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Obama, Economy Now Better Rated by Independents

Public More Optimistic about Economy, But Concerns Persist

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Public More Optimistic about Economy, But Concerns Persist

Optimism about the national economy, which sagged in 2011, has rebounded in the first two months of this year. Currently, 44% say they expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, up from 34% last month and 28% in December.

Moreover, 54% say either that the economy is already recovering (25%) or that it will recover soon (29%). Last April, 44% said a recovery was already underway or would occur soon.

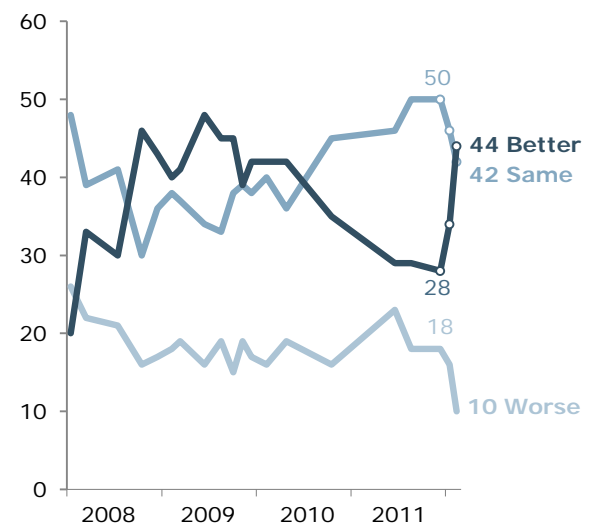
Yet the public's improved economic outlook is tempered by a number of factors. First, current views of the economy remain overwhelmingly negative: Just 11% say economic conditions today are excellent or good, a figure that has changed little over the past four years. While the percentage rating current economic conditions as "poor" has fallen 13 points since August, from 56% to 43%, it is virtually unchanged from a year ago (42%).

Second, economic optimism has proven fragile in the past. From October 2008 through April 2010, 40% or more said they expected economic conditions to get better in the next year. But by last summer, the percentage expecting things to improve had fallen to around 30%.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 8-12 among 1,501 adults, finds an uptick in Barack Obama's job rating. Currently, 47% approve of the way he is handling his job as president while 43% disapprove. Last month, 44% approved and 48% disapproved.

Economic Outlook Improves

Economic conditions a year from now will be...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012.

Obama’s job rating among independents has rebounded sharply from a low point in January. Currently, 45% of independents approve of Obama’s job performance while 44% disapprove. Last month, just 37% approved and 56% disapproved. Obama also has improved his standing with independent voters in a general election matchup with Mitt Romney. (For more see, [“Santorum Catches Romney in GOP Race.”](#) Feb. 13, 2012.)

Obama’s overall favorability rating is about the same as it was in January (54% now, 51% then). Among independents, however, Obama is viewed more favorably: Currently, 52% have a favorable impression of Obama while 42% view him unfavorably. In January, 44% had a favorable opinion of Obama, while 51% viewed him unfavorably.

Still, Obama’s overall job rating – and his approval among independents – is no better than it was a year ago. In February 2011, 49% approved of his job performance and 42% disapproved. Independents were evenly split, as they are today (46% approved, 45% disapproved). (For breakdown of Obama’s current job rating see the table at the end of this report.)

The public’s perceptions of the impact of Obama’s economic policies have shown substantial improvement since last fall. Yet the overall balance of opinion about the effect of Obama’s policies is about the same as it was at the beginning of 2011.

Currently, 33% say Obama’s economic policies have made conditions better while about the same percentage (35%) say they have made conditions worse; 25% say they have had no effect so far. Last October, nearly twice as

Obama Job Rating Rises among Independents



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q1. Based on independents.

Impact of Obama’s Economic Policies

	Policies have made economy...			
	Better	Worse	No effect so far	Other/ DK
	%	%	%	%
Feb 2012	33	35	25	7=100
Oct 2011	20	38	37	5=100
Jan 2011	28	31	35	6=100
Sept 2010	27	32	36	6=100
Feb 2010	24	27	42	8=100
Dec 2009	30	24	39	7=100
Mar 2009	14	15	64	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 9-12, 2012 Omnibus. PEW4. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

many said Obama's policies had made conditions worse than better (38% vs. 20%). In January 2011, like today, opinions were mixed: 28% said Obama's policies made conditions better, 31% worse and 35% said they had had no effect.

