992 | 47 | 38 | 11 | 4 | * |
| February, 1992 | 47 | 37 | 10 | 6 | * |
| January, 1992 | 44 | 40 | 11 | 5 | * |
| October, 1991 | 36 | 38 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| b. News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 15 | 22 | 26 | 35 | 1 |
| May 5-8, 2011 | 16 | 24 | 27 | 32 | 1 |
| April 21-25, 2011 | 18 | 26 | 23 | 32 | 1 |
| April 14-17, 2011 | 20 | 23 | 29 | 27 | 1 |
| March 24-27, 2011 | 13 | 19 | 26 | 41 | 1 |
| March 10-13, 2011 | 15 | 21 | 26 | 38 | 0 |
| February 10-13, 2011 | 16 | 19 | 24 | 40 | * |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 15 | 20 | 23 | 42 | * |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| October 24-27, 2008: <i>2008 Presidential Election</i> | 44 | 36 | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| October 17-20, 2008 | 61 | 28 | 7 | 4 | * |
| October 10-13, 2008 | 52 | 31 | 12 | 5 | * |
| October 3-6, 2008 | 57 | 31 | 8 | 4 | * |
| September 26-29, 2008 | 56 | 29 | 10 | 5 | * |
| September 19-22, 2008 | 47 | 33 | 14 | 6 | * |
| September 12-15, 2008 | 40 | 38 | 14 | 7 | 1 |
| September 5-8, 2008 | 45 | 39 | 12 | 4 | * |

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 29-31, 2008 | 45 | 32 | 15 | 8 | * |
| August 22-25, 2008 | 31 | 36 | 22 | 11 | * |
| August 15-18, 2008 | 25 | 41 | 19 | 14 | 1 |
| August 8-11, 2008 | 27 | 38 | 22 | 13 | * |
| August 1-4, 2008 | 30 | 42 | 19 | 9 | * |
| July 25-28, 2008 | 30 | 34 | 21 | 15 | * |
| July 18-21, 2008 | 30 | 35 | 21 | 14 | * |
| July 11-14, 2008 | 28 | 34 | 22 | 15 | 1 |
| July 3-7, 2008 | 25 | 35 | 23 | 17 | * |
| June 27-30, 2008 | 39 | 33 | 18 | 10 | * |
| June 20-23, 2008 | 28 | 38 | 22 | 12 | * |
| June 13-16, 2008 | 35 | 35 | 20 | 10 | * |
| June 6-9, 2008 | 38 | 35 | 17 | 10 | * |
| May 30-June 2, 2008 | 30 | 35 | 21 | 14 | * |
| May 22-25, 2008 | 32 | 37 | 20 | 11 | * |
| May 16-19, 2008 | 33 | 37 | 19 | 10 | 1 |
| May 9-12, 2008 | 35 | 36 | 18 | 11 | * |
| May 2-5, 2008 | 27 | 35 | 23 | 14 | 1 |
| April 25-28, 2008 | 34 | 37 | 18 | 11 | * |
| April 18-21, 2008 | 29 | 41 | 19 | 10 | 1 |
| April 11-14, 2008 | 31 | 37 | 22 | 10 | * |
| April 4-7, 2008 | 33 | 36 | 17 | 14 | * |
| March 28-31, 2008 | 31 | 41 | 18 | 10 | * |
| March 20-24, 2008 | 34 | 37 | 18 | 11 | * |
| March 14-17, 2008 | 40 | 37 | 16 | 7 | * |
| March 7-10, 2008 | 39 | 36 | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| February 29-March 3, 2008 | 43 | 34 | 14 | 9 | * |
| February 22-25, 2008 | 42 | 37 | 13 | 8 | * |
| February 15-18, 2008 | 44 | 36 | 10 | 10 | * |
| February 8-11, 2008 | 39 | 37 | 15 | 9 | 0 |
| February 1-4, 2008 | 37 | 35 | 16 | 12 | * |
| January 25-28, 2008 | 36 | 37 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| January 18-21, 2008 | 36 | 34 | 18 | 12 | * |
| January 11-14, 2008 ¹ | 32 | 31 | 19 | 17 | 1 |
| January 4-7, 2008 | 33 | 36 | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| December 14-17, 2007 | 25 | 34 | 22 | 19 | * |
| December 7-10, 2007 | 24 | 35 | 22 | 19 | * |
| November 30 - December 3, 2007 | 23 | 35 | 23 | 19 | * |
| November 23-26, 2007 | 20 | 33 | 26 | 20 | 1 |
| November 16-19, 2007 | 26 | 33 | 21 | 19 | 1 |
| November 9-12, 2007 | 21 | 33 | 25 | 21 | * |
| November 2-5, 2007 | 27 | 30 | 21 | 21 | 1 |
| October 26-29, 2007 | 21 | 34 | 26 | 19 | * |
| October 19-22, 2007 | 23 | 32 | 22 | 23 | * |
| October 12-15, 2007 | 13 | 31 | 26 | 30 | * |
| October 5-8, 2007 | 22 | 30 | 24 | 24 | * |
| September 28 - October 1, 2007 | 21 | 34 | 25 | 20 | * |
| September 21-24, 2007 | 24 | 31 | 22 | 23 | * |
| September 14-17, 2007 | 22 | 31 | 24 | 23 | * |
| September 7-10, 2007 | 18 | 34 | 26 | 22 | * |
| August 30-September 2, 2007 | 19 | 35 | 21 | 25 | * |
| August 24-27, 2007 | 22 | 28 | 24 | 26 | * |
| August 17-20, 2007 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 30 | * |
| August 10-13, 2007 | 23 | 32 | 21 | 24 | * |
| August 3-6, 2007 | 19 | 31 | 25 | 25 | * |
| July 27-30, 2007 | 19 | 32 | 22 | 26 | 1 |
| July 20-23, 2007 | 16 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 1 |

¹ January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| July 13-16, 2007 | 17 | 29 | 27 | 27 | * |
| July 6-9, 2007 | 24 | 29 | 24 | 22 | 1 |
| June 29-July 2, 2007 | 20 | 32 | 25 | 23 | * |
| June 22-25, 2007 | 18 | 31 | 21 | 30 | * |
| June 15-18, 2007 | 17 | 32 | 26 | 25 | * |
| June 8-11, 2007 | 19 | 30 | 24 | 26 | 1 |
| June 1-4, 2007 | 16 | 27 | 32 | 24 | 1 |
| May 24-27, 2007 | 22 | 33 | 23 | 22 | * |
| May 18-21, 2007 | 18 | 31 | 24 | 27 | * |
| May 11-14, 2007 | 18 | 30 | 23 | 28 | 1 |
| May 4-7, 2007 | 23 | 34 | 21 | 21 | 1 |
| April 27-30, 2007 | 14 | 30 | 29 | 26 | 1 |
| April 20-23, 2007 | 18 | 28 | 27 | 27 | * |
| April 12-16, 2007 | 18 | 28 | 27 | 27 | * |
| April 5-9, 2007 | 25 | 30 | 26 | 19 | * |
| March 30-April 2, 2007 | 20 | 29 | 27 | 23 | 1 |
| March 23-26, 2007 | 20 | 32 | 22 | 26 | * |
| March 16-19, 2007 | 15 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 1 |
| March 9-12, 2007 | 24 | 30 | 23 | 23 | * |
| March 2-5, 2007 | 19 | 31 | 26 | 23 | 1 |
| February 23-26, 2007 | 22 | 33 | 24 | 21 | * |
| February 16-19, 2007 | 18 | 32 | 22 | 27 | 1 |
| February 9-12, 2007 | 24 | 30 | 24 | 21 | 1 |
| February 2-5, 2007 | 24 | 36 | 22 | 18 | * |
| January 26-29, 2007 | 24 | 33 | 23 | 20 | * |
| January 19-22, 2007 ² | 24 | 27 | 22 | 26 | 1 |
| November, 2004 (RVs): 2004 Presidential Election | 52 | 36 | 8 | 4 | * |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 46 | 30 | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 32 | 38 | 16 | 14 | * |
| July, 2004 | 29 | 37 | 18 | 15 | 1 |
| April, 2004 | 31 | 33 | 19 | 16 | 1 |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 35 | 34 | 18 | 13 | * |
| Late February, 2004 | 24 | 40 | 23 | 12 | 1 |
| Early February, 2004 ³ | 29 | 37 | 20 | 13 | 1 |
| Mid-January, 2004 | 16 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 1 |
| Early January, 2004 | 14 | 32 | 30 | 23 | 1 |
| December, 2003 | 16 | 26 | 27 | 30 | 1 |
| November, 2003 | 11 | 26 | 34 | 28 | 1 |
| October, 2003 | 12 | 27 | 28 | 32 | 1 |
| September, 2003 | 17 | 25 | 30 | 27 | 1 |
| Mid-August, 2003 | 12 | 27 | 27 | 33 | 1 |
| May, 2003 | 8 | 19 | 31 | 41 | 1 |
| January, 2003 | 14 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 1 |
| Early November, 2000 (RVs): 2000 Presidential Election | 39 | 44 | 12 | 5 | * |
| Mid-October, 2000 (RVs) | 40 | 37 | 15 | 8 | * |
| Early October, 2000 (RVs) | 42 | 36 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| September, 2000 | 22 | 42 | 21 | 15 | * |
| July, 2000 | 21 | 38 | 20 | 20 | 1 |

² January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

³ From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| June, 2000 | 23 | 32 | 23 | 21 | 1 |
| May, 2000 | 18 | 33 | 26 | 23 | * |
| April, 2000 | 18 | 39 | 22 | 20 | 1 |
| March, 2000 | 26 | 41 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| February, 2000 | 26 | 36 | 21 | 17 | * |
| January, 2000 | 19 | 34 | 28 | 18 | 1 |
| December, 1999 | 16 | 36 | 24 | 23 | 1 |
| October, 1999 | 17 | 32 | 28 | 22 | 1 |
| September, 1999 | 15 | 31 | 33 | 20 | 1 |
| July, 1999 | 15 | 38 | 24 | 22 | 1 |
| June, 1999 | 11 | 25 | 29 | 34 | 1 |
| November, 1996 (RVs): 1996 Presidential Election | 34 | 45 | 15 | 6 | * |
| October, 1996 | 31 | 39 | 18 | 12 | * |
| c. The issue of immigration | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 18 | 22 | 27 | 32 | 1 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 30 | 31 | 19 | 20 | 1 |
| August 12-15, 2010 | 27 | 31 | 19 | 21 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| July 29-August 1, 2010: A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect | 40 | 32 | 17 | 10 | 1 |
| July 8-11, 2010: The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law | 30 | 27 | 19 | 23 | 1 |
| July 1-5, 2010: The issue of immigration | 34 | 30 | 20 | 14 | 1 |
| May 7-10, 2010: A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants | 38 | 27 | 13 | 21 | 1 |
| April 30-May 3, 2010 | 36 | 31 | 13 | 20 | * |
| October 12-15, 2007: The issue of immigration | 23 | 29 | 19 | 29 | * |
| June 29-July 2, 2007: The debate in Congress over new immigration policy | 26 | 30 | 21 | 23 | * |
| June 22-25, 2007 | 24 | 28 | 22 | 26 | * |
| June 15-18, 2007 | 22 | 32 | 21 | 25 | * |
| June 8-11, 2007 | 24 | 29 | 20 | 26 | 1 |
| May 24-27, 2007 | 27 | 31 | 22 | 19 | 1 |
| April 12-16, 2007: The issue of immigration | 21 | 29 | 24 | 26 | * |
| August, 2006 | 34 | 40 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| June, 2006 | 36 | 41 | 15 | 7 | 1 |
| May, 2006 | 44 | 33 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| April, 2006 | 39 | 34 | 16 | 10 | 1 |
| December, 1994: Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children | 26 | 32 | 22 | 20 | * |
| d. Flooding along the Mississippi River | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 28 | 33 | 20 | 18 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| May 5-8, 2011: Tornadoes and flooding in the South and Midwest | 41 | 37 | 15 | 7 | * |
| April 28-May 1, 2011: Deadly storms in the South | 45 | 29 | 14 | 12 | 1 |

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | Very closely | Fairly closely | Not too closely | Not at all closely | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 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>Midwest</i> ⁴ | 30 | 33 | 21 | 15 | 1 |
| February 8-11, 2008: <i>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>South and Midwest</i> | 33 | 38 | 18 | 11 | * |
| May, 1999: <i>Oklahoma and Kansas</i> | 38 | 40 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| e. Reports about the killing of Osama bin Laden and its impact on U.S. relations with Pakistan | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 37 | 34 | 19 | 10 | 1 |
| TREND FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| May 5-8, 2011: <i>The killing of Osama bin Laden in a raid by American forces</i> | 50 | 30 | 13 | 6 | 1 |
| January 10-15, 2007: <i>The execution of Saddam Hussein</i> | 31 | 33 | 21 | 14 | 1 |
| January 5-8, 2007: <i>The hanging of Saddam Hussein</i> | 23 | 29 | 29 | 19 | * |
| July, 2004: <i>Saddam Hussein's recent court appearance in Iraq</i> | 26 | 32 | 21 | 20 | 1 |
| December, 2003: <i>The capture of Saddam Hussein</i> | 44 | 37 | 14 | 5 | * |
| f. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit | | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 21 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 1 |
| TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: | | | | | |
| 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 |
| November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i> | 15 | 21 | 21 | 41 | 1 |
| January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i> | 35 | 30 | 19 | 16 | * |
| 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 | * |

⁴ March 2-5, 2007 through May 30-June 2, 2008 asked about "Violent storms and tornadoes" in each region. May, 1999 asked about "Tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas."

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

| | <u>Very closely</u> | <u>Fairly closely</u> | <u>Not too closely</u> | <u>Not at all closely</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August, 1990 | 19 | 30 | 27 | 23 | 1 |
| July, 1990: <i>President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit</i> | 30 | 34 | 22 | 14 | * |
| June, 1990: <i>Special meetings between the Bush administration and congressional leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit</i> | 18 | 33 | 28 | 20 | 1 |
| April, 1990: <i>The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit</i> | 10 | 22 | 26 | 42 | * |

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [**DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**]

May 12-15

2011

| | |
|----|---|
| 32 | Reports about the killing of Osama bin Laden and its impact on U.S. relations with Pakistan |
| 20 | Flooding along the Mississippi River |
| 13 | Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy |
| 5 | News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections |
| 4 | Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit |
| 2 | The issue of immigration |
| 9 | Some other story (VOL.) |
| 14 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Thinking about possible Republican candidates for president in 2012... Regardless of whom you might prefer, which Republican candidate have you heard the most about in the news recently? [**OPEN END. RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.**]

May 12-15

2011

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 16 | Donald Trump |
| 12 | Newt Gingrich |
| 7 | Mitt Romney |
| 2 | Sarah Palin |
| 2 | Ron Paul |
| 2 | Mike Huckabee |
| 1 | Tim Pawlenty |
| 1 | Mitch Daniels |
| 1 | John McCain |
| 1 | Michele Bachmann |
| 5 | Other |
| 50 | Don't know/Refused |

April 14-17

2011

| |
|----|
| 26 |
| 1 |
| 9 |
| 4 |
| -- |
| 2 |
| 1 |
| -- |
| -- |
| -- |
| 4 |
| 53 |

Thinking about recent economic news ...

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

| | <u>Hearing mostly good news</u> | <u>Hearing mostly bad news</u> | <u>A mix of good and bad news</u> | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| May 12-15, 2011 | 6 | 35 | 56 | 2 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 5 | 33 | 60 | 2 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 7 | 38 | 53 | 2 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 6 | 29 | 64 | 1 |
| January 6-9, 2011 | 7 | 24 | 68 | 1 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 4 | 39 | 55 | 1 |

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

| | Hearing mostly <u>good news</u> | Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u> | A mix of good and <u>bad news</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| November 11-14, 2010 | 5 | 41 | 53 | 2 |
| October 7-10, 2010 | 6 | 39 | 53 | 2 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 3 | 41 | 54 | 2 |
| August 5-8, 2010 | 4 | 38 | 55 | 3 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 3 | 42 | 54 | 1 |
| June 10-13, 2010 | 4 | 30 | 65 | 1 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 4 | 29 | 66 | 1 |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 6 | 28 | 66 | * |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 4 | 30 | 66 | 1 |
| February 5-8, 2010 | 4 | 35 | 61 | * |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 5 | 29 | 65 | 1 |
| December 4-7, 2009 | 7 | 33 | 59 | 1 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 5 | 31 | 62 | 2 |
| October 9-12, 2009 | 6 | 27 | 66 | 1 |
| September 3-6, 2009 | 5 | 27 | 68 | 1 |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 11 | 29 | 59 | 1 |
| July 2-5, 2009 | 3 | 41 | 56 | * |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 4 | 37 | 59 | * |
| May 8-11, 2009 | 4 | 31 | 64 | 1 |
| April 9-13, 2009 | 4 | 39 | 56 | 1 |
| March 13-16, 2009 | 2 | 51 | 46 | 1 |
| February 13-16, 2009 | 2 | 60 | 37 | 1 |
| January 16-19, 2009 | 2 | 67 | 30 | 1 |
| December 5-8, 2008 | 1 | 80 | 19 | * |

ASK ALL:

PEW.6 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| | Hearing mostly <u>good news</u> | Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u> | A mix of good and <u>bad news</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| a. The financial markets | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 11 | 33 | 45 | 11 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 13 | 30 | 51 | 6 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 12 | 33 | 47 | 8 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 17 | 31 | 46 | 6 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 13 | 38 | 44 | 4 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 9 | 43 | 40 | 8 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 4 | 46 | 44 | 6 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 6 | 41 | 49 | 3 |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 15 | 30 | 50 | 6 |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 11 | 26 | 59 | 4 |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 16 | 32 | 47 | 6 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 12 | 33 | 48 | 7 |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 20 | 31 | 43 | 6 |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 9 | 43 | 45 | 3 |
| b. Real estate values | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 9 | 45 | 35 | 11 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 6 | 48 | 38 | 8 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 8 | 46 | 36 | 10 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 8 | 51 | 34 | 7 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 6 | 62 | 28 | 4 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 6 | 57 | 32 | 5 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 9 | 49 | 35 | 7 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 12 | 41 | 42 | 5 |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 12 | 44 | 38 | 6 |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 8 | 45 | 42 | 5 |

PEW.6 CONTINUED...

| | Hearing mostly <u>good news</u> | Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u> | A mix of good and <u>bad news</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| January 8-11, 2010 | 11 | 43 | 40 | 5 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 13 | 43 | 37 | 6 |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 11 | 40 | 41 | 7 |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 11 | 45 | 40 | 3 |
| c. Prices for food and consumer goods | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 3 | 58 | 32 | 6 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 3 | 59 | 34 | 4 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 7 | 62 | 26 | 5 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 7 | 49 | 39 | 5 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 16 | 41 | 39 | 5 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 12 | 35 | 42 | 10 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 9 | 32 | 48 | 10 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 8 | 37 | 46 | 9 |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 10 | 35 | 46 | 9 |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 9 | 34 | 50 | 7 |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 12 | 37 | 45 | 6 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 12 | 39 | 42 | 7 |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 10 | 36 | 46 | 9 |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 9 | 39 | 46 | 6 |
| d. The job situation | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 9 | 51 | 37 | 3 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 12 | 43 | 42 | 2 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 10 | 50 | 37 | 3 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 9 | 52 | 37 | 2 |
| December 2-5, 2010 | 6 | 66 | 27 | 1 |
| September 2-6, 2010 | 5 | 65 | 28 | 2 |
| July 1-5, 2010 | 5 | 64 | 30 | 1 |
| May 7-10, 2010 | 9 | 52 | 38 | 2 |
| April 1-5, 2010 | 9 | 56 | 33 | 2 |
| March 5-8, 2010 | 5 | 59 | 35 | 1 |
| January 8-11, 2010 | 6 | 61 | 31 | 2 |
| October 30-November 2, 2009 | 3 | 68 | 27 | 2 |
| August 7-10, 2009 | 6 | 61 | 32 | 1 |
| June 12-15, 2009 | 1 | 71 | 27 | 1 |
| e. Gas prices | | | | |
| May 12-15, 2011 | 1 | 84 | 14 | 1 |
| March 31-April 3, 2011 | 1 | 88 | 10 | 1 |
| March 3-6, 2011 | 1 | 90 | 7 | 2 |
| February 3-6, 2011 | 2 | 77 | 18 | 3 |