



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Most Angered by Economic News Deadly Afghanistan Crash Tops Public's News Interest

News about the crash of a military helicopter in Afghanistan that killed 30 Americans last week refocused public attention on the long-running war there.

About a quarter of the public (27%) says they followed news about the troop deaths in Afghanistan – which included members of the elite force that killed Osama bin Laden – more closely than any other news last week, according to the latest weekly News Interest Index survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 11-14 among 1,005 adults.

Economic story lines also captured the public's attention. About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed news about the ups and downs in the stock market most closely, while another 10% say news about the downgrade in the government's credit rating was their top story.

News Interest vs. News Coverage

	News Interest	News Coverage
30 U.S. troops killed	27	7
Stock market	19	8
S&P credit downgrade	10	5
2012 elections	8	15
London riots	5	8
Somalia food shortage	4	2

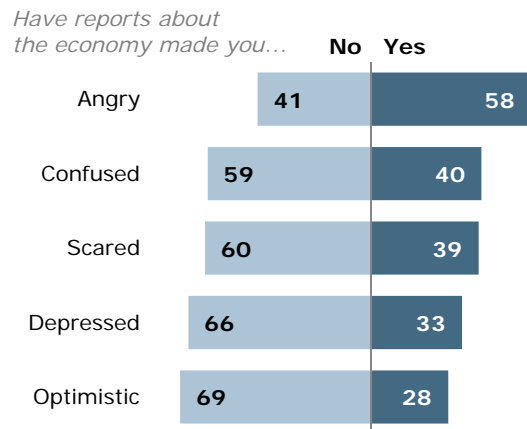
News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, August 11-14, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, August 8-14, 2011.

Together, the economic stories garnered significantly more coverage than the helicopter crash. News about Afghanistan accounted for 7% of coverage, according to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). News about the economy made up 32% of coverage; 8% of the total dealt with the dramatic swings in world stock markets, 5% dealt specifically with Standard & Poor's decision to downgrade the U.S. credit rating and the remainder dealt with the economy's troubles more generally.

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) say reports about the economy make them feel angry, higher than the 49% that said this in November 2008 as the economic crisis worsened. Much larger numbers of independents and Republicans say this than in 2008; the percentage of Democrats who feel this way is largely unchanged.

Among the public, about four-in-ten say reports about the economy make them feel confused (40%) or scared (39%). A third say the news makes them feel depressed (33%). Those numbers are little changed from three years ago. About three-in-ten (28%) say the reports make them feel optimistic; 69% say they do not make them feel that way. Again, those numbers are little changed since 2008.

Economic News Angers Americans



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 11-14, 2011.

Troop Deaths Rekindle Public Attention to Afghanistan

In recent years, the public has paid relatively modest but steady attention to developments in the long-running war in Afghanistan. Between 20 and 30 percent typically say they are following news about Afghanistan very closely. However, interest tends to spike at critical points, such as last week's deadly downing of a Chinook helicopter by Taliban forces.

About four-in-ten (39%) say they very closely followed news about the 30 Americans killed in the helicopter attack. That is the highest level of interest in news about Afghanistan since President Obama announced in late 2009 that he would boost troop levels there and then start a drawdown in 2011.

At that time, 43% said they followed the story very closely. Still, Obama's announcement was not the public's top story that week. While 20% said they followed the Afghanistan news most closely, more (29%) said the ongoing debate over health care legislation in Washington was their top story.

Attention to Key Events of War in Afghanistan

	% following very closely
30 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan (Aug 2011)	39
General McChrystal resigns after criticizing Obama's Afghanistan strategy (June 2010)	28
Obama sends more U.S. troops to Afghanistan (Dec 2009)	43
U.S. military effort in Afghanistan (Jan 2002)	51
U.S. military effort in Afghanistan (Oct 2001: Start of the war)	51

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 11-14, 2011

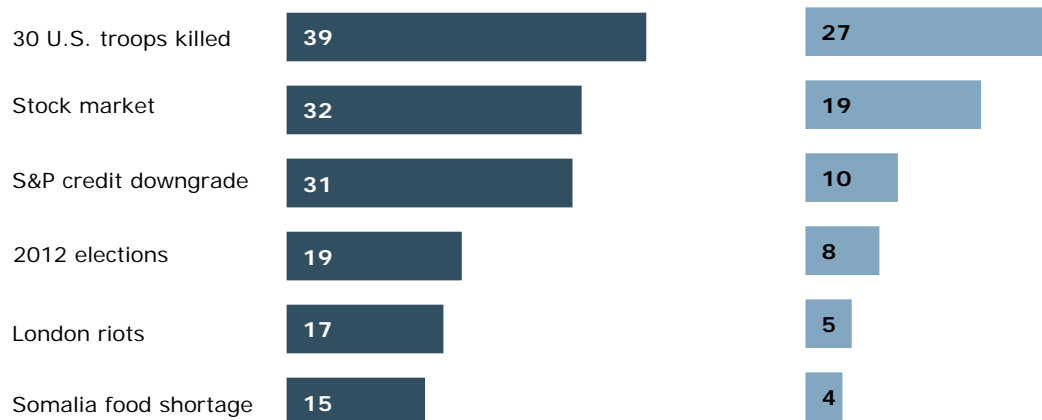
Comparable numbers of Republicans (42%), Democrats (37%) and independents (40%) say they followed news about last week's deaths very closely. There also is little difference in attentiveness based on gender, education or household income level.

About three-in-ten each say they very closely followed news about recent ups and downs in the stock market (32%) and S&P credit rating downgrade (31%). Partisans are about equally likely to say they followed both stories very closely.

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 11-14, 2011.

About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed news about candidates for 2012 presidential election very closely. That is little changed from recent weeks despite increased coverage

as the Iowa straw poll approached and Texas Gov. Rick Perry prepared to enter the race. Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) cited campaign news as their top story. There are only slight partisan differences in attentiveness to news about the 2012 candidates. News about the candidates accounted for 15% of coverage, up sharply from 2% the previous week.

The riots in London and other parts of Great Britain attracted modest attention, with 17% saying they followed this news very closely and 5% saying this was the news they followed most closely. The unrest accounted for 8% of coverage.

Similar numbers tracked news about the severe food shortages and famine in Somalia; 15% say they followed this story very closely, while 4% say this was the news they followed most closely. News about the situation in Somalia accounted for 2% of coverage.

Anger over Economic News

About six-in-ten (58%) say that when they hear news about the economy, it makes them angry. That's up from 49% in mid-November 2008, as the economic downturn worsened and shortly after Barack Obama won the presidential election.

Six-in-ten Republicans (61%) say news about the economy makes them angry, up 12 points from when the question was asked in late 2008. That jumps to 72% among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party.

Six-in-ten independents say the same (62%), up from 42% in 2008. Perceptions among Democrats have not changed (56% now say economic news makes them angry; 55% said this in 2008).

While there is little difference in perceptions among various income brackets, the increases since 2008 are somewhat larger among those with household incomes of less than \$75,000. Currently, 56% of those earning \$75,000 or more and 58% of those earning less than \$30,000 say the economic news makes them angry. That's up 12 points since 2008 among those earning less than \$30,000 a year and 7 points for those earning at least \$75,000.

More Feel Angered by Economic News

	Nov 08	Aug 11	Change
	%	%	
Total	49	58	+9
Men	48	56	+8
Women	50	60	+10
18-29	40	45	+5
30-49	50	58	+8
50-64	51	66	+15
65+	57	63	+6
College grad+	48	55	+7
Some college	52	52	0
HS or less	48	63	+15
<i>Family inc.:</i>			
\$75,000+	49	56	+7
\$30k-\$74,999	51	62	+11
<\$30k	46	58	+12
Republican	49	61	+12
Democrat	55	56	+1
Independent	42	62	+20
<i>Among Rep/ Lean Rep:</i>			
Tea Party	--	72	
Not Tea	--	57	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
August 11-14, 2011.

Deficit Most Visible Economic Problem

When asked to name the economic problem they have been hearing the most about in the news recently, the federal budget deficit is far and away the concern most often mentioned. About a third (32%) say they have heard the most about the deficit, the national debt or government spending. Fewer than half that number say they are hearing the most about the job situation (14%) or the stock market (13%). Just 7% mention the U.S. credit rating.

Though the stock market gyrations and the government credit rating were major stories last week, the standoff in Washington over the national deficit and the debt limit dominated media coverage for much of the past month. In the week leading up to a possible government default on Aug. 2, the debate accounted for almost half of news coverage (47%).

The poll finds few differences among Republicans, Democrats and independents on this question. A third or more in each group mentions the federal budget deficit as the problem that have the most about recently. Far more Republicans and GOP leaners who agree with the Tea Party say they have heard the most about the deficit recently than those who do not agree with the movement (54% vs. 29%).

