



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
For The People & The Press

DECEMBER 13, 2012

Record Number Sees Country as  
More Politically Divided

---

As Fiscal Cliff Nears, Democrats Have  
Public Opinion on Their Side

---

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Andrew Kohut**

President, Pew Research Center

**Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock**

Associate Directors

**Scott Keeter**

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel (202) 419-4350  
Fax (202) 419-4399  
[www.peoplepress.org](http://www.peoplepress.org)

---

## Record Number Sees Country as More Politically Divided As Fiscal Cliff Nears, Democrats Have Public Opinion on Their Side

The Democrats are in a strong position with the public as they engage in negotiations to find a solution to the fiscal cliff crisis. Barack Obama's first post-reelection job approval rating has risen to 55%, up five points since July and 11 points since the start of the year. Obama's job rating is markedly higher than George W. Bush's first job measure (48%) after he won reelection in 2004.

When it comes to the reaching an agreement to avoid the fiscal cliff, 55% say Obama is making a serious effort to work with Republicans. But just 32% say Republican leaders are making a serious effort to work with Obama on a deficit deal.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Dec. 5-9 among 1,503 adults, finds that the current problems for the GOP run deep. Just 25% approve of the way Republican leaders in Congress are doing their jobs, while 40% approve of Democratic leaders' job performance. And the GOP's lead negotiator, House Speaker John Boehner, is viewed more unfavorably (40%) than favorably (28%).

By a 53% to 33% margin, the public sees the Republican Party, rather than the Democratic Party, as "more extreme in its positions." Democrats, on the other hand, are seen as "more willing to work with leaders from the other party" by roughly two-to-one (53% vs. 27%).

### Obama: Strong Job Approval, High Marks for Deficit Efforts

	<b>Bush '04</b>		<b>Obama '12</b>	
	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<i>Presidential job approval</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	58	48	44	55
Disapprove	35	44	48	39
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

	<b>Republican leaders</b>	<b>Barack Obama</b>
<i>Making a serious effort to reach agreement on budget deficit?</i>		
Yes	32	55
No	57	38
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100

<i>Job rating for congressional leaders ...</i>	<b>Republican leaders</b>	<b>Democratic leaders</b>
Approve	25	40
Disapprove	67	53
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Americans have long felt that deficit reduction should be achieved with a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, and as the debate intensifies, this consensus is only growing. Nearly three-quarters (74%) say the best way to reduce the deficit is by both cutting major programs and increasing taxes, up from 69% in September and just 60% in July 2011 when the debate focused on raising the debt ceiling. Just 11% say the focus should mostly be on program cuts and 7% say the focus should be mostly on tax increases.

However, while the public endorses a balanced approach to deficit reduction, majorities continue to oppose making cuts in federal funding for several specific programs, including education (77% disapprove), roads and transportation (67%), programs to aid low-income Americans (58%) and military defense (55%). And majorities also disapprove of gradually raising the retirement age for Medicare and Social Security (56% each).

In fact, the only deficit reduction proposals that garner more support than opposition – among 12 items tested – are those that affect higher income Americans, either directly or indirectly. Of the 12, by far the most widely supported option is raising taxes on incomes over \$250,000; fully 69% approve of that proposal. Narrow majorities also favor limiting the deductions a taxpayer can claim (54% approve) and raising the tax rate on investment income (52%).

There is more support for an overall cap on tax deductions than for a limit on the tax deduction for home mortgage interest: opinion runs *against* limiting the mortgage deduction (41% approve, 52% disapprove), but in *favor* of a more general deduction limit as some have proposed (54% approve, 40% disapprove).

### Deficit Reduction Options: Tax Higher Incomes, Spare Programs

<i>In order to reduce the deficit and national debt...</i>	<b>Approve</b> %	<b>Disapprove</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Raise income tax on income over \$250,000	69	28	3=100
Limit deductions a taxpayer can claim	54	40	6=100
Raise tax rate on investment income	52	43	5=100
Reduce Medicare benefits for higher income seniors	51	46	3=100
Reduce SS benefits for higher income seniors	51	46	3=100
Reduce military defense spending	43	55	2=100
Gradually raise Social Security retirement age	42	56	2=100
Gradually raise Medicare retirement age	41	56	2=100
Limit home mortgage interest deduction	41	52	6=100
<i>Reduce federal funding ...</i>			
To help lower-income Americans	38	58	4=100
For roads and transportation	30	67	4=100
For education	21	77	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q47.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While the nation’s budget deficit may be the focus in Washington, the public continues to view the job situation as the most worrisome national economic issue. Four-in-ten (40%) say the job situation is the top economic worry, while 25% say the federal budget deficit. These views have changed little since March.

Although the public expresses doubts about the Republican Party’s leadership and approach to the current discussion, the GOP still engenders about as much confidence as the Democrats on the public’s top two economic worries – jobs and the deficit. But Democrats hold significant leads on all other domestic issues tested, including education, energy, health care and Social Security, as well as being seen as the party better able to manage the federal government by a 45% to 36% margin.

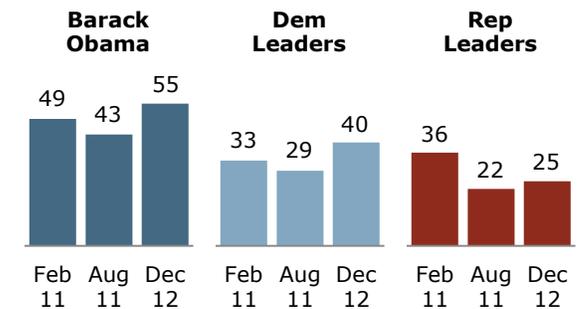
And there has been no improvement in the Republican Party’s image over the past year. The job approval rating of Republican congressional leaders, which fell to just 22% in August of 2011 after the debt ceiling debate, stands virtually unchanged at 25% today. Meanwhile, the job rating for both Democratic leaders in Congress (now 40% up from 29% in August 2011) and Obama (55% up from 43%) have rebounded by double-digits.

The recovery in Obama’s job approval ratings is particularly notable; other than a brief spike following the killing of Osama bin Laden, Obama’s approval has not been significantly above 50% since September of his first year in office.

And this corresponds with a less sour assessment of the economy. While few say the economy is in good shape, the number describing economic conditions as poor stands at 35%, the lowest since January 2008. And while only 22% believe that plenty of jobs are

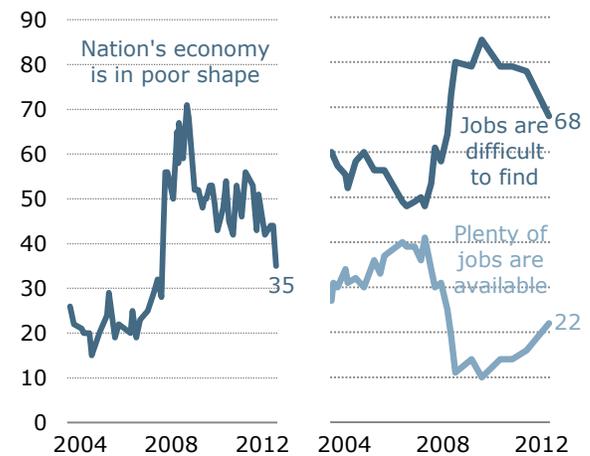
### GOP Image Has Not Recovered from Debt Ceiling Crisis

Approve of the job \_\_\_\_ (is/are) doing.



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q1 & Q4.

### Least Negative Economic Ratings in Four Years



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q8 & Q13.

available, that is up from 10% in early 2010, and the highest since 2008. However, while current conditions appear slightly better, expectations for the future have taken a turn for the worse. The share who think economic conditions will be worse a year from now has risen to 25%, a four year high.

Partisanship is a factor in the changing views of the economy, particularly the public's less positive economic outlook. Republicans, who no doubt were stung by Obama's victory last month and are deeply pessimistic about progress toward a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff, have an increasingly negative economic outlook.

Nearly half of Republicans (47%) say the economy will be worse a year from now than it is today. In January, just 19% expected national conditions to worsen. Economic expectations among Democrats and independents are little changed from the start of this year.

[A Pew Research Center/Washington Post poll last week](#) found that 69% of Republicans said Obama and congressional Republicans will not reach a budget agreement by the Jan.1 deadline. By contrast, most Democrats (55%) predicted that the two sides would be able to reach an agreement in time.

---

### Republicans Turn More Pessimistic – About Economy and Year Ahead

	Jan 2012	Dec 2012	Change
<i>% saying <u>economy</u> will be worse a year from now ...</i>	%	%	
Total	16	25	+9
Republican	19	47	+28
Democrat	6	7	+1
Independent	23	26	+3
<i>% saying <u>coming year</u> will be worse</i>			
Total	29	36	+7
Republican	37	69	+32
Democrat	16	9	-7
Independent	34	38	+4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q3 & Q9.

---

Republicans' deepening gloom – about the economy and the fiscal cliff – appears to have colored their overall expectations for the coming year. Fully 69% say 2013 will be worse than 2012; that compares with just 9% of Democrats and 38% of independents. Last January, just 37% of Republicans said the year ahead would be worse than the year that had just passed.

Meanwhile, there has been an across the board rise in the number saying that the country is more politically divided than it was in the past. Currently, 80% view the country as more politically divided – the highest percentage ever in a Pew Research Center survey. Nearly identical percentages of Democrats (82%), Republicans (81%) and independents (80%) say the country is more politically divided.

---

### Growing Numbers See a Politically Divided Nation

	<b>Dec 2004</b>	<b>Jan 2007</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	<b>Oct 2009</b>	<b>Dec 2012</b>
<i>Is the country more politically divided than in the past?</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, more divided	66	66	46	64	80
Not more divided	26	28	45	30	17
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Are the people you know more politically divided?</i>					
Yes, more divided	53	51	47	--	60
Not more divided	40	41	47	--	35
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	--	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100		100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q14-Q15.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

And 60% now say the people they know also are more politically divided. That is higher than the percentages saying this shortly after Obama first won the presidency (47% in January 2009) and Bush won his second term (53% in December 2004). In the current survey, majorities of Republicans (67%), independents (60%) and Democrats (58%) say the people they know are more divided over politics than in the past.

## Other Findings

**Military's Ratings Still Strong.** Favorable ratings for the military – and military leaders – remain strong despite the recent scandal involving former Gen. David Petraeus. More than eight-in-ten (83%) express a favorable opinion of the military while 71% have a favorable view of military leaders. Both measures are little changed from past years.

**Views of Supreme Court Still Divided.** The partisan differences in opinions about the Supreme Court that emerged after its ruling on the 2010 health care law remain evident. About six-in-ten Democrats (62%) have a favorable opinion of the court, compared with 44% of Republicans. In April, before its July ruling upholding most of the law, there were no significant differences in views of the court.

**Mixed Awareness of Fiscal Cliff.** A majority (57%) knows that the fiscal cliff involves automatic spending cuts and tax increases and 70% know that nearly all taxpayers – not just those with high incomes – would be affected. But just 38% know that if the spending cuts go into effect, the military would be most affected.

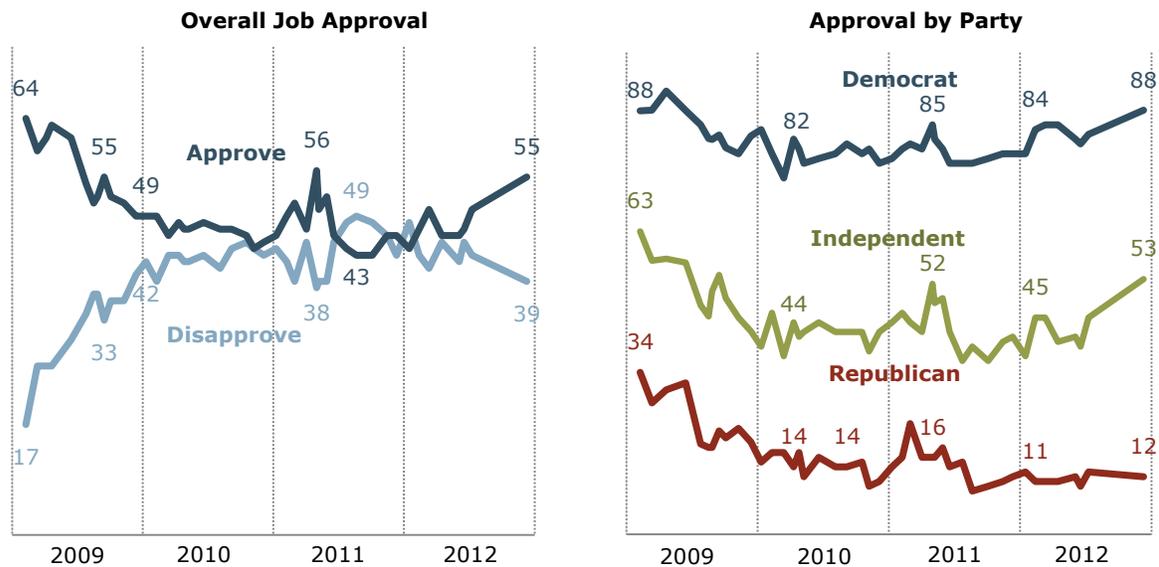
## SECTION 1: VIEWS OF OBAMA, CONGRESS, THE PARTIES

Barack Obama's job approval rating now stands at 55%, up 11 points since January and his highest rating since the fall of 2009, with the exception of a brief period following the killing of Osama bin Laden last year. Obama's personal favorability rating is 59%, up nine points since early October, shortly after his widely criticized performance in the first presidential debate.

Obama also has a wide advantage over congressional Republicans in views of which side is making a serious effort to reach an agreement on the budget deficit.

The Democratic Party is viewed more favorably than the Republican Party, and the Democrats hold substantial leads on a number of issues and leadership traits. More say the GOP rather than the Democratic Party holds extreme positions, and far more say that Democrats are generally willing to work across party lines.

### Obama's Job Approval Rating Up 11 Points Since Start of Year



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q1.

## Obama Seen as Making Serious Effort to Work with GOP

Overall, 55% of the public says Obama is making a serious effort to reach an agreement with congressional Republicans on the deficit; just 38% say he is not making a serious effort.

Opinions are about the reverse regarding congressional Republicans' efforts to reach a deficit deal: Just 37% say they are making a serious effort to reach an agreement with Obama while 57% say they are not.

Part of this gap is driven by the views of independents, 50% of whom say Obama is making a serious effort, compared with 30% who say the same about Republicans.

But there is also a large difference in how Republicans and Democrats rate their own party leaders' efforts. While 84% of Democrats say Obama is making a serious effort to work with Republicans in Congress, a much narrower majority of Republicans (52%) say that Republicans in Congress are making a serious effort to work with Obama.

---

### Nearly Half of Reps Doubt GOP Is Making Effort on Deficit Deal

<i>Obama making serious effort to work with w/ GOP on deficit deal?</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Making serious effort	55	21	84	50
Not making effort	38	72	11	40
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Congressional Reps making serious effort to work with Obama?</i>				
Making serious effort	32	52	19	30
Not making effort	57	37	73	58
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q51 & Q52.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

## Dem Leaders' Approval Ratings Improve

The approval rating of Republican congressional leaders remains near an all-time low and has shown no signs of recovering after the debt ceiling negotiations of the summer of 2011. By contrast, approval of congressional Democratic leaders, which also dropped in 2011, has improved considerably since then.

Today, just 25% approve of Republican congressional leaders, while 67% disapprove. Approval is up from 21% last December, but remains among the lowest approval ratings in more than 17 years.

Four-in-ten (40%) now approve of the job the Democratic congressional leadership is doing (53% disapprove), among the highest ratings for the Democratic leaders over the last several years and up nine points since last December.

While just 13% of Democrats and 21% of independents approve of the job the Republican leaders are doing, there is also substantial criticism from within the GOP ranks: Republicans are evenly divided in their assessments of their leadership (46% approve, 47% disapprove). By contrast, Democrats approve of the job their party's leaders are doing by a 71%-to-23% margin.

---

### Ratings for Congressional Leaders

	<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>Aug 2011</b>	<b>Dec 2011</b>	<b>Dec 2012</b>
<b>Approve of Rep leaders</b>	%	%	%	%
Total	36	22	21	25
Republican	66	46	49	46
Democrat	17	9	9	13
Independent	36	18	14	21
<b>Approve of Dem leaders</b>				
Total	33	29	31	40
Republican	10	9	9	10
Democrat	62	53	60	71
Independent	27	23	23	33

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q4.

---

## Views of John Boehner, Harry Reid

The current speaker of the House of Representatives and majority leader of the Senate both are viewed unfavorably, on balance. Overall, 40% have an unfavorable view of John Boehner, 28% have a favorable view; 32% do not offer a rating. Views of Harry Reid are similar: 23% view him favorably, 37% unfavorably, and 39% do not offer an opinion.

Favorable ratings for both Boehner and Reid have edged up from the start of the year. In January, 21% held a favorable opinion of Boehner and just 18% held a favorable opinion of Reid.

Independents hold similarly negative views of both Boehner and Reid. Overall, 28% of independents view Boehner favorably, while 39% view him unfavorably. By a similar margin (24% favorable, 39% unfavorable), independents also express a negative view of Reid.

Boehner has improved his standing among members of his own party over the past year. Boehner's favorability

is up 10 points (from 36% to 46%) among Republicans. Democrats offer a less favorable assessment of Harry Reid (33% favorable, 22% unfavorable), though he is a far less visible figure. Just 55% of Democrats have an opinion of Reid while 71% of Republicans express an opinion of Boehner.

### Boehner, Reid Viewed Unfavorably

<i>Opinion of...</i>	Jan 2012		Dec 2012		Change in fav
	Fav %	Unfav %	Fav %	Unfav %	
<b>John Boehner</b>					
Total	21	40	28	40	+7
Republican	36	28	46	25	+10
Democrat	14	47	17	53	+3
Independent	19	43	28	39	+9
<b>Harry Reid</b>					
Total	18	38	23	37	+5
Republican	14	54	11	56	-3
Democrat	27	24	33	22	+6
Independent	16	41	24	39	+8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q17b,h.  
Figures read across, with percent offering no opinion not shown.

## GOP's Favorable Rating Declines

The Republican Party's favorable rating, which rose in September following the party conventions, has again declined. Just 36% view the GOP favorably while 59% have an unfavorable opinion. In September, 42% viewed the Republican Party favorably and 50% unfavorably, the highest favorable measure for the GOP in more than a year.

The Republican Party's favorable rating is now back to where it was in the aftermath of last year's debt ceiling imbroglio. And it is nearly as low as it has been at any point in the last 20 years.

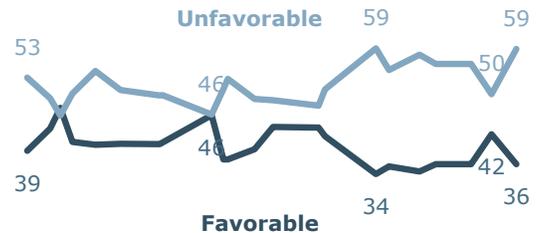
The Democratic Party continues to be viewed more favorably than the Republican Party, though its image also has slipped since September. Overall, 48% view the Democratic Party favorably while about as many (47%) view it unfavorably. In September, more held a favorable than unfavorable view of the party (53% to 40%).

Nonetheless, current ratings of the Democratic Party are more positive than they were in January of this year and the summer of 2011, when the party was viewed unfavorably on balance.

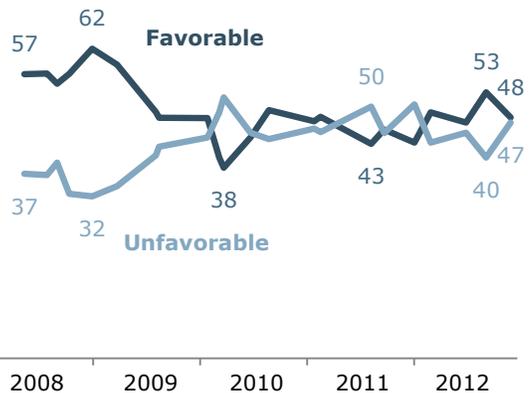
Independents offer a more favorable rating of the Democratic Party (42%) than the Republican Party (30%). Independents' ratings of the Republican Party have fallen 11 points since September.

## Views of the Parties

### Republican Party



### Democratic Party



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q16a,b.

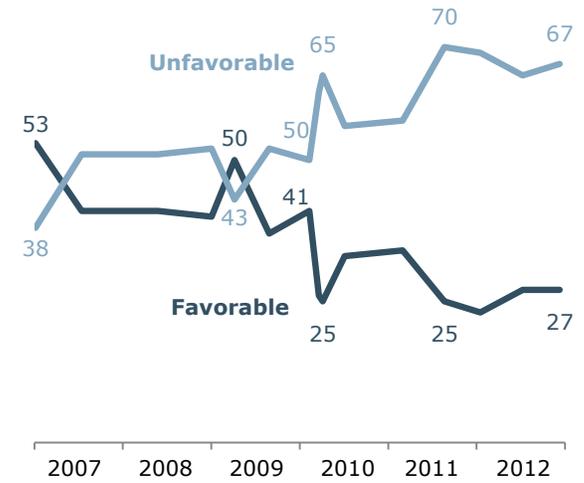
## Congress Still Viewed Unfavorably

Congress remains deeply unpopular with the public. By more than two-to-one, more hold an unfavorable (67%) than favorable (27%) view of Congress. Ratings of Congress are little changed since July and remain close to lows reached in the summer of 2011.

