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For The People & The Press

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1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel (202) 419-4350
Fax (202) 419-4399

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Republicans' Views of Economy Sour
NATION'S REAL ESTATE SLUMP HITS WEALTHY AREAS

Also inside...

- 40% say home prices have fallen in past year
- Owners more pessimistic than renters
- Iraq tops economy as national problem

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Shawn Neidorf, Research Associate
Pew Research Center for the People & the Press
202/419-4350
<http://www.people-press.org>

Republicans' Views of Economy Sour

NATION'S REAL ESTATE SLUMP HITS WEALTHY AREAS

Public assessments of the nation's economy have fallen to a two-year low, and the nation's economic outlook remains relatively gloomy. In particular, faced with a steady stream of negative news about the U.S. housing market, Americans are substantially less inclined than they were even a few months ago to say they expect home prices to increase over the next few years. People living in areas with the most expensive homes and middle-income Americans are particularly likely to say that future home prices will decline.

Overall, 53% of Americans think local housing prices will climb in the next few years, down from 62% in June, while the number expecting prices to fall has increased from 28% to 36%. Market predictions differ by the value of housing near where a person lives. In metropolitan areas where the median single-family home sells for \$300,000 or more, nearly as many people believe prices will go down (45%) in coming years as say prices will go up (47%). By comparison, most people in metropolitan areas where home prices are lower foresee at least modest gains in housing values.¹

Nationally, Republicans, middle-income Americans and residents of the West and Midwest have become less bullish about the real estate market. Only about half of Republicans (51%) now believe that home prices will rise in coming years, down from 66% in June. Fewer people with annual household incomes of between \$30,000 and \$49,999 also see house prices increasing (50% vs. 64% in June). Regionally, the largest decline has come in the West (13 points), followed by the Midwest (11 points). Southerners are slightly less likely to say prices will go up than they were in June, but they

Fewer Americans See Home Prices Rising

	<i>Local home prices will...</i>			
	Go up	Go down	(Vol.) Same	DK
	%	%	%	%
September 2007	53	36	5	6=100
June 2007	62	28	4	6=100

<i>Median home prices (in metropolitan areas)*</i>				
\$300,000 and up	47	45	5	3=100
\$200,000 to \$299,900	56	33	5	6=100
\$150,000 to \$199,900	56	32	3	9=100
Less than \$150,000	55	34	4	7=100

* Preliminary median prices for single-family homes in urban/suburban areas by MSA for Q2 2007 provided by the National Association of Realtors. Data not available for all metropolitan areas or rural areas.

Regional Divide in Views of Future Home Prices

	<i>Local home prices will rise a lot/little</i>		
	June 2007	Sept 2007	Change
	%	%	
Total	62	53	-9
East	56	49	-7
Midwest	62	51	-11
South	66	60	-6
West	59	46	-13
Republican	66	51	-15
Democrat	61	53	-8
Independent	61	53	-8
\$75K+	60	56	-4
\$50K-74,999	62	52	-10
\$30K-49,999	64	50	-14
Less than \$30K	64	57	-7

¹ Analysis limited to 145 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) where median prices for single-family homes were available from the National Association of Realtors.

are substantially more likely to say so than people living in any other region.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted September 12-16 among 1,501 adults, finds that a solid majority (65%) believes that over the past few years, home prices have gone up a lot or a little in their areas. However, the proportion saying that home prices have gone down over the past few years has jumped up in just the last three months – from 18% to 27% currently.

Moreover, people have decidedly different impressions of local real estate conditions over the past year than over the past few years. Just half of Americans say that, over the past 12 months, home prices have gone up in their areas, while 40% say prices have declined. By contrast, 65% say prices have gone up over the past few years, while fewer than half as many (27%) say prices have fallen over this longer timeframe.

People who live in areas with higher-cost housing are the most likely to say prices have gone down over the past year. A solid majority (54%) of those living in metropolitan areas with median home prices of \$300,000 or more say home prices in their area are lower today than they were a year ago. That view is shared by 44% of those living in areas with median prices in the \$200,000 to \$299,000 price range. By contrast, the majority of people living in less costly areas say that home prices in their communities have risen in the past year.

Nationally, those with higher incomes more often say prices in their areas have fallen: 52% of those in households with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more in income say prices have gone down, compared with 32% for those in households with incomes of less than \$30,000.

