

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**DECEMBER 2008 POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
December 3-7, 2008  
N=1,489

**ROTATE Q.1 WITH Q.2/2a**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
December, 2008	13	83	4=100	Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
Early October, 2008	11	86	3=100	June, 2001	43	52	5=100
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6=100	March, 2001	47	45	8=100
August, 2008	21	74	5=100	February, 2001	46	43	11=100
July, 2008	19	74	7=100	January, 2001	55	41	4=100
June, 2008	19	76	5=100	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7=100
Late May, 2008	18	76	6=100	September, 2000	51	41	8=100
March, 2008	22	72	6=100	June, 2000	47	45	8=100
Early February, 2008	24	70	6=100	April, 2000	48	43	9=100
Late December, 2007	27	66	7=100	August, 1999	56	39	5=100
October, 2007	28	66	6=100	January, 1999	53	41	6=100
February, 2007	30	61	9=100	November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7=100	Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Early January, 2007	30	63	7=100	Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
December, 2006	28	65	7=100	Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8=100	February, 1998	59	37	4=100
Early October, 2006	30	63	7=100	January, 1998	46	50	4=100
July, 2006	30	65	5=100	September, 1997	45	49	6=100
May, 2006	29	65	6=100	August, 1997	49	46	5=100
March, 2006	32	63	5=100	January, 1997	38	58	4=100
January, 2006	34	61	5=100	July, 1996	29	67	4=100
Late November, 2005	34	59	7=100	March, 1996	28	70	2=100
Early October, 2005	29	65	6=100	October, 1995	23	73	4=100
July, 2005	35	58	7=100	June, 1995	25	73	2=100
Late May, 2005	39	57	4=100	April, 1995	23	74	3=100
February, 2005	38	56	6=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	September, 1993	20	75	5=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
April 8, 2003	50	41	9=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
September, 2002	41	55	4=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=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				

**ROTATE Q.1 WITH Q.2/2a**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush 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 George W. Bush is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	App-rove	Dis-approve	Don't know		App-rove	Dis-approve	Don't know
December, 2008	24	68	8=100	December, 2004	48	44	8=100
Late October, 2008	22	70	8=100	Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100
Early October, 2008	25	67	8=100	August, 2004	46	45	9=100
August, 2008	28	66	6=100	July, 2004	46	46	8=100
July, 2008	27	68	5=100	June, 2004	48	43	9=100
April, 2008	27	65	8=100	May, 2004	44	48	8=100
March, 2008	28	63	9=100	Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100
Late February, 2008	33	59	8=100	Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100
Early February, 2008	31	62	7=100	Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100
January, 2008	31	59	10=100	Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100
Late December, 2007	31	60	9=100	February, 2004	48	44	8=100
November, 2007	30	59	11=100	Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100
October, 2007	30	63	7=100	Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100
September, 2007	31	59	10=100	December, 2003	57	34	9=100
August, 2007	31	59	10=100	November, 2003	50	40	10=100
July, 2007	29	61	10=100	October, 2003	50	42	8=100
June, 2007	29	61	10=100	September, 2003	55	36	9=100
April, 2007	35	57	8=100	Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
March, 2007	33	58	9=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
February, 2007	33	56	11=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
Mid-January, 2007	33	59	8=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
Early January, 2007	33	57	10=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100

**Q.2 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>App-rove</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

**IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (1,2 IN Q.2), ASK:**

Q.2a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

		Early									
		Jan	Oct	April	Dec	March	Dec	Nov	Sept	June	April
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
24	Approve	33	37	35	38	49	48	50	55	70	56
12	Very strongly	20	23	23	26	32	34	34	35	46	34
11	Not so strongly	12	13	11	11	16	12	14	18	21	20
1	Don't know (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2
68	Disapprove	57	53	55	54	46	44	40	36	20	27
53	Very strongly	45	43	45	42	36	35	30	27	8	18
14	Not so strongly	11	9	10	11	10	8	9	9	12	9
1	Don't know (VOL.)	1	1	*	1	*	1	1	*	0	*
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 3-7**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.8F1 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **[OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].**

