

MARCH 21, 2013

Positive Signs on Stocks, Housing Have Little Impact

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## Obama Job Approval Slips as Economic Pessimism Rises

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE  
PEOPLE & THE PRESS**

**Michael Dimock**

Director

**Carroll Doherty**

Associate Director

**Alec Tyson**

Research Associate

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel (202) 419-4372  
Fax (202) 419-4399  
[www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org)

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## Positive Signs on Stocks, Housing Have Little Impact Obama Job Approval Slips as Economic Pessimism Rises

Barack Obama's job approval rating has tumbled since shortly after his re-election, as the public's economic expectations for the coming year have soured. Despite substantial public awareness of recent gains in the stock market and rebounding real-estate values, the percentage saying economic conditions will get worse over the next year has risen to its highest point in nearly eight years.

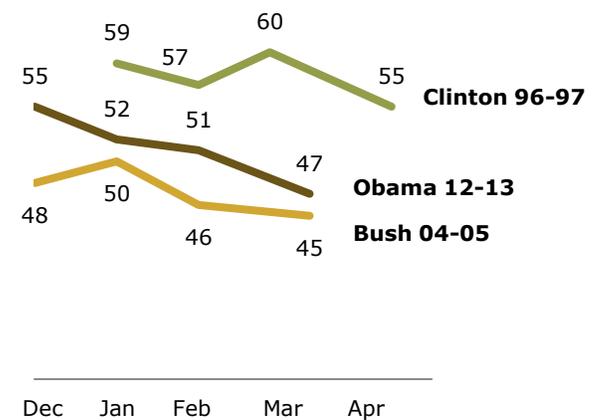
Obama's job approval measure has fallen eight points since December, from 55% to 47%. His rating is comparable to George W. Bush's (45%) at the same point early in his second term and is much lower than Bill Clinton's 60% rating in February 1997.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17 among 1,501 adults, finds that despite Obama's lower job rating, he retains greater public confidence than congressional Republicans in dealing with the budget deficit: 53% express at least a fair amount of confidence in him to handle the budget, compared with 39% who express the same confidence in GOP leaders.

The decline in Obama's approval rating comes at a time when the number of Americans saying that real estate prices have gone up has jumped from 25% in 2011 to 52% currently, and 71% of investors say the value of their portfolios have increased.

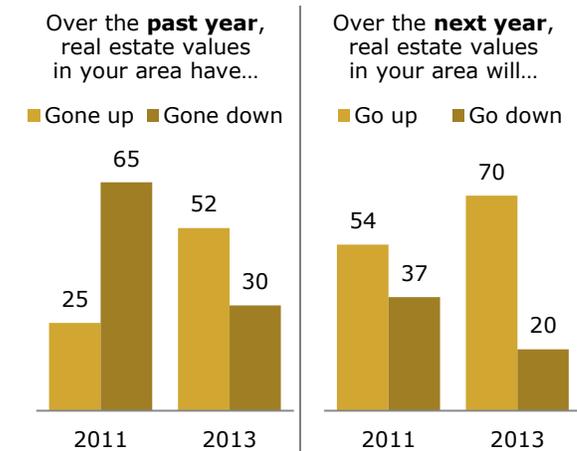
### Obama's Early Second-Term Approval Track Similar to Bush's

Presidential job approval following re-election ...



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### Public Sees Improved Housing Market



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Yet the survey also finds that large percentages of Americans – particularly those with lower family incomes – continue to face severe economic and job-related problems. Nearly three-in-ten (28%) say they have had trouble getting or paying for medical care in the last year, while nearly as many (23%) report problems with paying their rent or mortgage. And 15% say they have been laid off or lost their job in the past year.

### No Decline in Percentage of Americans Facing Severe Financial Problems

	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2010	June 2011	July 2012	Mar 2013
<i>In past year, have you...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Had trouble getting or paying for medical care	23	23	26	29	25	28
Had problems paying rent or mortgage	16	20	24	26	23	23
Been laid off or lost your job	14	18	21	16	15	15
<b>One or more of these problems</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>

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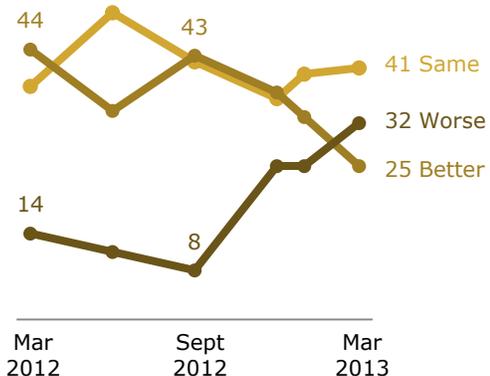
The share experiencing one or more of these problems is as high today as it was during the recession: Currently, 42% say they have encountered at least one of these problems, including 60% among those with annual family incomes of \$30,000 or less.

When it comes to views of the national economy, most Americans do not think a recovery has taken hold. Just 27% say that the economy is recovering, while 31% say it will recover soon and 40% say it will be a long time before the economy recovers. These views have changed little over the past year.

Looking ahead, the public's forecast for the national economy has deteriorated. A year ago, nearly three times as many Americans expected the economy to be better as worse in the next year (44% vs. 14%). Today, just a quarter (25%) expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, while nearly a third (32%) say conditions will be worse.

