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# Bipartisan Support for Increased U.S. Sanctions against Russia

*Most Oppose Military Aid to Ukraine*

A Pew Research Center/USA TODAY Survey

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Bipartisan Support for Increased U.S. Sanctions against Russia

## *Most Oppose Military Aid to Ukraine*

As the Obama administration announces new economic measures against Russian officials and companies, the public supports increased U.S. economic and diplomatic sanctions by a 53% to 36% margin. But by roughly two-to-one (62% to 30%), Americans oppose sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY finds that only about a third of Americans (31%) think that what happens between Russia and Ukraine is “very important” to the United States; 36% say events in the region are somewhat important to the U.S. while 29% say they are not too important or not at all important.

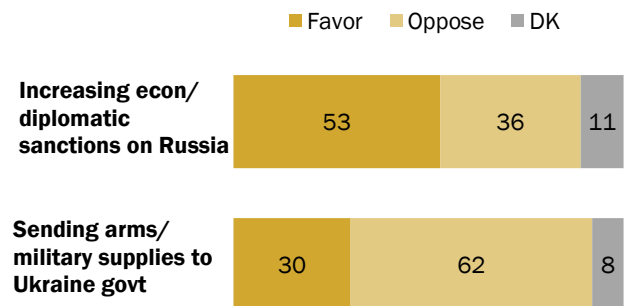
The survey, conducted April 23-27 among 1,501 adults, finds only modest partisan differences in opinions about U.S. policy

toward the crisis in Ukraine. Comparable percentages of Republicans (55%) and Democrats (58%) favor increased sanctions against Russia and majorities in both parties oppose arming the Ukrainian government.

There are much larger partisan differences in opinions about Barack Obama’s handling of the crisis. More than half of Republicans (55%) say Obama has not been tough enough in dealing with the situation in Ukraine, compared with 33% of independents and 23% of Democrats. These views have remained [steady over the past month](#).

Currently, most Americans are aware of the ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Still, fewer than half (46%) say they have heard a lot about the situation; more say they have heard either a little (34%) or nothing at all (20%) about this situation.

### Roughly Half Back Tougher Russia Sanctions; Just 30% Would Arm Ukraine



Survey conducted April 23-27, 2014.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

## Views of Sanctions against Russia, Arms to Ukraine

There are substantial demographic differences in opinions about increased economic sanctions against Russia. College graduates, older Americans and men – who are more likely than other groups to have heard a lot about Russia-Ukraine tensions – are among the most supportive of tougher economic sanctions against Moscow.

The differences are less pronounced in opinions about sending arms and military supplies to the government of Ukraine. Majorities across most major demographic groups oppose providing military assistance to Ukraine.

People who view the situation in Russia and Ukraine as very important to the interests of the United States (31% of the public) are far more likely than those who view it as less important to favor increased sanctions against Russia and providing arms and military to Ukraine.

Fully 73% of those who say events in Russia and Ukraine are very important to the U.S. favor additional sanctions and 48% support arming the Ukrainian government. Among the much larger share of the public (65%) that sees the situation there as less important to the United States, 46% support increased sanctions and just 23% favor providing arms and supplies to Ukraine.

### Reps and Dems Back Russian Sanctions, Oppose Arming Ukraine

	<i>Increasing sanctions on Russia</i>		<i>Sending arms/military supplies to Ukraine</i>	
	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	53	36	30	62
Men	60	34	37	58
Women	46	39	24	65
18-29	43	46	25	68
30-49	47	42	27	63
50-64	63	30	37	59
65+	57	24	31	58
College grad+	66	24	35	57
Some college	52	41	28	65
HS or less	44	41	28	62
\$75,000 or more	66	28	35	60
\$30,000-\$75,000	63	31	31	61
Less than \$30,000	35	50	27	66
Republican	55	31	37	55
Democrat	58	33	26	67
Independent	48	43	30	63
<i>Situation's importance to U.S.</i>				
Very important	73	19	48	45
Less important	46	46	23	71

Survey conducted April 23-27, 2014.  
Don't know responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

## Views of Obama's Handling of Ukraine

Obama continues to receive mixed reviews for how he is dealing with the situation between Russia and Ukraine.

Four-in-ten (40%) say he is handling things about right while 35% say he is not being tough enough; very few say he is being too tough (6%) and 20% are unable to offer a rating.