*NOTE: The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages*

<u>December 2008</u>	<u>February 2007</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>July 2005</u>	<u>February 2005<sup>1</sup></u>
43 Incompetent	34 Incompetent	29 Incompetent	31 Honest	38 Honest
24 Honest	25 Arrogant	23 Good	26 Incompetent	20 Good
21 Idiot	25 Honest	21 Idiot	24 Arrogant	15 Integrity
18 Arrogant	19 Good	17 Liar	18 Good	15 Arrogant
15 Good	19 Idiot	14 Christian	18 Integrity	14 Incompetent
12 Failure	13 Integrity	14 Honest	15 Determined	13 Leader
12 Honorable	13 Leader	13 Arrogant	13 Liar	11 Fair
12 Stupid	11 Strong	13 Strong	12 Stupid	11 Idiot
11 Ignorant	11 Stupid	10 Integrity	11 Idiot	9 Strong
10 Selfish	10 Ignorant	8 Ass	11 Strong	9 Liar
9 Mediocre	8 Determined	8 Leader	10 Leader	8 Excellent
7 Ass	8 Fair	7 Jerk	9 Christian	8 Trustworthy
7 Ineffective	7 Ass	7 OK	9 Great	8 Dishonest
7 Inept	7 Selfish	7 Sincere	9 Okay	8 Poor
7 Integrity	6 Confused	7 S.tupid	8 Fair	7 Conservative
6 Dedicated	6 Dishonest	6 President	8 Sincere	7 Great
6 Disappoint	6 Persistent	6 Selfish	7 Aggressive	7 Sucks
6 Leader	6 Sincere	5 Bad	6 Inept	7 Honorable
5 Adequate	6 Trying	5 Conservative	5 Adequate	6 Dedicated
5 Committed	5 Committed	5 Consistent	5 Ass	6 Determined
5 Determined	5 Great	5 Dedicated	4 Persistent	6 President
5 Dumb	5 Hypocrite	5 Determined	4 Egotistical	6 Selfish
5 Loser	5 Liar	5 Dumb	4 Greedy	5 Trying
5 Moron	5 Steadfast	5 Egotistical	4 Jerk	5 Warmonger
5 Overwhelmed	5 Stubborn	5 Stubborn	4 Patriotic	5 Ignorant
5 Stubborn	5 Trustworthy	4 Confident	4 Terrible	5 Terrible
5 Tried/Tries	4 Compassionate	4 Disappointment	(N=751)	4 Diligent
4 Bad	4 Conservative	4 Dishonest		4 Consistent
4 Brave	4 Courage	4 Great		4 Sincere
4 Fair	4 Irresponsible	4 Honorable		4 Ineffective
4 Inadequate	4 Unconfident	4 Steadfast		4 Inept
4 Irresponsible	(N=740)	4 Tough		(N=761)
4 Lame duck		(N=710)		
4 Lazy				
4 No good				
4 OK				
4 Patriot/Patriotic				
4 Puppet				
4 Unqualified				

<sup>1</sup>

Trends from May 2004, Early February 2004, May 2003, March 2000, September 1999 and March 1999 are not shown.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 How do you think President George W. Bush will go down in history... as an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

		----- Gallup -----			
		Clinton	Clinton	Bush	Reagan
		Jan	Feb	Jan	Jan
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1989</u>
3	Outstanding	12	11	6	17
8	Above average	32	29	30	42
28	Average	32	27	51	25
24	Below average	10	13	8	9
34	Poor	11	18	4	5
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:**

Q.10F2 Thinking ahead, what do you think George W. Bush will be most remembered for after he has left office?  
(ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR CLARITY BUT NOT FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)

**51 WAR [NET]**

- 29 War in Iraq/Iraq
- 20 War/Wars (general mentions)
- 2 War in Afghanistan/Afghanistan
- 1 War on Terror/Dealing with terrorists

**17 NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH [NET]**

- 2 Stupid/Incompetent/Idiot
- 2 Ruining the country/Destroying America
- 2 Worst president
- 1 Bad speaker/vocabulary
- 1 Lying to the American people
- 1 Will be remembered for nothing
- 8 Other negative assessments

**13 SEPTEMBER 11/FOREIGN POLICY [NET]**

- 9 September 11/Handling of September 11 terrorist attacks
- 3 Keeping the country safe after September 11
- 1 Other foreign policy

**12 ECONOMIC ISSUES [NET]**

- 7 The economy (general mentions)
- 4 Current economic crisis/mortgage crisis and related bailout/debts
- 3 Recession
- 1 Gas prices

**4 POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH [NET]**

- 1 Hurricane Katrina/Handling of Hurricane Katrina
- 4 Other mentions with unclear/neutral tone
- 11 Don't know/Refused

**Q.10F2 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

Thinking ahead, what do you think Bill Clinton will be most remembered for after he has left office?

	Jan <u>2001</u>	March <u>1998</u>
<b>SCANDALS (NET)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>57</b>
Lewinsky/Impeachment	43	6
Other Personal/Sex Scandals	18	38
Scandals	14	18
Lack of integrity/morals	1	1
Corrupting/disgracing/cheapening the White House	*	1
Whitewater	*	1
<b>ECONOMY/BUDGET DEFICIT (NET)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
Economy (Sub-Net)	13	11
The economy/Good management of the economy	12	9
Decrease in unemployment	1	3
Stock market	*	*
Inflation	*	*
Balancing the budget/Handling the deficit/Decrease in national debt (Sub-Net)	1	5
<b>FOREIGN POLICY (NET)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
Middle East peace process	2	--
Efforts for peace	2	--
Improvements in foreign policy/world affairs	1	1
Iraq situation/No loss of life/Ensuring peace	*	3
<b>OTHER POSITIVE COMMENTS (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
Good job he has done/Accomplishments	2	6
Good/Great president	2	--
His concern for the common man/working people/poor/less fortunate	1	2
Good communicator	*	--
<b>OTHER NEGATIVE COMMENTS (NET)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Lying/Lack of honesty/Ability to spin the truth	2	3
Negative personal comment	1	--
<b>DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
Don't Know/Can't think of anything	3	13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Bush Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

		----- Clinton -----							Reagan		
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Aug	Jan	Sept	May	Feb
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1987</u>
24	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	28	31	49	60	51	56	50	52	46	52
64	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	59	53	36	27	37	38	34	35	41	38
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 Thinking about the major problems facing the country, would you say President Bush has made progress toward solving these problems, tried but failed to solve these problems, not addressed these problems, or made these problems even worse?

		-----Clinton-----		
		Early		
		Jan	Sept	Oct
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1995</u>
13	Made progress	52	45	24
34	Tried but failed	27	34	50
11	Not addressed	9	9	11
37	Made problems worse	6	9	12
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.13 How do you get most of your news about national and international issues? From [READ AND RANDOMIZE]? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

	Tele- vision	News- papers	Radio	Maga- zines	Internet	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) Don't Know/ Refused
December, 2008	70	35	18	5	40	2	1
September, 2007	74	34	13	2	24	2	1
July, 2007	65	27	15	2	26	2	1
Late September, 2006	74	37	16	4	21	3	1
August, 2006	72	36	14	4	24	2	1
November, 2005	73	36	16	2	20	2	*
<b>Early Sept, 2005<sup>2</sup> (Hurricane Katrina)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	*	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	*
June, 2005	74	44	22	5	24	2	1
December, 2004	74	46	21	4	24	2	3
October, 2003	80	50	18	4	20	2	1
August, 2003	79	46	15	3	18	2	1
Early July, 2003	79	45	16	5	19	1	*
<b>March, 2003 (War in Iraq)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	*	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	*
February, 2003	83	42	19	4	15	3	*
January, 2003	81	44	22	4	17	2	1
January, 2002	82	42	21	3	14	2	*
<b>Mid-September, 2001 (Terror Attacks)</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	*	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Early September, 2001	74	45	18	6	13	1	*
February, 2001	76	40	16	4	10	2	1
October, 1999	80	48	19	5	11	2	*
January, 1999	82	42	18	4	6	2	*
January, 1996	88	61	25	8	--	2	*
September, 1995	82	63	20	10	--	1	1
January, 1994	83	51	15	10	--	5	1
September, 1993	83	60	17	9	--	3	*
January, 1993	83	52	17	5	--	1	1
<b>Early January, 1991 (Persian Gulf)</b>	82	40	15	4	--	1	*

<sup>2</sup>

In Early September 2005, the question was worded "news about the impact of Hurricane Katrina." In March 2003, the question was worded "news about the war in Iraq," and in Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "news about the terrorist attacks." In September 1995, question wording did not include "international." In Early January 1991 the question asked about "the latest developments in the Persian Gulf."

**IF '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.13 ASK:**

Q.14 On television, do you get most of your news about national and international issues from [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 2 THRU 4 AND 5 THRU 7 SEPARATELY, AND RANDOMIZE SETS OF ITEMS (LOCAL; NETWORK; CABLE). ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

		<i>Hurricane Katrina</i>										
		Early						Early				
<b>BASED ON TOTAL [N=1,489]:</b>		Sept	July	Aug	Nov	Sept	June	Dec	Oct	Aug	July	Jan
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
15	Local news programming	18	12	13	16	19	13	15	17	17	17	16
12	ABC Network news	11	10	10	14	14	12	11	12	12	12	11
9	CBS Network news	8	7	9	12	8	9	9	8	10	11	11
10	NBC Network news	13	11	12	15	12	12	14	13	15	14	15
23	CNN Cable news	22	16	24	24	31	18	20	20	26	27	28
8	MSNBC Cable news	7	5	6	8	9	5	6	6	7	9	8
17	The Fox News Cable Channel	16	17	20	22	22	16	19	17	18	22	16
4	Other (VOL.)	3	2	6	5	3	2	3	--	3	3	4
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	1	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.15 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements, 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; READ OPTIONS IN ORDER) (AFTER CHOICE IS MADE, PROBE: Do you feel STRONGLY about that, or not?)

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
a.	Government is almost always wasteful and inefficient	57	47	48	--	--	52	51	--	59	56	--	63	63	64	66
	46 Strongly	50	38	38	--	--	43	41	--	49	48	--	53	51	54	54
	7 Not Strongly	7	9	10	--	--	9	10	--	10	8	--	10	12	10	12
	Government often does a better job than people give it credit for	35	45	46	--	--	40	43	--	36	39	--	34	34	32	31
	40 Strongly	25	28	28	--	--	27	28	--	23	25	--	20	19	19	17
	27 Not Strongly	10	17	18	--	--	13	15	--	13	14	--	14	15	13	14
	13 Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	8	8	6	--	--	8	6	--	5	5	--	3	3	4	3
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>			<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100				100	100		100	100		100	100	100	100

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
b.	Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest	50	49	--	54	50	--	48	--	--	45	--	45	43	38	41
	47 Strongly	38	32	--	39	35	--	32	--	--	29	--	28	25	24	24
	35 Not Strongly	12	17	--	15	15	--	16	--	--	16	--	17	18	14	17
	Government regulation of business usually does more harm than good	38	41	--	36	41	--	44	--	--	46	--	50	51	55	54
	43 Strongly	31	30	--	27	31	--	32	--	--	33	--	37	38	41	39
	36 Not Strongly	7	11	--	9	10	--	12	--	--	13	--	13	13	14	15
	7 Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	12	10	--	10	9	--	8	--	--	9	--	5	6	7	5
	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>8</u>			<u>9</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100		100	100		100				100		100	100	100	100

3

In Early September 2005, the question was worded: "Have you been getting most of your news about the disaster from ..."

**Q.15 CONTINUED...**

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
c.	The government should do more to help needy Americans, even if it means going deeper into debt	51	57	--	--	--	--	57	--	--	46	49	47	46	50	48
55	Strongly	42	46	--	--	--	--	44	--	--	36	42	35	33	39	35
46	Not Strongly	9	11	--	--	--	--	13	--	--	10	7	12	13	11	13
9																
	The government today can't afford to do much more to help the needy	37	33	--	--	--	--	35	--	--	44	44	47	47	43	47
35	Strongly	28	22	--	--	--	--	23	--	--	31	34	31	34	31	32
26	Not Strongly	9	11	--	--	--	--	12	--	--	13	10	16	13	12	15
9																
<u>10</u>	Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	--	--	--	--	<u>8</u>	--	--	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100					100			100	100	100	100	100	100

**NO ITEM d.**

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
e.	Business corporations make too much profit	59	53	51	58	54	54	52	--	51	51	--	53	51	50	52
58	Strongly	52	46	43	51	44	46	42	--	43	43	--	44	42	40	43
51	Not Strongly	7	7	8	7	10	8	10	--	8	8	--	9	9	10	9
7																
	Most corporations make a fair and reasonable amount of profit	33	39	42	33	39	38	42	--	43	42	--	43	44	44	43
35	Strongly	23	25	27	22	24	28	29	--	28	27	--	27	26	28	27
24	Not Strongly	10	14	15	11	15	10	13	--	15	15	--	16	18	16	16
11																
<u>7</u>	Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	--	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	--	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100	100	100

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
f.	There are no real limits to growth in this country today	41	51	--	--	--	--	54	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
40	Strongly	31	36	--	--	--	--	38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33
32	Not Strongly	10	15	--	--	--	--	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
8																
	People in this country should learn to live with less	49	41	--	--	--	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45
53	Strongly	41	30	--	--	--	--	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
44	Not Strongly	8	11	--	--	--	--	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
9																
<u>7</u>	Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	--	--	--	--	<u>6</u>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<u>4</u>
100		100	100					100								100

**Q.15 CONTINUED...**

		Early														
		Oct	Dec	Jun	Jul	Feb	Sep	Aug	Oct	Jun	Oct	Apr	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul
		<u>08</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>
g.	As Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want	64	59	--	--	--	59	63	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	52
68	58 Strongly	56	45	--	--	--	46	47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
	10 Not Strongly	8	14	--	--	--	13	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
	This country can't solve many of its important problems	29	36	--	--	--	36	32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45
27	22 Strongly	25	27	--	--	--	29	24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
	5 Not Strongly	4	9	--	--	--	7	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15
	<u>5</u> Neither/Don't know (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	--	--	--	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<u>3</u>
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>				<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>								<u>100</u>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.16 As I read a list of some problems, please tell me if you think the country is making progress, losing ground, or if things are about the same as they have been. First, **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**, Do you think the country is making progress, losing ground, or are things about the same as they have been when it comes to **[ITEM]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you think the country is making progress, losing ground, or are things about the same as they have been on this issue?]**<sup>4</sup>

		(VOL.)			
		Making	About	Losing	Don't
		<u>Progress</u>	<u>The Same</u>	<u>Ground</u>	<u>Know</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:</b>					
aF1.	The way the health care system is working				
	December, 2008	8	33	56	3=100
	February, 2007	13	24	60	3=100
	May, 2005	9	25	62	4=100
	March, 2002	16	25	54	5=100
	February, 2001	13	29	53	5=100
	November, 1997	16	26	54	4=100
	December, 1996	20	25	52	3=100
	April, 1995	14	30	53	3=100
	March, 1994	16	31	49	4=100
bF1.	The availability of good-paying jobs				
	December, 2008	5	21	72	2=100
	February, 2007	16	32	47	5=100
	May, 2005	15	25	55	5=100
	March, 2002	21	22	51	6=100
	February, 2001	33	26	36	5=100
	November, 1997	31	28	37	4=100
	December, 1996	19	26	51	4=100
	April, 1995	17	24	55	4=100
	March, 1994	10	23	63	4=100

<sup>4</sup>

Before December 2008, this question was worded: "Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting this country today. (First,) do you think the problem of **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** is ABOUT THE SAME as it has been, that the country is MAKING PROGRESS in this area, or that the country is LOSING GROUND?" In February 1989, the question wording did not ask about "this country today," and the response choices were "a problem that is no better or no worse than it had been, a problem where progress is being made, or a problem where we are losing ground."

