



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Election-Year Economic Ratings Lowest Since '92
AN EVEN MORE PARTISAN AGENDA FOR 2008

Also inside...

- Where partisans agree - fix the economy
- 59% say Bush's failures will outweigh successes
- More Republicans want to rein in DC lobbyists
- Global warming falls even further as GOP priority

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Election-Year Economic Ratings Lowest Since '92

AN EVEN MORE PARTISAN AGENDA FOR 2008

With the economy slowing and the stock market reeling, there is greater agreement among Republicans and Democrats that strengthening the nation's economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress in the coming year. By contrast, partisan differences over the importance of other domestic issues – such as dealing with global warming, helping the poor and providing health insurance to the uninsured – have all increased substantially over the past year.

As President Bush prepares for his final State of the Union address on Jan. 28, opinions about his administration's legacy, already fairly negative, have declined further. Fully 59% say the Bush administration's failures will outweigh its accomplishments, while just 28% believe the Bush administration will be remembered more for its accomplishments. A year ago, a smaller majority (53%) believed the administration's failures would be more enduring than its successes.

The annual survey on the public's policy agenda shows that substantially more Republicans and independents view strengthening the economy as a top priority than did so in January 2007. Partisan differences over the importance of bolstering the nation's economy, which were fairly sizable at the start of last year, have disappeared.

However, far fewer Republicans rate dealing with global warming, expanding access to health insurance and helping the poor as top concerns – and partisan disagreements over the importance of those issues have increased considerably. Only about a quarter of Republicans (27%) say that providing health insurance to the uninsured should be a top priority, down 17 points from January 2007. More than twice as many Democrats (65%) and independents (58%) now rate this as a major policy goal.

Economy Gains as GOP Priority, Other Issues Decline*			
<i>View each as "top priority"</i>	Jan <u>2007</u> %	Jan <u>2008</u> %	<i>Change</i>
Strengthen economy			
Republican	65	76	+11
Democrat	77	76	-1
Independent	60	74	+14
<i>R-D gap</i>	-12	0	
Provide health insurance to uninsured			
Republican	44	27	-17
Democrat	70	65	-5
Independent	52	58	+6
<i>R-D gap</i>	-26	-38	
Dealing w/ problems of poor and needy			
Republican	48	34	-14
Democrat	67	61	-6
Independent	46	51	+5
<i>R-D gap</i>	-19	-27	
Deal w/ global warming			
Republican	23	12	-11
Democrat	48	47	-1
Independent	40	38	-2
<i>R-D gap</i>	-25	-35	

* For full list of priorities see pg. 4.

There is a similar pattern in views about the importance of dealing with the problems of the poor and global warming. A year ago, global warming was the lowest-ranking agenda item for Republicans of 23 issues mentioned; just 23% viewed it as a top priority. This year, it has fallen even further – just 12% of Republicans cite global warming as a top priority, less than half the proportion naming the next lowest rated issue (27% for providing health insurance to the uninsured).

Democrats currently are about four times more likely than Republicans to rate global warming as a major priority (47% vs. 12%), a much greater gap than in January 2007 (48% Democrat vs. 23% Republican).

The latest survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 9-13 among 1,515 adults, finds signs of considerable unease with the nation’s economy. In the survey, conducted before this week’s stock market fluctuations, just 26% rate the economy as excellent or good, while 73% say it is only fair or poor.

	<i>Economic conditions...</i>		
	Excellent/ <u>good</u> %	Only fair/ <u>poor</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
January 2008	26	73	1=100
January 2004*	37	63	0=100
January 2000*	71	28	1=100
March 1996*	33	66	1=100
January 1992*	12	87	1=100

* Data from the Gallup Organization

While opinions about the economy have not declined since fall, they are the most negative economic ratings at the beginning of any presidential year since 1992. In January 2004, 37% had a positive view of the economy, while 63% expressed a negative opinion.

Most Important Problem

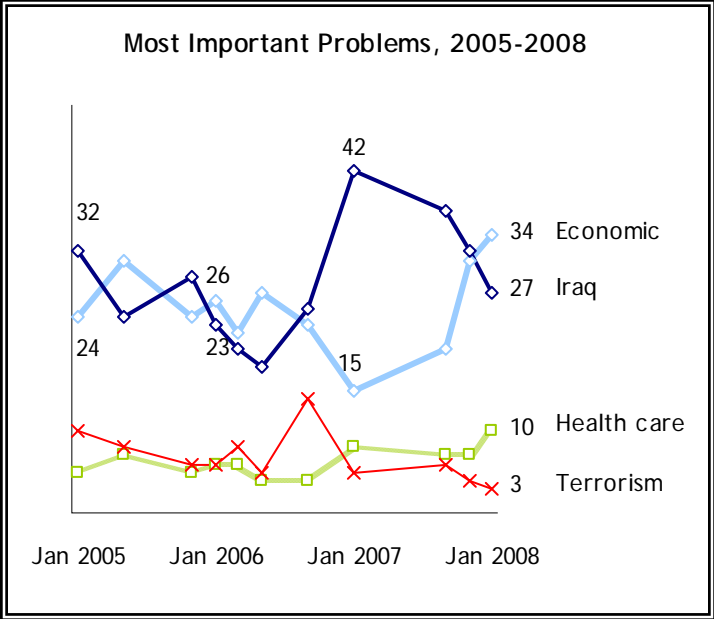
Economic problems now top the public’s list of national concerns, with roughly one-in-three (34%) citing economic problems as the nation’s most grave, compared with 27% who say the war in Iraq is the biggest problem facing the nation. This represents a reversal from a year ago, when 42% cited Iraq as the most important problem in the wake of Bush’s proposal to increase the number of troops there. As recently as September, 37% of Americans cited Iraq as the nation’s biggest problem, nearly double the 20% who cited economic problems. But

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Economic problems (Net)	34	27	39	35
Economy	20	17	22	21
Unemployment	5	2	8	5
Energy/Gas prices	3	2	5	3
Inflation/Cost of living	3	2	4	3
Iraq	27	21	36	25
Health care	10	6	10	11
Immigration	6	10	3	6
Dissatisfaction w/Govt	6	7	5	6
Education	4	3	4	4
Terrorism	3	7	1	2
Defense/Security	3	7	*	2

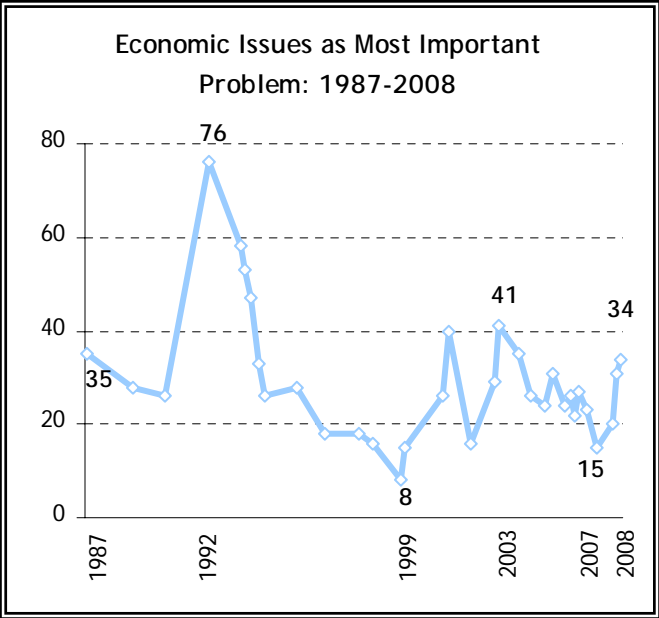
Based on open-ended question, multiple responses allowed.

current views are more in line with public opinion in 2005 and 2006, when roughly equal numbers cited economic concerns and Iraq as the nation's biggest problem.

Democrats remain more likely than Republicans to cite the economy as the nation's greatest problem. Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (39%) list an economic concern, compared with 27% of Republicans. Democrats are also substantially more concerned about Iraq than are Republicans (36% vs. 21%). By contrast, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to name immigration, terrorism and national security as the biggest problems.



While the number of Americans citing the economy as the nation's largest problem has increased in the past year, it is far from a record high, even in the post-Iraq era. Over the past two decades, 1992 still represents the peak public concern about the economy. In January of that year fully 76% cited an economic problem as the most important facing the nation. But a more recent peak occurred in the spring of 2003 – just a month after U.S. forces invaded Iraq. In April of 2003, 41% of Americans saw the economy as the nation's biggest problem, while just 14% cited the situation in Iraq.



Top Priorities: Economy, Terrorism

Strengthening the economy and defending the country against terrorism lead the public's list of policy priorities for the president and Congress in the coming year. Fully three-quarters of Americans (75%) rate strengthening the economy as a major priority, up from 68% a year ago.

Notably, much of the increased emphasis on the economy comes from upper socioeconomic groups – college graduates and people with relatively high annual household incomes, as well from Republicans and independents.