Republicans, Democrats and independents all hold broadly negative views of Congress; though Democrats (35% favorable, 58% unfavorable) hold somewhat less one-sided views than do Republicans (25% favorable, 70% unfavorable) and independents (21% favorable, 72% unfavorable).

College graduates continue to hold more negative views of Congress than do those with less education. Overall, 79% of those with a college degree view Congress unfavorably, compared with 65% of those with some college experience and 58% of those with no college experience.

### Most View Congress Negatively



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q16c.

## Democrats Seen as Less Extreme, More Cooperative

As in the past, Democrats lead Republicans on several leadership key traits. By about two-to-one, more Americans say Democrats are more willing than Republicans to work with leaders from the other party (53% vs. 27%). Mirroring this assessment, 53% name the Republican Party as the party that is more extreme in its positions, while just 33% name the Democratic Party.

The Democrats also have a nine-point edge over the Republicans as the party better able to manage the federal government (45% vs. 36%).

And by a six-point margin, more Americans say the Republican Party (41%), rather than the Democratic Party (35%), is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests.

---

### Democrats Lead on Most Leadership Traits

<i>Which party...</i>	<b>Rep Party</b>	<b>Dem Party</b>	<b>Both/ Neither/ DK</b>	<b>Dem adv</b>
<b>Is more willing to work with other party</b>	%	%	%	
December 2012	27	53	20=100	+26
December 2011	25	51	24=100	+26
<b>Is more extreme in its positions</b>				
December 2012	53	33	14=100	-20
March 2012	50	35	16=100	-15
December 2011	53	33	14=100	-20
<b>Can better manage the government</b>				
December 2012	36	45	19=100	+9
March 2012	39	42	19=100	+3
December 2011	35	41	24=100	+6
<b>More influenced by lobbyists</b>				
December 2012	41	35	24=100	-6
July 2011	39	37	24=100	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9. Q40.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

## Public Gives Democrats Edge on Most Issues

The public remains split over which of the two parties can do a better job with two key economic issues – improving the job situation and dealing with the federal budget deficit. On jobs, 44% say the Democratic Party could do better and 40% say the Republican Party. Similarly, the two parties run about even in dealing with the deficit (43% Republicans vs. 38% Democrats).

However, the Democratic Party now leads the GOP on several other issues by significant margins. By about two-to-one (53% to 27%), more say Democrats can do a better job improving the education system in the country. And Democrats continues to hold substantial leads as the party better able to deal with Medicare (by 17 points), energy (12 points), health care (10 points) and Social Security (nine points).

The Democratic Party also has opened an advantage over the GOP on immigration and taxes. Currently, 44% say the Democrats can do a better job dealing with immigration, while 35% say the Republicans. In October 2011, the balance of opinion was reversed (45% Republicans, 37% Democrats).

And Democrats now enjoy an eight-point lead as the party better able to deal with taxes. In July 2011, the public was divided over which party could better handle this issue (43% said the GOP, 40% said Democrats).

---

## Republicans Even on Jobs, Deficit, Trail on Other Issues

<i>Which party can do a better job ...</i>	<b>Rep Party</b> %	<b>Dem Party</b> %	<b>Both/ Neither/ DK</b> %	<b>Dem adv</b>
<b>Improving education</b>				
December 2012	27	53	21=100	+26
April 2011	32	46	22=100	+14
<b>Dealing with Medicare</b>				
December 2012	33	50	17=100	+17
March 2012	35	48	17=100	+13
<b>Dealing with energy</b>				
December 2012	35	47	18=100	+12
March 2012	35	46	18=100	+11
<b>Dealing with health care</b>				
December 2012	38	48	14=100	+10
March 2012	35	49	16=100	+14
<b>Dealing with Social Security</b>				
December 2012	36	45	19=100	+9
October 2011	39	45	16=100	+6
<b>Dealing with immigration</b>				
December 2012	35	44	21=100	+9
October 2011	45	37	18=100	-8
<b>Dealing with taxes</b>				
December 2012	37	45	18=100	+8
July 2011	43	40	17=100	-3
<b>Improving job situation</b>				
December 2012	40	44	16=100	+4
March 2012	39	44	18=100	+5
<b>Dealing with the deficit</b>				
December 2012	43	38	19=100	-5
March 2012	42	41	17=100	-1

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q41.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

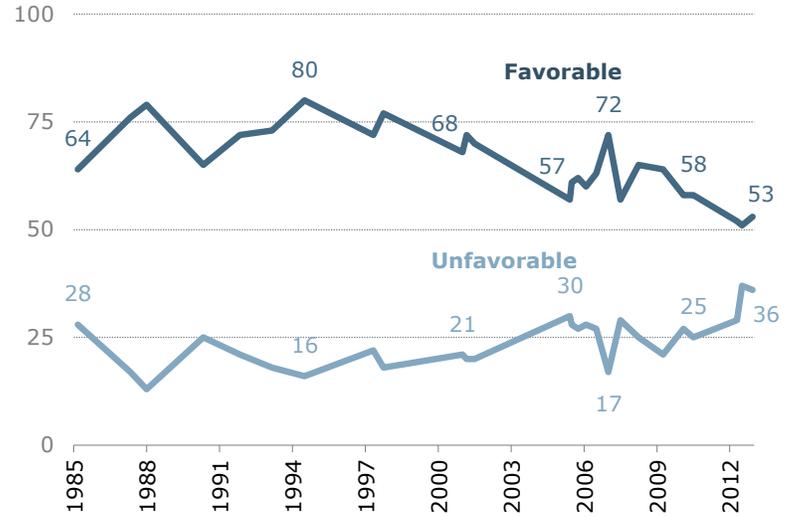
## Supreme Court Ratings Little Changed

In July, unfavorable opinions of the Supreme Court rose to their highest level in 25 years, following the Court's ruling upholding most of the 2010 health care law. The current survey shows that views of the court have changed little since then. Overall, 53% hold a favorable view of the Supreme Court, while 36% hold an unfavorable view.

The wide partisan differences in views of the Supreme Court that emerged in the wake of the health care ruling continue to be evident. Currently, 62% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of the Supreme Court; that is little changed from July (64%), but 10 points higher than in April (52%).

By contrast, Republicans continue to express less positive views of the Supreme Court than they did prior to its decision on the Affordable Care Act. Currently, 44% have a favorable opinion of the court, which also is little changed from July (38%). In April, a 56% majority of Republicans had a favorable view of the court.

### Public's Views of the Supreme Court



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q16g.

### Views of Court Still Reflect Impact of Health Care Ruling

<i>% expressing favorable view of Supreme Court</i>	<b>April</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Dec</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Total	52	51	53
Republican	56	38	44
Democrat	52	64	62
Independent	52	51	51

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q16g.

## Military's Image Remains Overwhelmingly Positive

The public continues to hold the military and military leaders in high regard, despite the recent scandal involving former CIA director Gen. David Petraeus. About eight-in-ten (83%) say they have a favorable opinion of the military. A broad majority (71%) also views military leaders favorably, though the balance of opinion is slightly less one-sided than for the military generally.

Views of the military are as positive as they were in April 2008 (84% favorable), the last time Pew Research asked the question. Views of military leaders have ticked up slightly from 65% in March 2007. The modest difference between favorable views of the military and military leaders was evident the last time the two items were asked on the same survey in March 2007 – at that time, ratings were 12-points different, the same margin as in the current survey.

---

### Military Viewed Favorably Across the Political Spectrum

<i>Favorable opinion of:</i>	<b>Military</b>	<b>Military leaders</b>
	%	%
Total	83	71
Men	85	73
Women	81	69
College grad+	86	73
Some college	82	71
HS or less	82	69
Republican	87	77
Democrat	85	70
Independent	80	70

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q16d, Q16h.

---

There are only slight partisan differences in views of the military and military leaders. This marks a change from past surveys when Republicans generally held more favorable views of the military and military leaders than did Democrats.

## SECTION 2: THE DEFICIT, TAXES AND AWARENESS OF FISCAL CLIFF

The debate in Washington over how to avoid the impending fiscal cliff has had little impact on the public's views of the tradeoff between reducing the budget deficit and spending to help the economy recover. As has been the case for more than a year, nearly as many say they would place greater priority on spending to help revive the economy (45%) as on reducing the budget deficit (49%).

The budget deficit also continues to be viewed as a less worrisome economic concern than the job situation. Four-in-ten (40%) say the job situation is the national economic issue that worries them most, while 25% say the federal budget deficit is their top economic worry.

The public's preferred approach for dealing with the budget deficit remains a combination of cuts in major programs and tax increases. In fact, the percentage saying the best way to reduce the deficit is to cut programs *and* raise taxes has increased to 74% from 69% in September and 60% in July 2011.

There are wide partisan divisions over whether reducing the budget deficit or spending to help the economy recover should be the greater priority for the federal government: Republicans, by 72% to 24%, say the priority should be deficit reduction. Democrats, by almost as wide a margin (63% to 30%), view spending to help the economy as more important. Independents, by 52% to 42%, say reducing the deficit is a greater priority.

However, substantial majorities of Democrats (80%), Republicans (66%) and independents (76%) say the best way to reduce the deficit is with a combination of program cuts and tax increases. Since July 2011, the proportion of Republicans favoring a combination of program cuts and tax increases to reduce the deficit has risen by 20

---

### Broad Support for Balanced Approach to Deficit Reduction

<i>Which is more important?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Reducing the budget deficit	49	72	30	52
Spending to help the economy recover	45	24	63	42
Don't know	7	4	7	6
	100	100	100	100

<i>What is the best way to reduce deficit?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Mostly by cutting major programs	11	23	3	12
Mostly by increasing taxes	7	4	11	7
Combination of both	74	66	80	76
Other/Don't know	7	7	6	5
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q6 & Q43. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

points, from 46% to 66%. During this period, the percentages of Democrats and independents favoring a balanced deficit reduction approach also have risen by 13 points each.

The public continues to be skeptical that progress will be made in reducing the deficit; 44% say the country will have made significant progress in five years while 50% disagree. Somewhat more say that progress will be made on the deficit than did so in July 2011 (39% said significant progress will be made while 51% disagreed).

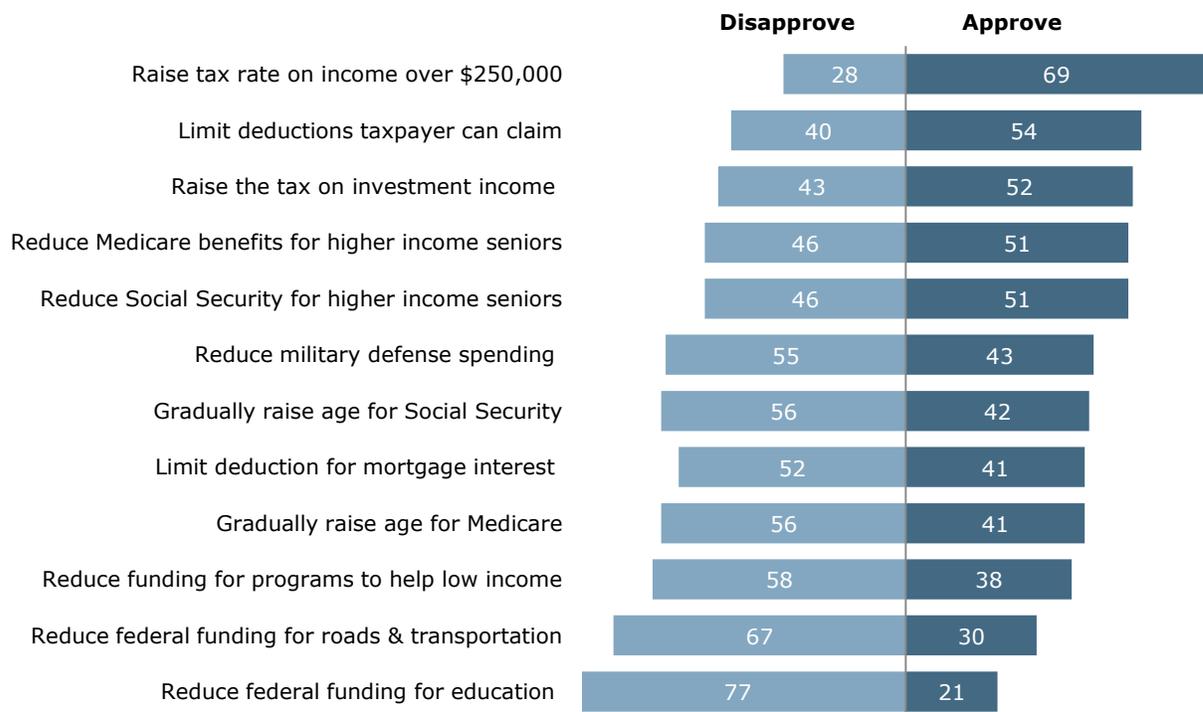
Democrats are far more optimistic that the deficit can be tackled in the next five years. A majority of Democrats (65%) say significant progress will be made in five years, up 15 points since last July. By contrast, 40% of independents express this view, while 55% say that progress will not be made. Just 23% of Republicans think progress will be made in five years, down from 36% last year. Fully 73% are skeptical progress will be made.

This comports with the findings of a [Pew Research Center/Washington Post](#) survey conducted last week, in which Democrats were substantially more likely than Republicans to think an agreement would be reached before the Jan. 1 fiscal cliff deadline.

## Little Support for Most Specific Deficit Options

Among a dozen specific spending and tax options for reducing the national debt and deficit, only three win majority approval from the public – raising the tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 (69% approve), limiting the amount of deductions a taxpayer can claim (54% approve) and raising the tax rate on investment income (52% approve). While limiting deductions overall receives majority support, fewer (41%) support limiting the home mortgage interest deduction.

## Majorities Oppose Most Deficit Reduction Proposals



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q47.

At the other end of the spectrum – cuts in federal funding for education, transportation and the poor are particularly unpopular. Fully 77% disapprove of cuts in education, 67% oppose reduced funding for roads and transportation and 58% disapprove of cuts in federal aid to the poor. In addition, 55% disapprove of reductions in military defense spending while 43% approve.

When it comes to changes to entitlements, the public is divided over whether Social Security and Medicare benefits should be reduced for seniors with higher incomes (51% approve while 46% disapprove for each). A majority of Americans disapprove of gradually raising the age at which people can begin receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits (56% for each).

There are substantial partisan differences over most of these proposals. Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to support reducing military defense spending and raising taxes on incomes over \$250,000 and on investment income. A majority of Democrats (57%) approve of defense cuts, compared with 22% of Republicans.

Similarly, fully 86% of Democrats support raising the income tax on income over \$250,000. Republicans are more divided; 52% approve of this while 44% disapprove. A majority of Democrats (62%) support increasing the tax rate on investment income while a majority of Republicans disapprove (60%).

By contrast, Republicans are about twice as likely as Democrats to support cuts in federal funding for programs that help low-income people (53% vs. 24%). And while

## Huge Gaps Between Republicans and Democrats over Taxes, Cuts in Defense, Aid to the Poor

<i>In order to reduce the deficit and national debt...</i>		Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D
		%	%	%	Diff
<b>Wide partisan differences</b>					
Reduce military defense spending	Approve	22	57	46	<b>D+35</b>
	Disapprove	76	41	52	
Raise income tax on income over \$250,000	Approve	52	86	68	<b>D+34</b>
	Disapprove	44	12	30	
Reduce funding to help low income Americans	Approve	53	24	39	<b>R+29</b>
	Disapprove	43	73	57	
Raise tax rate on investment income	Approve	34	62	57	<b>D+28</b>
	Disapprove	60	32	40	
Reduce federal funding for education	Approve	32	10	26	<b>R+22</b>
	Disapprove	65	89	72	
Gradually raise Social Security retirement age	Approve	48	32	50	<b>R+16</b>
	Disapprove	49	67	48	
Gradually raise eligibility age for Medicare	Approve	51	38	38	<b>R+13</b>
	Disapprove	47	59	59	
<b>Narrow partisan differences</b>					
Limit tax deductions for mortgage interest	Approve	35	45	42	D+10
	Disapprove	57	51	51	
Limit tax deductions	Approve	61	52	54	R+9
	Disapprove	34	42	41	
Reduce Medicare benefits for high income seniors	Approve	54	48	52	R+6
	Disapprove	43	47	45	
Reduce Social Security benefits for high income	Approve	51	47	57	R+4
	Disapprove	44	50	42	
Reduce funding for roads and transportation	Approve	29	25	32	R+4
	Disapprove	64	73	65	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q47. Significant differences in **bold**.

Republicans are divided over whether to gradually raise the age for Social Security benefits, fully 67% of Democrats disapprove. The pattern is similar for increasing the eligibility age for Medicare. Republicans also are more likely to support cuts in federal funding for education, although majorities across partisan lines disapprove of this.

The partisan differences are much smaller on limiting tax deductions and cutting funding for roads and transportation. Similarly, there are no significant partisan differences on reducing Social Security and Medicare benefits for seniors with higher incomes.

### Most See Tax Increases as Necessary to Solve Debt Problem

Most Americans (59%) say that the nation’s debt problem can be solved only if some taxes go up, while 32% say the problem can be solved without having to raise any taxes.

Among the majority that sees some tax increases as necessary, 53% say taxes will need to go up for the middle class and wealthy, while somewhat fewer (45%) say taxes will need to rise just for the wealthy.

Republicans are divided over whether taxes need to go up at all: 46% say the debt problem can be solved without having to raise any taxes, while about as many (45%) say some tax cuts will be needed. Among Republicans who see some tax increases as necessary, there is broad agreement that they will need to go up for the middle class as well as the wealthy (65% express this view).

Far more Democrats (73%) than Republicans see some tax increases as necessary to solve the debt problem. Yet in contrast to Republicans, Democrats who say tax increases are needed are divided over whether they will need to go up just for the wealthy (52%) or will also need to go up for the middle class (45%).

#### Most Say Taxes Will Need to Rise – But Whose?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Can the nation’s debt problem be solved...</i>	%	%	%	%
Only if some taxes go up	59	45	73	59
Without having to raise any taxes	32	46	20	33
Don’t know	9	9	7	8
	100	100	100	100
N	1503	397	490	527
<i>If taxes need to go up, will they need to go up...</i>				
For both middle class and wealthy	53	65	46	54
Just for wealthy	45	34	52	44
Don’t know	2	1	2	2
	100	100	100	100
N	909	176	372	325

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q48 & Q49. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Mixed Knowledge about Fiscal Cliff

The debate over what to do about the “fiscal cliff” has dominated the news in Washington for the past several weeks, and most Americans say they have been following the story at least somewhat closely. In a separate survey, conducted Dec. 6-9 among 1,001 adults, 63% said they followed the debate in Washington over how to avoid the fiscal cliff very closely (37%) or somewhat closely (26%).

The public’s knowledge about the fiscal cliff is mixed. A majority (57%) knows that the fiscal cliff refers to automatic tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect Jan. 1 if Congress and the president do not act. However, 43% are unaware of this. And just 38% know that most of the spending cuts, if they go into effect, would come out of the budget for military defense.

Overall, just 23% of the public can correctly answer all three questions about the automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to take place. Another third of the public (33%) can answer two of the three items. The remainder (45%) can answer only one or none of the questions correctly.

Republicans are more knowledgeable about the fiscal cliff than either Democrats or independents. Yet even among Republicans, only 30% got all three questions correct and 37% missed at least two. Among Democrats and independents, 19% and 22%, respectively, could answer all three questions correctly. Nearly half of Democrats (47%) and 44% of independents missed at least two items.

However, one group of Republicans stands out as particularly aware of the details of the fiscal cliff standoff: Tea Party supporters. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning

### Fiscal Cliff Knowledge: Few Aware that Military Would Be Cut Most

<i>What does fiscal cliff refer to?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Automatic tax increases and spending cuts (Correct)	57	63	56	58
New trade policies with China	4	4	6	2
Sudden rise in interest rates	8	7	6	9
Don't know	<u>31</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>If spending cuts take place, which area reduced the most?</i>				
Military defense (Correct)	38	44	35	38
Social Security	28	30	29	27
Food stamps	20	14	22	21
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>If tax increases take place, taxes go up for?</i>				
Only high-income	25	17	28	27
Nearly all taxpayers (Correct)	70	78	67	69
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
All three correct	23	30	19	22
Two correct	33	33	34	34
Zero or one correct	45	37	47	44

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q30-Q32. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

independents who agree with the Tea Party, 48% correctly answered all three questions, and another 34% got two out of three correct. Republicans who disagree with the Tea Party or have no opinion about it score no higher than the national average on the subject of the fiscal cliff.

### SECTION 3: VIEWS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

There has been a modest improvement in the public's ratings of current economic conditions – while just 15% say the nation's economy is in excellent or good shape, the percentage saying the economy is in poor shape has dipped to 35%, the lowest percentage since January 2008.

Yet the public's future economic outlook has become more negative. A quarter (25%) says the economy will be worse off a year from now, up from just 8% in September and the highest level since June 2011. Overall, 37% expect the economy to be better off next year, down from 43% in September.

Americans' personal financial outlook remains mostly positive: 59% expect their own financial situation to improve over the next year, while 26% say things will get worse for them. However, people's personal financial expectations also have grown less positive since September, when 66% thought their financial situation would improve and just 15% thought it would get worse.

#### Fewer Say Economy Is in Poor Shape

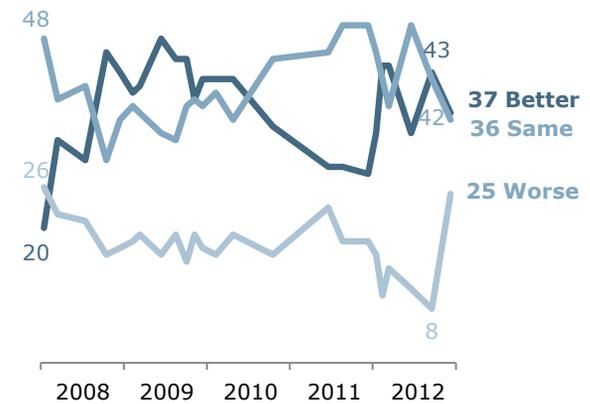
Economic conditions in the country today are...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q8.

#### But More Predict Economy Will Get Worse Next Year

A year from now, economic conditions will be...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q9.

Republicans are increasingly pessimistic about the nation's economy. Fully 47% of Republicans now say that the economy will be in worse shape a year from now, while only 10% expect conditions to improve.

In September, just 7% of Republicans expected the economy to be worse off over the next year, while 35% expected conditions to improve.

Independents also have a more negative economic outlook. Currently, 26% of independents say the economy will be worse in a year, up from 11% in September.

By contrast, economic expectations among Democrats have shown little change. About six-in-ten (61%) Democrats expect conditions to be better a year from now, on par with evaluations in September (58%).

Along with more negative forecasts for the national economy, Republicans have bleak expectations for their own personal financial situation. Currently, about as many Republicans expect their financial situation to get worse over the coming year (44%) as get better (39%). In September, Republicans were far more optimistic: 62% expected their personal finances to improve and just 14% said they would get worse over the next year. By comparison, the views of Democrats have changed very little.

## Republicans Have More Pessimistic Outlook for Economy...

*A year from now,*

**U.S. economic**

**conditions will be ...**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<b>Dec 2012</b>	%	%	%	%
Better	37	10	61	35
Worse	25	47	7	26
Same	36	42	30	37
Don't know	2	1	2	2
	100	100	100	100

### Sept 2012

Better	43	35	58	35
Worse	8	7	3	11
Same	42	42	35	48
Don't know	8	15	3	6
	100	100	100	100

**Change in worse** +17 **+40** +4 +15

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q9.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## ... And Their Personal Finances

*Over the next year,*

**your financial**

**situation will...**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<b>Dec 2012</b>	%	%	%	%
Improve	59	39	76	59
Get worse	26	44	10	27
Stay the same	13	15	12	12
Don't know	2	2	2	3
	100	100	100	100

### Sept 2012

Improve	67	62	76	64
Get worse	15	14	10	19
Stay the same	11	14	10	11
Don't know	7	11	5	5
	100	100	100	100

**Change in worse** +11 **+30** 0 +8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q11.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Partisanship and Economic Expectations

Republicans' increased economic pessimism appears to be tied to their skepticism that the president and congressional Republicans will reach an agreement before Jan. 1 to avoid going over the fiscal cliff and their disappointment over Obama's reelection last month.

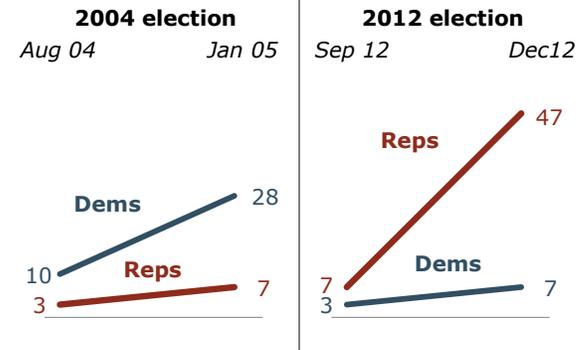
In a [Pew Research Center/Washington Post](#) survey conducted last week, 49% of the public said political leaders would not reach agreement on the fiscal cliff before the Jan. 1 deadline. Republicans were particularly dubious about the prospects for a deal; just 22% said a deal would be reached in time, while 69% said it would not. By comparison, Democrats were far more optimistic; 55% expected a deal, 36% did not. Republicans also were more likely than Democrats to see dire consequences if an agreement is not reached. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans (74%) said going over the fiscal cliff would have a negative effect on the U.S. economy, compared with 48% of Democrats.

Mitt Romney's loss to Obama last month is also undoubtedly a factor behind the spike in GOP pessimism. In September, just 7% of Republicans and 3% of Democrats expected economic conditions to get worse. However, following Obama's reelection, the share of Republicans saying the economy will get worse has jumped to 47%, while remaining stable among Democrats.

Following George W. Bush's reelection in 2004, the situation was reversed, with Democrats growing more pessimistic about the economy. But the postelection shift among Democrats then was far less dramatic than it is among Republicans today. In January 2005, 28% of Democrats said the economy would get worse over the next year, up from 10% a few months before the election.

### Comparing Partisan Views of the Economy: 2004, 2012 Elections

% saying economy will be **worse** a year from now

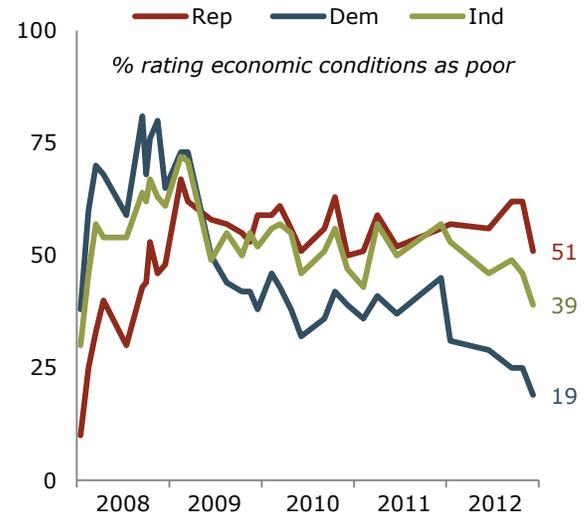


PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q9.

Overall opinions about current economic conditions continue to be strongly associated with partisanship. During the Bush administration, Republicans offered substantially higher economic ratings than did Democrats. Throughout the Obama administration, Democrats have consistently been more positive about the economy.

The partisan gap in economic evaluations widened during the 2012 campaign. Currently, 51% of Republicans say the economy is in poor shape, compared with 19% of Democrats. The 32-point gap is typical of polls conducted over the course of this year, and about double the size of the partisan gap in polls conducted in 2011.

### Party Gap in Economic Ratings

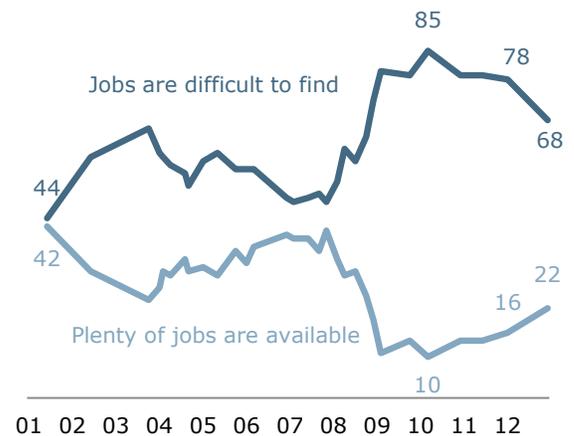


PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q8.

### Jobs Less Difficult to Find, But Remain Top Economic Worry

Americans continue to see a difficult job market in the communities where they live, but impressions have shifted in a more positive direction. In the current poll, the percentage saying jobs are difficult to find has slipped below 70% for the first time since the fall of 2008. About two-thirds (68%) now say that jobs are difficult to find in their area, down from 78% at the start of the year. The proportion saying there are plenty of jobs available has risen since January, from 16% to 22%.

### Perceptions of Local Job Market Improve, But Remain Negative



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q13.

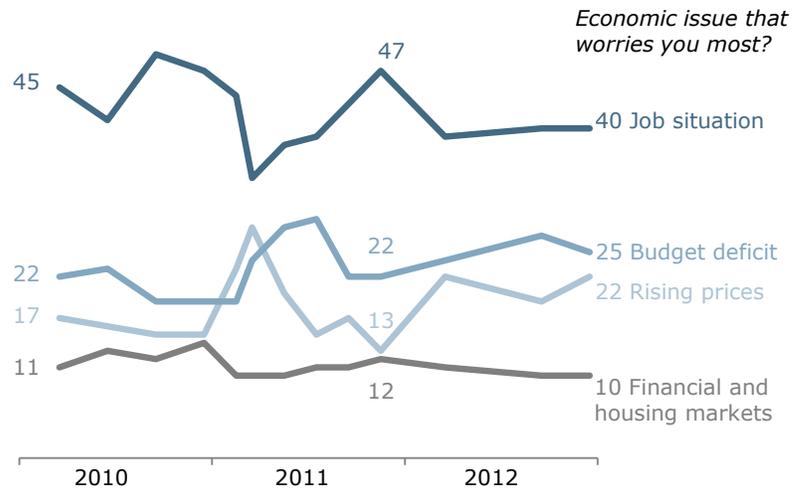
Views of the local job situation are far less partisan than opinions about the national economy. About two-in-ten Republicans (19%) and 24% of Democrats believe that there are plenty of jobs available in their local communities. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans (73%) and 65% of Democrats say jobs are difficult to find.

On the economy overall, four-in-ten (40%) say that the job situation is the economic issue that worries them most, while 25% say the budget deficit. These opinions are little changed since March, but mentions of jobs are down slightly from a year ago (47% in November 2011).

Currently, more Republicans say the federal budget deficit, rather than the job situation, is their top economic worry

(44% vs. 29%). In November 2011, about the same percentage of Republicans cited jobs (39%) as the deficit (36%). Among Democrats, jobs clearly remain the top economic concern (47% today, 55% a year ago) and there has been virtually no increase in the percentage citing the federal budget deficit (15% now, 14% then.)

### Jobs Remain Top Economic Worry



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 5-9, 2012. Q.12

## Perceptions of Economic News Grow More Partisan

Overall, 54% of the public says recent news about the economy is mixed, while 36% say it has been mostly bad and 7% say it has been mostly good. These perceptions are largely unchanged from November.

But the partisan gap has widened considerably: 61% of Republicans say recent economic news is mostly bad, up from 45% a month ago. Democrats' views have changed very little over the past month (18% mostly bad news, 17% in November). Independents' views of economic news are

unchanged from November (38% mostly bad).

The current partisan divide of 43 points approaches the largest ever – 45 points in September. While there have long been partisan differences in views of the tone of economic news, the gap has grown wider during the presidential campaign.

The separate survey by the Pew Research Center for the

People & the Press, conducted Dec. 6-9 among 1,001 adults, finds that perceptions of news about specific economic sectors, including the job situation, have changed little over the past month, with one notable exception. As gas prices have fallen, there has been a decline in the percentage saying they are hearing mostly bad news about gas prices.

---

### More Republicans Hearing Mostly Bad Economic News

<i>News you're hearing about the economy ...</i>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Mostly good	3	6	8	10	7
Mostly bad	41	35	28	33	36
Mix of good and bad	53	58	62	55	54
Don't know	3	1	2	2	2
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>% "mostly bad" among ...</i>					
Republican	60	60	49	45	61
Democrat	31	15	13	17	18
Independent	40	36	29	38	38
<b>R-D Gap</b>	+29	+45	+36	+28	+43

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 6-9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

Currently, 42% say they are hearing mostly bad news about gas prices. Last month, 50% said news about gas prices was mostly bad and in October, 72% said news about gas prices was mostly negative. Since October, the percentage hearing mostly good news about gas prices has increased from 4% to 22%.

The public's views of news about retail sales are less negative than its perceptions of news about other sectors. Just 18% say news about retail sales is mostly bad, while 44% say it is mixed and 30% say it is mostly good.

Nonetheless, perceptions of retail sales news are not as positive as they were last December, when 51% said they were hearing mostly good news. Current views of news about retail sales are similar to those in December 2010.

---

### Public Hearing Far Less Negative News about Gas Prices

	Mostly bad	Mostly good	Mix of good/bad	DK
<i>News about ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Consumer/food prices	48	9	37	5=100
Job situation	47	17	35	1=100
Gas prices	42	22	30	5=100
<i>November</i>	50	16	30	4=100
<i>October</i>	72	4	21	2=100
Financial markets	36	10	47	7=100
Real estate	31	25	34	11=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 6-9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

### Views of Retail Sales News Less Positive than Last December

	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012
<i>News about retail sales ...</i>	%	%	%
Mostly bad news	18	7	18
Mostly good news	33	51	30
Mix of good and bad	45	35	44
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 6-9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

---

## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted December 5-9, 2012 among a national sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 603 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 300 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. 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 nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,503	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	753	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	750	4.2 percentage points
Republicans	397	5.7 percentage points
Democrats	490	5.1 percentage points
Independents	527	5.0 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.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted December 6-9, 2012 among a national sample of 1,001 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (601 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 400 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 201 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 and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2011 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,001	3.7 percentage points
Republicans	258	7.3 percentage points
Democrats	338	6.4 percentage points
Independents	332	6.4 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.

## PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%		%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	55	39	6	1503
<b>SEX</b>				
Men	55	41	5	747
Women	55	38	7	756
<b>AGE</b>				
18-49	59	35	6	583
50+	50	44	6	889
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>				
18-29	63	31	6	190
30-49	56	38	6	393
50-64	52	42	6	485
65+	47	47	6	404
<b>GENDER BY AGE</b>				
Men 18-49	56	38	6	314
Men 50+	52	44	4	418
Women 18-49	61	32	6	269
Women 50+	48	44	8	471
<b>RACE</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	43	50	7	1104
Black, non-Hispanic	95	4	2	144
Hispanic	75	19	6	128
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
College grad+	56	39	5	610
Some college	51	43	6	424
High school or less	57	36	7	458
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>				
\$75,000+	51	43	5	425
\$30,000-\$74,999	53	43	4	507
Less than \$30,000	60	31	8	387
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>				
Total Protestants	48	47	5	757
White NH evang. Prot.	30	65	5	306
White NH mainline Prot.	40	53	7	277
Total Catholic	59	33	7	313
White NH Cath.	49	41	11	216
Unaffiliated	67	29	5	256
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>				
Weekly or more	48	46	7	580
Less than weekly	59	36	5	903
<b>REGION</b>				
Northeast	59	35	6	282
Midwest	52	42	6	333
South	55	38	7	545
West	53	42	5	343

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)**

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Disapprove</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>N</u>
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>				
Yes, certain	53	42	5	1232
Not registered	59	31	10	271
<b>PARTY ID</b>				
Republican	12	85	4	397
Democrat	88	8	4	490
Independent	53	39	8	527
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>				
Rep/Lean Rep	15	79	5	612
Dem/Lean Dem	86	9	5	747
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative	30	62	7	564
Moderate	61	32	6	541
Liberal	85	12	3	314
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative Republican	6	91	3	272
Mod/Lib Republican	23	71	6	118
Mod/Cons Democrat	83	11	6	278
Liberal Democrat	95	3	2	195
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>				
Men	42	53	5	529
Women	45	46	9	575
18-49	46	47	7	357
50+	41	52	7	732
College grad+	51	44	5	479
Some college or less	40	52	8	620
Male college grad+	49	47	4	245
Female college grad+	52	42	6	234
Male some college or less	38	57	5	280
Female some college or less	42	48	10	340
\$75,000+	46	48	6	351
\$30,000-\$74,999	43	52	4	368
Less than \$30,000	41	48	11	244
Republican	8	89	3	349
Democrat	85	10	5	311
Independent	44	47	9	388
Northeast	49	43	8	220
Midwest	44	49	7	267
South	39	54	7	379
West	44	51	5	238

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**DECEMBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**December 5-9, 2012**  
**N=1,503**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5				
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5				
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6				
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7				

<sup>1</sup> In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

## Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	March, 2002	50	40	10
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	March, 2001	47	45	8
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 2001	55	41	4
July, 2008	19	74	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
June, 2008	19	76	5	September, 2000	51	41	8
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
October, 2007	28	66	6	November, 1998	46	44	10
February, 2007	30	61	9	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
December, 2006	28	65	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	August, 1997	49	46	5
May, 2006*	29	65	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
July, 2005	35	58	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	July, 1994	24	73	3
February, 2005	38	56	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
January, 2005	40	54	6	October, 1993	22	73	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	September, 1993	20	75	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
July, 2004	38	55	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
May, 2004	33	61	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
December, 2003	44	47	9	August, 1990	47	48	5
October, 2003	38	56	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1989	45	50	5
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	50	41	9	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
January, 2003	44	50	6				

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Looking ahead, so far as you are concerned, do you think that 2013 will be better or worse than 2012?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	36	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
Gallup:December, 1993	64	20	16
Gallup:December, 1992	61	11	28
Gallup:December, 1991	61	31	8
Gallup:December, 1990	48	42	10
Gallup:December, 1986	53	25	22
Gallup:December, 1985	64	20	17
Gallup:December, 1984	61	20	19
Gallup:December, 1982	50	32	18
Gallup:December, 1981	41	44	15

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Dec 5-9, 2012	25	67	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Jan 5-9, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18

<sup>2</sup> Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 <sup>3</sup>	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17

<sup>3</sup> From December, 1994, through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?".

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	53	7
Dec 7-11, 2011	31	58	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 <sup>5</sup>	50	21	29
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

**NO QUESTION 5**

<sup>4</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

<sup>5</sup> Question wording in November, 2006, and December, 1994, was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?

Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>		Jun 7-17 <u>2012</u>	Sep 22- Oct 4 <u>2011</u>	Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>	Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>	Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>
45	Spending to help the economy recover	48	47	47	42	46
49	Reducing the budget deficit	47	48	46	52	49
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	5	7	6	5

**TREND FOR COMPARISON**

*If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?*

	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>	Jul 15-18 <u>2010</u>	Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u> <sup>6</sup>	Jun 18-21 <u>2009</u>
Spending more to help the economy recover	43	51	47	53	48
Reducing the budget deficit	50	40	47	38	46
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7	9	6	9	6

**NO QUESTION 7****RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9 IN BLOCK WITH Q.10 AND Q.11****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.8 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

<sup>6</sup> In July, 2009, question was asked as part of a list that included items on: spending on education, spending on health care and spending to develop energy technology.

**Q.8 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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 <sup>7</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9 IN BLOCK WITH Q.10 AND Q.11****ASK ALL:**

Q.9 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

<sup>7</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**Q.9 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
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

**RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9 IN BLOCK WITH Q.10 AND Q.11****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about your personal finances...

Q.10 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	7	32	38	22	1
Oct 24-28, 2012	8	35	36	20	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	8	35	36	20	1
Jun 7-17, 2012	7	34	38	21	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	6	29	42	22	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	6	32	37	24	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	5	33	40	21	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	29	36	26	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	7	29	41	22	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	30	40	23	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	6	33	36	23	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	6	30	40	23	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	6	32	38	20	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	6	31	39	22	2
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	28	39	24	2
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	5	30	40	25	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1

**Q.10 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1993	4	33	46	16	1
U.S. News: October, 1992	6	34	40	19	1
U.S. News: August, 1992	5	30	47	17	1
U.S. News: May, 1992	4	35	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1992	4	32	45	18	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.8 AND Q.9 IN BLOCK WITH Q.10 AND Q.11****ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>Stay the same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	9	50	18	8	13	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	12	54	11	4	11	7
Jun 7-17, 2012	10	53	15	5	14	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	50	18	7	11	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	9	49	17	5	15	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	7	49	21	7	13	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	44	23	10	13	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	7	49	20	6	14	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	9	48	16	6	17	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	52	15	8	12	4
Dec 9-13, 2009	9	44	19	8	15	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	6	50	19	8	13	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5

## Q.11 CONTINUED...

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jun 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
Feb 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
U.S. News: October, 1992	9	51	14	3	15	8
U.S. News: August, 1992	6	50	20	5	14	5
U.S. News: May, 1992	8	49	22	4	13	4
U.S. News: January, 1992	9	46	19	5	16	5

## ASK ALL:

Q.12 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

	The job <u>situation</u>	The federal <u>budget deficit</u>	Rising <u>prices</u>	Problems in the financial and housing <u>markets</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) None/not worried <u>about any</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	25	22	10	2	*	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	40	27	19	10	2	1	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	24	22	11	2	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	22	13	12	2	1	2
Sep 1-4, 2011	43	22	17	11	4	2	2
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	29	15	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	28	20	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	24	28	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	19	23	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	19	15	14	1	1	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	19	15	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	23	16	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	22	17	11	2	*	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	22	68	5	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	16	78	2	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	14	79	3	4
Dec 1-5, 2010	14	79	3	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	10	85	3	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
<i>U.S. News: August, 1992</i>	15	76	6	3
<i>U.S. News: May, 1992</i>	16	77	4	3
<i>U.S. News: January, 1992</i>	12	79	6	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

Q.14F2 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Sep <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
80	More politically divided	64	61	46	66	70	66
17	Not more divided	30	34	45	28	24	26
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	5	9	6	6	8

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.15F1 Thinking about the people you know, are they more divided over politics these days than in the past, or not?

Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>		Jan <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2007</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
60	More divided over politics	47	51	53
35	Not more divided	47	41	40
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	8	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.16 Would you say your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [ITEM] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. The Democratic Party								
Dec 5-9, 2012	48	11	37	47	23	25	1	4
Sep 12-16, 2012	53	21	32	40	18	22	*	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	47	14	33	45	21	24	*	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	14	36	43	18	25	*	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	13	29	51	23	28	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	13	32	45	19	26	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5

## Q.16 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
b. The Republican Party								
Dec 5-9, 2012	36	7	28	59	23	36	*	5
Sep 12-16, 2012	42	12	30	50	25	26	*	8
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	36	9	27	56	28	28	*	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	7	30	56	27	29	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	35	7	27	58	28	30	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	7	29	55	27	28	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4

## Q.16 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:

c.F1 Congress

Dec 5-9, 2012	27	4	22	67	24	43	1	6
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	5	22	65	30	35	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	23	5	18	69	33	36	*	8
Aug 17-21, 2011	25	4	21	70	30	40	4	6
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8

**Q.16 CONTINUED...**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7
d.F1 Military leaders								
Dec 5-9, 2012	71	16	55	18	5	13	1	10
March, 2007	65	17	48	23	7	16	0	12

**NO ITEMS e-f****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

g.F2 The Supreme Court								
Dec 5-9, 2012	53	8	45	36	12	24	1	10
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	51	10	41	37	14	23	1	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	52	11	41	29	10	20	*	18
July 1-5, 2010	58	9	49	25	8	17	1	16
Feb 3-9, 2010	58	8	50	27	8	19	*	15
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	64	8	56	21	6	15	0	15
April, 2008	65	15	50	25	7	18	*	10
July, 2007	57	12	45	29	9	20	0	14
January, 2007	72	18	54	17	3	14	2	9
July, 2006	63	7	56	27	8	19	1	9
February, 2006	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12
Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11
July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11
June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13
July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10
March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8
January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10
October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5
May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6
July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4
May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9
November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7
May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9
January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8
May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7
Roper: March 1985	64	17	47	28	7	21	--	8
h.F2 The military								
Dec 5-9, 2012	83	41	42	12	3	9	0	5
April, 2008	84	49	35	11	3	8	*	5
July, 2007	78	47	31	15	6	9	0	7
March, 2007	77	43	34	17	6	11	0	6
January, 2007	84	47	37	11	3	8	*	5
Late October, 2005	82	44	38	12	4	8	0	6
Late March, 2005	87	49	38	9	3	6	*	4
June, 2004	85	48	37	10	3	7	*	5
Newsweek: May, 2002	93	59	34	5	2	3	--	2
Newsweek: September, 2001	94	58	36	4	2	2	--	2
July, 2001	81	29	52	11	4	7	*	8
January, 2001	82	32	50	12	3	9	0	6
August, 1999	89	30	59	10	2	8	*	1
June, 1999	83	36	47	13	2	11	0	4
Early September, 1998	86	29	57	10	3	7	0	4
October, 1997	78	22	56	18	5	13	0	4
May, 1997	80	23	57	16	5	11	0	4

## Q.16 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
February, 1996	82	33	49	16	4	12	*	2
July, 1994	87	30	57	11	3	8	*	2
May, 1993	85	32	53	10	2	8	0	5
March, 1991	94	60	34	4	2	2	0	2
May, 1990	73	18	55	21	6	15	*	6
January, 1988	77	20	57	17	3	14	*	6
April, 1987	80	17	63	16	4	12	0	4
January, 1987	73	19	54	16	5	11	*	11
July, 1986	85	32	53	10	3	7	0	5
July, 1985	77	24	53	18	5	13	*	5

## ASK ALL:

Q.17 And is your overall opinion of **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT NAME]?**  
**[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	rate/Ref
a. Barack Obama								
Dec 5-9, 2012	59	26	33	40	24	16	*	2
Oct 4-7, 2012	50	24	26	45	26	19	*	5
Sep 12-16, 2012	57	27	30	40	23	17	*	4
Jul 16-26, 2012	51	24	26	42	27	15	0	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	53	20	33	44	22	21	0	4
Mar 7-11, 2012	56	24	32	41	25	16	*	3
Feb 8-12, 2012	54	22	32	42	26	16	*	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	51	23	28	45	24	21	0	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	21	31	45	24	21	*	3
Mar 8-14, 2011	58	22	36	39	20	19	*	3
Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	32	30	16	14	*	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
b. John Boehner								
Dec 5-9, 2012	28	5	23	40	17	23	22	11
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	5	16	40	16	24	22	17
Mar 8-14, 2011	26	7	19	27	11	16	32	16
Dec 2-5, 2010	28	8	20	25	12	14	34	12
Jun 10-13, 2010	12	3	9	22	8	15	54	12

## Q.17 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:</b>								
<b>NO ITEMS c-g</b>								
h.F1 Harry Reid								
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	3	20	37	17	20	27	12
Jan 11-16, 2012	18	4	15	38	20	18	28	16
Dec 2-5, 2010	23	5	18	39	21	18	26	12
December, 2006	17	3	14	20	7	13	45	18
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:</b>								
i.F2 Hillary Clinton								
Dec 5-9, 2012	65	30	35	29	15	15	1	5
Jun 7-17, 2012	63	24	39	28	11	17	1	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	62	26	36	31	16	15	1	6
Dec 2-5, 2010	59	24	35	34	15	20	2	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	66	26	40	28	11	17	1	6
Late May, 2008	48	17	31	44	22	22	*	8
April, 2008	49	16	33	47	23	24	0	4
March, 2008	50	16	34	44	23	21	*	6
Late February, 2008	51	19	32	44	23	21	0	5
Early February, 2008	52	20	32	42	24	18	*	6
January, 2008	52	20	32	44	25	19	*	4
Late December, 2007	50	21	29	44	26	18	*	6
August, 2007	55	21	34	39	21	18	2	4
December, 2006	56	22	34	39	21	18	*	5
April, 2006	54	20	34	42	21	21	1	3
Late October, 2005	56	20	36	38	19	19	1	5
Late March, 2005	57	22	35	36	17	19	*	7
December, 2002	47	15	32	44	23	21	1	8
July, 2001	53	20	33	42	23	19	1	4
January, 2001	60	25	35	35	16	19	*	5
May, 2000	49	15	34	42	22	20	1	8
Early December, 1998	66	32	34	31	15	16	*	3
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	58	24	34	36	18	18	*	6
Early September, 1998	64	24	40	31	13	18	0	5
Late August, 1998	63	25	38	34	13	21	*	3
March, 1998	65	26	39	31	14	17	*	4
January, 1997	57	17	40	40	17	23	*	3
June, 1996	53	13	40	43	17	26	*	4
April, 1996	49	12	37	46	19	27	0	5
February, 1996	42	14	28	54	27	27	0	4
January, 1996	42	10	32	54	26	28	0	4
October, 1995	58	14	44	38	14	24	--	4
August, 1995	49	16	33	47	22	25	*	4
December, 1994	50	17	33	45	20	25	1	4
July, 1994	57	19	38	40	18	22	1	2
May, 1993	60	19	41	29	11	18	1	10

## NO QUESTIONS 18-29

**ASK ALL:**

Next I'd like to ask about some things that have been in the news. Please answer as best you can. If you don't know the answer just tell me and we'll move to the next question.

Q.30 When people refer to the upcoming "Fiscal Cliff," is this about...? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Dec 5-9

2012

57 Automatic tax increases and spending cuts  
4 New trade policies with China  
8 A sudden rise in interest rates  
31 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

As you may know, automatic tax increases and spending cuts are scheduled to take place in January.

**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.31 AND Q.32**

Q.31 If these automatic spending cuts take place, which area of government spending would be reduced the most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Dec 5-9

2012

38 Military defense  
28 Social Security  
20 Food stamps  
14 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.31 AND Q.32**

Q.32 If these automatic tax increases take place, will taxes go up for ... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Dec 5-9

2012

25 Only high-income tax payers  
70 Nearly all tax payers  
5 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**NO QUESTIONS 33-39**

Thinking about the political parties ...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE.]** Which party **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Is more extreme in its positions					
Dec 5-9, 2012	53	33	4	1	9
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	35	5	1	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	53	33	4	1	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	50	38	3	1	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

b.F1 Can better manage the federal government

Dec 5-9, 2012	36	45	2	10	7
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	42	1	9	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	35	41	3	13	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7

**Q.40 CONTINUED...**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
April, 2006 <sup>8</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**c.F2 Is more influenced by lobbyists  
and special interests

Dec 5-9, 2012	41	35	12	1	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	37	12	1	11
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	44	34	11	2	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	32	14	2	11
Aug 27-30, 2009	37	31	17	3	12
March, 2007	40	30	15	1	14
Early October, 2006	41	27	16	2	14
April, 2006	45	28	14	2	11

**ASK ALL:**d. Is more willing to work with political  
leaders from the other party

Dec 5-9, 2012	27	53	2	10	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	25	51	3	12	10
Jul 20-24, 2011	26	51	1	12	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	49	2	10	6

<sup>8</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 And which party could do a better job of **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Which party could do a better job of ITEM?]**

**NO ITEM a**

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
b. Dealing with the federal budget deficit					
Dec 5-9, 2012	43	38	4	7	9
Mar 7-11, 2012	42	41	2	7	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	37	4	6	7
Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8
May 25-30, 2011 <sup>9</sup>	41	38	4	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

c.F1 Dealing with the Medicare system					
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	50	3	6	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	48	3	7	7
May 25-30, 2011	34	44	5	8	9
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> <i>Reforming the Medicare system</i>					
Sep 16-19, 2010	33	38	7	9	12
d.F1 Improving the education system					
Dec 5-9, 2012	27	53	4	6	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	46	7	6	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	29	48	8	8	8
Aug 27-30, 2009	22	47	8	12	10
February, 2008	26	55	6	6	7
October, 2006	27	45	5	6	17
September, 2006	28	46	7	6	13
February, 2006	33	44	8	7	8
Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8
July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12
January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23
May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9
January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12
June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7
March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10
January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21
Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10
March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7
July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8

