

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**September 12-16, 2007**  
**N=1501**

**QUESTION 1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**

Q.2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

	Jan 2007	Sept 2006	March 2006	Jan 2006	Mid- May 2005	Jan 2005	July 2004	Mid- Jan 2004	Apr 2003	Feb 2003	Mar 2002	May 2001	Feb 2001
37 War/War in Iraq	42	25	20	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 <sup>▲</sup>	--	--
10 Economy (general)	5	9	7	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
7 Health care/costs	8	4	6	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
7 Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	8	6	10	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
6 Terrorism	5	14	8	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
6 Immigration	5	6	4	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
3 Education	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
3 Morality/Ethics/Family values	3	2	6	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
3 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	5	4	6	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
Defense issues/Military spending/ National & homeland security	3	1	4	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
3 Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
Energy Costs/Rising gas/heating prices	2	2	7	5	5	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22
2 Crime/Gangs/Justice system	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	4	8
Oil dependence/Energy policy and alternatives	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1
1 Taxes (general)	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3
Environment/pollution/Global warming	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	*	*	1	3	1
Too much foreign aid/Spend money At home	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
1 Homelessness	2	--	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
U.S. foreign policy/International affairs	1	--	2	1	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	2	2
1 Social Security	--	--	--	--	2	8	4	1	--	1	--	3	1
1 Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	--	--	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1 Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4
1 Many things/Everything	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
13 Other													
* None	*	1	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	2
5 Don't know/No answer	7	7	6	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
<b>48 (NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/ INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>20 (NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

**QUESTION 3F1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:**

Q.4F2 What one word best describes your impression of the economy these days? Just the first word or thought that comes to mind? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

**BASED ON FIRST RESPONSES ONLY\*:**

66	Good
66	Poor
44	Bad
24	Not good/not well
23	Fair
21	OK
18	Terrible
14	Unstable
12	Shaky
12	Down/Downer/Down hill/Downturn/Downward
11	Slow
10	Sucks
9	Depressing/Depression
9	Great
9	Stable
8	Average
8	Mediocre
8	Sad
8	Sluggish
8	Troubled/In trouble/Troubling
7	Needs help/Needs improvement/Needs work
7	Scary
7	Weak
6	Could be better/Was better
6	Crap/Crappy
6	Decent
6	Disappointing/Disappointment
6	Lousy
6	Recession–Almost, close to, biggest worry
6	Struggling
6	Worse/Getting worse

\* The numbers listed above represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

14	Percent positive answers
64	Percent negative answers
16	Percent neutral answers
<u>6</u>	Percent giving no answer
100	

**QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

**QUESTIONS 7-22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**

**NO QUESTION 23.**

**ROTATE Q.24/25 BLOCK WITH Q.26/27 BLOCK**

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.24 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>
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2=100
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2=100
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1=100
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2=100
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2=100
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2=100
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1=100
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.25 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?

	Don't Know/			
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	19	23	53	5=100
June, 2007	16	24	55	5=100
February, 2007	17	20	58	5=100
December, 2006	22	18	56	4=100
September, 2006	16	25	55	4=100
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
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 (Rvs)	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 (RVs)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3=100

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.26 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?

	Don't Know/				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2=100
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1=100
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1=100
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2=100
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1=100
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
<b>QUESTION 26 CONTINUED...</b>			Only		Don't Know/

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
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 (RVs)	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 &amp; World Report</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

Q.27 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>A lot</u>	Improve <u>Some</u>	Get a <u>Little Worse</u>	Get a lot <u>Worse</u>	Stay the Same <u>(VOL.)</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4=100
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3=100
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3=100
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 &amp; W. Report</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

Q.28 Do you think now is a very good, good, bad, or very bad time to invest in the stock market?

		Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid-May <u>2005</u>
3	Very good	5	3
37	Good	41	42
35	Bad	27	32
7	Very bad	7	8
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100

Q.29 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?

	(VOL)			
	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2007	36	50	6	8=100
June, 2007	39	49	5	7=100
February, 2007	39	48	6	7=100
December, 2006	40	49	5	6=100
March, 2006	37	56	3	4=100
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 &amp; W. Report</i>	15	76	6	3 =100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	16	77	4	3 =100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	12	79	6	3 =100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=760]:**

Q.30F1 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past few years, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

		June <u>2007</u>
41	Gone up a lot	50
24	Gone up a little	22
18	Gone down a little	12
9	Gone down a lot	6
3	Stay about the same (VOL.)	3
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:**

Q.31F2 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

28	Gone up a lot
22	Gone up a little
25	Gone down a little
15	Gone down a lot
3	Stay about the same (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.32 And how about over the next few years... Do you think the price of homes in your area will go up a lot, go up a little, go down a little or go down a lot?

		June <u>2007</u>
17	Go up a lot	26
36	Go up a little	36
28	Go down a little	23
8	Go down a lot	5
5	Stay about the same (VOL.)	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

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

51	Full-time
11	Part-time
38	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**IF "NOT EMPLOYED" (3 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=642]:**

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?

3	Student
19	Retired
5	Choose not to work
3	Lost or quit a job
8	Other reason (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
38%	

**ASK IF 1 OR 2 “EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME” IN EMPLOY [N=856]:**

Q.33 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>
September, 2007	46	53	1=100
September, 2006 (GenNext)	49	50	1=100
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 &amp; W. Report</i>	36	63	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	33	66	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	34	65	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	39	61	*=100

**ASK IF 2 ‘NO’ IN Q.33 [N=421]:**

Q.34 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>
September, 2007	31	19	3=53%
September, 2006 (GenNext)	33	15	2=50%
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 &amp; W. Report</i>	35	36	5=63%
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	36	25	5=66%
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	34	28	3=65%
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; W. Report</i>	34	22	5=61%

**IF NOT EMPLOYED OR DK/REF (3,9 IN EMPLOY) ASK [N=645]:**

Q.35 Do you now have enough income to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		(GN)			
		Sept	Jan	May	Late Feb
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
47	Yes	53	45	50	48
50	No	44	52	47	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**IF 'NO' (2 IN Q.35) ASK [N=280]:**

Q.36 Do you think you will have enough income in the future to lead the kind of life you want, or not?

		(GN)			
		Sept	Jan	May	Late Feb
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
22	Yes	22	19	18	21
25	No	18	29	25	23
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
50%		44%	52%	47%	50%

**QUESTION 37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

Q.38 Thinking about the money you owe on credit cards and installment loans excluding your mortgage, would you say you... [READ]

		<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>				
		Jan	Mid-May	Late Feb	June	Jan
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1992</u>
7	Owe a lot more than you can afford	8	10	9	13	7
13	Owe a little more than you can afford	15	15	13	15	14
31	Owe about what you can afford	30	33	29	31	32
26	OR owe less than you can afford?	24	22	23	18	19
15	Do not have any debts (VOL.)	15	13	20	12	16
6	No credit cards or loans (VOL.)	6	5	5	10	11
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.39 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>	
		Jan	June
		<u>2006</u>	<u>1996</u>
10	Going up faster	9	9
43	Staying about even	41	38
44	Falling behind	47	50
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

**NO QUESTION 40**

Q.41 In general, how safe would you say you are from crime when walking in your neighborhood after dark... would you say you are very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe, or not at all safe?

		Feb <u>2006</u>	June <u>2003</u>	June <u>1997</u>
47	Very safe	50	52	46
38	Somewhat safe	38	34	37
9	Not too safe	7	9	11
4	Not at all safe	4	3	4
<u>2</u>	Don't know/refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.42 In the past 12 months, have you or your family, or has someone else in your neighborhood... **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**? **[IF 'YES': "Was that you or your family OR someone else in your neighborhood?"]**

		Yes, Self <u>or Family</u>	Yes, Someone Else <u>in Neighborhood</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.	Had money or property stolen	10	14	74	2=100
	February, 2006	15	15	68	2=100
	June, 2003	14	12	72	2=100
	April, 2000	11	12	76	1=100
	June, 1997	14	20	64	2=100
	March, 1994	16	22	61	1=100
b.	Been physically assaulted or mugged	3	6	90	1=100
	February 2006	3	7	89	1=100
	June, 2003	2	6	91	1=100
	April, 2000	2	4	93	*=100
	June, 1997	4	8	87	1=100
	March, 1994	5	8	86	1=100

**NO QUESTIONS 43-46.**

**QUESTIONS 47-72 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**