

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 4-8, 2006
N= 1,503

QUESTION 1 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

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

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
January, 2006	34	61	5=100
Late November, 2005	34	59	7=100
Early October, 2005	29	65	6=100
July, 2005	35	58	7=100
Late May, 2005	39	57	4=100
February, 2005	38	56	6=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100
April, 2003 ¹	50	41	9=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100
September, 2002 ²	41	55	4=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100
March, 2002	50	40	10=100
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
June, 2001	43	52	5=100
March, 2001	47	45	8=100
February, 2001	46	43	11=100
January, 2001	55	41	4=100
October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100
January, 1999	53	41	6=100

1 Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395.

2 The September 2002 trend is from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	5=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3=100
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

QUESTION 3 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

Q.4 Now thinking about George W. Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		Mid				--- Clinton ---	
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
30	More important	34	34	52	54	16	27
14	Less important	9	9	6	4	22	16
47	Same	47	49	35	36	53	51
9	Don't know/Refused	10	8	7	6	9	6
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

Q.5F1 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		Early			----- Clinton -----			
		Oct	Jan	Jan	Early Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
57	Domestic policy	64	53	52	56	86	85	76
25	Foreign policy	20	27	34	30	7	7	13
1	Neither (VOL)	1	1	*	0	*	2	*
13	Both (VOL)	12	16	11	11	5	4	7
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.6F2 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or the war on terrorism?

		Early				
		Oct	Sept	Jan	Aug	Jan
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>
42	Domestic policy	50	56	40	29	33
39	War on terrorism	33	25	44	43	52
1	Neither (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	*
14	Both (VOL.)	13	12	13	22	13
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 7 THROUGH 12 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 13-24

ASK ALL:

Q.25 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)?**)

<u>RANK ORDERED SUMMARY TABLE</u>		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	
		<u>priority</u>	but lower	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80	18	1	*	1=100
l.F2	Improving the educational system	67	26	4	2	1=100
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	66	26	5	1	2=100
a.F1	Improving the job situation	65	28	4	1	2=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	4	2	2=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	62	30	4	2	2=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	62	29	6	1	2=100
f.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	60	28	6	3	3=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	59	30	6	2	3=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	58	33	6	1	2=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	57	35	6	1	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	36	6	1	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	55	35	5	1	4=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	51	32	8	5	4=100
v.F2	Making it tougher for illegal immigrants to enter the U.S.	51	26	14	6	3=100
g.F1	Increasing the minimum wage	47	34	10	6	3=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	47	26	14	9	4=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	42	36	13	6	3=100
u.F2	Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler	40	35	16	6	3=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	30	46	11	5	8=100
h.F1	Making recent tax cuts on investment income permanent	22	36	17	15	10=100
k.F1	Making it easier for immigrants to legally work in the U.S. for a limited period of time	17	32	21	27	3=100

Q.25 FULL ITEM TRENDS

ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

	<u>Top</u>	Important	Not too	Should not	DK/
	<u>priority</u>	but lower	important	be done	Ref
a.F1 Improving the job situation	65	28	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1=100
January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1=100
January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1 Reducing the budget deficit	55	35	5	1	4=100
January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2=100
January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3=100
January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100
January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100
c.F1 Reducing crime	62	29	6	1	2=100
January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2=100
January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2=100
January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100
January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1 Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	51	32	8	5	4=100
January, 2005	48	35	8	6	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1=100
January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3=100
January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100
January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100

Q.25 CONTINUED

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
e.F1	Protecting the environment	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*=100
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
f.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	60	28	6	3	3=100
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3=100
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
g.F1	Increasing the minimum wage	47	34	10	6	3=100
	January, 2005	43	39	11	6	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	38	39	17	5	1=100
	Early September, 2001	40	40	13	6	1=100
	January, 2000	34	41	16	6	3=100
h.F1	Making recent tax cuts on investment income permanent	22	36	17	15	10=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1=100
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	30	46	11	5	8=100
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6=100
	Mid-January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4=100
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5=100
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100
k.F1	Making it easier for immigrants to legally work in the U.S. for a limited period of time	17	32	21	27	3=100

Q.25 CONTINUED

		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	DK/
ASK ITEMS 1 THRU v OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>Ref</u>
l.F2	Improving the educational system	67	26	4	2	1=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1=100
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	62	30	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1=100
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	36	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1=100
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100

Q.25 CONTINUED

		Top <u>priority</u>	Important but lower <u>priority</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Should not <u>be done</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	47	26	14	9	4=100
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2=100
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4=100
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	59	30	6	2	3=100
	January, 2005	60	30	7	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1=100
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	42	36	13	6	3=100
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1=100
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3=100
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	66	26	5	1	2=100
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2=100
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1=100
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001 ³	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	58	33	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2=100
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ⁴	46	41	6	2	5=100

3 In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

4 In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

Q.25 CONTINUED

	<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
u.F2 Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler	40	35	16	6	3=100
January, 2005	39	36	15	6	4=100
v.F2 Making it tougher for illegal immigrants to enter the U.S.	51	26	14	6	3=100

QUESTIONS 26 THROUGH 27 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

ASK ALL:

ROTATE Q.28/Q.29 BLOCK WITH Q.30/Q.31 BLOCK

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.28 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>Don't Know Refused</u>
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2=100
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1=100
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1=100
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1=100
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (Gallup)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (Gallup)	3	34	42	21	0=100
January 2-5, 2004 (Gallup)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (Gallup)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (Gallup)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (Gallup)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (Gallup)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (Gallup)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (Gallup)	1	24	52	23	*=100
February 17-19, 2003 (Gallup)	1	17	48	34	*=100
February 4-6, 2002 (Gallup)	2	26	55	16	1=100
March 5-7, 2001 (Gallup)	3	43	43	10	1=100
January 7-10, 2000 (Gallup)	19	52	23	5	1=100
January 15-17, 1999 (Gallup)	14	55	27	4	*=100
March 20-22, 1998 (Gallup)	20	46	27	7	*=100
Jan 31 - Feb 2, 1997 (Gallup)	4	38	43	15	*=100
March 15-17, 1996 (Gallup)	2	31	48	18	1=100
May 11-14, 1995 (Gallup)	2	27	50	20	1=100
January 15-17, 1994 (Gallup)	*	22	54	24	*=100
February 12-14, 1993 (Gallup)	*	14	46	39	1=100
January 3-6, 1992 (Gallup)	*	12	46	41	1=100

Q.29 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>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
January, 2006	20	22	55	3=100
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3=100
January, 2005	27	18	52	3=100
August, 2004	36	9	47	8=100
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8=100
September, 2003	37	17	43	3=100
May, 2003	43	19	35	3=100
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7=100
January, 2003	30	20	44	6=100
Early October, 2002	34	18	42	6=100
June, 2002	30	20	46	4=100
January, 2002	44	17	36	3=100
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5=100
June, 2000	15	24	55	6=100
Early October, 1998 (<i>RVs</i>)	16	22	57	5=100
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4=100
May, 1990	18	31	45	6=100
February, 1989	25	22	49	4=100
September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek (RVs)</i>	35	13	49	3=100

Thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.30 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>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2=100
Mid- May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1=100
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1=100
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1=100
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1=100
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 (<i>RVs</i>)	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100

Q.30 CONTINUED

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
October, 1992	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

Q.31 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?

	<u>Improve A lot</u>	<u>Improve Some</u>	<u>Get a Little Worse</u>	<u>Get a lot Worse</u>	<u>Stay the Same (VOL.)</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4=100	
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4=100	
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3=100	
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6=100	
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3=100	
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7=100	
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100	
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100	
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100	
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100	
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100	
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100	
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100	
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100	
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100	
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100	
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100	
October, 1992	<i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992	<i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992	<i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992	<i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

Q.32 Thinking about some areas of the U.S. economy for a moment... do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is/are a very big problem, a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem for the nation's economy today? **[HOW ABOUT...]**

		Very big <u>problem</u>	Big <u>problem</u>	Small <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a.	The job situation	26	44	19	7	4=100
	Mid-May, 2005	25	46	21	5	3=100

ASK ITEMS b THRU e OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

b.F1.	Inflation	20	41	25	10	4=100
	Mid-May, 2005	17	43	26	9	5=100
c.F1	Interest rates	13	35	30	16	6=100
	Mid-May, 2005	12	31	31	20	6=100
d.F1	Housing prices	26	39	21	9	5=100
e.F1	Home heating and energy prices	42	45	9	2	2=100

ASK ITEM f THRU i OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

f.F2	The federal budget deficit	32	45	13	3	7=100
	Mid-May, 2005	31	47	13	3	6=100
g.F2	Gasoline prices	43	39	13	3	2=100
	Mid-May, 2005	44	41	11	3	1=100
h.F2	The affordability of health care	40	50	7	1	2=100
i.F2	The affordability of retirement	29	46	16	4	5=100

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to invest in the stock market?

		Mid-May <u>2005</u>
5	Very good	3
41	Good	42
27	Bad	32
7	Very bad	8
<u>20</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>15</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

Q.34F1 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

	Plenty of jobs available	Jobs are difficult to find	Lots of some jobs, few of others	(VOL) DK/Refused
January, 2006	33	56	6	5=100
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4=100
May, 2005	30	60	6	4=100
January, 2005	32	58	5	5=100
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11=100
August, 2004	34	55	4	7=100
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9=100
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6=100
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7=100
October, 2003	24	66	5	5=100
June, 2002	31	59	4	6=100
June, 2001	42	44	8	6=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	15	76	6	3=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	16	77	4	3=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	12	79	6	3=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.35F2 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available or are good jobs difficult to find?

28	Plenty of GOOD jobs available
64	GOOD jobs are difficult to find
3	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

50	Full-time
12	Part-time
38	Not employed
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF "NOT EMPLOYED" (3 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=592]:

EMPLOY2 Is that because you are a student, because you are retired, because you choose not to work, or because you've lost or quit a job?

		Mid-May <u>2005</u>	Feb <u>2005</u>	June <u>2002</u>	June <u>2001</u>
4	Student	3	3	2	n/a
19	Retired	19	17	19	17
4	Choose not to work	5	6	4	4
4	Lost or quit a job	3	2	4	4
7	Other reason (VOL)	7	7	6	10
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>
38%		37%	35%	35%	35%

ASK IF 1 OR 2 “EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME” IN EMPLOY [N=908]:

Q.36 Do you now earn enough money to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2006	46	53	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	40	59	1=100
May, 2004	51	48	1=100
Late February, 2004	53	46	1=100
June, 2002	43	56	1=100
January, 2001	43	56	1=100
Late September, 1999	42	58	*=100
August, 1999	39	60	1=100
Early September, 1998	43	57	*=100
November, 1997	41	59	*=100
May, 1997	46	54	*=100
June, 1996	44	56	*=100
February, 1995	41	58	1=100
July, 1994	40	60	*=100
March, 1994	44	56	*=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	36	63	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	33	66	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	65	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	39	61	*=100

ASK IF 2 ‘NO’ IN Q.36:

Q.36a Do you think you will be able to earn enough money in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2006	28	23	2=53%
Mid-May, 2005	35	22	2=59%
May, 2004	25	19	4=48%
Late February, 2004	26	19	1=46%
June, 2002	30	23	3=56%
January, 2001	33	21	2=56%
Late September, 1999	33	23	2=58%
August, 1999	38	19	3=60%
Early September, 1998	36	20	1=57%
November, 1997	33	24	2=59%
May, 1997	34	18	2=54%
June, 1996	34	20	2=56%
February, 1995	35	20	3=58%
July, 1994	34	24	2=60%
March, 1994	33	20	3=56%
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	35	36	5=63%
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	36	25	5=66%
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	28	3=65%
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	34	22	5=61%

IF NOT EMPLOYED OR DK/REF (3,9 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=595]:

Q.37 Do you now have enough income to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		May <u>2004</u>	Late Feb <u>2004</u>
45	Yes	50	48
52	No	47	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

IF 'NO' (2 IN Q.37) ASK:

Q.37a Do you think you will have enough income in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		May <u>2004</u>	Late Feb <u>2004</u>
19	Yes	18	21
29	No	25	23
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
52%		47%	50%

ASK ALL:

Q.38 I'd like you to think about some concerns that people may have. How concerned are you, if at all, about **[INSERT ITEM: RANDOMIZE]**? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**...?

		Very <u>Concerned</u>	Somewhat <u>Concerned</u>	Not too <u>Concerned</u>	Not at all <u>Concerned</u>	Does Not Apply (VOL)	Don't <u>Know</u>
a.	Not having enough money						
	for your retirement	46	25	12	13	3	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005	47	25	11	14	2	1=100
	January, 2004	50	24	10	12	3	1=100
	February, 2003	56	20	9	11	3	*=100
	June, 2002	54	25	10	10	1	*=100
	February, 2001	55	24	10	9	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	55	24	11	8	1	1=100
	October, 1999	51	27	13	8	1	*=100
	May, 1997	42	26	15	13	3	1=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)	56	24	11	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996	59	23	9	7	2	*=100
	October, 1995	48	29	10	8	4	1=100
	March, 1994 ⁵	42	29	14	12	3	1=100
	May, 1988	34	35	15	8	4	4=100

5 In March 1994 the question started with, "Now I'd like you to think about the future. As I read some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you."

Q.38 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Concerned</u>	Somewhat <u>Concerned</u>	Not too <u>Concerned</u>	Not at all <u>Concerned</u>	Does Not Apply (VOL)	Don't Know
BASED ON THOSE WHO GIVE AN ANSWER [N=1,162]:						
b.	Being unable to save enough money					
	to put a child through college					
	47	20	11	22=100	-	-
	Mid-May, 2005					
	46	20	11	23=100	-	-
	January, 2004					
	46	23	13	18=100	-	-
	February, 2003					
	55	19	9	17=100	-	-
	June, 2002					
	52	19	10	19=100	-	-
	September, 2000 (RVs)					
	52	25	10	13=100	-	-
	October, 1999					
	50	24	12	14=100	-	-
	May, 1997					
	48	22	12	18=100	-	-
	October, 1996 (RVs)					
	53	21	11	15=100	-	-
	October, 1995					
	52	22	11	15=100	-	-
	March, 1994					
	51	22	11	16=100	-	-
	May, 1988					
	34	34	16	16=100	-	-
c.	Being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick					
	50	18	14	15	2	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005					
	49	18	13	18	1	1=100
	January, 2004					
	53	18	15	12	1	1=100
	February, 2003					
	59	17	10	12	2	1=100
	June, 2002					
	61	18	10	10	1	*=100
	February, 2001					
	60	18	9	11	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)					
	63	19	8	8	2	*=100
	October, 1999					
	60	19	13	7	1	*=100
	May, 1997					
	50	20	16	13	1	*=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)					
	61	18	12	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996					
	68	16	10	6	*	*=100
	October, 1995					
	66	17	9	7	1	*=100
	March, 1994					
	50	22	15	11	1	1=100
d.	Losing your job or taking a cut in pay					
	29	15	14	22	19	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005					
	30	14	14	25	17	*=100
	January, 2004					
	35	15	15	19	16	*=100
	February, 2003					
	41	12	13	18	16	*=100
	June, 2002					
	40	15	15	19	11	*=100
	February, 2001					
	34	14	15	27	9	1=100
	May, 1997					
	30	15	19	20	16	*=100
	March, 1996					
	47	16	14	15	8	*=100
	October, 1995					
	34	17	16	17	16	*=100
	March, 1994					
	28	16	14	21	21	*=100
	May, 1988 ⁶					
	18	16	23	18	22	3=100
e.	Going too deeply into debt					
	38	19	17	23	2	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005					
	39	19	16	25	1	*=100
	January, 2004					
	41	20	17	19	2	1=100

6 In May 1988 the item was worded: "Losing your job."

Q.39 Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans excluding your mortgage, would you say you... **(READ)**

		Mid-May <u>2005</u>	Late Feb <u>2004</u>	<u>June 2001</u>	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i> <u>Jan 1992</u>
8	Owe a lot more than you can afford	10	9	13	7
15	Owe a little more than you can afford	15	13	15	14
30	Owe about what you can afford	33	29	31	32
24	OR owe less than you can afford?	22	23	18	19
15	Do not have any debts (VOL)	13	20	12	16
6	No credit cards or loans (VOL)	5	5	10	11
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.40 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?

		<i>NBC/WSJ</i> <u>June 1996</u>
9	Going up faster	9
41	Staying about even	38
47	Falling behind	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

NO QUESTION 41

QUESTION 42 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

Q.43F1 In recent years, President Bush and Congress have made major cuts in federal income tax rates. Do you approve or disapprove of these tax cuts?

		<u>Jan 2005</u>	<u>March 2004⁷</u>	<u>Aug 2003</u>
50	Approve	51	53	54
38	Disapprove	41	38	37
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.44F2 As you may know, in 2001 President Bush and Congress significantly reduced taxes on investment income such as capital gains and profits from stock dividends. In your view, should these tax cuts be extended into the future, or not?

50	Should be extended
35	Should not be extended
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

7 In March 2004 and before the question was worded: "...President Bush and Congress have made two major cuts in federal income tax rates".

ASK ALL:

Q.45 Would you favor or oppose allowing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska?

		Mid- <u>Sept 2005⁸</u>	Late <u>March 2005</u>	Mid- <u>March 2005</u>
44	Favor	50	46	42
47	Oppose	42	49	46
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.46 Would you favor or oppose a policy allowing immigrants to enter the U.S. legally and work here for a limited period of time, but then they would have to go home?

		Late <u>March 2005</u>
47	Favor	50
46	Oppose	44
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

QUESTIONS 47 THROUGH 71 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

And just two last questions about U.S. policies...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

Q.72F1 As far as you know, is the U.S. military still involved in Afghanistan, or has the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan?

77	Still involved
8	Pulled out
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.73F2 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force in Afghanistan?

69	Right decision
20	Wrong decision
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

8 In Mid-September 2005 and earlier the question was worded "... drilling in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=748]:

Q.74F1 Do you think the war against terrorist organizations in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

52	Mostly a success
30	Mostly a failure
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think the war against terrorist organizations in Afghanistan so far has been a success, a failure, or is it too early to tell?

<i>Aug</i>	
<u><i>2002</i></u>	
<i>15</i>	<i>A success</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>A failure</i>
<i>70</i>	<i>Too early to tell</i>
<u><i>3</i></u>	<i>Don't know/Refused</i>
<i>100</i>	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.75F2 Do you think U.S. efforts to establish a stable democratic government in Afghanistan have been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

51	Mostly a success
30	Mostly a failure
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No Preference	(VOL) Other Party	Don't know
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
Yearly Totals						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/ <u>Other/DK</u>		
1996	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
			Independent/ <u>No Pref/Oth/DK</u>			
1989	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY [N=562] ASK:

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>Refused to lean</u>
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%

CLASS Which of the following labels best describes your household [**READ ITEMS, IN ORDER**]:

BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC [N=1503]:

	Mid- Oct <u>2004</u>	Late Feb <u>2004</u>	June <u>2003</u>	June <u>2002</u>	Feb <u>2002</u>	June <u>2001</u>
32 Professional or business class	32	32	31	31	32	29
46 Working class	45	47	43	47	46	47
14 OR a struggling family or household?	15	15	14	14	14	15
1 More than one apply (VOL)	1	2	3	2	2	2
3 None apply (VOL)	4	2	7	3	4	4
<u>4</u> DK/Refused	<u>3</u>	2	2	3	2	3
100	100	100	100	100	100	100