There are wide partisan gaps in views of the impact of Obama's economic policies, as well as in economic perceptions and economic optimism. About seven-in-ten Republicans (71%) say Obama's economic policies have made economic conditions worse; that is little changed from last October (70%), but up 12 points from January 2011 (59%). By contrast, Democrats are now more likely to say Obama's policies have made the economy better (60%) than they were in October (37%) or January (46%).

Independents' evaluations of the impact of Obama's policies are more positive than in October, and about the same as in January 2011. Currently, 29% of independents say his policies have made the economy better, 34% say they have made it worse and 29% say they have had no effect so far.

Independents Now Express Mixed Views of Impact of Obama Policies

<i>Obama's policies have made economy ...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Feb 2012				
Better	33	6	60	29
Worse	35	71	11	34
No effect so far	25	17	24	29
Oct 2011				
Better	20	3	37	16
Worse	38	70	13	40
No effect so far	37	25	45	39
Jan 2011				
Better	28	11	46	27
Worse	31	59	9	30
No effect so far	35	27	37	38
Jan 11-Feb 12 change in "better"				
	+5	-5	+14	+2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 9-12, 2012 Omnibus. PEW4.

More Say Economy Will Improve

The survey finds an increase in economic optimism since late last year across nearly all demographic and political groups. In December, only about a quarter of whites (24%) said economic conditions would be better in a year; 53% expected conditions would be the same and 19% said they would be worse. In the current survey, 41% expect conditions to improve in the next year, 45% say they will be the same and 11% say they will be worse. There have been comparable gains in optimism among blacks and Hispanics, who have consistently been more optimistic than whites.

In December, far more college graduates expected economic conditions would be the same in a year (52%) than said conditions would be better (29%). Today, more expect economic conditions to improve (52%) than to remain the same (36%).

Democrats and independents have become much more optimistic about the economy. Currently, 61% of Democrats and 42% of independents say conditions will be better a year from now – the highest percentages expressing economic optimism since 2009. In December, just 39% of Democrats and 23% of independents expected the economy to improve in a year.

Republicans are considerably less upbeat about the economy's trajectory. About half (51%) say economic conditions a year from now will be the same as they are today, which is little changed from December. Three-in-ten (30%) say conditions will be better, up from 21% in December.

Despite the growing percentage that expects the economy to be in better shape a year from now, just a quarter (25%) say the economy is now recovering; 29% say the economy is not yet recovering but will recover soon; 44% say it will be a long time before the economy recovers.

Views of Economic Conditions a Year from Now

	Dec 2011			Feb 2012			Change in Better
	Better %	Worse %	Same %	Better %	Worse %	Same %	
Total	28	18	50	44	10	42	+16
White	24	19	53	41	11	45	+17
Black	37	15	46	56	5	36	+19
Hispanic	39	13	41	56	9	32	+17
18-29	31	17	48	41	9	47	+10
30-49	23	17	57	47	12	39	+24
50-64	30	19	48	46	9	42	+16
65+	29	19	47	40	10	42	+11
College grad+	29	17	52	52	8	36	+23
Some college	27	19	50	41	13	43	+14
HS or less	28	18	50	42	10	45	+14
\$75,000 or more	29	18	51	46	10	41	+17
\$30k-\$74,999	25	20	52	45	8	44	+20
<\$30,000	30	15	50	42	13	42	+12
Republican	21	22	54	30	14	51	+9
Democrat	39	10	48	61	4	33	+22
Independent	23	21	53	42	13	44	+19

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb 8-12, 2012. Q33. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Opinions on this measure have fluctuated over time. Last April, more said recovery was a long way off (54%) than do so today (44%). In February 2011, 24% said the economy was recovering, 33% said it would recover soon and 42% said a recovery was in the distant future.

Partisanship is a major factor in views of the economic recovery. About seven-in-ten Democrats (71%) say the economy is recovering (39%) or will recover soon (32%); just 27% think the recovery is a long way off. Nearly six-in-

ten Republicans (59%) say it will be a long time before the economy recovers. Independents are divided: 52% say either the economy is recovering (25%) or will recover soon (27%); 46% say an economic recovery is a long way off.