Many Say Home Prices Have Fallen in Past Year			
	June	Sept	
	2007	2007	
<i>Over past few years</i>			
<i>prices have...</i>	%	%	
Gone up	72	65	
Gone down	18	27	
Stayed the same (Vol)	3	3	
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Over the past year</i>			
<i>prices have...</i>			
Gone up	--	50	
Gone down	--	40	
Stayed the same (Vol)	--	3	
Don't know	--	<u>7</u>	
		100	

People in Wealthy Areas See Recent Price Declines			
	<i>Over past year</i>		
	<i>prices have...</i>		
	Gone	Gone	
	<u>down</u>	<u>up</u>	
	%	%	
Total	40	50	
<i>Median home price</i>			
<i>in area*</i>			
\$300,000 and up	54	38	
\$200-299,900	44	42	
\$150-199,900	35	60	
Less than \$150,000	39	54	
East	39	49	
Midwest	46	46	
South	32	59	
West	46	41	
Suburban	48	43	
Urban	34	56	
Rural	28	57	
<i>Household income</i>			
\$75K+	52	45	
\$50K-74,999	48	47	
\$30K-49,999	39	54	
Less than \$30K	32	53	
* Analysis limited to metropolitan areas where real estate data was available (N=489).			

Regionally, Midwesterners are the most inclined to believe that prices had fallen in their areas, followed closely by Westerners. Suburbanites are substantially more likely than their urban or rural counterparts to note declines in home prices, and those with more than a high school education see declines more often than those with a high school diploma or less education.

More Republicans than independents or Democrats say home prices have fallen. This follows a larger trend seen in the latest poll in which Republicans have adopted more negative views on several key economic questions.

Homeowners and Renters

Home owners and renters have starkly different views of the real estate market. Homeowners are evenly divided over whether prices in their area have risen (45%) or fallen (46%) from a year ago. But renters, by greater than two-to-one (60% vs. 27%) say that prices have continued to rise. In fact, fully 39% of renters say home prices in their area have gone up “a lot” from a year ago, compared with 23% of homeowners.

When it comes to where the real estate market is headed, there is less of a difference of opinion. On balance, both homeowners and renters see prices rising in coming years, though again, more renters expect substantial increases. Overall, 24% of renters expect home prices to go up “a lot,” compared with 14% of homeowners.

	Home owners	Renters
<i>Over past year prices have...</i>	%	%
Gone up a lot	23	39
Gone up a little	22	21
Gone down	46	27
Stayed the same	5	0
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
<i>Over next few years prices will...</i>		
Go up a lot	14	24
Go up a little	41	26
Go down	36	35
Stay the same	6	4
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100

Negative Views of Economy

Americans are not optimistic about national economic conditions or the country's financial future. More than seven-in-ten (72%) rate the economy as "only fair" or "poor," while only about a quarter (26%) says the economy is "excellent" or "good." Looking ahead, most people (53%) expect national economic conditions to be the same a year from now, while others are split over whether it will be better (19%) or worse (23%).

Positive views of the economy have slipped since June, when 33% rated the economy as excellent or good. Opinions about the economy remain divided along partisan lines, with Republicans expressing more positive views than either Democrats or independents. But Republicans are noticeably less upbeat than they were in the summer.

Currently 46% of Republicans say the economy is excellent or good, down from 56% in June. Independents also are slightly less positive about the economy; 23% say the economy is excellent or good, compared with 29% in June. Democratic opinions have shown less change, but Democrats remain overwhelmingly negative about the state of the economy.

College graduates and people with relatively high annual household incomes also express less positive opinions about the economy than in June. The proportion of each group saying that the economy is excellent or good has declined by 10 percentage points.

When asked for a one-word impression of the economy, most Americans (64%) offer negative terms, such as "poor," "bad," "terrible" or "unstable." Just 14% use positive words to describe the economy, with "good" mentioned most frequently. Another 16% offer a neutral word or phrase.

Substantial numbers in nearly every demographic and political group cite negative words to characterize their view of the economy. Even among Republicans, negative words outnumber positive ones by 51% to 26%, with 20% using a neutral word or phrase.

	Excellent/ Only fair/		
	Good	Poor	DK
	%	%	%
2007			
September	26	72	2=100
June	33	65	2=100
February	31	68	1=100
2006			
December	38	60	2=100
November*	44	54	2=100
October	33	65	2=100
September	37	61	1=100
March	33	66	1=100
January	34	64	2=100

* November 2006 based on registered voters.

	% rating economy as excellent/good		
	June	Sept	Change
Total	33	26	-7
College grad	47	37	-10
Some college	31	25	-6
HS or less	26	21	-5
\$75,000+	49	38	-11
\$50K-74,999	33	26	-7
\$30K-49,999	29	24	-5
Less than \$30K	20	17	-3
Republican	56	46	-10
Democrat	20	16	-4
Independent	29	23	-6

Economic Outlook

When Americans are asked to predict what the economy will be like in a year, independents tend to be the most cynical. Just 14% think economic conditions will be better next year, while about twice as many (30%) predict things will get worse. Independents have been fairly consistent on this question in recent years: in January 2006, 17% said the economy would get better, and 13% said the same in February of this year.

At the start of 2006, 31% of Republicans said the economy would get better over the coming year, compared with just 12% of Democrats. But by February 2007, Republican optimism dropped 11 points to 20%, while Democratic optimism shifted up six points to 18%. Little has changed since February; in the most recent poll 22% of Republicans expect the economy to improve, as do 21% of Democrats.

	% saying economy will get better		
	Jan 2006	Feb 2007	Sept 2007
Total	20	17	19
Republican	31	20	22
Democrat	12	18	21
Independent	17	13	14
<i>R-D gap</i>	<i>+19</i>	<i>+2</i>	<i>+1</i>

Personal Financial Situation

Americans are divided when it comes to assessing their personal finances. However, people's views of their personal finances are more positive than their opinions of the national economy.

Half of Americans say their personal finances are fair or poor, virtually matched by the 48% who say their finances are good or excellent. Republicans are much more upbeat about their own financial situations. More than six-in-ten Republicans (63%) say their finances are excellent or good, while only 43% of Democrats and 45% of independents say the same.

Men are slightly more positive than women about their finances (51% to 46% excellent or good), while whites are almost twice as likely to say their finances are excellent or good than are blacks (51% vs. 27%). Not surprisingly, those who have the highest incomes are most likely to say their finances are in good or excellent shape: Almost eight-in-ten people

	Excellent/ Only fair/		
	Good	Poor	DK
Total	48	50	2=100
Men	51	48	1=100
Women	46	53	1=100
White	51	48	1=100
Black	27	72	1=100
College grad	71	29	*=100
Some college	43	56	1=100
HS or less	37	61	2=100
\$75,000+	77	23	0=100
\$50K-74,999	55	44	1=100
\$30K-49,999	39	61	*=100
Less than \$30K	23	76	1=100
Republican	63	36	1=100
Democrat	43	55	2=100
Independent	45	55	*=100

(77%) with household incomes of \$75,000 or more say so, while only 33% of those making less than \$30,000 agree.

These self-assessments of personal finances have remained relatively unchanged over the past year. There are, however, a few exceptions. Those with some college education but no degree, for example, are now notably less likely to describe their personal finances as good or excellent and, correspondingly, more likely to describe them as fair or poor. In October 2006, 52% of those with some college education described their personal financial situations positively; that figure has dropped nine points in the current survey (to 43%), while the percentage describing their finances as fair or poor increased by 10 points (from 46% to 56%).

Jobs Outlook Varies by Personal Circumstances

Half of Americans say jobs are difficult to find in their area, while 36% say jobs are plentiful. Nationally, views of the job situation have remained virtually unchanged over the past year. About six-in-ten people in the Midwest (59%) and East (58%) say jobs are hard to find in their community, while only 47% in the South and 39% in the West agree. Democrats (60%) and independents (52%) are far more likely to say that jobs are hard to find than are Republicans (38%). Women are somewhat more likely than men to say jobs are difficult to find, and blacks are substantially more likely than whites to say so.

How Plentiful Are Jobs?	
	<i>Jobs hard to find</i> %
Total	50
East	58
Midwest	59
South	47
West	39
Republican	38
Democrat	60
Independent	52
Men	46
Women	54
White	48
Black	69
College grad	43
Some college	49
HS or less	56

Iraq Remains Most Important Problem

The war in Iraq continues to dominate the public's list of the most important problems facing the nation. About four-in-ten (37%) cite Iraq as the most important problem, down slightly from 42% in January. The economy is a distant second, at 10%, followed by healthcare and dissatisfaction with the government and politics (7% each). Terrorism and immigration also are frequently mentioned as the country's top problem.

