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**For The People & The Press**

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**Democratic Favorable Ratings Slide**  
**MORE SEE WHITE HOUSE AND GOP LEADERS AT ODDS**

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## Democratic Favorable Ratings Slide **MORE SEE WHITE HOUSE AND GOP LEADERS AT ODDS**

Americans are in an increasingly sour mood about Washington. Barack Obama's approval ratings continue to inch downward and a growing proportion of Americans (63%) think that the president and Republican leaders are not working together to deal with important issues facing the nation; in June, 50% said the two sides were not cooperating. While more people continue to blame Republican leaders than blame Obama, the percentage saying the president is at fault (17%) is higher now than in June (12%) and much higher than in February (7%)

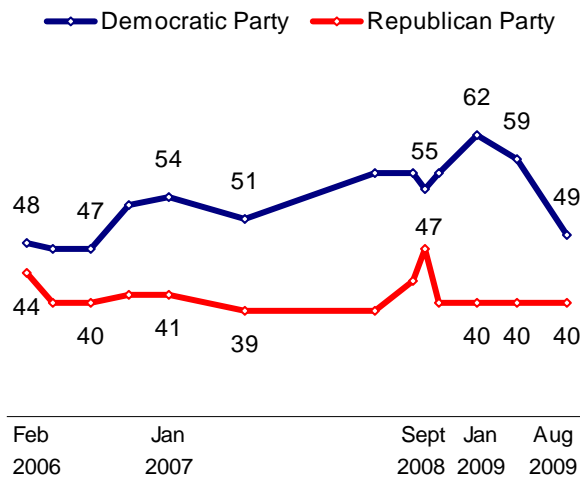
### **More Say Obama and GOP Leaders are Not Working Together**

	Feb* 2009	June 2009	Aug 2009
<i>Obama and GOP leaders are...</i>	%	%	%
Working together	43	39	24
Not working together	45	50	63
<i>Who is most to blame?</i>			
Republican leaders	27	26	29
Barack Obama	7	12	17
Both (Vol.)	5	9	9
Neither/Other/Don't know	6	4	8
Don't know	12	11	13

Figures read down.  
 \* Different question wording in Feb., see topline.

In the same vein, the new poll finds favorable ratings of the Democratic Party have declined sharply since spring. Just 49% now say they have a favorable view of the Democratic Party. This compares with a 59% favorable rating for the party as recently as April and 62% shortly before Obama took office in January. Opinion of the Republican Party, which stands at 40%, has not changed all year.

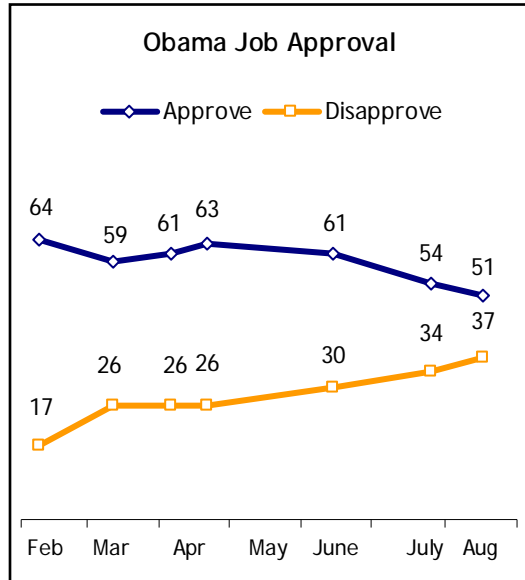
### **Democratic Party Favorability Falls Sharply**



Public opinion about the national economy also is stuck, and on balance remains negative. Fully 90% rate economic conditions negatively – 52% say they are poor and 38% only fair. These evaluations are on par with views of the economy in June, which had shown some improvement from earlier in the year. Similarly, the proportion of Americans expecting the economy to improve over the next year, which increased from March to June, has now stabilized.

However, the public's personal financial assessments have become more bearish in the new poll than they were two months ago; currently, 55% say they expect their financial situation to improve over the next year, down from 63% in June. Since June, the decline in personal financial optimism has been particularly pronounced among middle-income and affluent Americans, as well as among Republicans and independents.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 11-17 in English and Spanish among 2,010 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, finds that 51% now approve of Obama's job performance while 37% disapprove. While that is largely unchanged from July (54%), it is down 10 points from June (61%).



Independents, who approved of Obama's job performance by nearly two-to-one in June (56% to 29%) are now about evenly divided: 45% approve while 43% disapprove.

The survey finds that with public views of the economy remaining predominantly negative, there are no signs that Americans are ready to increase personal spending. Fully 81% report they have cut back on vacation spending, been eating at restaurants less often, or have delayed purchasing a car or major home items. This is largely unchanged from June (76%) or, for that matter, from February (79%), when overall views of the economy were even more negative.

As in the past, more people say they are cutting back on spending because they worry their financial situation might get worse rather than because it actually has gotten worse. Nearly half (47%) of those

	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	June 2009	Aug 2009
<i>Have you done any of the following lately?</i>	%	%	%	%
Cut back on planned vacation spending	57	59	59	59
Been eating at restaurants less often	55	55	56	55
Delayed/canceled buying major home item	44	44	40	42
Delayed/canceled plans to buy a new car	33	37	36	38
<b>Any spending cutback</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>81</b>

who have delayed or cut back spending say they have done so out of fear about the future, while 34% say they are cutting back because their finances have gotten worse.

The job situation continues to worry more Americans than other financial problems. More than four-in-ten (44%) say the job situation is the economic issue that most worries them, followed by rising prices (26%), problems in the financial markets (14%) and declining real estate values (9%). This hierarchy of worries is little changed from previous surveys this year.

## Health Care: More Attentiveness Among Conservatives

As the debate over health care continues, an overwhelming proportion of Americans (90%) say they have heard at least a little about bills being proposed by President Obama and Congress to overhaul the health care system. Nearly half of the public (48%) says they have heard *a lot* about the proposed legislation. Notably, 61% of conservative Republicans say they are hearing a lot about health care legislation, substantially more than in other political groups.

	<u>A lot</u> %	<u>A Little/Nothing</u> %	<u>N</u>
Total	48	51	2010
Conserv Rep	61	39	364
Mod/Lib Rep	46	54	149
Independent	48	52	706
Conserv/Mod Dem	43	55	413
Liberal Dem	49	51	219

Figures read across. Q 117.

The poll indicates that anger about the legislative proposals under consideration is not especially widespread. Just 18% say they would be angry if health care legislation proposed by the president and Congress were to pass; only half as many (9%) say they would be angry if the bills do not pass.

Overall, reactions to possible outcomes of the legislative debate are mixed: 44% say they would be very happy or pleased if the bills proposed by Obama and Congress pass, while 40% say they would be disappointed or angry. When a separate group of respondents was asked about their reaction if the bills *fail*, about as many say they would be very happy or pleased (39%) as disappointed or angry (40%).

More Republicans have strong reactions to the bills' prospects than do Democrats. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they would be angry if the current reform proposals were enacted. By comparison, just 13% of Democrats say they would be angry if the legislation proposed by Obama and Congress does not become law. Rather, most Democrats (51%) say they would be disappointed.

Similarly, while 38% of Republicans say they would be very happy if the bills fail, a smaller percentage of Democrats (27%) say they would be very happy if the bills succeed.

<i>If bills proposed by Obama and Congress pass would you be...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Very happy	15	5	27	9
Pleased	29	13	42	26
Disappointed	22	29	13	27
Angry	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
Don't know	16	15	13	20
N	1011	253	356	343
<i>If bills fail, would you be...</i>				
Very happy	18	38	5	18
Pleased	21	30	11	24
Disappointed	31	11	51	32
Angry	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
Don't know	21	15	21	18
N	999	272	304	363

Figures read down. Q 118-119.

Independents generally do not express as intense reactions to possible outcomes of the health care debate than do Republicans or Democrats. However, while 19% of independents say they would be angry if the health care bills pass, just 8% say they would be angry if the bills do not pass.

### Democratic Party's Falling Favorability

The decline in the Democratic Party's favorable ratings has come across party lines, but the change is especially large among independents. Only 40% of independents give a favorable rating to the Democratic Party, down 12 points since April.

Independents' views of the Republican Party have not changed since April (41% favorable then, 40% today). As a result, as many independents now express positive views of the GOP as of the Democratic Party.

Democrats continue to express positive views of their own party, but favorable ratings have slipped from 91% in April to 85% now. Somewhat fewer Republicans also rate the Democratic Party favorably (17% than did so in April (24%). More than three-fourths of Republicans (78%) rate the GOP favorably, which is virtually unchanged from April.