<sup>9</sup> From February 2006 to May 2011 item read "Reducing the federal budget deficit;" and the experiment conducted in July 2011 showed no significant difference between the current wording and this wording. In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>			
	January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14
	May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14
e.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Dec 5-9, 2012	40	44	4	5	7
	Mar 7-11, 2012	39	44	3	6	9
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	42	42	3	6	7
	Jul 20-24, 2011	39	39	5	7	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	10	6	6
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	31	8	13	13
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	39	41	6	8	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
	September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
	March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
f.F1	Dealing with the nation's energy problems					
	Dec 5-9, 2012	35	47	4	4	11
	Mar 7-11, 2012	35	46	2	6	10
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	37	42	7	5	9
	Oct 13-18, 2010	28	38	8	11	15
	May 20-23, 2010	28	35	10	12	15
	Apr 21-26, 2010	32	40	8	9	12
	Feb 3-9, 2010	32	44	8	6	10
	Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	7	9	12
	February, 2008	23	57	5	5	10
	September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15
	February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13
	October, 2006	28	44	5	6	17
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:</b>						
g.F2	Dealing with immigration					
	Dec 5-9, 2012	35	44	5	6	10
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	45	37	3	6	9
	May 25-30, 2011	39	37	4	9	11
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	9	12	16
	May 20-23, 2010	35	27	10	14	14
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
	Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
	February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
	October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
	September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
	April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
	February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
h.F2	Dealing with taxes					
	Dec 5-9, 2012	37	45	6	4	7
	Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
	Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
	February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
	October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9

## Q.41 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9
<b>i.F2 Dealing with the Social Security system</b>					
Dec 5-9, 2012	36	45	6	4	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	39	45	3	5	8
Jul 22-24, 2011	37	42	7	5	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 <sup>10</sup>	39	39	9	6	7
Sep 16-19, 2010	35	35	9	11	11
September, 2006	26	46	4	11	13
September, 2005	33	45	6	9	7
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	31	42	6	9	12
Early September, 2002	30	38	8	10	14
May, 2002	32	38	--	9	21
January, 2002	28	40	--	6	26
May, 2001	35	43	6	5	11
January, 2001	36	44	--	7	13
June, 1999	33	41	4	9	13
January, 1999	27	46	--	7	20
Early September, 1998	37	42	7	5	9
May, 1990	28	41	--	16	15
<b>j.F2 Dealing with health care</b>					
Dec 5-9, 2012	38	48	4	4	6
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	49	1	7	8
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	38	49	3	4	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	42	6	5	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	39	5	11	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	36	46	5	7	6
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
January, 2002	20	45	--	6	29
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10

<sup>10</sup> From January 2002 to May 2011 item read "Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound;" experiment conducted in July 2011 showed no significant difference between the current wording and this wording. For May 2001, June 1999, Early September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 1994 <i>Reforming health care</i>	34	48	2	8	8
December, 1993 <i>Improving health care in the U.S.</i>	25	47	--	10	18
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14

**NO QUESTION 42****ASK ALL:**

Q.43 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on **[RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes]** mostly focus on [increasing taxes / cutting major programs] or should we do a combination of both?

Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>		Sep 12-16 <u>2012</u>	Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	Apr 7-10 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>
11	Cutting major programs	16	17	19	20	16
7	Increasing taxes	6	8	8	6	4
74	Combination of both	69	62	60	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit (VOL.)	1	1	1	*	1
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	11	12	9	13

**NO QUESTIONS 44-45****ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Looking ahead five years or so, do you think we will have made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>		Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	Apr 21-25 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>
44	Yes	39	31	37	40
50	No	51	55	52	46
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	14	11	14

**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 Thinking about ways to reduce the deficit and size of the national debt, please tell me if you would approve or disapprove of each of the following. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Would you approve or disapprove of this as a way to reduce the size of the national debt?]**

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Reduce military defense spending			
	Dec 5-9, 2012	43	55	2
	Oct 4-7, 2012	40	56	4
b.	Raise the income tax rate on incomes over \$250,000 a year			
	Dec 5-9, 2012	69	28	3
	Oct 4-7, 2012	64	29	6
	Sep 22-25, 2011	67	29	4
	May 25-30, 2011	66	31	3

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

c.F1 Limit the amount of deductions a taxpayer can claim  
Dec 5-9, 2012

	54	40	6
--	----	----	---

**Q.47 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
d.F1	Gradually raising the age at which people can begin receiving Medicare benefits Dec 5-9, 2012	41	56	2
e.F1	Reduce Medicare benefits for seniors with higher incomes Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012	51 49	46 47	3 4
f.F1	Reduce federal funding for programs that help lower-income Americans Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012 Sep 22-25, 2011 May 25-30, 2011	38 43 41 40	58 50 55 54	4 6 4 6
g.F1	Reduce federal funding for roads and transportation Dec 5-9, 2012	30	67	4
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:</b>				
h.F2	Gradually raise the age at which people can begin receiving Social Security benefits Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012 May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	42 41 36 38	56 56 59 58	2 3 5 4
i.F2	Reduce Social Security benefits for seniors with higher incomes Dec 5-9, 2012 May 25-30, 2011 Dec 1-5, 2010	51 42 48	46 54 47	3 5 5
j.F2	Raise the tax rate on investment income Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012	52 44	43 49	5 7
k.F2	Reduce federal funding for education Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012	21 22	77 75	2 3
l.F2	Limit tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages Dec 5-9, 2012 Oct 4-7, 2012 May 25-30, 2011	41 47 49	52 44 43	6 9 8
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
	<i>Eliminate tax deductions for interest paid on home mortgages</i> Dec 1-5, 2010	34	56	10

**ASK ALL:**

Q.48 From what you've read and heard, can the nation's long-term debt problem be solved **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or can it be solved **[ITEM]**?

Dec 5-9

2012

59	Only if some taxes go up
32	Without having to raise any taxes
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK IF (Q.48=1):**

Q.49 To solve the nation's long-term debt problem, will taxes need to go up ... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Dec 5-9, 2012

*Based on total*      *Based on only if taxes go up (Q48=1)*

27	45	Just for wealthy Americans
31	53	For both middle class and wealthy Americans
1	2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
41	--	Can solve long-term debt without having to raise taxes/DK to Q.48
[N=1,503]	[N=909]	

**NO QUESTION 50****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the current debate in Washington over the debt and deficit ...

**RANDOMIZE Q.51 AND Q.52****ASK ALL:**

Q.51 Are Republicans in Congress making a serious effort to work with Barack Obama to reach an agreement on the budget deficit, or not?

Dec 5-9

2012

32	Yes, making serious effort
57	No, not making serious effort
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**RANDOMIZE Q.51 AND Q.52****ASK ALL:**

Q.52 Is Barack Obama making a serious effort to work with Republicans in Congress to reach an agreement on the budget deficit, or not?

Dec 5-9

2012

55	Yes, making serious effort
38	No, not making serious effort
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 53-59**

**QUESTION 60 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 61-63****QUESTIONS 64-66 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 67-78****QUESTIONS 79-90 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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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
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 ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</b>	<b>(VOL.) Refused</b>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>11</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

**ASK ALL:**

Q.91 When you file your federal income tax next year, will you probably itemize your personal deductions or will you take the standard deduction?

Dec 5-9

2012

35	Itemize
47	Standard deduction
18	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>11</sup> 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."

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**December 6-9, 2012, OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,001**

**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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act					
December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
February 16-20, 2012: <i>Congress passing a bill to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits</i> <sup>12</sup>	24	27	21	27	1
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
December 16-19, 2010 <sup>13</sup> : <i>The extension of tax cuts and unemployment benefits approved by Congress and signed by President Obama</i>	37	27	15	19	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The agreement reached between Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits</i>	37	29	15	17	1
December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i>	39	26	17	17	1
September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i>	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
May, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	25	36	22	15	2

12 The wording of item PEW.1d was changed after the first night of interviewing (February 16, 2012) to reflect Congress passing this legislation. On February 16, 2012, the item wording was "Negotiations in Congress to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

13 The wording of item PEW.1c was changed after the first night of interviewing (December 16, 2010), to reflect Congress passing and Obama signing this legislation. On December 16, 2010 the item read "The debate in Washington over extending tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

## 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
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>Debate in Congress over G.W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>G.W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
September, 1999: <i>The debate in Washington over how much to cut taxes</i>	18	30	28	23	1
July, 1999	14	34	21	31	*
June, 1997: <i>Competing proposals on ways to cut taxes as part of the recent bipartisan budget agreement</i>	11	27	28	33	1
September, 1992 (RVs): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
b. Political violence in Syria					
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-28, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
May 5-8, 2011	14	27	30	28	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	29	25	27	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
c. News that Prince William and Kate Middleton are expecting a child					
December 6-9, 2012	7	18	29	44	2
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England</i>	16	19	25	39	*
April 21-25, 2011: <i>The upcoming wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in England</i>	8	13	25	53	*
November 18-21, 2010: <i>The British royal family announcing Prince William's engagement</i>	11	24	27	37	1

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
December 6-9, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
November 8-11, 2012	41	31	15	12	1
November 1-4, 2012	38	30	16	14	1
October 25-28, 2012	44	30	14	11	1
October 18-21, 2012	39	36	12	12	1
October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*
December 15-18, 2011	36	32	14	16	1
December 8-11, 2011	41	29	13	16	1
December 1-4, 2011	40	33	13	13	1
November 17-20, 2011	35	33	16	15	1
November 10-13, 2011	39	31	15	14	*
November 3-6, 2011	37	31	15	17	1
October 27-30, 2011	38	33	14	15	1
October 20-23, 2011	38	32	14	16	1
October 13-16, 2011	39	32	14	14	*
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	46	26	14	14	*

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 22-25, 2011	44	33	11	11	*
September 8-11, 2011	40	30	15	14	1
September 1-4, 2011	44	30	11	15	*
August 25-28, 2011	44	28	14	13	1
August 18-21, 2011	44	29	12	14	1
August 4-7, 2011	46	30	11	13	1
July 28-31, 2011	43	30	13	13	*
July 21-24, 2011	41	32	13	13	1
July 14-17, 2011	41	30	14	14	1
July 7-10, 2011	36	30	15	18	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	38	32	13	16	1
June 23-26, 2011	37	29	15	19	*
June 16-19, 2011	39	33	14	13	*
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2011	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1

SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Economy-Trends.pdf>

**NO QUESTIONS PEW.2-PEW.3****ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about recent economic news...

PEW.4 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?

	<u>Hearing mostly good news</u>	<u>Hearing mostly bad news</u>	<u>A mix of good and bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

**PEW.4 CONTINUED...**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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	*
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.5 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The financial markets				
December 6-9, 2012	10	36	47	7
November 1-4, 2012	12	31	48	9
October 4-7, 2012	16	26	50	8
September 7-9, 2012	14	37	41	7
August 2-5, 2012	6	41	44	9
July 5-8, 2012	6	35	50	8
May 31-June 3, 2012	5	47	42	6
March 8-11, 2012	15	29	48	8
November 10-13, 2011	4	50	41	5
August 4-7, 2011	2	69	25	4
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11

## PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 31-April 3, 2011	13	30	51	6
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	16	32	47	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	33	48	7
August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values				
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
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				
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

**PEW.5 CONTINUED...**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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				
December 6-9, 2012	17	47	35	1
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				
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

**PEW.5 CONTINUED...**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
f. Retail sales				
December 6-9, 2012	30	18	44	9
December 1-4, 2011	51	7	35	6
December 2-5, 2010	33	18	45	4