Majority Says Economy is Already Recovering Or Will Recover Soon

	Sept 2010	Dec 2010	Feb 2011	Apr 2011	Feb 2012
<i>Best describes your opinion of the economy ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Recovering	10	17	24	20	25
Not yet recovering but will recover soon	37	33	33	24	29
Will be a long time before economy recovers	52	48	42	54	44
Don't know	2	2	2	2	3
	100	100	100	100	100

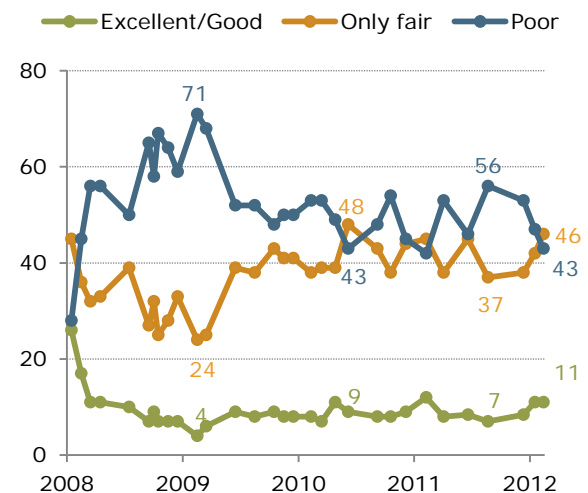
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb 8-12, 2012. Q3. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Less Negative Views of Current Economy

Currently, just 11% rate current economic conditions as excellent or good. Nearly half (46%) say conditions are only fair while about the same percentage (43%) rate them as poor. The number saying the economy is poor has declined in recent months – from 56% last August to 43% currently. But positive views of economic conditions have not risen.

Democrats are now more likely than Republicans or independents to view current economic conditions as excellent or good. In the current survey, 19% of Democrats rate the economy positively, compared with 7% of Republicans and the same percentage of independents. In August, just 8% of

Views of Economic Conditions



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb 8-12, 2012. Q32.

Democrats, and comparable shares of Republicans (5%) and independents (6%) said economic conditions were excellent or good.

Lower Jobless Rate Registers with Public

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) know that the national unemployment rate has been decreasing in recent months. About a third (32%) say incorrectly that the rate has been going up.

Better educated people are more likely than those with less education to be aware of recent declines in the unemployment rate. There also is a modest partisan gap: 66% of Democrats say the unemployment rate has been decreasing, compared with 56% of independents and 51% of Republicans.

Most Aware Unemployment Rate Is Decreasing

<i>National unemployment rate has been...</i>	Decreasing %	Increasing %	Same/DK %
Total	58	32	10=100
Republican	51	38	10=100
Democrat	66	27	7=100
Independent	56	33	11=100
College grad+	70	23	7=100
Some college	55	33	12=100
HS or less	52	38	10=100
\$75,000 or more	65	26	9=100
\$30k-\$74,999	62	30	8=100
Less than \$30,000	53	39	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q37. 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 Feb. 8-12, 2012 among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 601 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 284 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,501	3.0 percentage points
Republicans	447	5.5 percentage points
Democrats	478	5.5 percentage points
Independents	508	5.5 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 Feb. 9-12, 2012 among a national sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 400 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 179 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,000	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	264	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	296	7.0 percentage points
Independents	359	6.5 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>
	%		%	
TOTAL	47	43	10	1501
SEX				
Men	44	48	8	728
Women	51	38	11	773
AGE				
18-49	48	40	11	625
50+	46	47	7	847
DETAILED AGE				
18-29	51	35	15	191
30-49	47	44	10	434
50-64	50	45	5	465
65+	40	50	10	382
SEX BY AGE				
Men 18-49	43	46	11	336
Men 50+	44	51	5	379
Women 18-49	54	34	12	289
Women 50+	47	43	9	468
RACE				
White, non-Hispanic	38	53	10	1094
Black, non-Hispanic	85	9	7	157
Hispanic	53	36	11	147
EDUCATION				
College grad+	51	41	8	578
Some college	44	46	10	409
High school or less	47	42	11	507
FAMILY INCOME				
\$75,000+	44	49	7	436
\$30,000-\$74,999	44	49	7	488
Less than \$30,000	52	35	13	418
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE				
Total White NH Prot.	29	62	9	551
White NH evang. Prot.	19	72	9	299
White NH mainline Prot.	42	49	9	251
Total Catholic	47	43	10	337
White NH Cath.	42	49	9	223
Unaffiliated	54	36	10	292
ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES				
Weekly or more	39	51	10	584
Less than weekly	52	38	10	902
REGION				
Northeast	52	38	10	231
Midwest	45	45	10	369
South	46	43	11	542
West	49	44	7	359

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>
REGISTERED VOTER				
Yes, certain	46	46	8	1172
Not registered	52	35	13	329
PARTY ID				
Republican	11	83	6	447
Democrat	84	9	8	478
Independent	45	44	11	508
PARTY WITH LEANERS				
Rep/Lean Rep	12	81	7	649
Dem/Lean Dem	77	14	9	698
IDEOLOGY				
Conservative	25	69	7	549
Moderate	54	37	9	545
Liberal	70	19	11	334
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY				
Conservative Republican	7	88	5	324
Mod/Lib Republican	20	72	8	119
Mod/Cons Democrat	80	10	9	263
Liberal Democrat	89	6	5	197
TEA PARTY MOVEMENT				
Agree	4	93	3	284
Disagree/No opinion	19	72	10	352
AMONG WHITES				
Men	33	59	8	522
Women	42	47	11	572
18-49	37	51	12	384
50+	38	55	8	692
College grad+	46	47	6	457
Some college or less	33	55	11	634
\$75,000+	41	53	6	358
\$30,000-\$74,999	34	61	5	366
Less than \$30,000	39	46	15	258
Republican	6	89	5	400
Democrat	81	10	10	292
Independent	37	51	11	358
Northeast	47	46	7	179
Midwest	38	51	11	311
South	30	58	11	365
West	41	52	7	239

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 8-12, 2012
N=1501

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>
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	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>
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	December, 2008	13	83	4
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	July, 2008	19	74	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5				
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6				
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5				
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7				

¹ 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>
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
March, 2008	22	72	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
February, 2007	30	61	9	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
December, 2006	28	65	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
July, 2006	30	65	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1997	38	58	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
December, 2004	39	54	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
July, 2004	38	55	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
May, 2004	33	61	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	September, 1993	20	75	5
October, 2003	38	56	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
April 8, 2003	50	41	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
January, 2003	44	50	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
September, 2002	41	55	4	August, 1990	47	48	5
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	May, 1990	41	54	5
May, 2002	44	44	12	January, 1989	45	50	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9				

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Which of these best describes your opinion: **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]?**

	The economy <u>is recovering</u>	The economy is not <u>yet recovering</u> <u>but will recover soon</u>	It will be a long <u>time before the</u> <u>economy recovers</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	25	29	44	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	20	24	54	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	33	42	2
Dec 1-5, 2010	17	33	48	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 ²	10	37	52	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	13	35	50	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	13	37	48	2

NO QUESTION 4

² In September 2010 and earlier, the first answer choice read "The economy is now recovering."

Q.5, Q.43-Q.48, Q.62-Q.65, Q.71-Q.72 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**Q.6b-e, Q.7-Q.8, Q.11, Q.13-Q.14, Q16, Q.19-Q.21, Q.40-42, Q.55-57, Q.60-61, Q.66-Q.67, Q.75, PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 9-10, 12, 15, 17-18, 22-31, 38-39, 49-54, 58-59, 68-70****ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] 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.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. Barack Obama								
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

ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.32 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

					(VOL.)
	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK/Ref
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

Q.32 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
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 ³	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.33 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 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

³ Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.33 CONTINUED...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
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

NO QUESTIONS 34-36

ASK ALL:

Q.37 In recent months, has the national unemployment rate been **[READ]**?

Feb 8-12

2012

32	Increasing [OR]
58	Decreasing
4	Staying about the same (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

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PEW.1 THRU PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the nation's economy...

PEW.4 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	No effect <u>so far</u>	(VOL.) <u>Too soon/ early to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February 9-12, 2012	33	35	25	1	6
September 22-October 4, 2011	20	38	37	1	4
June 15-19, 2011	27	34	33	2	5
January 5-9, 2011	28	31	35	2	4
August 25-September 6, 2010	27	32	36	2	4
June 3-6, 2010	23	29	35	3	9
February 3-9, 2010	24	27	42	3	5
December 9-13, 2009	30	24	39	3	4
September 30-Oct 4, 2009	31	20	42	4	3
July 20-26, 2009	24	21	46	3	6
June 10-14, 2009	26	16	49	4	4
April 14-21, 2009	26	17	47	6	4
March 9-12, 2009	14	15	64	4	3