The Democratic Party's favorability has decreased among most demographic groups. The decline has been largest among those with some college education (62% in April to 45% now). Similarly, 68% of people with family incomes less than \$30,000 expressed a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party in April compared with 54% now. A similar decline is evident among those 30 to 49 (61% to 47%).

	Rep	Dem
<i>Percent favorable</i>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>
<b>August</b>	%	%
Total	40	49
Republican	78	17
Democrat	16	85
Independent	40	40
<b>April</b>		
Total	40	59
Republican	79	24
Democrat	18	91
Independent	41	52

Q140a-b.

	April	Aug	Change	N
<i>Percent favorable</i>	%	%		
Total	59	49	-10	2010
Men	52	45	-7	895
Women	65	53	-12	1115
18-29	64	55	-9	283
30-49	61	47	-14	568
50-64	56	47	-9	622
65+	51	49	-2	507
College grad+	56	51	-5	769
Some college	62	45	-17	492
HS or less	59	50	-9	743
\$75k or more	53	42	-11	565
\$30k-74,999	58	51	-7	614
Less than \$30k	68	54	-14	473

Q140b.

## Views of the Economy and Personal Finances

Although the Obama administration and some economists have touted the early signs of an economic recovery, the public is, if anything, more gloomy about the economy than it was two months ago. Ratings of the national economic situation remain dismal, with 52% saying the economy is in poor shape, and 38% saying its condition is “only fair.” People’s assessments of their own financial situation are less negative, but the number describing their finances as “poor” ticked up from 22% in June to 26% today.

	Dec 2008	Feb 2009	June 2009	Aug 2009
<i>View of national economy today</i>	%	%	%	%
Excellent	*	*	1	*
Good	7	4	8	8
Only fair	33	24	39	38
Poor	59	71	52	52
<i>Rating of personal finances...</i>				
Excellent	6	5	6	6
Good	32	33	32	31
Only fair	40	41	39	36
Poor	21	20	22	26

Figures read down. \* less than 1%. Q105, Q107

The most notable change in economic views is the decline in the number of people who expect their financial situation to improve over the next year. The June survey found a nine-point increase in optimism since February (from 54% to 63%). In the current survey, the proportion expecting their financial situation to improve has fallen back to 55%. Much of the change since June has occurred among middle- and upper-income people. There was no rise in the percentage who think their situation will worsen; instead, the number expecting things to stay the same has grown.

Views about the prospects for a national economic recovery are highly partisan, as they have been since President Obama took office. Nearly twice as many Democrats as Republicans (60% vs. 31%) say they expect the nation’s economy to improve over the next year. Independents are somewhat closer to Republicans on this question; just 39% see improvement in the next year.

<i>Over next year...</i>	Oct 2008	Feb 2009	June 2009	Aug 2009	<i>Jun-Aug change</i>
<b><i>Nation's economy will improve</i></b>	%	%	%	%	
Total	46	40	48	45	-3
\$75k or more	54	36	52	44	-8
\$30k-74,999	41	36	51	48	-3
Less than \$30,000	43	52	42	44	+2
Republican	52	30	31	31	0
Democrat	47	52	63	60	-3
Independent	42	35	44	39	-5
<b><i>Personal finances will improve</i></b>					
Total	59	54	63	55	-8
\$75k or more	61	47	66	55	-11
\$30k-74,999	61	54	68	55	-13
Less than \$30,000	61	66	61	59	-2
Republican	65	43	54	41	-13
Democrat	61	67	73	68	-5
Independent	55	50	65	53	-12

Q106, Q108

While a large majority of Americans (80%) say they have delayed or cut back spending in at least one of several areas, their reasons for doing so have not changed. As has been the case in the past, those who report cutting their spending say they are doing so more as a precaution than because they have been forced to do so by their financial situation. About one-third of those reporting cutbacks (34%) say their personal finances have worsened and led them to make the changes; 47% say they are cutting back because their finances might get worse in the future.

	Dec <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	June <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>
<i>Cutting back on spending because...</i>	%	%	%	%
Finances <b>have</b> worsened	30	30	36	34
Finances <b>might</b> get worse	59	56	50	47
Both/Other (Vol.)	8	11	11	18

Based on respondents who are eating out less or have delayed or canceled planned vacations, home item purchases or new car purchases. Figures read down. Q116

**DETAILED TABLES**

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	July 2009			August 2009			(N)	July-Aug Change
	Approve %	Dis- approve %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %	Approve %	Dis- approve %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %		
<b>TOTAL</b>	54	34	12	51	37	11	2010	-3
<b>SEX</b>								
Men	51	35	13	48	42	10	895	-3
Women	57	33	10	55	33	12	1115	-2
<b>AGE</b>								
18-49	54	33	13	53	35	12	851	-1
50+	54	36	10	49	41	10	1129	-5
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>								
18-29	63	26	11	59	30	11	283	-4
30-49	49	37	14	50	38	12	568	1
50-64	58	34	9	50	40	10	622	-8
65+	48	39	13	47	42	11	507	-1
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>								
Men 18-49	54	32	13	47	41	12	447	-7
Men 50+	48	39	13	49	44	7	433	1
Women 18-49	54	33	13	60	29	11	404	6
Women 50+	59	33	8	48	39	13	696	-11
<b>RACE</b>								
White NH	48	41	11	43	46	11	1526	-5
Total Non-White	69	18	13	70	18	12	465	1
Black NH	85	8	7	91	5	4	197	6
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
College grad	57	34	9	54	38	7	769	-3
Some college	52	40	8	44	43	13	492	-8
HS or less	54	31	15	53	35	13	743	-1
<b>INCOME</b>								
\$75,000+	55	34	11	44	49	7	565	-11
\$30,000-\$74,999	55	36	9	54	37	9	614	-1
<\$30,000	55	30	15	56	29	15	473	1
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>								
\$100,000+	56	36	8	45	50	6	329	-11
\$75,000-\$99,999	53	30	16	43	48	10	236	-10
\$50,000-\$74,999	55	37	7	52	43	5	270	-3
\$30,000-\$49,999	54	36	10	56	32	12	344	2
<\$30,000	55	30	15	56	29	15	473	1
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>	54	38	8	49	41	10	1648	-5
<b>PARTY ID</b>								
Republican	19	72	10	18	71	10	525	-1
Democrat	85	8	7	82	9	9	660	-3
Independent	48	37	16	45	43	12	706	-3
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative Republican	11	81	8	11	83	6	364	0
Mod/Lib Republican	32	57	11	33	49	18	149	1
Mod/Cons Democrat	82	10	8	80	10	10	413	-2
Liberal Democrat	95	5	0	86	9	6	219	-9



**DETAILED TABLES**

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	July 2009			August 2009			(N)	July-Aug Change
	Approve %	Dis- approve %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %	Approve %	Dis- approve %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %		
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>								
Total White NH Prot.	40	50	10	36	52	12	854	-4
White NH evang. Prot.	29	60	11	31	58	11	449	2
White NH mainline Prot.	53	37	9	42	44	13	405	-11
Total Catholic	59	29	11	56	32	12	446	-3
White NH Cath.	55	33	12	52	38	9	330	-3
Unaffiliated	62	23	15	60	30	10	286	-2
<b>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>								
More than once a week	36	56	9	38	51	11	296	2
Once a week	51	40	9	48	43	10	542	-3
Once or twice a month	57	28	15	55	34	11	306	-2
A few times a year	54	32	14	52	35	13	341	-2
Seldom/Never	64	25	11	58	30	12	504	-6
<b>REGION</b>								
Northeast	61	26	13	56	36	9	391	-5
Midwest	58	31	11	49	37	14	505	-9
South	48	41	10	51	38	11	773	3
West	54	32	14	50	39	11	341	-4
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>								
Married	47	42	11	45	44	11	1090	-2
Not married	64	24	12	58	30	12	909	-6
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>								
Married men	44	45	12	43	49	8	498	-1
Married women	49	40	11	47	40	13	592	-2
Unmarried men	61	23	16	52	35	13	395	-9
Unmarried women	67	24	9	63	25	11	514	-4
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>								
Employed	55	34	12	50	39	12	1109	-5
Not employed	53	35	12	54	36	11	891	1
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>								
Men	16	74	10	19	75	6	237	3
Women	21	69	10	17	69	15	288	-4
18-49	22	66	11	21	68	11	212	-1
50+	15	78	8	14	76	9	308	-1
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>								
Men	84	8	8	81	11	8	241	-3
Women	85	9	7	83	8	9	419	-2
18-49	85	7	8	82	9	9	273	-3
50+	84	9	7	82	10	8	378	-2
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>								
Men	46	37	17	41	47	12	372	-5
Women	49	37	14	50	37	13	334	1
18-49	49	35	16	47	40	13	323	-2
50+	46	40	14	43	47	10	372	-3

## DETAILED TABLES

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	July 2009			August 2009			(N)	<i>July-Aug Change</i>
	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis- approve</u> %	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis- approve</u> %	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u> %		
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>								
Men	47	41	12	38	52	10	661	-9
Women	49	40	11	47	41	12	865	-2
18-49	48	40	12	43	45	11	580	-5
50+	49	41	10	42	47	10	924	-7
East	57	30	14	46	46	8	312	-11
Midwest	55	34	11	44	41	15	432	-11
South	38	53	10	40	49	11	540	2
West	49	39	13	43	49	8	242	-6
College grad	53	40	7	50	44	7	636	-3
Some college or less	46	41	13	40	48	13	887	-6
\$75,000+	54	37	10	41	54	5	485	-13
\$30,000-\$74,999	47	44	9	45	46	10	471	-2
<\$30,000	48	37	15	46	37	17	312	-2
Republican	18	73	9	16	76	8	471	-2
Democrat	83	9	8	78	12	10	422	-5
Independent	44	41	15	41	47	12	559	-3

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 2,010 adults, 18 years of age or older, from August 11-17, 2009 (1,510 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 500 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 174 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 is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 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 2008 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	2,010	2.5 percentage points
Form 1	1,011	3.5 percentage points
Form 2	999	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	525	5.0 percentage points
Democrats	660	4.5 percentage points
Independents	706	4.5 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 PROJECTS

This survey is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

**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. 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 the Center’s current survey results are made available free of charge.

**The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life** seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. It studies public opinion, demographics and other important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS  
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE  
2009 RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY  
SURVEY A PRELIM TOPLINE**

August 11-17, 2009

N=2010

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.101 AND Q.102**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.101 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>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2009	51	37	11
July, 2009	54	34	12
June, 2009	61	30	9
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11
Early April, 2009	61	26	13
March, 2009	59	26	15
February, 2009	64	17	19

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.101 AND Q.102**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.102 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2009	28	65	7	January, 2006	34	61	5
July, 2009	28	66	6	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
June, 2009	30	64	5	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
May, 2009	34	58	8	July, 2005	35	58	7
April, 2009	23	70	7	Late May, 2005	39	57	4
January, 2009	20	73	7	February, 2005	38	56	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	January, 2005	40	54	6
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	December, 2004	39	54	7
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
August, 2008	21	74	5	July, 2004	38	55	7
July, 2008	19	74	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
June, 2008	19	76	5	Late February, 2004	39	55	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
March, 2008	22	72	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	October, 2003	38	56	6
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
October, 2007	28	66	6	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
February, 2007	30	61	9	January, 2003	44	50	6
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	May, 2002	44	44	12
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
July, 2006	30	65	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
May, 2006	29	65	6	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
March, 2006	32	63	5	June, 2001	43	52	5

**Q.102 CONTINUED ...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2001	47	45	8
February, 2001	46	43	11
January, 2001	55	41	4
October, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	54	39	7
September, 2000	51	41	8
June, 2000	47	45	8
April, 2000	48	43	9
August, 1999	56	39	5
January, 1999	53	41	6
November, 1998	46	44	10
Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early August, 1998	50	44	6
February, 1998	59	37	4
January, 1998	46	50	4
September, 1997	45	49	6
August, 1997	49	46	5
January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 1996	29	67	4
March, 1996	28	70	2
October, 1995	23	73	4
June, 1995	25	73	2
April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5

**NO QUESTIONS 103 AND 104**

**RANDOMIZE Q.105-Q.106/Q.107-Q.108 IN BLOCKS**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.105 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.) DK/Ref</u>
August, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
June, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
March, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
February, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 <sup>1</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

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1 Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**RANDOMIZE Q.105-Q.106/Q.107-Q.108 IN BLOCKS**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.106 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
August, 2009	45	19	33	3
June, 2009	48	16	34	2
March, 2009	41	19	37	3
February, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 ( <i>RVs</i> )	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek (RVs)</i>	35	13	49	3



**RANDOMIZE Q.105-Q.106/Q.107-Q.108 IN BLOCKS**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.107 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
August, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
June, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
February, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	33	46	16	1
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	34	40	19	1
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	5	30	47	17	1
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	35	45	15	1
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	32	45	18	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.105-Q.106/Q.107-Q.108 IN BLOCKS**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.108 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <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.) DK/Ref
August, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
June, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
February, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.109 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		June <u>2009</u>	March <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
44	The job situation	42	42	45	26	18	19
26	Rising prices	29	22	21	31	38	49
14	Problems in the financial markets [OR]	15	21	21	29	31	14
9	Declining real estate values	8	10	9	9	8	12
4	Other [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2	1	1	1	2	2
2	None / not worried about any [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2	2	1	2	1	2
2	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	2	2	2	2	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.110 In dealing with important issues facing the country, are [RANDOMIZE; Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress, Republican leaders in Congress and Barack Obama] working together or not working together?

**ASK IF 'NOT WORKING TOGETHER' (Q.110=2) [N=1233]:**

Q.111 Who do you think is most to blame for them not working together? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>June 2009</u>	<u>Feb 2009<sup>2</sup></u>
24	Working together	39	43
63	Not working together	50	45
17	Barack Obama to blame	12	7
29	Republican leaders in Congress to blame	26	27
9	Both to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	9	5
1	Neither to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	1
2	Other to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	3
4	Don't know who is to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2	2
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	12

**NO QUESTIONS 112 THROUGH 114**

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2 In February 2009, question was worded: "In developing a plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs. ..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.115 And thinking about your personal finances, have you done any of the following lately? (First,) Have you [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE a-e BLOCK FIRST, THEN ASK f, THEN ASK g LAST], or not? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements			
August, 2009	36	63	1
June, 2009	40	58	2
February, 2009	37	62	1
December, 2008	36	63	1
b. Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance			
August, 2009	42	58	*
June, 2009	40	59	1
February, 2009	44	55	1
December, 2008	44	56	*
c. Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel			
August, 2009	59	40	*
June, 2009	59	41	*
February, 2009	59	41	*
December, 2008	57	42	1
d. Been eating out at restaurants less often			
August, 2009	55	44	1
June, 2009	56	44	*
February, 2009	55	44	1
December, 2008	55	44	1
e. Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car			
August, 2009	38	62	*
June, 2009	36	63	*
February, 2009	37	62	1
December, 2008	33	67	*

**ITEMS f. AND g. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK IF CHANGED SPENDING HABITS (1 IN Q.115b, Q.115c, Q.115d or Q.115e) [N=1518]:**

Q.116 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?

		June <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2009</u>	Dec <sup>3</sup> <u>2008</u>
34	Financial situation has gotten worse	36	30	30
47	Worry that it might get worse in the future	50	56	59
6	Both ( <b>VOL.</b> )	5	5	4
9	Other ( <b>VOL.</b> )	6	6	4
3	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	3	3	3

On a different subject...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.117 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills being proposed by President Obama and Congress to overhaul the health care system? **[READ]**

		<i>Trend for comparison</i> July <u>2009</u> <sup>4</sup>
48	A lot	41
42	A little [OR]	47
9	Nothing at all	10
1	Don't know/Refused [ <b>VOL. DO NOT READ</b> ]	1

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1011]:**

Q.118 If the health care bills being proposed by Barack Obama and Congress are passed into law, would you be **[READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**

15	Very happy
29	Pleased
22	Disappointed
18	Angry
16	Don't know/Refused [ <b>VOL. DO NOT READ</b> ]

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=999]:**

Q.119 If the health care bills being proposed by Barack Obama and Congress **FAIL** to pass into law, would you be **[READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**

18	Very happy
21	Pleased
31	Disappointed
9	Angry
21	Don't know/Refused [ <b>VOL. DO NOT READ</b> ]

**NO QUESTIONS 120-124, 131-134, 137-139**

**QUESTIONS 125-130, 135, AND 136 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

3 In December 2008, the beginning of the question was worded: "In general, have you been cutting back on spending because...".  
4 In July 2009, question read "the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.140 On another subject ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. The Republican Party								
August, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Early April, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
January, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
August, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Early April, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
January, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6

**Q.140 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never <u>Heard of</u>	Can't rate/ <u>Ref</u>
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6

**QUESTIONS 141 THROUGH 191 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.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				preference	party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
August, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2	12	18
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--