Three-quarters (75%) of college graduates now see the economy as a major priority, up sharply from 54% in January 2007. The shift has been just as large among people with household incomes of at least \$75,000 annually (20 points). As a consequence, the substantial educational and income differences over the importance of the economy as a policy priority also have disappeared.

Terrorism has declined somewhat as a leading policy priority over the past year, though it still ranks at the top of the public's agenda. Nearly three-quarters of Americans (74%) view defending the country from future terrorist attacks as a top priority, down from 80% in January 2007. The current measure is on par with the percentage rating terrorism as a top priority in January 2005 (75%). Terrorism has declined as a priority among independents (from 77% to 65%) and Republicans

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008
Strengthening nation's economy	71	73	79	75	66	68	75
Defending US against terrorism	83	81	78	75	80	80	74
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	68	69
Improving educational system	66	62	71	70	67	69	66
Securing Social Security	62	59	65	70	64	64	64
Improving the job situation	67	62	67	68	65	57	61
Securing Medicare	55	56	62	67	62	63	60
Dealing with energy problems	42	40	46	47	58	57	59
Reducing budget deficit	35	40	51	56	55	53	58
Protecting the environment	44	39	49	49	57	57	56
Reducing crime	53	47	53	53	62	62	54
Providing insurance to uninsured	43	45	54	60	59	56	54
Dealing with problems of poor	44	48	50	59	55	55	51
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	--	55	51
Reducing middle class taxes	43	--	44	48	51	48	46
Dealing with moral breakdown	45	39	45	41	47	47	43
Strengthening the military	52	48	48	52	42	46	42
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	35	39
Dealing with global trade	25	--	32	32	30	34	37
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	38	35
Making income tax cuts permanent	--	30	--	34	--	36	35

	<i>% rating economy as 'top priority'</i>		<i>Change</i>
	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	
Total	68%	75%	+7
College grad	54%	75%	+21
Some college	74%	75%	+1
HS or less	73%	76%	+3
\$75,000+	60%	80%	+20
\$50K-74,999	74%	71%	-3
\$30K-49,999	73%	81%	+8
Less than \$30K	70%	75%	+5

(from 93% to 86%). About the same percentage of Democrats view defending against terrorism as a top priority as did so a year ago (74% then, 75% now).

Among other issues, reducing crime has declined as a top policy priority for the president and Congress; 54% rate crime reduction as a top priority, down from 62% a year ago. At the same time, somewhat more Americans view reducing the budget deficit as a top priority than did so in January 2007 (58% now, 53% then). Currently, more Americans view reducing the budget deficit as a top priority than at any point since January 1997 (60%).

Dueling Agendas

Compared with Republicans, Democrats place much greater emphasis on jobs, health care, education, the environment, and the poor. On jobs, for instance, 76% of Democrats but just 43% of Republicans say it should be a top priority for the president and Congress. Somewhat higher proportions in each party rate jobs as a top priority than did so in January 2007 (67% of Democrats, 39% of Republicans).

Notably, 81% of Democrats say that reducing health care costs should be a top priority for policymakers – the highest percentage for any issue mentioned. Only about half of Republicans (53%) view this as a major priority.

Republicans place greater priority on defending the U.S. against terrorism (86%, vs. 74% for Democrats), dealing with the issue of illegal immigration (64% vs. 43%), and strengthening the military (62% vs. 37%). For Republicans, illegal immigration ranks as the third leading priority, after terrorism and the economy. However, while illegal immigration has been a major issue in the GOP’s primary campaign, slightly fewer Republicans rate this as a top priority than in January 2007 (64% now vs. 69% then).

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Repub- <u>licans</u>	Demo- <u>crats</u>	<i>R-D diff.</i>
Providing insurance to uninsured	27	65	-38
Dealing with global warming	12	47	-35
Improving job situation	43	76	-33
Reducing health care costs	53	81	-28
Dealing with problems of poor	34	62	-28
Protecting the environment	39	67	-28
Securing Medicare	47	66	-19
Improving educational system	54	72	-18
Reducing crime	49	62	-13
Reducing budget deficit	52	64	-12
Securing Social Security	60	70	-10
Dealing with energy problems	53	59	-6
Reducing middle class taxes	46	50	-4
Strengthening nation’s economy	76	76	0
Dealing with global trade	37	37	0
Reducing influence of lobbyists	42	36	+6
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	44	+7
Making tax cuts permanent	44	37	+7
Defending US against terrorism	86	74	+12
Dealing with illegal immigration	64	43	+21
Strengthening the military	62	37	+25

At the same time, reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington is now a much higher priority among Republicans than it was in January 2007. Roughly four-in-ten Republicans (42%) say that reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests should be a top priority, up from 28% a year ago. Republicans are now somewhat more likely than Democrats to rate this as a major priority; last year, a higher percentage of Democrats than Republicans said that reining in special interests should be a top priority.

<i>View reducing lobbyists' influence as top priority</i>	Jan 2007 %	Jan 2008 %	<i>Change</i>
Total	36	39	+3
Republicans	28	42	+14
Democrats	44	36	-6
Independents	35	42	+7

There is little or no partisan difference on two other issues: 37% of Democrats and Republicans say that dealing with global trade should be a top priority, and about half of each group (46% of Republicans and 50% of Democrats) would make a top priority of reducing middle class taxes.

Economic Worries Now Cross Party Lines

Economic ratings today are somewhat more negative than they were a year ago, and down even more compared with the latter half of 2006. (However, this poll was conducted prior to the sharp decline in the international equity markets earlier this week). Barely one-quarter of Americans (26%) give the economy a good or excellent rating, and 73% say it's in fair or poor shape. Majorities have not given the economy a positive rating since 2000.

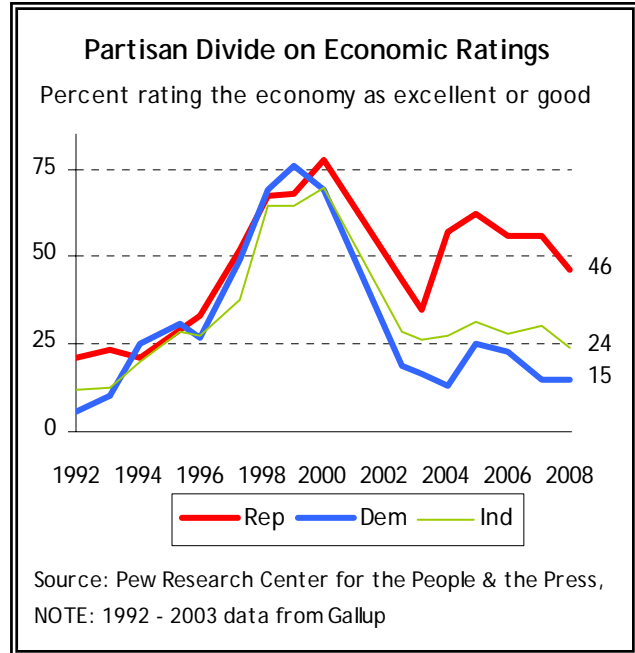
Still, economic ratings today are well above where they were at this point in the election cycle in 1992. In that year, just 12% rated the economy as either excellent or good, and fully 41% said that it was in poor shape.

	Excellent/ Good %	Only fair/ Poor %	DK %
<i>2008</i>			
January	26	73	1=100
<i>2007</i>			
November	23	76	1=100
September	26	72	2=100
June	33	65	2=100
February	31	68	1=100
<i>2006</i>			
December	38	60	2=100
November*	44	54	2=100
October	33	65	2=100
September	37	61	2=100
March	33	66	1=100
January	34	64	2=100

* November 2006 based on registered voters.

More people assess their own financial situation positively than do so for the nation's economy. Currently about half (49%) say their finances are in excellent or good shape, and an equal number say their finances are in only fair or poor shape. In comparison with national ratings, personal financial ratings have changed relatively little over the past several years. Most people say that they expect their personal finances to improve at least "some" over the next year, a pattern that has been true for at least 15 years.

There continues to be a sizable partisan gap in ratings of the national economy. Currently, 46% of Republicans, but just 24% of independents and 15% of Democrats, give the economy at least a good rating. During the 1990s, partisan differences on this question were relatively small and inconsistent in direction. Beginning in 2002, a substantial party divide opened up on the question and Democrats and Republicans have remained far apart in their assessments ever since.



However, the party gap has narrowed somewhat, as increasing numbers of moderate and liberal Republicans express negative views of the economy. Over the past four years, conservative Republicans have been more positive about the economy than their moderate and liberal counterparts, but the size of this gap has grown. Currently just 29% of moderate-to-liberal Republicans rate the economy positively; by contrast, a small majority of conservative Republicans (54%) still do so.

