



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

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

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**No Post-Trip Bounce for Obama**

**INFLATION STAGGERS PUBLIC, ECONOMY STILL SEEN AS FIXABLE**

**Also inside...**

- 38% - Affording food a problem
- 55% - Real estate values have slipped
- 73% - Good jobs scarce locally
- 87% - Who's elected matters to economy

***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:***

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

## No Post-Trip Bounce for Obama

### INFLATION STAGGERS PUBLIC, ECONOMY STILL SEEN AS FIXABLE

The public continues to be extremely downbeat about the national economy. Just 10% say the economy is in good shape, while 72% say the economy is either in a recession (54%) or a depression (18%). On a personal level, concerns about rising prices have surged. Beyond widespread anxiety about energy costs, a growing number of Americans say it is difficult for them to afford food.

The percentage of Americans who cite rising prices as the nation's most important economic problem has nearly *doubled* since February – from 24% to 45%. Nearly two-thirds (64%) now say their incomes are not keeping up with the rising cost of living, which also is up substantially from February (58%). The number saying it is difficult to afford food has followed a similar upward path; 38% say that now, compared with 27% five months ago.

While rising costs are clearly the top economic problem in the public's view, it is far from their only concern. More than seven-in-ten (73%) say good jobs are difficult to find, compared with 55% a little more than a year ago (June 2007). The proportion saying that local real estate prices are declining has jumped since February, from 41% to 56%.

The multiple economic concerns are taking a toll on public optimism. About half of Americans (51%) expect their personal financial situation to improve over the next year, down from 55% in March and 60% in January. Yet despite the worsening economic perceptions, the public does not see the economy as beyond repair. Nor do they believe that the government is incapable of fixing the economy in an era of global economic interdependence.

#### A Gloomy Outlook for Economy

<i>Compared w/ cost of living, your income is...</i>	Feb <u>2008</u> %	July <u>2008</u> %
Rising faster	6	6
Staying even	33	28
<b>Falling behind</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>64</b>
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
<i>Difficult to afford...</i>		
<b>Gasoline</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>68</b>
Retirement saving	56	59
Taxes	51	52
Home heating/electric	44	49
Health care	45	46
<b>Food</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>
<i>Personal finances over next year will...</i>		
	Jan <u>2008</u> %	July <u>2008</u> %
Improve	60	51
Get worse	22	28
Stay same (Vol.)	14	14
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100

#### But Inflation Can Be Fixed

<i>Can something be done about rising prices?</i>	Fall <u>1980*</u>	July <u>2008</u>
Something can be done	73	72
Not much can be done	22	23
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100

\* From 1980 pre-election survey by National Election Study (NES).

Nearly three-quarters (72%) believe that “something can be done to deal with the problem of rising prices.” This is virtually identical to the number who held this opinion in the fall 1980, when inflation was much greater than it is today. And while most Americans say that the global economy is having an impact on the way things are going in the U.S., only a minority (26%) expresses the view that the government is powerless to fix the economy as a consequence.

	Has power to fix it %	Cannot fix it so easily %	DK %
Total	68	26	6=100
Conserv Rep	65	31	4=100
Mod/Lib Rep	68	29	3=100
Independent	65	30	5=100
Cons/Mod Dem	76	22	2=100
Liberal Dem	73	19	8=100
<i>Among voters:</i>			
Support McCain	65	31	4=100
Support Obama	72	24	4=100

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted July 23-27 among 1,503 adults, finds that nearly nine-in-ten voters (87%) say that when it comes to the economy, it matters who is elected president; 64% say it matters a great deal. In this regard, far more voters say that Barack Obama, rather than John McCain, can do a better job of improving economic conditions (47% to 32%).

This is a slightly narrower advantage for Obama on the economy than in June (51% to 31%); however, the survey also finds that McCain’s advantage on terrorism is a bit smaller than it was a month ago. Moreover, Obama runs about even with McCain as the candidate better able to handle foreign policy (43% McCain vs. 42% Obama). In September 2004, George Bush held a 16-point lead over John Kerry on foreign policy.

These opinions may reflect some positive reaction for Obama’s recent visit to the Middle East and Europe. However, the survey shows no overall gain for Obama in the presidential horserace. At 47% to 42%, his lead is about what it was in late June (48% to 40%). As was the case in June, independent voters split evenly between McCain and Obama (43% McCain, 42% Obama).

	Late May %	June %	July %
<i>If election were today, vote for...</i>			
Obama	47	48	47
McCain	44	40	42
Other/DK	9	12	11
	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1242	1574	1241
Based on registered voters.			

The weekly *News Interest Index* showed that Obama’s tour drew considerable public attention. Overall, 62% said they heard a lot about his trip to Europe and the Middle East, which is among the highest measures of public awareness of any campaign event to date.

Nearly half (48%) of those who heard about his trip say they learned at least something about Obama’s foreign policy, but only 15% feel like they learned a great deal about his approach. A narrow majority (52%) says they learned not much or nothing at all about his approach to foreign policy as a result of the trip.

### Globalization Faulted

The survey finds that, amid increased public skepticism about the benefits of free trade, the public takes a decidedly negative view of the impact of the global economy on the United States. Eight-in-ten say the global economy has at least a fair amount of influence on the U.S. economy, and 35% say it has a great deal of influence.

The vast majority of those who believe the global economy affects conditions in the United States say it is having a negative impact. Notably, there are virtually no partisan differences in this opinion: 65% of independents and Republicans, and 63% of Democrats, say that the global economy is having a negative impact on the way things are going in the United States.

<i>Influence of global economy on US...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Great deal/fair amount	80	83	82	80
<b>Negative influence</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>
Positive influence	11	11	13	10
Other/DK	6	7	6	5
Not much/no influence	15	14	14	16
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of respondents	1503	391	542	486

The broad sense of national dissatisfaction with current conditions – 74% express a negative view of national conditions, up nearly 20 points from July 2004 – is reflected in other measures as well. Disapproval of President Bush has ticked upward, and now stands at 68%, the highest in his presidency. Just 27% approve of Bush’s job performance, which equals the all-time low measured in April.

## Causes of Economic Problems

There is broad public agreement that international competition for oil and other natural resources is an important factor in the nation's current economic difficulties. Fully two-thirds of Americans (66%) say international competition for resources has contributed "a lot" to these problems, more than the percentages citing bad loans by banks, excessive spending by individuals, the budget deficit, and other factors.

<i>Contributed "a lot" to US economic problems</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Int'l competition for oil/ other natural resources	66	65	69	65
Bad loans by banks	59	58	62	59
People spending too much/ saving too little	54	60	48	57
Federal budget deficit	49	36	59	49
People buying imported products	44	43	47	42

Comparable proportions of Republicans and Democrats say international competition for resources and bad loans by banks have contributed a great deal to the nation's current economic problems. But Republicans are more likely than Democrats to blame excessive spending, and too little saving, by Americans: 60% say this has contributed a lot to the economic problems, compared with 48% of Democrats.

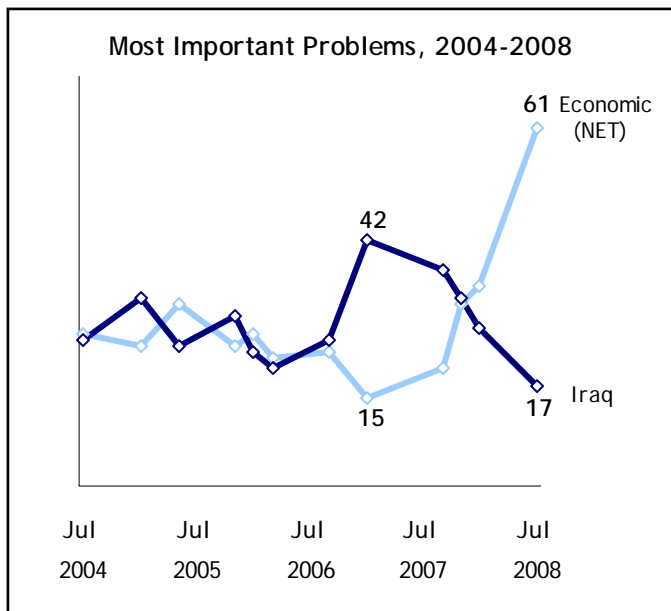
By contrast, many more Democrats than Republicans cite the federal budget deficit. Nearly six-in-ten Democrats (59%) say the federal budget deficit has contributed to the nation's economic difficulties, compared with just 36% of Republicans.

Only about four-in-ten people (44%) say Americans' buying imported products rather than U.S.-made goods has contributed a great deal to the nation's economic problems. But those with less education and lower incomes are far more likely to cite this as an important factor: a majority of those with no more than a high school education (52%) say that purchases of imported products have contributed a lot to U.S. economic difficulties, but only about half as many college graduates (28%) agree.

## Most Important Problem

The economy now far overshadows the war in Iraq, or any other issue, as the nation's most important problem. Fully 61% cite an economic concern – including gas and energy prices – as the most important problem facing the nation, up from just 34% in January.

Nearly four-in-ten (39%) point to the economy in general as the most important national problem, about double the proportion in January (20%); another 19% mention gas or energy prices, up from just 3% in January.



About as many people now volunteer gas or energy prices as the nation's most pressing problem as cite the Iraq war (19% vs. 17%). The proportion mentioning Iraq as the nation's top problem has declined by more than half since January 2007, when 42% cited the war as the most important national problem.

Two-thirds of Democrats (67%) list an economic problem, compared with 59% of Republicans and 61% of independents. In January, 39% of Democrats, 27% of Republicans and 35% of independents named an economic issue as the nation's greatest problem.

Democrats also remain significantly more likely than Republicans to view the war in Iraq as the most important problem facing the country (24% vs. 9%). However, Iraq's importance has declined considerably among members of both parties since January, when 36% of Democrats and 21% of Republicans cited the war as the leading national problem.

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Economic problems (Net)	61	59	67	61
Economy	39	39	46	39
Energy/Gas prices	19	17	17	22
Inflation/Cost of living	6	2	9	6
Unemployment	5	5	5	6
Iraq	17	9	24	16
Education	4	1	5	4
Dissatisfaction w/Govt	3	4	1	6
Terrorism	3	9	1	2
Health care	3	2	5	2
Morality/family values	3	5	2	3
Defense/Security	3	7	1	2
Number of respondents	737	197	255	242

Based on open-ended question, multiple responses allowed.

## Inflation Dominates Economic Concerns

When asked to name the most important economic problem facing the nation, fully 45% volunteer rising prices – with the price of energy cited most frequently (38%). In February, only about a quarter (24%) cited rising prices as the leading economic problem.

Increased concern about inflation and rising prices is evident across nearly all demographic groups. However, in the current survey, suburban and rural residents, as well as less educated people, stand out as being especially worried about inflation.

Those who live in suburban (47%) and rural areas (54%) are more likely than urban residents (37%) to cite prices – and often the price of gas, specifically – as the country’s most important economic problem. In addition, 49% of those with no more than a high school education cite rising prices as the leading economic problem, compared with 38% of college graduates.

Most Important Economic Problem Facing the Nation		
	Feb 08	July 08
	%	%
<b>Prices (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>
Gasoline/Oil/Energy	11	38
Cost of living/Not enough money/Inflation	5	9
Healthcare/Medical	9	2
<b>Jobs (NET)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>
Unemployment/Lack of jobs/Low wages	14	11
Jobs moving overseas/Outsourcing	4	2
<b>Housing (NET)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
Mortgage problems/Foreclosures	6	7
Affordable housing/Real-estate	9	3
<b>Government (NET)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
Government (Bush, Congress, etc.)	2	4
Budget/Deficit/Government spending	4	2
Taxes	3	1
Social Security	1	1
Not enough spending at home	1	1
Spending on war in Iraq	10	8
Debt/Credit issues/Bankruptcy	4	3
Dependency on foreign oil	--	2
Declining value of the dollar	1	2
Personal irresponsibility	1	2
Economy (general)	3	2
<b>Other</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>
None/no problem	1	*
Don't know	10	9

Based on open-ended question. Figures add to more than 100% because multiple responses were allowed.

## Views of Personal Finances

A solid majority of Americans (56%) now rate their personal financial situations as only fair or poor, compared with 42% who say they are in excellent or good shape financially. In January, as many people rated their finances positively as viewed them negatively (49% each).

Most people expect their finances to improve over the next year. But the percentage expressing personal financial optimism has declined, from 60% in January, to 55% in March, and 51% currently. Roughly four-in-ten (42%) say their financial situation will get worse (28%) or volunteer that it will stay the same (14%).

Personal financial optimism has declined among most demographic and political groups since January. Only about half (49%) of middle-income Americans (those with incomes greater than \$50,000 and less than \$75,000) express optimism that their finances will improve, compared with 65% in January. College graduates also have a gloomier outlook – 51% believe their financial situation will get better, down from 64% in January.

Young people and African Americans remain optimistic about their personal financial situation over the coming year. Among those younger than 30, seven-in-ten (71%) expect things to improve for them in the next year, compared with only 41% of those older than 50. And though blacks are significantly less optimistic than they were in January, they are still somewhat more likely than whites to expect their personal finances to improve in the next year (62% blacks, 50% whites).

Optimism among African Americans and the young is tied to the fact that their *current* financial situation leaves much room for improvement: just 22% of blacks and 37% of those younger than 30 rate their current economic situation as excellent or good.

	Jan	March	July
<i>Rating of personal finances</i>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
	%	%	%
Excellent/good	49	47	42
Only fair/poor	49	51	56
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

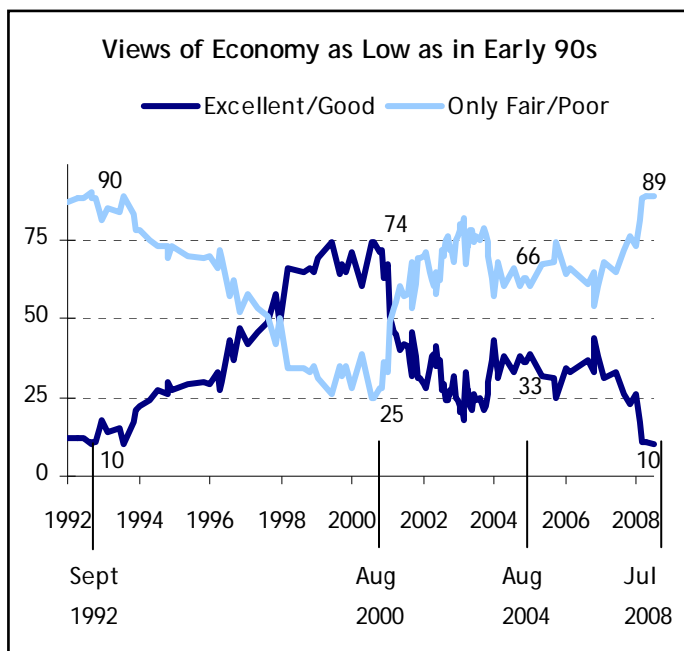
	<i>% saying personal finances will improve</i>		
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
Total	60	51	-9
White	56	50	-6
Black	78	62	-16
18-29	76	71	-5
30-49	67	55	-12
50-64	52	48	-4
65+	38	29	-9
College grad	64	51	-13
Some college	60	56	-4
HS or less	58	50	-8
\$75,000+	67	58	-9
\$50-\$74,999	65	49	-16
\$30-\$49,999	59	58	-1
Under \$30,000	54	51	-3
Republican	64	56	-8
Democrat	59	50	-9
Independent	61	52	-9



## Views of National Economy

The public's perception of the state of the national economy continues to be overwhelmingly negative. Just 10% rate economic conditions as excellent (1%) or good (9%), while 89% rate them as only fair (39%) or poor (50%).

That marks little changes since the spring; in both March and April, 11% rated the economy positively. But views of the economy are now much more negative than they were last year at about this time. In June 2007, a third said the economy was excellent or good, while 65% said it was only fair or poor.



Perceptions of the national economy are now about the same as they were during the recession of the early 1990s. In January 1992, for example, 12% viewed the economy positively, while 87% said it was only fair or poor.

## Most Say Economy is in Recession or Depression

While economists debate whether the economic slowdown has met the technical definition of a recession, more than half of the public (54%) says the economy is in recession while another 18% say it is in a depression.

As was the case in March, there are partisan differences in these assessments. Democrats (83%) and independents (71%) are the most likely to hold these views. A smaller majority of Republicans (55%) say the economy is in a recession (45%) or depression (10%).

**Partisan Differences over Severity of Downturn**

	<i>Rating the economy*...</i>					N
	Exc/ Good**	Few problems	Rec- ession	Dep- ression	DK/ ref	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	10	14	54	18	4=100	1503
Republican	20	24	45	10	1=100	391
Cons Rep	23	26	44	6	1=100	257
Mod/Lib Rep	11	19	49	19	2=100	127
Democrat	4	9	59	24	4=100	542
Cons/Mod Dem	5	10	58	25	2=100	361
Lib Dem	2	8	63	22	5=100	156
Independent	10	14	55	16	5=100	486

\*Asked of those who rate economy as "only fair" or "poor."  
 \*\* Positive ratings from those who rated economy as excellent or good in separate question. Percentages based on total population.

There are notable differences among Republicans over the state of the economy. Just half of conservative Republicans say the economy is in a recession or depression; about as many (49%) say the economy is either just having a few problems (26%) or is in excellent or good shape (23%). By contrast, two-thirds of moderate and liberal Republicans (68%) say the economy is either in a recession (49%) or a depression (19%). There are much smaller differences among Democrats in views of the state of the economy.

### Not 'Normal Ups and Downs'

A large majority of Americans who see the economy as only fair or poor say the problems facing the country are not just part of the “normal ups and downs” the economy experiences from time to time; rather, say 78%, the problems are deeper and more serious.

While majorities of all groups express this sentiment, it is particularly widespread among those with modest and middle-incomes; 85% of those with annual family incomes of less than \$50,000 who rate the economy negatively characterize the nation’s economic problems as deeper and more serious, compared with 68% of those with incomes greater than \$75,000.

<b>More Than a Hiccup!</b>				
<i>Nation's economic problems...</i>				
	<u>Normal ups</u>	<u>Deeper,</u>	<u>DK/</u>	
	<u>and downs</u>	<u>more serious</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%		
Total	20	78	2=100	1329
White	24	75	1=100	1072
Black	7	90	3=100	127
18-29	25	74	1=100	152
30-49	23	76	1=100	413
50-64	17	82	1=100	414
65+	13	84	3=100	333
\$100,000+	31	68	1=100	228
\$75K-99,999	30	68	2=100	139
\$50K-74,999	19	80	1=100	214
\$30K-49,999	15	85	0=100	239
Less than \$30K	14	84	2=100	321
College grad	28	71	1=100	495
Some college	19	80	1=100	303
HS or less	16	82	2=100	526

Based on those who rate the economy as 'only fair' or 'poor.'

There are clear political differences on this question as well. Almost nine-in-ten (88%) Democrats who view the economy negatively contend that the problems are serious and deep; this view is universally shared among liberal Democrats (95%). Just 60% Republicans say the problems are deeper and more serious than normal.

While views of the current financial climate are decidedly negative, only a minority of Americans (30%) expect things to get better in the next year. More than twice as many people say they expect conditions to stay the same (41%) or get worse (21%).

<b>Few See Better Times Ahead</b>			
	Jan	March	July
<i>A year from now,</i>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
<i>economy will be...</i>	%	%	%
Better	20	33	30
Worse	26	22	21
Same	48	39	41
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

Views about whether the economy will improve vary little across demographic groups or by party. However, among the most pessimistic are those with the lowest incomes: 27% of those in households making less than \$30,000 a year say that the economy will be in worse shape next year.

### Affording Necessities

For many Americans, it is getting harder to afford some of life's most basic necessities. As was the case earlier this year, majorities now say it is difficult to afford gasoline (68%), retirement savings (59%), and taxes (52%). In addition, nearly half of the public says it is difficult to afford home heating and electric bills (49%) and health care costs (46%). While most Americans still say it is easy to afford food, the percentage saying this is difficult for them has risen dramatically since February. Currently 38% say it is difficult to afford food, up from 27% in February.

	Feb 2008 %	July 2008 %	Change
<i>% saying it is difficult to afford...</i>			
Food	27	38	+11
Gasoline	60	68	+8
Heat and electricity	44	49	+5
Retirement saving	56	59	+3
Taxes	51	52	+1
Health care	45	46	+1

The percentage saying it is difficult to afford gasoline also has increased significantly – going from 60% in February to 68% currently. In addition, somewhat more Americans are now saying it is difficult to afford utility bills and retirement savings than said so just five months ago.

The proportion saying it is difficult to afford food is substantially higher than it was in January 1992, in the midst of a recession and widespread economic anxiety. At that time, a quarter of the public (24%) said it was difficult to afford food, compared with 38% currently. In addition, more now say it is difficult to afford heating and electric bills than did in January 1992 (49% now vs. 38% then).

The rising cost of food is having the biggest impact on lower and middle-income Americans. Nearly half (46%) of those with family incomes of between \$20,000 and less than \$50,000 a year say it is difficult to afford food, up from 34% in February. Among those with lower incomes (less than \$20,000), 60% say it is difficult to afford food, up from 50% in February.

While affording food has become more difficult for those in the lower income categories, the rising price of gasoline is felt across all income groups. For those making between \$50,000 and less than \$100,000 a year, 69% say it is difficult to afford gasoline, up from 57% five months ago. And even among those in households making \$100,000 a year or more, nearly half (47%) say it is now difficult to afford gas – up from 38% in February.

% Saying it is difficult to afford...	---- Jan 1992 ----				---- Feb 2008 ----				---- July 2008 ----			
	Household Income				Household Income				Household Income			
	Under \$15K	\$15K- \$30K	\$30K- \$50K	\$50K+	Under \$20K	\$20K- \$50K	\$50K- \$100K	\$100K+	Under \$20K	\$20K- \$50K	\$50K- \$100K	\$100K+
Food	49	28	16	8	50	34	20	11	60	46	29	15
Health care	63	51	38	31	57	57	37	27	64	55	39	23
Taxes	66	63	59	49	64	57	48	37	63	58	46	39
Saving for retirement	64	64	66	51	71	66	54	38	73	68	53	43
Heat and electricity	66	43	27	20	65	56	38	22	66	58	42	30
Gasoline	--	--	--	--	74	73	57	38	81	75	69	47

To create comparable income categories for 1992 and 2008, figures were adjusted to account for changes in income distributions over time. For more information, see February 14, 2008 report: [Economic Discontent Deepens as Inflation Concerns Rise](#).

## Inflation Takes a Toll

A growing majority of Americans say their family's income is falling behind the cost of living. Nearly two-thirds (64%) now say their income is lagging behind rising costs, up from 58% who said this in February of this year. Only 28% now say their income is staying about even with the cost of living and a mere 6% say their income is going up faster than the cost of living. As recently as September 2007, the public was evenly divided on this issue: 43% said their incomes were staying about even with the cost of living and 44% said their incomes were falling behind.

	Sept 2007	Feb 2008	July 2008
<i>Family income vs. cost of living:</i>	%	%	%
Income is going up faster	10	6	6
Income is staying about even	43	33	28
Income is falling behind	44	58	64
Don't know	3	3	2
	100	100	100

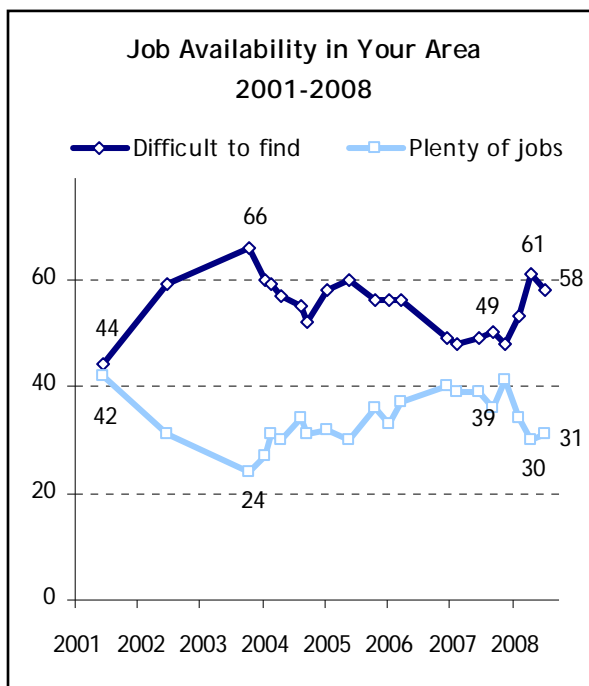
Those in lower income groups are the most likely to say their incomes are falling behind rising costs. However, even among those in the highest income group (annual incomes of \$100,000 or more), nearly half (48%) say their incomes are falling behind.

While most Americans say their family incomes are not keeping up with the cost of living, the proportion saying they owe more than they can afford on credit cards and non-mortgage debt has not changed substantially in recent years. Currently, 10% say they owe a lot more they can afford on credit cards and other non-mortgage debts; 12% say they owe a little more than they can afford.

## Jobs Are Scarce - Especially Good Jobs

Most Americans (58%) say jobs are difficult to find where they live, while just 31% say plenty of jobs are available. The proportion saying there are plenty of jobs available locally has remained stable since April (30%), but has declined by 10 points since November 2007 (41%).

There has been an even larger decline in the percentage of Americans saying *good* jobs are available in their communities. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say good jobs are difficult to find locally, while just 22% say there are plenty of good jobs available. In June 2007, 55% said good jobs were difficult to find, while 36% said they were in ample supply.



Nearly two-thirds of those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more (64%) now say that good jobs are difficult to find locally, up from 40% in June 2007. The change in perceptions about the availability of good jobs has been as dramatic among those making between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

By contrast, perceptions of the local market for good jobs have changed less over the last year among those with lower incomes, who already largely believed that good jobs were difficult to find.

There also has been a sharp increase in the proportion of Republicans saying that good jobs are difficult to find in their local areas (from 38% in June 2007 to 60% currently). More Democrats and independents continue to say that good jobs are in short supply (79% and 74%, respectively).

**Scarcity of Good Jobs**

	<i>Good jobs difficult to find</i>			July N
	June 2007	July 2008	Change	
Total	55	73	+18	766
\$100,000 or more	40	64	+24	126
\$50K-\$99,999	47	75	+28	202
\$30-\$49,999	65	74	+9	135
Less than \$30K	73	82	+9	188
College Grad	49	64	+15	294
Some College	54	74	+20	174
HS or less	60	77	+17	294
Republican	38	60	+22	194
Democrat	63	79	+16	287
Independent	63	74	+11	244

## Real Estate Slump

Americans have grown markedly more negative in evaluations of their local real estate markets since earlier this year. Fully 56% say that home prices in their area have declined a little (32%) or a lot (24%). In early February, 41% said prices had fallen a little (23%) or a lot (18%).

Homeowners have a particularly gloomy assessment of their local real estate market. Currently, just 27% say prices have risen while 63% say they have fallen. In early February, homeowners were evenly divided, with 44% saying prices had risen and 45% saying they had dropped.

Fully 68% of those who have mortgages, and 55% of those who own their homes outright, say home prices have fallen in the past year; in February, 49% of mortgage holders, and 39% of those who own their homes outright, said that local home prices had declined. By contrast, just 42% of non-homeowners say prices have fallen, up more modestly from 32% in February

People who live in the West are more likely than those in other regions to say that local home prices have declined; 70% of those in the West say that, compared with 60% in the Midwest and about half of those in the South (49%) and East (49%).

## But Most Expect Prices to Rise

Looking to the future, however, people are somewhat optimistic. More than half of Americans (54%) expect home prices to increase over the next few years. That is little changed since February, when 55% expected prices to rise.

Prospective views of the local real estate market vary little between homeowners and non-homeowners. However, among homeowners, somewhat more who have mortgages expect prices to rise than do people who own their homes outright (59% vs. 49%).

### More See Home Prices Taking a Hit

	Over past year, home prices have...				
	<i>Early Feb 2008</i>		<i>July 2008</i>		July <u>N</u>
	Gone <u>Up</u> %	Gone <u>down</u> %	Gone <u>up</u> %	Gone <u>down</u> %	
Total	46	41	33	56	
Homeowners	44	45	27	63	1125
<i>Have mortgage</i>	40	49	26	68	637
<i>Own outright</i>	52	39	30	55	470
Non-owners	51	32	43	42	378

### Continued Optimism about Future Home Prices

	Over next few years, home prices will...				
	<i>Early Feb 2008</i>		<i>July 2008</i>		July <u>N</u>
	Go <u>Up</u> %	Go <u>down</u> %	Go <u>up</u> %	Go <u>down</u> %	
Total	55	34	54	36	
Homeowners	55	34	56	35	1125
<i>Have mortgage</i>	57	34	59	34	637
<i>Own outright</i>	53	33	49	38	470
Non-owners	55	34	51	39	378

## Politics: Obama Maintains Lead

In the general election matchup, Obama currently leads McCain by five points, 47% to 42%, among registered voters, a slightly narrower margin than Obama's lead in June 2008 (48% to 40%). Both candidates continue to draw overwhelming support among voters in their own parties – 86% of Republicans support McCain and 81% of Democrats support Obama. Independent voters remain divided; roughly the same number say they would vote for the Democratic candidate (42%) as say they would vote for the GOP candidate (43%).

As was the case in June, Obama's leads by wide margins among voters younger than 30 (56% to 36%); the least affluent (57% to 28% among those with family incomes under \$30,000); African Americans (86% to 5%); and the religiously unaffiliated (61% to 30%). The Illinois senator also holds a double-digit advantage among women (50% to 39%) and Catholic voters (52% to 41%).

### General Election Matchup

	June		July		<i>Obama change</i>	July N
	Oba- ma %	Mc- Cain %	Oba- ma %	Mc- Cain %		
All voters	48	40	47	42	-1	1241
Republicans	10	82	7	86	-3	344
Democrats	82	9	81	11	-1	469
Independents	42	41	42	43	0	387
Men	45	44	44	45	-1	556
Women	51	37	50	39	-1	685
White	40	48	40	50	0	1022
Black	90	3	86	5	-4	114
White men	36	53	38	53	+2	469
White women	43	43	41	47	-2	553
18-29	56	36	56	36	0	104
30-49	52	39	44	44	-8	350
50-64	45	42	49	42	+4	433
65+	37	44	42	42	+5	335
College grad+	46	44	45	45	-1	505
Some college	48	41	51	40	+3	287
HS or less	49	36	47	40	-2	444
\$75,000+	43	47	41	51	-2	367
\$50-\$74,999	54	39	51	42	-3	212
\$30-\$49,999	48	45	49	40	+1	214
Under \$30,000	56	29	57	28	+1	261
Protestant	44	45	40	47	-4	699
White evangelical	25	61	20	69	-5	281
White mainline	39	53	36	52	-3	277
Catholic	44	42	52	41	+8	263
White, non-Hisp	40	46	47	44	+7	217
Unaffiliated	67	24	61	30	-6	166

Based on registered voters. Figures read horizontally.

Among Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters who favored Hillary Clinton as the party's nominee, slightly more now back Obama than did so a month ago. Nearly three-quarters of former Clinton supporters now prefer Obama (72%), up from just 59% in May. However, 28% of those who supported Clinton say they will vote for McCain (17%), vote for someone else (1%) or are undecided (10%). McCain is favored by 88% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who supported someone other than McCain for the party's nomination

### Former Clinton Supporters Moving Toward Obama

	Feb %	Mar %	Apr %	May %	June %	July %
Obama	64	63	61	59	69	72
McCain	28	32	30	28	17	17
Other	2	2	4	4	2	1
Don't know	6	3	5	9	12	10
	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	245	253	281	277	333	294

Based on Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters who favored Hillary Clinton as the party's nominee.

McCain also receives considerably more support than Obama among white voters, especially white evangelical Protestants. The Arizona senator holds a 50% to 40% margin among all white voters and an even wider 69% to 20% lead among white evangelical Protestant voters. McCain also performs better than his opponent among the most affluent; 50% of those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more would vote for McCain if the election were held today and 40% would vote for Obama.

Solid majorities of supporters of both Obama and McCain continue to see their choice as a vote for their favored candidate and not as a vote against his opponent. About two-thirds of those who back Obama express affirmative support for him (68%) and just 25% say their vote in anti-McCain. Among McCain’s supporters, 59% say their choice is pro-McCain, while 35% describe it as anti-Obama. By contrast, fully half of John Kerry’s supporters said their choice was more anti-Bush than pro-Kerry in November 2004.

### Gap in Strength of Support Narrows

While McCain continues to receive considerably less strong backing from his supporters than Obama does from his, the disparity in strong support for the two candidates has narrowed somewhat since last month. About a quarter of all voters now describe themselves as strong Obama supporters (24%), compared with 17% who say they back McCain strongly. In June 2008, twice as many voters said they supported Obama strongly as said the same about McCain (28% vs. 14%).

Of the 47% who back Obama over McCain this fall, about half (24% of voters overall) say they support him strongly and roughly the same number say they back him “only moderately” (22%). Last month, 28% said they supported Obama strongly, while 19% said they supported him only moderately.

Strength of Support		
	June 2008	July 2008
Support...	%	%
Obama	48	47
<i>Strongly</i>	28	24
<i>Only mod.</i>	19	22
<i>DK</i>	1	1
McCain	40	42
<i>Strongly</i>	14	17
<i>Only mod.</i>	26	24
<i>DK</i>	*	1
Other/DK	12	11
	100	100

Based on registered voters.



## Who Would the Candidates Favor?

One-in-five registered voters say that, if elected, Obama would do too much for African Americans, slightly more than say he would do too much for environmentalists (16%). When asked how different groups would fare if McCain were elected president, on the other hand, nearly half of all voters (45%) say he would do too much for the wealthy. By contrast, just 16% say McCain would do too much for Christian conservatives, a group that supports him over Obama by a double-digit margin; the same number say he would do too little for that group.

### How Candidates Would Treat Various Groups If Elected

	Too much %	Too little %	Right amount %	DK %
<i>What Obama would do for...</i>				
African Americans	20	5	65	10=100
Wealthy Americans	13	24	47	16=100
Christian Conservatives	6	27	47	20=100
Environmentalists	16	13	56	15=100
<i>What McCain would do for...</i>				
African Americans	2	30	52	16=100
Wealthy Americans	45	8	35	12=100
Christian Conservatives	16	16	48	20=100
Environmentalists	6	40	39	15=100

Based on registered voters.

Perceptions that Obama would do too much for blacks are most pronounced among Republicans (31%), white evangelical Protestants (30%), and conservative voters (26%). Fully 76% of black voters say Obama would do about the right amount for African Americans while 8% say he would do too little.

White working class voters are considerably more likely than those with a college degree to say Obama would do too much for blacks. A quarter of less educated white voters say that is the case, compared with 16% of those who graduated from college.

But white working class voters are even more likely to say McCain would do too much for the wealthy. Fully 43% say that is the case.

### Percent Who Think...

	Obama would do too much for blacks %	McCain would do too much for the wealthy %	N
Total	20	45	1241
Republicans	31	22	344
Democrats	12	64	469
Independents	18	43	387
White	22	42	1022
Black	9	53	114
<i>Among whites</i>			
College grad	16	41	430
Not college grad	25	43	590

Based on registered voters.

The view that McCain would do too much for the rich is shared by a solid majority of Democrats (64%) and 43% of independents, as well as by more than one-in-five Republican voters (22%). And while those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more are somewhat less likely than those in lower income brackets to say this is the case, fully 39% in this group think the GOP candidate would do too much for the wealthy.

Conservative white evangelical Protestants are among the most likely to say John McCain would do about the right amount for Christian conservatives; six-in-ten express that view, roughly the same number that says Obama would do too little (57%). A sizeable minority in this group (24%) also says McCain would do too little for Christian conservatives.

Voters express starkly different views of how environmentalists would fare under a McCain or Obama administration. Only about four-in-ten (39%) say McCain would do the right amount for environmentalists; about the same percentage (40%) says he would do too little. A majority (56%) says Obama would do the right amount for environmentalists, while just 13% say he would do too little.

### McCain's Lead on Terrorism Narrows

McCain continues to hold a sizable advantage over Obama as the candidate who is seen as better able to defend the country from a terrorist attack, but the Republican's lead has narrowed considerably since June. Currently, just under half of all voters (48%) say McCain would do the better job on terrorism, compared with 33% who choose Obama. Last month, McCain held a 55% to 31% lead on this issue.

The survey, which was conducted during Obama's trip to Europe and the Middle East, also finds that voters are divided on the question of which candidate would do the better job on foreign policy. About the same number name McCain (43%) as name Obama (42%). And when it comes to making wise decisions on Iraq, in particular, McCain holds a narrow 44% to 41% advantage.

Candidates & the Issues			
<i>Who would do the best job of...</i>	Mc- <u>Cain</u> %	Oba- <u>ma</u> %	Neither/ <u>DK</u> %
<b>Improving economic conditions</b>			
July 2008	32	47	21=100
June 2008	31	51	18=100
Late May 2008	36	51	13=100
April 2008	33	53	14=100
<b>Making wise decisions about Iraq</b>			
July 2008	44	41	15=100
June 2008	47	41	12=100
Late May 2008	46	43	11=100
April 2008	50	38	12=100
<b>Defending country from a terrorist attack</b>			
July 2008	48	33	19=100
June 2008	55	31	14=100
April 2008	63	26	11=100
<b>Making wise decisions about foreign policy</b>			
July 2008	43	42	15=100

Based on registered voters.

The economy remains Obama's strength. The presumptive Democratic nominee holds a 15-point advantage over his opponent on this issue (47% to 32%). Obama held a slightly wider lead in June; 51% said he was better able than McCain to improve economic conditions and 31% preferred McCain on this issue.

## 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 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 23-27, 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,503	3.0 percentage points
Form 1 sample	737	4.0 percentage points
Form 2 sample	766	4.0 percentage points
Registered voter sample	1,241	3.5 percentage points
Republican registered voter sample	344	6.0 percentage points
Democratic registered voter sample	469	5.0 percentage points
Independent registered voter sample	387	5.5 percentage points
Republican- & Republican-leaning RV sample	501	5.0 percentage points
Democratic- & Democratic-leaning RV sample	626	4.5 percentage points
Clinton supporters (for Democratic primary)	294	6.5 percentage points
Obama supporters (for Democratic primary)	288	6.5 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  
Kim Parker, Senior Researcher  
Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley,  
Research Associates  
Kathleen Holzwart and Alec Tyson, Research Analysts  
James Albrightain, Research Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JULY 2008 POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**July 23-27, 2008**  
**N=1503**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	No Opinion		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	No Opinion
July, 2008	19	74	7=100	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7=100
June, 2008	19	76	5=100	September, 2000	51	41	8=100
Late May, 2008	18	76	6=100	June, 2000	47	45	8=100
March, 2008	22	72	6=100	April, 2000	48	43	9=100
Early February, 2008	24	70	6=100	August, 1999	56	39	5=100
Late December, 2007	27	66	7=100	January, 1999	53	41	6=100
October, 2007	28	66	6=100	November, 1998	46	44	10=100
February, 2007	30	61	9=100	Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7=100	Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early January, 2007	30	63	7=100	Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
December, 2006	28	65	7=100	February, 1998	59	37	4=100
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8=100	January, 1998	46	50	4=100
Early October, 2006	30	63	7=100	September, 1997	45	49	6=100
July, 2006	30	65	5=100	August, 1997	49	46	5=100
May, 2006	29	65	6=100	January, 1997	38	58	4=100
March, 2006	32	63	5=100	July, 1996	29	67	4=100
January, 2006	34	61	5=100	March, 1996	28	70	2=100
Late November, 2005	34	59	7=100	October, 1995	23	73	4=100
Early October, 2005	29	65	6=100	June, 1995	25	73	2=100
July, 2005	35	58	7=100	April, 1995	23	74	3=100
Late May, 2005	39	57	4=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
February, 2005	38	56	6=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	September, 1993	20	75	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
April 8, 2003	50	41	9=100	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=100
September, 2002	41	55	4=100				
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100				
May, 2002	44	44	12=100				
March, 2002	50	40	10=100				
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100				
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100				
June, 2001	43	52	5=100				
March, 2001	47	45	8=100				
February, 2001	46	43	11=100				
January, 2001	55	41	4=100				

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 When children today in the U.S. grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off than people are now?

		<i>Pew Global Attitudes Project May 2007</i>	<i>Pew Social &amp; Demographic Trends Feb 2006</i>	<i>Pew Global Attitudes Project Sept 2002</i>
25	Better	31	34	41
62	Worse	60	50	50
2	Same (VOL.)	4	4	3
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election . . . Quite a lot or only a little?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

		Quite <u>A lot</u>	(VOL.) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>Little</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
<b>2008</b>	July, 2008	74	2	20	3	1=100
	June, 2008	72	2	23	2	1=100
	Late May, 2008	75	4	17	3	1=100
	April, 2008	77	7	13	2	1=100
	March, 2008	78	3	15	3	1=100
	Late February, 2008	74	3	19	2	2=100
<b>2004</b>	November, 2004	82	3	12	2	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	76	5	15	3	1=100
	Early October, 2004	74	4	19	2	1=100
	September, 2004	71	3	22	3	1=100
	August, 2004	69	2	26	2	1=100
	July, 2004	67	2	28	2	1=100
	June, 2004	58	3	36	2	1=100
	May, 2004	59	6	30	4	1=100
	Late March, 2004	60	4	31	4	1=100
	Mid-March, 2004	65	2	31	2	*=100
<b>2000</b>	November, 2000	72	6	19	2	1=100
	Late October, 2000	66	6	24	4	*=100
	Mid-October, 2000	67	9	19	4	1=100
	Early October, 2000	60	8	27	4	1=100
	September, 2000	59	8	29	3	1=100
	July, 2000	46	6	45	3	*=100
	June, 2000	46	6	43	5	*=100
	May, 2000	48	4	42	5	1=100
	April, 2000	45	7	41	7	*=100
	<b>1996</b>	November, 1996	67	8	22	3
October, 1996		65	7	26	1	1=100
Late September, 1996		61	7	29	2	1=100
Early September, 1996		56	3	36	4	1=100
July, 1996		55	3	41	1	*=100
June, 1996		50	5	41	3	1=100

**THOUGHT CONTINUED...**

		(VOL.)		(VOL.)		(VOL.)
		Quite	Only a	DK/		
		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Ref.</u>		
		<u>Some</u>	<u>None</u>			
<b>1992</b>	Early October, 1992	77	5	16	1	1=100
	September, 1992	69	3	26	1	1=100
	August, 1992	72	4	23	1	*=100
	June, 1992	63	6	29	1	1=100
<b>1988</b>	<b>Gallup:</b> November, 1988	73	8	17	2	0=100
	<b>Gallup:</b> October, 1988	69	9	20	2	0=100
	<b>Gallup:</b> August, 1988	61	10	27	2	0=100
	<b>Gallup:</b> September, 1988	57	18	23	2	0=100

**ASK ALL:**

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST ASK:**

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

80 Yes, Registered  
 77 Absolutely certain  
 2 Chance registration has lapsed  
 1 Don't know/refused (VOL.)  
 19 No, not registered  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

PRECINCT Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

87 Yes  
 13 No  
 \* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

OFTVOTE How often would you say you vote... (READ)

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

53 Always  
 30 Nearly always  
 10 Part of the time  
 4 Seldom  
 1 Never vote (VOL.)  
 1 Other response (VOL.)  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

**NO QUESTIONS 3 AND 4**

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.5 Now, suppose the 2008 presidential election were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between [READ AND ROTATE]—who would you vote for?

**IF OTHER OR DK (Q.5 =3,9), ASK:**

Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ, ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?

**IF CHOSE MCCAIN OR OBAMA IN Q.5 (Q.5=1,2), ASK:**

Q.5b Do you support (INSERT PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE FROM Q.5—LAST NAME ONLY) strongly or only moderately?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	<b>Mc- Cain</b>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Oba- ma</b>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Third party</b>	<b>Fourth party</b>	<b>Other/ Don't know</b>	
July, 2008	42	17	24	1	47	24	22	1	n/a	n/a	11=100	
June, 2008	40	14	26	*	48	28	19	1	n/a	n/a	12=100	
Late May, 2008	44				47				n/a	n/a	9=100	
April, 2008	44				50				n/a	n/a	6=100	
March, 2008	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100	
Late February, 2008	43				50				n/a	n/a	7=100	
	<b>Bush</b>				<b>Kerry</b>				<b>Nader</b>			
November, 2004	45	34	11	*	46	29	16	1	1	n/a	8=100	
Mid-October, 2004	45	32	13	*	45	28	16	1	1	n/a	9=100	
Early October, 2004	48	35	12	1	41	24	17	*	2	n/a	9=100	
September, 2004	49	33	15	1	43	22	20	1	1	n/a	7=100	
August, 2004	45	32	13	*	47	28	19	*	2	n/a	6=100	
July, 2004	44				46				3	n/a	7=100	
June, 2004	46				42				6	n/a	6=100	
May, 2004	43				46				6	n/a	5=100	
Late March, 2004	44				43				6	n/a	7=100	
Mid-March, 2004	42				49				4	n/a	5=100	
	<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
June, 2004	48				46				n/a	n/a	6=100	
May, 2004	45				50				n/a	n/a	5=100	
Late March, 2004	46				47				n/a	n/a	7=100	
Mid-March, 2004	43				52				n/a	n/a	5=100	
Late February, 2004	44				48				n/a	n/a	8=100	
Early February, 2004	47				47				n/a	n/a	6=100	
Early January, 2004	52				41				n/a	n/a	7=100	
October, 2003	50				42				n/a	n/a	8=100	
	<b>Bush</b>				<b>Gore</b>				<b>Nader Buchanan</b>			
November, 2000	41	26	15	*	45	25	19	1	4	1	9=100	
Late October, 2000	45	29	16	*	43	24	19	*	4	1	7=100	
Mid-October, 2000	43	25	18	*	45	22	23	*	4	1	7=100	
Early October, 2000	43	26	17	*	44	22	22	*	5	*	8=100	
September, 2000	41	21	19	1	47	25	21	1	2	1	9=100	
July, 2000	42				41				6	2	9=100	
Late June, 2000	42				35				2	2	19=100	
Mid-June, 2000	41				42				4	3	10=100	
January, 2000	51				39				n/a	4	6=100	
September, 1999	49				35				n/a	10	6=100	

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who say they "lean McCain" or "lean Obama" in Q.5a.

Q.5/Q.5A/Q.5B CONTINUED...

	<b>Bush</b>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Gore</b>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Nader</b>	<b>Buchanan</b>	<b>Other/ Don't know</b>
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
July, 2000	48				46				n/a	n/a	6=100
Mid-June, 2000	45	20	25	*	46	18	27	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
May, 2000	46				45				n/a	n/a	9=100
March, 2000	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100
February, 2000	46	19	27	*	45	18	26	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
December, 1999	55				40				n/a	n/a	5=100
October, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
September, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
July, 1999	53				42				n/a	n/a	5=100
March, 1999	54				41				n/a	n/a	5=100
January, 1999	50				44				n/a	n/a	6=100
Early September, 1998	53				40				n/a	n/a	7=100
	<b>Dole</b>				<b>Clinton</b>				<b>Perot</b>		
November, 1996	32	17	15	*	51	26	24	1	9	n/a	8=100
October, 1996	34	17	16	1	51	25	26	*	8	n/a	7=100
Late September, 1996	35	16	18	1	51	26	25	*	7	n/a	7=100
Early September, 1996	34	17	17	*	52	26	26	0	8	n/a	6=100
July, 1996	34				44				16	n/a	6=100
March, 1996	35				44				16	n/a	5=100
September, 1995	36				42				19	n/a	3=100
July, 1994	36				39				20	n/a	5=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
July, 1996	42	11	30	*	53	20	31	1	n/a	n/a	5=100
June, 1996	40	13	23	1	55	22	29	1	n/a	n/a	5=100
April, 1996	40				54						6=100
March, 1996	41				53						6=100
February, 1996	44				52						4=100
January, 1996	41				53						6=100
July, 1994	49				46						5=100
	<b>Bush, Sr.</b>				<b>Clinton</b>				<b>Perot</b>		
Late October, 1992	34	20	14	--	44	26	18	--	19	n/a	3=100
Early October, 1992	35	14	21	--	48	23	25	--	8	n/a	9=100
June, 1992	31				27				36	n/a	6=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
September, 1992	38	14	21	--	53	25	28	--	n/a	n/a	9=100
August, 1992	37	14	23	--	57	24	33	--	n/a	n/a	6=100
June, 1992	46	13	33	--	41	9	32	--	n/a	n/a	13=100
May, 1992	46	15	31	--	43	10	33	--	n/a	n/a	11=100
Late March, 1992	50	19	31	--	43	9	34	--	n/a	n/a	7=100
	<b>Bush, Sr.</b>				<b>Dukakis</b>						
October, 1988	50	24	26	--	42	20	22	--	n/a	n/a	8=100
September, 1988	50	26	24	--	44	19	25	--	n/a	n/a	6=100
May, 1988	40	12	28	--	53	14	39	--	n/a	n/a	7=100



**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.5 Now, suppose the 2008 presidential election were being held TODAY. If you had to choose between [READ AND ROTATE]—who would you vote for?

**IF OTHER OR DK (Q.5 =3,9), ASK:**

Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ, ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?

**IF RESPONDENT CHOSE JOHN MCCAIN (1 IN Q.5 OR 1 IN Q.5a):**

Q.6a Would you say that your choice is more a vote FOR John McCain or more a vote AGAINST Barack Obama?

**IF RESPONDENT CHOSE BARACK OBAMA (2 IN Q.5 OR 2 IN Q.5a):**

Q.6b Would you say that your choice is more a vote FOR Barack Obama or more a vote AGAINST John McCain?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	<u>Mc-Cain</u>	<u>Pro-McCain</u>	<u>Anti-Obama</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Pro-Obama</u>	<u>Anti-McCain</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Third party</u>	<u>Fourth party</u>	<u>Other/Don't know</u>
July, 2008	42	25	14	3	47	32	12	3	n/a	n/a	11=100
June, 2008	40				48				n/a	n/a	12=100
Late May, 2008	44	28	14	2	47	35	11	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
April, 2008	44				50				n/a	n/a	6=100
March, 2008	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100
Late February, 2008	43	27	14	2	50	38	10	2	n/a	n/a	7=100
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Pro-Bush</u>	<u>Anti-Kerry</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Pro-Kerry</u>	<u>Anti-Bush</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Nader<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Fourth party</u>	<u>Other/Don't know</u>
November, 2004	45	34	9	2	46	20	23	3	1	n/a	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	32	10	3	45	18	24	3	1	n/a	9=100
Early October, 2004	48	36	10	2	41	15	23	3	2	n/a	9=100
September, 2004	49	38	9	2	43	15	26	2	1	n/a	7=100
August, 2004	45	34	8	3	47	20	24	3	2	n/a	6=100
July, 2004	44				46				3	n/a	7=100
June, 2004	46				42				6	n/a	6=100
May, 2004	43				46				6	n/a	5=100
Late March, 2004	44				43				6	n/a	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	42				49				4	n/a	5=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
June, 2004	48	35	11	2	46	17	27	2	n/a	n/a	6=100
May, 2004	45	33	10	2	50	15	32	3	n/a	n/a	5=100
Late March, 2004	46	36	8	2	47	17	27	3	n/a	n/a	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	43	34	7	2	52	21	29	2	n/a	n/a	5=100
Late February, 2004	44				48				n/a	n/a	8=100
Early February, 2004	47	39	6	2	47	15	30	2	n/a	n/a	6=100
Early January, 2004	52				41				n/a	n/a	7=100
October, 2003	50				42				n/a	n/a	8=100

<sup>2</sup>

The question regarding whether a vote was more for one's candidate of choice or more against his opponents was not asked of Nader supporters in 2004.

**Q.5/5A/6A/6B CONTINUED...**

	<b>Bush</b>	<i>Pro-Bush</i>	<i>Anti-Gore</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Gore</b>	<i>Pro-Gore</i>	<i>Anti-Bush</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Nader<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Buchanan</b>	<b>Other/Don't know</b>
November, 2000	41	27	12	2	45	29	14	2	4	1	9=100
Late October, 2000	45				43				4	1	7=100
Mid-October, 2000	43				45				4	1	7=100
Early October, 2000	43				44				5	*	8=100
September, 2000	41	24	14	3	47	30	14	3	2	1	9=100
July, 2000	42				41				6	2	9=100
Late June, 2000	42				35				2	2	19=100
Mid-June, 2000	41				42				4	3	10=100
January, 2000	51				39				n/a	4	6=100
September, 1999	49				35				n/a	10	6=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
July, 2000	48				46				n/a	n/a	6=100
Mid-June, 2000	45				46				n/a	n/a	9=100
May, 2000	46				45				n/a	n/a	9=100
March, 2000	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100
February, 2000	46				45				n/a	n/a	9=100
December, 1999	55				40				n/a	n/a	5=100
October, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
September, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
July, 1999	53				42				n/a	n/a	5=100
March, 1999	54				41				n/a	n/a	5=100
January, 1999	50				44				n/a	n/a	6=100
Early September, 1998	53				40				n/a	n/a	7=100

	<b>Dole</b>	<i>Pro-Dole</i>	<i>Anti-Other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Clinton</b>	<i>Pro-Clinton</i>	<i>Anti-Other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Perot</b>	<i>Pro-Perot</i>	<i>Anti-other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Other/DK</b>
November, 1996	32	15	15	2	51	33	15	3	9	4	5	*	8=100
October, 1996	34	15	18	1	51	33	16	2	8	4	4	*	7=100
Late Sept., 1996	35				51				7				7=100
Early Sept., 1996	34	16	17	1	52	35	15	2	8	3	5	0	6=100
July, 1996	34				44				16				6=100
March, 1996	35				44				16				5=100
September, 1995	36				42				19				3=100
July, 1994	36				39				20				5=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>													
July, 1996	42				53				n/a				5=100
June, 1996	40				55				n/a				5=100
April, 1996	40				54				n/a				6=100
March, 1996	41	15	25	1	53	30	20	3	n/a				6=100
February, 1996	44				52				n/a				4=100
January, 1996	41				53				n/a				6=100
July, 1994	49				46				n/a				5=100

<sup>3</sup>

The question regarding whether a vote was more for one's candidate of choice or more against his opponents was not asked of Nader supporters or Buchanan supporters in 2000.

**Q.5/5A/6A/6B CONTINUED...**

	<b>Bush Sr.</b>	<i>Pro-Bush</i>	<i>Anti-other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Clinton</b>	<i>Pro-Clinton</i>	<i>Anti-other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Perot</b>	<i>Pro-Perot</i>	<i>Anti-other</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Other/DK</b>
Late October, 1992	34	19	13	2	44	25	17	2	19	10	7	2	3=100
Early October, 1992	35	19	13	3	48	23	22	3	8	3	5	*	9=100
June, 1992	31				27				36				6=100
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>													
September, 1992	38	20	16	2	53	21	29	3	n/a				9=100
August, 1992	37	20	16	1	57	27	28	2	n/a				6=100
June, 1992	46					41			n/a				13=100
May, 1992	46					43			n/a				11=100
Late March, 1992	50	33	15	2	43	13	28	2	n/a				7=100

	<b>Bush Sr.</b>	<i>Pro-Bush</i>	<i>Anti-Dukakis</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Du-kakis</b>	<i>Pro-Dukakis</i>	<i>Anti-Bush</i>	<i>DK</i>	<b>Third party</b>	<b>Fourth party</b>	<b>Other/Don't know</b>
October, 1988	50	31	16	3	42	23	15	4	n/a	n/a	8=100
September, 1988	50	31	15	4	44	21	19	4	n/a	n/a	6=100
May, 1988	40	26	11	3	53	23	26	4	n/a	n/a	7=100

**IF RESPONDENT DID NOT CHOOSE MCCAIN IN Q.5/5a (Q.5=2 OR Q.5a=2,3,9) ASK: ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8**

Q.7 Do you think there is a chance that you might vote for John McCain in November, or have you definitely decided not to vote for him?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	<u>Chance might vote for</u>	<u>Decided not to vote for</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
<b>McCain</b> July, 2008	13	38	7=58%
June, 2008	12	41	7=60%
<b>Bush</b> November, 2004	6	44	5=55%
Mid-October, 2004	5	43	7=55%
Early October, 2004	9	39	4=52%
September, 2004	9	38	4=51%
August, 2004	10	42	3=55%
July, 2004	10	41	5=56%
June, 2004 <sup>4</sup>	9	41	2=52%
May, 2004	9	42	4=55%
Late March, 2004	11	40	3=54%
Mid-March, 2004	11	44	2=57%
Late February, 2004	10	43	3=56%
Early February, 2004	10	41	2=53%
<b>Bush</b> November, 2000	8	44	7=59%
Late October, 2000	10	41	4=55%
Mid-October, 2000	12	40	5=57%
Early October, 2000	11	39	7=57%
September, 2000	15	38	6=59%
Mid-June, 2000	15	33	6=54%

<sup>4</sup> In June 2004, May 2004, Late March 2004, Mid-March 2004, Mid-June 2000 and July 1996 the head-to-head match-up was asked both as a three-way and a two-way trial heat. In those surveys, this question followed the two-way trial heat.

<b>Q.7 CONTINUED...</b>		Chance might <u>vote for</u>	Decided not <u>to vote for</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
<b>Dole</b>	November, 1996	8	54	6=68%
	October, 1996	11	51	4=66%
	Late September, 1996	16	44	5=65%
	Early September, 1996	14	47	5=66%
	July, 1996	15	40	3=58%
<b>Bush, Sr</b>	Late October, 1992	11	53	2=66%
	Early October, 1992	13	46	6=65%
	September, 1992	12	44	6=62%
	August, 1992	15	45	4=64%
	May, 1992	8	40	5=53%

**IF RESPONDENT DID NOT CHOOSE OBAMA IN Q.5/5a (Q.5=1 OR Q.5a=1,3,9) ASK:  
ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8**

Q.8 Do you think there is a chance that you might vote for Barack Obama in November, or have you definitely decided not to vote for him?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

		Chance might <u>vote for</u>	Decided not <u>to vote for</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
<b>Obama</b>	July, 2008	12	34	7=53%
	June, 2008	14	32	6=52%
<b>Kerry</b>	November, 2004	6	43	5=54%
	Mid-October, 2004	6	42	7=55%
	Early October, 2004	9	45	5=59%
	September, 2004	11	42	4=57%
	August, 2004	11	39	3=53%
	July, 2004	13	36	5=54%
	June, 2004 <sup>5</sup>	10	41	3=54%
	May, 2004	11	35	4=50%
	Late March, 2004	13	37	3=53%
	Mid-March, 2004	13	32	3=48%
	Late February, 2004	13	36	3=52%
	Early February, 2004	15	33	5=53%
<b>Gore</b>	November, 2000	8	41	6=55%
	Late October, 2000	9	44	4=57%
	Mid-October, 2000	10	40	5=55%
	Early October, 2000	11	38	7=56%
	September, 2000	13	35	5=53%
	June, 2000	14	34	6=54%
<b>Clinton</b>	November, 1996	6	37	6=49%
	October, 1996	10	35	4=49%
	Late September, 1996	11	35	3=49%
	Early September, 1996	10	34	4=48%
	July, 1996	8	36	4=48%

<sup>5</sup>

In June 2004, May 2004, Late March 2004, Mid-March 2004, Mid-June 2000 and July 1996 the head-to-head match-up was asked both as a three-way and a two-way trial heat. In those surveys, this question followed the two-way trial heat.

**Q.8 CONTINUED...**

	Chance might <u>vote for</u>	Decided not <u>to vote for</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
<b>Clinton</b> Late October, 1992	11	43	2=56%
Early October, 1992	14	32	6=52%
September, 1992	12	28	6=46%
August, 1992	14	26	3=43%
May, 1992	11	38	6=55%

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

PLANTO1 Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this November?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	Yes, Plan <u>To Vote</u>	No, Don't <u>Plan To</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2008	97	2	1=100
June, 2008	95	2	3=100
November, 2006 <sup>6</sup>	90	8	2=100
Late October, 2006	94	3	3=100
Early October, 2006	93	4	3=100
September, 2006	92	5	3=100
November, 2004	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	98	1	1=100
Early October, 2004	98	1	1=100
September, 2004	98	1	1=100
August, 2004	98	2	*=100
June, 2004	96	2	2=100
Early November, 2002	90	8	2=100
Early October, 2002	95	3	2=100
Early November, 2000	96	3	1=100
Late October, 2000	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2000	96	2	2=100
Early October, 2000	97	2	1=100
September, 2000	95	3	2=100
June, 2000	95	2	3=100
Late October, 1998	91	6	3=100
Early October, 1998	92	4	4=100
Early September, 1998	95	2	3=100
Late August, 1998	93	3	4=100
June, 1998	95	3	2=100
November, 1996	96	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	2	2=100
November, 1994	93	5	2=100
October, 1994	95	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	1	1=100

<sup>6</sup>

From Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

**PLANTO1 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, Plan <u>To Vote</u>	No, Don't <u>Plan To</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
August, 1992	97	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	1	2=100
<i>Gallup</i> : November, 1988	97	2	1=100
October, 1988	98	1	1=100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

SCALE10 I'd like you to rate your chance of voting in November on a scale of 10 to 1. If TEN represents a person who definitely will vote and ONE represents a person who definitely will NOT vote, where on this scale of 10 to 1 would you place yourself?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote	
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 2008	80	7	4	2	1	3	*	1	*	2		0=100
November, 2006 <sup>7</sup>	72	7	5	3	2	4	*	1	1	4		1=100
Late October, 2006	71	8	9	4	2	3	*	1	*	1		1=100
Early October, 2006	68	10	9	4	1	4	*	1	*	2		1=100
September, 2006	67	9	9	2	2	5	1	1	1	2		1=100
November, 2004	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2		1=100
Mid-October, 2004	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2		1=100
Early November, 2002	66	9	9	3	1	4	1	1	1	5		1=100
Early October, 2002	64	10	10	4	3	4	1	*	*	2		2=100
Early November, 2000	80	6	5	2	1	3	*	*	*	3		1=100
Late October, 2000	83	5	5	1	1	2	*	1	1	1		*=100
Mid-October, 2000	80	7	4	3	1	3	1	*	*	1		1=100
Early October, 2000	78	7	5	2	2	2	*	1	1	1		1=100
Late October, 1998	70	6	7	4	1	4	1	1	1	4		1=100
Early October, 1998	64	9	10	4	2	4	1	2	1	2		1=100
November, 1996	77	7	7	2	1	2	*	1	*	2		1=100
October, 1996	77	9	7	2	2	2	*	*	*	1		*=100
Late September, 1996	78	10	6	2	1	1	*	*	*	1		1=100
November, 1994	67	9	8	2	2	4	1	1	1	3		2=100
October, 1994	66	10	9	4	2	4	1	1	*	2		1=100
<i>Gallup</i> : September, 1992	77	5	4	3	2	4	*	1	*	4		*=100
<i>Gallup</i> : November, 1988	77	7	6	2	1	3	*	*	*	2		2=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1988	73	8	7	3	2	3	1	*	*	1		2=100

7

In November 2006, November 2004 and Early November 2002, the "10 – definitely will vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted.

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.9 When it comes to the economy, how much do you think it matters who is elected president? Does it matter...

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

64 A great deal  
 23 Somewhat  
 7 Not too much  
 5 Not at all  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.10 Regardless of who you support, which one of the presidential candidates — **[ROTATE ORDER OF CANDIDATES]** John McCain or Barack Obama — do you think would do the best job of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? And who do you think would do the best job of **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS ANYONE OTHER THAN MCCAIN OR OBAMA PROBE ONCE:** "If you had to choose between McCain and Obama. . . "?)

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

		John McCain	Barack Obama	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref.
a.	Improving economic conditions				
	July, 2008	32	47	7	14=100
	June, 2008	31	51	8	10=100
	Late May, 2008	36	51	4	9=100
	April, 2008	33	53	8	6=100
<b>Bush/Kerry</b>	Mid October, 2004	40	47	4	9=100
	Early October, 2004	40	46	5	9=100
	September, 2004	42	45	4	9=100
	August, 2004	37	52	3	8=100
	May, 2004	38	48	5	9=100
	Late March, 2004	39	44	6	11=100
	Mid-March, 2004	37	53	2	8=100
<b>Bush/Gore</b>	Mid-October, 2000	37	49	3	11=100
	Early October, 2000	35	47	6	12=100
	September, 2000	38	46	5	11=100
	June, 2000	38	41	5	16=100
	March, 2000	42	46	4	8=100
b.	Making wise decisions about what to do in Iraq				
	July, 2008	44	41	3	12=100
	June, 2008	47	41	4	8=100
	Late May, 2008	46	43	2	9=100
	April, 2008	50	38	5	7=100
<b>Bush/Kerry</b>	Mid October, 2004	47	41	4	8=100
	Early October, 2004	50	40	2	8=100
	September, 2004	51	39	3	7=100
	August, 2004	44	46	3	7=100
	May, 2004	44	41	4	11=100
	Late March, 2004	49	37	4	10=100
	Mid-March, 2004	47	45	2	6=100

**Q.10 CONTINUED...**

	<u>John McCain</u>	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref.</u>
c. Defending the country from future terrorist attacks				
July, 2008	48	33	5	14=100
June, 2008	55	31	5	9=100
April, 2008	63	26	5	6=100
<b>Bush/Kerry</b> Mid October, 2004	53	35	4	8=100
Early October, 2004	57	32	3	8=100
September, 2004	58	31	3	8=100
August, 2004	49	39	4	8=100
May, 2004	52	33	5	10=100
Late March, 2004	53	29	4	14=100
Mid-March, 2004	57	32	4	7=100
d. Making wise decisions about foreign policy				
July, 2008	43	42	2	13=100
<b>Bush/Kerry</b> September, 2004	53	37	3	7=100
August, 2004	43	47	2	8=100
May, 2004	43	42	4	11=100
Late March, 2004	44	38	4	14=100
Mid-March, 2004	44	45	3	8=100
<b>Bush/Gore</b> March, 2000	40	46	4	10=100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.11 Thinking back to the Democratic nomination contest, who did you prefer more -- Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton?

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=626]:**

	<u>June 2008</u>
47 Barack Obama	51
46 Hillary Clinton	43
* Other (VOL.)	1
3 Neither/None (VOL.)	2
<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100	100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.12 Thinking back to the Republican nomination contest, who did you prefer more -- John McCain or one of the other candidates who ran?

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=501]:**

	<u>June 2008</u>
43 John McCain	35
51 Preferred another candidate	59
2 Neither/None (VOL.)	3
<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100	100



**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.13 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]

	App-rove	Dis-approve	Don't know		App-rove	Dis-approve	Don't know
July, 2008	27	68	5=100	July, 2004	46	46	8=100
April, 2008	27	65	8=100	June, 2004	48	43	9=100
March, 2008	28	63	9=100	May, 2004	44	48	8=100
Late February, 2008	33	59	8=100	Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100
Early February, 2008	31	62	7=100	Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100
January, 2008	31	59	10=100	Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100
Late December, 2007	31	60	9=100	Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100
November, 2007	30	59	11=100	February, 2004	48	44	8=100
October, 2007	30	63	7=100	Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100
September, 2007	31	59	10=100	Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100
August, 2007	31	59	10=100	December, 2003	57	34	9=100
July, 2007	29	61	10=100	November, 2003	50	40	10=100
June, 2007	29	61	10=100	October, 2003	50	42	8=100
April, 2007	35	57	8=100	September, 2003	55	36	9=100
March, 2007	33	58	9=100	Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
February, 2007	33	56	11=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
Mid-January, 2007	33	59	8=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
Early January, 2007	33	57	10=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100

**Q.13 CONTINUED...**

	App- <u>rove</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
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

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

**ROTATE Q.14 AND Q.15**

Q.14 If Barack Obama were elected president, do you think he would do too much, too little, or about the right amount for [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? And do you think Obama would do too much, too little, or about the right amount for [NEXT ITEM]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	Too <u>much</u>	Too <u>little</u>	About the right <u>amount</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
a. African Americans	20	5	65	10=100
b. Wealthy Americans	13	24	47	16=100
c. Christian conservatives	6	27	47	20=100
d. Environmentalists	16	13	56	15=100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

**ROTATE Q.14 AND Q.15**

Q.15 If John McCain were elected president, do you think he would do too much, too little, or about the right amount for [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? And do you think McCain would do too much, too little, or about the right amount for [NEXT ITEM]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1241]:**

	Too <u>much</u>	Too <u>little</u>	About the right <u>amount</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
a. African Americans	2	30	52	16=100
b. Wealthy Americans	45	8	35	12=100
c. Christian conservatives	16	16	48	20=100
d. Environmentalists	6	40	39	15=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=737]:**

Q.16F1 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	Nov	Sept	Jan	Mid-	Mid-	Jan	July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		<u>08</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>	Sept	Jan	May	Jan	July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May
		20	14	10	5	06	06	05	05	04	04	03	03	02	01
						06	06	05	05	04	04	03	03	02	01
39	Economy (general)	20	14	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7
	Energy Costs/Rising gas/heating														
19	prices	3	7	2	2	7	5	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22
17	War/War in Iraq	27	32	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 <sup>▲</sup>	--
6	Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	3	2	1	--	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
5	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	5	4	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5
4	Education	4	2	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8
3	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	6	5	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2
3	Terrorism	3	4	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1
3	Health care/costs	10	7	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6
3	Morality/Ethics/Family values	2	2	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6
	Defense issues/Military spending/														
3	National & homeland security	3	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1
	Environment/pollution/Global														
3	warming	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	3
	Oil dependence/Energy policy and														
2	alternatives	1	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Immigration	6	6	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1
	U.S. foreign policy/International														
2	affairs	2	3	1	--	2	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced														
1	budget	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1
1	Many things/Everything	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Recession/Slowing down of the														
1	economy	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
1	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	1	--	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--
1	Youth Issues	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	8
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	2	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3
1	Issues relating to the elderly	1	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	1	2	1	--	1	2
	Race relations/Racism/														
1	Racial Profiling	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	1	2
1	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1
9	Other														
4	Don't know/No answer	5	6	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8
	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/														
25	INTERNATIONAL	36	40	48	50	47	37	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3
61	(NET) ECONOMIC	34	31	20	15	23	26	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

**NO QUESTIONS 17 THROUGH 20**

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.21-Q.23/Q.24-Q.25 BLOCKS**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.21 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>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1=100
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*=100
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1=100
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2=100
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

**IF ‘ONLY FAIR’ OR ‘POOR (3,4 IN Q.21) ASK:**

Q.21a Do you think the U.S. economy is just having a few problems, is in a recession, or is in a depression?

**BASED ON TOTAL [N=1503]**

		March <u>2008</u>
10	Excellent/Good	11
89	Only fair/Poor	88
14	Just having a few problems	14
54	In a recession	56
18	In a depression	15
3	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	3
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.22F2 What do you think is the most important economic 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]**

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>
<b>45</b>	<b>(NET) PRICES</b>	<b>24</b>
38	Gasoline/oil prices/energy costs	11
9	Cost of living/not enough money/ difference between wages and costs/inflation	5
2	Health care/medical/Medicare	9
<b>13</b>	<b>(NET) JOBS</b>	<b>18</b>
11	Unemployment/lack of (good) jobs/low wages	14
2	Jobs moving overseas/outsourcing	4
<b>10</b>	<b>(NET) HOUSING</b>	<b>13</b>
7	Mortgage problems/sub-prime mortgages/foreclosures	6
3	Housing/real estate/affordable housing	9
<b>7</b>	<b>(NET) GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>11</b>
4	Government (Bush, Congress, Democrats, lobbyists)	2
2	Budget/deficit/government spending or waste	4
1	Taxes	3
1	Too much going overseas/not enough spending at home	1
1	Social Security	1
8	Spending on war in Iraq	10
3	Debt/credit issues/bankruptcy	4
2	Dependence on foreign oil	--
2	Declining value of the dollar	1
2	Personal (ir)responsibility/spending more than you have	1
2	Economy (general)	3
1	Large corporations/corporate greed	1
1	Education/schools	2
1	Banking crisis/Problems with financial institutions	--
1	Trade/imports and exports	2
1	Gap between rich and poor/distribution of wealth/ disappearance of middle class	2
1	Immigration	3
1	Decline in manufacturing base	--
8	Other	11
*	None/no problem	1
9	No answer/not sure/don't know/refused	10

**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 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?

	(VOL.)			
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't Know/ Refused
July, 2008	30	21	41	8=100
March, 2008	33	22	39	6=100
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

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.21-Q.23/Q.24-Q.25 BLOCKS**

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.24 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?

	(VOL.)				
	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	Don't Know/ Refused
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2=100
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2=100
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2=100
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2=100
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

**Q.24 CONTINUED...**

	(VOL.)				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
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
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</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 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?

	(VOL.)					
	<u>Improve a lot</u>	<u>Improve some</u>	<u>Get a little worse</u>	<u>Get a lot worse</u>	<u>Stay the same</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7=100
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5=100
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

**Q.25 CONTINUED....**

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ Refused
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

**NO QUESTION 26**

**[IF RESPONDENT GETS Q.24-Q.25 BLOCK AFTER Q.21-Q.23 BLOCK, READ:** Now a few more questions about the national economy...]

**IF 'ONLY FAIR' OR 'POOR' (3,4 IN Q.21) ASK [N=1329]:**

Q.27 Do you think the economic problems we are having are just part of the normal ups and downs the national economy goes through from time to time, or do you think our problems are now deeper and more serious?

- 20 Normal ups and downs
- 78 Deeper and more serious
- 2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

**NO QUESTIONS 28 AND 29**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 How much do you think each of the following has contributed to current economic difficulties in the United States? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]:

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	Not very <u>much</u>	Not <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) Don't know/ Refused
a. Bad loans made by banks and financial institutions	59	27	7	2	5=100
b. Americans spending too much and saving too little	54	25	10	6	5=100
c. International competition for oil and other natural resources	66	22	6	2	4=100
d. The federal budget deficit	49	32	9	4	6=100
e. People buying imported products rather than American-made products	44	32	15	6	3=100

**NO QUESTIONS 31 AND 32**



**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 Overall, how much influence do you think the global economy is having on the way things are going in the United States? Would you say it is having a great deal of influence, a fair amount, not too much, or no influence at all?

35	Great deal
45	Fair amount
12	Not too much
4	Not at all
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 Overall, how much influence do you think the global economy is having on the way things are going in the United States? Would you say it is having a great deal of influence, a fair amount, not too much, or no influence at all?

**ASK IF 'A GREAT DEAL' OR 'A FAIR AMOUNT' IN Q.33 (Q33=1,2):**

Q.34 Right now, is the global economy having a positive or negative influence on the way things are going in the United States?

**BASED ON TOTAL [N=1503]:**

80	Great deal/Fair amount
11	Positive
63	Negative
2	Neither/both (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
16	Not too much/Not at all
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**NO QUESTIONS 35 AND 36**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.37 Do you think something can be done to deal with the problem of rising prices, or do you feel that we'll have to continue living with inflation because not much can be done about it?

		NES
		<u>Fall 1980<sup>8</sup></u>
72	Something can be done	73
23	Not much can be done	22
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>5</u>
100		100

<sup>8</sup>

Question asked on the 1980 pre-election survey of the American National Election Study, conducted between early September and early November, 1980. The question wording for the first option is slightly different than that used here: "Do you think something can be done to deal successfully with the problem of rising prices..."

**ASK FORM 1 [N=737]:**

Q.38F1 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?

	Plenty of jobs available	Jobs are difficult to find	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, few of others	(VOL.) DK/ Refused
July, 2008	31	58	4	7=100
April, 2008	30	61	4	5=100
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8=100
November, 2007	41	48	4	7=100
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 &amp; World Report</i>	15	76	6	3=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	16	77	4	3=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	12	79	6	3=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.39F2 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available or are good jobs difficult to find?

	June <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	
22	Plenty of GOOD jobs available	36	28
73	GOOD jobs are difficult to find	55	64
1	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)	3	3
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 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?

	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	
20	Gone up a lot	28	28
13	Gone up a little	18	22
32	Gone down a little	23	25
24	Gone down a lot	18	15
5	Stayed about the same (VOL.)	3	3
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 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?

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	June <u>2007</u>
14	Go up a lot	15	17	26
40	Go up a little	40	36	36
29	Go down a little	26	28	23
7	Go down a lot	8	8	5
4	Stay about the same (VOL.)	4	5	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.42 Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans (excluding your mortgage), would you say you...

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid- May <u>2005</u>	Late Feb <u>2004</u>	June <u>2001</u>	<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> Jan <u>1992</u>
10	Owe a lot more than you can afford	9	7	8	10	9	13	7
12	Owe a little more than you can afford	13	13	15	15	13	15	14
34	Owe about what you can afford	32	31	30	33	29	31	32
20	OR owe less than you can afford?	22	26	24	22	23	18	19
16	Do not have any debts (VOL.)	12	15	15	13	20	12	16
6	No credit cards or loans (VOL.)	9	6	6	5	5	10	11
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTION 43**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 How easy or difficult is it for you and your family to afford [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] – very easy, easy, difficult or very difficult? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		Very <u>easy</u>	<u>Easy</u>	<u>Difficult</u>	Very <u>difficult</u>	<u>N/A</u>	(VOL.) Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	Food						
	July, 2008	10	50	30	8	*	2=100
	Early February, 2008	14	57	22	5	*	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i> <sup>9</sup>	August, 1992	11	65	18	5	*	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May, 1992	12	66	18	3	*	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January, 1992	7	68	21	3	*	1=100
b.	Health care						
	July, 2008	9	40	30	16	2	3=100
	Early February, 2008	11	39	29	16	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August, 1992	7	39	32	19	2	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May, 1992	10	42	29	15	3	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January, 1992	6	43	29	16	4	2=100

<sup>9</sup>

In 1992, the question was worded: "How easy is it for you and your family to afford" the items.

**Q.44 CONTINUED...**

		Very <u>easy</u>	<u>Easy</u>	<u>Difficult</u>	Very <u>difficult</u>	<u>N/A</u>	(VOL.) Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
c.	Taxes						
	July, 2008	5	35	40	12	3	5=100
	Early February, 2008	6	36	37	14	3	4=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	3	32	43	17	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	4	30	46	15	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	2	33	45	13	4	3=100
d.	Saving for retirement						
	July, 2008	5	23	37	22	10	3=100
	Early February, 2008	5	28	34	22	8	3=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	3	22	36	29	9	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	2	21	38	24	13	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	2	22	37	23	14	2=100
e.	Your home heating and electric bills <sup>10</sup>						
	July, 2008	6	41	38	11	1	3=100
	Early February, 2008	8	44	33	11	2	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	7	54	29	8	1	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	9	54	28	6	1	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	4	55	31	7	1	2=100
f.	Gasoline						
	July, 2008	4	23	42	26	3	2=100
	Early February, 2008	5	30	38	22	3	2=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 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?

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	<i>NBC/WSJ</i> June <u>1996</u>
6	Going up faster	6	10	9	9
28	Staying about even	33	43	41	38
64	Falling behind	58	44	47	50
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Some people think that the federal government cannot fix the economy so easily these days because the US is part of a global economy, others believe that the government still has the power to fix the economy. Which of these comes closer to your view?

26	The government can't fix it so easily
68	The government still has the power to fix it
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

<sup>10</sup>

In 1992, category was "Heating oil, gas and electric."

**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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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					

**ASK ALL:**

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

50	Full-time
12	Part-time
37	Not employed
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK ALL:**

OWNRENT Do you own or rent your home?

68	Own
24	Rent
6	Other arrangement (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**IF 'OWN' (1 IN OWNRENT) ASK [N=1125]:**

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

63	Pay a mortgage
35	Paid for
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	