### Economic Pessimism Increases

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



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The market turnarounds are having a limited effect on the public's economic outlook because they are not what affect people's personal financial situation. When people are

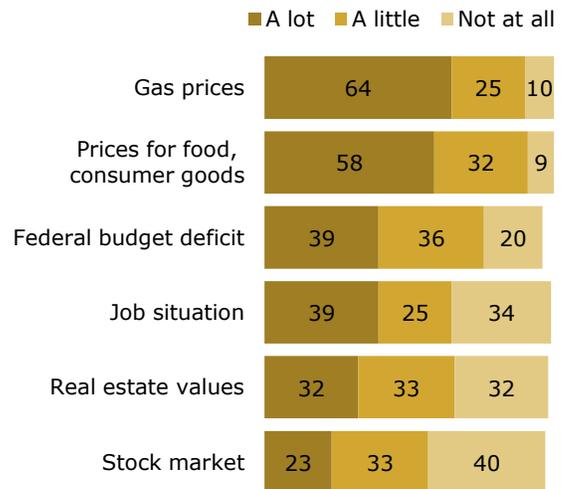
asked to consider the personal impact of different economic factors, just 32% say their household finances are affected a lot by real estate values, while even fewer (23%) say that the stock market has a major effect.

Instead, far more Americans say their households are affected by prices – both gas prices (64% a lot) and prices for food and consumer goods (58%). Prices are not only viewed as more important than real estate or the stock market but also the federal budget deficit and even the availability of jobs (39% each). And the news about prices is decidedly bad. The [March update](#) of the Pew Research Center’s track of what people are hearing about the economy found 74% saying the news about gas prices was mostly bad, and 52% saying the same about consumer prices.

Rising prices also now rank near the top of the public’s economic worries. Currently, 32% say the job situation is the national economic issue that worries them most, while 29% cite rising prices and 27% the federal budget deficit. Just three months ago, jobs far surpassed all other economic worries – 40% cited the job situation, 25% said the budget deficit and just 22% rising prices.

### Public Feels Squeezed by Prices; Stocks, Housing Have Less Impact

*How much does each affect your own household finances?*



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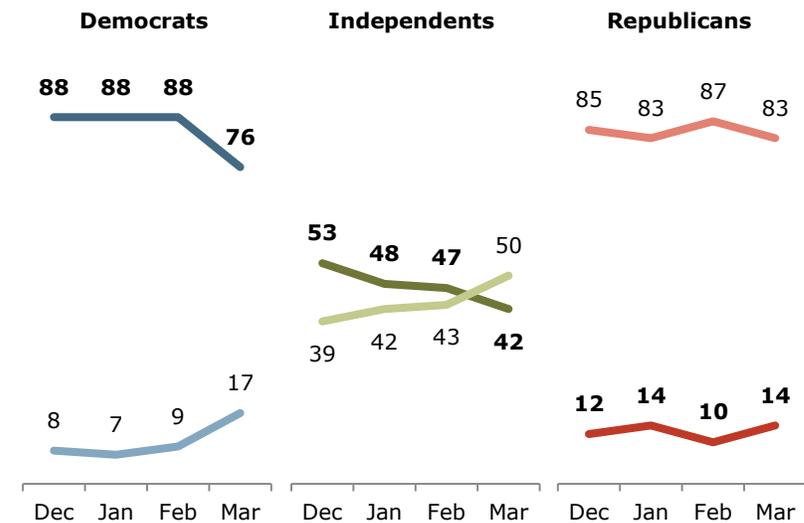
## SECTION 1: OBAMA JOB APPROVAL, CONFIDENCE ON BUDGET DEFICIT

Since December, Obama's job approval has declined among Democrats and independents. His job approval among Republicans, already low in December (12% approve), remains about that low today (14%).

About three-quarters of Democrats (76%) approve of Obama's job performance, down 12 points since December. His job approval has declined 13 points among conservative and moderate Democrats (from 83% to 70%) and eight points among liberal Democrats (from 95% to 87%).

Just 42% of independents approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president. In December, 53% approved of his job performance. The shift since then has come largely among Democratic-leaning independents: 71% approve today, down from 82% in December. There has been less change among Republican-leaning independents; just 15% currently say they approve of Obama's job performance.

### Obama Job Approval by Party



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## Confidence in Obama, Congressional Leaders on Budget Deficit

Despite his lower approval rating, Obama continues to engender more confidence on the federal budget deficit than either GOP leaders in Congress or Democratic congressional leaders.

A majority (53%) says they have a great deal (22%) or a fair amount (31%) of confidence in Obama when it comes to dealing with the federal budget deficit. By contrast, 39% have at least a fair amount of confidence in congressional Republican leaders on the deficit and just 8% have a great deal of confidence. Democratic congressional leaders fair only slightly better: 45% have at least a fair amount of confidence in Democratic leaders; 11% have a great deal of confidence.

### Obama Engenders More Confidence on Budget Deficit

<i>Confidence in each in dealing w/ budget deficit ...</i>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>GOP leaders</b>	<b>Dem leaders</b>
	%	%	%
Great deal	22	8	11
Fair amount	31	31	34
Not too much/None	46	58	53
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

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These views have changed little since September 2011, shortly after the contentious negotiations over raising the nation's debt ceiling. At that time, 52% had a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in Obama on the deficit, 35% expressed that degree of confidence in GOP leaders and 43% had confidence in Democratic leaders.

Democrats express more confidence in Obama and Democratic leaders to deal with the budget deficit than Republicans express in GOP leaders. Fully 86% of Democrats have at least a fair amount of confidence in Obama, while 77% have that level of confidence in Democratic leaders. By contrast, 63% of Republicans have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in GOP leaders to deal with the deficit.

### Dems Are More Confident in Their Leaders than Reps Are in Theirs

<i>% great deal/ fair amount of confidence in each on budget deficit</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Barack Obama	53	13	86	46
Republican leaders	39	63	20	42
Democratic leaders	45	16	77	38

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Independents are divided when it comes to confidence in Obama's handling of the deficit: 46% say they have at least a fair amount of confidence, while 52% have little or no confidence. About four-in-ten independents (42%) say they have at least a fair amount of confidence in GOP congressional leaders while 55% have little or no

confidence.

## Public Still Unwilling to Cut Entitlement Benefits to Reduce Deficit

As Washington debates competing deficit reduction plans, the public continues to say it is more important to keep Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are than to take steps to reduce the budget deficit. There has been little change in these opinions over the past two years.

Majorities across all age groups say it is more important to maintain Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are than it is to take steps to reduce the budget deficit. Nonetheless, those 65 and older are more likely than younger people to express this view.

By about four-to-one (73% to 19%), Democrats prioritize keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are over taking steps to reduce the deficit. Independents, by 49% to 37%, also say it is more important to keep Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are. By contrast, Republicans give higher priority to deficit reduction: 52% say it is more important to take steps to cut the deficit, while 37% say it is more important to keep Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are.

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### Most Prioritize Maintaining Entitlements over Cutting Deficit

	Jun 2011	Aug 2012	Mar 2013
<i>What is more important ?</i>	%	%	%
Keeping Social Security/Medicare benefits as they are	60	51	55
Taking steps to reduce the deficit	32	33	34
Both/Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Broad Support for Maintaining Entitlement Benefits

	Maintain SS/ Medicare benefits	Reduce budget deficit	Both/ DK
<i>Which is more important?</i>	%	%	%
Total	55	34	11=100
18-29	52	42	6=100
30-49	54	35	11=100
50-64	53	34	13=100
65+	64	22	15=100
Republican	37	52	12=100
Democrat	73	19	8=100
Independent	49	37	13=100

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Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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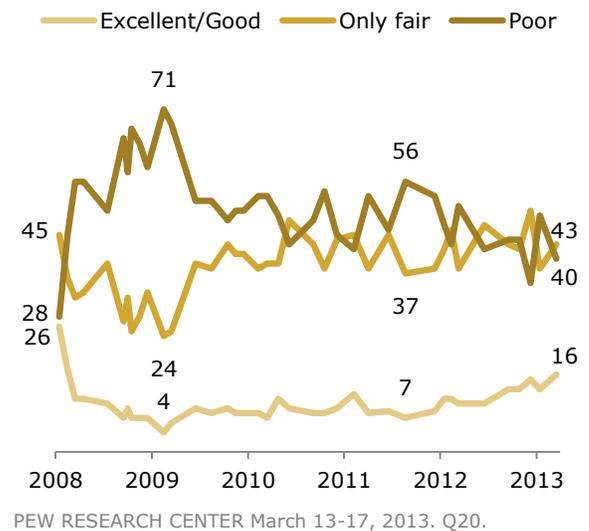
## SECTION 2: NATIONAL ECONOMY, PERSONAL FINANCES

The public's views of current economic conditions remain largely negative. And an increasing percentage thinks that the economy will be worse a year from now than it is today.

Overall, 43% rate current economic conditions in this country today as only fair, while nearly as many (40%) say they are poor. Very few describe economic conditions as excellent or good (16%).

Opinions about the national economy vary only modestly by family income: No more than about one-in-five in any income category rates the economy positively. There continue to be partisan differences in views of economic conditions – Republicans (53%) and independents (42%) are more likely than Democrats (27%) to rate current economic conditions as poor.

### Views of the National Economy



Consistent with the negative economic ratings, only 27% say the economy is currently recovering. About three-in-ten (31%) say the economy is not yet recovering but will recover soon. A 40% plurality says it will be a long time before the economy recovers. These opinions have changed little since last October.

College graduates are more likely than those with lower levels of education to say the economy is currently recovering. Four-in-ten (40%) college graduates say the economy is recovering, compared with just 22% of those without a college degree.

Democrats mostly say the recovery is already underway (43%) or will occur soon (35%); just 20% say it will be a long time before the economy recovers. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say it will be a long time before the economy recovers.

### Plurality Says Recovery Is a Long Way Off

	Economy is recovering	Not recovering yet, but will soon	Will be long time before recovers	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	27	31	40	2=100
College grad+	40	26	33	1=100
Some college	22	34	44	0=100
HS or less	22	32	43	3=100
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000+	34	22	44	*=100
\$30,000-\$75,000	27	34	38	*=100
<\$30,000	21	31	45	3=100
Republican	9	25	65	1=100
Democrat	43	35	20	2=100
Independent	26	30	44	*=100

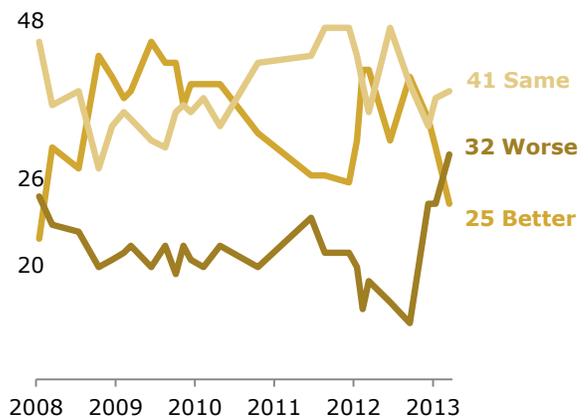
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### Declining Economic Optimism

For the first time in Obama's presidency, more say they expect economic conditions to be worse a year from now (32%) than better (25%); 41% expect conditions to be about the same as now. In January, opinion was flipped, with somewhat more expecting the economy to be better in a year (33%) than worse (25%). Last March, 44% expected that economic conditions would be better in a year, while just 14% said they would be worse.

### More Say Economy Will Be Worse than Better a Year from Now

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



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A year ago, about four-in-ten in all family income groups said they expected the economy to improve over the next year. Today, just 23% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, as do 21% of those with incomes of between \$30,000 and \$75,000 and 31% of those with family incomes of less than \$30,000.

### Broad Decline in National Economic Optimism

<i>Year from now, economy will be...</i>	<i>Mar 2012</i>			<i>Mar 2013</i>			<b>Change in 'Better'</b>
	<b>Better</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Better</b>	<b>Worse</b>	<b>Same</b>	
Total	44	14	38	25	32	41	-19
Republican	28	18	49	14	43	43	-14
Democrat	62	7	29	40	18	39	-22
Independent	37	17	42	19	37	44	-18
<i>Family income</i>							
\$75,000+	43	11	42	23	32	43	-20
\$30,000-\$75,000	43	17	37	21	28	50	-22
<\$30,000	42	15	41	31	33	34	-11

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As in recent years, Democrats have a more positive economic outlook than do independents or Republicans. But among all three groups, economic optimism has declined since last year. Currently, 40% of Democrats say they expect economic conditions to be better a year from now; 62% expressed that view last March. Among independents and Republicans, economic optimism also has declined since last March (by 18 points and 14 points, respectively).

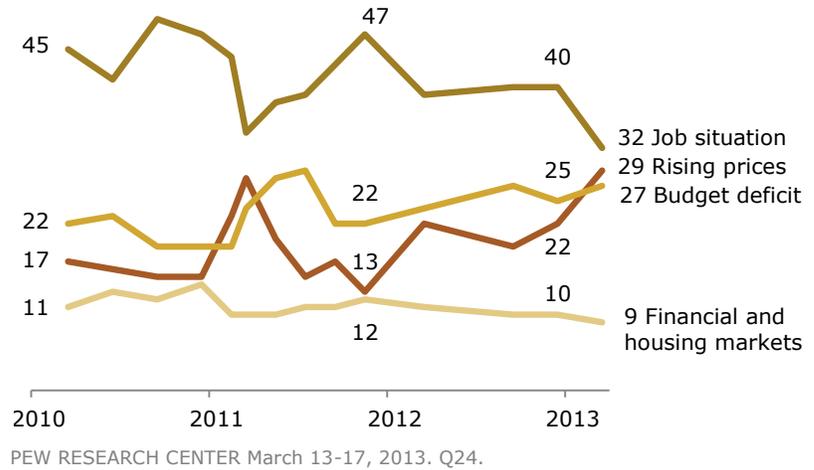
## Prices Surge as Top Economic Worry

In the current survey, 32% say the job situation is the national economic issue that most worries them. But nearly as many (29%) cite rising prices, while 27% say that the federal budget deficit is their biggest economic worry. Just 9% say problems in the housing and financial markets are their top economic worry.

In December, 40% said jobs were the issue that most worried them, while 25% said the budget deficit and just 22% named rising prices; 10% said problems in the markets.

Rising prices are of particular concern to those with lower family incomes. For example, 33% of those earning less than \$30,000 a year cite rising prices as their top economic worry, about the same percentage as cites the job situation (34%). By contrast, those with family incomes over \$75,000 express more concern over the federal budget deficit (42%) and the job situation (27%) than over rising prices (19%).

### Which Economic Issue Worries You Most?



## Gas, Food Prices Seen as Having Biggest Impact on Finances

Nearly two-thirds (64%) say gas prices affect their household's financial situation a lot, and 58% say prices for food and consumer goods affect them a lot. About four-in-ten say the federal budget deficit (39%) and the job situation (39%) affect their household finances a lot. Just 32% say

real estate values in their area affect them a lot and even fewer (23%) say how the stock market is doing affects their household financial situation a lot. Views of household financial pressures are little changed from when the question was last asked in April 2011.

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### Views of Household Financial Pressures

<i>% saying each affects household finances "a lot"</i>	<b>Gas prices</b>	<b>Food prices</b>	<b>Budget deficit</b>	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>Real estate</b>	<b>Stock market</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	64	58	39	39	32	23
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75,000 or more	57	53	39	27	38	37
\$30,000-\$74,999	68	58	41	43	31	19
Less than \$30,000	69	65	40	48	32	16

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Gas prices are an especially pressing concern for those with family incomes below \$75,000 a year. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) of those earning less than \$75,000 a year say gas prices affect their household's financial situation a lot, compared with 57% of those earning \$75,000 or more. People with incomes of less than \$75,000 also are more likely than those with higher incomes to say that their household finances are affected a lot by the availability of jobs in their area.

The performance of the stock market has much more of an impact on those earning \$75,000 or more (37% say this affects their household a lot) than on those earning \$30,000-\$74,999 (19% a lot) and those earning under \$30,000 (16% a lot). Still, even for those with higher incomes, more say gas and food prices impact their finances than the stock market.

## Many Still Facing Financial Stress

More than four years after the start of the recession, most Americans with low family incomes are experiencing financial problems. Overall, 42% of the public say they have faced one or more of the following in the past year: difficulty obtaining or paying for medical care; problems paying their rent or mortgage; or losing a job.

