

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015
N=1,504**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5, 8 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 6-7, 9-10****ASK ALL:**

Q.11 As I read you some pairs of statements please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. Next, **[NEXT PAIR] [IF NECESSARY: "Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?"]**

	Government aid to the poor does more harm than good, by making people too dependent on <u>government assistance</u>	Government aid to the poor does more good than harm, because people can't get out of poverty until their basic needs are <u>met</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>	
a.				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	44	49	7
	Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	48	47	6
	Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	44	49	7
		The economic system in this country unfairly favors powerful interests	The economic system in this country is generally fair to most Americans	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
b.				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	62	33	4
	Jan 29-Feb 9, 2014 ¹	62	34	4

ITEM c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work <u>hard</u>	Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success <u>for most people</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>	
d.				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	64	33	2
	Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	65	32	3
	Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	60	38	3
	Dec 7-11, 2011	58	40	3
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	64	33	3
	March, 2006	64	33	3
	December, 2005	64	33	3
	December, 2004	68	28	4
	September, 2000	73	24	3
	August, 1999	74	23	3
	July, 1994	68	30	2

NO QUESTIONS 12, 14-15, 19-24, 30-50**QUESTIONS 13, 16-18, 51b-c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 25-29, 51a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

¹ Item was asked Jan. 29-Feb.9, 2014 (N=2,787).

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.52 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	2	23	43	31	*
Jan 7-11, 2015	4	23	48	24	*
Oct 15-20, 2014	2	19	45	33	1
Aug 20-24, 2014	1	19	48	31	1
Jul 8-14, 2014	2	17	46	35	*
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	2	15	43	40	1
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	1	15	45	39	1
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	1	14	48	36	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	1	12	39	48	*
Sep 4-8, 2013	2	17	48	32	*
Jul 17-21, 2013	2	15	45	37	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	2	21	47	29	*
Mar 13-17, 2013	1	15	43	40	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	2	11	38	49	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	1	14	50	35	1
Oct 24-28, 2012	1	12	42	44	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	1	12	43	44	1
Jun 7-17, 2012	1	9	47	42	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	1	9	38	51	1
Feb 8-12, 2012	1	10	46	43	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1

Q.52 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 ²	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.53 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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	27	20	52	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	17	51	1
Oct 15-20, 2014	27	21	50	3
Aug 20-24, 2014	22	22	54	2
Jul 8-14, 2014	26	22	51	1
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	25	24	49	2
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	27	22	50	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	28	44	3
Sep 4-8, 2013	28	25	46	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	33	19	47	1
Mar 13-17, 2013	25	32	41	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	25	40	2
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	25	36	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	43	8	42	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	34	11	50	5
Mar 7-11, 2012	44	14	38	4
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8

² Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.53 CONTINUED...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

ASK ALL:

Q.54 Overall, which of the following best describes how the recession affected your own personal financial situation? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 3; KEEP OPTION 2 SECOND]**

<u>Feb 18-22</u> <u>2015</u>		<u>Sep 4-8</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Jan 11-16</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Mar 8-14</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>Feb 2-7</u> <u>2011</u>
30	It had a major effect, and your finances have not recovered	33	36	40	36
29	It had a major effect, but your finances have mostly recovered	28	28	24	25
40	It did not have a major effect on your finances	37	33	34	37
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4	2	1

NO QUESTION 55**ASK ALL:**

Q.56 Thinking about the U.S. economic system in general, compared with before the 2008 financial crisis, do you think the U.S. economic system is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>Feb 18-22</u> <u>2015</u>		<u>Sep 4-8</u> <u>2013</u>
34	More secure today than it was before the 2008 economic crisis	33
63	No more secure today than it was before the 2008 economic crisis	63
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

NO QUESTION 57

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.58F1 Thinking about the recession that began in 2008 ... Please tell me whether you think each of the following has fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Have/Has **[ITEM]** fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all? What about **[INSERT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Have/has **[ITEM]** fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all?]**

		Fully <u>recovered</u>	Partially <u>recovered</u>	Hardly recovered <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Real estate values				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	8	63	25	4
	Sep 4-8, 2013	4	59	33	4
b.F1	The stock market				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	31	47	13	9
	Sep 4-8, 2013	21	53	18	9
c.F1	The job situation				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	7	60	32	1
	Sep 4-8, 2013	2	45	52	1
d.F1	Household incomes				
	Feb 18-22, 2015	4	51	42	2
	Sep 4-8, 2013	2	42	54	2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:

Q.59F2 Thinking about the federal government's economic policies following the recession that began in 2008 ... Do you think these policies have helped **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Have the federal government's policies since the recession helped **[ITEM]** a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all?]**

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Not too <u>much</u>	Not at <u>all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	Middle-class people					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	5	21	41	31	2
	Sep 4-8, 2013	6	21	38	33	2
	Jul 15-18, 2010	2	25	43	25	4
b.F2	Poor people					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	10	22	34	32	3
	Sep 4-8, 2013	8	18	35	37	3
	Jul 15-18, 2010	7	24	37	27	5
c.F2	Wealthy people					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	36	30	20	9	5
	Sep 4-8, 2013	38	21	20	13	8
	Jul 15-18, 2010	31	26	18	12	12
d.F2	Large banks and financial institutions					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	45	26	16	8	5
	Sep 4-8, 2013	40	28	17	7	7
	Jul 15-18, 2010	53	21	12	6	8
e.F2	Small businesses					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	7	21	39	29	4
	Sep 4-8, 2013	6	23	35	32	4
	Jul 15-18, 2010	2	21	39	29	8

Q.59F2 CONTINUED...

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Not too <u>much</u>	Not at <u>all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F2	Large corporations					
	Feb 18-22, 2015	38	29	18	10	4
	Sep 4-8, 2013	41	26	19	8	7
	Jul 15-18, 2010	44	26	12	8	10

NO QUESTIONS 60-61, 64-65, 69, 72-73, 77**QUESTIONS 62-63, 66-68, 70-71, 74-76, 78 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTION 79****ASK ALL:**

Q.80 If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in? The upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, lower-middle class, or lower class?

	<u>Upper class</u>	<u>Upper- middle class</u>	<u>Middle class</u>	<u>Lower- middle class</u>	<u>Lower class</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	1	11	47	29	10	1
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	1	13	44	28	12	1
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	2	15	49	25	7	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	1	11	47	27	11	2
Dec 7-11, 2011	1	15	46	25	11	2
Mar 15-29, 2011 (SDT)	2	17	52	20	7	2
May 11-31, 2010 (SDT)	2	18	50	21	8	1
February, 2008 (SDT)	2	19	53	19	6	1

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>	(VOL.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=679]:

				(VOL.) No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>					
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9		54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9		54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9		55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10		57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8		56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10		50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10		53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12		50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11		54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11		50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9		54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12		52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9		57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9		48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11		45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9		54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10		50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9		46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7		48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8		61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7		47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9		52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9		45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10		51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11		51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8		49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9		50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7		52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9		47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8		48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9		53	1	2	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ³	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(SDT)	Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends

³ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."