

Looking Backward and Forward, Americans See Less Progress in Their Lives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Social Trends Report

Looking Backward and Forward, Americans See Less Progress in Their Lives

In the past four years, some of the edge has come off good old American optimism.

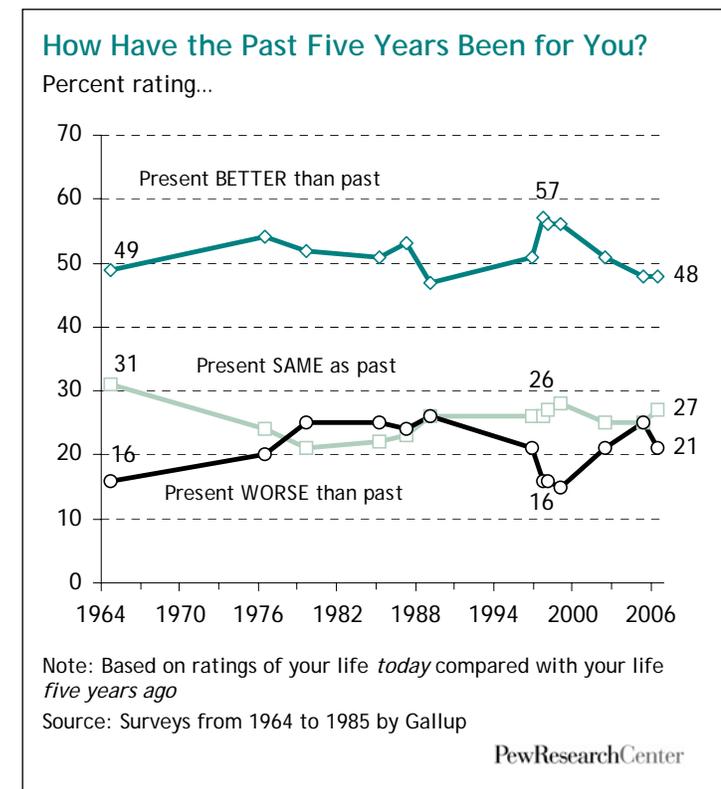
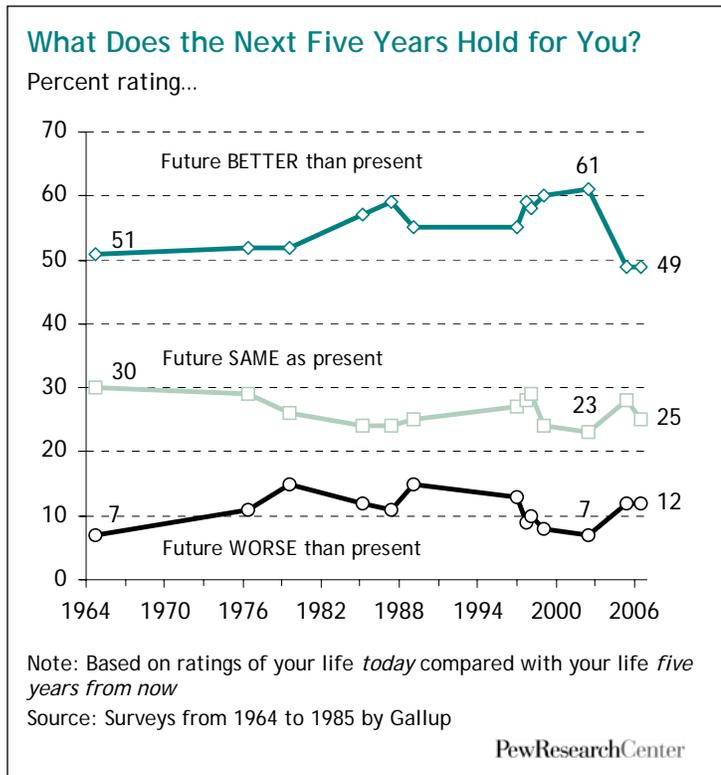
Just under half (49%) of the respondents in a new Pew Research Center survey rate the quality of the life they expect to be leading five years from now higher than their current quality of life. As recently as 2002, more than six-in-ten (61%) Americans said their future would be better than their present.

The new Pew survey also finds that a quarter of adults rate their life five years from now the same as they rate their current life, while just 12% rate the future worse (the remaining 14% say they aren't sure). Thus, looking at only the "worse" and "better" ratings, Americans continue to tilt heavily positive—by a ratio of four-to-one—in their outlook about the future.

Even so, the downturn in personal optimism since 2002 is the sharpest recorded in the more than 40 years that both Pew and the Gallup organization have been conducting this "ladder of life" survey.¹

In the 2006 Pew survey, as in all previous surveys in this series, Americans rate the present above the past and the future above the present. However, taking into account all three sets of ratings (past, present, future), Americans are on average about one-third less upbeat about the trajectory of their lives now than they were in 1999, at the height of a prolonged economic boom.