Among those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 a year, 60% have faced one or more of these problems in the past year. By comparison, only about a quarter (24%) of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more report encountering at least one of these problems.

Blacks continue to be much more likely than whites to face these financial problems. About half of blacks (54%) say they have either had problems getting or paying for medical care, trouble affording their rent or mortgage or been laid off. By comparison, 38% of whites have faced one or more of these problems.

When it comes to overall assessments of their personal finances, impressions have changed little in recent years. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say their finances are in excellent or good shape, while 41% say their finances are only fair and 21% say their finances are poor. While a majority (63%) of those with family incomes of at least \$75,000 rate their finances positively, just 19% of those with incomes below \$30,000 do the same.

Despite the gloomy outlook for the national economy, most people (60%) continue to say that their own finances will improve at least some over the course of the next year. While views of personal finances vary little across age groups, financial optimism continues to be more widespread among younger people: 77% of those younger than 30 expect their finances to improve, as do 70% of those 30 to 49; fewer than half (44%) of those 50 and older expect their finances to improve.

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### Most Low-Income Americans Say They Have Faced Financial Strains

<i>% reporting one or more financial problems in past year*...</i>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	44	40	42
18-29	54	48	45
30-49	49	44	51
50-64	48	41	41
65+	20	21	23
White	40	37	38
Black	58	45	54
Hispanics	--	51	49
College grad+	29	25	29
Some college	48	49	45
HS or less	52	45	47
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	21	23	24
\$30,000-\$74,999	43	39	39
Less than \$30,000	70	63	60

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Whites and blacks include only those who are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.  
\* Problems obtaining medical care, paying for housing or been laid off.

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## Investors See Market Gains, Remain Bullish

Americans who have money in the stock market (45% of the public) say they have reaped benefits from the market's gains. Most of those with money invested in the market say their investments have gone up a little (58%) or a lot (13%) over the past year. Just 22% of investors say their portfolio has lost value over the past year.

Most investors say it is still a good time to invest in the market. Overall, the public is divided – 43% see this as a good time to invest while 45% say it is a bad time. Among investors, who are largely those with higher incomes, 59% see this as a good time to invest in the stock market while 34% say it is bad time. Among those with no money in the market, a majority (55%) says this is a bad time to invest in the market.

Lower-income Americans are generally unable to set aside savings for the future, whether they invest that money in the market or not. Overall, just 41% of Americans say they have been able to save money for the future while 58% say they have not. There are wide socio-economic divides in the percentages saying they have saved for the future: 63% of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say they have saved for the future, compared with 24% of those with incomes below \$30,000.

A related Pew Research Center report, published last October, found that Americans are more worried about their retirement finances today than they were at the end of the recession in 2009. (See [“More Americans Worry about Financing Retirement,”](#) Oct. 22, 2012.)

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### Investors Report Recent Market Gains

<i>In past year, value of stock investments has ...</i>	<b>Mar 2013</b> %
Gone up a lot	13
Gone up a little	58
Gone down a little	17
Gone down a lot	5
Stayed about same (vol.)	4
Don't know	4
	100

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### Investors Are Bullish about the Market

<i>Good/bad time to invest in stock market?</i>	<b>Good</b> %	<b>Bad</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Total	43	45	12=100
Investor (45%)	59	34	7=100
Non-Investor (53%)	29	55	15=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	61	31	8=100
\$30,000-\$75,000	43	49	8=100
Less than \$30,000	29	57	14=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q37. Investors include those who have retirement accounts. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## On the Job, Some Say the Workload is Rising

The percentage of Americans who say they have gotten a better job, or received a raise at their current job, has remained steady in recent years. About three-in-ten people (28%) –including 44% of those working full or part-time – say they have gotten a better job or gotten a raise in the past year.

Some working people, especially those with more education, say that in the past year they have been asked to do more work or work additional hours without more pay. Overall, 29% of working people say they have been asked to do more work without additional pay in the past year. Among college graduates, including those with post-graduate degrees, 40% report being asked to work extra hours or do more work without more pay. That compares with 22% of those with no more than a high school education.

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### Many College Grads Say They've Been Asked to Work More

<i>Asked to do more work without added pay... (Based on employed)</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	29	70	1=100
18-29	20	80	*=100
30-49	34	66	*=100
50-64	32	68	1=100
College grad+	40	59	1=100
Some college	27	73	0=100
HS or less	22	78	*=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	35	65	1=100
\$30,000-\$75,000	29	71	*=100
Less than \$30,000	25	75	0=100

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 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Based on people who are employed full or part-time.

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## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 13-17, 2013, 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 (750 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 751 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 385 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 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 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	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	420	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	487	5.2 percentage points
Independent	498	5.1 percentage points
\$75,000+	413	5.6 percentage points
\$30,000-\$75,000	476	5.2 percentage points
<\$30,000	437	5.5 percentage points
College grad	527	5.0 percentage points
Some college	450	5.4 percentage points
H.S. or less	512	5.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 14-17, 2013, among a national sample of 924 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (512 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 412 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 197 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and Universal Survey 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. 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 region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 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	924	3.9 percentage points
Republican	228	7.8 percentage points
Democrat	300	6.8 percentage points
Independent	315	6.6 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?

	December 2012			March 2013			2013 N
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	55	39	6	47	46	8	1501
<b>SEX</b>							
Men	55	41	5	44	47	9	712
Women	55	38	7	50	44	6	789
<b>AGE</b>							
18-49	59	35	6	51	41	8	639
50+	50	44	6	41	52	7	843
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>							
18-29	63	31	6	54	34	12	239
30-49	56	38	6	49	46	5	400
50-64	52	42	6	41	51	8	460
65+	47	47	6	41	53	6	383
<b>GENDER BY AGE</b>							
Men 18-49	56	38	6	49	41	10	336
Men 50+	52	44	4	36	56	9	371
Women 18-49	61	32	6	53	40	6	303
Women 50+	48	44	8	45	49	6	472
<b>RACE</b>							
White, non-Hispanic	43	50	7	35	58	7	1048
Black, non-Hispanic	95	4	2	88	6	6	162
Hispanic	75	19	6	62	25	12	155
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
College grad+	56	39	5	52	44	3	527
Some college	51	43	6	40	53	7	450
High school or less	57	36	7	48	41	11	512
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>							
\$75,000+	51	43	5	39	56	5	413
\$30,000-\$74,999	53	43	4	46	47	6	476
Less than \$30,000	60	31	8	52	37	10	437
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>							
Total Protestants	48	47	5	42	50	7	784
White NH evang. Prot.	30	65	5	20	73	7	317
White NH mainline Prot.	40	53	7	37	55	8	236
Total Catholic	59	33	7	50	43	6	325
White NH Cath.	49	41	11	37	62	2	210
Unaffiliated	67	29	5	53	35	11	256
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>							
Weekly or more	48	46	7	45	49	5	565
Less than weekly	59	36	5	48	44	9	926
<b>REGION</b>							
Northeast	59	35	6	53	41	6	279
Midwest	52	42	6	48	44	8	318
South	55	38	7	45	48	7	555
West	53	42	5	44	47	10	349

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)**

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

	December 2012			March 2013			2013 N
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>							
Yes, certain	53	42	5	45	49	6	1172
Not registered	59	31	10	51	37	12	329
<b>PARTY ID</b>							
Republican	12	85	4	14	83	3	420
Democrat	88	8	4	76	17	7	487
Independent	53	39	8	42	50	9	498
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>							
Rep/Lean Rep	15	79	5	15	83	3	623
Dem/Lean Dem	86	9	5	74	17	9	709
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative	30	62	7	29	67	4	598
Moderate	61	32	6	50	41	9	514
Liberal	85	12	3	73	17	10	314
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative Republican	6	91	3	10	87	3	289
Mod/Lib Republican	23	71	6	23	74	4	127
Mod/Cons Democrat	83	11	6	70	21	8	290
Liberal Democrat	95	3	2	87	8	5	178
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>							
Men	42	53	5	33	60	7	491
Women	45	46	9	37	57	6	557
18-49	46	47	7	37	56	7	377
50+	41	52	7	33	61	6	664
College grad+	51	44	5	45	51	3	400
Some college or less	40	52	8	30	61	8	645
Male college grad+	49	47	4	44	53	4	191
Female college grad+	52	42	6	47	50	3	209
Male some college or less	38	57	5	28	63	8	298
Female some college or less	42	48	10	32	59	8	347
\$75,000+	46	48	6	35	62	3	340
\$30,000-\$74,999	43	52	4	38	56	6	345
Less than \$30,000	41	48	11	33	56	11	249
Republican	8	89	3	10	87	3	366
Democrat	85	10	5	72	22	5	281
Independent	44	47	9	31	59	10	357
Northeast	49	43	8	42	53	5	196
Midwest	44	49	7	42	51	7	260
South	39	54	7	26	67	8	363
West	44	51	5	35	59	6	229

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 13-17, 2013**  
**N=1,501**

**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]**

	Approve	Dis- Approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Approve	Dis- Approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13				

See past presidents' approval trends: [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

**NO QUESTIONS 2-4****QUESTION 5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.6F1 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the national debt or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

Mar 13-17

2013

36	Taking steps to reduce the national debt
53	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are
8	Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=752]:**

Q.7F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are	(VOL.) Both Equally	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 13-17, 2013	32	57	8	3
Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012 (SDT) <sup>1</sup>	32	56	8	5
Aug 16-19, 2012	33	51	11	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	35	58	2	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	32	60	4	5
February, 1995	24	70	2	4

Q.6F1/7F2 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the (national debt/budget deficit) or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

	Taking steps to reduce the national debt/ budget deficit	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are	(VOL.) Both Equally	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 13-17, 2013 <sup>2</sup>	34	55	8	3

**NO QUESTIONS 8-14****QUESTION 15c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 15a,b,e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 16-17****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=752]:**

Q.18 How much confidence do you have in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with the federal budget deficit – a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	No confidence at all	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F2 Barack Obama					
Mar 13-17, 2013	22	31	16	30	2
Sep 22-25, 2011	18	34	21	25	2
May 25-30, 2011	22	33	22	21	2
Dec 1-5, 2010	19	34	20	24	4
b.F2 Republican leaders in Congress					
Mar 13-17, 2013	8	31	31	28	2
Sep 22-25, 2011	5	30	31	31	4
May 25-30, 2011	7	40	31	20	2
Dec 1-5, 2010	6	34	29	27	4
c.F2 Democratic leaders in Congress					
Mar 13-17, 2013	11	34	27	26	2
Sep 22-25, 2011	10	33	29	24	3
May 25-30, 2011	12	39	28	18	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	9	33	28	24	5

**NO QUESTION 19**

<sup>1</sup> In Dec 2012 the question began, "Now thinking about some issues that have been in the news lately. In your opinion, what is more important" and rotated the two items.

<sup>2</sup> In the current survey, a question wording experiment asked form 1 respondents about "taking steps to reduce the national debt" and form two respondents about "the budget deficit" as it was asked in all prior surveys. The results of the experiment showed no statistically significant difference between the two versions. Responses shown here are based on the combined total.

**RANDOMIZE Q.20/Q.21F1/Q.21F2 BLOCK WITH Q.22/Q.23 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the nation's economy...

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

**Q.20 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 <sup>3</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.20/Q.21F1/Q.21F2 BLOCK WITH Q.22/Q.23 BLOCK****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.21F1 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>
Mar 13-17, 2013	25	32	41	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	25	40	2
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	25	36	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	43	8	42	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	34	11	50	5
Mar 7-11, 2012	44	14	38	4
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
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

<sup>3</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
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
Newsweek: January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

**RANDOMIZE Q.20/Q.21F1/Q.21F2 BLOCK WITH Q.22/Q.23 BLOCK****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=752]:**

Q.21F2 Which of these best describes your opinion: **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]**?

	<u>The economy is recovering</u>	<u>The economy is not yet recovering but will recover soon</u>	<u>It will be a long time before the economy recovers</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	27	31	40	2
Oct 24-28, 2012	30	31	36	3
Sep 12-16, 2012	25	30	43	1
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 <sup>4</sup>	10	37	52	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	13	35	50	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	13	37	48	2

**RANDOMIZE Q.20/Q.21F1/Q.21F2 BLOCK WITH Q.22/Q.23 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.22 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.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	6	32	41	21	1
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
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1

<sup>4</sup> In September 2010 and earlier, the first answer choice read "The economy is now recovering."

**Q.22 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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.20/Q.21F1/Q.21F2 BLOCK WITH Q.22/Q.23 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.23 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>
Mar 13-17, 2013	8	52	19	9	10	2
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.23 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.24 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

	The job <u>situation</u>	Rising <u>prices</u>	The federal <u>budget deficit</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
Mar 13-17, 2013	32	29	27	9	2	*	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	22	25	10	2	*	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	40	19	27	10	2	1	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	22	24	11	2	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	13	22	12	2	1	2
Sep 1-4, 2011	43	17	22	11	4	2	2
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	15	29	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	20	28	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	28	24	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	23	19	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	15	19	14	1	1	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	15	19	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	16	23	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	17	22	11	2	*	2

## NO QUESTION 25

**ASK ALL:**

EMPLOY2 Are you now employed full-time, part-time, retired or are you not employed for pay?

Mar 13-17

2013

56	NET Employed
42	Full-time
12	Part-time
2	Own business/self-employed (VOL.)
43	NET Not employed
20	Retired
18	Not employed for pay
3	Disabled (VOL.)
2	Student (VOL.)
1	NET Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
*	Other (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED (EMPLOY2=3,4,6,7,8) [N=713]:**

EMPLOY1 Are you currently looking for work, or not?

Mar 13-17

2013

25	Yes, looking for work
74	No, not looking for work
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF EMPLOYED PART-TIME [N=165]:**

EMPLOY7 Would you prefer to be working full-time, or not?

Mar 13-17

2013

61	Yes,
39	No
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

EMPLOY2 Are you now employed full-time, part-time, retired or are you not employed for pay?

**ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED (EMPLOY2=3,4,6,7,8):**

EMPLOY1 Are you currently looking for work, or not?

**ASK IF EMPLOYED PART-TIME:**

EMPLOY7 Would you prefer to be working full-time, or not?

Mar 13-17

2013

44	Employed full-time/Self-employed
12	Employed part-time
7	Would prefer full-time
5	Don't prefer full-time
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
44	NET Not employed/Other
11	Currently looking
33	Currently not looking
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF EMPLOYED [N=787]:**

Q.26 At your current job in the past year, have you been asked to do more work or work extra hours without additional pay, or not?

Mar 13-17

2013

29	Yes
70	No
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that happened to you in the past year.... (In the past year) Have you **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**? **[IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage			
Mar 13-17, 2013	23	76	1
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	23	76	*
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	73	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	24	76	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	20	80	*
January, 2008 (SDT)	16	83	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:<sup>5</sup></b>			
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	13	87	*
b. Been laid off or lost your job			
Mar 13-17, 2013	15	84	1
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	15	85	*
Jun 15-19, 2011	16	84	*
Mar 10-14, 2010	21	79	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	18	82	*
January, 2008 (SDT)	14	85	1
c. Had trouble getting or paying for medical care			
Mar 13-17, 2013	28	71	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
<i>Had trouble getting or paying for medical care</i>			
<i>for yourself or your family</i>			
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	25	74	*
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	70	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	26	74	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	23	77	*
January, 2008 (SDT)	23	76	1
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	21	78	*
d. Gotten a pay raise at your current job or gotten a better job			
Mar 13-17, 2013	28	70	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	25	74	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	24	74	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	29	70	1
January, 2008 (SDT)	41	57	2
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	29	69	2

<sup>5</sup> Trends for comparison for items 27a, 27b, 27d and 27e are from a study conducted by the Washington Post, Kaiser and Harvard from June 30 to August 30, 1999. The introduction to these items was: "For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that has happened to you and your immediate family during the past year..."

**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
e.	Been able to save money for the future Mar 13-17, 2013	41	58	1
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> <i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	58	42	*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.28 Do you have any major credit cards, or not?

		<i>CBS News:</i>	
Mar 13-17		Aug 27-31	Dec 5-9
<u>2013</u>		<u>2009<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>2007</u>
55	Yes	65	63
44	No	34	35
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	2

**ASK IF HAVE MAJOR CREDIT CARDS (Q.28=1) [N=942]:**

Q.29 Do you now owe more money, less money, or do you owe about the same amount on your credit cards as you did a year ago?

		<i>CBS News:</i>	
Mar 13-17		Aug 27-31	
<u>2013</u>		<u>2009<sup>7</sup></u>	
16	More	14	
25	Less	28	
49	Same	43	
9	Don't have credit cards/carry a balance <b>(VOL.)</b>	15	
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	0	

**NO QUESTIONS 30-34****ASK ALL:**

OWNRENT Do you own or rent your home?

Mar 13-17		Feb
<u>2013</u>		<u>2009</u>
58	Own	64
36	Rent	31
6	Other arrangement <b>(VOL.)</b>	4
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1

**ASK IF OWN HOME (OWNRENT=1):**

MORTGAGE Do you pay money on a mortgage or other home loan, or is your home paid for?

**ASK IF PAY MORTGAGE (MORTGAGE=1):**

MORTGAGE2 Some people feel that if they had to sell their home right now it would sell for less than they owe on their mortgage. Does this apply to you, or not?

**BASED ON HOMEOWNERS [N=993]:**

Mar 13-17		Feb
<u>2013</u>		<u>2009</u>
66	Pay a mortgage	67
22	Yes, it would sell for less than owed	20
43	No, it would not sell for less than owed	44
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3
33	Home is paid for	31
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2

<sup>6</sup> In Aug 2009, the CBS question did not include "or not."<sup>7</sup> In Aug 2009, the CBS question read, "Compared to a year ago, do you owe more money now on your credit cards, less money on your credit cards, or do you owe about the same amount of money as you did a year ago?"

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.35F1 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area **[READ]**?

	(VOL.)					(VOL.)
	<u>Gone up a lot</u>	<u>Gone up a little</u>	<u>Gone down a little</u>	<u>Gone down a lot</u>	<u>Stayed about the same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	12	39	17	13	9	10
Jun 15-19, 2011	9	16	29	36	5	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	8	17	34	29	5	8
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	8	13	35	31	6	8
December, 2008	11	11	33	34	5	6
Early October, 2008	19	14	29	25	4	9
July, 2008	20	13	32	24	5	6
Early February, 2008	28	18	23	18	3	10
September, 2007	28	22	25	15	3	7

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.36F1 And how about over the next few years... Do you think the price of homes in your area will **[READ]**?

	(VOL.)					(VOL.)
	<u>Go up a lot</u>	<u>Go up a little</u>	<u>Go down a little</u>	<u>Go down a lot</u>	<u>Stay about the same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	17	53	16	4	5	5
Jun 15-19, 2011	9	45	28	9	4	5
Dec 1-5, 2010	10	47	25	8	4	7
July, 2008	14	40	29	7	4	6
Early February, 2008	15	40	26	8	4	7
September, 2007	17	36	28	8	5	6
June, 2007	26	36	23	5	4	6

**ASK ALL:**

INVEST Do you have any money invested in the stock market – including retirement accounts like IRAs or 401ks – or not?

Mar 13-17

2013

45 Yes

53 No

1 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.37 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to invest in the stock market?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>		Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid-May <u>2005</u>
4	Very good	7	5	3	5	3
38	Good	32	26	37	41	42
35	Bad	38	35	35	27	32
10	Very bad	16	18	7	7	8
12	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7	16	18	20	15

**ASK IF HAVE MONEY IN THE STOCK MARKET (INVEST=1) [N=776]:**

Q.38 Over the past year, has the value of your stock market investments [READ]?

Mar 13-17

2013

13	Gone up a lot
58	Gone up a little
17	Gone down a little
5	Gone down a lot
4	Stayed about the same (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO QUESTIONS 39-44, 49-55, 58-60, 64, 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84, 93-97****QUESTIONS 45-48, 56-57, 77, 85-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTIONS 61-63, 65, 70-71, 73, 98-102 PREVIOUS RELEASED****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
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb. 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9

**PARTY PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=623]:**

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

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>		Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u>	Jan 9-13 <u>2013</u>
43	Agree	36	35
7	Disagree	9	10
47	No opinion either way	52	51
1	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	3	2

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls
(SDT)	Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends project

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**March 14-17, 2013 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=924**

**PEW.1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS PEW.2-PEW.5****PEW.6-PEW.7 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL**

Next,

PEW.8 Not all people face the same financial pressures. Please tell me how much each of the following affects your own household's financial situation. First, **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** – does this affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little, or not at all? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Does this affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little or not at all?]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The availability of jobs in your area				
	March 14-17, 2013	39	25	34	2
	March 30-April 3, 2011 <sup>8</sup>	42	26	30	1
b.	How the stock market is doing				
	March 14-17, 2013	23	33	40	4
	March 30-April 3, 2011	24	37	34	5
c.	Real estate values in your area				
	March 14-17, 2013	32	33	32	3
	March 30-April 3, 2011 <sup>9</sup>	35	28	34	3
d.	Gas prices				
	March 14-17, 2013	64	25	10	1
	March 30-April 3, 2011	69	23	7	1
e.	Prices for food and consumer goods				
	March 14-17, 2013	58	32	9	1
	March 30-April 3, 2011	58	34	7	1
f.	The federal budget deficit				
	March 14-17, 2013	39	36	20	5
	March 30-April 3, 2011	43	34	19	4

**PEW.9-PEW.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>8</sup> In 2011, item read "The job situation."

<sup>9</sup> In 2011, item read "Real estate values."