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NEWS Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 16, 2009

GOP Congressional Leaders' Ratings Hit New Low - 28%
OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATING SLIPS AMID DIVISION OVER ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

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GOP Congressional Leaders' Ratings Hit New Low - 28%

OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATING SLIPS AMID DIVISION OVER ECONOMIC PROPOSALS

President Barack Obama's approval rating has slipped, as a growing number of Americans see him listening more to his party's liberals than to its moderates and many voice opposition to some of his key economic proposals. Obama's job approval rating has slipped from 64% in February to 59% currently, while disapproval has jumped from 17% to 26% over this period.

Although most people think the new president is doing as much as he can to fix the economy and relatively few say Obama's policies have made the economy worse, the public expresses mixed views of his many major proposals to fix the economy. There continues to be broad support for increased spending on infrastructure, and most have positive views of key aspects of his budget plan – reducing taxes on middle and lower-income households and raising taxes on the affluent.

Yet a majority (52%) says it is wrong to change the Medicare prescription drug plan so that upper-income retirees would pay more. And nearly as many (47%) express a negative view of reducing agricultural subsidies for many farms, as Obama has proposed in his budget plan.

As in December, the public is divided over spending billions to help homeowners who are facing foreclosure on mortgages they cannot afford – 46% say this is the right thing for the government to be doing while an identical percentage says it is wrong. And the prospect of providing loans to struggling automakers GM

Views of Obama and Economic Policies

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>
<i>Obama job</i>	%	%	%
Approve	--	64	59
Disapprove	--	17	26
Don't know	--	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>
		100	100
<i>Listening more to...</i>			
Liberals of his party	34	--	44
Moderates of his party	44	--	30
Don't know	<u>22</u>	--	<u>26</u>
	100		100
	<u>Right</u>	<u>Wrong</u>	<u>DK</u>
<i>Budget proposals:</i>	<u>thing</u>	<u>thing</u>	<u>%</u>
Reduce taxes for middle, low-income households	82	14	4=100
Raise taxes on those with household incomes \$200k+	61	34	5=100
Change Medicare drug plan so upper-income pay more	41	52	7=100
<i>Major legislation:</i>			
\$800 billion economic stimulus passed by Congress*	56	35	9=100
\$700 billion plan to keep financial institutions secure	48	40	12=100
<i>Spending billions to...</i>			
Increase spending on roads/public works	77	19	4=100
Help homeowners facing foreclosure	46	46	8=100
In loans to keep GM, Chrysler in business	30	63	7=100

* Responses are good idea/bad idea.

and Chrysler, which was unpopular in December, has become even more so: Just 30% say it is right for the government to provide loans to the automakers, down from 39% in December

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 9-12 among 1,308 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, finds that 56% of Americans view Obama's \$800 billion economic stimulus plan as the right thing for the government to be doing, compared with 35% who say it is the wrong thing. This is little changed since February. About half (48%) express a positive opinion of the \$700 billion program aimed at keeping financial institutions and markets secure; in December 47% said this was the right thing for the government to be doing.

There are no signs in the poll that Republican congressional leaders are benefiting from the public's concern about major economic policies. In fact, approval of Republican congressional leaders has fallen from 34% in February to 28% currently, the lowest rating for GOP leaders in nearly 14 years of Pew Research surveys. Republicans, in particular, have become less supportive of their party's leaders in Congress: just 43% of Republicans approve of their job performance, down from 55% just a month ago. By contrast, nearly half of Americans (47%) approve of the job Democratic congressional leaders are doing.

GOP Leaders in Congress Losing Base Support				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
March 9-12				
Approve	28	43	19	26
Disapprove	51	37	65	51
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100
Feb. 4-8				
Approve	34	55	24	32
Disapprove	51	33	62	54
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Change in approve</i>	-6	-12	-5	-6

In addition, no single Republican figure, either in Congress or elsewhere, has emerged as the party's leader. When asked who they think of as the leader of the Republican Party, 73% either say they do not know (58%), or volunteer that there is no leader (15%). John McCain is mentioned most frequently, but just 11% name the Arizona senator as leader of the Republican Party.

While Obama's job approval ratings have edged down, they remain on par with George W. Bush's ratings in March 2001 (55% approved, 25% disapproved). The balance of opinion regarding Obama is more positive than it was for Clinton in March 1993: At that time, 53% gave Clinton a positive job rating compared with 34% who gave him a negative rating.

Since February, views of the new president have become much more partisan. Currently, just 27% of Republicans approve of the way he is handling his job while 56% disapprove. In February, 34% of Republicans approved of Obama's job performance and 41% disapproved. Democrats continue to express overwhelmingly positive views of Obama (88% approve), while more than twice as many independents approve (57%) as disapprove (27%) of his job

performance. However, the balance of opinion among independents was much more positive in February (63% approve, 14% disapprove).

Obama generally receives favorable marks for doing as much as he can to try to fix the economy. Six-in-ten express this view, which is substantially greater than the percentages saying that about George W. Bush in January 2002 (48%) or George H.W. Bush a decade earlier (21% in March 1992). For the most part, the public says that Obama’s economic policies have had no effect on the economic situation so far (64%), with much smaller proportions saying his policies have made economic conditions worse (15%) or better (14%).

Nonetheless, a sizable minority (39%) says that Obama has proposed spending too much money to address the economic situation; 34% say Obama is spending the right amount, while 13% say Obama has proposed spending too little to address the crisis. Seven-in-ten Republicans (70%) say Obama’s proposals are too costly, compared with 40% of independents and just 17% of Democrats.

In this regard, 37% of Americans say that the growing budget deficit makes them angry, while another 46% say it is something that bothers them but does not make them angry. Comparable percentages say they are angered by bailing out homeowners who took out mortgages they could not afford (39%) and government money being spent on special interest projects (34%). The bailout of banks and financial institutions that made poor decisions engenders more negative reactions – 48% say this is something that makes them angry.

As Obama dramatically expands the role of government, the public is reacting pragmatically: While there is strong support for the free market, and a plurality favors a smaller government, most also believe the government should exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years.

Seven-in-ten (70%) say that people are better off in a free market even if there are severe ups and downs at times. Since last fall, there has been a modest rise in the percentage saying a smaller government with fewer services is preferable to a bigger government with more services (from 42% to 48%).

Pragmatic Approach to Government’s Role on the Economy		
<i>People better off in free-market economy even w/ severe ups and downs?</i>	Oct 2008	Mar 2009
	%	%
Yes	--	70
No	--	20
Don’t know	--	10
		100
<i>Rather have...</i>		
Smaller government/fewer services	42	48
Bigger government/more services	43	40
Depends (Vol)	4	3
Don’t know	11	9
	100	100
<i>Gov’t exerting more control over the economy right now</i>		
Good idea	--	54
Bad idea	--	37
Don’t know	--	9
		100

At the same time, however, 54% say it is a good idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years. Even among Republicans, nearly a third (32%) endorses the idea of the government now exerting greater control over the economy.

The most dramatic shift in opinion about Obama in the new survey is about whether he is listening more to his party's moderates or liberals. By 44% to 30%, the public now sees him listening more to liberal Democrats rather than to moderate Democrats. This is a reversal from January when 44% said he was listening more to moderates in the Democratic Party, while 34% said he was listening more to the party's liberals. The proportion of Republicans who see liberals having greater sway over Obama has increased by 23 points since January; the proportion of independents holding that view has risen 13 points.

Yet opinions about Obama's *own* ideology have moved in the opposite direction since last fall. Currently, 44% say Obama is a liberal, while 26% say he is a moderate and 17% say he is a conservative. In October, during the final stages of the presidential race, 52% said Obama was a liberal, 23% a moderate, and 16% a conservative.

Democrats Cool to Afghanistan Buildup

The public overwhelmingly supports Obama's plan to remove most combat troops from Iraq by the end of August: 76% approve of the troop withdrawal while just 18% disapprove. In contrast, a much narrower majority (53%) approves of his decision to dispatch 17,000 additional U.S. forces to Afghanistan; 38% disapprove of the troop buildup.

While Democrats almost unanimously approve of Obama's decision to pull most combat troops from Iraq by August of next year, only about half (49%) approve of his decision to send more U.S.

forces to Afghanistan. Republicans strongly support Obama's decision to increase troop levels in Afghanistan (by 63% to 27%), but are more evenly split over his decision to withdraw most combat forces from Iraq next year (50% approve while 41% disapprove). More than three-quarters of independents (77%) approve of Obama's plan to withdraw most combat troops from Iraq before the fall of 2010, while a smaller majority (55%) approve of the decision to increase U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan.

More Reps than Dems Back Obama's Afghan Troop Increase				
<i>Obama's plans to:</i>				
<i>Withdraw most US combat troops before Sept 2010</i>				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Approve	76	50	94	77
Disapprove	18	41	5	16
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Send 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan</i>				
Approve	53	63	49	55
Disapprove	38	27	43	40
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

SECTION 1: OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (59%) approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president. About a month ago, 64% approved of his job performance. Obama's disapproval ratings have grown significantly over this time; in early February, just 17% said they disapproved of the president's handling of his job; today, 26% do so.

	Jimmy Carter 1977	Ronald Reagan 1981	G.H.W. Bush 1989	Bill Clinton 1993	G.W. Bush 2001	Barack Obama 2009
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	70	60	56	53	55	59
Disapprove	9	24	16	34	25	26
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Carter, Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, and Clinton trends from Gallup

The public's assessments of Obama's job performance are similar to those seen for Ronald Reagan (60%), George H.W. Bush (56%) and George W. Bush (55%) at comparable points in their presidencies. By contrast, the public gives Obama a better job approval rating than Bill Clinton (53%). In March 1977, approval ratings for Jimmy Carter (70%) were significantly higher than Obama's are today.

Over the past month, disapproval of Obama's job performance has increased substantially among Republicans and independents, while Democratic evaluations remain overwhelmingly positive. Today, a majority of Republicans (56%) disapprove of Obama's job performance, up from 41% in February. More than two-thirds of conservative Republicans (68%) have a negative opinion about the way Obama is handling his job, up 21 points over the past month. By contrast, opinions about Obama among moderate and liberal Republicans have been more stable and more positive. About half of moderate and liberal Republicans (49%) say they approve of his job as president while 30% disapprove; these percentages have changed little since February.

	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Change	Mar N
	%	%		
Total	17	26	+9	1,308
Republican	41	56	+15	359
Conserv Rep	47	68	+21	243
Mod/Lib Rep	30	30	0	112
Democrat	3	5	+2	444
Cons/Mod Dem	3	6	+3	265
Liberal Dem	2	2	0	161
Independent	14	27	+13	432
18-29	11	19	+8	153
30-49	17	26	+9	395
50-64	19	29	+10	427
65+	17	27	+10	304
College grad+	22	31	+9	509
Some college	14	23	+9	317
HS or less	14	24	+10	479
\$75,000 or more	24	37	+13	408
\$30k-74,999	17	24	+7	445
Less than \$30,000	9	16	+7	308
Protestant	19	28	+9	728
White evangelical	31	39	+8	277
White mainline	17	28	+11	295
Catholic	14	28	+14	270
White non-Hisp	20	41	+21	214
Unaffiliated	13	15	+2	192

Most independents continue to approve of

Obama's performance (57% today, down from 63% last month). However, disapproval among independents has risen 13 points since February. As was the case in February, few Democrats express disapproval of Obama's job performance (88% approve of his handling of the job, while just 5% disapprove).

Those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more continue to express disapproval of Obama at higher levels than those at lower income levels, and disapproval has grown considerably among those in this group. Today, 37% express disapproval; in February, just 24% did so.

Opinions of Obama's overall job performance also have declined significantly since February among Catholics, particularly white non-Hispanic Catholics. The balance of Obama's job approval ratings remains favorable among Catholics overall (59% approve, 28% disapprove), although this reflects a 14-point increase in disapproval over the past month. White non-Hispanic Catholics are more evenly divided in their assessments of Obama's job performance (47% approve, 41% disapprove); in February, those in this group approved of Obama's job performance by more than three-to-one (61% approved, 20% disapproved).

Listening More to Liberals

Less than two months into his presidency, public perceptions have changed regarding whether Obama listens more to his party's moderates or liberals. A plurality (44%) now says that Obama is listening more to liberals in the Democratic Party rather than to moderates (30%). In January, before Obama took office, 44% said he was listening more to the party's moderates while 34% said he was listening more to its liberals.

Republicans now overwhelmingly believe that liberals in the Democratic Party (71%), rather than the party's moderates (15%), have the president's ear. In January, only about half of Republicans (48%) said that Obama was listening more to his party's liberals.

More independents also believe that Obama is listening more to his party's liberals, though the shift has been less pronounced than among Republicans. Nearly half of independents (47%) now say Obama is listening more to Democratic liberals than to moderates, up from 34% in January.

More Say Obama is Listening to Liberal Democrats				
<i>Obama is listening more to...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
March 2009	%	%	%	%
Liberal Democrats	44	71	22	47
Moderate Democrats	30	15	43	31
Don't know	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100
January 2009				
Liberal Democrats	34	48	27	34
Moderate Democrats	44	37	50	46
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Change in listening to liberal Democrats</i>	<i>+10</i>	<i>+23</i>	<i>-5</i>	<i>+13</i>

There has been little change in opinions among Democrats on this question. As was the case in January, Democrats are more likely to say Obama is listening more to moderates in the party than to liberals (43% vs. 22%), although Democrats are now increasingly likely to say they do not know or give no response (35% today vs. 23% in January).

Fewer See Obama as Liberal

While more believe Obama is listening to liberals within his party today than in January, somewhat fewer describe Obama himself as liberal than did so during the presidential campaign.

Currently, 43% identify Obama's ideology as either moderate (26%) or conservative (17%); about the same percentage says he is a liberal (44%). Last October, a few weeks before the election, a majority of the public (52%) identified Obama as a liberal.

	Lib- eral %	Mod- erate %	Conser- vative %	DK %
March 2009	44	26	17	13=100
October 2008	52	23	16	9=100
April 2008	53	21	15	11=100
January 2008	46	23	14	17=100
<i>Current views by party</i>				
Republican	68	13	7	12=100
Democrat	30	34	27	9=100
Independent	44	28	14	14=100

There continue to be wide partisan differences in assessments of Obama's ideology. A large majority of Republicans (68%) view Obama as liberal, down slightly from 73% during the campaign. Among independents, 44% describe Obama as liberal, down slightly from 51% last October. Democrats today are divided in their view of Obama's ideology; 34% say he is a moderate, 30% a liberal and 27% a conservative. Last October, significantly more (42%) described Obama as liberal, while 31% said he was moderate and 21% conservative.

Obama Not Seen as Overextended

In recent weeks, Obama has come under increasing criticism for trying to tackle too many issues in his first few months in office. A majority of Americans (56%) reject that criticism, saying he is doing about right, though 35% say he is trying to address too many

issues at once. Most Republicans (53%) say that Obama has taken on too many issues, as do 36% of independents. Just 21% of Democrats agree.

<i>So far, do you think Obama is...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Addressing too many issues at once	35	53	21	36
Focusing on too few issues	4	4	2	6
Doing about right	56	37	75	52
Don't know	5	6	2	6
	100	100	100	100

Economic Policies: No Impact Yet

Most Americans believe that Obama's economic policies and proposals have not yet affected economic conditions. More than six-in-ten (64%) say his policies have not affected the economy so far, while 15% say they have made conditions worse and 14% say they have made things better.

Majorities of Democrats (72%), independents (61%) and Republicans (55%) say Obama's policies have had no effect so far. However, more than a third of Republicans (32%) say Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse. By comparison, far fewer Democrats (20%) say Obama's policies have improved conditions. Among independents, roughly the same percentages say they have made things worse (17%) as better (15%).

	Better %	Worse %	No effect %	Other/ DK %
Total	14	15	64	7=100
Republican	5	32	55	8=100
Democrat	20	2	72	4=100
Independent	15	17	61	7=100
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	7	20	67	6=100
\$30k-74,999	15	16	63	6=100
Less than \$30,000	18	8	64	10=100
<i>Thought given to Obama's econ. plans</i>				
Great deal	16	25	54	5=100
Fair amount or less	13	10	70	7=100

Among those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more, 20% say Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse while just 7% believe they have made things better; 67% say they have had no effect. By contrast, 8% of those with incomes below \$30,000 say Obama's policies have worsened economic conditions while 18% say those policies have made conditions better.

A quarter (25%) of those who say they have given a great deal of thought to how Obama's economic plans and policies will affect the economy say they have made economic conditions worse. That compares with 10% of those who have given less thought to Obama's plans and policies.

Is Obama Doing Enough on Economy?

A majority of Americans (60%) say that Obama is doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions compared with 30% who believe he could be doing more. Opinions about his predecessors' efforts on the economy were much more negative. In nine surveys between 2002 and 2004, no more than 48% (in January 2002) said George W. Bush was doing all he could to improve the economy. And in two 1992 surveys, just 21% said former President George H.W. Bush was doing all he could on the economy.

Republicans divide evenly on this question: 42% say he is doing all he can while about the same percentage (44%) says he could be doing more. Among independents, 52% say Obama is doing all he can on the economy and 37% say he could be doing more. By a wide margin (83% to 14%), Democrats believe Obama is doing all he can to improve economic conditions.

	Doing as much <u>as he can</u>	Could be <u>doing more</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Barack Obama			
March 2009	60	30	10=100
George W. Bush			
February 2004	30	65	5=100
January 2003	33	61	6=100
January 2002	48	46	6=100
George H. W. Bush			
March 1992	21	76	3=100
January 1992	21	76	3=100

SECTION 2: THE POLICY AGENDA

A month after President Obama signed the economic stimulus bill, most Americans (56%) express a positive view of the nearly \$800 billion package. Slightly more than a third (35%) says the legislation is a bad idea.

In early February, the Pew Research Center asked a similar question only of those who said they had heard “a lot” or “a little” about Obama’s proposal (91% of the public); among those who had heard at least a little about the stimulus, 51% said it was a good idea, while 34% viewed it negatively.

Republicans continue to oppose the stimulus by a wide margin (67% vs. 27%). Meanwhile, Democratic support for the legislation has risen since early February (81% vs. 70%). Slightly more than half of independents (53%) say the stimulus is a good idea, while 37% say it is a bad idea.

Majority Support for Obama’s Stimulus Package

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
March 9-12				
Good Idea	56	27	81	53
Bad Idea	35	67	12	37
Don’t know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
Feb 4-8 *				
Good idea	51	24	70	49
Bad idea	34	63	15	36
Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100

*Based on the 91% of Americans who had heard “a lot” or “a little” about Obama’s proposal.

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those younger than 30 say the legislation is a good idea, compared with 47% of those 65 and older. People with lower family incomes also are more likely than those with higher incomes to say they think the stimulus is a good idea. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of those earning less than \$30,000 say the legislation is a good idea, while only about half (51%) of those earning \$75,000 or more say the same.

Most people (56%) who say they have given a lot of thought to Obama’s economic plans and policies say the stimulus is a good idea. An identical proportion of those who have given less thought to Obama’s policies also express a positive opinion of the stimulus.

Where Government Should Help

While Americans broadly back the notion that the government should spend billions of dollars on roads and other public works programs

More Young People Support Obama’s Economic Stimulus

	Good idea	Bad idea	DK	N
	%	%	%	
Total	56	35	9=100	1308
18-29	63	29	8=100	153
30-49	57	34	9=100	395
50-64	54	39	7=100	427
65+	47	39	14=100	304
\$75k or more	51	43	6=100	408
\$30k-\$74,999	56	35	9=100	445
Less than \$30,000	64	26	10=100	308
<i>Thought given to Obama’s econ. plans</i>				
Great deal	56	41	3=100	532
Fair amount/less	57	31	12=100	749

to help stimulate the economy, they are less supportive of other costly steps to help end the deep recession. In addition, the gap is growing between Republicans and Democrats over programs to help keep financial institutions secure and to help homeowners facing foreclosure.

About three-quarters of the public (77%) say increased spending on infrastructure projects is the right thing for the government to do, compared with 19% who say it is the wrong thing to do. Large majorities across the partisan spectrum support this approach: 72% of Republicans, 81% of Democrats and 77% of independents.

But there are deep divides over the idea of the government spending billions of dollars to help homeowners facing foreclosure on mortgages they cannot afford and to help secure

financial institutions and markets. There also is little support for the government spending billions on loans to automakers to help them stay in business.

<i>Right thing for govt. to spend billions of dollars to...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	<u>R-D</u> <u>diff</u>
Increase spending on roads, other public works projects					
March 2009	77	72	81	77	-9
Dec. 2008	70	65	73	71	-8
Help homeowners facing foreclosure on mortgages they cannot afford					
March 2009	46	23	64	46	-41
Dec. 2008	49	31	60	56	-29
Invest \$700 billion to keep financial institutions secure					
March 2009	48	27	66	46	-39
Dec. 2008	47	40	50	49	-10
Make loans to automakers to keep them in business					
March 2009	30	21	37	28	-16
Dec. 2008	39	31	45	38	-14

Fewer than half (46%) say it is the right thing for the government to spend billions of dollars to help homeowners facing foreclosure; an identical percentage says it is the wrong thing to do. Almost two-thirds of Democrats (64%) say that is the right thing to do, compared with 23% of Republicans and 46% of independents. The gap between Democrats and Republicans has widened – from 29 to 41 points – since the same question was asked in December.

Notably, those with family incomes of \$30,000 or less are the only income group where a majority (55%) sees the homeowner foreclosure assistance as a good idea. At the other end of the income spectrum (family incomes of \$100,000 or more), 36% view homeowner foreclosure aid positively – the lowest of any income group.

Just under half (48%) say spending billions of dollars to help keep financial institutions secure is the right thing to do, compared with 40% who say it is the wrong thing to do. Again, the partisan divide is widening. About two-thirds of Democrats (66%) say this is the right thing to do, while only 27% of Republicans say the same. Almost half (46%) of independents say it is the right thing to do.

The public expresses considerable skepticism about extending loans to General Motors and Chrysler to help the automakers stay in business. Three-in-ten say this is the right thing for the government to do, down from 39% in December. More than six-in-ten (63%) say this is the wrong thing for the government to do. Democrats are slightly more supportive than Republicans and independents, but still only 37% of Democrats says this is the right thing for the government to do. Nearly three-in-ten independents (28%) agree, as do 21% of Republicans.

Obama's Budget Proposals

There is widespread support for some of Barack Obama's key budget proposals – particularly those dealing with changes in the tax structure. But opinion on other key proposals is more evenly divided.

More than eight-in-ten (82%) of the public say it is the right thing for the government to reduce taxes for middle and lower income households compared with only 14% who say it is the wrong thing. A smaller majority (61%) supports raising taxes on people with incomes of \$200,000 or more. Somewhat fewer (55%) has a positive opinion of limiting tax deductions upper income people can take for charitable contributions.

In contrast, 41% say it is the right thing for the government to change the Medicare prescription drug plan so that upper-income retirees will pay more for prescription drug coverage; a majority (52%) takes a negative view of this proposal. And about the same percentage (40%) says it is right for the government to reduce agricultural subsidies to most farms.

Views of Obama's Budget Proposals				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
<i>Reduce taxes for middle and lower income households</i>				
Right thing	82	75	88	80
Wrong thing	14	21	9	17
Don't know	4	4	3	3
	100	100	100	100
<i>Raise taxes on people with incomes of \$200,000 or more</i>				
Right thing	61	37	80	59
Wrong thing	34	59	15	37
Don't know	5	4	5	4
	100	100	100	100
<i>Limit charitable tax deduct. for upper income people</i>				
Right thing	55	35	67	58
Wrong thing	36	56	24	36
Don't know	9	9	9	6
	100	100	100	100
<i>Change Medicare pres. plan so upper income pay more</i>				
Right thing	41	33	53	35
Wrong thing	52	60	41	56
Don't know	7	7	6	9
	100	100	100	100
<i>Reduce agricultural subsidies for many farms</i>				
Right thing	40	34	43	42
Wrong thing	47	57	43	45
Don't know	13	9	14	13
	100	100	100	100
N=	1308	359	444	432

Majorities of Republicans express negative opinions about Obama's budget proposals, with one notable exception: 75% of Republicans say it is the right thing to reduce taxes for middle and lower-income households. Nonetheless, more Democrats (88%) support tax cuts for middle and lower-income households.

The largest partisan differences are over Obama’s proposals to raise taxes on people with household incomes of \$200,000 or more: More than twice as many Democrats as Republicans say this is the right thing for the government to do (80% vs. 37%). Conservative Republicans are the least likely to favor this proposal; only 32% say it is the right thing. A majority of independents (59%) view tax increases for the affluent positively while 37% say it is the wrong thing.

There is also a large party gap over the issue of limiting charitable tax deductions for upper income people; 67% of Democrats and 58% of independents say it is the right thing compared with only 35% of Republicans.

Obama’s proposal to modify the Medicare prescription drug plan so that upper-income retirees pay more draws considerable opposition from Republicans and independents and modest support among Democrats. Majorities of Republicans (60%) and independents (56%) say this is the wrong thing for the government to do. Most Democrats (53%) support making upper-income retirees pay more for drug coverage, but 41% oppose it.

On the issue of reducing agricultural subsidies, more Republicans say it is the wrong thing than the right thing (57% vs. 34%), while Democrats and independents are more evenly divided.

Affluent Oppose Tax Hike

As might be expected, there is considerable opposition to Obama’s proposal to raise taxes on people in upper-income categories among the affluent themselves. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of those with family incomes of \$150,000 or more say it is wrong to raise taxes on high-income households (at least \$200,000). Majorities in other income groups say raising taxes on higher income people is the right thing to do. Among those earning less than \$30,000, 71% say it is the right thing compared with 23% who say it is the wrong thing.

	Family income			
	\$150k+	\$75k-150k	\$30-75k	<\$30k
<i>Raise taxes on people with incomes of \$200,000 or more</i>	%	%	%	%
Right thing	34	56	65	71
Wrong thing	65	41	31	23
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Reduce taxes for middle and lower income households</i>				
Right thing	70	81	83	84
Wrong thing	25	17	14	12
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
N=	114	294	445	308

In contrast, there is very little difference by income on reducing taxes for middle and lower income households. More than eight-in-ten across all income groups support this proposal.

Bank Bailout Draws Public Ire

On balance, there is more public anger about bailing out banks that made poor decisions than there is about bailing out homeowners who took out mortgages they cannot afford.

Overwhelming majorities are at least bothered by both policies (87% banks, 83% mortgages), but a 48% plurality says bailing out banks and financial institutions that made poor financial decisions makes them angry. Fewer (39%) say they are angry about bailing out homeowners who took out mortgages they could not afford.

	Bank bailout %	Mortgage bailout %	Growing deficit %	Budget earmarks %
Makes you angry	48	39	37	34
Bothers you*	39	44	46	39
Doesn't bother you	12	15	14	20
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

* Bothers you but doesn't make you angry.

Not surprisingly, anger is most widespread among people who believe that these policies are the wrong thing for the government to be doing. But negative reactions are not limited to the opposition. More than a third (36%) of Americans who say investing billions into stabilizing the markets is the right thing to do say they are angry that banks and financial institutions that made poor decisions are being bailed out. Another 45% say this policy, which they support, bothers them.

Similarly, 72% of those who support the government helping homeowners facing foreclosures on mortgages they cannot afford say they are, at least, bothered by bailing out people who got in over their heads; 21% of supporters go so far as to say this policy makes them angry.

	<i>Govt. investment to keep fin. inst and markets secure is...</i>		<i>Foreclosure assistance is...</i>	
	(48%) Right	(40%) Wrong	(46%) Right	(46%) Wrong
<i>Bailing out banks...</i>	%	%	%	%
Makes you angry	36	61	21	58
Bothers you	45	33	51	36
Doesn't bother you	17	5	26	6
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100

More high-income Americans than those with low incomes say they are angry about both the bank and homeowner bailouts, but the income gap is larger when it comes to the issue of bailing out people who cannot afford their mortgages. Half of people with family incomes of

\$75,000 or more say they are angry about the mortgage bailouts, compared with just 27% of people earning less than \$30,000 annually.

Anger over Earmarks and Deficit

The growing budget deficit makes 37% of Americans angry, while another 46% say they are bothered by this but not angry. Just 14% say they are not bothered by the growth in the federal budget deficit. Government money being spent on special interest projects elicits a similar response: 34% say this makes them angry and another 39% are bothered but not angry about this; 20% say such budget earmarks do not bother them.

Nearly half (48%) of Republicans say the growing deficit makes them angry, compared with 28% of Democrats. Similarly, 46% of Republicans say they are angry about government money being spent on special interest projects; just 22% of Democrats are angry. More Democrats are angry about the government bailing out banks (39%) than homeowners (28%); more than half of Republicans are mad about both policies (55% and 54%, respectively).

	Percent "Angry" about...			
	Bank bailouts	Mortgage bailouts	Growing deficit	Budget earmarks
	%	%	%	%
Total	48	39	37	34
\$75k or more	53	50	44	41
\$30k-\$74,999	49	41	38	34
Less than \$30,000	41	27	27	29
<i>High-Low diff</i>	<i>+12</i>	<i>+23</i>	<i>+17</i>	<i>+12</i>
Republican	55	54	48	46
Democrat	39	28	28	22
Independent	53	39	39	38
<i>Rep-Dem diff</i>	<i>+16</i>	<i>+26</i>	<i>+20</i>	<i>+24</i>

Is Obama Spending Too Much?

The public is divided over whether Obama has proposed spending too much money or about the right amount to address the economic situation; 39% say he has proposed spending too much, 34% say about the right amount, while 13% say he has not proposed enough spending.

Seven-in-ten Republicans say he has proposed spending too much while only 19% say he has proposed spending the right amount; 79% of conservative Republicans say he is spending too much compared with 51% of moderate and liberal Republicans.

By contrast, only 17% of Democrats say Obama's economic proposals entail excessive spending. About half of Democrats (52%) say he has proposed the right amount of spending while 16% say he has proposed too little. Four-in-ten independents say Obama is proposing too much spending, 32% say it is about right and 17% say it is not enough.

People with high family incomes are more likely than less affluent people to say that Obama has proposed spending too much. And nearly half (47%) of those who say they have given a great deal of thought to Obama's economic plans say his proposals are too costly; that compares with 35% of those who have thought less about Obama's policies and plans.

People who think the economic stimulus recently passed by Congress is a bad idea overwhelmingly say that Obama has proposed spending too much (84%). Similarly, those who say it is the wrong thing for the government to invest billions to keep financial institutions and markets secure also say he has proposed spending too much (66%).

Obama's Proposed Spending ...					
	Too much	About right	Not enough	DK	N
	%	%	%	%	
Total	39	34	13	14=100	1,308
Republican	70	19	4	7=100	359
Independent	40	32	16	12=100	432
Democrat	17	52	16	15=100	444
<i>Family income</i>					
\$150,000 or more	59	22	12	7=100	114
\$75k-149,999	48	31	13	8=100	294
\$30k-74,999	37	36	14	13=100	445
Less than \$30,000	29	37	17	17=100	308
<i>Thought given to Obama's economic plans/policies</i>					
A great deal	47	33	13	7=100	532
Fair amount/less	35	36	14	15=100	749
<i>Obama's \$800 billion economic stimulus</i>					
Good idea	14	55	19	12=100	683
Bad idea	84	6	6	4=100	509
<i>Gov't investment to keep financial inst. & markets secure</i>					
Right thing	20	53	17	10=100	577
Wrong thing	66	17	10	7=100	590

Government Role: More Economic Control, but Not Bigger Government

By a 54% to 37% margin, more Americans say it is a good idea right now for the government to exert more control over the economy. But this does not mean that Americans favor a growth in government more generally. Just 40% say they prefer a bigger government providing more services, while 48% prefer a smaller government providing fewer services.

Views differ along partisan and ideological lines. But within each partisan and ideological group, the distinction between bigger government and more government control of the economy remains stark. For example, independents favor the government exerting more control over the economy right now by a 54% to 38% margin; they also prefer a smaller government providing fewer services by a 52% to 39% margin.

Republicans generally favor a smaller government and oppose the government exerting greater control over the economy right now. However, while Republicans support smaller government by greater than three-to-one (72% to 22%), opposition to increased government control over the economy is less overwhelming (58% say it is a bad idea, 32% a good idea.)

Similarly, while 73% of Democrats favor the government exerting more control over the economy right now, a smaller majority (56%) says they want a bigger government providing more services in general.

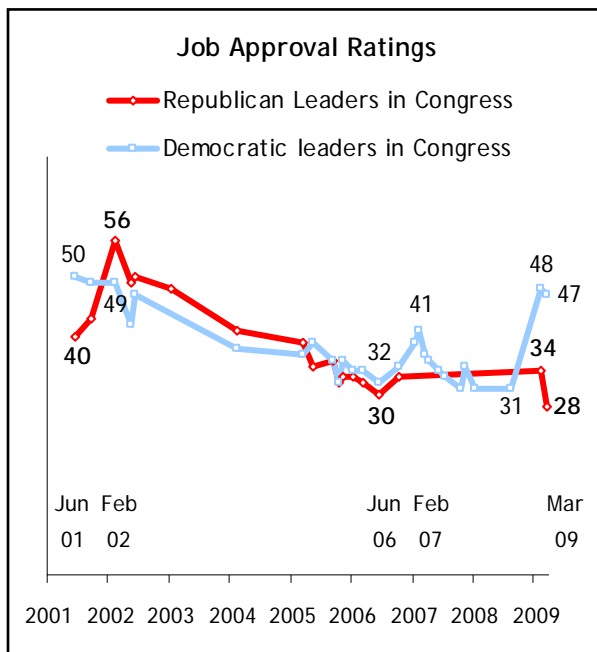
Preferences over a bigger government providing more services or a smaller government providing fewer services differ notably across income and age lines. Majorities of young and low-income Americans favor bigger government, while majorities of older and high-income

	<i>More govt control of the economy*</i>		<i>Would you rather have...**</i>		<i>N</i>
	<i>Good idea</i>	<i>Bad idea</i>	<i>Bigger govt</i>	<i>Smaller govt</i>	
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total	54	37	40	48	1,308
Republican	32	58	22	72	359
Conservative	27	65	17	78	243
Moderate/Liberal	43	42	32	58	112
Democrat	73	21	56	30	444
Conserv/Moderate	73	21	52	35	265
Liberal	75	23	67	21	161
Independent	54	38	39	52	432
<i>Family income</i>					
\$100k or more	49	48	29	65	254
\$75k-99,999	58	34	40	50	154
\$50k-74,999	56	39	33	57	209
\$30k-49,999	56	36	39	50	236
Less than \$30k	54	33	53	33	308
<i>Obama job</i>					
Approve	72	21	52	35	751
Disapprove	22	72	19	78	377
Men	53	42	39	53	639
Women	55	33	42	44	669
White	51	40	37	52	1044
Black	60	33	59	34	121
18-29	56	38	54	39	153
30-49	55	37	43	48	395
50-64	55	36	35	54	427
65+	48	40	27	54	304
* Is it now a good idea or a bad idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years?					
** Would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services or a bigger government providing more services?					

Americans favor smaller government. But the differences are not as great when it comes to the question of the government exerting more control over the economy right now. Half or more of all those with incomes less than \$100,000, and of those younger than 65, believe it is now a good idea for the government to do more in this area.

SECTION 3: THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S DOLDRUMS

Barack Obama's job approval ratings are not the only ones to have slipped lately. Public approval of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing has fallen to the lowest point in Pew Research Center surveys going all the way back to 1994. Just 28% of Americans say they approve of the job Republicans are doing in Congress, down from 34% a month ago. Slightly more than half (51%) say they disapprove.



With the drop in GOP approval, the gap between public evaluations of Democratic and Republican congressional leaders is the largest Pew has recorded over the past eight years in which both party's leaders have been evaluated. Currently, 47% of Americans approve of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing – virtually unchanged from a month ago and 19 points higher than the approval rating for Republicans. For most of the past decade, approval of Republicans and Democrats in Congress have tracked very closely together.

Since February, the drop in GOP approval has been the steepest among Republicans themselves. Just 43% of Republicans say they approve of the job their party's leaders in Congress are doing – nearly as many (37%) say they disapprove. This is a 12-point drop in approval from a month ago, when 55% of Republicans gave their party's congressional leaders a positive evaluation. Approval of GOP leaders has slipped among Democrats and independents, but only slightly. Today, 26% of independents approve of GOP leaders' performance, as do 19% of Democrats.

	Feb 4-8		Mar 9-12		Change in approve
	App %	Dis %	App %	Dis %	
<i>Based on Republicans</i>					
Total	55	33	43	37	-12
Conservative	56	33	46	36	-10
Moderate/Liberal	52	34	40	37	-12
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	56	37	42	43	-14
Less than \$75,000	55	33	46	33	-9
College grad	50	39	46	41	-4
Not college grad	57	30	42	33	-15
<i>Growing deficit makes you</i>					
Angry	--	--	38	44	--
Bothered, not angry	--	--	48	34	--

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?

The drop in Republican approval of their party’s congressional leadership spans most segments of the party’s base. In particular, neither conservatives nor moderates within the party are particularly happy with their party’s leaders today. Fewer than half (46%) of conservative Republicans offer a favorable assessment, down from 56% a month ago. And just 40% of moderate and liberal Republicans approve of the job GOP congressional leaders are doing, down from 52% a month ago. The decline in approval within the GOP base has been most severe among higher income Republicans (from 56% in February to 42% today) and those who are not college graduates (from 57% a month ago to 42% today).

Anger over the growing federal budget deficit is closely linked to Republican frustration with their party’s congressional leaders. Nearly half (48%) of Republicans say the deficit “makes them angry,” and those who feel this way are far less happy about the performance of party leaders than those who are only bothered, but not angry, about the deficit. Among Republicans angry about the deficit, 44% disapprove and 38% approve of the job their party’s congressional leaders are doing. Among those just bothered by the deficit, the balance of opinion is reversed: 48% approve and 34% disapprove.

A Leaderless Party?

Barely a quarter (27%) of Americans, including just 32% of Republicans, can name someone who they think of as the leader of the Republican Party these days. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say they don’t know who leads the party, or volunteer that nobody does.

By comparison, nearly half (46%) were able to name a leader of the Democratic Party in April of 2006 when they were in the minority in both the House and Senate, while 54% could not name anyone.

Of the names offered as the GOP’s leader, John McCain is mentioned more than any other. About one-in-ten Americans (11%) – and 12% of Republicans – offer McCain’s name as the leader of the party. The next-most-mentioned name is Rush Limbaugh, who is cited by 5%. Limbaugh is named as the GOP’s leader by roughly the same share of Republicans (4%) Democrats (6%) and independents (5%).

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Named someone	27	32	25	29
John McCain	11	12	10	12
Rush Limbaugh	5	4	6	5
Newt Gingrich	2	4	1	3
Michael Steele	2	3	2	2
John Boehner	1	2	1	1
Mitch McConnell	1	1	2	*
Sarah Palin	1	1	1	1
Mitt Romney	1	1	*	1
Bobby Jindal	1	2	*	*
Other	3	2	2	4
Nobody is (Vol.)	15	18	12	17
Don't know (Vol.)	58	50	63	54
	100	100	100	100

Based on an open-ended question: Who do you think of as the leader of the Republican Party these days?

Newt Gingrich and Michael Steele are each mentioned by 2% of Americans. No other politician's name comes up more than 1% of the time.

Rush Limbaugh's Influence

Nearly four-in-ten Americans (39%) say they think Rush Limbaugh has too much influence over the Republican Party; just 13% say he has too little influence and 23% say he has the right amount of influence. The prevailing view among Republicans is that Limbaugh's influence is appropriate – 44% say he has the right amount of influence over the party. But conservative Republicans are more comfortable with Limbaugh's influence than moderates and liberals within the party. About half (49%) of conservative Republicans say Limbaugh has the right amount of influence, while 18% say too much. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, 34% say Limbaugh has the right amount of influence, while 28% say too much. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, 34% say Limbaugh has the right amount of influence, while 28% say too much.

	Too <u>much</u> %	Too <u>little</u> %	Right <u>amount</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	39	13	23	25=100
Republican	21	13	44	22=100
Conservative	18	13	49	20=100
Moderate/Liberal	28	12	34	26=100
Democrat	54	14	13	19=100
Conserv/Moderate	51	17	13	19=100
Liberal	60	10	13	17=100
Independent	40	12	21	27=100

SECTION 4: ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

National Economic Ratings

The public continues to offer a bleak assessment of current national economic conditions. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) rate the economy as poor while an additional 25% say the economy is in only fair shape. Just 6% call economic conditions good and fewer than 1% (3 of 1,308 adults interviewed) say conditions are excellent. Ratings of the national economy are nearly identical to those given a month ago and they are more negative than they were in December 2008.

	Nov <u>2008</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	Mar <u>2009</u>
	%	%	%	%
Excellent	1	*	*	*
Good	6	7	4	6
Only fair	28	33	24	25
Poor	64	59	71	68
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

Most Americans (59%) say that the country is now in a recession, a little more than a quarter (27%) say the U.S. economy is in depression. These evaluations are also little changed from February. Late last year there was a partisan gap when it came to economic ratings, with Republicans somewhat less likely than Democrats and independents to assess the economy negatively. However, in 2009 there has been little variance across partisan groups and the current survey finds Republicans, Democrats and independents giving the roughly the same ratings of the state of the economy.

No Consensus on Future Economic Outlook

While the public takes a dismal view of current economic conditions, the view for the future is more mixed. About four-in-ten (41%) say that a year from now economic conditions in this country will be better than they are today; slightly fewer (37%) say conditions will be the same as at present, while 19% think economic conditions will be worse in a year. On this question, the most optimistic view is held by Democrats. A 56% majority of Democrats say the economy will be better in a year, 33% say it will be the same and fewer than one-in-ten (8%) think things will be worse next March. Democrats are largely alone in their optimism: pluralities of Republicans and independents expect things to be about the same in a year and Democrats are one of the only groups in which a majority says the economy will be better in a year.

<i>A year from now economy will be...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Better	41	31	56	35
Worse	19	24	8	24
Same	37	41	33	39
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

In recent months, the public has remained steady in their outlook for the future: they are no more or less likely to see improvement or worsening in the economy than they were in February or December of last year.

Top Personal Economic Worry

When asked to think about their own financial situation, concern over jobs outpaces rising prices, problems in the financial markets, and declining real estate values as the public's top economic worry. More than four-in-ten (42%) say they worry most about jobs; about half as many report worrying most about rising prices (22%), and problems in the financial markets (21%). One-in-ten cite declining real estate values as the economic issue that they worry most about. The balance of opinion on this question is little changed since February; though as recently as last December, worries over rising prices and the problems in the financial markets were just as widespread as worry about jobs.

	<u>Job situation</u> %	<u>Rising prices</u> %	<u>Finan mrkt prblms</u> %	<u>Declining real estate</u> %	<u>Other/DK</u> %
Total	42	22	21	10	5=100
White	38	22	23	12	5=100
Black	55	23	10	9	3=100
Republican	33	18	29	16	4=100
Democrat	45	24	19	8	4=100
Independent	43	21	20	10	6=100
18-29	60	21	9	7	3=100
30-49	43	21	20	14	2=100
50-64	36	20	30	9	5=100
65+	26	26	25	10	13=100
<i>Family inc.</i>					
\$100k+	30	10	42	17	1=100
\$75-100k	42	16	25	13	4=100
\$50-75k	38	26	23	9	4=100
\$30-50k	39	26	18	14	3=100
<\$30k	54	27	8	4	7=100

Concern about the job situation is particularly pronounced among blacks, lower income households, and the young. More than half of blacks (55%), those younger than 30 (60%) and those making less than \$30,000 a year (54%) cite jobs as the issue they worry most about in regard to their own financial situation. Furthermore, Democrats and independents are more likely than Republicans to worry about jobs. High-income households have a different order of concerns: those making \$100,000 a year or more cite problems in the financial markets as their top concern (42%), followed by the job situation (30%). Similarly, those 65 and older divide their worry about equally among jobs, prices and the financial markets.

