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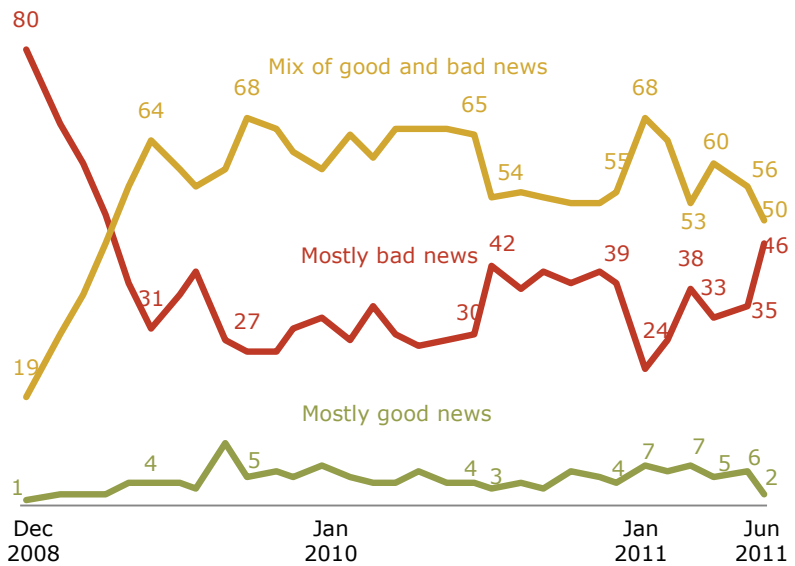
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Michael Remez, Senior Writer

Most Visible Possible GOP Candidates: Romney, Palin Number Hearing “Mostly Bad” Economic News Highest Since March 2009

Following a series of downbeat reports about housing, jobs and the stock market, the public’s perceptions of economic news have turned much more negative. Fully 46% say they are hearing mostly bad news about the nation’s economy, up nine points since last month and the highest percentage since March 2009.

Nearly as many now say they are hearing mostly bad economic news as a mix of good and bad news (46% vs. 50%). As recently as last month, 35% said they were hearing mostly bad economic news while far more (56%) said the news was mixed. The proportion hearing mostly good economic news, which has been in the single digits for most of the past three years, stands at just 2%.

More Hearing Bad News about U.S. Economy



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 2-5, 2011.

The latest News Interest

Index survey of 1,006 adults, conducted June 2-5, finds that the economy topped the public’s news interest last week. One-in-five (20%) say the followed economic news most

closely, compared with 12% who tracked the war in Afghanistan most closely and 11% each who followed the 2012 presidential candidates and the NBA finals most closely.

The economy and the presidential election are the week's most heavily covered stories, according to a [separate analysis](#) by the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). Reports on the economy accounted for 13% of all news coverage while 12% of coverage was devoted to the campaign. That is the highest percentage of campaign coverage this year, according to PEJ.

2012 Candidates: Romney, Palin More Visible

Overall, one-in-five Americans (20%) say they followed news about the 2012 presidential candidates very closely, a figure that has changed little over the past few months. However, the proportion following news about the candidates *most* closely – like the share of news coverage devoted to the campaign – is at its highest point this year, at 11%.

During a week in which Mitt Romney officially launched his presidential campaign and Sarah Palin embarked on a highly publicized bus tour, both Romney and Palin increased their visibility among the public.

Currently, 22% name Mitt Romney as the possible GOP candidate they have been hearing the most about, while 20% name Sarah Palin. Both Romney and Palin were barely on the public's radar last month. In mid-May (May 12-15), the top two potential GOP candidates in terms of visibility were Donald Trump (16%) and Newt Gingrich (12%). In the new survey, just 5% say they heard the most about Trump and 2% Gingrich.

Which Possible GOP Candidate Have You Heard Most About?

	May 12-15		June 2-5	
	Total	Rep	Total	Rep
	%	%	%	%
Mitt Romney	7	9	22	34
Sarah Palin	2	3	20	20
Donald Trump	16	17	5	4
Newt Gingrich	12	14	2	3
Tim Pawlenty	1	2	1	*
Ron Paul	2	2	1	1
Michele Bachmann	1	1	1	1
Other	8	10	5	5
Don't know	<u>50</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1,006	278	1,006	289

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 2-5, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While Palin matches Romney in visibility among the public, far more Republicans name Romney than Palin as the GOP candidate they are hearing the most about (34% to 20%). No other possible GOP candidate comes close.

More Hearing Bad News about Jobs, Housing, Financial Markets

The survey finds that as public's perceptions of economic news have grown more negative, so have views of news about specific economic sectors – notably jobs, real estate and the financial markets. Currently, 58% say they are hearing mostly bad news about the job situation, up seven points since mid-May and 15 points (from 43%) in early April.

Twice as many say they are hearing mostly bad news as mixed news about real estate values (56% to 28%). From March through May, perceptions of news about housing were far less negative; in May, for instance, 45% said they were hearing mostly bad news while 35% said the news was a mix of good and bad.

And the proportion saying they are hearing mostly bad news about financial markets (40%) is at its highest point all year. Moreover, the small share hearing mostly good news about financial markets, which stood at 17% in February and 11% last month, has fallen to 5% in the current survey.

In contrast to news about other sectors, there has been a sizable decline in the percentage hearing mostly bad news about gas prices – from 84% in May to 68% currently. Still, more say they are hearing mostly negative news about gas prices than any other sector included in the survey.

Impressions of News About Economic Sectors

<i>Recent news about...</i>	Mostly good news %	Mostly bad news %	Mixed news %	DK %
The job situation				
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	34	3=100
May 12-15, 2011	9	51	37	3=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	12	43	42	2=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2=100
Dec 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1=100
Real estate values				
June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9=100
May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	6	48	38	8=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7=100
Dec 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4=100
Financial markets				
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9=100
May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	13	30	51	6=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6=100
Dec 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4=100
Food, consumer prices				
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	30	6=100
May 12-15, 2011	3	58	32	6=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	3	59	34	4=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5=100
Dec 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5=100
Gas prices				
June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2=100
May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	1	88	10	1=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 2-5, 2011.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Affluent, Older Americans Hearing More Negative Economic News

The view that news about the overall economy is mostly bad has increased sharply among more affluent people, as well as older Americans and political independents. Currently, half (50%) of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say that news about the economy is mostly bad, up from just 31% less than a month ago.

Since May, there also has been a 19-point increase in the percentage of those 65 and older who say that economic news is mostly bad (from 35% to 54%). Among those 50 to 64, 50% now see economic news as mostly negative, up from 37% in May.

The partisan gap in perceptions of economic news also has widened since last month. Currently, 57% of Republicans say news about the economy is mostly bad, compared with 34% of Democrats. In May, 46% of Republicans and 29% of Democrats viewed economic news negatively.

In the new survey, 49% of independents say news about the economy is mostly bad, up from just 33% last month. Independents' views of economic news, which tracked closer to Democrats' views in May, are now more similar to Republicans'.

Hearing Mostly Bad Economic News

	May 12-15	Jun 2-5	Diff
Total	35	46	+11
Men	35	51	+16
Women	36	42	+6
18-29	35	42	+7
30-49	34	43	+9
50-64	37	50	+13
65+	35	54	+19
<i>Family income:</i>			
\$75,000+	31	50	+19
\$30k-\$74,999	34	46	+12
Less than \$30k	37	43	+6
Republican	46	57	+11
Democrat	29	34	+5
Independent	33	49	+16
<i>Following news about econ:</i>			
Very closely	41	50	+9
Less closely	32	44	+12

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 2-5, 2011.

The Week's Top Stories

Americans followed news about the economy more closely than another other story, with 20% citing this as their top story of the week; 35% say they followed news about the condition of the economy very closely. This is virtually unchanged from recent weeks, but lower than interest from earlier this spring. The economy received more news coverage than any other topic of the week, 13%, according to PEJ. (*NOTE: PEJ's analysis includes coverage of the debt limit debate with news about the economy; total coverage for the two categories was 19%*).

News about the 2012 elections—including Mitt Romney's announcement that he would seek the Republican nomination—drew 12% of news coverage, about as much as the economy. About one-in-five (21%) followed news about the 2012 candidates very closely, while 11% say they followed it most closely.

Republicans (29%) are more likely than Democrats (20%) or independents (19%) to say they tracked news about the 2012 candidates very closely.

Roughly one-in-five also say they followed news about the current situation and events in Afghanistan (20% very closely) and news about anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries (18%). However, far more cited news about Afghanistan as their top story than said that about Middle East unrest (12% vs. 4%). Coverage of unrest in the Middle East accounted for 9% of coverage, while news about Afghanistan made up 3% of the newshole.

Fewer Americans followed news about the NBA finals very closely (14%), while 11% say it was their top story. Three times as many African Americans as whites followed the basketball finals very closely (33% vs. 10%).

News Interest and Coverage

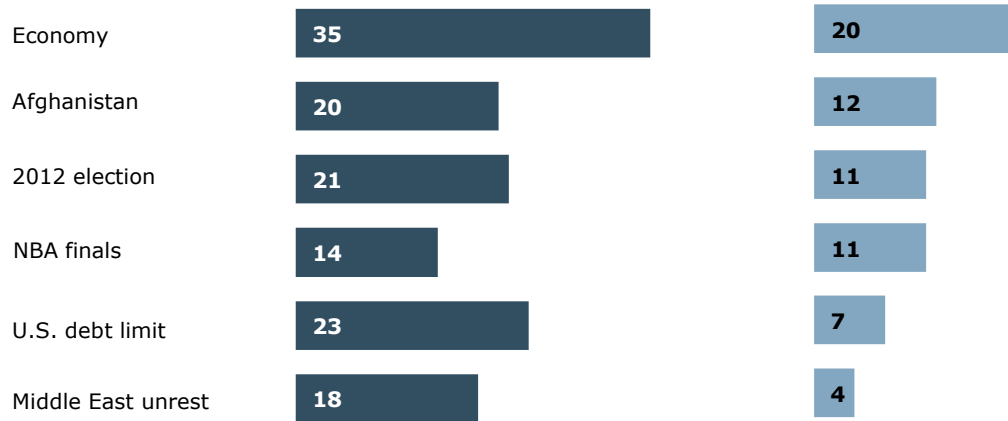
	News Interest	News Coverage
Economy	20	13
Afghanistan	12	3
2012 elections	11	12
NBA finals	11	*
U.S. debt limit	7	6
Middle East unrest	4	9

News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, June 2-5, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, May 30-June 5, 2011.

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. June 2-5, 2011

In other political news, the debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit was the top story for just 7% of Americans; 23% of Americans say they followed news about this topic very closely. Debt limit news accounted for 6% of coverage last week, according to PEJ's analysis. Republicans were the most interested in this story: 33% say they followed debt limit news very closely, while just 21% of independents and 18% of Democrats say the same.

Most Heard about Possible Cell Phone-Cancer Link

Eight-in-ten Americans say they had heard a lot (29%) or a little (52%) about an international health panel warning of a possible link between cell phone use and brain cancer. As is usually the case with health-related stories, women had heard more about this story than had men (33% heard a lot versus 25%).

There are no significant differences in awareness of the cell phone warning between those who have cell phones and those who do not. And those who rely entirely on cell phones for personal calls are more likely to say they have heard nothing at all about this story (25%) than are those who do not (17%).

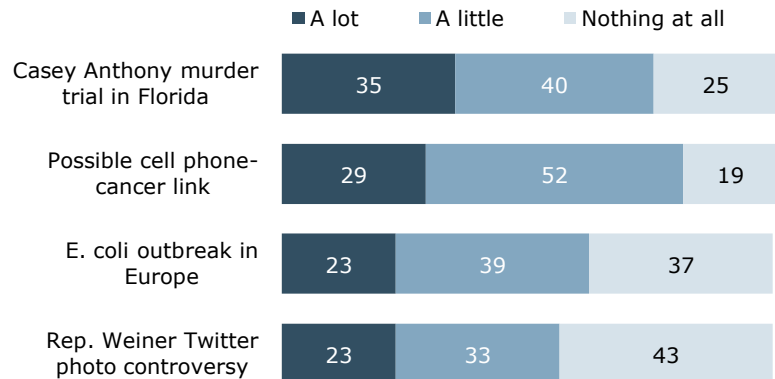
Three-quarters of the public say they had heard a lot (35%) or a little (40%) about the Florida trial of Casey Anthony, a mother charged with killing her young daughter. More women than men have heard a lot about this story (40% vs. 30%).

Fewer people had heard about an E. coli outbreak in Europe: 23% say they had heard a lot, 39% a little.

More than half of Americans had heard a lot (23%) or a little (33%) about a controversy involving a sexually suggestive photo of Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-New York) sent out over Twitter. Republicans are more likely to have heard a lot about the Weiner story (33% heard a lot) than either Democrats (20%) or independents (22%). (*This poll was conducted before Weiner's June 6 press conference, in which he admitted to using social media to send inappropriate photos.*)

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major

What Americans Are Hearing About...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 2-5, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because "Don't know" responses are not shown and because of rounding.

news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected May 30-June 5, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected June 2-5 from a nationally representative sample of 1,006 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted June 2-5, 2011, among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (674 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 143 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and 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	1,006	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	289	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	299	7.0 percentage points
Independents	314	7.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
June 2-5, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit					
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2010	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1
December 16-19, 2010	39	31	14	15	2
December 9-12, 2010	39	30	14	16	1
December 2-5, 2010	52	28	11	9	*
November 18-21, 2010	46	31	11	11	*
November 11-14, 2010	38	30	15	16	1
November 4-7, 2010	44	32	11	13	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	39	34	11	15	1
October 21-24, 2010	41	29	14	14	1
October 14-17, 2010	42	33	12	13	*
October 7-10, 2010	36	33	15	15	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	43	35	10	11	1
September 23-26, 2010	43	34	13	9	1
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries					
June 2-5, 2011	18	25	25	32	*
April 28-May 1, 2011	18	29	25	27	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 21-25, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Libya</i>	21	35	20	22	1
April 14-17, 2011	21	30	25	23	1
April 7-10, 2011	28	35	21	16	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Military air strikes in Libya by the U.S. and its allies</i>	37	31	17	14	1
March 24-27, 2011	33	34	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011: <i>The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya</i>	26	28	21	23	1
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Growing violence in Libya</i>	29	29	21	20	*
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January, 2007: <i>The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia</i>	17	32	27	23	1
May, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces</i>	32	38	19	10	1
Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*
April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0
March, 1999: <i>NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo</i>	43	32	15	9	1
August, 1998: <i>U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan</i>	44	35	13	8	*
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1
d. The NBA Finals					
June 2-5, 2011	14	12	14	60	*
June 10-13, 2010	15	13	15	56	1
June 5-8, 2009	13	9	12	67	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
June 20-23, 2008: <i>The Boston Celtics winning the NBA Finals</i>	18	17	22	42	1
e. News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>2008 Presidential Election</i>	44	36	11	8	1
October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*
September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	*
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008 ¹	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 – December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*

¹ January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 - October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007 ²	24	27	22	26	1
November, 2004 (RVs): <i>2004 Presidential Election</i>	52	36	8	4	*
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1

² January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Early February, 2004 ³	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1
Early November, 2000 (RVs): 2000 Presidential Election	39	44	12	5	*
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	*
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
November, 1996 (RVs): 1996 Presidential Election	34	45	15	6	*
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*
f. The current situation and events in Afghanistan					
June 2-5, 2011	20	35	23	21	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
December 16-19, 2010: <i>The Obama administration's review of the Afghanistan war strategy</i>	17	26	25	31	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	22	22	1
November 18-21, 2010	27	33	21	18	1
October 21-24, 2010	21	34	23	21	1
October 7-10, 2010	21	36	20	22	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	23	37	23	15	1
September 23-26, 2010	29	40	19	11	1
September 9-12, 2010	30	33	20	17	*
July 29-August 1, 2010	34	35	22	9	*
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
June 17-20, 2010	21	30	27	22	*

³ From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
May 20-23, 2010	22	33	25	20	*
April 9-12, 2010	21	29	27	22	1
June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	24	36	21	19	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [**DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**]

June 2-5

2011

20	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy.
12	The current situation and events in Afghanistan
11	News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
11	The NBA finals
7	Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit
4	Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries
15	Some other story (VOL.)
20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [**INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE**]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. An international health panel warning of a possible link between cell phone use and brain cancer June 2-5, 2011	29	52	19	*
b. The trial of Casey Anthony in Florida on charges she murdered her young daughter June 2-5, 2011	35	40	25	*
c. Controversy over a sexually suggestive photo sent from the Twitter account of New York Congressman Anthony Weiner June 2-5, 2011	23	33	43	1
d. Deaths in Europe caused by a fast-spreading E. coli bacteria June 2-5, 2011	23	39	37	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Thinking about possible Republican candidates for president in 2012... Regardless of whom you might prefer, which Republican candidate have you heard the most about in the news recently? [**OPEN END. RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.**]

June 2-5

2011

May 12-15

2011

April 14-17

2011

22	Mitt Romney	7	9
20	Sarah Palin	2	4
5	Donald Trump	16	26
2	Newt Gingrich	12	1
1	Tim Pawlenty	1	1
1	Ron Paul	2	--
1	Michele Bachmann	1	--
5	Other	8	5
41	Don't know/Refused	50	53

Thinking about recent economic news ...

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June 2-5, 2011	2	46	50	1
May 12-15, 2011	6	35	56	2
March 31-April 3, 2011	5	33	60	2
March 3-6, 2011	7	38	53	2
February 3-6, 2011	6	29	64	1
January 6-9, 2011	7	24	68	1
December 2-5, 2010	4	39	55	1
November 11-14, 2010	5	41	53	2
October 7-10, 2010	6	39	53	2
September 2-6, 2010	3	41	54	2
August 5-8, 2010	4	38	55	3
July 1-5, 2010	3	42	54	1
June 10-13, 2010	4	30	65	1
May 7-10, 2010	4	29	66	1
April 1-5, 2010	6	28	66	*
March 5-8, 2010	4	30	66	1
February 5-8, 2010	4	35	61	*
January 8-11, 2010	5	29	65	1
December 4-7, 2009	7	33	59	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	5	31	62	2
October 9-12, 2009	6	27	66	1
September 3-6, 2009	5	27	68	1
August 7-10, 2009	11	29	59	1
July 2-5, 2009	3	41	56	*
June 12-15, 2009	4	37	59	*
May 8-11, 2009	4	31	64	1
April 9-13, 2009	4	39	56	1
March 13-16, 2009	2	51	46	1
February 13-16, 2009	2	60	37	1
January 16-19, 2009	2	67	30	1
December 5-8, 2008	1	80	19	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.6 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The financial markets				
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	13	30	51	6
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	16	32	47	6

PEW.6 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	33	48	7
August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values				
June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9
May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	6	48	38	8
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7
December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	12	44	38	6
March 5-8, 2010	8	45	42	5
January 8-11, 2010	11	43	40	5
October 30-November 2, 2009	13	43	37	6
August 7-10, 2009	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods				
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	30	6
May 12-15, 2011	3	58	32	6
March 31-April 3, 2011	3	59	34	4
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5
February 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5
December 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9
April 1-5, 2010	10	35	46	9
March 5-8, 2010	9	34	50	7
January 8-11, 2010	12	37	45	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	39	42	7
August 7-10, 2009	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation				
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	34	3
May 12-15, 2011	9	51	37	3
March 31-April 3, 2011	12	43	42	2
March 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3
February 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2
December 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1
September 2-6, 2010	5	65	28	2
July 1-5, 2010	5	64	30	1
May 7-10, 2010	9	52	38	2
April 1-5, 2010	9	56	33	2
March 5-8, 2010	5	59	35	1
January 8-11, 2010	6	61	31	2
October 30-November 2, 2009	3	68	27	2
August 7-10, 2009	6	61	32	1
June 12-15, 2009	1	71	27	1

PEW.6 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
e. Gas prices				
June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2
May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1
March 31-April 3, 2011	1	88	10	1
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3