The Pew telephone survey was conducted from June 20 through July 16, 2006 among a



¹ This battery of questions was developed by Hadley Cantril and colleagues and has been asked by a number of different organizations over the years. See Cantril, Hadley. 1965. *The Pattern of Human Concerns*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

nationally representative sample of 2,003 adults. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

The ladder of life series employs what researchers call a “self-anchoring scale.” Respondents are first asked to give a numerical rating to their present quality of life. Then, having anchored themselves in the present, they are asked to rate the past and future the same way. They are not asked if they think the future (or past) is better or worse. They are simply asked, in succession, to rate three points in time on the same numerical scale.

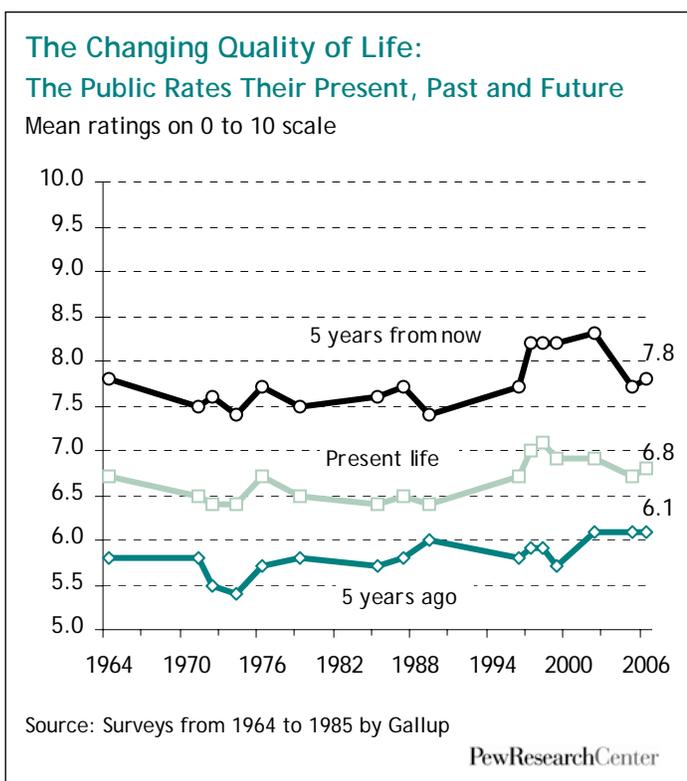
According to the 2006 survey, Americans on average give a 6.8 rating (on a zero to ten scale) to their current lives; a 6.1 rating to their lives five years ago and a 7.8 rating to the lives they expect to be leading in another five years. That adds up to an aggregate average of 1.7 rating points worth of forward progress between five years ago and five years hence.

This 1.7 figure in 2006 is a bit below the historical average of 2.0 for all surveys taken since 1964. However, it is fully a third below the 1999 figure of 2.5—the highest measure of forward progress recorded by this battery of questions.

In the seven years since 1999, the economic boom has long since passed and levels of satisfaction with the state of the nation have fallen off sharply. They are in the low 30 percent range now, down from the mid to high 50 percentage range in the late 1990s. So at a time when people have come to feel worse about the state of the nation, they are also feeling less optimistic about their own prospects for personal progress.

This correlation may seem self-evident, but it needs to be kept in perspective. Survey

researchers through the years have noted that there is very little correlation between satisfaction with one’s own current quality of life and satisfaction with the current state of the nation². The former is a stable trend that changes little over time; the latter moves up and down a lot in response to changes in the economy or other major national events. However, it is not uncommon to find a correlation between feelings about the current state of the nation and feelings about one’s *future* quality of life, as the latest Pew findings show.



² Lipset, Seymour Martin and William Schneider. 1987. *The Confidence Gap: Business, Labor and Government in the Public Mind*, second edition. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

The Trajectory of Life - Who’s Moving Ahead?

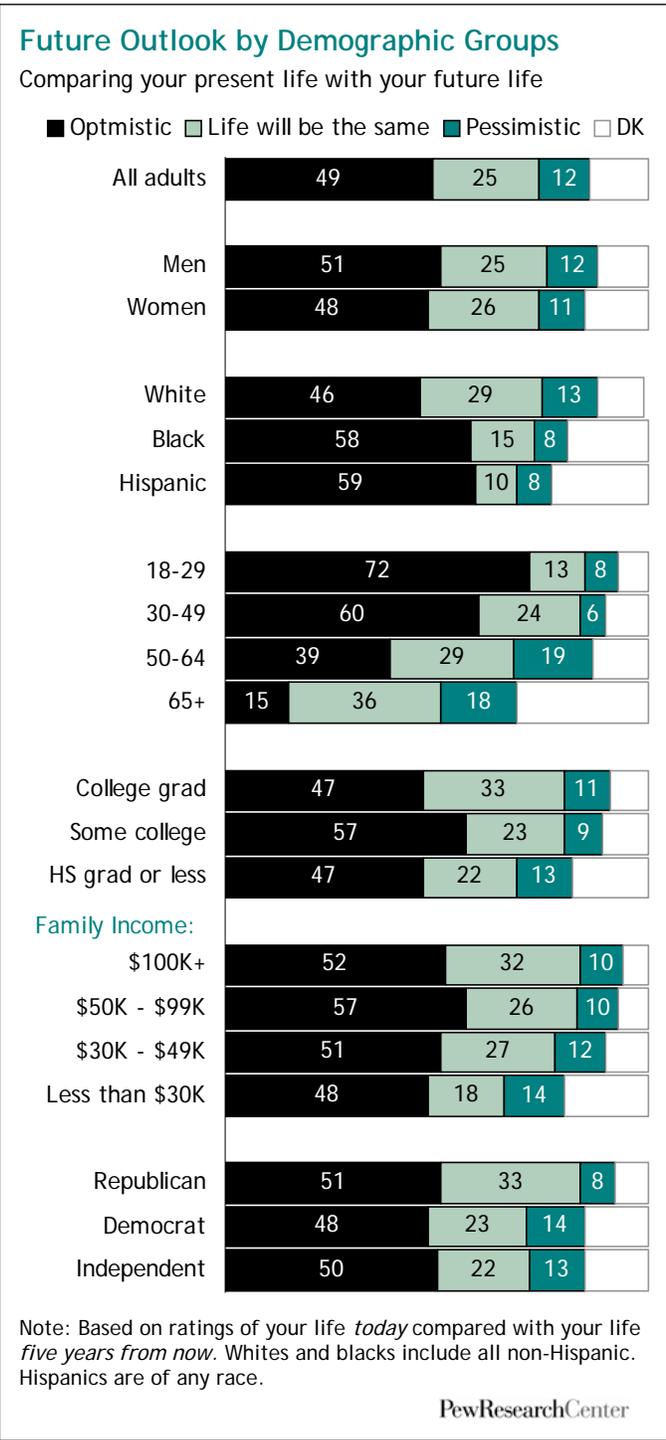
Needless to say, not all Americans are of the same mind as they assess whether they’ve made progress in life and whether they expect to make more in the future.

The groups most likely to forecast future personal progress include younger adults, blacks and Hispanics. The findings show that as people grow older, and especially as they move into their elderly years, their expectations for an improving quality of life decline sharply. Also, blacks and Hispanics are more likely than whites to forecast personal progress for themselves. (On the other hand, whites as a group place themselves considerably higher on the present ladder of life than either blacks or Hispanics place themselves.)

The groups most likely to say they have made progress over the past five years include younger adults, college graduates and people with higher incomes.

Most of these demographic differences have been present in the findings from this battery of questions over the years; however, the correlation between income levels and assessments of past progress have grown stronger over the course of the past four years.

In 2002, 45% of those in the lowest income bracket saw themselves as having made progress, compared with 57% of those in the highest bracket – a 12 percentage point gap. This year, 39% of those in the lowest bracket see themselves as having made progress, compared with 59% of those in the highest bracket – a 20 percentage point gap. This gap, while significantly larger than it was four years earlier, is not unprecedented.



Where People Stand Now

About four-in-ten (41%) Americans rate their life today on one of the top three steps of the ladder of life (from 8 to 10), three-in-ten put themselves just below that as a six or seven and 26% rate their life at the lower levels (from 0 to 5). These figures are about the same as they have been since 2002, though fewer put their life on the highest steps of the ladder today than did so in the late 1990's.

Income is strongly correlated with how people rate their present life. Two-thirds of those with incomes of \$100,000 or more place themselves on the three highest steps of the ladder (8 to 10). A quarter of those with incomes under \$30,000 do the same. A multiple regression analysis found that income was the strongest socio demographic predictor of present life evaluations.³

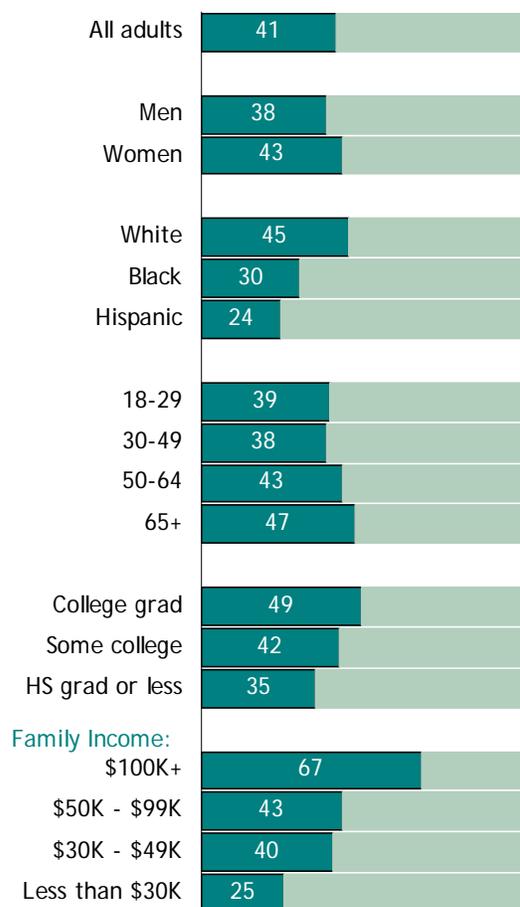
Other groups that are more likely to see themselves on the top three steps of the ladder include whites, more so than blacks or Hispanics; college graduates more so than those with less education; women more so than men; Republicans more so than either Democrats or independents; frequent church attendees more so than those who go to religious services less often; and married people more so than singles. These patterns have been present in this battery of questions over the years.

People who live in areas with low unemployment say their quality of life is higher than do people who live in areas of high unemployment. And, not surprisingly, workers who say they are satisfied with their jobs are more likely to rate their overall quality of life higher.

There are also correlations between one's level of work satisfaction and one's assessment of personal progress – although, depending on the time frame, these correlations operate in opposite directions. People who are satisfied with their job are more likely than others to say they have made progress over the past five years. However, looking forward, the opposite is true: people who are dissatisfied with their job are more likely than others to say they expect to make progress in the next five years.

Present Ratings by Demographic Groups

Percent rating their life today as 'high' on the ladder of life (steps 8-10)



Note: Whites and blacks include all non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

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³ Based on a linear regression analysis predicting ladder of life evaluations from the following independent variables: gender, race, age, education, income, party identification, marital status, having minor-age children, church attendance, and local unemployment conditions.

International Comparisons

In 2002 the Pew Global Attitudes Survey administered this same “ladder of life” battery of questions in 44 countries; it found that Americans placed in the middle to upper middle ranges compared with publics of other countries.

Looking backward, Americans were more inclined to say they had made progress than were the publics of any country surveyed in Europe or the Middle East and most of the countries surveyed in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Looking forward, Americans were more optimistic than almost all of the publics of Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, but were less optimistic than most of the publics of Africa and Asia.

How Come the Future Never Lives Up to Its Advance Billing?

Year after year, these ladder of life survey findings all share the same anomaly: the future, once it finally arrives, never measures up to today’s expectation of it. To give just one example, in 1997 the public, on average, expected to enjoy an 8.2 quality of life in 2002. But by the time 2002 rolled around, the public, on average, rated the present as just a 6.9. (See chart.)

This apparent paradox in human perception applies to self-assessments of the past as well (the public rates the past worse in retrospect than they rated it at the time). As a result, at any given moment, the public as a whole believe they were worse off in the past and will be better off in the future. That suggests a blissful state of constant human progress. But there’s just one problem: over the course of time, the public’s evaluations of the present rarely changes. So what gives?

Some psychologists have theorized that human beings are hard-wired to imagine brighter tomorrows because the act of doing so is pleasurable in and of itself.⁴ Thinkers from other disciplines have other theories. For example, economist Richard Easterlin of the University of Southern California has suggested that this paradox can be explained by the interaction between human nature and rising personal income.⁵

Over the course of their adult lives, Easterlin notes, most people acquire more money and material goods. That’s a big part of the reason they expect tomorrow to be better than today (and rate today better than yesterday). However, as people get more, they also want more—and so they never achieve the increased level of satisfaction that they thought they would.

This is neither a new insight nor a new dilemma. Back in 1776, long before survey researchers started asking their questions, writer Samuel Johnson observed: “Life is a progress from want to want, not from enjoyment to enjoyment.”

⁴ Gilbert, Daniel. 2006. *Stumbling on Happiness*. New York: Knopf.

⁵ Easterlin, Richard A. 2002. “The Income-Happiness Relationship.” In Wolfgang Glatzer, ed., *Rich and Poor: Disparities, Perceptions, Concomitants*. Boston: Kluwer Academic. pp. 157-175.

About the Pew Social Trends Reports

The Pew social trends reports explore the behaviors and attitudes of Americans in key realms of their lives – family, community, health, finance, work and leisure. Reports analyze changes over time in social behaviors and probe for differences and similarities between key sub-groups in the population.

The surveys are conducted by the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

Survey reports are the result of the collaborative effort of the social trends staff, which consists of:

Paul Taylor, Executive Vice President
Cary Funk, Senior Project Director
Peyton Craighill, Project Director

About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted with a nationally representative sample of adults, ages 18 years and older, living in continental U.S. telephone households. The sample design included a representative sample of 1,182 respondents and an oversample of 821 respondents ages 18 to 64. The data are weighted to produce a final sample that is representative of the general population of adults in the continental United States.

- Interviews conducted June 20-July 16, 2006
- 2,003 interviews
- Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level. The margin of sampling error is higher for results based on subgroups of respondents.

Survey interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

Bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias in the findings of opinion polls.