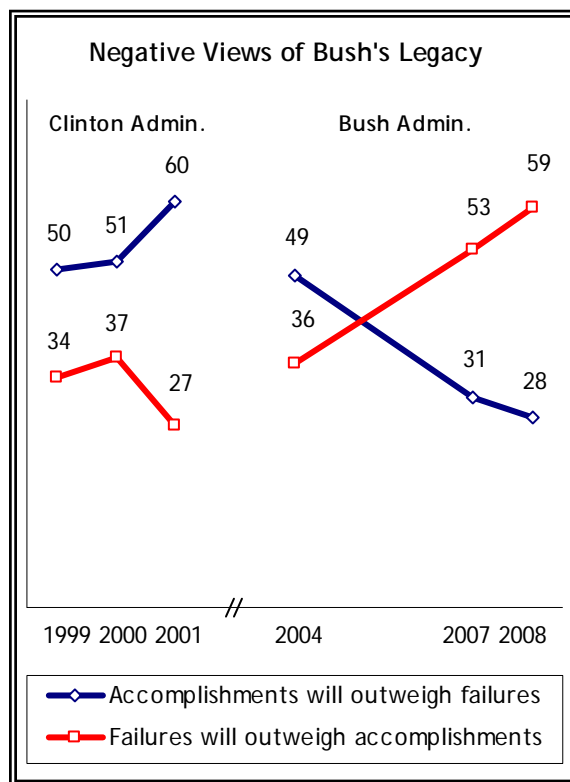
Moderate Republicans Sour on the Economy

	<i>% rating economy as excellent/good</i>					<i>Change 04-08</i>
	Feb 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2007	Jan 2008	
Total	31	39	34	31	26	-5
Cons Rep	62	67	64	65	54	-8
Mod/Lib Rep	51	56	44	47	29	-22
Independent	27	31	28	30	24	-3
Cons/Mod Dem	15	25	26	16	18	+3
Lib Dem	12	25	18	16	10	-2

Bush Administration's Legacy

As he begins his final year in office, President Bush's standing with the public continues to worsen. While his overall job approval ratings are holding steady, the balance of opinion is roughly two-to-one negative (31% approve, 59% disapprove). And the number of Americans – including many within the president's own party – who see the failures of his administration outweighing the accomplishments continues to rise, and a record high number say this year's State of the Union address is less important than in past years.

A 59% majority of Americans believe that, in the long run, the failures of the Bush administration will outweigh the accomplishments, up from 53% a year ago. Half as many (28%) say Bush's accomplishments will outweigh his failures. By comparison, in January 2004 – at the outset of Bush's re-election campaign – more saw the administrations accomplishments carrying more weight (49%) than its failures (36%).



This dour view of the Bush presidency stands in contrast to public sentiment at the same point in Bill Clinton's presidency. In January of 2000, 51% felt the Clinton administrations main legacy would be its accomplishments, while just 37% said the failures would stand out.

At the time, a quarter of Republicans felt that Clinton's legacy would be positive, compared with just 9% of Democrats who say the same about Bush today. And fewer Republicans today (62%) see Bush's accomplishments standing out compared with Democrats in 2000 (75%). Yet the most striking difference in views of the two presidents' legacies is among independents. In January 2000, a majority of independents (53%) said that Clinton's legacy would be marked by his administration's accomplishments.

Contrasting Bush and Clinton Legacies

	<i>Bill Clinton</i> Jan 2000 %	<i>George W. Bush</i> Jan 2008 %
Administration's legacy		
<i>Republicans</i>		
Accomplishments	25	62
Failures	62	27
<i>Independents</i>		
Accomplishments	53	23
Failures	35	64
<i>Democrats</i>		
Accomplishments	75	9
Failures	18	79

Today, by a 64% to 23% margin, most independents say Bush's legacy will be marked by his administration's failures.

