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Views of Job News Turn Much More Positive Over Past Year

*News About Gas Prices Continues to
be Viewed as ‘Mostly Good’*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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News About Gas Prices Continues to be Viewed as ‘Mostly Good’

For the first time since the end of the recession in 2009, a greater share of the public is hearing mostly good news (28%) than bad news (22%) about the job situation. Nearly half (47%) say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news.

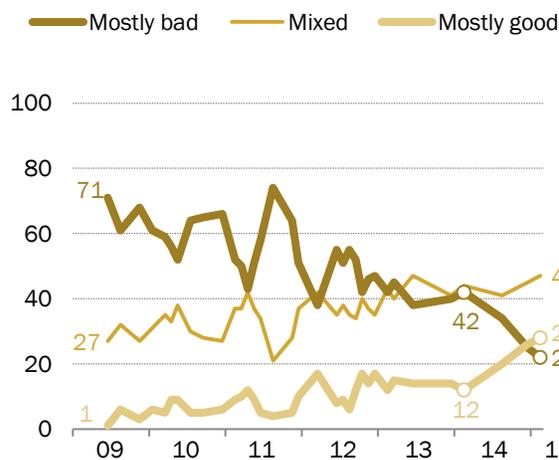
This marks a stark change from a year ago, when just 12% said they were hearing mostly good news about jobs, while more than three times as many (42%) had negative perceptions; 44% described the news as mixed.

Positive impressions about job news continue to tick up as the Labor Department reported the [greatest three-month increase in new jobs since 1997](#). However, January’s unemployment rate of 5.7% sits at the same point as in October.

A new survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 5-8 among 1,003 adults, shows that views of news about the overall economy also have become more positive, although a majority (62%) continues to describe the news as mixed. For the first time since the Pew Research Center began tracking this question in December 2008, about as many are hearing mostly good news (18%) as bad news (17%) about the economy. In previous surveys, negative views had consistently surpassed positive impressions.

Positive Views of Job News Rise, But More Still Hear a Mix of Good and Bad

% hearing _____ news about the job situation



Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015.

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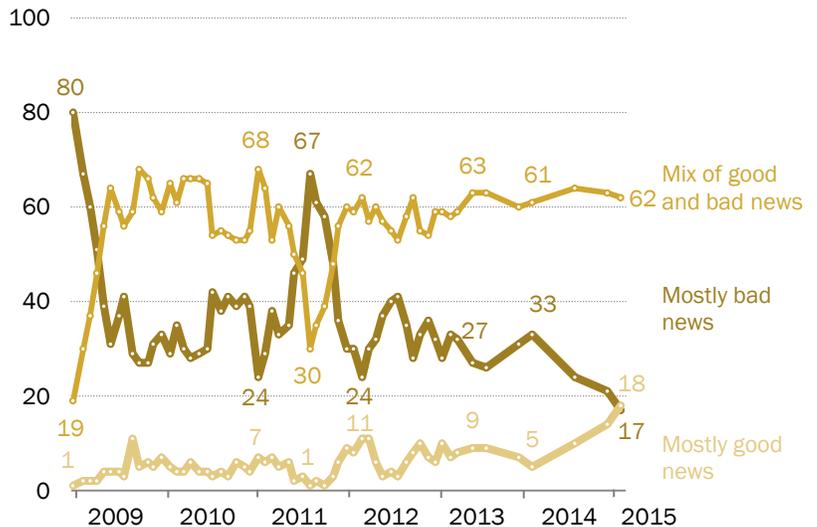
Perceptions about gas prices continue to be very positive: 62% are hearing mostly good news, 10% are hearing mostly bad news, and 27% are hearing a mix. The percentage hearing mostly good news about gas prices has fallen slightly from 70% in December.

The average price of regular gas has risen about 15 cents in the last two weeks to \$2.19 a gallon, though it is still more than \$1 a gallon cheaper than it was a year ago, according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

On other measures of economic news, perceptions continue to be mixed, on balance. Half (50%) say news about the stock market is mixed (22% mostly good, 8% mostly bad). Nearly half (45%) are hearing mixed news about real estate values (25% mostly good, 15% mostly bad). And more say news about prices for food and consumer goods is mostly bad (36%) than mostly good (14%), with 44% hearing a mix.

As Many Hearing Good News as Bad About Economy, But Most Say It Is Mixed

% hearing ____ about the national economy



Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015.

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Partisan Views of Economic News

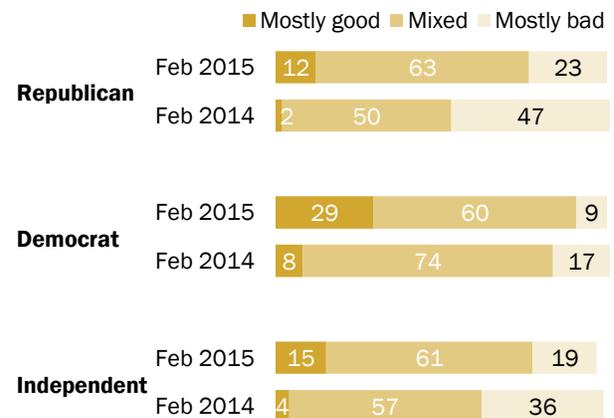
Views about economic news – like news about the job situation – have improved dramatically in the last 12 months. In February 2014, one-third (33%) were hearing mostly bad news and just 5% were hearing mostly good economic news. Today, the share hearing bad news has dropped 16 points and good news has risen 13 points. About six-in-ten today (62%) are still hearing mixed news.

About three-in-ten Democrats (29%) are hearing mostly good news, up 21 points from a year ago. Just 9% of Democrats are hearing mostly bad news, while 60% say economic news is a mix of good and bad.

Among Republicans, more are hearing bad news (23%) than good news (12%), but the share with negative perceptions has dropped by half over the past year (from 47% in February 2014). A 63% majority of Republicans are hearing mixed news. About as many independents are hearing good news (15%) as bad news (19%), whereas far more were hearing bad news than good news a year ago (36% vs. 4%).

Republicans' Perceptions of Economic News Becoming Much Less Negative

% hearing _____ news about the national economy



Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015. Don't know responses not shown.

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Most demographic groups also have more positive perceptions about the job situation compared with last February.

The share hearing good news about jobs has roughly doubled among both men (32% vs. 14%) and women (24% vs. 10%).

All age groups, especially young adults, register more positive perceptions about jobs. Among those younger than 30, 38% are hearing mostly good news and 21% mostly bad news. A year ago, four times as many young adults were hearing bad news than good news (44% vs. 11%).

More than twice as many Democrats are hearing good news than bad news on jobs (42% vs. 16%), a major improvement from last year (16% good, 29% bad).

While few Republicans are positive about job perceptions (15% vs. 10% in February 2014), fewer say the news about the job situation is mostly bad (33%, down from 48%). Today, 50% of Republicans call jobs news a mix of both good and bad, up from 37%.

Young Adults, Democrats Hearing Better News About Job Situation

% hearing mostly good news about the job situation

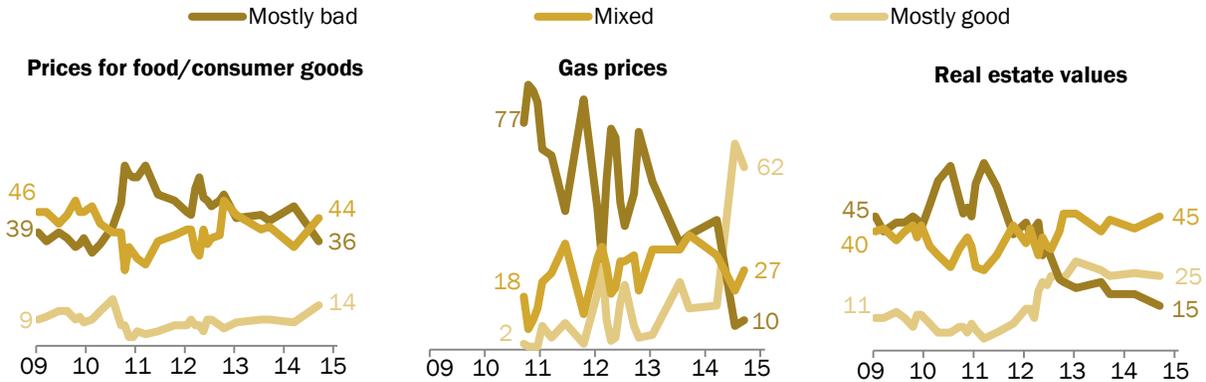
	Feb 2014	Feb 2015	Change
	%	%	
Total	12	28	+16
Men	14	32	+18
Women	10	24	+14
18-29	11	38	+27
30-49	14	26	+12
50-64	11	28	+17
65+	8	20	+12
College grad+	15	33	+18
Some college	11	28	+17
HS or less	8	24	+16
Republican	10	15	+5
Democrat	16	42	+26
Independent	11	27	+16

Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015.

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Public's Views of News About Food Prices, Gas Prices, Real Estate Values

% hearing _____ news about each sector



Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015.

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While positive perceptions of news about gas prices have more than quadrupled in the past year (from 14% to 62%), views of news about other sectors – food and consumer prices, real estate values and the stock market – have shown less change.

Notably, perceptions of news about food and consumer prices remain far more negative (36%) than positive (14%), with 44% describing it as mixed. A year ago, 43% said news about food and consumer prices was mostly bad, 9% said it was mostly good and 41% called it mixed.

On balance, more are hearing mostly good news (22%) than bad news (8%) about the stock market (50% mixed). Perceptions of stock market news have tipped more positive; a year ago, 13% viewed it mostly positively, 21% mostly negatively (49% mixed). More also are hearing mostly good news (25%) than bad news (15%) about real estate values (45% mixed), which is little changed from February 2014.

Perceptions of economic sectors continue to vary widely by family income. Regarding the stock market, those with annual incomes of at least \$75,000 are hearing more good than bad news: 35% have positive perceptions, 8% negative and 53% mixed.

Among adults with less than \$30,000 of annual family income, 11% are hearing positive news about the stock market, 9% negative and 53% mixed; a relatively large share of those with low family incomes (27%) express no opinion.

By contrast, there are smaller differences by family income in views of news about the overall economy. About one-in-five (22%) of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say news about the economy has been mostly good; only somewhat fewer (14%) of those with incomes of \$30,000 or less say the same.

Majorities across income categories – and among partisan groups – view news about gas prices as mostly good, although those with higher incomes (69% among \$75,000 or more) are more likely to say this than those with lower incomes (58% of \$30,000 or less). While two-thirds of Democrats (66%) view news about gas prices positively, so too do 57% of Republicans.

Higher-Income Adults Hearing Better News Across Most Economic Sectors

% hearing mostly good news about each sector

	Family income			High-Low income diff
	Less than \$30,000	\$30,000- \$74,999	\$75,000 or more	
	%	%	%	
Stock market	11	23	35	+24
Real estate values	18	25	38	+20
Gas prices	58	63	69	+11
Job situation	22	35	32	+10
Prices for food and consumer goods	12	14	18	+6
Economy overall	14	19	22	+8

Survey conducted Feb. 5-8, 2015.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 5-8, 2015 among a national sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 502 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 300 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source 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 and Spanish. 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 2013 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 (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 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. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

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:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,003	3.6 percentage points
Republican	273	6.8 percentage points
Democrat	264	6.9 percentage points
Independent	350	6.0 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 is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 5-8, 2015 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003**

QUESTION PEW.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about recent economic news...

PEW.2 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>
February 5-8, 2015	18	17	62	4
December 11-14, 2014	14	21	63	3
July 31-August 3, 2014	10	24	64	3
February 6-9, 2014	5	33	61	2
December 12-15, 2013	7	31	60	2
August 1-4, 2013	9	26	63	3
June 6-9, 2013	9	27	63	1
April 4-7, 2013	8	32	59	2
March 7-10, 2013	7	33	58	1
January 31-February 3, 2013	10	28	59	3
January 3-6, 2013	6	32	59	2
December 6-9, 2012	7	36	54	2
November 1-4, 2012	10	33	55	2
October 4-7, 2012	8	28	62	2
September 7-9, 2012	6	35	58	1
August 2-5, 2012	3	41	53	3
July 5-8, 2012	4	40	55	2
May 31-June 3, 2012	3	37	57	3
May 3-6, 2012	6	32	60	2
April 5-8, 2012	11	30	57	2
March 8-11, 2012	11	24	62	2
February 2-5, 2012	8	30	59	3
January 5-8, 2012	9	30	60	1
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	*

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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.3 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 stock market				
February 5-8, 2015	22	8	50	20
December 11-14, 2014	20	16	45	19
July 31-August 3, 2014	18	20	40	22
February 6-9, 2014	13	21	49	17
June 6-9, 2013	24	16	50	11
b. Real estate values				
February 5-8, 2015	25	15	45	14
July 31-August 3, 2014	26	19	41	15
February 6-9, 2014	25	19	44	12
December 12-15, 2013	27	23	40	10
June 6-9, 2013	30	21	46	3
March 7-10, 2013	24	23	46	7
January 31-February 3, 2013	25	24	40	10
December 6-9, 2012	25	31	34	11
November 1-4, 2012	22	35	35	8
October 4-7, 2012	23	32	38	7
September 7-9, 2012	20	43	32	5
August 2-5, 2012	11	41	36	11
July 5-8, 2012	14	39	41	7
May 31-June 3, 2012	14	43	36	6
March 8-11, 2012	9	39	42	10
November 10-13, 2011	6	55	32	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	63	27	6
June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9
May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	6	48	38	8
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7

PEW.3 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	12	44	38	6
March 5-8, 2010	8	45	42	5
January 8-11, 2010	11	43	40	5
October 30-November 2, 2009	13	43	37	6
August 7-10, 2009	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods				
February 5-8, 2015	14	36	44	6
July 31-August 3, 2014	8	48	34	9
February 6-9, 2014	9	43	41	7
December 12-15, 2013	9	45	40	6
June 6-9, 2013	8	44	45	2
March 7-10, 2013	6	52	40	3
January 31-February 3, 2013	7	50	38	5
December 6-9, 2012	9	48	37	5
November 1-4, 2012	9	50	35	5
October 4-7, 2012	5	51	40	4
September 7-9, 2012	7	58	31	4
August 2-5, 2012	7	54	33	5
July 5-8, 2012	9	45	40	6
May 31-June 3, 2012	7	46	40	7
March 8-11, 2012	7	50	38	6
November 10-13, 2011	5	52	36	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	62	28	5
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	30	6
May 12-15, 2011	3	58	32	6
March 31-April 3, 2011	3	59	34	4
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5
February 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5
December 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9
April 1-5, 2010	10	35	46	9
March 5-8, 2010	9	34	50	7
January 8-11, 2010	12	37	45	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	39	42	7
August 7-10, 2009	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation				
February 5-8, 2015	28	22	47	3
December 11-14, 2014	26	25	45	4
July 31-August 3, 2014	20	34	41	4
February 6-9, 2014	12	42	44	3
December 12-15, 2013	14	40	41	4
June 6-9, 2013	14	38	47	1
March 7-10, 2013	15	45	40	1
January 31-February 3, 2013	12	42	43	3
December 6-9, 2012	17	47	35	1

PEW.3 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 1-4, 2012	14	46	37	3
October 4-7, 2012	17	42	40	2
September 7-9, 2012	12	52	34	2
August 2-5, 2012	6	55	35	4
July 5-8, 2012	9	51	38	3
May 31-June 3, 2012	8	55	35	2
March 8-11, 2012	17	38	42	3
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
e. Gas prices				
February 5-8, 2015	62	10	27	2
December 11-14, 2014	70	8	20	3
July 31-August 3, 2014	15	44	32	9
February 6-9, 2014	14	39	39	8
December 12-15, 2013	23	36	34	6
June 6-9, 2013	5	57	34	3
March 7-10, 2013	4	74	20	2
January 31-February 3, 2013	8	53	32	7
December 6-9, 2012	22	42	30	5
November 1-4, 2012	16	50	30	4
October 4-7, 2012	4	72	21	2
September 7-9, 2012	3	75	19	3
August 2-5, 2012	10	58	28	5
July 5-8, 2012	31	31	35	2
May 31-June 3, 2012	19	48	31	2
March 8-11, 2012	2	85	12	2
November 10-13, 2011	9	47	36	8
August 4-7, 2011	4	66	26	4
June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2
May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1
March 31-April 3, 2011	1	88	10	1
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3

QUESTIONS PEW.4-PEW.5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.) No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
February 5-8, 2015	24	26	36	8	1	5	12	15