Far More Hearing about Deficit than other Economic Problems

<i>What one economic or financial problem have you heard the most about in the news recently?</i>	Total
	%
Deficit/Debt/Gov't spending	32
Jobs/Unemployment	14
Stock market	13
Credit rating downgrade	7
Housing/Foreclosures	4
Health care/Medicare/Medicaid	3
Gas prices/Oil prices	2
Social Security	2
Recession/Depression	2
Inflation/Cost of living/Food	2
Taxes	1
Political situation/Gridlock	1
Wars/Military spending	1
Economy (General)	1
Other	6
None/No problem	4
Don't know/No answer	9

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 11-14, 2011. Figures add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected August 8-14, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected August 11-14 from a nationally representative sample of 1,005 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted August 11-14, 2011, among a national sample of 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (601 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 404 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 184 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. 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.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the 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	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,005	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	294	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	313	7.0 percentage points
Independents	305	7.0 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.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
AUGUST 11-14, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,005**

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. Recent ups and downs in the stock market					
August 11-14, 2011	32	28	16	24	1
July 28-31, 2011	18	23	20	39	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 27-30, 2011: <i>Recent gains in the stock market</i>	13	17	20	49	1
August 12-15, 2010: <i>Recent ups and downs in the stock market</i>	17	21	20	42	1
March 26-29, 2010	13	23	23	40	1
October 16-19, 2009: <i>Recent gains in the stock market</i>	15	23	19	43	*
July 24-27, 2009	23	25	24	28	*
March 13-16, 2009	38	31	14	17	0
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	35	31	15	19	*
February 20-23, 2009	31	32	20	17	*
November 21-24, 2008	50	23	15	12	*
October 17-20, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	54	31	9	6	*
October 10-13, 2008: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	59	26	9	6	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	22	29	23	26	*
March 14-17, 2008	25	31	23	21	*
January 25-28, 2008	29	28	19	23	1
August 17-20, 2007	21	24	22	33	*
July 27-30, 2007	15	26	21	37	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>The recent drop in the U.S. stock market</i>	21	28	25	26	*
Early September, 2002: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	27	30	20	22	1
Late July, 2002	33	33	15	18	1
March, 2001	27	27	18	27	1
Mid-October, 2000	20	26	23	31	1
April, 2000	18	28	23	31	*
Early April, 2000	19	29	20	32	*
March, 2000	23	29	21	26	1
March, 1999	18	29	22	31	*
January, 1999	24	28	19	28	1
Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*
Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*
January, 1998	21	25	23	31	*
Mid-November, 1997	25	36	18	20	1
Early November, 1997: <i>Thinking about last Monday when the stock market dropped, how closely did you follow what was happening?</i>	16	29	22	33	*

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
September, 1997: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the stock market</i>	14	22	23	40	1
April, 1997	17	21	22	40	*
February, 1996	12	20	25	42	1
b. Severe food shortages in Somalia					
August 11-14, 2011	15	23	22	39	1
August 4-7, 2011	12	21	26	40	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 25-28, 2008: <i>Reports about a worldwide food shortage</i>	24	33	12	11	1
April 18-21, 2008	14	25	25	34	2
October, 1993: <i>The situation in Somalia</i>	34	41	16	8	1
September, 1993	20	42	26	12	*
February, 1993: <i>Accounts about U.S. troops in Somalia</i>	28	42	22	8	*
January, 1993: <i>The deployment of U.S. forces to Somalia</i>	52	37	8	3	*
September, 1992: <i>The civil war and famine in Somalia</i>	11	24	31	33	1
c. The 30 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan in a helicopter attack					
August 11-14, 2011	39	33	13	14	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 30-July 3, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	22	34	24	20	1
June 23-26, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan</i>	27	32	20	20	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	20	35	23	21	1
March 3-6, 2011: <i>U.S. airmen killed at an airport in Frankfurt, Germany</i>	16	22	19	42	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>The Obama administration's review of the Afghanistan war strategy</i>	17	26	25	31	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	22	22	1
November 18-21, 2010	27	33	21	18	1
October 21-24, 2010	21	34	23	21	1
October 7-10, 2010	21	36	20	22	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	23	37	23	15	1
September 23-26, 2010	29	40	19	11	1
September 9-12, 2010	30	33	20	17	*
July 29-August 1, 2010	34	35	22	9	*
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
June 17-20, 2010	21	30	27	22	*
May 20-23, 2010	22	33	25	20	*
April 9-12, 2010	21	29	27	22	1
June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	24	36	21	19	*

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
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1
d. Riots in London and other parts of Britain					
August 11-14, 2011	17	28	21	32	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
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	*

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
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
e. News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
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	*
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	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
2008 Election					
October 31-November 3, 2008: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	57	29	9	5	*
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	44	36	11	8	1
October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*
September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	*
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*

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
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign</i>	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 – December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	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
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007: <i>Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008</i>	24	27	22	26	1
2004 Election					
November, 2004: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	47	35	10	7	1
Mid-October, 2004: <i>News about candidates for the 2004 presidential election</i>	46	30	12	11	1
September, 2004	40	34	14	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
June, 2004	28	34	19	18	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004 (GAP)	24	40	23	12	1
Early February, 2004: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003: <i>Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004</i>	14	28	29	28	1
2000 Election					
Early November, 2000: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	33	41	15	10	1
Mid-October, 2000: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	36	35	17	11	1
Early October, 2000	35	35	19	10	1
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	1
July, 2000: <i>News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election</i>	21	38	20	20	1
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1
Early April, 2000					
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
1996 Election					

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
November, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	28	42	19	10	*
October, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	31	39	18	12	*
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1
April, 1996	23	35	25	17	*
March, 1996 <i>News about the Republican presidential candidates</i>	26	41	20	13	*
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1
October, 1995	12	36	30	22	*
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1
1992 Election					
October, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>	55	36	8	2	0
September, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	42	37	13	8	*
August, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>	36	51	11	2	0
July, 1992: <i>News about the presidential campaign</i>	20	45	26	9	*
May, 1992: <i>The presidential election campaign</i>	32	44	16	8	*
March, 1992: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>	35	40	16	9	*
March, 1992: <i>The race for the Republican presidential nomination</i>	25	40	22	13	1
February 1992: <i>The Democratic primary in New Hampshire</i>	19	31	26	24	*
February, 1992: <i>The Republican primary in New Hampshire</i>	19	31	26	23	1
January, 1992: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	11	25	36	27	1
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*
October, 1991	12	26	31	29	2
1988 Election					
October, 1988: <i>News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (RVs)</i>	43	44	11	2	*
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*
May, 1988 (RVs)	22	46	23	6	3
November, 1987: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	15	28	35	21	1
November, 1987: <i>News about the Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	13	28	36	22	1
September, 1987: <i>Coverage of the Democratic and Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	14	34	37	14	1
f. Standard and Poor's downgrading the U.S. credit rating					
August 11-14, 2011	31	27	16	25	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Congress and the President agreeing to cut federal spending and raise the debt limit</i>	46	25	13	14	1

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>
July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	41	27	15	17	*
July 21-24, 2011	38	28	17	17	*
July 14-17, 2011	34	29	18	19	*
July 7-10, 2011	25	30	21	23	*
June 30-July 3, 2011	29	30	15	25	2
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>	24	26	22	28	*
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*

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.]

Aug 11-14

2011

27	The 30 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan in a helicopter attack
19	Recent ups and downs in the stock market
10	Standard and Poor's downgrading the U.S. credit rating
8	News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
5	Riots in London and other parts of Britain
4	Severe food shortages in Somalia
9	Some other story (VOL.)
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 When you see or hear news reports about the economy, does it make you feel... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Optimistic			
August 11-14, 2011	28	69	2
November 14-17, 2008	30	69	1
b. Angry			
August 11-14, 2011	58	41	1
November 14-17, 2008	49	50	1
c. Depressed			
August 11-14, 2011	33	66	1
November 14-17, 2008	35	65	*
d. Confused			
August 11-14, 2011	40	59	1
November 14-17, 2008	37	63	*
e. Scared			
August 11-14, 2011	39	60	1
November 14-17, 2008	43	57	*

PEW.4 Thinking about what you've been reading and hearing in the news recently, what one economic or financial problem have you heard the most about these days? **[OPEN END. DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD UP TO THREE RESPONSES IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Aug 11-14

2011

32	Deficit/Debt/Government spending/Federal deficit/National debt
14	Jobs/unemployment
13	Stock market
7	U.S. credit rating downgrade/Standard and Poor's (S&P) downgrade
4	Housing/Mortgages/Foreclosures
3	Health care/Medicare/Medicaid
2	Gas prices/Oil prices
2	Social Security
2	Recession/Depression
2	Inflation/Cost of living/Cost of food
1	Taxes
1	The political situation/Political gridlock
1	War(s)/Military spending
1	Economy (General mentions)
6	Some other (SPECIFY)
4	None/No problem
9	Don't know/No answer

Figures add to more than 100%.

PEW.4 CONTINUED...

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Nov 14-17 <u>2008</u>		June 13-16 <u>2008</u>	Jan 18-21 <u>2008</u>
21	Housing/Mortgage crisis/Foreclosures/Sub-prime mortgages	11	31
17	Auto industry	--	--
13	Government bailout plan	--	--
13	Economy/Economic problems/Financial problems (general)	7	7
11	Wall Street banks/Credit crisis/Bank lending practices	2	2
9	Stock market	1	6
7	Jobs/Unemployment	2	3
5	Gas and oil prices	72	7
2	Health care/Health care costs/Medicare	2	3
1	Recession/Possible Recession	1	14
1	Taxes (general)	1	1
1	Inflation/Cost of living/Cost of food	2	2
1	The war in Iraq/The military	--	--
1	Lagging retail sales/Major retailers losing money	--	--
3	Other	2	6
2	None/no problem	2	8
3	Don't know/Refused	3	7