Homes -- Not Stocks -- Seen as Better Bargain

Despite the Dow Jones Industrial Average losing roughly half of its value since late 2007, most Americans say now is not the time to go bargain-hunting in the stock market. A 54% majority say now is a bad time to invest in the market, while 39% say it is a good time. The share saying it is a bad time to invest is little changed since February of last year and remains as pessimistic a reading as the question has garnered in its four-year trend. Nonetheless the percentage calling it a good time to invest has inched up slightly since last February as the share of respondents saying they don't know whether it is a good or bad time to buy has declined.

High-income and more-educated Americans take a more optimistic view of the market than those with lower levels of income and education. More than half of those with a college degree (51%) and those with household incomes of \$100,000 or more (54%) say now is a good time to invest in the stock market. By contrast, less than a third of those with no more than a high school diploma (31%) and those earning less than \$30,000 a year (23%) say that it's a good time to invest. Additionally, regular stock traders are overwhelmingly more likely to see a buying opportunity than are those with no investments in the stock market. Among the 7% of Americans who say they trade stocks and other funds pretty regularly, 65% think it's a good time to invest compared with 26% of those with no investments in the stock market.

Overall, the public is more upbeat about buying a home in the current economic climate. Three-quarters say now is either a very good (18%) or good (57%) time to buy a home, while 21% call it either a bad (17%) or very bad (4%) time to buy. As with investing in the stock market, high-income households and the more educated are among the most likely to say it's a good time to buy. College graduates are 23 points more likely than those with no more than a high school diploma to say now is a time to buy.

People with family incomes of \$100,000 or more are 29 points more likely than those earning

	Good/ Very good %	Bad/ Very bad %	DK %
Mar 2009	39	54	7=100
Feb 2008	31	53	16=100
Sept 2007	40	42	18=100
Jan 2006	46	34	20=100
May 2005	45	40	15=100
<i>Current views among...</i>			
Regular traders	65	33	2=100
Long-term invests	48	48	4=100
No investments	26	63	11=100
College grad+	51	46	3=100
Some college	39	54	7=100
HS or less	31	60	9=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$100,000 or more	54	39	7=100
\$75k-99,999	50	48	2=100
\$50k-74,999	47	51	2=100
\$30k-49,999	38	57	5=100
Less than \$30,000	23	67	10=100

	Good/ Very good %	Bad/ Very bad %	DK %
Total	75	21	4=100
College grad+	88	9	3=100
Some college	78	20	2=100
HS or less	65	29	6=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$100,000 or more	88	9	3=100
\$75k-99,999	85	14	1=100
\$50k-74,999	82	15	3=100
\$30k-49,999	78	18	4=100
Less than \$30,000	59	36	5=100

less than \$30,000 to say it is a good time to buy a home. Nonetheless, majorities of those with low levels of income and education agree that it's a good time to buy a home and this sentiment is widespread – to varying degrees – across demographic groups.

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 1,308 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 9-12, 2009 (982 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 326 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 104 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/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	1,308	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	640	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	668	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	359	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	444	5.5 percentage points
Independents	432	5.5 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

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 March 9-12, 2009
 N=1308

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2009	59	26	15=100
February, 2009	64	17	19=100

NO QUESTION 2

RANDOMIZE Q.3 AND Q.4

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2009	28	51	21=100	July, 1999	36	45	19=100
February, 2009	34	51	15=100	June, 1999	37	46	17=100
Early October, 2006	33	56	11=100	May, 1999	38	44	18=100
June, 2006	30	53	17=100	March, 1999	38	47	15=100
March, 2006	32	50	18=100	February, 1999	37	51	12=100
January, 2006	33	52	15=100	January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Early November, 2005	33	50	17=100	Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
Early October, 2005	32	52	16=100	November, 1998	41	48	11=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15=100	Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15=100	Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	June, 1998	42	38	20=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	May, 1998	40	41	19=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	April, 1998	41	40	19=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	March, 1998	43	39	18=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	January, 1998	43	41	16=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	November, 1997	41	43	16=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	April, 1997	40	44	16=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100	February, 1997	44	42	14=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100	January, 1997	38	47	15=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100

Q.3 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March, 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

RANDOMIZE Q.3 AND Q.4

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March, 2009	47	35	18=100
February, 2009	48	38	14=100
August, 2008	31	58	11=100
January, 2008	31	53	16=100
November, 2007	35	50	15=100
October, 2007	31	54	15=100
July, 2007	33	54	13=100
June, 2007	34	49	17=100
April, 2007	36	43	21=100
March, 2007 ¹	37	42	21=100
February, 2007	41	36	23=100
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27=100
Early October, 2006	35	53	12=100
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

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

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=640]:

Q.5F1 From what you've read and heard, would you say Barack Obama is very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?

	Very <u>Conservative</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	Very <u>Liberal</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2009	3	14	26	25	19	13=100
Mid-October, 2008	5	11	23	33	19	9=100
April, 2008	4	11	21	33	20	11=100
January, 2008	4	10	23	33	13	17=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=668]:

Q.6F2 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... **[READ, RANDOMIZE]**

	Jan <u>2009</u>
44 Liberal members of his party OR	34
30 Moderate members of his party	44
<u>26</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>22</u>
100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.7 Thinking about the Republican Party, who do YOU think of as the leader of the Republican Party these days... **[SINGLE RESPONSE, DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

11	John McCain
5	Rush Limbaugh
2	Newt Gingrich
2	Michael Steele
1	John Boehner
1	Bobby Jindal
1	Mitch McConnell
1	Sarah Palin
1	Mitt Romney
3	Other
15	Nobody is
<u>57</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.8 In terms of influence, do you think Rush Limbaugh has [READ AND RANDOMIZE] over the Republican Party?

- 39 Too much influence
- 13 Too little influence [OR]
- 23 The right amount of influence
- 4 Don't know who he is (VOL.)
- 21 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

NO QUESTIONS 9 AND 10

ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

RANDOMIZE Q.11 AND Q.12

Q.11 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most combat troops from Iraq by the end of August two-thousand-ten (2010)?

- 76 Approve
- 18 Disapprove
- 6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

ASK ALL:

RANDOMIZE Q.11 AND Q.12

Q.12 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's decision to send an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan?

- 53 Approve
- 38 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.13 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Late-			-----CBS/New York Time-----					
	Oct	Nov	Jan	Nov	July	Jan	Jan	Sept	Feb
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1996</u>
48 Smaller government, fewer services	42	47	45	45	48	46	51	46	61
40 Bigger government, more services	43	42	43	42	40	40	36	43	30
3 Depends (VOL.)	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4
<u>9</u> Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.14 Is it now a good idea or a bad idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years?

- 54 Good idea
- 37 Bad idea
- 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Generally, do you think people are better off in a free market economy, even though there may be severe ups and downs from time to time, or don't you think so?

70 Yes, think so
 20 No, don't think so
10 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

NO QUESTIONS 16 THROUGH 19**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2009	*	6	25	68	1=100
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 ¹	2	29	42	26	1=100

¹ Earlier trends available from Gallup.

ASK IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ONLY FAIR OR POOR (3,4 IN Q.20):

Q.21 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:

		Feb 2009	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Late Oct 2008	Early Oct 2008	Late Sept 2008	July 2008	March 2008
6	Excellent/Good	4	7	7	7	9	7	10	11
93	Only fair/Poor	95	92	92	92	90	92	89	88
5	Just having a few problems	5	6	11	12	11	12	14	14
59	In a recession	57	64	58	58	54	56	54	56
27	In a depression	30	20	18	19	22	21	18	15
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	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>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.22 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?

	Better	Worse	Same	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March, 2009	41	19	37	3=100
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:

Q.23 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

		Feb <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
42	The job situation	45	26	18	19
22	Rising prices	21	31	38	49
21	Problems in the financial markets	21	29	31	14
10	Declining real estate values	9	9	8	12
1	Other (VOL.)	1	1	2	2
2	None / not worried about any (VOL.)	1	2	1	2
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

QUESTION 24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.25 How much thought have you given to how Barack Obama's economic plans and policies will affect the economy? [**READ**]

37	A great deal of thought
39	A fair amount
16	Not too much
6	No thought at all
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.26 In your opinion, is President Obama doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions or do you think he could be doing more?

	Doing as much as he can	Could be doing more	(VOL.) Can't say/ DK/Ref
March, 2009	60	30	10=100
G. W. Bush			
February, 2004	30	65	5=100
September, 2003	26	70	4=100
Early July, 2003	33	62	5=100
May 2003	42	53	5=100
Late March 2003	41	52	7=100
January 2003	33	61	6=100
Early October 2002	31	63	6=100
June 2002	33	62	5=100
January 2002	48	46	6=100
Bush, Sr.			
March, 1992	21	76	3=100
January, 1992	21	76	3=100

NO QUESTION 27

ASK ALL:

Q.28 Do you think Barack Obama has proposed spending [READ AND RANDOMIZE] to address the economic situation?

- 39 Too much money
- 13 Not enough money [OR]
- 34 About the right amount
- 14 Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
- 100

NO QUESTION 29

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies and proposals made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

- 14 Better
- 15 Worse
- 64 No effect so far
- 4 Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.31 So far, do you think Barack Obama is [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

- 35 Trying to address too many issues at once
- 4 Focusing on too few issues [OR]
- 56 Doing about right
- 5 Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
- 100

QUESTIONS 32 THROUGH 39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 38 THROUGH 42

Thinking now about economic policies....

ASK ALL:

Q.43 From what you've read and heard, do you think Barack Obama's roughly 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress last month is a good idea or a bad idea?

56	Good idea
35	Bad idea
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

TREND FOR COMPARISON

How much, if anything, have you heard about the economic stimulus plan being proposed by President Obama that may cost about \$800 billion? [READ]

	Feb	Jan ²
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
A lot/little	91	86
Nothing at all/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100

IF HEARD 'A LOT' OR 'A LITTLE' ASK:

From what you've read and heard, do you think this plan is a good idea or a bad idea?

BASED ON THOSE WHO HEARD A LOT/A LITTLE

	Feb	Jan ³
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
Good idea	51	57
Bad idea	34	22
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>15</u>	<u>21</u>
	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.44 In addition to the economic stimulus program Congress recently passed, the government is investing roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?

		-NII-			-NII-	
	Dec	Nov 14-17	Mid Oct	Late Sept	Sept 19-22	
	<u>2008⁴</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	
48	Right thing	47	40	47	45	57
40	Wrong thing	43	43	37	38	30
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

² In January 2009, the question referred to the "economic stimulus package being proposed by President-elect Obama."

³ In January 2009, the question referred to "this proposal."

⁴ In December 2008 the question was worded: "As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" November and October surveys did not include the phrase "of dollars" after "billions." In Late September 2008 and in the September 19-22 News Interest Index (NII) the question was worded, "As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word "committing" instead of "investing" showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

ASK ALL:

Q.45 As you may know, the government has taken or is considering other steps to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to spend billions of dollars [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?⁵

		<u>Right thing</u>	<u>Wrong thing</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	To substantially increase spending on roads, bridges, and other public works projects			
	March, 2009	77	19	4=100
	December, 2008	70	24	6=100
b.	To help homeowners facing foreclosure on mortgages they cannot afford			
	March, 2009	46	46	8=100
	December, 2008	49	43	8=100
c.	In loans to General Motors and Chrysler to keep them in business			
	March, 2009	30	63	7=100
	December, 2008 ⁶	39	54	7=100

ASK ALL:

Q.46 As you may know, Barack Obama recently put forward his federal budget plan. I'd like to ask you about a few of the proposals he has made. First, do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? What about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Right thing</u>	<u>Wrong thing</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Raise taxes on people with household incomes of at least \$200,000			
	March, 2009	61	34	5=100
b.	Reduce taxes for middle and lower income households			
	March, 2009	82	14	4=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=640]:

c.F1	Limit the tax deductions upper income people can take for charitable contributions			
	March, 2009	55	36	9=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=668]:

d.F2	Change the Medicare prescription drug plan so that upper income retirees will pay more for prescription drug coverage			
	March, 2009	41	52	7=100

ASK ALL:

e.	Reduce agricultural subsidies for many farms			
	March, 2009	40	47	13=100

⁵ In December 2008, question was worded "As you may know, the government is considering several other proposals to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to spend billions of dollars...?"

⁶ In December 2008, item asked about "General Motors, Ford and Chrysler."

ASK ALL:

Q.47 Please tell me if each of the following is something that makes you angry, something that bothers you but doesn't make you angry, or is this something that does not bother you. (First,) Does [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] make you angry, bother you but not make you angry, or does this not bother you? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Angry</u>	<u>Bothers, but not angry</u>	<u>Doesn't bother</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	The growing federal budget deficit March, 2009	37	46	14	3=100
b.	Government money being spent on special interest projects March, 2009	34	39	20	7=100
c.	Bailing out homeowners who took out mortgages they could not afford March, 2009	39	44	15	2=100
d.	Bailing out banks and financial institutions that made poor financial decisions March, 2009	48	39	12	1=100

ASK ALL:

OWNRENT Do you own or rent your home?

66	Own
29	Rent
5	Other arrangement (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

IF 'OWN' (1 IN OWNRENT) ASK [N=986]:

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

67	Pay a mortgage
33	Paid for
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

ASK ALL:

INVEST Which of the following best describes your own level of investment in the stock market? [READ IN ORDER ON FORM 1, REVERSE ORDER OF OPTIONS ON FORM 2]

		<u>Early-Oct 2008</u>	<u>Feb 2008</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Sept 2007</u>
7	I trade stocks and other funds pretty regularly I have some long-term investments like	6	6	6	7
45	retirement accounts, but don't trade stocks regularly	46	46	43	45
46	I don't have any money in the stock market	46	46	47	44
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

RANDOMIZE Q.48 AND Q.49

Q.48 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to invest in the stock market?

		Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid-May <u>2005</u>
7	Very good	5	3	5	3
32	Good	26	37	41	42
38	Bad	35	35	27	32
16	Very bad	18	7	7	8
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

RANDOMIZE Q.48 AND Q.49

Q.49 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to buy a home?

18	Very good
57	Good
17	Bad
4	Very bad
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you feel this is a good time or a bad time to buy a home?

----- NBC/WSJ -----

	Sept <u>1993</u>	Sept <u>1991</u>	Sept <u>1990</u>	April ⁷ <u>1986</u>
Good time	73	62	52	81
Bad time	21	30	38	15
Not sure	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

QUESTION 50 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?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No Preference	(VOL.) Other Party	(VOL.) DK/ Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2=100	12	17
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

⁷ In April 1986 question was worded: "Generally speaking, do you think now is a good time or a bad time to buy a house?"

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>
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
<i>2001 Post-Sept 11</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>.6</i>	<i>3.6=100</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>9.4</i>
<i>2001 Pre-Sept 11</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>34.6</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>.5</i>	<i>2.1=100</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>12.5</i>
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					