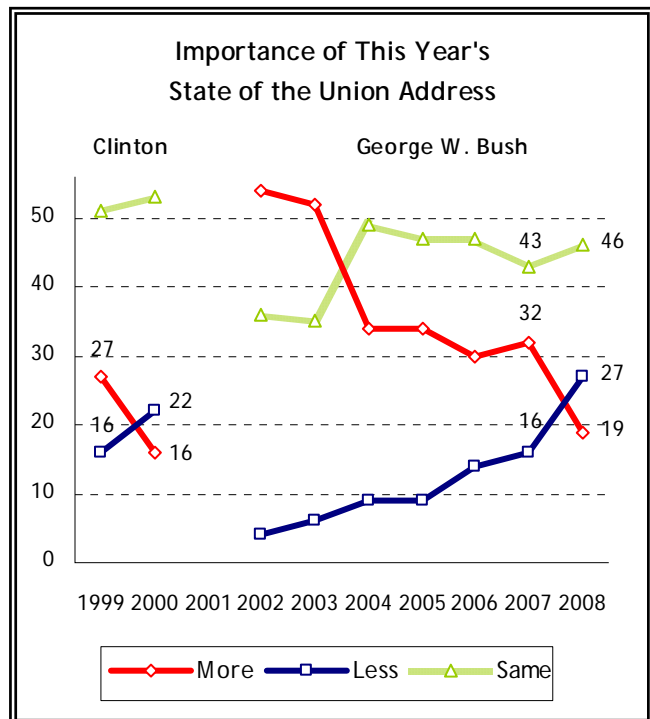
Conservative Republicans continue to say that Bush's long-term legacy will be positive – 71% say the administration's accomplishments will outweigh the failures. But among moderate and liberal Republicans – who make up roughly a third of the party – just 44% believe Bush's accomplishments will stand out, while about the same number (43%) say the administration's failures will stand out. This is a sharp departure from a year ago, when moderate and liberal Republicans were just as upbeat about Bush's legacy as conservative Republicans were.

Administration's legacy	Jan 2004 %	Jan 2007 %	Jan 2008 %	07-08 change
<i>Cons Republicans</i>				
Accomplishments	86	71	71	-0
Failures	5	17	21	
<i>Mod/lib Republicans</i>				
Accomplishments	78	69	44	-25
Failures	14	19	43	
<i>Independents</i>				
Accomplishments	45	25	23	-2
Failures	37	59	64	
<i>Mod/Cons Democrats</i>				
Accomplishments	26	15	11	-4
Failures	60	70	75	
<i>Liberal Democrats</i>				
Accomplishments	14	6	6	-0
Failures	75	82	87	

Bush's Final State of the Union Address

More than a quarter of Americans (27%) say this year's State of the Union address is less important than those in the past. A year ago, in the wake of Bush's major speech outlining the troop surge in Iraq, just 16% saw the 2007 State of the Union address as less important than those in past years, while 32% said it was more important.

The modest anticipation for this year's address stands in stark contrast to public assessments of Bush's first two State of the Union speeches, in 2002 and 2003. Majorities in both years said those addresses were more important than in previous years. But low level of interest in a president's final State of the Union address is hardly unprecedented. In the weeks before Bill Clinton's final address to Congress and the nation in 2000, just 16% rated it as more important than usual, while 22% said it was less important.



Most Favor Focus on Domestic Issues

Last year amid growing concerns about the war in Iraq, the public was divided over whether President Bush should focus more on domestic or foreign policy. This year, with rising concerns about the economy and the war in Iraq no longer dominating the news, a solid majority of 56% says that the president's focus should be on domestic policy; just 31% say foreign policy is more important. Republicans are divided on this question, with as many favoring a foreign focus as a domestic one, but Democrats and independents overwhelmingly want domestic policy to be the focus.

	Jan 2002	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008
<i>More important for Bush to focus on...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Foreign policy	34	27	25	40	31
Domestic policy	52	53	57	39	56
Neither/Both (Vol.)	11	17	14	16	9
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

When the choice is posed as domestic policy or the war on terrorism – as opposed to foreign policy more generally – domestic policy is still the preferred focus, but only by a plurality (46% domestic policy vs. 38% war on terrorism).

ABOUT THE 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 1,515 adults, 18 years of age or older, from January 9-13, 2008. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,515	3.0 percentage points
Form 1 sample	765	4.0 percentage points
Form 2 sample	750	4.0 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 eight 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:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
January 9- January 13, 2008
N = 1515

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush 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 George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>App- rove</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>App- rove</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2008	31	59	10=100	July, 2004	46	46	8=100
Late December, 2007	31	60	9=100	June, 2004	48	43	9=100
November, 2007	30	59	11=100	May, 2004	44	48	8=100
October, 2007	30	63	7=100	Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100
September, 2007	31	59	10=100	Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100
August, 2007	31	59	10=100	Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100
July, 2007	29	61	10=100	Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100
June, 2007	29	61	10=100	February, 2004	48	44	8=100
April, 2007	35	57	8=100	Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100
March, 2007	33	58	9=100	Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100
February, 2007	33	56	11=100	December, 2003	57	34	9=100
Mid-January, 2007	33	59	8=100	November, 2003	50	40	10=100
Early January, 2007	33	57	10=100	October, 2003	50	42	8=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	September, 2003	55	36	9=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=100	Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100

