

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**LATE MARCH 2003 WAR TRACKING**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 20-April 1, 2003**  
**March 20-22, 2003 N=903**  
**March 23-24, 2003 N=592**  
**March 25-27, 2003 N=539**  
**March 28-April 1, 2003 N=674**

PRC1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100
March 23-24, 2003	68	25	7=100
March 20-22, 2003	67	26	7=100
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
February, 2003	54	36	10=100
January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

**ASK MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2003 ONLY [N=674]:**

HAP1 Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life -- would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

		Feb	Sept	Sept	Late	NORC
		<u>2003</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1992</u>	Jan	Feb
					<u>1991<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>1990</u>
29	Very happy	29	34	17	12	33
51	Pretty happy	51	53	48	52	58
16	No t too happy	17	11	34	33	9
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

1 For Late January 1991 and February 1990 the question was worded "Taken all together, how would you say things are these days..."

**ASK ALL:**

PRC3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is dealing with the war in Iraq?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	69	26	5=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	73	23	4=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	70	23	7=100
February, 2003 <sup>2</sup>	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
Mid-September, 2001	85	6	9=100
<b>Gallup:</b> Late January, 1991 <sup>3</sup>	84	11	5=100

PRC4 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

**IF 1 'RIGHT DECISION' IN PRC4 ASK:**

PRC4a Which comes closer to your view [ROTATE]: You support going to war because you think it is the best thing for the U.S. to do; OR you are not sure if going to war is the best thing to do, but you support Bush's decision because he is president?

<i>-----March 2003-----</i>					<u>Late Jan</u>
<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		<u>1991</u>
69	74	74	71	Right decision	77
48	51	49	52	Support because best thing for U.S. to do	--
18	20	22	15	Support because Bush is president	--
3	3	3	4	Don't know/Refused	--
25	21	21	22	Wrong decision	15
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100	100	100	100		100

**ASK MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2003 ONLY [N=674]:**

TALK1 How good a job has George W. Bush done in SPEAKING TO THE NATION about the war in Iraq... excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		<u>Mid-Sept</u>	<u>Mid-Sept</u>
		<u>2002<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>2001</u>
28	Excellent	32	45
36	Good	37	38
20	Only fair	13	10
12	Poor	5	4
<u>4</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

2 In February, 2003 and earlier the question was worded "...handling the situation with Iraq." In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington."

3 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

4 In Mid-September 2002 the question asked about "the anniversary of September 11th." In Mid-September 2001 the question asked about "the terrorist attacks."

**ASK ALL:**PRC5 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ]**

----March 2003----					Early Nov	Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14
<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		<u>2001<sup>5</sup></u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
39	39	45	65	Very well	30	38	45
46	46	41	25	Fairly well	45	45	35
8	8	6	2	Not too well	12	9	6
2	2	2	1	Not at all well	4	2	4
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
100	100	100	100		100	100	100

**ASK FIN1-4 MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2003 ONLY [N=674]:**

On a different subject, thinking about your own personal finances for a moment...

FIN1 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993*	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992*	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992*	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992*	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992*	4	32	45	18	1=100

\* U.S. News & World Report

FIN2 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>A lot</u>	Improve <u>Some</u>	Get a <u>Little Worse</u>	Get a lot <u>Worse</u>	Stay the Same <b>(VOL.)</b>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	12	51	15	4	11	7=100
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992*	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992*	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992*	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992*	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

\* U.S. News & World Report

FIN3 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	33	23	37	7=100
January, 2003	30	20	44	6=100
Early October, 2002	34	18	42	6=100
June, 2002	30	20	46	4=100
January, 2002	44	17	36	3=100
January, 2001*	18	33	44	5=100
June, 2000	15	24	55	6=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5=100
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4=100
May, 1990	18	31	45	6=100
February, 1989	25	22	49	4=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984* (RVs)	35	13	49	3=100

\* Newsweek

FIN4 In your opinion, is President Bush doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions or do you think he could be doing more?

		-- Bush, Sr. --					
		Jan <u>2003</u>	Early Oct <u>2002</u>	June <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	March <u>1992</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>
41	Doing as much as he can	33	31	33	48	21	21
52	Could be doing more	61	63	62	46	76	76
<u>7</u>	Can't say	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

PRC6 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the war in Iraq...excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	32	40	16	9	3=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	34	41	16	7	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	34	42	14	5	5=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	42	38	11	4	5=100
December, 2001 <sup>6</sup>	32	45	15	5	3=100
Mid-November, 2001	30	47	16	5	2=100
Mid-October, 2001	32	42	17	6	3=100
Early October, 2001	48	37	10	3	2=100
Mid-September, 2001	56	33	6	3	2=100
March, 1991	45	38	11	5	1=100
Late January, 1991	36	42	15	5	2=100

PRC7 Have you heard too much, too little, or the right amount about the views of Americans who oppose the war in Iraq?

<i>----March 2003----</i>					<u>Feb 2003<sup>7</sup></u>	<u>Late Jan 1991</u>	<u>Early Jan 1991</u>	<u>Sept 1990</u>
<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>					
47	--	45	37	Too much	24	47	18	15
17	--	14	18	Too little	42	13	42	40
30	--	34	38	Right amount	30	33	31	35
<u>6</u>	--	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100		100	100	100	100

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6 From Mid-October to December 2001, the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism." In Early October and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?" In March and Late January 1991 the question was worded "...covering the War in the Gulf."

7 In February 2003 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose taking military action in Iraq." In Late January 1991 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose the War in the Gulf?" In Early January 1991 and September 1990 the question was worded "...Americans who oppose sending U.S. forces to the Gulf?"

**ASK WAR10-13 MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2003 ONLY [N=674]:**

WAR10 In your opinion, which is better... that news coverage of a war be pro-American or that news coverage of a war be neutral?

		Feb <u>2003</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>1991</u>
25	Pro-American	16	30	22
68	Neutral	78	64	71
<u>7</u>	No opinion/Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100	100

WAR11 Thinking about press coverage of the war thus far, do you think the press has been too critical of the way the allies are conducting the military campaign, not critical enough, or do you think that the press has handled this about right?

22	Too critical
8	Not critical enough
62	About right
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

WAR12 Would you favor or oppose a major American effort in Iraq after the war to rebuild the country and establish a stable government?

		Feb <u>2003<sup>8</sup></u>	Early Oct <u>2002</u>
71	Favor	63	60
21	Oppose	30	32
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100

WAR13 Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for the cost of the war in Iraq? [**READ AND ROTATE**]

		Feb <u>2003<sup>9</sup></u>	Feb <u>2002</u>
20	Add to the budget deficit	23	24
16	Reduce spending on domestic programs [OR]	21	22
40	Postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts	40	42
5	None (VOL)	1	2
1	Multiple (VOL)	1	*
5	Other (VOL)	2	1
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100

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8 In February 2003 the question was preceded by "If the U.S. takes military action against Iraq..."

9 In February 2003 the question was worded "As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen?"

**ASK ALL:**

PRC8 Have you yourself felt depressed by the war in Iraq?

----March 2003----					Early	Mid-	Early	Mid-	Late
<u>28-4/1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>20-22</u>		Nov	Oct	Oct	Sept	Jan
					<u>2001<sup>10</sup></u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1991</u>
41	40	35	30	Yes	24	31	42	71	50
58	59	63	69	No	75	66	57	27	49
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100	100	100	100		100	100	100	100	100

PRC11 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the war on TV.<sup>11</sup>  
For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree.

**[ROTATE. READ STATEMENT.]**

	Strongly			Strongly	
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. I can't stop watching news about the war					
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	8	24	51	14	3=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	14	27	47	10	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	11	31	46	9	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	27	45	12	4=100
Mid-October, 2001	17	32	39	8	4=100
Mid-September, 2001	24	39	30	4	3=100
Late January, 1991	11	39		48	2=100
b. I feel sad when watching					
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	21	45	26	6	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	23	44	24	7	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	20	43	28	6	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	15	41	30	11	3=100
Mid-September, 2001	47	45	5	1	2=100
Late January, 1991	22	52		25	1=100
c. It's frightening to watch					
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	13	38	40	7	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	17	41	32	8	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	13	38	38	8	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	12	33	38	13	4=100
Mid-October, 2001	26	43	26	3	2=100
Mid-September, 2001	33	44	19	2	2=100
Late January, 1991	17	50		32	1=100

10 In Early November and Mid-October 2001 the question was worded "...concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?" In Early October and Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

11 In 2001 the question was worded "...coverage of terrorism on TV."

**PRC11 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
d. It tires me out to watch					
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	11	31	46	10	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	10	32	43	13	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	7	24	57	11	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	7	26	50	14	3=100
Mid-September, 2001	12	33	43	8	4=100
Late January, 1991	6	28		64	2=100
e. The war doesn't seem real					
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	7	21	50	20	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	9	22	46	21	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	6	17	51	23	3=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	8	21	45	23	3=100
Late January, 1991	7	26		66	1=100

PRC13 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are **[READ]**

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>(VOL.) Already a Victim</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	14	34	31	20	0	1=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	12	30	33	23	1	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	8	25	37	28	*	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	9	27	37	26	*	1=100
February, 2003	22	29	30	18	0	1=100
January, 2003	11	30	37	21	*	1=100
Late August, 2002	12	28	35	24	*	1=100
June, 2002	17	28	36	19	*	*=100
January, 2002	12	26	38	24	*	*=100
Early November, 2001	13	27	35	24	0	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	18	32	29	19	0	2=100
Late September, 2001	17	36	31	15	*	1=100
<i>Gallup: 9/14-15/01<sup>12</sup></i>	18	33	35	13	*	1=100
<i>Gallup: 9/11/01<sup>13</sup></i>	23	35	24	16	1	1=100
<i>Gallup: August, 1998</i>	10	22	38	29	--	1=100
<i>Gallup: July, 1996</i>	13	26	34	27	--	*=100
<i>Gallup: April, 1995<sup>14</sup></i>	14	28	33	24	--	1=100

12 For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

13 For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

14 For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

PRC14 How worried are you that [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]... a great deal, a fair amount, or not much?  
**[REPEAT RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR EACH ITEM]**

	A Great <u>Deal</u>	A Fair <u>Amount</u>	Not <u>Much</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	47	36	15	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	44	39	16	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	43	36	20	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	35	35	28	2=100
February, 2003	55	25	18	2=100
Late October, 2002	52	28	18	2=100
Late January, 1991	57	30	12	1=100
b. Many Iraqi civilians might be killed				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	41	33	24	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	37	38	23	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	37	35	26	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	37	34	26	3=100
February, 2003	47	28	23	2=100
Late October, 2002	40	30	27	3=100
Late January, 1991	33	35	28	4=100
c. Terrorists might strike within the U.S.				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	39	43	17	1=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	40	37	23	*=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	34	42	23	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	35	38	25	2=100
February, 2003 <sup>15</sup>	57	25	16	2=100
Late October, 2002	51	26	20	3=100
Late January, 1991	33	38	28	1=100
d. U.S. troops will be involved in the Mideast for years to come				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	42	37	19	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	37	37	24	2=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	37	34	27	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	33	34	29	4=100
Late January, 1991	38	30	29	3=100
e. Iraq might use biological or chemical weapons against U.S. troops				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	59	28	12	1=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	58	31	10	1=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	50	34	15	1=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	46	33	19	2=100
February, 2003	66	24	9	1=100
Late October, 2002	59	26	13	2=100

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15 In February 2003 and Late October 2002 the item was worded "This might increase the chances of a terrorist attack within the U.S."

**PRC14 CONTINUED...**

	A Great <u>Deal</u>	A Fair <u>Amount</u>	Not <u>Much</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
f. It might lead to an all-out war in the Middle East				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	33	37	28	2=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	28	36	33	3=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	29	32	37	2=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	25	32	40	3=100
February, 2003	46	26	26	2=100
Late October, 2002	46	27	25	2=100

**ASK MARCH 28-APRIL 1, 2003 ONLY [N=674]:**

KIDS How many children between and including the ages of five and twelve, if any, are living in your household?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
69	None	71	73
15	One	14	14
15	More than one	15	13
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	*	0
100		100	100

**IF HAVE CHILD BETWEEN FIVE AND TWELVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD [N=181]:**

KID1 (Has/have) your (child/children) been following news about the war in Iraq?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u> <sup>16</sup>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
60	Yes	48	69
40	No	51	29
<u>*</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

KID2 Have you been trying to restrict how much coverage of the war in Iraq your (child/children) (watch/watches)?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
53	Yes	54	30
47	No	46	69
<u>0</u>	Don't Know/Refused	*	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

KID3 (Has/have) your (child/children) expressed any fears about the war in Iraq?

		Mid-Sept <u>2001</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
38	Yes	46	43
62	No	54	57
<u>0</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>0</u>	*
100		100	100

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16 In Mid-September 2001 the question asked about "the terrorist attacks."