PEW SOCIAL TRENDS
 FINAL TOPLINE
 June 20 - July 16, 2006
 N=2003

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

| | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Don't know / Refused |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| June 2006 | 33 | 60 | 7=100 |
| May 2006 | 29 | 65 | 6=100 |
| March 2006 | 32 | 63 | 5=100 |
| 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 ⁶ | 50 | 41 | 9=100 |
| January 2003 | 44 | 50 | 6=100 |
| November 2002 | 41 | 48 | 11=100 |
| September 2002 ⁷ | 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 |

⁶ Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395

⁷ 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.1 CONTINUED...

| | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Don't know / Refused |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| January 1999 | 53 | 41 | 6=100 |
| 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>RIS</i>) | 50 | 45 | 5=100 |
| May 1988 | 41 | 54 | 5=100 |
| January 1988 | 39 | 55 | 6=100 |

- Q.2 Let's talk about the quality of your life. Imagine a ladder with steps numbered from 0 at the bottom to 10 at the top. Suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you; and the bottom, the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time? You can name any number between 0 and 10.

| | High (8-10) | Medium (6-7) | Low (0-5) | Don't Know/ Refused | Mean Rating |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand <u>at the present time</u> ? | 41 | 30 | 26 | 3=100 | 6.8 |
| 2005 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> ⁸ | 40 | 29 | 30 | 1=100 | 6.7 |
| 2002 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> | 43 | 32 | 24 | 1=100 | 6.9 |
| 1999 | 43 | 31 | 25 | 1=100 | 6.9 |
| 1998 | 48 | 31 | 21 | *=100 | 7.1 |
| 1997 | 47 | 31 | 22 | *=100 | 7.0 |
| 1996 | 37 | 33 | 29 | 1=100 | 6.7 |
| 1989 | 31 | 35 | 34 | *=100 | 6.4 |
| 1987 | 33 | 36 | 30 | 1=100 | 6.5 |
| 1985 <i>Gallup</i> | 31 | 36 | 33 | *=100 | 6.4 |
| 1979 <i>Gallup</i> | 34 | 31 | 33 | 2=100 | 6.5 |
| 1976 <i>Gallup</i> | 38 | 30 | 32 | *=100 | 6.7 |
| 1974 <i>Gallup</i> | 36 | 28 | 36 | *=100 | 6.4 |
| 1972 <i>Gallup</i> | 34 | 28 | 38 | *=100 | 6.4 |
| 1971 <i>Gallup</i> | 34 | 30 | 34 | 2=100 | 6.5 |
| 1964 <i>Gallup</i> | 36 | 33 | 30 | 1=100 | 6.7 |

⁸ The trends from 2005 and 2002 are from Pew Global Attitudes surveys. The question was worded "Here is a ladder representing the 'ladder of life.' Let's suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you; and the bottom, the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time?"

Q.3 And on which step would you say you stood five years ago? Zero is the worst possible life and 10 the best possible life.

| | High (8-10) | Medium (6-7) | Low (0-5) | Don't Know/ Refused | Mean Rating |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| And on which step would you say you stood <u>five years ago</u> ? | 31 | 26 | 40 | 3=100 | 6.1 |
| 2005 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> | 31 | 26 | 41 | 2=100 | 6.1 |
| 2002 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> | 32 | 23 | 43 | 2=100 | 6.1 |
| 1999 | 27 | 23 | 49 | 1=100 | 5.7 |
| 1998 | 29 | 23 | 48 | *=100 | 5.9 |
| 1997 | 28 | 25 | 46 | 1=100 | 5.9 |
| 1996 | 26 | 27 | 46 | 1=100 | 5.8 |
| 1989 | 28 | 27 | 44 | 1=100 | 6.0 |
| 1987 | 28 | 26 | 45 | 1=100 | 5.8 |
| 1985 <i>Gallup</i> | 25 | 27 | 48 | *=100 | 5.7 |
| 1979 <i>Gallup</i> | 28 | 24 | 48 | *=100 | 5.8 |
| 1976 <i>Gallup</i> | 29 | 22 | 49 | *=100 | 5.7 |
| 1974 <i>Gallup</i> | 24 | 22 | 54 | *=100 | 5.4 |
| 1972 <i>Gallup</i> | 24 | 23 | 53 | *=100 | 5.5 |
| 1971 <i>Gallup</i> | 27 | 25 | 47 | 1=100 | 5.8 |
| 1964 <i>Gallup</i> | 28 | 24 | 47 | 1=100 | 5.8 |

Q.4 And on what number step do you think you will be five years from now? Zero is the worst possible life and 10 is the best possible life.