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

					(VOL.)
		<u>Making</u>	<u>About</u>	<u>Losing</u>	<u>Don't</u>
		<u>Progress</u>	<u>The Same</u>	<u>Ground</u>	<u>Know</u>
cF1.	The federal budget deficit				
	December, 2008	3	15	79	3=100
	February, 2007	8	20	64	8=100
	May, 2005	6	19	65	10=100
	November, 1997	32	30	29	9=100
	December, 1996	23	24	48	5=100
	April, 1995	15	21	60	4=100
	March, 1994	11	21	60	8=100
	February, 1989 <sup>5</sup>	16	27	50	7=100
dF1.	The gap between rich and poor				
	December, 2008	5	32	59	4=100
	February, 2007	7	27	63	3=100
	February, 1989	8	30	58	4=100
e.F1	Low moral and ethical standards				
	December, 2008	10	30	56	4=100
	February, 2007	8	32	55	5=100
	March, 2002	14	28	53	5=100
	November, 1997	9	28	56	7=100
	December, 1996	12	24	62	2=100
	April, 1995	7	20	70	3=100
	March, 1994	6	29	63	2=100
f.F1	Illegal immigration				
	December, 2008	10	34	51	5=100
	February, 2007	11	25	59	5=100
	May, 2005	11	29	52	8=100
	November, 1997	13	29	48	10=100
	December, 1996	15	32	47	6=100
	April, 1995	9	23	62	6=100
	March, 1994	9	22	58	11=100
g.F1	The financial condition of Medicare				
	December, 2008	6	31	53	10=100
	May, 2005	5	26	56	13=100
h.F1	Our ability to compete economically with other countries				
	December, 2008	8	30	58	4=100
	March, 1994	24	26	43	7=100

**NO ITEMS i. OR j.**

<sup>5</sup>

In February 1989, the item was "the budget deficit."

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

					(VOL.)
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:</b>		<u>Making</u>	<u>About</u>	<u>Losing</u>	<u>Don't</u>
		<u>Progress</u>	<u>The Same</u>	<u>Ground</u>	<u>Know</u>
k.F2	International terrorism				
	December, 2008	32	37	28	3=100
	February, 2007	30	27	38	5=100
	May, 2005	36	28	31	5=100
	March, 2002	40	14	40	6=100
	April, 1995	19	40	36	5=100
	March, 1994	20	41	35	4=100
	February, 1989	18	24	53	5=100
l.F2	The quality of public education				
	December, 2008	19	28	50	3=100
	February, 2007	24	26	45	5=100
	May, 2005	20	26	50	4=100
	March, 2002	27	22	45	6=100
	February, 2001	23	20	53	4=100
	November, 1997	26	26	46	2=100
	December, 1996	24	22	52	2=100
	April, 1995	18	20	60	2=100
	March, 1994	17	19	61	3=100
m.F2	Environmental pollution				
	December, 2008	32	31	33	4=100
	February, 2007	20	26	52	2=100
	May, 2005	21	35	37	7=100
	November, 1997	38	32	27	3=100
	December, 1996	42	26	30	2=100
	April, 1995	43	26	30	1=100
	March, 1994	37	26	34	3=100
	February, 1989	32	20	42	6=100
n.F2	The financial condition of Social Security				
	December, 2008	6	23	63	8=100
	May, 2005	6	25	63	6=100
o.F2	Poverty, hunger and homelessness				
	December, 2008	11	34	52	3=100
	March, 2002	20	33	42	5=100
	November, 1997	18	40	37	5=100
	December, 1996	14	30	54	2=100
	April, 1995	11	30	57	2=100
	March, 1994	9	32	56	3=100
	February, 1989 <sup>6</sup>	22	23	53	2=100

<sup>6</sup>

In February 1989, the item was "poverty, hunger, and homelessness in society."

**Q.16 CONTINUED ...**

			<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Don't Know</u>
p.F2	Crime	December, 2008	20	36	41	3=100
		March, 2002	27	34	35	4=100
		February, 2001	29	31	38	2=100
		November, 1997	24	30	44	2=100
		December, 1996	15	23	61	1=100
		April, 1995	9	13	77	1=100
		March, 1994	7	15	77	1=100
		February, 1989	15	19	64	2=100
q.F2	The cost of living	December, 2008	8	20	69	3=100
		April, 1995	9	28	61	2=100
		March, 1994	8	32	59	1=100
r.F2	Discrimination against minorities	December, 2008	53	28	15	4=100
		April, 1995	40	32	26	2=100
		March, 1994	38	32	25	5=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.17 And thinking about [**INSERT ITEM; OBSERVE FORM SPLIT**], do you think the U.S. is MAKING PROGRESS, LOSING GROUND, or are things are ABOUT THE SAME as they have been in the past?

			<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Don't Know</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:</b>		a.F1 The war in Iraq	36	34	26	4=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:</b>		b.F2 The war in Afghanistan	21	42	31	6=100

**NO QUESTION 18**

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.19-Q.21/Q.22-Q.23 IN BLOCKS**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.19 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Don't know/Refused</u>
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1=100
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1=100
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1=100
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1=100
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1=100
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1=100
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*=100
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1=100
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2=100
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1=100

**Q.19 CONTINUED...**

	(VOL.)				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1=100
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 <sup>7</sup>	2	29	42	26	1=100

**ASK IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ONLY FAIR OR POOR (3,4 IN Q.19):**

Q.19a Do you think the U.S. economy is just having a few problems, is in a recession, or is in a depression?

		Nov	Late	Early	Late	July	March
		<u>2008</u>	<u>Oct 2008</u>	<u>Oct 2008</u>	<u>Sept 2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
7	Excellent/Good	7	7	9	7	10	11
92	Only fair/Poor	92	92	90	92	89	88
6	Just having a few problems	11	12	11	12	14	14
64	In a recession	58	58	54	56	54	56
20	In a depression	18	19	22	21	18	15
2	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	5	3	3	3	3	3
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTION 20**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.21 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?

	(VOL.)			
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Don't Know/Refused</u>
December, 2008	43	17	36	4=100
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8=100
July, 2008	30	21	41	8=100
March, 2008	33	22	39	6=100
January, 2008	20	26	48	6=100
September, 2007	19	23	53	5=100

<sup>7</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

	(VOL.)			
	Don't Know/			
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Refused</u>
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 ( <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

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.19-Q.21/Q.22-Q.23 IN BLOCKS**

Now thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.22 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?

	(VOL.)				
	Don't Know/				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1=100
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1=100
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2=100
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2=100
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2=100
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2=100
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2=100
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1=100
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

**Q.22 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
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 (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</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 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>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4=100
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6=100
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7=100
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5=100
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4=100
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

**Q.23 CONTINUED...**

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.24 Compared with others around the country, do you think current economic conditions are hurting you more, less, or about the same as most others?

19	More
22	Less
56	About the same
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.25 Next, I'd like to ask you a few questions about what you think will happen in the next year. First, do you think [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] will increase, decrease or stay about the same? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	Stay About <u>the Same</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.F1	Unemployment				
	December, 2008	63	17	18	2=100
	February, 1989	32	20	43	5=100
b.F1	Inflation				
	December, 2008	47	11	37	5=100
	February, 1989	64	6	26	4=100
c.F1	Taxes				
	December, 2008	55	10	32	3=100
	February, 1989	76	3	19	2=100
d.F1	Interest rates				
	December, 2008	31	32	32	5=100
	February, 1989	67	7	21	5=100

**NO QUESTIONS 26-28**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.29 In considering the financial difficulties of major banks and financial institutions, do you feel that it is a bad situation but the worst is behind us, or do you think the problem may get worse in the future?

32 Worst is behind us  
62 Problem will get worse in the future  
6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
100

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

In considering the financial difficulties of the savings and loans institutions, do you feel that it is a bad situation but the worst is behind us, or do you think the problem may get worse in the future?

	May <u>1990</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>
Worst is behind us	28	23
Problem will get worse in the future	59	64
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

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

50 Full-time  
13 Part-time  
37 Not employed  
\* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
100

**IF NOT FULL TIME (2-9 IN EMPLOY) [N=796]:**

RETIRED Are you currently retired?

40 Yes  
4 Yes, semi-retired or "still do some type of work" (VOL.)  
56 No  
\* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 Over the past 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your household has been without a job and looking for work, or not?

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>	May <u>2005</u>
35	Yes	28	31
65	No	71	69
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100

**ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (1 or 2 in EMPLOY) [N=881]:**

Q.31 How would you rate the financial condition of the company or organization that employs you? Would you say it is in excellent financial shape, good shape, only fair shape or in poor shape?

		Early	Early	--- U.S. News & World Report ---				
		Oct	Feb	June	Oct	Aug	May	Jan
		2008	2008	2001	1992	1992	1992	1992
20	Excellent shape	22	30	31	27	23	25	22
43	Good shape	44	39	39	38	40	40	39
27	Only fair shape	25	21	20	23	26	22	24
8	Poor shape	5	6	7	10	9	11	12
1	Does not apply (VOL.)	2	2	2	--	--	--	--
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.32 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 are	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	jobs available	difficult to find	Lots of some jobs,	DK/ Refused
			few of others	
December, 2008	19	73	4	4=100
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7=100
July, 2008	31	58	4	7=100
April, 2008	30	61	4	5=100
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8=100
November, 2007	41	48	4	7=100
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 U.S. News & World Report	15	76	6	3=100
May, 1992 U.S. News & World Report	16	77	4	3=100
January, 1992 U.S. News & World Report	12	79	6	3=100

**ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME (1,2 IN EMPLOY) [N=881]:**

Q.33 And what about the job opportunities available to you? Do you think there are plenty of jobs in your line of work available in your community, or are jobs in your line of work difficult to find?

		Early Feb <u>2008</u>	<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> May <u>1992</u>
38	Plenty of jobs available	48	32
56	Jobs are difficult to find	46	63
2	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL.)	3	2
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 34-35**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.36 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?

		Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>
11	Gone up a lot	19	20	28	28
11	Gone up a little	14	13	18	22
33	Gone down a little	29	32	23	25
34	Gone down a lot	25	24	18	15
5	Stayed about the same (VOL.)	4	5	3	3
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 37-38**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 In general, how easy is it for you to afford the things in life that you want — very easy, easy, difficult or very difficult?

		Early Oct <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	June <u>2002</u>	June <u>2001</u>	<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> Jan <u>1992</u>
6	Very Easy	8	9	5	7	4
37	Easy	41	43	44	43	35
40	Difficult	37	33	37	36	46
15	Very Difficult	11	12	11	12	12
<u>2</u>	Don't Know/Ref (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 How easy or difficult is it for you and your family to afford [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] – very easy, easy, difficult or very difficult? How about [NEXT ITEM]?<sup>8</sup>

		Very easy	Easy	Difficult	Very difficult	N/A	(VOL.) Don't know/ Refused
a.	Food						
	December, 2008	9	60	25	4	*	2=100
	July, 2008	10	50	30	8	*	2=100
	Early February, 2008	14	57	22	5	*	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August, 1992	11	65	18	5	*	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May, 1992	12	66	18	3	*	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January, 1992	7	68	21	3	*	1=100
b.	Health care						
	December, 2008	7	44	29	16	1	3=100
	July, 2008	9	40	30	16	2	3=100
	Early February, 2008	11	39	29	16	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August, 1992	7	39	32	19	2	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May, 1992	10	42	29	15	3	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January, 1992	6	43	29	16	4	2=100
c.	Taxes						
	December, 2008	3	38	41	11	3	4=100
	July, 2008	5	35	40	12	3	5=100
	Early February, 2008	6	36	37	14	3	4=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	3	32	43	17	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	4	30	46	15	3	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	2	33	45	13	4	3=100
d.	Savings for retirement						
	December, 2008	2	23	39	25	8	3=100
	July, 2008	5	23	37	22	10	3=100
	Early February, 2008	5	28	34	22	8	3=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	3	22	36	29	9	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	2	21	38	24	13	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	2	22	37	23	14	2=100
e.	Your home heating and electric bills <sup>9</sup>						
	December, 2008	7	46	32	10	2	3=100
	July, 2008	6	41	38	11	1	3=100
	Early February, 2008	8	44	33	11	2	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	August 1992	7	54	29	8	1	1=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	May 1992	9	54	28	6	1	2=100
<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report:</i>	January 1992	4	55	31	7	1	2=100
f.	Gasoline						
	December, 2008	10	57	21	6	5	1=100
	July, 2008	4	23	42	26	3	2=100
	Early February, 2008	5	30	38	22	3	2=100

**NO QUESTIONS 41-45**

<sup>8</sup> In 1992, the question was worded: "How easy is it for you and your family to afford" the items.

<sup>9</sup> In 1992, category was "Heating oil, gas and electric."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Some people think that the federal government cannot fix the economy so easily these days because the U.S. is part of a global economy. Others believe that the government still has the power to fix the economy. Which of these comes closer to your view?

		Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>
35	The government can't fix it so easily	37	26
59	The government still has the power to fix it	56	68
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 As you think about your OWN financial situation, which of the following economic issues worries you MOST right now? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		Early Oct <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
31	Rising prices	38	49
29	Problems in the financial markets	31	14
26	The job situation	18	19
9	Declining real estate values	8	12
1	Other (VOL.)	2	2
2	None / not worried about any (VOL.)	1	2
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 48-49****ASK ALL:**

Q.50 As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?

		-NII- Nov 14-17 <u>2008</u>	Mid Oct <u>2008</u>	Late Sept <u>2008</u> <sup>10</sup>	-NII- Sept 19-22 <u>2008</u>
47	Right thing	40	47	45	57
43	Wrong thing	43	37	38	30
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASKED OF FIRST-NIGHT RESPONDENTS ONLY; RESULTS USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES****ASK FORM 1 ONLY IF ANSWER GIVEN (1,2 IN Q.50F1):**

Q.51F1 What's the main reason you think this is the [INSERT ANSWER FROM Q.50F1] to do?  
[OPEN END; DO NOT PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

Q.51F1 RESULTS NOT SHOWN; USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

<sup>10</sup>

In Late September 2008 and in the Sept. 19-22 *News Interest Index* the question was worded, "As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word "committing" instead of "investing" showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

**NO QUESTION 52**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.53 As you may know, the government is considering several other proposals to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to spend billions of dollars [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

		Right <u>thing</u>	Wrong <u>thing</u>	(VOL.) Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	To substantially increase spending on roads, bridges, and other public works projects	70	24	6=100
b.	To help homeowners facing foreclosure on mortgages they cannot afford	49	43	8=100
c.	In loans to General Motors, Ford and Chrysler to keep them in business	39	54	7=100

**ASKED OF FIRST NIGHT RESPONDENTS ONLY; RESULTS USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES  
ASK FORM 2 ONLY IF ANSWER GIVEN (1,2 IN Q.53c):**

Q.54F2 Thinking about the government giving loans to General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, what's the main reason you think this is the [INSERT ANSWER FROM Q.53c] to do? [OPEN END; DO NOT PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

Q.54F2 RESULTS NOT SHOWN; USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

**NO QUESTIONS 55-57**

On another subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.58F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job President-elect Obama has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future to the American people?

		<b>Bush</b>	<b>Clinton</b>	<i>Gallup</i> <b>Bush</b>
		Jan	Jan	March
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1989</u>
72	Approve	50	62	65
18	Disapprove	36	24	28
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100

**NO QUESTION 59**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.60F1 So far, would you say you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's cabinet choices and other high level appointments?

		<i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>		<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>		
		<b>Bush</b>	<b>Clinton</b>	<i>ABC</i>	<i>Harris</i>	
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	
		<u>2001</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1981</u> <sup>11</sup>	
71	Approve	58	64	59	52	<i>Excellent/Good</i>
17	Disapprove	16	15	15	34	<i>Only fair/Poor</i>
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<i>Don't know</i>
100		100	100	100	100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:**

Q.61F2 Do you think Barack Obama has done an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job of explaining how he would handle the current problems with financial institutions and markets?

		<b>RVs</b>
		<u>Early Oct 2008</u>
19	Excellent	13
38	Good	35
21	Only fair	31
12	Poor	16
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>5</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:**

Q.62F2 What's your opinion of the cabinet choices and other high level appointments Barack Obama has made so far... Do you think they are too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

		<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>	
		<b>Bush</b>	
		<u>Jan 2001</u>	
15	Too liberal	21	<i>Too conservative</i>
3	Too conservative	7	<i>Too moderate</i>
68	About right	50	<i>About right</i>
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>22</u>	<i>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</i>
100		100	

**NO QUESTIONS 63-64**

<sup>11</sup>

In 1981, the question was worded: "Now let me ask you about President-elect Reagan's Cabinet appointments. How would you rate his appointment of... the cabinet as a whole? Would you say it was an excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor appointment?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.65 Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of Barack Obama's top advisors worked in the Clinton administration?

		<b>Bush</b> <u>Jan 2001</u> <sup>12</sup>
63	Good thing	56
22	Bad thing	29
7	Neither/Doesn't matter (VOL.)	n/a
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15
100		100

On another subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.66 As a result of what's been happening with the economy lately, have you **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: As a result of what's been happening with the economy lately,] Have you [NEXT ITEM] or not? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]**<sup>13</sup>

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Don't know/</u> <u>Refused</u>
a.F1	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements			
	December, 2008	44	54	2=100
	Early October, 2008	38	61	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	29	70	1=100
b.F1	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car			
	December, 2008	39	60	1=100
	Early October, 2008	36	63	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	23	77	*=100
c.F1	Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance			
	December, 2008	45	54	1=100
	Early October, 2008	39	60	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	30	69	1=100
d.F1	Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel			
	December, 2008	62	37	1=100
	Early October, 2008	59	40	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	48	51	1=100
e.F1	Adjusted your plans for retirement			
	December, 2008	32	66	2=100
	Early October, 2008	26	73	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	23	75	2=100

<sup>12</sup> In 2001, the question was worded: "Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of George W. Bush's top advisors worked in his father's administration?"

<sup>13</sup> In the September 19-22, 2008 News Interest Index the question was worded "As a result of what has been happening with the economy lately, have you done any of the following?"

**Q.66 CONTINUED...**

		(VOL.)		
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
f.F1	Changed the way your money is saved or invested			
	December, 2008	60	39	1=100
	Early October, 2008	48	51	1=100
	Sept. 19-22, 2008, NII	39	61	*=100
g.F1	Been eating out at restaurants less often			
	December, 2008	58	41	1=100
	Early October, 2008	55	43	2=100
h.F1	Cut back on how much you will spend on holiday gifts this year			
	December, 2008	73	27	*=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=723]:**

Q.67 Thinking about your personal finances, have you done any of the following lately? (First,) Have you **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not? **[IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]**

		(VOL.)		
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.F2	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new home or make major home improvements	36	63	1=100
b.F2	Delayed or canceled plans to buy a new car	33	67	*=100
c.F2	Delayed or canceled plans to make a major purchase for your household, such as a computer or appliance	44	56	*=100
d.F2	Cut back on planned spending for vacation travel	57	42	1=100
e.F2	Adjusted your plans for retirement	27	72	1=100
f.F2	Changed the way your money is saved or invested	48	51	1=100
g.F2	Been eating out at restaurants less often	55	44	1=100
h.F2	Cut back on how much you will spend on holiday gifts this year	72	26	2=100

**IF CHANGED SPENDING HABITS (1 IN Q66b, Q66c, Q66d, Q66g, Q66h Q67b, Q67c, Q67d, Q67g, Q67h)**

**ASK [N=1,252]:**

Q.68 In general, have you been cutting back on spending because your financial situation has **GOTTEN** worse and made such cutbacks necessary, or because you worry that your financial situation **MIGHT GET** worse in the future?

28	Financial situation has gotten worse
59	Worry that it might get worse in the future
4	Both (VOL.)
5	Other (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK ALL:**

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

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:**

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3=100	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3=100	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3=100	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3=100	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

**ASK ALL:**

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

	Professional or			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Business</u>	<u>Working</u>	<u>Struggling</u>	More than one/ <u>None</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
December, 2008	32	44	19	3	2=100
Early October, 2008	31	48	15	4	2=100
April, 2008	33	42	17	6	2=100
Early February, 2008	32	47	15	3	3=100
January, 2008	33	46	12	6	3=100
December, 2007	30	46	15	6	3=100
September, 2007	35	46	12	4	3=100
August, 2007	34	44	13	7	2=100
January, 2007	30	47	16	5	2=100
October, 2006	34	45	15	4	2=100
January, 2006	32	46	14	4	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	32	45	15	5	3=100
February, 2004 <i>GAP</i>	32	47	15	4	2=100
August, 2003	31	47	14	6	2=100
June, 2003	31	44	15	8	2=100
June, 2002	31	47	14	5	3=100
February, 2002	32	46	14	6	2=100
June, 2001	29	47	15	6	3=100

**ASK ALL:**

OWNRENT Do you own or rent your home?

66	Own
29	Rent
4	Other arrangement (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**IF 'OWN' (1 IN OWNRENT) ASK [N=1,100]:**

MORTGAGE Do you pay money on a mortgage or other home loan, or is your home paid for?

66	Pay a mortgage
32	Paid for
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	