Opinions on this questions remain highly partisan, with a majority of Republicans (55%) saying he is not being tough enough. Democrats back Obama's approach to the dispute, with 56% saying he is handling things about right.

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### Little Change in Views of Obama's Handling of Russia-Ukraine Situation

*In dealing with situation, Obama is being ...*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<b>April 23-27</b>	%	%	%	%
Too tough	6	4	5	7
Not tough enough	35	55	23	33
About right	40	22	56	39
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>March 20-23</b>				
Too tough	5	6	4	6
Not tough enough	35	58	22	35
About right	43	27	65	42
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted April 23-27, 2014.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

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## Roughly a Third Sees Ukraine Crisis as Very Important to the U.S.

About three-in-ten (31%) say what happens between Russia and Ukraine is very important to the interests of the U.S., 36% say it is somewhat important and 29% say what happens in Ukraine is not too or not at all important to the U.S.

Republicans (40%) are more likely than Democrats (30%) and independents (27%) to say that the situation involving Russia and Ukraine is very important to U.S. interests.

Young adults under 30 are among the least likely to view the situation as very important to the U.S.: just 20% say this compared with about four-in-ten of those 50-64 (41%) and 65 or older (38%).

College graduates are much more likely than those with less education to say they have heard about the situation between Russia and Ukraine. However, they are no more likely to say what happens in Ukraine is very important to the interests of the U.S. (roughly three-in-ten across education levels say this).

### Older Americans Place Greater Importance on Russia-Ukraine Situation

*How important are events in Russia and Ukraine to the interests of the U.S.?*

	Very %	Somewhat %	Not too/ Not at all %	DK %
Total	31	36	29	4=100
Men	33	33	31	3=100
Women	29	39	26	6=100
18-29	20	48	28	5=100
30-49	27	35	35	4=100
50-64	41	29	28	2=100
65+	38	34	21	7=100
College grad+	31	42	24	3=100
Some college	32	39	26	4=100
HS or less	31	30	34	6=100
Republican	40	37	20	3=100
Democrat	30	39	27	3=100
Independent	27	34	35	4=100

Survey conducted April 23-27, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 23-27, 2014 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 (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 901 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 449 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 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 2013 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	389	5.7 percentage points
Democrat	452	5.3 percentage points
Independent	593	4.6 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.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY**  
**APRIL 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**April 23-27, 2014**  
**N=1,501**

**QUESTIONS 1-2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**  
**NO QUESTION 3**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on [**READ; RANDOMIZE BY FORM**]:

	Domestic policy	Foreign policy	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>Obama</b>					
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	72	13	1	9	5
Jan 15-19, 2014 <sup>1</sup>	78	9	1	8	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	82	8	1	6	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	83	6	1	7	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	81	9	1	5	4
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 <sup>2</sup>	71	11	*	14	4
<b>Next President</b>					
September, 2008 <sup>3</sup>	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
<b>G.W. Bush</b>					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
<b>Clinton</b>					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

**NO QUESTIONS 5-7, 9-11, 13-17, 20, 25, 27, 30-39, 42, 53-59, 63, 69-74**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.75 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about tensions between Russia and Ukraine over territory in eastern Ukraine. Have you heard ... [**READ**]:

(U)	
Apr 23-27	
<u>2014</u>	
46	A lot
34	A little
20	Nothing at all
*	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

<sup>1</sup> Surveys in January 15-19, 2014, and earlier did not randomize response options.

<sup>2</sup> January 7-11, 2009, survey asked about "president-elect Obama."

<sup>3</sup> September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."



**ASK ALL:**

Q.76 Do you think Barack Obama is being too tough, not tough enough or about right in dealing with the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?

(U)		Mar 20-23	
Apr 23-27		2014	
2014		2014	
6	Too tough	5	
35	Not tough enough	35	
40	About right	43	
20	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	16	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.77 In response to the situation involving Russia and Ukraine, would you favor or oppose the United States **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Would you favor or oppose the United States **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Increasing economic and diplomatic sanctions on Russia Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	53	36	11
b.	Sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	30	62	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.78 How important to the interests of the United States is what happens between Russia and Ukraine **[READ IN ORDER]**?

(U)	
Apr 23-27	
2014	
31	Very important
36	Somewhat important
16	Not too important
13	Not at all important
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>No preference</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other party</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
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

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

## ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

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

## BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=658]:

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--

## TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>4</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

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

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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<sup>4</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."