

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
DECEMBER 1-4, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,008**

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
December 1-4, 2011	40	33	13	13	1
November 17-20, 2011	35	33	16	15	1
November 10-13, 2011	39	31	15	14	*
November 3-6, 2011	37	31	15	17	1
October 27-30, 2011	38	33	14	15	1
October 20-23, 2011	38	32	14	16	1
October 13-16, 2011	39	32	14	14	*
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	46	26	14	14	*
September 22-25, 2011	44	33	11	11	*
September 8-11, 2011	40	30	15	14	1
September 1-4, 2011	44	30	11	15	*
August 25-28, 2011	44	28	14	13	1
August 18-21, 2011	44	29	12	14	1
August 4-7, 2011	46	30	11	13	1
July 28-31, 2011	43	30	13	13	*
July 21-24, 2011	41	32	13	13	1
July 14-17, 2011	41	30	14	14	1
July 7-10, 2011	36	30	15	18	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	38	32	13	16	1
June 23-26, 2011	37	29	15	19	*
June 16-19, 2011	39	33	14	13	*
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
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, 2011	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1

[SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS](#)

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
b. Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Europe					
December 1-4, 2011	14	24	25	36	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 10-13, 2011: <i>Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Greece and Italy</i>	15	23	23	38	1
November 3-6, 2011: <i>Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Greece and other European countries</i>	18	26	21	34	1
October 27-30, 2011	12	27	24	36	*
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>The debt crisis in Greece and other European countries</i>	15	21	24	39	1
September 15-18, 2011	16	23	24	37	1
August 18-21, 2011: <i>The debate among European leaders on how to address the region's debt crisis</i>	12	21	22	44	1
August 11-14, 2011: <i>Riots in London and other parts of Britain</i>	17	28	21	32	1
June 30-July 3, 2011: <i>The financial crisis and violent protests in Greece</i>	14	22	23	39	1
June 16-19, 2011	10	20	25	45	1
May 13-16, 2010: <i>A trillion-dollar bailout package for European governments facing debt problems</i>	21	26	24	28	2
May 7-10, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece and violent protests there</i>	19	23	26	31	*
April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece</i>	6	15	28	51	1
October, 1998: <i>Financial instability around the world</i>	32	40	19	9	*
September, 1998: <i>Economic and political instability in Russia</i>	18	30	28	24	*
Late August, 1998: <i>Economic problems in Russia</i>	8	22	29	41	*
January, 1998: <i>The deepening financial crisis in many Asian countries</i>	15	25	27	33	*
March, 1995: <i>The financial and political instability in Mexico</i>	12	28	30	29	1
c. Tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan following a NATO airstrike that killed at least 25 Pakistani soldiers					
December 1-4, 2011	18	25	23	34	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>Tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan</i>	22	29	26	22	*
May 19-22, 2011: <i>Reports about the killing of Osama bin Laden and its impact on U.S. relations with Pakistan</i>	36	32	19	13	*
May 12-15, 2011	37	34	19	10	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>The killing of Osama bin Laden in a raid by American forces</i>	50	30	13	6	1
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Reports about tensions between Israel and the United States</i>	20	27	21	31	1
October 2-5, 2009: <i>Talks between the United States and Iran over Iran's nuclear program</i>	30	32	18	20	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>Encounter between U.S. and Iranian ships</i>	25	26	21	27	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 26-29, 2007: <i>Mounting tensions between the United States and Iran</i>	26	34	21	18	1
June 1-4, 2007: <i>Recent talks between the United States and Iran</i>	19	27	27	26	1
February 23-26, 2007: <i>Mounting tensions between the United States and Iran</i>	29	37	18	15	1
February 2-5, 2007	33	38	18	10	1
d. Tensions between Britain and Iran following an attack on the British embassy by Iranian protestors					
December 1-4, 2011	12	19	24	44	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Fifteen British sailors and Marines held captive and later released by the Iranian government</i>	31	37	18	14	*
March 30-April 2, 2007: <i>Fifteen British sailors and Marines held captive by the Iranian government</i>	27	28	22	22	1
e. The recent elections in Egypt					
December 1-4, 2011	7	16	28	48	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
f. News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
December 1-4, 2011	25	28	20	26	1
November 17-20, 2011	24	31	21	23	1
November 3-6, 2011	22	31	20	26	1
October 27-30, 2011	21	26	21	30	1
October 20-23, 2011	21	28	22	28	1
October 13-16, 2011	26	29	22	23	1
October 6-9, 2011	25	25	23	27	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	27	26	21	25	*
September 22-25, 2011	25	26	23	25	1
September 15-18, 2011	24	28	21	27	1
September 8-11, 2011	22	26	21	31	*
September 1-4, 2011	22	23	22	32	1
August 25-28, 2011	22	22	22	33	1
August 18-21, 2011	27	26	19	28	1
August 11-14, 2011	19	24	20	36	1
August 4-7, 2011	18	21	22	37	1
July 28-31, 2011	17	27	21	35	1
July 21-24, 2011	17	22	28	32	*
July 14-17, 2011	18	26	27	28	1
July 7-10, 2011	16	23	27	33	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	21	28	24	25	2
June 23-26, 2011	19	26	24	31	*
June 16-19, 2011	23	29	23	25	*
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
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	*

[SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS](#)

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 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.]**

Dec 1-4

2011

30	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
23	News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
	Tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan following a NATO airstrike that killed at least 25
6	Pakistani soldiers
4	Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Europe
	Tensions between Britain and Iran following an attack on the British embassy by Iranian
3	Protestors
1	The recent elections in Egypt
12	Some other story (VOL.)
21	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

PEWWP.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 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.] [PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "JOHN MCCAIN" AND "HERMAN CAIN".]**

Dec 1-4		Oct 13-16	Sep 8-11	Aug 18-21	Jul 21-24	Jun 16-19	Jun 2-5	May 12-15	Apr 14-17
<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>
43	Herman Cain	23	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
13	Newt Gingrich	*	1	1	1	5	2	12	1
5	Mitt Romney	18	12	7	13	27	22	7	9
3	Rick Perry	12	31	22	3	*	*	*	*
1	Ron Paul	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	*
1	Donald Trump	*	3	3	4	2	5	16	26
*	Sarah Palin	2	5	4	7	8	20	2	4
*	Michele Bachmann	1	7	23	23	5	1	1	*
1	Other								
32	None/DK/Ref.	39	37	35	44	45	41	50	53

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Which candidate **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?** **[OPEN END; RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.]** **[IF PERSON OFFERS MULTIPLE CANDIDATES, PROBE WITH:** Which of those do you most associate with this?**]** Next, which candidate **[INSERT NEXT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?**

- a. [Which candidate] has been accused of sexually harassing several women in the 1990s

Dec 1-4

2011

60	Herman Cain
1	Newt Gingrich
1	Donald Trump
4	Other
35	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

- b. [Which candidate] had an extensive line of credit at the Tiffany jewelry store

Dec 1-4

2011

20	Newt Gingrich
2	Herman Cain
1	Mitt Romney
1	Michelle Bachmann
1	Donald Trump
1	Other
74	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

- c. [Which candidate] has been called a flip-flopper

Dec 1-4

2011

29	Mitt Romney
4	Rick Perry
3	Newt Gingrich
2	Herman Cain
3	Other
58	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

- d. [Which candidate] had a memory lapse during a presidential debate

Dec 1-4

2011

36	Rick Perry
4	Mitt Romney
4	Herman Cain
1	Newt Gingrich
1	Donald Trump
2	Other
52	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

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?

	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>
December 1-4, 2011	6	36	56	1
November 10-13, 2011	3	48	48	1
October 6-9, 2011	1	58	39	2
September 1-4, 2011	2	61	35	1
August 4-7, 2011	1	67	30	2
July 7-10, 2011	3	49	46	2
June 2-5, 2011	2	46	50	1
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
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				
December 1-4, 2011	14	38	43	5
November 10-13, 2011	4	50	41	5
August 4-7, 2011	2	69	25	4
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
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
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
b. The job situation				
December 1-4, 2011	10	51	37	2
November 10-13, 2011	5	64	28	2
August 4-7, 2011	4	74	21	2
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	34	3
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
c. Retail sales				
December 1-4, 2011	51	7	35	6
December 2-5, 2010	33	18	45	4