Americans' perceptions of several national problems are sharply divided along party lines. Democrats (46%) are far more likely than independents (37%) or Republicans (27%) to list the war as the biggest problem for the United States. Overall, 6% of the public volunteers terrorism as a top concern, but 14% of Republicans cite terrorism, compared with just 4% of Democrats and 2% of independents. A similar pattern follows for morality/religion/family values: 7% of Republicans see these issues as a top problem, but only 2% of independents and 1% of Democrats agree.

Men and women also split over several issues. Women are more likely than men to cite the war in Iraq as the most important problem facing the country (41% vs. 32%), but men are somewhat more likely than women to mention terrorism and immigration.

Overall far more people cite international and foreign issues than economic issues: 48% listed foreign and international issues as the country's most important problem, while only 20% listed economic matters.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Iraq	37	27	46	37
Economy	10	9	12	10
Healthcare	7	7	8	7
Govt/Politics	7	7	6	8
Terrorism	6	14	4	2
Immigration	6	11	4	4
Education	3	2	5	3
Morality/Values	3	7	1	2
Unemployment/Jobs	3	1	5	3
Defense	3	4	1	4
Poverty/Hunger	3	1	5	2
NET: Foreign	48	46	51	48
NET: Economy	20	16	24	21

Based on open-ended responses.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, from September 12-16, 2007. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=760) or Form 2 (N=741), one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters (N=568) or Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters (N=467) the margin of error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Richard Wike and Kim Parker, Senior Researchers
April Clark, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf and Allison Pond,
Research Associates
James Albrightain, Executive Assistant

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2007 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 12-16, 2007
N=1501

QUESTION 1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.

Q.2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

	Jan 2007	Sept 2006	March 2006	Jan 2006	Mid- May 2005	Jan 2005	July 2004	Mid- Jan 2004	Apr 2003	Feb 2003	Mar 2002	May 2001	Feb 2001
37 War/War in Iraq	42	25	20	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 [▲]	--	--
10 Economy (general)	5	9	7	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
7 Health care/costs	8	4	6	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
7 Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	8	6	10	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
6 Terrorism	5	14	8	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
6 Immigration	5	6	4	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
3 Education	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
3 Morality/Ethics/Family values	3	2	6	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
3 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	5	4	6	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
Defense issues/Military spending/ National & homeland security	3	1	4	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
3 Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
Energy Costs/Rising gas/heating prices	2	2	7	5	5	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22
2 Crime/Gangs/Justice system	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4
Oil dependence/Energy policy and alternatives	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1
1 Taxes (general)	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3
Environment/pollution/Global warming	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	*	*	1	3	1
Too much foreign aid/Spend money At home	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
1 Homelessness	2	--	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
U.S. foreign policy/International affairs	1	--	2	1	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2
1 Social Security	1	--	--	--	2	8	4	1	--	1	--	--	3
1 Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	1	--	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1 Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4
1 Many things/Everything	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
13 Other													
* None	*	1	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	2
5 Don't know/No answer	7	7	6	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
48 (NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/ INTERNATIONAL	50	47	34	37	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
20 (NET) ECONOMIC	15	23	22	26	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

QUESTION 3F1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

Q.4F2 What one word best describes your impression of the economy these days? Just the first word or thought that comes to mind? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

BASED ON FIRST RESPONSES ONLY*:

66	Good
66	Poor
44	Bad
24	Not good/not well
23	Fair
21	OK
18	Terrible
14	Unstable
12	Shaky
12	Down/Downer/Down hill/Downturn/Downward
11	Slow
10	Sucks
9	Depressing/Depression
9	Great
9	Stable
8	Average
8	Mediocre
8	Sad
8	Sluggish
8	Troubled/In trouble/Troubling
7	Needs help/Needs improvement/Needs work
7	Scary
7	Weak
6	Could be better/Was better
6	Crap/Crappy
6	Decent
6	Disappointing/Disappointment
6	Lousy
6	Recession–Almost, close to, biggest worry
6	Struggling
6	Worse/Getting worse

* The numbers listed above represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

14	Percent positive answers
64	Percent negative answers
16	Percent neutral answers
<u>6</u>	Percent giving no answer
100	

QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

QUESTIONS 7-22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.

NO QUESTION 23.

ROTATE Q.24/25 BLOCK WITH Q.26/27 BLOCK

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.24 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know/Refused</u>
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2=100
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2=100
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1=100
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2=100
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2=100
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2=100
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1=100
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2=100
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1=100
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1=100
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1=100
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (Gallup)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (Gallup)	3	34	42	21	0=100
January 2-5, 2004 (Gallup)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (Gallup)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (Gallup)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (Gallup)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (Gallup)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (Gallup)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (Gallup)	1	24	52	23	*=100
February 17-19, 2003 (Gallup)	1	17	48	34	*=100
February 4-6, 2002 (Gallup)	2	26	55	16	1=100
March 5-7, 2001 (Gallup)	3	43	43	10	1=100
January 7-10, 2000 (Gallup)	19	52	23	5	1=100
January 15-17, 1999 (Gallup)	14	55	27	4	*=100
March 20-22, 1998 (Gallup)	20	46	27	7	*=100
Jan 31 - Feb 2, 1997 (Gallup)	4	38	43	15	*=100
March 15-17, 1996 (Gallup)	2	31	48	18	1=100
May 11-14, 1995 (Gallup)	2	27	50	20	1=100
January 15-17, 1994 (Gallup)	*	22	54	24	*=100
February 12-14, 1993 (Gallup)	*	14	46	39	1=100
January 3-6, 1992 (Gallup)	*	12	46	41	1=100

Q.25 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?

	Don't Know/			
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	19	23	53	5=100
June, 2007	16	24	55	5=100
February, 2007	17	20	58	5=100
December, 2006	22	18	56	4=100
September, 2006	16	25	55	4=100
January, 2006	20	22	55	3=100
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3=100
January, 2005	27	18	52	3=100
August, 2004	36	9	47	8=100
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8=100
September, 2003	37	17	43	3=100
May, 2003	43	19	35	3=100
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7=100
January, 2003	30	20	44	6=100
January, 2002	44	17	36	3=100
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5=100
June, 2000	15	24	55	6=100
Early October, 1998 (Rvs)	16	22	57	5=100
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4=100
May, 1990	18	31	45	6=100
February, 1989	25	22	49	4=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3=100

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.26 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?

	Don't Know/				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2=100
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1=100
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1=100
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2=100
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1=100
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2=100
Mid- May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1=100
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1=100
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1=100
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1=100
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
QUESTION 26 CONTINUED...			Only		Don't Know/

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

Q.27 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>	Stay the Same <u>(VOL.)</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4=100
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3=100
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3=100
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4=100
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4=100
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3=100
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6=100
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3=100
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7=100
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

Q.28 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to invest in the stock market?

		Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid-May <u>2005</u>
3	Very good	5	3
37	Good	41	42
35	Bad	27	32
7	Very bad	7	8
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100

Q.29 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?

	(VOL)			
	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	36	50	6	8=100
June, 2007	39	49	5	7=100
February, 2007	39	48	6	7=100
December, 2006	40	49	5	6=100
March, 2006	37	56	3	4=100
January, 2006	33	56	6	5=100
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4=100
May, 2005	30	60	6	4=100
January, 2005	32	58	5	5=100
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11=100
August, 2004	34	55	4	7=100
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9=100
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6=100
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7=100
October, 2003	24	66	5	5=100
June, 2002	31	59	4	6=100
June, 2001	42	44	8	6 =100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	15	76	6	3 =100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	16	77	4	3 =100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	12	79	6	3 =100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=760]:

Q.30F1 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past few years, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

		June <u>2007</u>
41	Gone up a lot	50
24	Gone up a little	22
18	Gone down a little	12
9	Gone down a lot	6
3	Stay about the same (VOL.)	3
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

Q.31F2 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

28	Gone up a lot
22	Gone up a little
25	Gone down a little
15	Gone down a lot
3	Stay about the same (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.32 And how about over the next few years... Do you think the price of homes in your area will go up a lot, go up a little, go down a little or go down a lot?

		June <u>2007</u>
17	Go up a lot	26
36	Go up a little	36
28	Go down a little	23
8	Go down a lot	5
5	Stay about the same (VOL.)	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

51	Full-time
11	Part-time
38	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

IF "NOT EMPLOYED" (3 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=642]:

EMPLOY2 Is that because you are a student, because you are retired, because you choose not to work, or because you've lost or quit a job?

3	Student
19	Retired
5	Choose not to work
3	Lost or quit a job
8	Other reason (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
38%	

ASK IF 1 OR 2 “EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME” IN EMPLOY [N=856]:

Q.33 Do you now earn enough money to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2007	46	53	1=100
September, 2006 (GenNext)	49	50	1=100
January, 2006	46	53	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	40	59	1=100
May, 2004	51	48	1=100
Late February, 2004	53	46	1=100
June, 2002	43	56	1=100
January, 2001	43	56	1=100
Late September, 1999	42	58	*=100
August, 1999	39	60	1=100
Early September, 1998	43	57	*=100
November, 1997	41	59	*=100
May, 1997	46	54	*=100
June, 1996	44	56	*=100
February, 1995	41	58	1=100
July, 1994	40	60	*=100
March, 1994	44	56	*=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	36	63	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	33	66	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	65	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	39	61	*=100

ASK IF 2 ‘NO’ IN Q.33 [N=421]:

Q.34 Do you think you will be able to earn enough money in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2007	31	19	3=53%
September, 2006 (GenNext)	33	15	2=50%
January, 2006	28	23	2=53%
Mid-May, 2005	35	22	2=59%
May, 2004	25	19	4=48%
Late February, 2004	26	19	1=46%
June, 2002	30	23	3=56%
January, 2001	33	21	2=56%
Late September, 1999	33	23	2=58%
August, 1999	38	19	3=60%
Early September, 1998	36	20	1=57%
November, 1997	33	24	2=59%
May, 1997	34	18	2=54%
June, 1996	34	20	2=56%
February, 1995	35	20	3=58%
July, 1994	34	24	2=60%
March, 1994	33	20	3=56%
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	35	36	5=63%
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	36	25	5=66%
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	28	3=65%
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	22	5=61%

IF NOT EMPLOYED OR DK/REF (3,9 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=645]:

Q.35 Do you now have enough income to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		(GN)			
		Sept	Jan	May	Late Feb
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
47	Yes	53	45	50	48
50	No	44	52	47	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

IF 'NO' (2 IN Q.35) ASK [N=280]:

Q.36 Do you think you will have enough income in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		(GN)			
		Sept	Jan	May	Late Feb
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
22	Yes	22	19	18	21
25	No	18	29	25	23
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
50%		44%	52%	47%	50%

QUESTION 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

Q.38 Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans excluding your mortgage, would you say you... [READ]

		<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>				
		Jan	Mid-May	Late Feb	June	Jan
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1992</u>
7	Owe a lot more than you can afford	8	10	9	13	7
13	Owe a little more than you can afford	15	15	13	15	14
31	Owe about what you can afford	30	33	29	31	32
26	OR owe less than you can afford?	24	22	23	18	19
15	Do not have any debts (VOL.)	15	13	20	12	16
6	No credit cards or loans (VOL.)	6	5	5	10	11
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.39 Do you think your family's income is going up faster than the cost of living, staying about even with the cost of living, or falling behind the cost of living?

		<i>NBC/WSJ</i>	
		Jan	June
		<u>2006</u>	<u>1996</u>
10	Going up faster	9	9
43	Staying about even	41	38
44	Falling behind	47	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

NO QUESTION 40

Q.41 In general, how safe would you say you are from crime when walking in your neighborhood after dark... would you say you are very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe, or not at all safe?

		Feb <u>2006</u>	June <u>2003</u>	June <u>1997</u>
47	Very safe	50	52	46
38	Somewhat safe	38	34	37
9	Not too safe	7	9	11
4	Not at all safe	4	3	4
<u>2</u>	Don't know/refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.42 In the past 12 months, have you or your family, or has someone else in your neighborhood... **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]? [IF 'YES': "Was that you or your family OR someone else in your neighborhood?"]**

		Yes, Self <u>or Family</u>	Yes, Someone Else <u>in Neighborhood</u>	<u>No</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	Had money or property stolen	10	14	74	2=100
	February, 2006	15	15	68	2=100
	June, 2003	14	12	72	2=100
	April, 2000	11	12	76	1=100
	June, 1997	14	20	64	2=100
	March, 1994	16	22	61	1=100
b.	Been physically assaulted or mugged	3	6	90	1=100
	February 2006	3	7	89	1=100
	June, 2003	2	6	91	1=100
	April, 2000	2	4	93	*=100
	June, 1997	4	8	87	1=100
	March, 1994	5	8	86	1=100

NO QUESTIONS 43-46.

QUESTIONS 47-72 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.