| | High (8-10) | Medium (6-7) | Low (0-5) | Don't Know/ Refused | Mean Rating |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| And on what number step do you think you will be <u>five years from now</u> ? | 60 | 13 | 14 | 13=100 | 7.8 |
| 2005 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> | 59 | 14 | 17 | 10=100 | 7.7 |
| 2002 <i>Pew Global Attitudes</i> | 71 | 10 | 11 | 8=100 | 8.3 |
| 1999 | 69 | 14 | 10 | 7=100 | 8.2 |
| 1998 | 72 | 14 | 11 | 3=100 | 8.2 |
| 1997 | 73 | 13 | 10 | 4=100 | 8.2 |
| 1996 | 64 | 16 | 16 | 4=100 | 7.7 |
| 1989 | 56 | 21 | 18 | 5=100 | 7.4 |
| 1987 | 61 | 19 | 14 | 6=100 | 7.7 |
| 1985 <i>Gallup</i> | 59 | 19 | 16 | 6=100 | 7.6 |
| 1979 <i>Gallup</i> | 57 | 18 | 19 | 6=100 | 7.5 |
| 1976 <i>Gallup</i> | 60 | 18 | 14 | 8=100 | 7.7 |
| 1974 <i>Gallup</i> | 55 | 18 | 18 | 9=100 | 7.4 |
| 1972 <i>Gallup</i> | 58 | 17 | 16 | 9=100 | 7.6 |
| 1971 <i>Gallup</i> | 52 | 18 | 16 | 14=100 | 7.5 |
| 1964 <i>Gallup</i> | 57 | 22 | 11 | 10=100 | 7.8 |

COMPARING PRESENT TO FUTURE LIFE (Q.2 AND Q.4) Ratings of your future life compared with the present.

| | Future life will be BETTER than present | -- Future life will be the SAME as present -- Present is positive Present is negative | | Future life will be WORSE than present | Don't Know |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|---------------|
| 2006 | 49 | 21 | 4 | 12 | 14=100 |
| 2005 | 49 | 24 | 4 | 12 | 11=100 |
| 2002 | 61 | 20 | 3 | 7 | 9=100 |
| 1999 | 60 | 21 | 3 | 8 | 8=100 |
| 1998 | 58 | 26 | 3 | 10 | 3=100 |
| 1997 | 59 | 25 | 3 | 9 | 4=100 |
| 1996 | 55 | 22 | 5 | 13 | 5=100 |
| 1989 | 55 | 20 | 5 | 15 | 5=100 |
| 1987 | 59 | 20 | 4 | 11 | 6=100 |
| 1985 <i>Gallup</i> | 57 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 7=100 |
| 1979 <i>Gallup</i> | 52 | 20 | 6 | 15 | 7=100 |
| 1976 <i>Gallup</i> | 52 | 25 | 4 | 11 | 8=100 |
| 1964 <i>Gallup</i> | 51 | 25 | 5 | 7 | 12=100 |

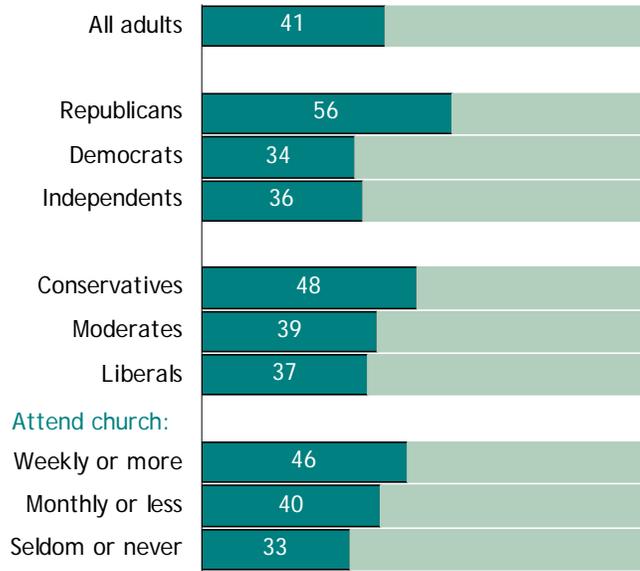
COMPARING PRESENT TO PAST LIFE (Q.2 AND Q.3) Ratings of your past life compared with the present.

| | Present life is BETTER than the past | --- Present life is the SAME as the past --- Present is positive Present is negative | | Present life is WORSE than the past | Don't Know |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------|
| 2006 | 48 | 21 | 6 | 21 | 4=100 |
| 2005 | 48 | 19 | 6 | 25 | 2=100 |
| 2002 | 51 | 20 | 5 | 21 | 3=100 |
| 1999 | 56 | 20 | 8 | 15 | 1=100 |
| 1998 | 56 | 21 | 6 | 16 | 1=100 |
| 1997 | 57 | 21 | 5 | 16 | 1=100 |
| 1996 | 51 | 20 | 6 | 21 | 2=100 |
| 1989 | 47 | 18 | 8 | 26 | 1=100 |
| 1987 | 53 | 17 | 6 | 24 | 0=100 |
| 1985 <i>Gallup</i> | 51 | 15 | 7 | 25 | 2=100 |
| 1979 <i>Gallup</i> | 52 | 15 | 6 | 25 | 2=100 |
| 1976 <i>Gallup</i> | 54 | 18 | 6 | 20 | 2=100 |
| 1964 <i>Gallup</i> | 49 | 24 | 7 | 16 | 4=100 |

QUESTION 5 TO END IN PREVIOUS RELEASE OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Present Ratings by Political Groups and Church Attendance

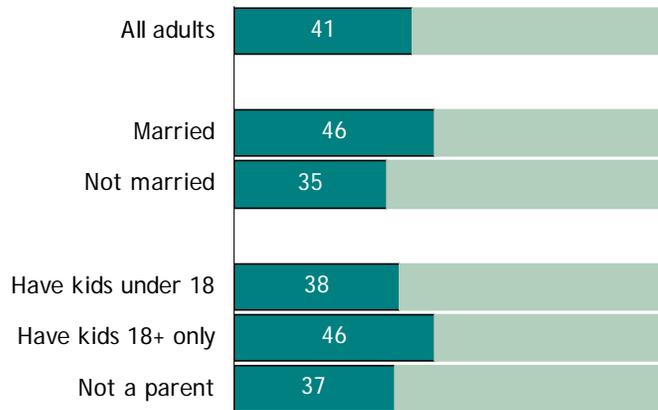
Percent rating their life today as 'high' on the ladder of life (steps 8-10)



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Present Ratings by Marital and Parenting Status

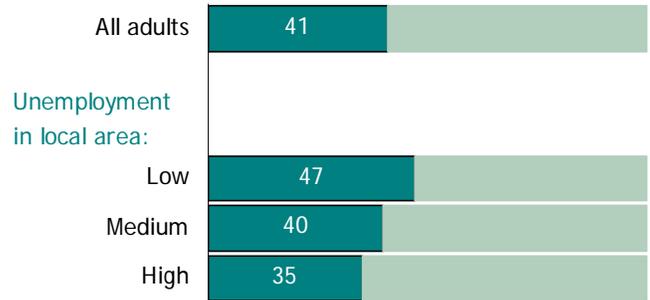
Percent rating their life today as 'high' on the ladder of life (steps 8-10)



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Present Ratings by Local Unemployment Conditions

Percent rating their life today as 'high' on the ladder of life (steps 8-10)

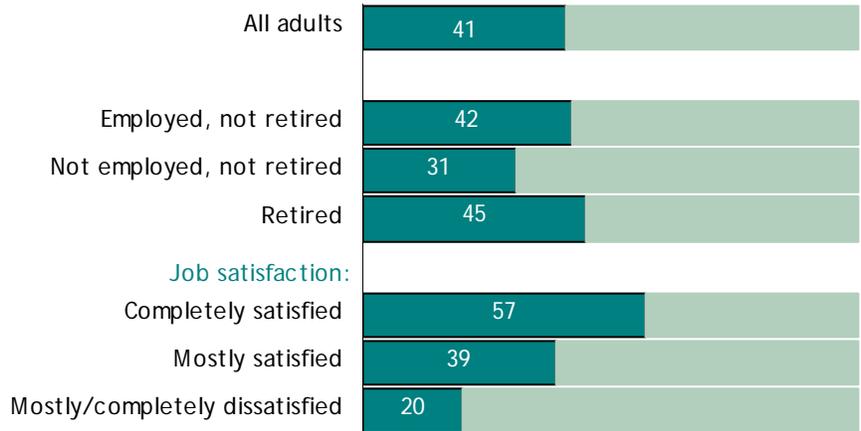


Note: Local unemployment conditions based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data of average 2005 unemployment in metropolitan or county areas.

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Present Ratings by Employment Situation

Percent rating their life today as 'high' on the ladder of life (steps 8-10)



Note: Job satisfaction asked of all employed adults.

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Present Ratings among Women

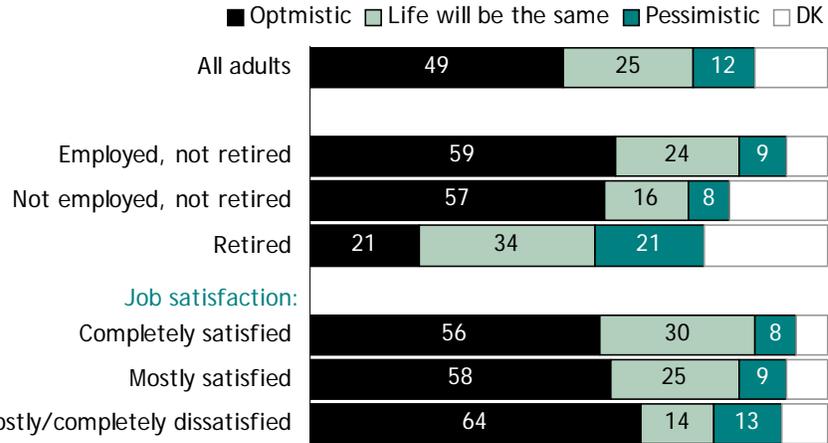
Women's ratings of their life today on a scale from 0 to 10 on the ladder of life

| | High rating (8-10) | All other ratings | Mean rating | N |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|------|
| All women | 43 | 57=100 | 6.84 | 1069 |
| Employment status | | | | |
| Working women | 46 | 54=100 | 7.00 | 621 |
| Women, not working | 40 | 60=100 | 6.66 | 444 |
| Retired women | 47 | 53=100 | 6.85 | 234 |
| Other not working | 32 | 68=100 | 6.45 | 209 |
| Parenting status | | | | |
| Have children under 18 | 38 | 62=100 | 6.67 | 414 |
| No children under 18 | 46 | 54=100 | 6.95 | 650 |
| Have children 18+ only | 49 | 51=100 | 6.95 | 409 |
| Not a mother | 43 | 57=100 | 6.94 | 241 |
| Parenting and Employment Status | | | | |
| Working mothers | 44 | 56=100 | 6.84 | 268 |
| Working, no children under 18 | 49 | 51=100 | 7.11 | 351 |
| Mothers, not working | 29 | 71=100 | 6.39 | 145 |
| Not working, no children under 18 | 45 | 55=100 | 6.78 | 297 |

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Future Outlook by Employment Situation

Comparing your present life with your future life



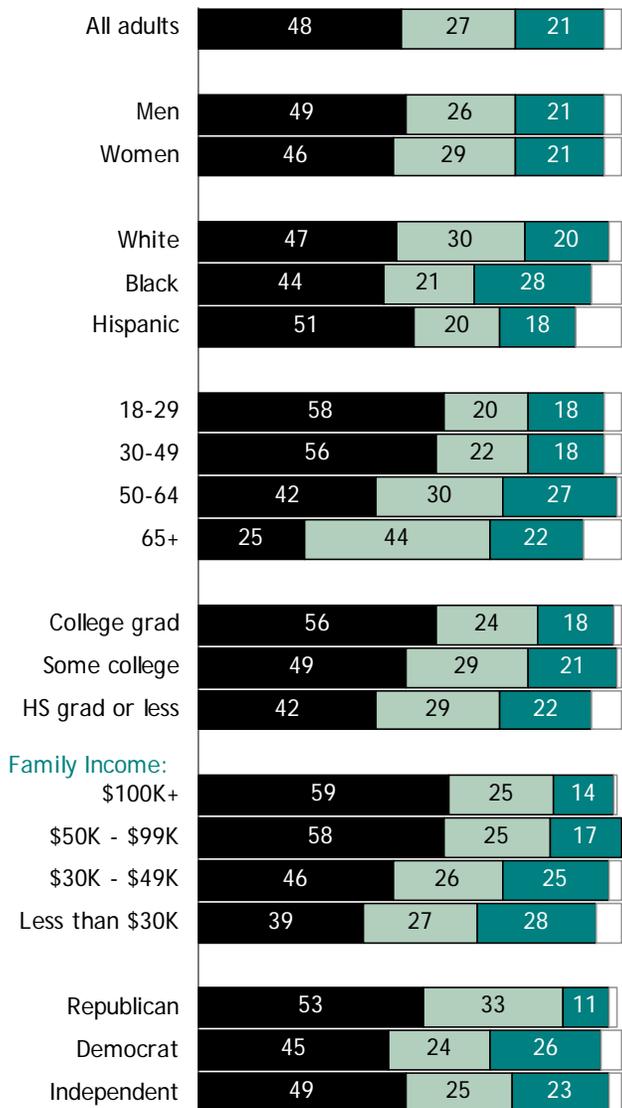
Note: Based on ratings of your life *today* compared with your life *five years from now*.
Job satisfaction asked of all employed adults.

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Comparison with Past by Demographic Groups

Comparing your present life with your past life

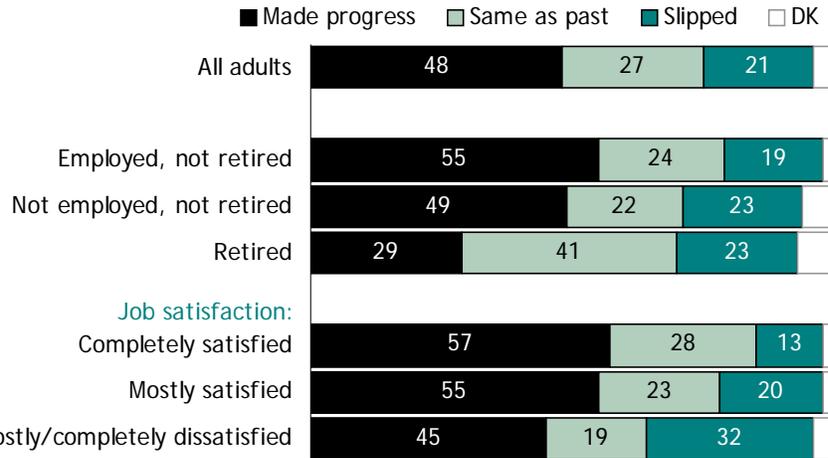
■ Made progress ■ Same as past ■ Slipped □ DK



Note: Based on ratings of your life *today* compared with your life *five years ago*. Whites and blacks include all non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Comparison with Past by Employment Situation

Comparing your present life with your past life



Note: Based on ratings of your life *today* compared with your life *five years ago*.
Job satisfaction asked of all employed adults.

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