Q.1 CONTINUED...	App- <u>rove</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2008	31	53	16=100
November, 2007	35	50	15=100
October, 2007	31	54	15=100
July, 2007	33	54	13=100
June, 2007	34	49	17=100
April, 2007	36	43	21=100
March, 2007 ¹	37	42	21=100
February, 2007	41	36	23=100
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27=100
Early October, 2006	35	53	12=100
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

1 In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

Q.3 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]

		Nov	Sept	Jan	Sept	Jan	May	Mid-	July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2005	2005	2004	2004	2003	2003	2002	2001	2001
27	War/War in Iraq	32	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 [▲]	--	--
20	Economy (general)	14	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
10	Health care/costs	7	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
6	Immigration	6	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
6	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	5	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
5	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	4	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
4	Education	2	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
	Energy Costs/Rising gas/heating														
3	prices	7	2	2	7	5	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22	4
3	Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	2	1	--	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
3	Terrorism	4	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	--
	Defense issues/Military spending/														
3	National & homeland security	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
3	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced														
2	budget	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	2	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
	Recession/Slowing down of the														
2	economy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
2	Taxes (general)	1	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3	3
	U.S. foreign policy/International														
2	affairs	3	1	--	2	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
1	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
1	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	--	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Pay more attention to problems at home	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Using Am. military in foreign countries	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Oil dependence/Energy policy and														
1	alternatives	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
	Environment/pollution/Global														
1	warming	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	1
1	Abortion	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
1	Social Security	2	1	--	--	2	8	4	1	--	1	--	--	3	1
1	Race relations/Racism/Racial Profiling	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	1	2	2
1	Issues relating to the elderly	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	1	2	1	--	1	2	2
1	Homelessness	--	--	2	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
7	Other														
5	Don't know/No answer	6	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
36	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/														
	INTERNATIONAL	40	48	50	47	37	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
34	(NET) ECONOMIC	31	20	15	23	26	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

NO QUESTIONS 4 AND 5

Q.6 As you may know, George W. Bush will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		-- Clinton --							
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Mid-Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
19	More important	32	30	34	34	52	54	16	27
27	Less important	16	14	9	9	6	4	22	16
46	Same	43	47	47	49	35	36	53	51
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.7 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Bush Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

		----- Clinton -----							-- Reagan --	
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Aug	Jan	Sept	Early	Newsweek
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	May	Feb
									<u>1987</u>	<u>1987</u>
28	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	31	49	60	51	56	50	52	46	52
59	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	53	36	27	37	38	34	35	41	38
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N =765]:

Q.8F1 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		-----Clinton -----										
		Jan	Aug	Jan	Oct	Early	Jan	Early	Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	
56	Domestic policy	39	50	57	64	53	52	56	86	85	76	
31	Foreign policy	40	32	25	20	27	34	30	7	7	13	
1	Neither (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	*	0	*	2	*	
8	Both (VOL.)	15	12	13	12	16	11	11	5	4	7	
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N =750]:

Q.9F2 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or the war on terrorism?

		Early						
		Sept	Jan	Oct	Sept	Jan	Aug	Jan
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>
46	Domestic policy	39	42	50	56	40	29	33
38	War on terrorism	43	39	33	25	44	43	52
3	Neither (VOL.)	2	1	1	1	1	1	*
11	Both (VOL.)	12	14	13	12	13	22	13
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 10-11 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No Preference	(VOL.) Other Party	DK/ Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
Late December, 2007	25	32	36	4	*	3=100	12	18
November, 2007	28	33	32	4	1	2=100	9	16
October, 2007	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	17
September, 2007	27	32	32	6	*	3=100	8	16
August, 2007	26	32	32	5	1	4=100	10	16
July, 2007	27	32	34	4	*	3=100	11	17
June, 2007	25	34	32	6	*	3=100	10	17
April, 2007	25	28	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

QUESTIONS 12 THROUGH 27, A1 THROUGH A6 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Thinking more generally...

Q.28 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**?)

<u>RANK ORDERED SUMMARY TABLE</u>		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	DK/Ref
		priority	but lower	important	be done	
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	75	20	2	1	2=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	74	22	2	*	2=100
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	69	24	3	3	1=100
l.F2	Improving the educational system	66	26	4	2	2=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	4	2	2=100
a.F1	Improving the job situation	61	31	4	2	2=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	60	33	4	1	2=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	59	32	6	1	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	58	33	5	1	3=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	56	34	8	1	1=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	54	36	7	1	2=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	54	32	8	4	2=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	51	37	7	2	3=100
k.	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	51	32	11	3	3=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	46	40	8	3	3=100
p.	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	43	31	13	8	5=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	42	38	12	5	3=100
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	39	32	16	4	9=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	37	45	11	2	5=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	35	38	15	7	5=100
h.	Making recent federal income tax cuts permanent	35	35	12	10	8=100

Q.28 CONTINUED...

