

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 8-12, 2012
N=1501

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	December, 2008	13	83	4
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	July, 2008	19	74	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5				
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6				
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5				
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7				

¹ In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
March, 2008	22	72	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
February, 2007	30	61	9	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
December, 2006	28	65	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
July, 2006	30	65	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1997	38	58	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
December, 2004	39	54	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
July, 2004	38	55	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
May, 2004	33	61	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	September, 1993	20	75	5
October, 2003	38	56	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
April 8, 2003	50	41	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
January, 2003	44	50	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
September, 2002	41	55	4	August, 1990	47	48	5
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	May, 1990	41	54	5
May, 2002	44	44	12	January, 1989	45	50	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9				

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Which of these best describes your opinion: **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]?**

	The economy <u>is recovering</u>	The economy is not <u>yet recovering</u> <u>but will recover soon</u>	It will be a long <u>time before the</u> <u>economy recovers</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	25	29	44	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	20	24	54	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	33	42	2
Dec 1-5, 2010	17	33	48	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 ²	10	37	52	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	13	35	50	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	13	37	48	2

NO QUESTION 4

² In September 2010 and earlier, the first answer choice read "The economy is now recovering."

Q.5, Q.43-Q.48, Q.62-Q.65, Q.71-Q.72 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**Q.6b-e, Q.7-Q.8, Q.11, Q.13-Q.14, Q16, Q.19-Q.21, Q.40-42, Q.55-57, Q.60-61, Q.66-Q.67, Q.75, PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 9-10, 12, 15, 17-18, 22-31, 38-39, 49-54, 58-59, 68-70****ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] 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. Barack Obama								
Feb 8-12, 2012	54	22	32	42	26	16	*	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	51	23	28	45	24	21	0	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	21	31	45	24	21	*	3
Mar 8-14, 2011	58	22	36	39	20	19	*	3
Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	32	30	16	14	*	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13

ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.32 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

					(VOL.)
	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK/Ref
Feb 8-12, 2012	1	10	46	43	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1

Q.32 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 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 ³	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.33 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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2

³ Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.33 CONTINUED...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 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
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	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 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

NO QUESTIONS 34-36

ASK ALL:

Q.37 In recent months, has the national unemployment rate been **[READ]**?

Feb 8-12

2012

32	Increasing [OR]
58	Decreasing
4	Staying about the same (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 9-12, 2012 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000**

PEW.1 THRU PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the nation's economy...

PEW.4 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	No effect <u>so far</u>	(VOL.) <u>Too soon/ early to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February 9-12, 2012	33	35	25	1	6
September 22-October 4, 2011	20	38	37	1	4
June 15-19, 2011	27	34	33	2	5
January 5-9, 2011	28	31	35	2	4
August 25-September 6, 2010	27	32	36	2	4
June 3-6, 2010	23	29	35	3	9
February 3-9, 2010	24	27	42	3	5
December 9-13, 2009	30	24	39	3	4
September 30-Oct 4, 2009	31	20	42	4	3
July 20-26, 2009	24	21	46	3	6
June 10-14, 2009	26	16	49	4	4
April 14-21, 2009	26	17	47	6	4
March 9-12, 2009	14	15	64	4	3