



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, February 12, 2009

More Workers Anticipate Pay Cuts, Layoffs

AS JOBS CRISIS SPREADS, WORRIES CLIMB THE ECONOMIC LADDER

Also inside...

- More say country is in depression
- Job problems affect more than the unemployed
- Twice as many expect pay cut as in '08
- Psychology drives spending cutbacks

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>

More Workers Anticipate Pay Cuts, Layoffs

AS JOBS CRISIS SPREADS, WORRIES CLIMB THE ECONOMIC LADDER

For the public, the continuing financial crisis has been overtaken by a jobs crisis. The proportion of Americans citing jobs or unemployment as the nation's most important economic problem has more than quadrupled – from 10% to 42% – since early October and job worries now far surpass concerns over the financial crisis.

People's perceptions of the availability of jobs in their areas have worsened as the unemployment rate has increased. Fully 80% say that jobs are difficult to find in their local communities – up seven points since December and 16 points since early October. Overall views of the national economy, already quite negative at the end of last year, have declined further; 30% say the country is in a depression, up from 20% as recently as December.

As has been the case since the financial crisis began, a sizable minority of Americans (40%) say they expect economic conditions to be better a year from now. But the proportion expressing that optimistic view has declined by six points since early October, while the percentage saying they expect things to be worse or the same a year from now has increased from 46% to 56%.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 4-8 among 1,303 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that an increasing proportion of workers expect to face some form of job or benefit cutbacks in the year ahead. More than three-quarters (77%) of working adults say it is not likely they will actually be laid off in the next year, but 21% say a layoff is very or somewhat likely, up from 15% in January 2008. The percentage saying it is at least somewhat likely they may be asked to take pay cut has nearly doubled since the beginning of last year – from 13% to 25%.

Jobs Picture Goes from Bad to Worse			
	July 2008	Oct* 2008	Feb 2009
<i>Most important economic problem**...</i>	%	%	%
Jobs	13	10	42
Financial crisis	--	27	18
Housing	10	12	8
Government	7	12	6
Prices	45	16	5
<i>Local job opportunities...</i>			
Difficult to find	58	64	80
Plenty available	31	25	11
Other/Don't know	11	11	9
	100	100	100
<i>View of nation's economy...</i>			
Excellent/good	10	9	4
Only fair/poor	89	90	95
In recession	54	54	57
In depression	18	22	30

* All October 2008 data from early October survey.
** Open-ended question; top categories shown.

The share of workers, either full- or part-time, who say any one of the following things is likely to happen over the next year – a layoff, a reduction in pay, a reduction or elimination of health benefits, or their employer going out of business or moving – has jumped from 35% in January 2008 to 44% currently.

Notably, much of the increase has come among well-educated, high-income workers, who are now about as likely as less educated, lower-income workers to predict job problems in the coming year. More than four-in-ten college graduates (46%) see one or more job difficulties as at least somewhat likely (layoff, pay or benefits reduction, or their employer going out of business or moving); in January 2008, just 28% of college graduates said that one or more of those problems was likely.

Workers with family incomes of at least \$75,000 also are much more likely to see possible job difficulties in the year ahead than in January 2008 (43% now vs. 27% then). As a consequence, the wide income differences last year in predictions of job losses or compensation cutbacks have disappeared.

The survey finds that as the financial crisis has deepened, affluent Americans, in particular, have grown increasingly skeptical that the economy will come back in the coming year. Only about a third (34%) of those with family incomes of \$100,000 a year or more say they expect national economic conditions to be better a year from now. That is down 22 points from 56% in early October, the largest decline in any income category. In the last two months alone, the proportion of affluent people predicting an improvement in the national economy has fallen by 12 points (from 46% to 34%).

	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	Change
<i>Very/somewhat likely in the next year you may...</i>	%	%	
Be asked to take pay cut	13	25	+12
Be laid off	15	21	+6
Lose some/all health benefits	20	24	+4
Your employer may move/go out of business	12	13	+1
One or more likely	35	44	+9

Based on people who are employed either full- or part-time (N=760).

	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	Change	2009 N
<i>One or more job problems likely*...</i>	%	%		
All employed	35	44	+9	760
College grad+	28	46	+18	334
Some college	33	42	+9	192
HS or less	41	43	+2	234
<i>Household income</i>				
\$75k or more	27	43	+16	293
\$30k-74,999	35	47	+12	265
Less than \$30,000	44	42	-2	124

* Share of employed people who said one or more of the following is very or somewhat likely to happen to them in the next 12 months: their employer may go out of business or relocate, they may be laid off, they may be asked to take a cut in pay or their health care benefits may be reduced or eliminated.

Personal financial optimism also has fallen sharply among those with family incomes of at least \$100,000. Currently, 44% of those in this income category say they expect their personal finances will improve a lot or some over the next year, down from 59% in early October. Personal financial optimism also is down 11 points among those making between \$75,000 and \$100,000, and 12 points among those making \$50,000 to \$75,000. By contrast, people with lower incomes remain about as optimistic as they were in early October.

As was the case in December, substantial proportions of Americans say they are delaying or canceling planned spending on vacations, automobile and home purchases, and are eating out less often. Overall, spending cutbacks continue to be driven by worry that their finances will get worse, rather than an actual deterioration in people's financial situation. As in December, people with higher incomes say their decisions to delay or cancel spending are mostly because of concern about the future; those with lower incomes are more likely to say their situation has already gotten worse, making cutbacks necessary.

The survey finds that as many as 40% of Americans have been affected by one or more job problems over the past year, when unemployment, underemployment, layoffs, reductions in pay or hours and job losses by other household members are looked at collectively. In this regard, job problems are affecting the financial position of a much broader swath of Americans than just those who are currently unemployed. People who are employed but have faced underemployment, job losses or income cutbacks are just as likely as those who are currently unemployed to have trimmed spending or to have had trouble paying bills.

<i>Over next year... nation's economy will improve</i>	Oct <u>2008</u> %	Dec <u>2008</u> %	Feb <u>2009</u> %	<i>Oct-Feb change</i>
Total	46	43	40	-6
\$100k or more	56	46	34	-22
\$75k-99,999	51	40	39	-12
\$50k-74,999	41	42	36	-5
\$30k-49,999	42	42	36	-6
Less than \$30,000	43	45	52	+9
<i>Personal finances will improve</i>				
Total	59	56	54	-5
\$100k or more	59	53	44	-15
\$75k-99,999	63	56	52	-11
\$50k-74,999	64	60	52	-12
\$30k-49,999	58	55	56	-2
Less than \$30,000	61	61	65	+4

SECTION 1: UNEMPLOYMENT CONCERNS SURGE

When specifically asked about the nation's most important economic problem, more than four-in-ten Americans (42%) volunteer job-related issues – a far greater proportion than at any time in the past year. Since October, mentions of most other major economic issues have declined, as the public is increasingly focused on the job situation. While fewer now mention the financial crisis than did so in October, 18% continue to cite this as the nation's most important economic problem.

	Feb 2008	July 2008	Oct 2008	Feb 2009
	%	%	%	%
Jobs (NET)	18	13	10	42
Unemployment/Lack of jobs/Low wages	14	11	9	41
Jobs moving overseas/outsourcing	4	2	2	1
Financial Crisis (NET)	--	--	27	18
Financial bailout	--	--	6	3
Large corporations/corporate greed	--	--	6	3
Banking crisis/Financial institutions	--	1	8	3
Housing (NET)	13	10	12	8
Mortgage problems/Foreclosures	6	7	8	4
Affordable housing/Real-estate	9	3	4	4
Government (NET)	11	7	12	6
Budget/Deficit/Government spending	4	2	5	3
Prices (NET)	24	45	16	5
Healthcare/Medical	9	2	4	3
Economy (general)	3	2	4	6
Money/Finances	--	--	--	5
Number of respondents	1502	766	757	660

Based on open-ended question, multiple responses allowed. Answers receiving less than 3% not included here: see topline for full results.

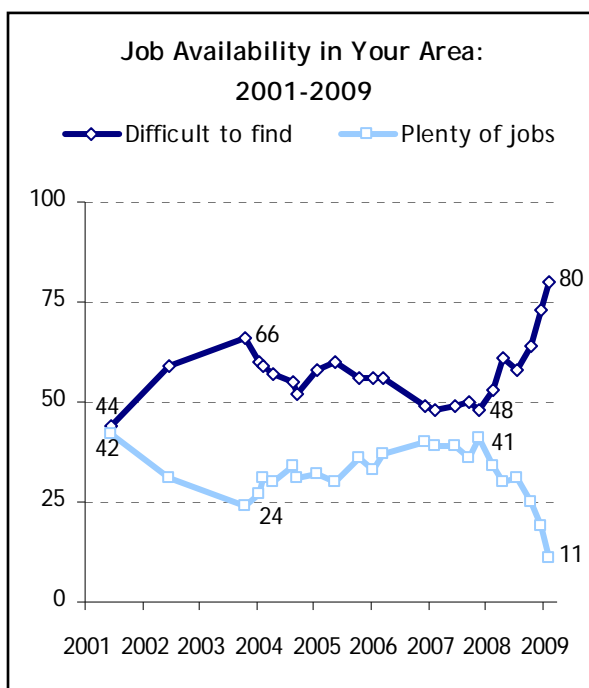
Pluralities of most demographic groups cite jobs as the most important national economic problem. Employment issues are less frequently cited by those with college degrees than non-college graduates; only 33% of those with a college degree mention job-related issues, compared with 43% of those who have not attended college and 52% of those with some college but no degree. College graduates are nearly twice as likely as those without degrees to cite issues related to the financial crisis (27% compared with 14%) and housing concerns (13% vs. 6%).

Additionally, while about half of women (49%) mention employment issues, only about a third of men (33%) do so. Men more frequently cite issues related to the financial crisis (21% compared with 14% of women). By contrast, in October, there were no significant gender differences on this question.

Jobs More Difficult to Find

Only about one-in-ten Americans (11%) say that there are plenty of jobs available in their community; 80% say that jobs are difficult to find. Since December, the percentage saying that jobs are difficult to find has risen seven points (from 73%). A year ago, about a third of Americans (34%) said jobs were plentiful, while 53% said jobs were difficult to find.

In recent months, there has been a striking increase in negative perceptions of the job market among high-income Americans. Currently, 73% of those with family incomes of at least \$100,000 say jobs are difficult to find locally, an increase of 14 points since December. Last July, only 40% of those with incomes of at least \$100,000 said jobs were hard to find – the only income category where fewer than half said jobs were scarce.



By contrast, impressions of the local job market were already much more negative among those with low incomes last summer and they have shown less change since then. For instance, 86% of those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 now say that jobs are difficult to find up only modestly since December (80%) and from last summer (77%).

Sharp Rise in Negative Job Perceptions among Affluent Americans

	<i>Percent saying jobs are difficult to find locally</i>				<i>Jul-Feb Change</i>
	<u>July 2008</u>	<u>Oct 2008</u>	<u>Dec 2008</u>	<u>Feb 2009</u>	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	58	64	73	80	+22
\$100k or more	40	54	59	73	+33
\$75k-99,999	52	59	72	84	+32
\$50k-74,999	55	59	72	81	+26
\$30k-49,999	63	68	79	82	+19
Less than \$30,000	77	70	80	86	+9

As a result, the sizable income gap in negative perceptions of the local market has narrowed considerably since July. At that time, people with incomes of less than \$30,000 were nearly twice as likely as those with incomes of \$100,000 or more to express a negative view of the local job market (77% vs. 40%). Currently, the difference between the highest and lowest income category is just 13 points (86% vs. 73%).

Jobs Also the Top Personal Worry

When they think about their own financial situation, nearly half of Americans (45%) now cite the job situation as the economic issue that most worries them, up from 26% in December. By contrast, fewer people cite rising prices (22%) or problems in the financial markets (21%) as their top economic worry than did so in December (31% rising prices, 29% problems in markets).

Jobs Surpass Prices as Top Personal Concern

	Mar <u>2008</u>	Oct <u>2008</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>
<i>Biggest worry*</i>	%	%	%	%
Job situation	19	18	26	45
Rising prices	49	38	31	22
Problems in fin. mkts.	14	31	29	21
Declining real estate values	12	8	9	9
Other/none/DK	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100

* Thinking about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you most right now?

Since December, concerns over the job situation have increased substantially across most demographic groups. However, far fewer people with higher family incomes continue to point to the job situation as their leading economic worry than do people with lower incomes. Slightly more than a third (35%) of those with family incomes of at least \$100,000 cite jobs as their top economic worry, as do an identical percentage of those with incomes of between \$75,000 and \$100,000. By contrast, roughly half of those in lower income categories say that the job situation is the economic issue that most worries them.

Notably, about as many people with family incomes of at least \$100,000 cite problems with the financial markets (38%) as their biggest economic concern as mention the job situation (35%). Among people with incomes of between \$75,000 and \$100,000, 27% cite rising prices and 24% problems in the markets, while 35% mention jobs. For people in lower income groups, the job situation is clearly the top economic worry.

Job Worries Have Surged Since December

	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
<i>Job situation is biggest worry</i>	%	%	
Total	26	45	+19
\$100k or more	17	35	+18
\$75k-99,999	20	35	+15
\$50k-74,999	27	46	+19
\$30k-49,999	30	52	+22
Less than \$30,000	31	50	+19

SECTION 2: PERSONAL FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

The financial concerns of people who are relatively well-off have been increasing in recent months. But the fallout from the financial crisis – in struggles to pay for housing and health insurance, problems with credit, as well as in job layoffs and pay cuts – continues to be felt most acutely by lower-income Americans.

Overall, 23% say they have had trouble getting or paying for health care for themselves or their family in the past year. One-in-five (20%) say they had trouble paying their rent or mortgage; an identical percentage (20%) says they had problems with collection or credit card agencies. Comparable proportions say they have been laid off or lost their job (18%), had a mortgage or credit application denied (17%).

In addition to those who say they have been laid off, another 11% say they had their hours or pay reduced.

There have been modest increases since January 2008 in the percentage saying they have been laid off or lost their job (18% now vs. 14% then), and in the proportion saying they have had problems paying for their rent or mortgage (20% vs. 14%).

All of these financial problems are much more prevalent among those with lower incomes than those with higher incomes. Among those with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000, 38% have had trouble getting or paying for medical care, compared with 20% of those with family incomes of between \$30,000 to \$75,000, and 11% of those with incomes of at least \$75,000. There is a similar pattern in experiences with other financial problems.

Experiencing Financial Problems

	Feb 2009 %
<i>Over the past year, have you ...</i>	
Had trouble getting/paying for medical care	23
Had problems paying rent/mortgage	20
Had problems with collection/credit agencies	20
Been laid off/lost job	18
Had a mortgage/loan/credit card app. denied	17
Had hours reduced/cut in pay*	11

* Asked only of those who did not say they have been laid off or lost their job. Based on total.

