

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY  
JANUARY 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
January 15-19, 2014  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
QUESTIONS 3-4, 9-12 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE  
NO QUESTIONS 5-8**

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:**

Next,

Q.13F2 How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce poverty? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)  
Jan 15-19  
2014  
53 A lot  
29 Some  
8 Not much  
6 Nothing at all  
4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:**

Next,

Q.14F1 How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)  
Jan 15-19  
2014  
43 A lot  
26 Some  
9 Not much  
17 Nothing at all  
4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:**Q.15F2 How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in this country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)  
Jan 15-19  
2014  
40 A lot  
37 Some  
14 Not much  
5 Nothing at all  
4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:**

Q.16F1 How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else in this country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
38 A lot
29 Some
18 Not much
12 Nothing at all
3 Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTION 17, 19, 22****QUESTIONS 18a-c, 20-21, 23-24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTION 18d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Do you think your family's income is going up faster than the cost of living, staying about even with the cost of living, or falling behind the cost of living?

(U)				Early			<i>NBC/WSJ</i>
Jan 15-19		Oct	July	Feb	Sep	Jan	June
<u>2014</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>1996</u>
7	Going up faster	5	6	6	10	9	9
34	Staying about even	34	28	33	43	41	38
57	Falling behind	57	64	58	44	47	50
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	2	3	3	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.26 In your view, what would do more to reduce poverty? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
54 Raising taxes on wealthy people and corporations in order to expand programs for the poor [OR]
35 Lowering taxes on wealthy people and corporations in order to encourage more investment and economic growth
11 Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**QUESTIONS 27-33 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.34 In the last ten years, do you think the gap between the rich and everyone else in the U.S. has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
65 Increased
8 Decreased
25 Stayed the same
2 Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**QUESTIONS 34b-38, 42 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 39-41, 43**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. The next pair is **[NEXT PAIR]**...

a.	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're <u>willing to work hard</u>	Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success <u>for most people</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	60	38	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	58	40	3
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	62	34	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	64	33	3
March, 2006	64	33	3
December, 2005	64	33	3
December, 2004	68	28	4
September, 2000	73	24	3
August, 1999	74	23	3
July, 1994	68	30	2

  

b.	The economic system in this country unfairly <u>favors the wealthy</u>	The economic system in this country is generally fair <u>to most Americans</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	60	36	4
Dec 7-11, 2011	61	36	3

  

c.	Government aid to the poor does more harm than good by making people too dependent on <u>government assistance</u>	Government aid to the poor does more good than harm because people can't get out of poverty <u>until their basic needs are met</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	44	49	7

**QUESTION 44d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**QUESTIONS 44e, 45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Thinking about some government policies, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose?]**

a.	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
An increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour							
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	73	40	33	25	9	16	3
Feb 13-18, 2013 <sup>1</sup> (U)	71	36	34	26	10	16	3
January, 2007	84	48	36	14	6	8	2
March, 2006	86	49	37	11	3	8	3
December, 2004	86	53	33	12	4	8	2
June, 2001	87	49	38	12	4	8	1

<sup>1</sup> In February 2013, the question was worded "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$7.25 to \$9.00 an hour." In January 2007, the question was worded, "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour." In March 2006, December 2004, June 2011 and October 2009, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.45 an hour." In February 1998, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour."

**Q.46 CONTINUED...**

	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
	Net	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Net	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
October, 1999	82	48	34	16	4	12	2
February, 1998	80	48	32	19	5	14	1

- b. A one-year extension of federal unemployment benefits for people who have been out of work for a long time

Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	63	24	38	34	12	22	3
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**QUESTIONS 47-48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:**

Q.49F1 In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor? Lack of effort on his or her own part, or circumstances beyond his or her control?

	Lack of <u>effort</u>	Circumstances <u>beyond control</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	35	50	11	4
Apr 4-15, 2012	38	46	11	5
Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	14	5
October, 1997	39	44	14	3
CBS/NYT: 1995	35	42	18	4
CBS/NYT: 1994	44	34	18	4
LAT: 1992	27	52	18	3
NYT: December, 1990	30	48	20	2
Gallup: May, 1990	35	45	17	3
Gallup: 1989	38	42	17	3
Gallup: 1988	40	37	17	6
Gallup: 1984	33	34	31	2
CBS/NYT: 1982	37	39	17	7
Gallup: 1967	42	19	36	3
Gallup: 1965	40	29	28	3
Gallup: November, 1964	31	31	34	5
Gallup: September, 1964	34	25	38	3
Gallup: March, 1964	34	29	32	6

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:**

Next,

Q.50F2 In your opinion, which generally has more to do with why a person is rich? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

(U)	
Jan 15-19	
<u>2014</u>	
38	Because he or she worked harder than most other people
51	Because he or she had more advantages in life than most other people
7	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTION 51**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.52 If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in? The upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, lower-middle class, or lower class?

	<u>Upper class</u>	<u>Upper-middle class</u>	<u>Middle class</u>	<u>Lower-middle class</u>	<u>Lower class</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	1	13	44	28	12	1
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	2	15	49	25	7	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	1	11	47	27	11	2
Dec 7-11, 2011	1	15	46	25	11	2
Mar 15-29, 2011 (SDT)	2	17	52	20	7	2
May 11-31, 2010 (SDT)	2	18	50	21	8	1
February, 2008 (SDT)	2	19	53	19	6	1

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>No preference</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other party</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**QUESTIONS REPJOB, DEMJOB, 53-55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=624]:**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion <u>either way</u>	(VOL.) Haven't <u>heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--

<sup>2</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(SDT)	Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends