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## Public Closely Tracks Agreement on Shutdown and Debt Limit

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# Public Closely Tracks Agreement on Shutdown and Debt Limit

The public closely tracked the resolution to the government shutdown and increase in the debt limit, with nearly half (49%) saying they followed news very closely and 30% saying they followed news somewhat closely.

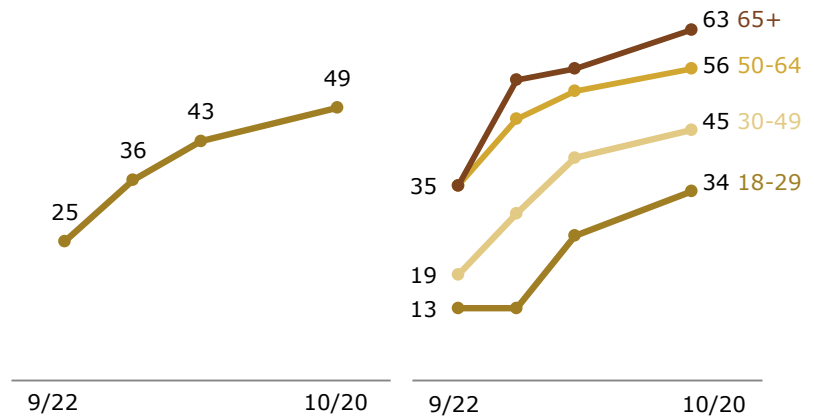
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 17-20 among 1,001 adults, finds that interest in the government shutdown rose steadily over the past

month. In mid-September, 25% were paying very close attention to Congress working on an agreement to avoid a shutdown; interest reached 43% in early October, when the government closed its doors, and nearly half closely followed news about the end of the 16-day government shutdown.

News interest rose across all age groups over the course of the shutdown, however, young people (under age 30) lagged well behind other age groups in following shutdown news. About a third (34%) of those ages 18-29 say they followed news about the resolution of the shutdown and debt limit increase very closely, interest was far higher among older Americans. For example, 63% of those ages 65 and older paid very close attention to the shutdown news. Over the past month, news interest has increased at least 20 points across all age groups, with gaps in interest between older and younger Americans staying relatively stable. While younger Americans typically pay less attention to news events than older Americans, the gap on the government shutdown is particularly wide.

## News Interests Rises Over Course of Shutdown, Young People Consistently Less Interested

*% following shutdown and debt limit agreement very closely*



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Interest in the shutdown is higher than in the legislation that avoided the so-called “fiscal cliff” in January 2013; at that time, 38% said they followed news about the fiscal cliff deal very closely. Interest is also higher than in July 2011, when 38% paid very close attention to the talks over the national debt and budget deficit that ultimately resulted in a last-minute increase of the debt limit.

In April 2011, about as many paid very close attention to the threat of a government shutdown over budget disagreements (47%) as followed the resolution of the current shutdown.

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### High News Interest in Shutdown Resolution and Debt Limit Hike

| <i>How closely following news about ...</i>               | <b>Very</b><br>% | <b>Some-what</b><br>% | <b>Not too/at all</b><br>% | <b>DK</b><br>% |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Oct 2013</u> : End of shutdown and debt limit increase | 49               | 30                    | 21                         | *=100          |
| <u>Jan 2013</u> : Legislation to avoid fiscal cliff       | 38               | 26                    | 37                         | 1=100          |
| <u>July 2011</u> : Debt and deficit talks                 | 41               | 27                    | 32                         | *=100          |
| <u>April 2011</u> : Threat of gov't shutdown              | 47               | 26                    | 27                         | *=100          |

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Partisans paid about equal levels of attention to the news about the shutdown's end: 55% of Republicans and 49% of Democrats and independents followed news very closely.

Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party (66%) are more likely than Republicans who do not agree with the Tea Party (50%) to have followed news very closely.

Overall, 56% of college graduates say they paid very close attention to news about the agreement that ended the government shutdown and raised the debt limit; interest was somewhat lower among those without a college degree.

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### Partisans Closely Track Resolution

| <i>% following shutdown news very closely</i> | <b>Oct 17-20 2013</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
|   | %                     |
| Total   | 49                    |
| Men   | 51                    |
| Women   | 47                    |
| College grad+                                 | 56                    |
| Some college                                  | 46                    |
| HS or less                                    | 47                    |
| Republican                                    | 55                    |
| Democrat                                      | 49                    |
| Independent                                   | 49                    |
| <i>Among Reps/Rep leaners</i>                 |                       |
| Tea Party                                     | 66                    |
| Non-Tea Party                                 | 50                    |

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 17-20, 2013 among a national sample of 1,001 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 246 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and MKTG under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| <b>Group</b> | <b>Unweighted sample size</b> | <b>Plus or minus ...</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total sample | 1,001                         | 3.7 percentage points    |
| Republican   | 199                           | 8.3 percentage points    |
| Democrat     | 294                           | 6.9 percentage points    |
| Independent  | 435                           | 5.6 percentage points    |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**October 17-20, 2013 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,001**

**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<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Congress reaching an agreement to end the government shutdown and raise the debt limit  |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| October 17-20, 2013  | 49                      | 30                        | 12                         | 9                             | *                        |
| October 3-6, 2013: <i>The shutdown of the federal government</i>   | 43                      | 30                        | 15                         | 11                            | *                        |
| September 25-29, 2013: <i>Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September</i>  | 36                      | 25                        | 16                         | 23                            | *                        |
| 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                        |
| January 3-6, 2013: <i>Congress and the president passing legislation to avoid the Fiscal Cliff</i>   | 38                      | 26                        | 16                         | 21                            | 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><br><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><br><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...

|   | Very<br>closely | Fairly<br>closely | Not too<br>closely | Not at all<br>closely | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 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                |
| b. News about health insurance exchanges opening around the country as part of the 2010 health care law                     |                 |                   |                    |                       |                  |
| October 17-20, 2013   | 33              | 28                | 22                 | 17                    | *                |
| October 3-6, 2013   | 33              | 24                | 22                 | 20                    | 1                |
| August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect</i>                   | 23              | 25                | 21                 | 30                    | *                |
| July 18-21, 2013  | 25              | 25                | 19                 | 30                    | *                |
| June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i>   | 45              | 21                | 14                 | 19                    | *                |
| March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i>                                 | 29              | 27                | 17                 | 27                    | *                |
| November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i> | 18              | 24                | 24                 | 33                    | 1                |
| February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>                  | 25              | 28                | 19                 | 28                    | 1                |
| January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>                             | 29              | 29                | 20                 | 21                    | 1                |
| December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>              | 28              | 24                | 17                 | 30                    | 1                |
| September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>            | 37              | 31                | 17                 | 14                    | 1                |
| April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>   | 40              | 30                | 16                 | 14                    | *                |
| April 9-12, 2010  | 46              | 27                | 15                 | 12                    | *                |
| April 1-5, 2010   | 42              | 27                | 14                 | 16                    | *                |
| March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>  | 49              | 29                | 12                 | 10                    | *                |
| March 19-22, 2010   | 51              | 24                | 11                 | 14                    | *                |
| March 12-15, 2010   | 40              | 31                | 16                 | 13                    | *                |
| March 5-8, 2010   | 42              | 27                | 17                 | 15                    | *                |
| February 26-March 1, 2010   | 29              | 29                | 19                 | 22                    | *                |
| February 19-22, 2010  | 33              | 28                | 19                 | 19                    | *                |

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

|   | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 29-February 1, 2010   | 39                      | 27                        | 16                         | 17                            | *                        |
| January 22-25, 2010   | 41                      | 32                        | 15                         | 11                            | *                        |
| January 15-18, 2010   | 37                      | 27                        | 19                         | 18                            | *                        |
| January 8-11, 2010  | 39                      | 26                        | 20                         | 15                            | *                        |
| December 18-21, 2009  | 42                      | 27                        | 16                         | 14                            | *                        |
| December 11-14, 2009  | 42                      | 30                        | 15                         | 14                            | *                        |
| December 4-7, 2009  | 42                      | 28                        | 15                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| November 20-23, 2009  | 42                      | 29                        | 14                         | 15                            | *                        |
| November 13-16, 2009  | 38                      | 26                        | 17                         | 17                            | 1                        |
| November 6-9, 2009  | 35                      | 28                        | 15                         | 22                            | 1                        |
| October 30-November 2, 2009   | 32                      | 26                        | 19                         | 23                            | *                        |
| October 23-26, 2009   | 40                      | 27                        | 16                         | 17                            | 1                        |
| October 16-19, 2009   | 36                      | 28                        | 15                         | 21                            | *                        |
| October 9-12, 2009  | 37                      | 29                        | 14                         | 19                            | 1                        |
| October 2-5, 2009   | 39                      | 29                        | 16                         | 16                            | *                        |
| September 25-28, 2009   | 45                      | 31                        | 12                         | 12                            | 0                        |
| September 18-21, 2009   | 44                      | 26                        | 19                         | 11                            | *                        |
| September 11-14, 2009   | 44                      | 27                        | 14                         | 15                            | *                        |
| September 3-6, 2009   | 40                      | 26                        | 16                         | 17                            | 0                        |
| August 28-31, 2009  | 40                      | 28                        | 17                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| August 21-24, 2009  | 49                      | 24                        | 12                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| August 14-17, 2009  | 39                      | 31                        | 15                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington<br/>over health care reform</i>  | 40                      | 27                        | 17                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| July 31-August 3, 2009  | 47                      | 26                        | 14                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| July 24-27, 2009  | 44                      | 28                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| July 17-20, 2009  | 33                      | 31                        | 13                         | 21                            | 2                        |
| July 10-13, 2009  | 24                      | 29                        | 20                         | 27                            | *                        |
| June 26-29, 2009  | 29                      | 26                        | 20                         | 25                            | 1                        |
| June 19-22, 2009  | 28                      | 28                        | 20                         | 23                            | *                        |
| June 12-15, 2009  | 29                      | 26                        | 18                         | 26                            | *                        |
| May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack<br/>Obama's health care plans</i>  | 25                      | 30                        | 20                         | 24                            | *                        |
| March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630<br/>billion fund for overhauling health care</i>                          | 41                      | 32                        | 13                         | 14                            | *                        |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>   |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| September, 1994: <i>The Clinton<br/>administration's health care reform<br/>proposals</i>                             | 32                      | 41                        | 18                         | 9                             | *                        |
| June, 1994  | 34                      | 40                        | 19                         | 7                             | *                        |
| May, 1994   | 37                      | 37                        | 16                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| January, 1994   | 38                      | 38                        | 15                         | 9                             | *                        |
| Early January, 1994   | 40                      | 40                        | 14                         | 6                             | *                        |
| December, 1993  | 45                      | 35                        | 12                         | 7                             | 1                        |
| October, 1993   | 44                      | 32                        | 17                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| September, 1993   | 49                      | 34                        | 11                         | 6                             | *                        |
| August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White<br/>House task force on health care reform<br/>headed by Hillary Clinton</i> | 27                      | 32                        | 25                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| June, 1993  | 28                      | 38                        | 19                         | 15                            | *                        |
| May, 1993   | 30                      | 30                        | 25                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| c. Reports about the condition of the U.S.<br>economy   |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| October 17-20, 2013   | 41                      | 31                        | 16                         | 12                            | *                        |
| October 3-6, 2013   | 34                      | 30                        | 19                         | 16                            | 1                        |
| September 25-29, 2013   | 35                      | 30                        | 16                         | 18                            | *                        |
| September 19-22, 2013   | 28                      | 33                        | 20                         | 19                            | 1                        |
| September 12-15, 2013   | 28                      | 34                        | 17                         | 20                            | *                        |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

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

**NO QUESTION PEW.2****ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 If you had to use one single word to describe your impression of the government shutdown and debt limit debate, what would that one word be? **[IF "DON'T KNOW" PROBE ONCE: It can be anything, just the first word that comes to mind...]** **[OPEN END: ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

**NOTE:** The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

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|    |   |               |                    |
|----|---|---------------|--------------------|
| 77 | Ridiculous                                | 3             | Aggravating        |
| 74 | Stupid/Stupidity                          | 3             | Avoidable          |
| 46 | Disgusting/Disgusted/Disgust              | 3             | Awful              |
| 42 | Unnecessary                               | 3             | Debacle            |
| 37 | Disappointed/Disappointment/Disappointing | 3             | Discouraging       |
| 24 | Terrible                                  | 3             | Fiasco             |
| 20 | Frustrating/Frustration                   | 3             | Foolish            |
| 19 | Childish                                  | 3             | Greed/Greedy       |
| 18 | Pathetic                                  | 3             | Morons/Moronic     |
| 16 | Irresponsible                             | 3             | Nonsense           |
| 14 | Bad                                       | 3             | Obama              |
| 14 | Idiotic/Idiots                            | 3             | Absurd             |
| 14 | Sad                                       | 3             | Silly              |
| 13 | Disaster/Disastrous                       | 3             | Un-American        |
| 13 | Disgraceful                               | 3             | Upset/Upsetting    |
| 13 | Mess/Messy/Messed up                      | 3             | Useless            |
| 13 | Poor                                      | 3             | Wrong              |
| 13 | Sucks                                     | 232           | Other              |
| 12 | Bullcrap                                  | 31            | Don't know/Refused |
| 11 | Crazy                                     |               |                    |
| 11 | Horried/Horrible/Horrendous               | <i>N=1001</i> |                    |
| 11 | Joke                                      |               |                    |
| 10 | Embarrassing/Embarrassment                |               |                    |
| 9  | Incompetence                              |               |                    |
| 9  | Pitiful                                   |               |                    |
| 9  | Unfortunate                               |               |                    |
| 8  | Confused/Confusing/Confusion              |               |                    |
| 7  | Crap                                      |               |                    |
| 7  | Unbelievable                              |               |                    |
| 7  | Waste/Wasteful                            |               |                    |
| 6  | Asinine                                   |               |                    |
| 6  | Dysfunctional                             |               |                    |
| 6  | Shame/Shameful                            |               |                    |
| 6  | Stinks                                    |               |                    |
| 5  | Chaos/Chaotic                             |               |                    |
| 5  | Despicable                                |               |                    |
| 5  | Dumb                                      |               |                    |
| 5  | Good                                      |               |                    |
| 5  | Immature                                  |               |                    |
| 5  | Lousy                                     |               |                    |
| 5  | Tragic                                    |               |                    |
| 5  | Unfair                                    |               |                    |
| 4  | Anger/Angry                               |               |                    |
| 4  | Appalling                                 |               |                    |
| 4  | Fire/Fired/Fire `em                       |               |                    |
| 4  | Ludicrous                                 |               |                    |
| 4  | Outrageous                                |               |                    |
| 4  | Scare/Scary                               |               |                    |
| 4  | Screwed/Screwed up                        |               |                    |
| 4  | Selfish                                   |               |                    |

**PEW.3 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*If you had to use one single word to describe your impression of the budget negotiations in Washington, what would that one word be? [IF "DON'T KNOW" PROBE ONCE: It can be anything, just the first word that comes to mind...] [OPEN END: ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE]<sup>1</sup>*

| Jul 28-31<br><u>2011</u> |   | Apr 9-10<br><u>2011</u> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 66                       | Ridiculous                                | 29                      |
| 42                       | Disgust/Disgusted/Disgusting              | 22                      |
| 36                       | Stupid/Stupidity                          | 13                      |
| 26                       | Frustrated/Frustrating                    | 14                      |
| 25                       | Poor/Poorly                               | 7                       |
| 25                       | Terrible                                  | 7                       |
| 24                       | Disappointing/Disappointment/Disappointed | 13                      |
| 23                       | Childish                                  | 6                       |
| 22                       | Mess/Messy                                | 14                      |
| 22                       | Joke                                      |                         |
| 17                       | Pathetic                                  | 4                       |
| 16                       | Confusing                                 | 4                       |
| 14                       | Crazy                                     |                         |
| 13                       | Bad                                       |                         |
| 12                       | Idiot/Idiotic                             | 5                       |
| 11                       | Disaster                                  |                         |
| 11                       | Suck/Sucks                                | 4                       |
| 10                       | Sad                                       |                         |
| 9                        | Bull/Bull****                             | 12                      |
| 9                        | Chaos/Chaotic                             | 4                       |
| 9                        | Disgrace                                  |                         |
| 8                        | Lousy                                     |                         |
| 7                        | Politics/Political                        | 4                       |
| 7                        | Stinks                                    | 5                       |
| 7                        | Outrageous                                |                         |
| 7                        | Pitiful                                   |                         |
| 7                        | Scary                                     |                         |
| 6                        | Compromise                                |                         |
| 5                        | Fair                                      | 5                       |
| 5                        | Horrible                                  | 5                       |
| 5                        | Difficult                                 |                         |
| 5                        | Juvenile                                  |                         |
| 5                        | Ludicrous                                 |                         |
| 5                        | Selfish                                   |                         |
| 5                        | Stalemate                                 |                         |
| 5                        | Complicated                               |                         |
| 5                        | Incapable/incompetent                     |                         |
| 5                        | Screwed up                                |                         |
| 4                        | Concerned                                 |                         |
| 4                        | Futile                                    |                         |
| 4                        | Greed                                     |                         |
| 4                        | Sorry                                     |                         |
| 4                        | Asinine                                   |                         |
| 4                        | Awful                                     |                         |
| 4                        | Obama                                     |                         |
| 4                        | Stubborn                                  |                         |
| 4                        | Unfair                                    |                         |
| 305                      | Other                                     | 202                     |
| 119                      | Don't know/Refused                        | 45                      |

*NOTE: The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.*

*Words with fewer than 4 mentions not shown.*

*In April, 2011 this question was asked Saturday and Sunday only (N=427).*

<sup>1</sup> PEWWP.1 and PEWWP.2a-e asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.