Lower-Income Americans Most Distressed

	\$75k+ %	\$30-75k %	<\$30k %
<i>Percent who have ...</i>			
Had trouble getting/paying for medical care	11	20	38
Had problems paying rent/mortgage	6	21	33
Had problems with collection/credit agencies	10	20	32
Been laid off/lost job	8	16	28
Had mortgage/loan/credit application denied	12	17	25
N	384	420	315

Overall, nearly two-thirds (65%) of those with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000 have experienced at least one of these five economic struggles over the past year. That compares with 43% of those with incomes of between \$30,000 and \$75,000, and 26% with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

Consumer Cutbacks Widespread

The vast majority of Americans (86%) report having made reductions in spending or changes in their saving or investment patterns lately. This includes 59% who have cut back on planned spending for vacation travel; 55% who have been eating out at restaurants less often; and 53% who have changed the way their money is saved or invested. Other spending cutbacks include 44% who have delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for their household, such as a computer or appliance; 37% who have delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements; 37% who have delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car; and 29% who have adjusted their plans for retirement. These figures are largely unchanged since December.

	Total	Household income			Hi-Lo Diff
		\$75k+	\$75k-\$30k	\$30k-Under	
<i>Have you done any of the following lately?</i>	%	%	%	%	
Cut back on planned vacation spending	59	55	59	64	-9
Been eating at restaurants less often	55	54	62	54	0
Changed way money is saved/invested	53	55	54	53	+2
Delayed/canceled buying major home item	44	38	44	52	-14
Delayed/canceled buying home/improvements	37	32	43	40	-8
Delayed/canceled plans to buy a new car	37	31	41	40	-9
Adjusted retirement plans	29	35	31	24	+11
Made one or more change	86	87	88	86	+1

People of all incomes report having changed their spending and saving patterns recently – 87% of Americans with family incomes of \$75,000 or more have done so, as have 86% of those with incomes of less than \$30,000, and 88% of those falling in between. But the specific cutbacks and adjustments differ across income groups. In general, lower-income Americans are the most likely to have cut back on vacations, or to have delayed home improvements or buying a home, car, or major household item. Higher-income Americans are the most likely to have made adjustments to their retirement plans.

For most Americans, cutbacks in consumer spending continue to be driven more by worries about the possibility of future financial problems rather than by actual financial hardships. Just 30% say reductions in spending on dining out, vacations, cars or home items have been necessary due to their financial situation having *gotten* worse. Instead, 56% say they have made these kinds of cutbacks because they worry that their financial situation *might get* worse in the future. These figures are virtually unchanged since December and suggest that the psychological impact of bad times, rather than an actual decline in people's financial conditions, continues to be the principal driver of consumer cutbacks.

<i>Cutting back on spending because...</i>	Total %	Household income		
		75k+ %	\$75k- \$30k %	Under \$30k %
Finances <i>have</i> worsened	30	19	29	42
Worry they <i>might</i> get worse	56	66	61	45
Both (Vol)	5	7	3	6
Other/DK (Vol)	2	8	7	7
	100	100	100	100
N	990	286	331	243

Based on the 79% of respondents who are eating out less or have delayed or canceled planned vacations, home item purchases or new car purchases.

Fewer Report Getting Raises

While more people say they have been laid off than did so at the beginning of last year, there has been an even bigger decline in the proportion saying they have gotten a pay raise or obtained a better job. In the current survey, 29% say they have gotten a raise or a better job in the past year, down 12 points from January 2008.

Among those who are employed, either full-time or part-time, 45% say they have gotten a raise or a better job, compared with 56% in January 2008. As might be expected, more full-time workers than part-time workers say they have gotten a raise or a better job in the past year (51% vs. 30%).

<i>Percent gotten a pay raise or better job</i>	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	<i>Change</i>
	%	%	
Total	41	29	-12
All employed	56	45	-11
<i>Among employed</i>			
Full-time	61	51	-10
Part-time	38	30	-8
<i>Employer type</i>			
Private company	59	50	-9
Government	62	55	-7
<i>Employer size</i>			
Less than 100 employees	--	30	--
100 or more employees	--	58	--

More than half (58%) of employees in large organizations (100 or more employees) have gotten a raise over the past year, while this is true for only 30% of those working in smaller organizations. A majority of government workers (55%) say they have gotten a raise or a better job in the past year, as do 50% of those who work for private companies.

Taking a Pay Cut

In addition to those who say they have been laid off in the past year, 17% of workers have had their hours reduced or been asked to take a cut in pay. More of those with a high school education or less (19%) say they have had a pay cut in the past year, compared with 12% of college graduates. College graduates also are less likely to have been laid off in the past 12 months (6% vs. 15% of those with no more than a high school education).

More than a quarter (26%) of part-time employees had their hours or pay reduced this past year compared with 13% of full-time employees. Only 9% of salaried workers have had their hours reduced or pay compared with 22% of hourly workers. More part-time and hourly workers also say they have been laid off or lost their jobs.

Nearly twice as many employees of private companies or businesses than government workers have had their hours or pay reduced (20% vs. 11%). There are no differences by employer size.

	Feb 2009 %	N
All employed	16	760
<i>Education</i>		
College grad+	12	334
Some college	18	192
H.S. or less	19	234
<i>Employment status</i>		
Full-time	13	596
Part-time	26	164
<i>Pay type</i>		
Salary	9	256
Hourly	22	316
<i>Employer type</i>		
Private company	20	361
Government	11	150
Self-employed	15	161

Based on people who are employed full or part time.

More See Pay Cuts Coming

Many workers see increasing job difficulties ahead. While 16% say that they have had a pay cut or their hours reduced in the past 12 months, somewhat more (25%) say that it is at least somewhat likely they will be asked to take a cut in pay during the *next* 12 months. Notably, just 13% of workers thought this was likely in January 2008.

Nearly a quarter of workers (24%) say it is likely their health care benefits may be reduced or eliminated, compared with 20% last year. And 18% now say it is at least somewhat likely that their retirement benefits may be reduced or eliminated.

	Very/ Somewhat %	Not too %	Not at all %	DK %
<i>May be asked to take cut in pay</i>				
February 2009	25	23	50	2=100
January 2008	13	27	59	1=100
<i>Health care benefits may be reduced/eliminated</i>				
February 2009	24	19	50	7=100
January 2008	20	25	49	6=100
<i>May be laid off</i>				
February 2009	21	31	46	2=100
January 2008	15	28	56	1=100
<i>Retirement benefits may be reduced/eliminated</i>				
February 2009	18	22	53	7=100
<i>Employer may go out of business or relocate</i>				
February 2009	13	19	66	2=100
January 2008	12	24	63	1=100

Based on people who are employed full or part time (N=760 for Feb. 2009 survey; N=1532 for Jan. 2008 survey).

The proportion of workers who say it is very or somewhat likely they may be laid off from their job has increased from 15% to 21% since January 2008. While most (77%) say it is unlikely they will be laid off, only 46% see the prospect of layoff as not at all likely. And 13% say it is likely their employer may go out of business or relocate, which is little changed from last year.

Job concerns have risen sharply among those with higher incomes since January 2008. A quarter of all Americans, regardless of income, now say it is very or somewhat likely they may be asked to take a cut in pay in the next 12 months. Among those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more, the proportion saying it is likely they may take a cut in pay has nearly tripled, from 9% in January 2008 to 24% currently. Similarly, over the same period, concern about pay cuts has nearly doubled among those with family incomes of between \$30,000 and \$75,000, from 12% to 23%. There has been little change in concern about pay cuts for those earning less than \$30,000 (26% now vs. 23% in January 2008).

More than a quarter of workers with family incomes of \$75,000 or more (27%) and a comparable percentage of those making between \$30,000 and \$75,000 (28%) say it is at least somewhat likely that their health care benefits will be reduced or eliminated. By contrast, fewer workers with incomes of less than \$30,000 see a reduction or elimination of health benefits as likely (16%).

While a relatively small minority of workers with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say it is very or somewhat likely they may be laid off (15%), the percentage has nearly doubled – from 8% – since January 2008. Similarly, 29% of those with household incomes of \$30,000 to \$75,000 now see a layoff as likely, compared with just 15% in January 2008. The proportion of workers with incomes of less than \$30,000 who see a layoff as likely has not increased (19% today vs. 23% in January 2008).

Rising Job Concerns for Higher-Income Employees			
<i>Percent very or somewhat likely ...</i>	<u>\$75k+</u>	<u>\$30-75k</u>	<u><30k</u>
	%	%	%
<i>May be asked to take a cut in pay</i>			
February 2009	24	23	26
January 2008	9	12	23
<i>Change</i>	+15	+11	+3
<i>Health care benefits may be reduced/eliminated</i>			
February 2009	27	28	16
January 2008	17	20	24
<i>Change</i>	+10	+8	-8
<i>May be laid off</i>			
February 2009	15	29	19
January 2008	8	15	23
<i>Change</i>	+7	+14	-4
<i>Employer may go out of business or relocate</i>			
February 2009	11	14	14
January 2008	6	12	22
<i>Change</i>	+5	+2	-8
<i>Retirement benefits may be reduced/eliminated</i>			
February 2009	17	20	17
2009 N	293	265	124

Based on people who are employed full or part time.

Concern Grows Among Older, Educated Workers

When looking at those who have expressed at least one of the four job concerns asked in January 2008 and the current poll, the majority says it is not likely they will experience a job stress in the next 12 months. However, 44% say it is very or somewhat likely that they may be laid off, asked to take a cut in pay, their health care benefits may be reduced or eliminated or that their employer may go out of business or relocate; this is up significantly from 35% last year.

Increased concern among those with higher incomes has driven this change. The sharp income differences in January of last year have now virtually disappeared as more than four-in-ten across all income groups say it is likely that at least one of the job stresses will happen to them in the next year. Among those with incomes of \$75,000 or more, about a quarter (27%) expressed concern that they would experience a job stress in January 2008; this has risen by 16 points in the current poll. Similarly, concern has risen among those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$75,000 from 35% last year to 47% currently. There has been little change among those earning less than \$30,000.

	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	Change	2009 N
<i>One or more job problems likely...*</i>	%	%		
All employed	35	44	+9	760
<i>Household income</i>				
\$75k or more	27	43	+16	293
\$30k-74,999	35	47	+12	265
Less than \$30,000	44	42	-2	124
<i>Education</i>				
College grad+	28	46	+18	334
Some college	33	42	+9	192
HS or less	41	43	+2	234
<i>Age</i>				
18-29	29	33	+4	130
30-49	37	50	+13	289
50-64	38	49	+11	275

* Based on employed (full or part time) people who said one or more of the following is very or somewhat likely to happen to them in the next 12 months: their employer may go out of business or relocate, they may be laid off, they may be asked to take a cut in pay or their health care benefits may be reduced or eliminated.

Similarly, there are now no significant differences in education as concern among college graduates has also risen; 46% of college graduates say it is likely that they will experience at least one job stress in the next 12 months, up 18 points from last year. Job concerns among those with some college education are also up slightly from 33% last year to 42%.

The youngest employees are experiencing the least amount of concern about their jobs; a third of those under 30 say it is likely that they will experience at least one job stress while about half of those 30 and older express some concern. Compared with January of last year, concern about job stresses is up 13 points among those aged 30 to 49 and 11 points for those aged 50 to 64.

Views of Employer Finances Decline Too

Workers' perceptions of the fiscal health of their employers have declined considerably over the course of the year. While a majority of working Americans (58%) continues to say that their employer is in "excellent" or "good" financial shape, 39% now describe the financial condition of the company or organization that employs them as "only fair" or "poor," up 12 percentage points from a year ago. In particular, the proportion assessing their employer's condition as "excellent" is down sharply; today, only 15% of workers say this, compared with 30% last February.

<i>Financial condition of employer is...</i>	Feb 2008	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Feb 2009
	%	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	69	66	63	58
Only fair/Poor	27	30	35	39
Other/DK	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100

Based on those who are employed full- or part-time.

In February 2008, three-quarters of college graduates characterized their employer's financial condition as excellent or good; today, just a slim majority (52%) views their employer's financial condition positively. By comparison, among those without college degrees, opinions have changed little since last year.

<i>% saying excellent/good</i>	Feb 2008	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	<i>Feb 08-09 change</i>
	%	%	%	%	
All employed	69	66	63	58	-11
18-29	71	68	67	64	-7
30-49	66	66	64	55	-11
50+	70	62	58	56	-10
College grad+	75	70	67	52	-23
Some college	67	67	61	62	-5
HS or less	64	60	60	60	-4
Northeast	70	64	62	50	-20
Midwest	72	70	67	56	-16
South	69	64	61	62	-7
West	62	64	62	60	-2

Based on those who are employed full- or part-time.

Views of the financial health of employers among workers in the Midwest and the Northeast also are more negative today than they were a year ago. Half of workers in the Northeast give their employers excellent or good bills of fiscal health, down from 70% in February 2008; a similar decline is seen among those in the Midwest (from 72% last year to 56% today). By contrast, workers in the South and West offer about the same assessments of their employers' financial conditions as they did last February.

Those working in government (federal, state or local, and including public education), are more negative in their assessments of the financial health of their employer than are those who work for private companies or businesses. Only 46% of

	Ex/ Good	Only fair/ Poor	DK	N
	%	%		
All employed	58	39	3=100	760
<i>Employer</i>				
Private sector	63	34	3=100	361
Government	46	50	4=100	150
Self-employed	50	48	2=100	161

Based on those who are employed full- or part-time.

government employees characterize the financial condition of their employer as excellent or good; by contrast, 63% of those in the private sector give positive assessments. There is also widespread concern among those who are self-employed or business owners – half say their company is in excellent or good shape, but nearly as many (48%) say they are in only fair or poor shape.

SECTION 3: MORE THAN JUST THE UNEMPLOYED

While unemployment levels are a critical measure of the nation's economic standing, the impact of job problems goes far beyond the minority who are currently out of work. Of all adults interviewed in the survey, 12% say they are currently not working and seeking employment; another 28% are not working but not looking, including retired seniors. Not surprisingly, unemployed Americans report substantial financial difficulties, spending cutbacks, and grim economic assessments.¹

But there is an even larger share of Americans who, though currently employed, report experiencing job problems over the past year. These include people who have had others in their household out of work, who have been laid off and found another job, who have taken a cut in pay or hours, and who are working part time but would prefer to be full time. All together, 28% of Americans are currently working but have experienced one or more of these job- or income-related problems. Their assessment of their financial situations is in many ways as dire as those who are out of work.

Many Workers Have Faced Job Problems

	%
Unemployed and looking for work	12
Employed, but faced problems*	28
-Someone unemployed in household**	20
-Took a cut in pay or hours**	10
-Employed part time, want full time	7
-Laid off from a job**	7
Employed, no problems	32
Not working & not looking for work	<u>28</u>
	100

* Experienced one or more of these problems.
 ** Within the past 12 months.

Economic Troubles Go Beyond the Unemployed

	(12%) Unem- ployed %	<i>Employed</i> (28%) Faced probs %	(32%) No probs %	<i>Not working</i> (15%) Not looking %	(13%) Re- tired* %
<i>Percent who have...</i>					
Had trouble paying for medical care	40	36	10	24	9
Had problems paying rent or mortgage	41	32	6	21	6
Had problems with collection agencies	33	30	7	25	6
Had loan or credit application denied	25	27	9	19	3
<i>Percent who have delayed or cut back on...</i>					
Vacation spending	68	74	49	61	39
Eating out at restaurants	64	66	51	56	35
Major household purchases	45	61	32	52	26
Buying a new car	44	54	29	32	19
<i>Are cutbacks because...</i>					
Your situation is worse	47	34	12	21	10
Worry it might get worse	31	47	50	45	36
Haven't made cutbacks**	13	8	28	22	41
Other/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
N	114	317	443	174	243

* Those not working and not looking for work who are 65 and older.
 ** Have not delayed or cut back on any of the four items listed above.

¹ While many of these measures of employment status parallel definitions used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies, results do not align directly due to differences in survey measurement.

For example, 40% of unemployed people say they have had trouble paying for medical care for themselves or a family member over the past year. The figure is nearly as high (36%) for those who are employed but have faced one or more job problems. A third of unemployed Americans have had problems with collection or credit agencies, as have 30% of those with job problems. And 25% of the unemployed have had loan or credit card applications denied, as have 27% of workers who have faced problems.

Those who are employed but have had job problems are also at least as likely as the currently unemployed to have made spending cutbacks over the past year. This includes delaying or cancelling vacations, car and other major household purchases, and eating out at restaurants less often.

Overall, nearly half of the Americans who are currently employed report having faced job problems over the past year, and the contrast between those who have and have not faced these kinds of problems is stark. Those who have faced problems are roughly five times more likely to have had trouble with rent or mortgage payments (32% vs. 6% of those who are employed and have not had job problems), about four times more likely to have had problems with collection agencies (30% vs. 7%), and more than three times more likely to have had trouble paying for medical care (36% vs. 10%). Workers who have faced job problems also report having had to cut back on spending far more broadly than other workers.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the job situation is the dominant economic concern for both the unemployed and workers who have faced job problems. About seven-in-ten (71%) unemployed people say the job situation worries them more than rising prices, problems in the financial markets or declining real estate values, and 59% of employed people who have faced job problems in the past year say the same. Among employed people who haven't faced tangible problems, nearly as many cite the financial

Those Facing Job Problems Believe Their Finances Will Get Better					
	(12%) Unem- ployed	(28%) Employed Faced probs	(32%) No probs	(15%) Not looking	(13%) Re- tired*
<i>Biggest personal worry</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Job situation	71	59	34	40	23
Rising prices	15	18	22	28	26
Financial markets	6	12	31	22	29
Real estate values	6	8	11	6	12
Other/None/DK	2	3	2	4	10
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Jobs in your area</i>					
Difficult to find	91	86	76	79	72
Plenty available	8	7	15	13	11
Mixed/DK	1	7	9	8	17
<i>Personal finances</i>					
Excellent/Good	13	29	59	30	42
Only fair	37	48	34	47	40
Poor	49	22	7	22	14
<i>Personal finances over the coming year</i>					
Improve	76	59	49	47	41
Get worse	19	29	28	37	24
Same (Vol)	3	9	19	12	23
N	114	317	443	174	243

* Those not working and not looking for work who are age 65 and older.

markets as their top worry (31%) as cite the job market (34%).

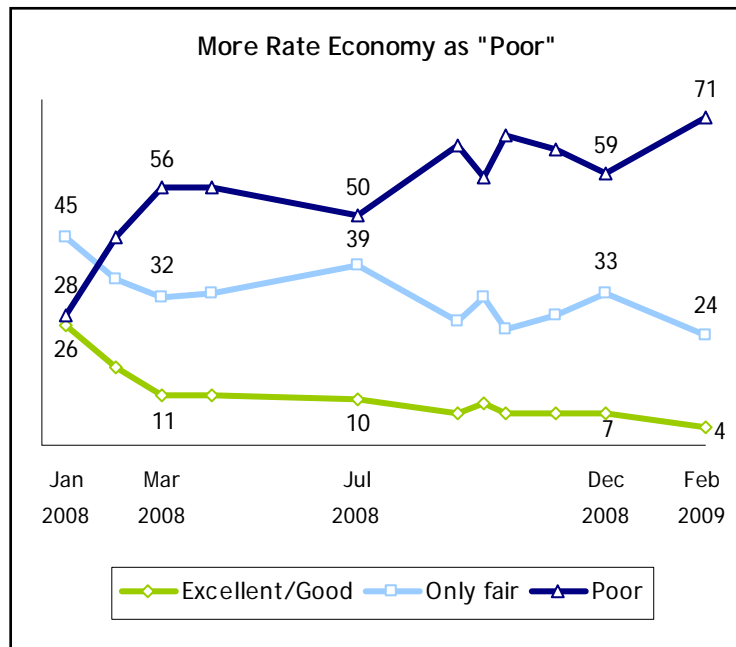
And while the vast majority of Americans – regardless of their employment status – say that jobs today are difficult to find, that sentiment is most universal among those who have tangible job problems. Fully 91% of the unemployed and 86% of employed people who have faced job problems say that employment is difficult to find in their area, compared with 76% of other employed people.

But the outlook for people facing job problems is generally positive. About three-quarters (76%) of the people who are currently unemployed are optimistic that their personal financial situation will get better over the coming year, as are 59% of those who are employed but have faced tangible job problems.

SECTION 4: VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

National Economic Ratings

Americans continue to offer overwhelmingly negative assessments of national economic conditions, and the percentage saying the nation's economy is in poor shape has risen sharply in recent months. Fully 95% now give negative ratings of the economy, including 71% who describe current economic conditions as "poor" (another 24% say it is "only fair"). The share of Americans saying the economy is in poor shape has risen 12 points from 59% in December. At the start of last year, just 28% rated the economy as poor.

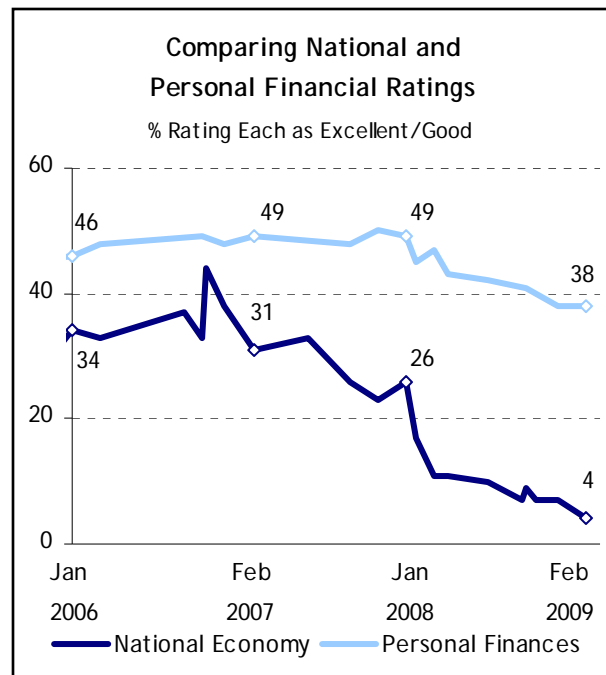


Republicans, Democrats and independents now offer nearly identical ratings of the nation's economy. Today, two-thirds (67%) of Republicans describe economic conditions as poor, up from just 48% two months ago. Democrats and independents are also more likely to rate economic conditions as poor today, but the change is less steep among those groups.

	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	Oct-Feb Change
<i>% rating economy as poor</i>	%	%	%	
Total	58	59	71	+13
Republican	44	48	67	+23
Democrat	68	66	73	+5
Independent	62	61	71	+9
<i>R-D Diff</i>	-24	-18	-6	

Personal Ratings also Slipping

While public evaluations of the nation's economy have fallen the most dramatically, there has also been a substantial slippage in how Americans are rating their own personal financial situation. At the start of 2008, when just 26% said the nation's economy was in excellent or good shape, 49% said they themselves were doing well, while 49% said they were in only fair or poor shape financially. Today, with just 4% rating the nation's economy favorably, personal economic ratings have also fallen. Most (61%) say they are in only fair or poor shape financially, while 38% say they are in excellent or good shape.



Recession or Depression?

Most Americans continue to describe the nation's economic situation as a recession, but an increasing minority feels that the country is in a depression. Three-in-ten say the country is in a depression, up 10 points since December 2008. About six-in-ten (57%) say the economy is in a recession, compared with 64% two months ago.

Not surprisingly, people at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum are the most likely to see the situation in dire terms. More than a third (36%) of those with family incomes less than \$30,000 say the country is in a depression; that compares with just 21% of those with incomes of \$100,000 or more. Nearly half (46%) of people who describe their household as "struggling" say the economy is in a depression, compared with 22% of those who say they are "professional or business class" and 29% of those who say they are "working class."

More See Country in Depression

	Dec 2008		Feb 2009		Change in depression
	Reces- sion %	Depres- sion %	Reces- sion %	Depres- sion %	
Total	64	20	57	30	+10
\$100k or more	81	10	68	21	+11
\$75k-99,999	67	19	67	27	+8
\$50k-74,999	72	17	63	26	+9
\$30k-49,999	63	22	55	28	+6
Less than \$30,000	52	26	53	36	+10
<i>Self-described class</i>					
Prof/business	71	15	69	22	+7
Working	66	17	58	29	+12
Struggling	51	34	39	46	+12
College grad+	75	14	70	22	+8
Some college	68	18	59	30	+12
HS or less	56	24	49	34	+10
18-29	62	14	61	25	+11
30-49	66	20	56	31	+11
50-64	66	23	59	31	+8
65+	60	24	52	32	+8
Republican	66	14	60	25	+11
Democrat	65	23	61	30	+7
Independent	64	19	55	31	+12

Asked of those who rate the economy as only fair or poor. Shown as percentage of general public.

But the number saying the country is in a depression has increased across most demographic groups. Those with annual family incomes of \$100,000 or more are about twice as likely as they were in December to say the U.S. economy is in a depression (21% vs. 10%). On the other end of the spectrum, those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 are also considerably more likely to express that view (36% today vs. 26% in December).

More Republicans, Democrats and independents also describe current economic conditions as a depression than did so in December. Currently, a quarter of Republicans, 30% of Democrats and 31% of independents offer that opinion. In December, Democrats were more likely than Republicans to say the country was in a depression (23% vs. 14%).

Economy Dominates Americans' Views of the Most Important Problem

Eight-in-ten (80%) Americans now name an economic issue as the most important problem confronting the nation – the highest proportion naming economic concerns since this question was first asked by the Pew Research Center more than twenty years ago. As recently as January of 2008, only about a third (34%) of Americans mentioned an economic concern. By July of last year the share citing the economy spiked to 61% as gasoline prices soared. In the wake of the financial crisis last fall 75% cited economic issues as the most important problem facing the nation.

Today, 31% of Americans specifically mention unemployment and job related issues when asked about the nation's biggest problem, a 22-point increase since October. By contrast, the financial crisis was mentioned by about a quarter (26%) of the public in October; that proportion is down to 16% today. Gas and energy prices – cited by 19% as the nation's biggest problem last July, were not mentioned in the current survey.

Concerns about the country's job situation are now more widespread than they were in January 1992 – the previous high-point – when 22% of Americans cited unemployment or jobs as the most important national problem.

	Jan 2008	July 2008	Oct 2008	Feb 2009
	%	%	%	%
Economic problems (Net)	34	61	75	80
Economy (general)	20	39	55	53
Unemployment	5	5	9	31
Financial crisis	--	--	26	16
Recession/Depression	2	1	1	3
Inflation/Cost of living	3	6	5	2
Gas/Energy prices	3	19	5	--
Dissatisfaction w/govt	6	3	4	5
Deficit/National debt	2	1	1	4
Health care	10	3	4	3
War/Iraq/Afghanistan	27	17	11	3
Number of respondents	1,515	737	728	643

Based on open-ended question, multiple responses allowed. See top line for full results.

Views about the nation's most important problem cross demographic and political groups; large majorities of most groups cite economic issues when asked about the country's most important problem.

Fewer Optimistic about the Economy

The proportion of Americans who say the economy will be better a year from now has fallen from 46% in October to 40% today. A solid majority now thinks that economic conditions will either be the same (38%) or worse (18%) a year from now.

Optimism about the economy has declined markedly among the more affluent, the more educated, and those who describe their family as professional or business class. About a third (34%) of those with annual family incomes of \$100,000 or more now say they expect economic conditions in the country to be better a year from now; 56% expressed optimism in early October. The share of college graduates who see the economy improving over the next year fell from 52% to 35% over the same period.

By contrast, the nation's economic future seems better to people at the lower end of the income ladder. Among people with family incomes of less than \$30,000, the share saying the economy will improve over the next year has risen from 43% in October to 52% today.

<i>Over next year, nation's economy will improve...</i>	Oct 2008	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	<i>Oct-Feb Change</i>
Total	46	43	40	-6
\$100k or more	56	46	34	-22
\$75k-99,999	51	40	39	-12
\$50k-74,999	41	42	36	-5
\$30k-49,999	42	42	36	-6
Less than \$30,000	43	45	52	+9
<i>Self-described class</i>				
Prof/Business	53	47	36	-17
Working	46	42	40	-6
Struggling	34	42	48	+14
College grad+	52	46	35	-17
Some college	46	46	38	-8
HS or less	42	40	44	+2
18-29	39	45	41	+2
30-49	46	41	39	-7
50-64	50	44	39	-11
65+	52	42	44	-8
Republican	52	37	30	-22
Democrat	47	50	53	+6
Independent	42	42	35	-7

Republicans also are considerably less likely than in October to express optimism about the national economy. Just three-in-ten (30%) Republicans now expect economic conditions to be better in a year; in early October, 52% expected improvements. The change has been less pronounced among independents and Democrats.

Can the Government Fix the Economy?

Confidence in the government's ability to fix the economy has slipped over the last two months. Today, just over half of the public (52%) says the government still has the power to fix the economy, while 40% say the government can't fix it so easily because we are part of a global economy. In December 2008, 59% said the government had the power to improve the economy, while 35% expressed skepticism.

Republicans and independents are especially likely to have lost confidence in the government's ability to solve economic problems. By a 52% to 40% margin, Republicans now say the government can't fix the economy so easily; in December, Republicans were evenly split, with 47% saying the government could not solve economic problems so easily and 48% saying the government still had the power to do so.

Among independents, 47% now express confidence that the government still has power to fix the economy and about the same number (45%) say the government can't fix it so easily. This is a sharp change from December, when a solid majority of independents (59%) was optimistic about the government's ability to solve economic problems. Democrats remain highly confident in the government's ability to fix the economy; about two-thirds (65%) now express that view.

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
February 2009				
The government still has the power to fix the economy	52	40	65	47
The government can't fix it so easily because we are part of a global economy	40	52	29	45
Don't know	8	8	6	8
	100	100	100	100
December 2008				
The government still has the power to fix the economy	59	48	68	59
The government can't fix it so easily because we are part of a global economy	35	47	27	36
Don't know	6	5	5	5
	100	100	100	100

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,303 adults, 18 years of age or older, from February 4-8, 2009 (976 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 327 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 114 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,303	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	660	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	643	4.5 percentage points
Employed (full or part-time)	760	4.0 percentage points
\$75,000 or more	384	5.5 percentage points
\$30,000 to \$74,999	420	5.5 percentage points
Less than \$30,000	315	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
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley,
Research Associates
Kathleen Holzwart and Alec Tyson, Research Analysts

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2009 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 4-8, 2009
N=1,303

QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=643]:

Q.3F2 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 IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

		Early					Mid-					Mid-						
		Oct	July	Jan	Nov	Sept	Jan	Sept	Jan	May	Jan	July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>01</u> ²
53	Economy (general)	55	39	20	14	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
31	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	9	5	5	4	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
16	Financial crisis	26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	4	3	6	5	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced																	
4	budget/Govt spending	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	--	1	1	1	1
3	Health care/costs	4	3	10	7	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
3	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan.	11	17	27	32	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10	--	--
	Recession/Depression/Slowing																	
3	down of the economy	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
2	Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	5	6	3	2	1	--	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1	Morality/Ethics/Family values	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
	Education/schools/affording																	
1	education	--	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
1	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Terrorism	2	3	3	4	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	--
	Crime/Violence/gangs/																	
1	justice system	--	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
	U.S. foreign policy/International																	
1	affairs	1	2	2	3	1	--	2	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
	Pay more attention to problems																	
1	at home	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
	Environment/pollution/Global																	
1	warming	1	3	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	1
	Defense issues/Military spending/																	
1	National & homeland security	1	3	3	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
1	Immigration	1	2	6	6	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
1	Many things/Everything	1	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Abortion	1	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
4	Other																	
3	Don't know/No answer	4	4	5	6	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/																	
7	INTERNATIONAL	18	25	36	40	48	50	47	37	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
80	(NET) ECONOMIC	75	61	34	31	20	15	23	26	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

² Complete trend for Q.3F2 not shown.

QUESTION 4a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 4b AND 4c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 7 AND 8

QUESTIONS 9 AND 10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTION 11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 12 AND 13

ASK ALL:

ROTATE Q.14-Q.17/Q.18-Q.19 IN BLOCKS

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.14 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2009	*	4	24	71	1=100
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1=100
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1=100
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1=100
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1=100
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1=100
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 ³	2	29	42	26	1=100

³ Earlier trends available from Gallup.

ASK IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ONLY FAIR OR POOR (3,4 IN Q.14)

Q.15 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:

		<u>Dec</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>March</u>
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
4	Excellent/Good	7	7	7	9	7	10	11
95	Only fair/Poor	92	92	92	90	92	89	88
	5 Just having a few problems	6	11	12	11	12	14	14
	57 In a recession	64	58	58	54	56	54	56
	30 In a depression	20	18	19	22	21	18	15
	3 Don't know/refused (VOL.)	2	5	3	3	3	3	3
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=660]:

Q.16F1 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 IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

		Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>
42	(NET) JOBS	10	13	18
41	Unemployment/lack of (good) jobs/low wages	9	11	14
1	Jobs moving overseas/outsourcing	2	2	4
18	(NET) FINANCIAL CRISIS	27		
3	The bailout of financial institutions/government intervention	6	--	--
3	Large corporations/corporate greed	6	1	1
3	Banking crisis/Problems with financial institutions	8	1	--
2	Credit crunch/Banks and others not giving loans	--	--	--
2	Debt/credit issues/bankruptcy	5	3	4
2	CEOs/Overpaid management/Inappropriate bonuses	--	--	--
2	Lack of consumer confidence/Fear	--	--	--
1	The stock market	5	--	--
1	Depression/Recession	--	--	--
1	The stimulus plan	--	--	--
1	Other financial crisis	--	--	--
8	(NET) HOUSING	12	10	13
4	Mortgage problems/sub-prime mortgages/foreclosures	8	7	6
4	Housing/real estate/affordable housing	4	3	9
6	(NET) GOVERNMENT	12	7	11
3	Budget/deficit/government spending or waste	5	2	4
1	Taxes	2	1	3
1	Government (President, Congress, Democrats, lobbyists, etc.)	5	4	2
1	Other government	--	--	--
5	(NET) PRICES	16	45	24
3	Health care/medical/Medicare	4	2	9
2	Gasoline/oil prices/energy costs	10	38	11
1	Cost of living/not enough money/ difference between wages and costs/inflation	3	9	5
6	Economy (general)	4	2	3
5	Money/Finances	--	--	--
2	Personal (ir)responsibility/spending more than you have	4	2	1
2	Spending on war in Iraq	4	8	10
1	Gap between rich and poor/distribution of wealth/ disappearance of middle class	3	1	2
1	Immigration	1	1	3
1	Education/schools	1	1	2
1	Decline of the U.S. industrial base, including auto industry	--	--	--
1	Trade/imports and exports	1	1	2
1	Loss of religion/faith	--	--	--
1	Corruption	--	--	--
6	Other			
*	None/no problem	*	*	1
8	Don't know/Refused/Non-response/Uncodeable	11	9	10

ASK ALL:

Q.17 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.)

Don't Know/

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Refused</u>
February, 2009	40	18	38	4=100
December, 2008	43	17	36	4=100
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8=100
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.14-Q.17/Q.18-Q.19 IN BLOCKS

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.18 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.)

Don't Know/

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
February, 2009	5	33	41	20	1=100
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1=100
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1=100
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

Q.18 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2=100
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1=100
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2=100
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1=100
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1=100
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2=100
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1=100
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1=100
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1=100
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1=100
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1=100
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
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.19 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?

	<u>Improve a lot</u>	<u>Improve some</u>	<u>Get a little worse</u>	<u>Get a lot worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the same	(VOL.) Don't Know/ Refused
February, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4=100
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4=100
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6=100
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

Q.19 CONTINUED...

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</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

ASK ALL:

Q.20 Some people think that the federal government cannot fix the economy so easily these days because the U.S. 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?

		Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>
40	The government can't fix it so easily	35	37	26
52	The government still has the power to fix it	59	56	68
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.21 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
21	Rising prices	31	38	49
21	Problems in the financial markets	29	31	14
45	The job situation	26	18	19
9	Declining real estate values	9	8	12
1	Other (VOL.)	1	2	2
1	None / not worried about any (VOL.)	2	1	2
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

NO QUESTION 22

QUESTIONS 23 THROUGH 29 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Now,

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Thinking about your personal finances, have you done any of the following lately? (First,) Have you [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] or not? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements			
	February, 2009	37	62	1=100
	December, 2008	36	63	1=100
b.	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car			
	February, 2009	37	62	1=100
	December, 2008	33	67	*=100
c.	Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance			
	February, 2009	44	55	1=100
	December, 2008	44	56	*=100
d.	Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel			
	February, 2009	59	41	*=100
	December, 2008	57	42	1=100
e.	Adjusted your plans for retirement			
	February, 2009	29	70	1=100
	December, 2008	27	72	1=100
f.	Changed the way your money is saved or invested			
	February, 2009	53	46	1=100
	December, 2008	48	51	1=100
g.	Been eating out at restaurants less often			
	February, 2009	55	44	1=100
	December, 2008	55	44	1=100

IF CHANGED SPENDING HABITS (1 IN Q.30b,Q30c,Q30d, or Q30g) [N=990]:

Q.31 You mentioned making some cutbacks in spending. Have you been cutting back because your financial situation has GOTTEN worse and made such cutbacks necessary, or because you worry that your financial situation MIGHT GET worse in the future?

	<u>Dec⁴</u> <u>2008</u>
30	30
56	59
5	4
6	4
3	3
100	100

NO QUESTIONS 32 OR 33

⁴ In December 2008, the beginning of the question was worded: "In general, have you been cutting back on spending because...".

ASK ALL:

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

45	Employed full time
15	Employed part time
40	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

ASK ALL:

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

IF NOT EMPLOYED (3 IN EMPLOY) ASK:

EMPLOY1 Are you currently looking for work, or not?

IF PART TIME (2 IN EMPLOY) ASK:

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

BASED ON TOTAL:

45	Employed full time
15	Employed part time
	7 Yes, would prefer full time
	8 No, would not
	* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
40	Not employed
	12 Yes, looking for work
	28 No, not looking
	* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

ASK IF EMPLOYED (EMPLOY=1,2) OR NOT EMPLOYED AND NOT CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR WORK (EMPLOY1=2,9)

Q.34 Over the past 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your household has been without a job and looking for work, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL:

		Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	May <u>2005</u>
39	Yes ⁵	35	28	31
61	No	65	71	69
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	<u>1</u>	*
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	100	<u>100</u>

⁵ "Yes" includes those who said they were looking for work in EMPLOY1.

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=760]:

Q.35 Which of the following best describes your job? Are you an employee of a private company or business, an employee of a non-profit organization, a government employee, or self-employed in your own business or professional practice? [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS MORE THAN ONE JOB/ EMPLOYER ASK ABOUT THEIR “main job”]

- 50 Private company or business
- 10 Non-profit organization (INCLUDES private schools, colleges and universities)
- 20 Government (INCLUDES federal, state or local government, public schools, colleges and universities)
- 18 Self employed or business owner (INCLUDES independent contractor, freelance worker)
- 1 Other (VOL.)
- 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

IF EMPLOYED AND NOT SELF-EMPLOYED (Q.35=1,2,3,5,9) ASK:

EMPLOY4 Do you work for an annual salary or are you paid by the hour?

BASED ON THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED [N=760]:

- 30 Paid a salary
- 48 Paid hourly
- 1 Both (VOL.)
- 2 Other / piecework / by the job (VOL.)
- 18 Self-employed (From Q.35)
- 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=760]:

Q.36 Including all its locations and worksites, not just your own, about how many people are employed in your company or organization? Just stop me when I get to the right category. Are there... (READ) [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS: IF RESPONDENT SAYS WORK FOR SELF CODE AS 1; IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS MORE THAN ONE JOB/ EMPLOYER ASK ABOUT THEIR “main job”; IF RESPONDENT IS UNSURE PROBE ONCE: “Just your best guess.”]

- 29 Fewer than 25
- 15 25 to under 100
- 22 100 to under 1000 [OR]
- 32 1,000 or more people
- 2 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
- 100

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=760]:

Q.37 How would you rate the financial condition of the company or organization that employs you? Would you say it is in excellent financial shape, good shape, only fair shape or in poor shape?

		Early				--- U.S. News & World Report ---			
		Dec	Oct	Feb	June	Oct	Aug	May	Jan
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
15	Excellent shape	20	22	30	31	27	23	25	22
43	Good shape	43	44	39	39	38	40	40	39
29	Only fair shape	27	25	21	20	23	26	22	24
10	Poor shape	8	5	6	7	10	9	11	12
*	Does not apply (VOL.)	1	2	2	2	--	--	--	--
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.38 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
February, 2009	11	80	3	6=100
December, 2008	19	73	4	4=100
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7=100
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 & World Report</i>	15	76	6	3=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	16	77	4	3=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	12	79	6	3=100

ASK ALL:

Q.39 For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that happened to you in the past year....Have you [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THRU f. WITH ITEM g. ALWAYS LAST]? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>Don't know</u>
a. Had trouble getting or paying for medical care for yourself or your family			
February, 2009	23	77	*=100
January, 2008 <i>Pew Social & Demographic Trends</i>	23	76	1=100
TREND FOR COMPARISON:⁶			
August, 1999 <i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	21	78	*=100

⁶ Trends for items 39a, 39b, 39d and 39f are from a study conducted by the *Washington Post*, Kaiser and Harvard from June 30 to August 30, 1999. The introduction to these items was: "For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that has happened to you and your immediate family during the past year..." The wording for the trend to item 39d was: "Have you gotten a promotion or a big pay raise at work?"

Q.39 CONTINUED...

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>Don't know</u>
b.	Had problems paying your rent or mortgage			
	February, 2009	20	80	*=100
	January, 2008 <i>Pew Social & Demographic Trends</i>	16	83	1=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	August, 1999 <i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	13	87	*=100
c.	Been laid off or lost your job			
	February, 2009	18	82	*=100
	January, 2008 <i>Pew Social & Demographic Trends</i>	14	85	1=100
d.	Gotten a pay raise at your current job or gotten a better job			
	February, 2009	29	70	1=100
	January, 2008 <i>Pew Social & Demographic Trends</i>	41	57	2=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	August, 1999 <i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	29	69	2=100
e.	Had a mortgage, other loan, or credit card application denied			
	February, 2009	17	83	*=100
f.	Had problems with collection or credit agencies			
	February, 2009	20	80	*=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
	August, 1999 <i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	19	80	*=100

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>Don't know</u>	<i>Laid off</i>
--	--	------------	-----------	-----------------------------	-----------------

**ASK IF NOT LAID OFF (Q.39c=2,9):
BASED ON TOTAL:**

g.	Had your hours reduced or been asked to take a cut in pay	11	71	*	18=100
----	---	----	----	---	--------

ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=760]:

Q.40 Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely is it that [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely? What about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]... **IF NECESSARY:** Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely that (**REPEAT ITEM**)

		<u>NET</u> <u>Likely</u>	<i>Very</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>what</i> <i>likely</i>	<u>NET</u> <u>Not</u> <u>likely</u>	<i>Not</i> <i>too</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>Not</i> <i>at all</i> <i>likely</i>	(VOL.) <u>Don't</u> <u>know</u>
a.	Your employer may go out of business or relocate to another city							
	February, 2009	13	4	9	85	19	66	2=100
	January, 2008 <i>Pew Social Trends</i>	12	4	8	87	24	63	1=100

NO ITEM b

c.	You may have your health care benefits reduced or eliminated by your employer							
	February, 2009	24	10	14	69	19	50	7=100
	January, 2008 <i>Pew Social Trends</i>	20	7	13	74	25	49	6=100

Q.40 CONTINUED...

	NET	<i>Some-</i>	NET	<i>Not</i>	<i>Not</i>	(VOL.)	
	Likely	<i>Very</i>	Not	<i>too</i>	<i>at all</i>	Don't	
		<i>likely</i>	likely	<i>likely</i>	<i>likely</i>	know	
		<i>likely</i>					
d. You may be asked to take a cut in pay							
February, 2009	25	10	15	73	23	50	2=100
January, 2008 <i>Pew Social Trends</i>	13	4	9	86	27	59	1=100

NO ITEM e

f. You may be laid off							
February, 2009	21	5	16	77	31	46	2=100
January, 2008 <i>Pew Social Trends</i>	15	5	10	84	28	56	1=100
g. You may have your retirement benefits reduced or eliminated by your employer							
February, 2009	18	6	12	75	22	53	7=100

QUESTIONS 41 THROUGH 48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No Preference	Other Party	DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2=100	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3=100	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3=100	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3=100	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3=100	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
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
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1=100	10.5	15.4
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	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9=100	11.7	13.4
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				<u>Preference</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
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:

CLASS Which of the following labels best describes your household: **[READ ITEMS, IN ORDER]**

	Professional or			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Business</u>	<u>Working</u>	<u>Struggling</u>	More than one/ <u>None</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2009	26	52	16	4	2=100
December, 2008	32	44	19	3	2=100
Early October, 2008	31	48	15	4	2=100
April, 2008	33	42	17	6	2=100
Early February, 2008	32	47	15	3	3=100
January, 2008	33	46	12	6	3=100
December, 2007	30	46	15	6	3=100
September, 2007	35	46	12	4	3=100
August, 2007	34	44	13	7	2=100
January, 2007	30	47	16	5	2=100
October, 2006	34	45	15	4	2=100
January, 2006	32	46	14	4	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	32	45	15	5	3=100
February, 2004 <i>GAP</i>	32	47	15	4	2=100
August, 2003	31	47	14	6	2=100
June, 2003	31	44	15	8	2=100
June, 2002	31	47	14	5	3=100
February, 2002	32	46	14	6	2=100
June, 2001	29	47	15	6	3=100

OWNRENT, MORTGAGE, AND MORTGAGE2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE