

FOR RELEASE APRIL 24, 2017

# With Budget Debate Looming, Growing Share of Public Prefers Bigger Government

*Most back more spending for veterans, education, infrastructure*

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# With Budget Debate Looming, Growing Share of Public Prefers Bigger Government

*Most back more spending for veterans, education, infrastructure*

As Congress faces an April 28 deadline to fund government operations, the public is now split in their general preferences on the size and scope of government: 48% say they would rather have a bigger government providing more services, while 45% prefer a smaller government providing fewer services.

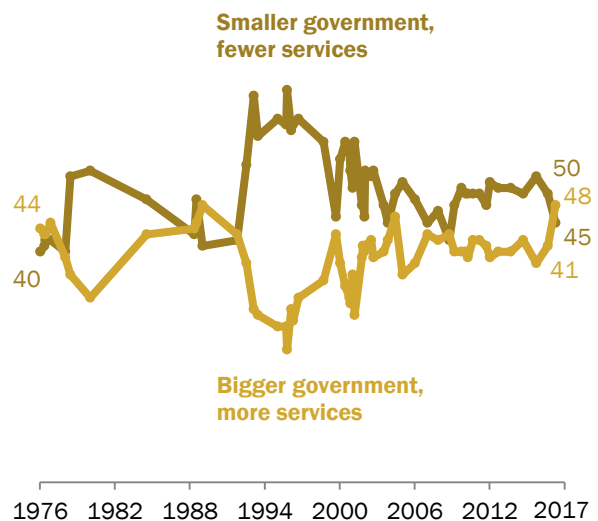
This marks the first time in eight years that as many Americans have expressed a preference for a bigger as a smaller government. Support for bigger government has increased 7 percentage points since last September, when more said they preferred a smaller government offering fewer services (50%) than a bigger government providing more services (41%). The last time the public was divided on this question was in October 2008, just prior to the election of Barack Obama.

The partisan gap in views of the size of government remains as wide as ever. About three-quarters (74%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services, while just 21% want a bigger government. Views among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are nearly the reverse: By 65% to 27%, more prefer a bigger government with more services.

The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted April 5-11 among 1,501 adults, also finds broad support for maintaining or increasing federal spending across 14 specific program areas. And public support for increased spending across most programs is now significantly higher than it was in 2013, a time when public concerns about [the budget deficit were on the rise](#). For 11 of the 14 program areas included in the survey, greater shares now back increased spending than in 2013.

## Public now divided in views of size and scope of government

% who say they would rather have ...



Notes: Data prior to 1997 from LA Times, ABC/Washington Post and CBS/New York Times surveys. Don't know responses not shown. Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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The public expresses broadest support for increased federal spending on veterans benefits. Overall, 75% say that, if they were making up the budget for the federal government this year, they would increase spending on veterans benefits and services; 21% say they would keep spending the same, while just 3% would decrease spending.

Two-thirds (67%) say they would increase spending for education. And as the president and Congress consider plans to address the country's infrastructure, 58% say they would spend more on rebuilding highways, bridges and roads.

On a range of other programs, there is widespread public support for either increasing spending or maintaining it at current levels. For example, 50% say they would increase spending on health care, while 29% would keep it the same; just 18% say they would cut federal health care spending.

Similarly, when it comes to military defense, 46% would increase spending and another 32% would keep spending as it is (20% say they would decrease spending).

As in the past, the public shows little appetite for spending cuts. Majorities say they would either maintain or increase spending for all 14 program areas included in the survey. Support for increased spending is the lowest for government assistance to the unemployed (29%), economic assistance to needy people around the world (29%) and spending on the State Department and American embassies (15%). Nonetheless, in all three of these areas, pluralities favor keeping spending the same as it is now, with no more than a third say spending should be cut.

### Most want government to increase spending on veterans benefits, education and infrastructure

*If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase, decrease or keep spending the same for... (%)*

	Increase spending	Keep spending the same	Decrease spending
Veterans benefits	75	21	3
Education	67	22	9
Rebuilding highways, bridges	58	33	7
Medicare	51	39	9
Health care	50	29	18
Scientific research	48	38	12
Military defense	46	32	20
Environmental protection	46	34	19
Anti-terrorism in the U.S.	46	41	11
Social Security	46	45	6
Assistance to needy in U.S.	45	33	21
Assistance to unemployed	29	44	24
Assistance to needy in the world	29	38	31
State Dept. and embassies	15	57	23

Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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## Since 2013, more support for increased spending in a number of areas

The public has long been skeptical of cutting spending for specific government programs. But support for increased spending is significantly higher across most programs than it was four years ago.

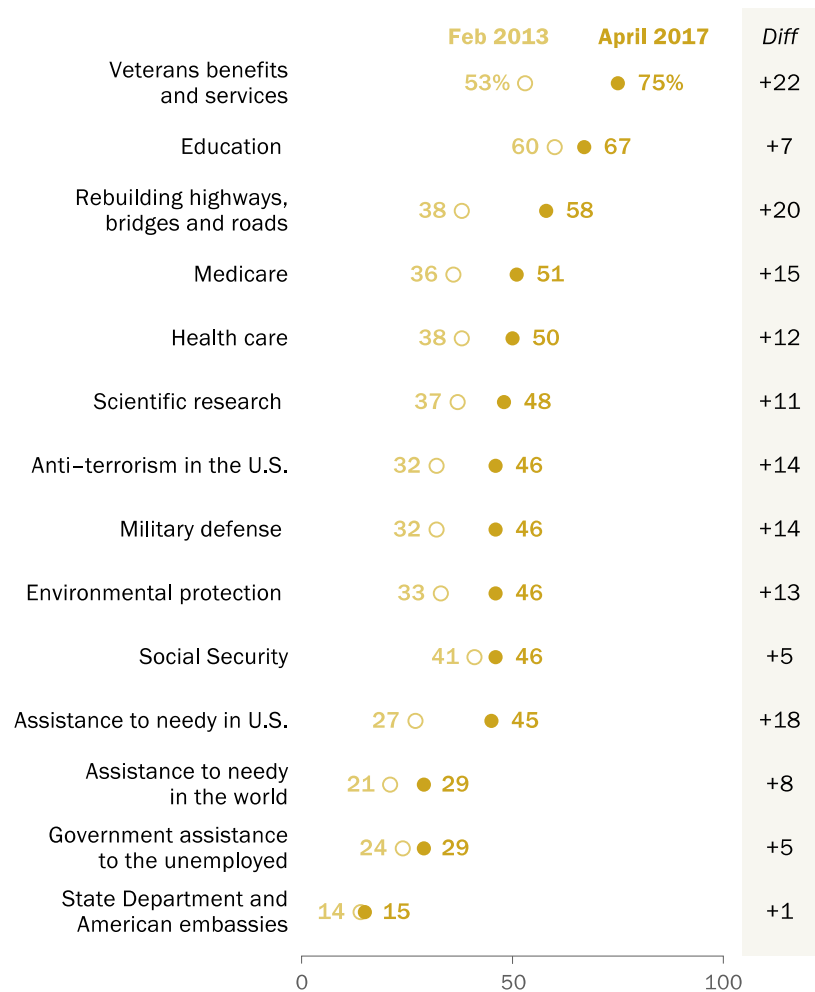
The share saying that they would spend more on veterans benefits is up 22 points from February 2013 (from 53% to 75%). There has been a comparable rise in support for more spending on rebuilding highways, bridges and roads (up 20 points from 2013).

Greater public support for increased government spending also extends to other program areas. Compared with 2013, more Americans want to increase federal spending on aid to needy people in the U.S. (up 18 points), anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S. and military defense (both up 14 points), environmental protection (up 13 points) and scientific research (up 11 points).

Government spending on Social Security, assistance to the unemployed, and the State Department and American embassies are the only three programs (out of 14) for which there has not been a significant rise in support for increased spending since 2013.

### More support for increased spending across many programs than in 2013

*% who say they would increase federal spending on ...*



Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Public support for increasing spending on veterans benefits and services is now at its highest level since Pew Research first asked the question in 2001. The shares that back increased spending on military and anti-terrorism defense are both up in recent years, but are lower than they were in 2002, in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

*(For trends on public views of spending in all 14 areas, see p. 12/appendix of topline graphics.)*

### Public support for increased spending on veterans at highest level in two decades

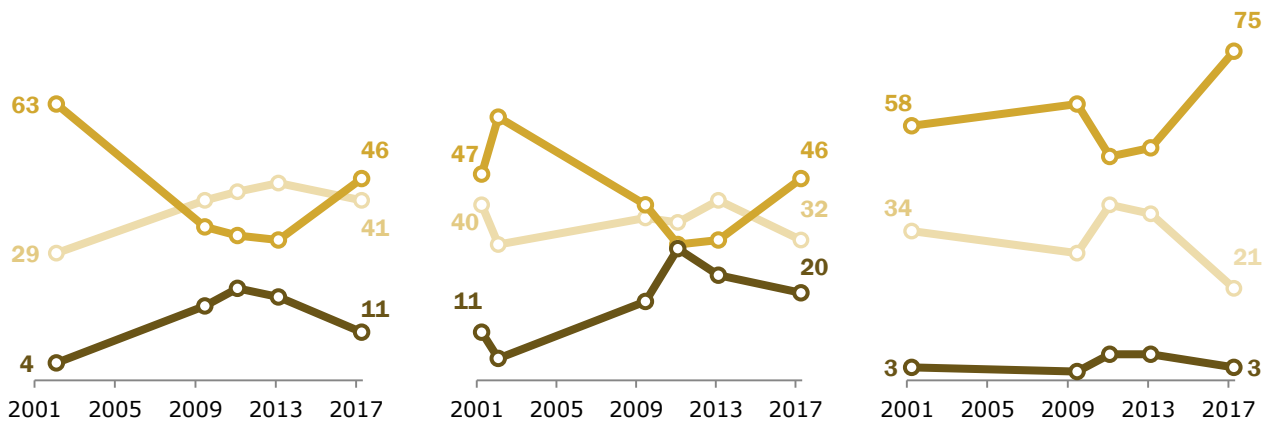
% who say they would \_\_\_ for ...

**Anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S.**

**Military defense**

**Veterans benefits and services**

— Increase spending — Decrease spending — Keep spending the same



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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## Where partisans differ – and mostly agree – on federal spending

Reflecting their overall disagreement on the size and role of government, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to favor increased federal spending in most specific areas. However, on spending for veterans benefits and infrastructure improvements, similar majorities of both Republicans and Democrats back increased spending.

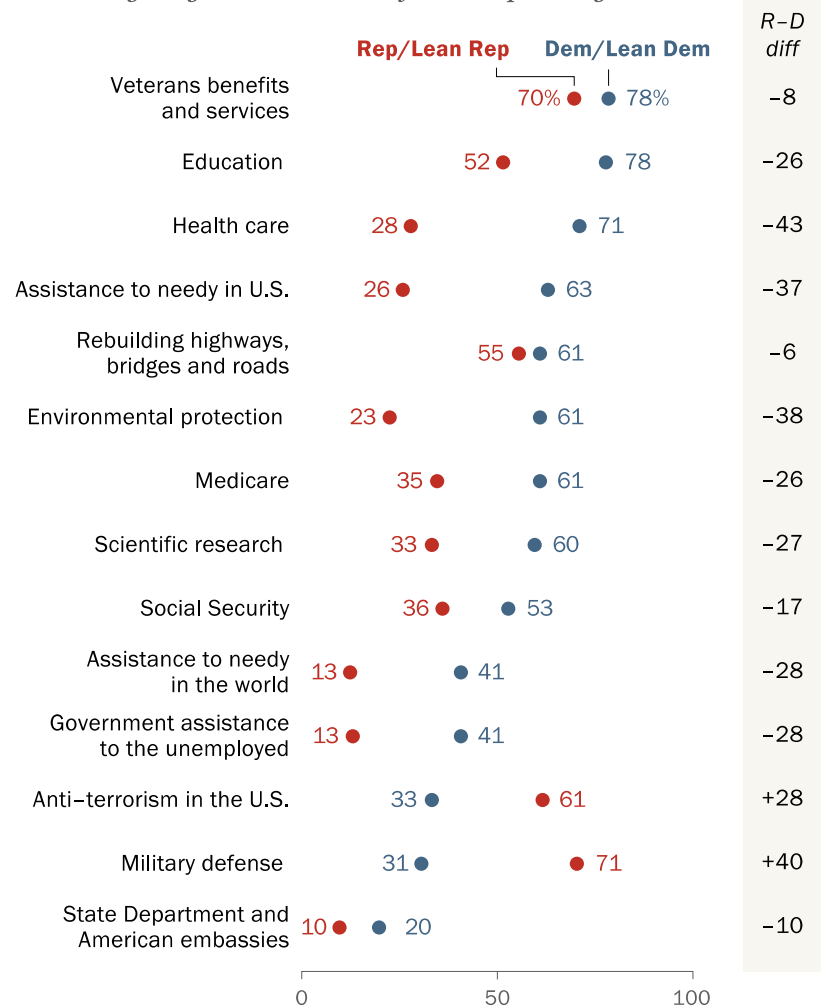
Nearly eight-in-ten Democrats and Democratic leaners (78%) and 70% of Republicans and Republican leaners say they would increase federal spending on veterans benefits and services. Most Democrats (61%) and Republicans (55%) also support more spending on infrastructure improvements.

But far more Democrats than Republicans favor increased spending for aspects of the social safety net. For example, 71% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they would increase federal spending on health care, compared with 28% of Republicans and Republican leaners. And while 63% of Democrats favor increased spending on economic assistance to needy people in the U.S., fewer than half as many Republicans (26%) favor this.

In many other areas as well, including environmental protection, scientific research and education, there is much greater support for higher levels of spending among Democrats than Republicans.

### Both Republicans and Democrats back increased federal spending on veterans benefits, infrastructure

*% who say they would increase federal spending on ...*



Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Yet while Republicans are less likely than Democrats to back increased spending on 11 of the 14 program areas in the survey, there is only one for which a majority of Republicans support spending cuts. Most Republicans (56%) favor decreasing federal spending on economic assistance for needy people around the world; just 13% of Democrats would cut spending in this area (45% would keep it at its current level and 41% favor increased spending).

Military defense and anti-terrorism defense are two of Republicans' top spending priorities, and two programs for which they are more likely than Democrats to back greater spending. About seven-in-ten Republicans (71%) would spend more on military defense, compared with 31% of Democrats. On U.S. anti-terrorism defenses, 61% of Republicans and 33% of Democrats say they would increase federal spending.

For many programs, the rise in overall support for increased spending has occurred among both Republicans and Democrats. (For more see [detailed tables](#).)

Anti-terrorism and military defense are two exceptions to this pattern: On these two issues, partisans have diverged in their support for increased government spending.

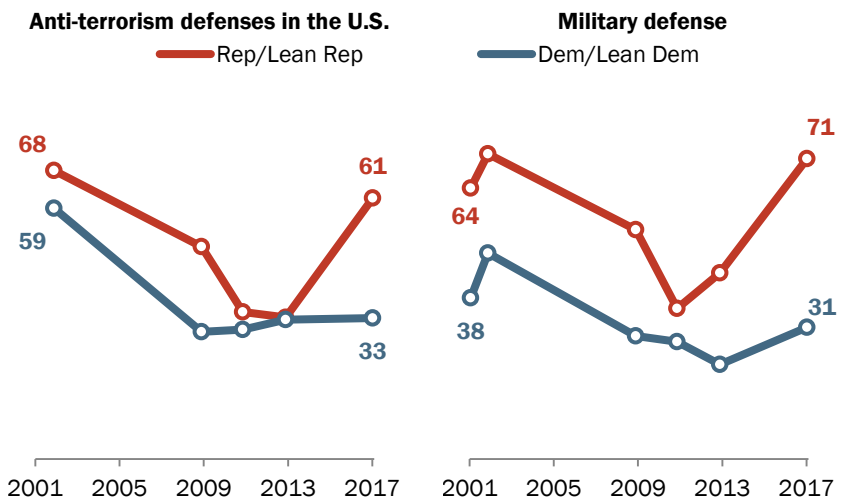
In 2013, nearly identical shares of Democrats and Republicans (33% each) favored increased spending on anti-terrorism defenses in

the U.S. In the current survey, however, there has been sharp increase in Republican support for more spending on anti-terrorism (to 61%), while Democrats' views are unchanged.

Similarly, while Republicans have long been more likely than Democrats to say they would increase spending on military defense, the gap between partisans on this spending priority has

### Sharp rise in share of Republicans who support increased spending on anti-terrorism, military defense

% who say they would increase spending on ...



Note: Data in 2009 is based on partisans without leaners.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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widened over the last several years. In 2013, there was a 22-point gap between the shares of Republicans (44%) and Democrats (22%) who said they would increase military defense spending. Today, that gap is 40 points, with 71% of Republicans and 31% of Democrats each saying they would increase spending on military defense.

## Views of size and scope of government

For the first time in eight years, about as many say they would rather have a bigger government that provides more services (48%) as say they'd prefer a smaller government providing fewer services (45%). Since last September, overall support for bigger government is up 7 percentage points and this shift is seen across most demographic groups.

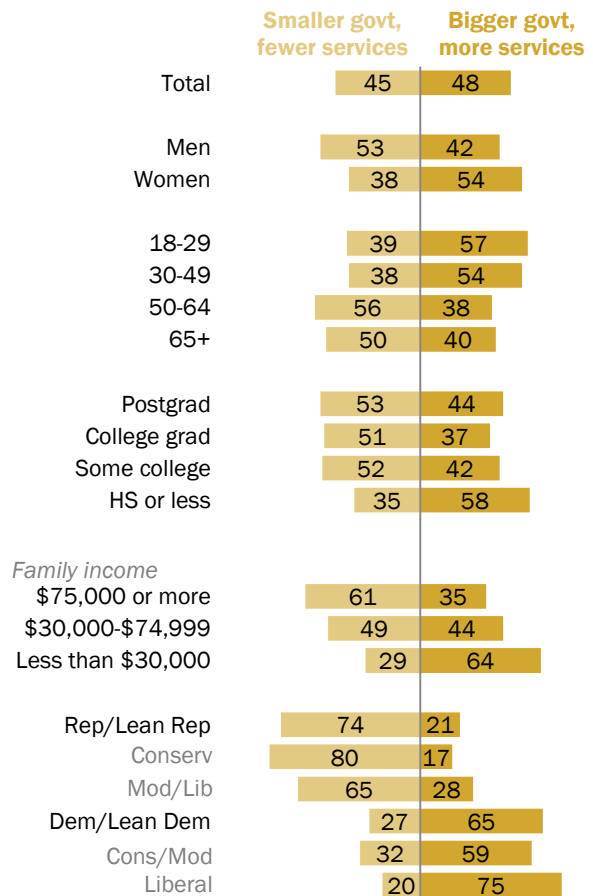
Majorities of adults 30 years old and younger (57%) and ages 30-49 (54%) say they would rather have a bigger government providing more services. Fewer adults ages 50-64 (38%) and adults ages 65 and older (40%) say this.

Those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more are much less likely than those with lower incomes to say they'd prefer a bigger government that provides more services. Just about a third of those earning \$75,000 or more (35%) say this, compared to 44% of those with family incomes between \$30,000 and \$75,000 and nearly two-thirds (64%) of those making less than \$30,000 a year.

As has long been the case, there is a wide partisan divide in views of the size and role of government. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners (74%) say they would rather have a smaller government providing fewer services. Most Democrats and Democratic leaners (65%) say they'd rather have a bigger government that provided more services. The partisan divide on this question is not much different than it was in September, when 80% of Republicans backed a smaller government and 63% of Democrats favored a bigger government.

### Sharp divide between young people, older adults on size of government

% who say they would rather have ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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## Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 5-11, 2017 among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (375 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 693 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://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2015 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 2016 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:

---

*Survey conducted Apr. 5-11, 2017*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	746	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	755	4.1 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep (F1/F2)	630 (326/304)	4.5 (6.2/6.5) percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem (F1/F2)	771 (369/402)	4.1 (5.9/5.6) percentage points

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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 undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

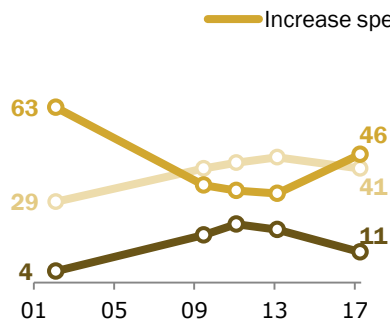
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# Appendix A: Views on federal program spending, 2001-2017

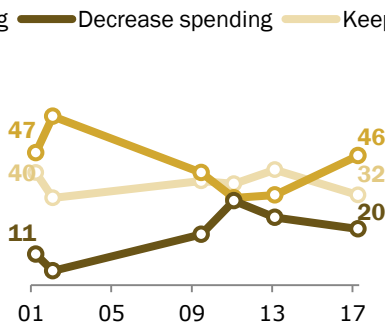
## Views on federal program spending

% who say they would \_\_\_ for ...

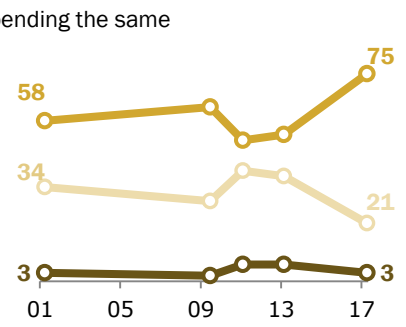
**Anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S.**



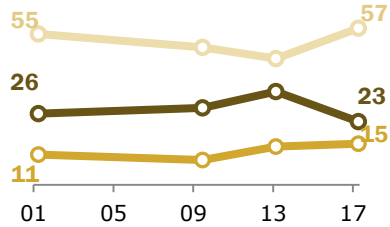
**Military defense**



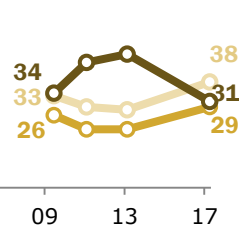
**Veterans benefits & services**



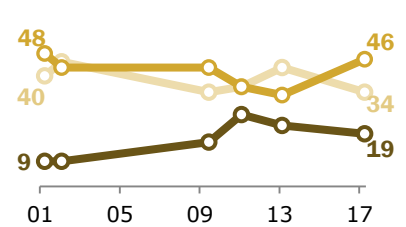
**State Dept and American embassies**



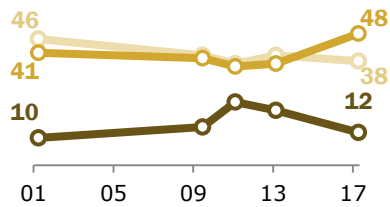
**Economic assistance to needy around the world**



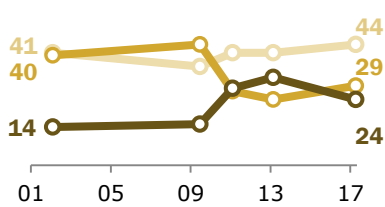
**Environmental protection**



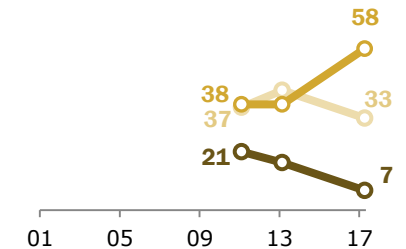
**Scientific research**



**Govt assistance to unemployed**



**Rebuilding highways, bridges and roads**

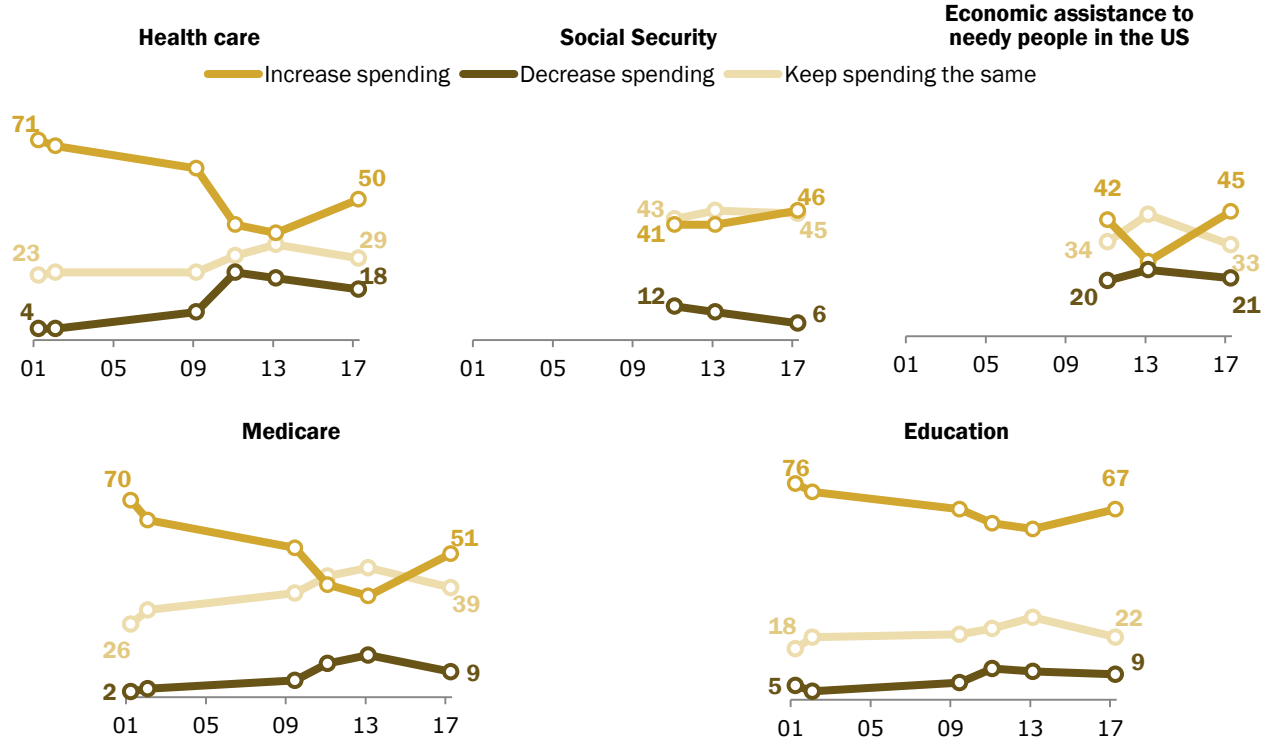


Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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## Views on federal program spending

% who say they would \_\_\_ for ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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## Appendix B: Topline questionnaire

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
APRIL 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
APRIL 5-11, 2017  
N=1,501**

**QUESTIONS 1-3, 19-20, 25-26, 30-31, 36 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 4-10, 14-18, 22-24, 27-29, 33-35, 38-40**

**QUESTIONS 11-13, 21, 32, 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.41 If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase spending, decrease spending or keep spending the same for **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE, OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? What about for **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY, AT LEAST EVERY THIRD ITEM: Would you increase spending, decrease spending or keep spending the same for [ITEM]?**]

		<u>Increase spending</u>	<u>Decrease spending</u>	<u>Keep spending the same</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:</b>					
a.F1	Health care				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	50	18	29	3
	Feb 13-18, 2013	38	22	34	6
	Feb 2-7, 2011	41	24	30	5
	Jun 18-21, 2009	61	10	24	6
	February, 2002	69	4	24	3
	April, 2001	71	4	23	2
	May, 1997	57	7	34	2
	December, 1994	52	11	33	4
	August, 1990	74	6	18	2
	May, 1990	80	3	16	1
	May, 1987	72	3	23	2
b.F1	Anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S.				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	11	41	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	32	19	45	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	33	21	43	4
	Jun 18-21, 2009	35	17	41	7
	February, 2002	63	4	29	4
c.F1	Veterans benefits and services				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	75	3	21	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	53	6	38	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	51	6	40	3
	Jun 18-21, 2009	63	2	29	6
	April, 2001	58	3	34	5
d.F1	The State Department and American embassies				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	15	23	57	5
	Feb 13-18, 2013	14	34	46	6
	Jun 18-21, 2009	9	28	50	12
	April, 2001	11	26	55	8



**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

		Increase spending	Decrease spending	Keep spending the same	(VOL.) DK/Ref
e.F1	Social Security				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	6	45	3
	Feb 13-18, 2013	41	10	46	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	41	12	43	3
	May, 1997	44	7	46	3
	December, 1994	46	7	45	2
	May, 1990	63	3	32	2
	May, 1987	64	3	31	2
f.F1	Rebuilding highways, bridges and roads				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	58	7	33	1
	Feb 13-18, 2013	38	17	43	2
	Feb 2-7, 2011	38	21	37	3
	May, 1990	54	5	40	1
g.F1	Economic assistance to needy people in the U.S.				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	45	21	33	1
	Feb 13-18, 2013	27	24	44	4
	Feb 2-7, 2011	42	20	34	3
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:</b>					
h.F2	Scientific research				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	48	12	38	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	37	20	40	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	36	23	37	4
	Jun 18-21, 2009	39	14	40	7
	April, 2001	41	10	46	3
	May, 1997	45	14	38	3
	December, 1994	37	15	44	4
	May, 1990	51	9	37	3
	May, 1987	45	9	42	4
i.F2	Military defense				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	20	32	1
	Feb 13-18, 2013	32	24	41	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	31	30	36	3
	Jun 18-21, 2009	40	18	37	5
	February, 2002	60	5	31	4
	April, 2001	47	11	40	2
	May, 1997	21	30	46	3
	December, 1994	31	23	44	2
	August, 1990	23	43	31	3
	May, 1990	18	40	39	3
	May, 1987	24	29	44	3
j.F2	Government assistance for the unemployed				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	29	24	44	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	24	32	41	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	27	28	41	4
	Jun 18-21, 2009	44	15	36	6
	February, 2002	40	14	41	5
	May, 1997	20	33	44	3
	December, 1994	25	23	49	3
	February, 1989	26	14	57	3
	May, 1987	41	15	41	3

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Increase spending</u>	<u>Decrease spending</u>	<u>Keep spending the same</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
k.F2	Medicare				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	51	9	39	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	36	15	46	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	40	12	43	5
	Jun 18-21, 2009	53	6	37	4
	February, 2002	63	3	31	3
	April, 2001	70	2	26	2
	May, 1997	44	8	44	4
l.F2	Environmental protection				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	19	34	1
	Feb 13-18, 2013	33	22	43	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	36	26	36	3
	Jun 18-21, 2009	43	16	34	6
	February, 2002	43	9	45	3
	April, 2001	48	9	40	3
	May, 1997	46	14	38	2
	December, 1994	40	17	40	3
	May, 1990	71	3	24	2
	May, 1987	59	4	34	3
m.F2	Economic assistance to needy people around the world				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	29	31	38	2
	Feb 13-18, 2013	21	48	28	3
	Feb 2-7, 2011	21	45	29	4
	Jun 18-21, 2009	26	34	33	7
n.F2	Education				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	67	9	22	1
	Feb 13-18, 2013	60	10	29	2
	Feb 2-7, 2011	62	11	25	2
	Jun 18-21, 2009	67	6	23	4
	February, 2002	73	3	22	2
	April, 2001	76	5	18	1

**QUESTIONS 42-43 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 44-45, 51-54****QUESTIONS 46-50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:**

Q.55F2 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	<u>Smaller government, fewer services</u>	<u>Bigger government, more services</u>	<b>(VOL.) Depends</b>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Apr 5-11, 2017	45	48	2	4
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	50	41	4	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	53	38	3	6
Sep 2-9, 2014	50	42	3	5
Sep 4-8, 2013	51	40	2	7
Sep 12-16, 2012	51	40	4	6
Jan 4-8, 2012	52	39	2	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	41	2	8

## Q.55F2 CONTINUED...

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Depends</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 8-14, 2011	50	42	3	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	42	3	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
<i>LA Times/Bloomberg</i> : January 2006	49	38	--	13
<i>LA Times</i> : January 2005	52	36	--	12
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : June 2004	50	46	--	4
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : November 2003	45	42	4	9
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : July 2003	48	40	5	7
<i>ABC</i> : November 2002 ( <i>Likely voters</i> )	60	35	--	5
<i>Wash Post</i> : September 2002	54	39	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 2002	53	42	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : January 2002	54	41	--	5
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : January 2002	46	40	3	11
<i>LA Times</i> : November 2001	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 2001	48	39	3	11
<i>LA Times</i> : March 2001	59	29	--	12
<i>CBS</i> : January 2001	51	36	5	8
<i>CBS</i> : November 2000	54	31	5	10
<i>CBS</i> : October 2000	57	32	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : October 2000 ( <i>RV</i> )	58	32	--	10
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : Early October 2000 ( <i>RV</i> )	58	33	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 2000 ( <i>RV</i> )	59	26	--	15
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 2000	59	34	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : April 2000	56	38	--	7
<i>CBS</i> : September 1999	46	43	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1998	59	35	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1996	63	32	--	5
<i>LA Times</i> : April 1996	62	28	--	10
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : February 1996	61	30	4	5
<i>LA Times</i> : October 1995	68	23	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 1995	62	27	--	11
<i>LA Times</i> : January 1995	63	27	--	10
<i>LA Times</i> : June 1993	60	29	--	11
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : February 1993	67	30	--	2
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1992	55	38	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1991	42	43	7	8
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : January 1989 <sup>1</sup>	41	48	4	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1988 ( <i>Likely voters</i> )	47	37	7	9
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1988	49	45	--	6
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1988	43	44	5	8
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1984	49	43	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : March 1980	54	32	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1978	53	36	--	11
<i>Wash Post</i> : January 1978	40	39	--	21
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : November 1976	42	45	--	13
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1976 ( <i>RV</i> )	49	37	--	14

<sup>1</sup>. In 1989 and earlier, CBS/NYT question read, "In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services or a bigger government providing more services?"

**Q.55F2 CONTINUED...**

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : September 1976 (RV)	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1976	42	43	--	15
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1976	41	43	--	16
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : April 1976	40	44	--	16

**QUESTIONS 56-57, 61-63, 65-67, 70, 82-84, 95-96 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 58-60, 64, 68-69, 73-79, 85-91, 93-94****QUESTIONS 71-72, 80-81, 92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****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</u> <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u> <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Apr 5-11, 2017	24	31	42	2	1	*	17	20
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
Apr 12-19, 2016	25	32	37	3	1	2	16	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
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
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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
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	--	--	--	--	--

**NO QUESTION 97****QUESTION 98 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTION 99**