

PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
MARCH 17-20, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,004

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2010	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1
December 16-19, 2010	39	31	14	15	2
December 9-12, 2010	39	30	14	16	1
December 2-5, 2010	52	28	11	9	*
November 18-21, 2010	46	31	11	11	*
November 11-14, 2010	38	30	15	16	1
November 4-7, 2010	44	32	11	13	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	39	34	11	15	1
October 21-24, 2010	41	29	14	14	1
October 14-17, 2010	42	33	12	13	*
October 7-10, 2010	36	33	15	15	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	43	35	10	11	1
September 23-26, 2010	43	34	13	9	1
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. The rising price of gas and oil					
March 17-20, 2011	46	28	14	12	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 24-27, 2011: <i>The rising price of oil</i>	50	29	13	8	*
June 27-30, 2008	57	26	11	5	1
March 7-10, 2008	43	33	12	11	1
November 9-12, 2007	44	28	14	13	1
October 17-20, 2008: <i>The falling price of gas and oil</i>	53	33	11	3	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>The rising price of gasoline</i>	62	25	8	4	1
June 6-9, 2008	66	19	7	7	1
May 22-25, 2008	65	22	9	4	*
May 16-19, 2008	64	21	10	4	1
May 2-5, 2008	63	23	9	4	1
April 25-28, 2008	62	23	10	5	*
May 24-27, 2007	52	29	10	8	1
May 18-21, 2007 ¹	48	27	16	8	1
August, 2006 ²	60	26	7	5	2
June, 2006	58	26	10	5	1
May, 2006	69	21	6	3	1
April, 2006	65	22	8	4	1
December, 2005	61	27	7	4	1
Early November, 2005	61	27	9	2	1
Late October, 2005	67	23	7	3	*
Early October, 2005	65	25	6	3	1
Early September, 2005	71	19	7	3	*
Mid-May, 2005	58	27	9	5	1
Mid-March, 2005	50	32	13	5	*
Mid-October, 2004	64	22	8	5	1
August, 2004	52	29	10	8	1
July, 2004	56	25	11	7	1
June, 2004	58	26	9	6	1
April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1
Early April, 2004	58	23	10	8	1
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1

¹ For May 18-21, 2007 the item was not asked as part of a list.

² From October, 2000 to August, 2006, the story was listed as "The high price of gasoline these days." From August, 1990 to June, 2000, the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1
June, 2000	61	25	9	5	*
March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*
October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*
September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*
August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1
c. The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya					
March 17-20, 2011	26	28	21	23	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON					
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Growing violence in Libya</i>	29	29	21	20	*
March 3-6, 2011	31	31	18	19	1
February 24-27, 2011	38	30	15	16	*
February 17-20, 2011: <i>News about the situation in Egypt</i>	34	32	17	16	1
February 17-20, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in other Middle Eastern and North African nations</i>	20	30	22	28	1
February 10-13, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak</i>	39	31	14	15	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
January 20-23, 2011: <i>Political instability in Tunisia following the collapse of the government</i>	7	15	25	53	1
January 13-16, 2010: <i>The collapse of the Lebanese government</i>	4	11	20	64	*
May 20-23, 2010: <i>A government crackdown on protestors in Thailand</i>	7	14	27	52	1
July 31-August 3, 2009: <i>The Iranian government's crackdown on opposition protestors</i>	18	23	26	31	2
July 2-5, 2009: <i>News about controversy surrounding the recent Iranian election</i>	22	31	23	23	*
June 26-29, 2009: <i>The Iranian government's crackdown on election protestors</i>	31	27	18	23	1
June 19-22, 2009: <i>Protests in Iran over disputed elections</i>	28	28	21	22	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>Violent protests in Tibet against the Chinese government</i>	12	27	26	35	*
September 28-October 1, 2007: <i>Pro-democracy protests by Buddhist monks in Burma</i>	13	27	20	39	1
March 17-21, 2005: <i>Protests and political changes in Lebanon</i>	10	28	25	36	1
January 6-11, 2004: <i>Reports that Libya will end its weapons program and cooperate with UN inspectors</i>	14	30	28	27	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 6-8, 2000: <i>Civil unrest and rioting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia</i>	18	27	24	31	*
January 9-12, 1997: <i>Protests and demonstrations in Belgrade against Serbian President Milosevic</i>	7	14	29	49	1
July 10-24, 1986: <i>The U.S. air strike against Libya</i>	58	27	11	3	1
d. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit					
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1990	19	30	27	23	1
July, 1990: <i>President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit</i>	30	34	22	14	*
June, 1990: <i>Special meetings between the Bush administration and congressional leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit</i>	18	33	28	20	1
April, 1990: <i>The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit</i>	10	22	26	42	*
e. News about state and local budget problems					
March 17-20, 2011	26	29	22	23	1
February 17-20, 2011	28	31	17	23	1
January 6-9, 2011	24	37	18	20	1
June 24-27, 2010	26	35	22	15	1
March 5-8, 2010	31	32	19	18	*
April 9-13, 2009	28	30	21	21	*
f. The aftermath of a major earthquake and tsunami in Japan					
March 17-20, 2011	55	31	9	4	*
March 11-13, 2011: <i>A major earthquake and tsunami off the coast of Japan</i> ³	52	29	12	7	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 24-27, 2011: <i>A major earthquake in New Zealand</i>	20	30	26	23	1
October 28-November 1, 2010: <i>A tsunami and a volcano erupting in Indonesia</i>	11	25	27	36	1

³ This item was added to polling on the second day of the field period. Data were collected March 11-13, 2011. N=671.

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 12-15, 2010: Major aftershocks in Chile following an earthquake in late February	18	41	27	14	*
March 5-8, 2010: A major earthquake in Chile	27	42	19	12	*
February 19-22, 2010: Haiti releasing most of the Americans who were accused of attempted kidnapping	16	30	29	23	*
February 12-15, 2010: The aftermath of a major earthquake and relief efforts in Haiti	37	37	17	8	*
February 5-8, 2010	42	39	13	6	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	38	13	4	*
January 22-25, 2010	50	40	8	3	*
January 15-18, 2010: A major earthquake in Haiti	60	28	8	4	*
August 14-17, 2009: A typhoon that caused flooding and mudslides in Taiwan	7	21	30	41	1
April 9-13, 2009: A major earthquake in Italy	18	35	25	22	*
May 16-19, 2008: The earthquake in China	30	41	17	12	*
May 9-12, 2008: Reports about the cyclone that hit Burma	23	35	23	19	*
November 2-5, 2007: The impact of Hurricane Noel on the Bahamas and Cuba	11	22	31	35	1
September 7-10, 2007: The impact of Hurricanes Felix and Henriette on Mexico and Central America	14	29	29	27	1
August 24-27, 2007: The destruction caused by Hurricane Dean in Mexico and the Caribbean	18	39	24	18	1
October, 2005: The earthquake in Pakistan	22	39	23	16	*
January 2005: The earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean	58	32	7	3	*
January 2004: The earthquake in Iran	16	34	31	19	*
February 2001: The earthquake in India	15	33	31	20	1
March 2000: Flood rescue efforts in Mozambique	10	26	30	34	*
September 1999: The earthquake in Turkey	27	37	23	12	1
November 1998: Hurricane Mitch and the rain and mudslides in Central America	36	36	16	11	1
February 1995: The earthquake in Japan	25	47	20	8	*
May 1991: The cyclone that devastated Bangladesh	23	36	23	17	1
July 1990: The earthquake in Iran	20	36	28	16	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [**DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**]

Mar 17-20

2011

57	The aftermath of a major earthquake and tsunami in Japan
11	The rising price of gas and oil
5	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
5	The conflict between rebels and government forces in Libya
4	News about state and local budget problems
4	Discussion in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit
6	Some other story (VOL.)
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Thinking about the news coverage following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, what have you found yourself following most closely? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

March 17-20

2011

23	News about the extent of the destruction and relief efforts
51	News about the damaged nuclear power plants
11	News about the economic impact of the disaster
5	None - Not following closely (VOL.)
2	Other (VOL.)
7	Multiple (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Have you or anyone in your household made a donation to help those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, are you planning to do so, or is this something you don't think you will do right now?

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

		<i>Earthquake in Haiti</i>		<i>Hurricane Katrina</i>	<i>Earthquake/ Tsunami in Indian Ocean</i>
		Feb 3-9	Jan 14-17	Sept 6-7	Jan 5-9
		<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>
Mar 17-20					
<u>2011</u>					
21	Yes, have made a donation	52	18	56	30
24	Planning to do so	12	30	28	30
53	No, don't think will donate right now	35	46	15	37
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	6	1	3

ASK IF HAVE DONATED OR PLAN TO (1,2 IN PEW4):

PEW.5 [If PEW.4=1: Did you donate][If PEW.4=2: And if you make a donation, do you think you will donate] [READ AND RANDOMIZE; MULTI-PUNCH, ENTER ALL ANSWERS GIVEN; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

BASED ON THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED [N=195]

		TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	
		<i>Earthquake in Haiti</i>	<i>Earthquake/Tsunami in Indian Ocean</i>
Mar 17-20 <u>2011</u>		Jan 14-17 <u>2010</u>	Jan 5-9 <u>2005⁴</u>
45	In person such as at church	39	59
23	On the internet	23	15
9	By text message	14	--
5	Through the mail	5	17
5	Over the telephone	12	10
4	By e-mail	5	--
6	Other (VOL.)	2	1
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	2

BASED ON THOSE WHO PLAN TO DONATE [N=254]

		TREND FOR COMPARISON:
		<i>Earthquake in Haiti</i>
Mar 17-20 <u>2011</u>		Jan 14-17 <u>2010</u>
40	In person such as at church	51
25	On the internet	17
10	Through the mail	17
6	Over the telephone	8
4	By e-mail	3
4	By text message	6
4	Other (VOL.)	1
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

NO QUESTIONS PEW.6-PEW.10

QUESTIONS PEW.10-PEW.23 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS PEW.24-PEW.26

QUESTIONS PEW.27-PEW.28 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

⁴ In January 2005, the question did not ask about making donations by email or text message and the response option on making a contribution in person did not explicitly ask, "such as at church."