FULL TRENDS

ASK ITEMS a THRU f OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
a.F1	Improving the job situation	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2=100
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2=100
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	58	33	5	1	3=100
	January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4=100
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4=100
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2=100
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3=100
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	54	36	7	1	2=100
	January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1=100
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2=100
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2=100
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	46	40	8	3	3=100
	January, 2007	48	35	10	4	3=100
	January, 2006	51	32	8	5	4=100
	January, 2005	48	35	8	6	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1=100
	January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3=100
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100

Q.28 CONTINUED...

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	56	34	8	1	1=100
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1=100
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*=100
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	69	24	3	3	1=100
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					=100
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3=100
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3=100
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
	NO ITEM g.					
	ASK ALL:					
h.	Making the recent federal income tax cuts permanent	35	35	12	10	8=100
	January, 2007	36	32	12	12	8=100
	January, 2005	34	34	12	14	6=100
	January, 2003 ²	30	39	15	9	7=100
	ASK ITEMS i AND j OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:					
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	74	22	2	*	2=100
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1=100
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1=100
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100

2

In January 2003 the item was listed: "making the cuts in federal income taxes passed in 2001 permanent".

Q.28 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	37	45	11	2	5=100
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6=100
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8=100
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6=100
	Mid-January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4=100
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5=100
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100

ASK ALL:

k.	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	51	32	11	3	3=100
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2=100

ASK ITEMS 1 THRU 6 OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:

l.F2	Improving the educational system	66	26	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1=100
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1=100
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1=100
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100

Q.28 CONTINUED...

		Important				
		Top	but lower	Not too	Should not	
		<u>priority</u>	<u>priority</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	60	33	4	1	2=100
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2=100
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1=100
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	51	37	7	2	3=100
	January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1=100
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1=100
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
ASK ALL:						
p.	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	43	31	13	8	5=100
	January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3=100
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4=100
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2=100
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4=100
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
ASK ITEM q THRU W OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:						
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	54	32	8	4	2=100
	January, 2007	56	31	7	4	2=100
	January, 2006	59	30	6	2	3=100
	January, 2005	60	30	7	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1=100
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2=100

Q.28 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	42	38	12	5	3=100
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4=100
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3=100
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1=100
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3=100
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	75	20	2	1	2=100
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1=100
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2=100
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2=100
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1=100
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001 ³	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	59	32	6	1	2=100
	January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2=100
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ⁴	46	41	6	2	5=100
NO ITEM u.						
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	39	32	16	4	9=100
	January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	35	38	15	7	5=100
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4=100

3 In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

4 In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

ASK ALL:

Turning to a different topic...

ROTATE Q.29/30 BLOCK WITH Q.31/32 BLOCK

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.29 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>
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1=100
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1=100
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.30 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>Don't Know/</u>	
			<u>Same</u>	<u>Refused</u>
January, 2008	20	26	48	6=100
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.31 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</u>		<u>Don't Know/</u>	
			<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>	
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2=100	
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1=100	
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	

	5	40	37	16	2=100
Q.31 COMBINED...			Only		Don't Know/
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
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.32 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	Improve	Get a	Get a lot	Stay the	Don't Know/
	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Little Worse</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u>	<u>Refused</u>
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4=100
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

And a different kind of question...

Q.33 Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the “haves” and the “have-nots,” while others think it’s incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don’t you think of America that way?

	<u>Yes, divided</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2008	43	54	3=100
July, 2007	48	48	4=100
September, 2006	41	55	4=100
Early October, 2005	48	50	2=100
Late March, 2005	38	59	3=100
Late February, 2004	38	59	3=100
June, 2001	44	53	3=100
April, 1998 <i>Gallup</i>	39	59	2=100
July, 1988 <i>Gallup</i>	26	71	3=100
Aug, 1984 <i>CBS/NY Times</i>	31	61	8=100

Q.34 If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

		Early					--- Gallup ---		
		July	Sept	Oct	Late Mar	Late Feb	June	April	July
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1988</u>
50	Haves	45	52	47	48	59	52	67	59
34	Have-nots	34	29	38	34	27	32	24	17
10	Neither (VOL.)	13	10	11	8	7	10	6	15
<u>6</u>	Don’t know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

QUESTION 35 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE