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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

Michelle Obama's Popularity Undiminished

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## Obama: Weak Job Ratings, But Positive Personal Image

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## Michelle Obama's Popularity Undiminished

# Obama: Weak Job Ratings, But Positive Personal Image

Barack Obama begins his fourth year in office facing a struggling economy, an unhappy public, and a lower job approval rating than most of his recent predecessors at a comparable point in their presidencies. In fact, Obama's job rating today is a bit more negative than it was in December: 48% disapprove of his performance as president while 44% approve.

George W. Bush began his reelection year with a 56% job approval rating; Bill Clinton's approval rating was 50% in January 1996. Obama's current mark is closer to George H. W. Bush's in January 1992 (46% approved, 43% disapproved).

Obama continues to struggle among political independents: Just 37% of independents approve of the way he is handling his job as president while 56% disapprove. George H. W. Bush had a similar approval rating (39%). But Obama's disapproval rating among independents is higher than Bush's, and much higher than either Clinton's or George W. Bush's.

Nonetheless, Obama possesses political strengths at the start of his reelection year, notably a positive personal image. Large majorities say Obama stands up for his beliefs (75%), cares about people like them (61%) and is trustworthy (61%). And while perceptions of Obama's leadership have declined over time, on balance more say he is a strong leader than disagree (52% vs. 45%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 11-16 among 1,502 adults, finds that Obama's personal image is much

### Presidents at Start of Reelection Years

	Bush Jan 1992	Clinton Jan 1996	Bush Jan 2004	Obama Jan 2012
<b>Total</b>	%	%	%	%
Approve	46	50	56	44
Disapprove	43	43	34	48
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Republican</b>				
Approve	<b>77</b>	23	<b>90</b>	13
Disapprove	17	<b>72</b>	7	<b>81</b>
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Democrat</b>				
Approve	26	<b>78</b>	27	<b>79</b>
Disapprove	<b>62</b>	15	<b>64</b>	15
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Independent</b>				
Approve	39	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	37
Disapprove	<b>45</b>	43	34	<b>56</b>
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

stronger than GOP frontrunner Mitt Romney's. Currently, 51% say they have a favorable opinion of Obama while 45% have an unfavorable view. Romney's favorability with the public stands at just 31%, while his unfavorable rating is as high as Obama's (45%). (*For more on the GOP primary and general election, see ["Unpopular Nationally, Romney Holds Solid GOP Lead."](#) Jan. 18, 2012*).

The survey also finds that Michelle Obama remains broadly popular with the public. Currently 66% say they have a favorable opinion of Michelle Obama while just 21% have an unfavorable view. Favorable opinions of the first lady have declined only modestly – by 10 points – since peaking at 76% early in her first year in the White House. In contrast, Barack Obama's personal favorability has fallen by 22 points (from 73% to 51%) during this period.

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### Michelle Obama Still Very Popular

	April 2009	June 2010	Dec 2010	March 2011	Jan 2012
<i>View of Michelle Obama ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	76	69	62	69	66
Unfavorable	13	22	27	21	21
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

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The public's views of the legacy of the Obama presidency reflect his mixed job approval ratings. About as many say Obama will be an unsuccessful (32%) as a successful president (27%), with a plurality (39%) saying it is too soon to tell. Similarly, about equal percentages think the failures of the Obama administration will outweigh its accomplishments (44%) as say its accomplishments will outweigh its failures (43%). On both measures, Obama is seen less positively than George W. Bush was at about the same point in his first term.

As has been the case for much of his presidency, Obama receives much better job approval ratings for terrorism and international threats than he does for the economy, energy policy or the budget deficit. Obama's approval rating for handling the threat of terrorism stands at 65%, 10 points higher than a year ago. His rating for terrorism today is nearly as high as it was just after the killing of Osama bin Laden last May (69%).

A majority of the public (56%) also approves of the way Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan; just 37% disapprove. His job rating on Afghanistan also turned much more positive following bin Laden's death and remains positive today.

Nearly half (48%) approve of the way Obama is dealing with the situation in Iran; almost as many (41%) disapprove. And about as many approve (46%) as disapprove (45%) of the way Obama is handling the nation's foreign policy.

However, Obama's job ratings on major domestic issues – the economy and the federal budget deficit – remain abysmal. Just 38% approve of his handling of the economy while 59% disapprove. His rating on the budget deficit is equally negative (34% approve, 62% disapprove). The percentage disapproving of his handling of these issues has risen over the past year (by eight points and nine points, respectively). In addition, for the first time in Obama's presidency, significantly more disapprove (46%) than approve (36%) of his handling of energy policy. (This survey was conducted before the Obama administration's recent decision on the Keystone XL oil pipeline.)

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### Obama's Strength: Terrorism

	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Change
	%	%	
<b>Overall job approval</b>	46	44	-2
<i>Approval on issues</i>			
Threat of terrorism	55	65	+10
Afghanistan	44	56	+12
Environment	--	49	--
Dealing with Iran	42	48	+6
Foreign policy	44	46	+2
Economy	42	38	-4
Energy policy	46	36	-10
Budget deficit	35	34	-1

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## Other Findings

**Few “Green Shoots” Evident.** Public views about the economy remain quite negative. Just 11% say the nation’s economy is excellent or good, and only 16% say jobs are plentiful in their community. Still, more expect economic conditions to be better a year from now than did so in December (34% now, 28% then).

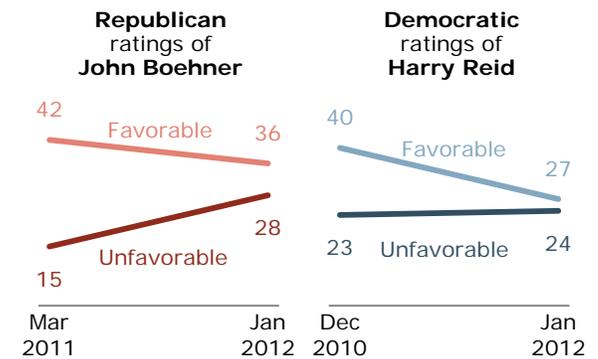
**Congress at Record Low.** Just 23% express favorable opinion of Congress, among the lowest measures ever in a Pew Research Center survey. House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are increasingly unpopular among members of their own parties.

**Cooperation Not Conflict.** Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say GOP leaders should work with Obama, even if it means disappointing some Republican supporters. About the same percentage (59%) wants to see Obama compromise, even if that means disappointing some Democratic supporters.

**Biden Down, Clinton Still Up.** Joe Biden’s favorability rating has declined since the first year of the Obama administration. Just 38% view Biden favorably, down from 50% in November 2009. By contrast, 62% view Hillary Clinton favorably, largely unchanged over this period.

**Obama’s Influences.** Nearly seven-in-ten Republicans (69%) say Obama listens more to liberal Democrats than moderates in the party. Democrats, by contrast, increasingly see Obama being influenced by moderates – 58% of Democrats express this view, up from 44% in June 2010.

### Both Parties Less Happy with Congressional Leaders



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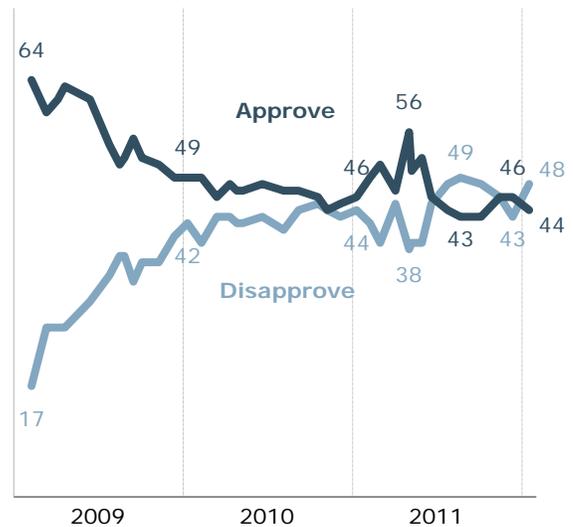
## SECTION 1: BARACK OBAMA'S PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE

Barack Obama enters his fourth year in office with about as many Americans disapproving (48%) as approving (44%) of the job he is doing in office. A notable change over the past year is the president's standing among independents. Currently, 56% of independents disapprove of the job Obama is doing in office, while just 37% approve. A year ago, independents were divided evenly (44% approve, 45% disapprove).

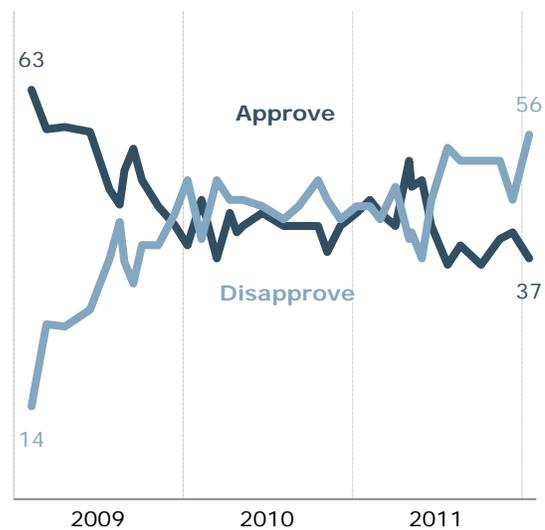
Obama is doing far worse among independents than his predecessors at the same point in his presidency. In January 2004, independents approved of the job George W. Bush was doing by a 52% to 34% margin, and 50% of independents approved of Bill Clinton's job performance in January 1996. Even George H.W. Bush was in a stronger position among independents in January 1992 than Obama is today. In January 1992, Bush had a comparable 39% approval rating among independents, but just 45% disapproved, compared with the 56% who disapprove of Obama's performance today.

Americans are divided in their assessments of Obama's long-term achievements. While 43% believe that in the long run the administration's accomplishments will outweigh its failures, about the same number (44%) believe the failures will outweigh the accomplishments. At the start of 2004, more saw the Bush administration's accomplishments outweighing its failures by a 49% to 36% margin. After his reelection, this evaluation turned sharply negative, and by December of 2008 64% said the Bush administration's failures would outweigh its accomplishments.

### Obama Job Approval



### Job Rating Among Independents



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On another measure, 32% predict that Obama will end up being an unsuccessful president while 27% predict he will be successful, and 39% say it is still too early to tell. While fewer now believe it is too early to judge than did so last year, the relatively even balance of opinion on Obama's long term success is little changed. As George W. Bush entered his re-election year, more thought his presidency would be successful than unsuccessful by roughly two-to-one (39% vs. 20%, with 38% saying it was too early to tell).

### No Consensus about Obama's Long-Term Prospects as President

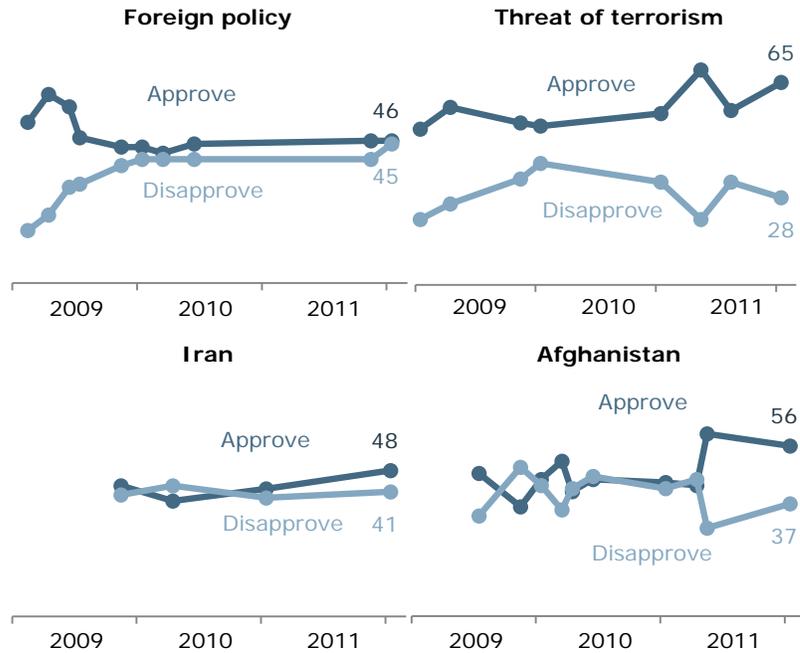
	Bush	Obama			
	Jan 2004*	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
<i>In the long run, the president will be...</i>	%	%	%	%	
Successful	39	30	24	25	27
Unsuccessful	20	4	21	26	32
Too early to tell	38	65	52	47	39
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>In the long run, the president's...</i>					
Accomplishments will outweigh failures	49	--	--	--	43
Failures will outweigh accomplishments	36	--	--	--	44
Don't know	<u>15</u>	--	--	--	<u>12</u>
	100				100

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 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 \* Successful/unsuccessful asked in December 2003.

## Obama Doing Better on Foreign than Domestic Issues

Obama continues to get stronger ratings on foreign and security policy than on economic issues at home. While opinion remains mixed as to his overall foreign policy (46% approve, 45% disapprove), Obama receives widely positive marks for his handling of terrorism (65% approve) and Afghanistan (56% approve). Reviews of Obama's Afghanistan policy, in particular, improved earlier this year after the killing of Osama bin Laden, and have remained positive since.

### Obama Rates Well on Foreign Policy Issues



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And with increasing tensions between the U.S. and Iran, slightly more approve (48%) than disapprove (41%) of how Obama is dealing with the situation. This represents a 6-point increase in approval on Iran since the question was last asked a year ago.

Although Obama's foreign policy ratings are stable or improving, he has lost substantial ground on his handling of energy policy in just the past few months. Currently, just 36% of the public approves of how Obama is handling energy policy, while 46% disapprove. This is a reversal of the balance of opinion during much of 2010 and 2011. As recently as November, 44% approved of the job Obama was doing on energy, while 38% disapproved.

### Fewer Democrats Approve of Obama on Energy Policy

<i>Obama's handling of energy policy...</i>	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Apr 2011	Nov 2011	Jan 2012
Approve	45	46	40	44	36
Disapprove	35	37	44	38	46
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Approval among:</i>					
Republicans	22	28	12	19	18
Democrats	67	70	71	69	56
Independents	43	40	38	39	33

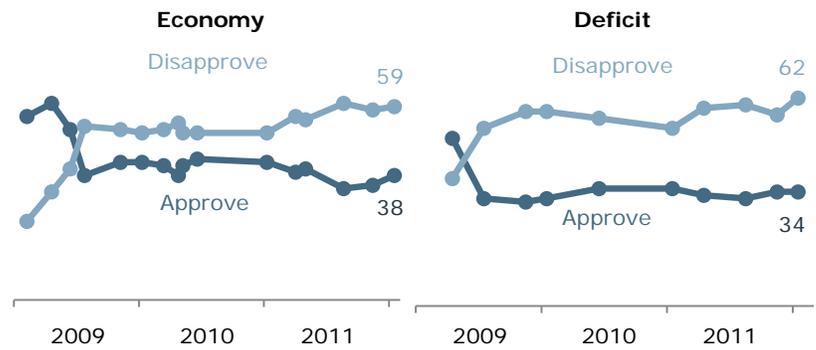
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan 11-16, 2012. Q40fF2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Two months ago, 69% of Democrats approved of the job Obama was doing on energy policy; that figure has dropped 13 points to 56%. There has been less change in opinions among independents (down six points) and Republicans (one point).

Obama gets better marks for his handling of the environment; about half the public (49%) approves of the job Obama is doing, while 36% disapproves. These figures are virtually unchanged from April, and there has been no loss of Democratic support on the environment, with 75% approving of Obama's job performance on the issue.

Majorities continue to disapprove of the job Obama is doing handling the economy and the federal deficit. About six-in-ten disapprove of each. Disapproval on the deficit is up since November, from 57% to 62%.

### Americans Continue to Disapprove of How Obama Handles the U.S. Economy, Deficit



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Of the eight items tested, the economy and deficit have the largest partisan gaps. Just 11% of Republicans approve of the job Obama is doing with the economy, while 69% of Democrats do. Just 14% of Republicans approve of Obama's handling of the deficit, compared with 63% of Democrats.

### Partisan Gap Widest on General Performance, Economic Issues

Approve of Obama's handling of ...	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D Diff
<b>Overall job</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-66</b>
The economy	38	11	69	30	-58
Federal deficit	34	14	63	24	-49
Iran	48	26	71	45	-45
Foreign policy	46	26	68	42	-42
The environment	49	35	75	39	-40
Energy policy	36	18	56	33	-38
Afghanistan	56	42	75	52	-33
Terrorism threat	65	51	80	61	-29

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## Little Change in Obama's Personal Image

Obama continues to be widely viewed as a good communicator (78% say this phrase reflects their impression of him), someone who stands up for what he believes in (75%), warm and friendly (71%) and well-informed (69%). Somewhat fewer view Obama as someone who cares about people like them (61%) and trustworthy (also 61%). These impressions have changed little over the past two years.

### Views of Obama's Personal Traits Little Changed

	Feb 2009	Sep 2009	Jan 2010	Jun 2010	Jan 2011	May 2011	Aug 2011	Jan 2012
<i>Which best reflects your impression of Obama ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A good communicator	92	83	83	77	75	75	75	78
Not a good communicator	6	13	14	20	21	20	22	20
Stands up for what he believes in	--	--	--	--	77	75	71	75
Doesn't stand up	--	--	--	--	16	18	22	19
Warm and friendly	87	78	77	68	70	73	70	71
Cold and aloof	8	16	16	26	23	20	22	23
Well-informed	79	70	69	67	64	67	63	69
Not well-informed	15	23	26	30	31	27	33	28
Cares about people like me	81	68	64	60	60	64	63	61
Doesn't care	14	25	30	35	34	30	31	35
Trustworthy	76	64	61	58	58	62	59	61
Not trustworthy	15	30	31	37	36	31	37	36
A strong leader	77	65	62	53	53	58	49	52
Not a strong leader	13	29	32	42	41	37	47	45
Able to get things done	70	58	57	55	54	55	44	46
Not able to get things done	15	31	35	39	38	38	50	50

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By contrast, a narrow majority (52%) views Obama as a strong leader and slightly fewer (46%) say he is able to get things done. Views of Obama as a strong leader fell in 2010, rebounded a bit in May of last year following the killing of Osama bin Laden, and declined again in August. The current measure is little changed from August.

The percentage saying Obama is able to get things done also declined in August – to 44% from 55% in May and 54% in January 2011. Obama’s current rating for effectiveness also has changed little since August.

As in the past, there are wide partisan differences in views of Obama’s personal traits, particularly in perceptions of his trustworthiness and leadership. Nonetheless, while Republicans are less likely than Democrats to view Obama positively on all dimensions, majorities of Republicans say Obama is a good communicator, stands up for what he believes in, is warm and friendly and well-informed.

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### Partisan Gap in Impressions of Obama

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>Impression of Obama ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trustworthy	61	35	89	52	-54
A strong leader	52	27	80	44	-53
Able to get things done	46	23	69	41	-46
Cares about people like me	61	39	82	57	-43
Well-informed	69	53	91	65	-38
Warm and friendly	71	56	88	67	-32
Stands up for what he believes in	75	69	92	69	-23
A good communicator	78	69	92	73	-23

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q41b-fF1, Q41hF2-Q41jF2.

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Majorities of independents also view the president positively on nearly every trait, with two notable exceptions. Just 44% of independents say Obama is a strong leader while about the same percentage (41%) says that he is able to get things done.

## Obama's Ideology, Influences

Perceptions about Obama's ideology are divided and strongly related to party affiliation. Overall about four-in-ten (43%) say that Obama is liberal, while only somewhat fewer (37%) say he is "middle of the road" ideologically. Far fewer (13%) describe him as conservative. This pattern is essentially unchanged since the beginning of his presidency.

However, views of where Obama stands differ greatly by party. Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) believe that Obama is liberal, while only 30% of Democrats agree. A plurality of Democrats (46%) characterize Obama as middle of the road. Equal numbers of independents see Obama as liberal or middle of the road (41% each), but this breakdown conceals the fact that 61% of independents who lean Republican view Obama as a liberal while a majority of Democratic-leaning independents (53%) see him as middle of the road.

These ideological perceptions coincide with opinions about which segment of the Democratic Party – the liberal members or the moderate members – Obama is listening to more. Overall the public is divided evenly on this question: 42% say he's listening more to liberal Democrats, 41% say moderate Democrats.

Only about one-in-five Democrats (22%) believe that Obama is listening more to the liberal side of the party. That reflects an eleven point decline since June of 2010, when 33% said he was listening more to liberals in the party. Currently, 58% of Democrats think

### No Change in Views of Obama's Ideology

<i>Impression of Obama...</i>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Middle of the road</b>	<b>Conser- vative</b>	<b>Neither/ DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Jan 2012	43	37	13	7=100
May 2011	40	32	16	12=100
Jan 2010	42	36	14	8=100
Sep 2009	44	36	9	11=100
Feb 2009	38	40	13	9=100
<i>Jan 2012</i>				
Republican	67	21	7	5=100
Democrat	30	46	16	9=100
Independent	41	41	14	5=100

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### Who Is Obama Listening To?

	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Moderate Democrats</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total			
Jan 2012	42	41	18=100
Jun 2010	46	34	20=100
Democrats			
Jan 2012	22	58	20=100
Jun 2010	33	44	23=100
Republicans			
Jan 2012	69	22	9=100
Jun 2010	64	21	15=100
Independents			
Jan 2012	44	40	16=100
Jun 2010	44	36	19=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q42F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Obama is listening more to moderates in the party, up from 44% in 2010. Among Republicans, there has been little change in the majority view that Obama mostly listens to liberal Democrats.

## Obama in a Word

When asked what one word best describes people's impressions of Barack Obama, the most frequent responses are *Good* (24 mentions) *Incompetent* (21), *Intelligent* (19), *Socialist* (17), *Honest* (16), *Trying* (16) and *Disappointing* (15).

All of these words have been used in the past to describe the president. Mentions of some words have increased, however. For instance, in January 2010, six respondents used the word *Disappointing* to describe their impression of the president. Last year, nine respondents described him as *Disappointing* and this year 15 respondents used this word.

Some new words appear on this year's list of one-word descriptions of Obama. Among positive descriptors, seven respondents describe Obama as *Hardworking*. Among negative words, *Sucks* appears for the first

time; seven respondents used this word to describe their impression of the president.

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### Obama in a Word: "Good," "Incompetent"

Jan 2010 # of responses	Jan 2011 # of responses	Jan 2012 # of responses
25 Intelligent	30 Good	24 Good
21 Inexperienced	25 Trying	21 Incompetent
21 Trying	20 Socialist	19 Intelligent
18 Good	19 Inexperienced	17 Socialist
15 Socialist	16 Incompetent	16 Honest
12 Honest	14 Great	16 Trying
12 Unqualified	13 Intelligent	15 Disappointing
11 Arrogant	13 Leader	11 Smart
11 Fair	12 Liar	10 Unqualified
11 Incompetent	11 Strong	9 Inexperienced
10 Confident	11 Smart	8 Failure
10 Different	10 Determined	8 Great
10 Strong	10 Liberal	8 Leader
8 Change	9 Disappointing	7 Hardworking
8 Great	9 Honest	7 President
7 OK	9 Idiot	7 Sincere
7 Smart	8 President	7 Sucks
	7 Capable	
	7 Fair	
N= 740	N= 766	N= 748

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q5F2. NOTE: These are the numbers of respondents who offered each of the top responses. These are **NOT** percentages. Top responses shown; for complete list, see survey topline.

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## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF CONGRESS

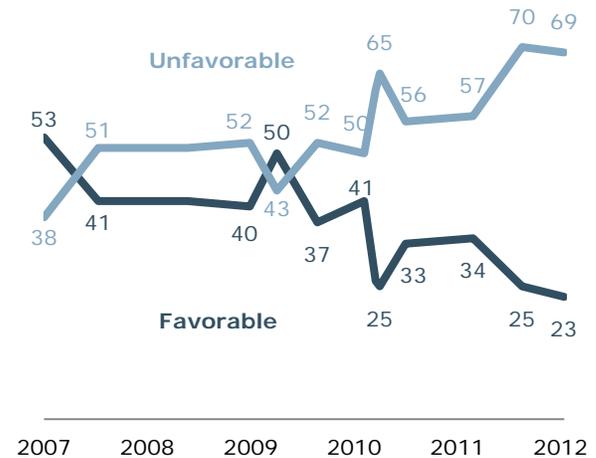
As Congress returns for the 2012 session, the American public's view of the institution is as negative as it has ever been in over 25 years of Pew Research Center surveys. Just 23% of Americans say they have a favorable opinion of Congress, while 69% have an unfavorable view. These opinions are little changed from August of last year when views of Congress turned sharply more negative in the midst of the debate over extending the nation's debt ceiling.

There is virtually no partisan gap in ratings of Congress – 29% of Republicans and 26% of Democrats say they have a favorable opinion of Congress. Even fewer independents, just 19%, view Congress favorably.

Not only are views of Congress negative, but so too are views of the two majority leaders. Only 21% say they have a favorable view of John Boehner while nearly twice as many (40%) have an unfavorable view; 39% have no opinion or have not heard of him. The public's opinion of Boehner has turned sharply more negative since March of last year when just 27% expressed an unfavorable view and as many (26%) had a favorable opinion of Boehner.

Similarly, Harry Reid also receives very negative ratings. Just 18% say they have a favorable opinion of Reid while about twice as many (38%) have an unfavorable opinion. These views have changed little since December 2010.

### Persistent Negative Views of Congress



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### Views of Boehner and Reid

Opinion of ...	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Never heard/Can't rate/DK %
<b>John Boehner</b>			
Jan 2012	21	40	39=100
March 2011	26	27	48=100
Dec 2010	28	25	46=100
June 2010	12	22	66=100
<b>Harry Reid</b>			
Jan 2012	18	38	44=100
Dec 2010	23	39	38=100
Dec 2006	17	20	63=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14d-e.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While there continues to be a partisan gap in views of Boehner, his unfavorable ratings have increased across the board. Currently, 36% of Republicans express a favorable view of Boehner while 28% view him unfavorably. The percent expressing an unfavorable view has increased 13 points since March of last year when Republicans viewed Boehner far more favorably than unfavorably.

Nearly half of Democrats (47%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of Boehner, up from 36% in March. Just 14% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of him.

Independents view Boehner far more negatively now than they did last year, and nearly as critically as do Democrats.

By a 43% to 19% margin more have an unfavorable opinion of Boehner than a favorable one. In March 2011, opinion among independents was divided (25% favorable, 27% unfavorable).

### Boehner, Reid Less Popular with Members of Their Own Parties

<i>Opinion of...</i>	March 2011		Jan 2012		Change in unfav
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	
<b>John Boehner</b>	%	%	%	%	
Total	26	27	21	40	+13
Republican	42	15	36	28	+13
Democrat	17	36	14	47	+11
Independent	25	27	19	43	+16
<i>Among Rep/Ln Rep</i>					
Agree w/Tea Party	58	10	47	34	+24
Disagree/No opinion	31	21	22	35	+14

<b>Harry Reid</b>	Dec 2010		Jan 2012		Change in fav
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	
Total	23	39	18	38	-5
Republican	13	57	14	54	+1
Democrat	40	23	27	24	-13
Independent	16	41	16	41	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14d-e. Figures read across, with percent offering no opinion not shown.

Harry Reid's favorability among Democrats has dropped substantially over the past year. Currently, only 27% of Democrats say they have a favorable opinion of Reid while nearly as many (24%) have an unfavorable view. In December 2010, far more viewed him positively than negatively (40% vs. 23%). Views of Reid are very negative among both Republicans and independents, and have changed little over the past year.

## Public Continues to Want Compromise

Most Americans want Obama and Republican leaders in Washington to work together to get things done in the coming year. A majority (58%) says GOP leaders should try as best they can to work with Barack Obama to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some Republican supporters. Similarly, 59% say Obama should try as best he can to work with GOP leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing Democratic supporters.

But Republicans, particularly those who agree with the Tea Party, are opposed to compromise when it comes to their own political leaders. Most Republicans and Republican-leaning independents continue to say that GOP leaders in Congress should stand up to Obama (55%) rather than work with him to accomplish things (35%). Similar to a year ago, Tea Party Republicans are the most likely to reject compromise. Republicans who agree with the Tea Party movement favor standing up to Obama on important issues by about a three-to-one margin (67% vs. 21%). By comparison, Republicans who disagree or have no opinion about the Tea Party are divided – 49% say GOP leaders should stand up to Obama while 43% say they should work with Obama.

Democrats are divided over what they want Obama to do. About as many Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say Obama should work with Republicans in Congress (48%) as say he should stand up to them on important issues (44%). More moderate and conservative Democrats (53%) than liberal Democrats (41%) want Obama to work with Republicans in Congress.

## Tea Party Republicans Continue to Resist Compromise

	<i>Rep/Rep Leaners</i>		
	All	Agree w/ Tea Party	No Opinion/Disagree
<i>GOP leaders should...</i>	%	%	%
Work with Obama	35	21	43
Stand up to Obama	55	67	49
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100
N	324	141	173
	<i>Dem/Dem Leaners</i>		
	All	Liberal	Mod/Cons
<i>Obama should...</i>	%	%	%
Work with Republicans	48	41	53
Stand up to Republicans	44	52	41
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
N	364	132	214

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q15F1 & Q16F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## SECTION 3: VIEWS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

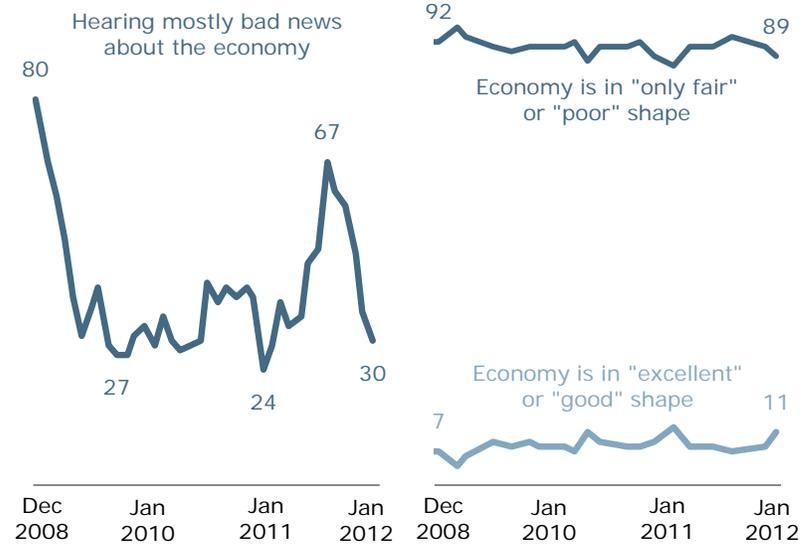
From the public's perspective, the economic news over the past year has been particular volatile. As recently as August, the Pew Research Center's News Interest Index surveys found 67% saying they were hearing "mostly bad news" about the economy. But the [latest update earlier this month](#) found only 30% saying the economic reports they were hearing were mostly bad news, while 60% said the economic news was a mix of good and bad, and 9% said the news was mostly good.

While what people are hearing about unemployment rates and economic growth month-to-month registers with them, it does not have an immediate impact on their overall economic assessments. For more than three years, roughly 90% of Americans have said the nation's economy is in only fair or poor shape, with little variation around ups-and-downs in the economic news cycle.

### Despite Shifting Economic News, Economic Ratings Remain Negative

What you're reading and hearing in the news about the economy

Economic conditions in the country today



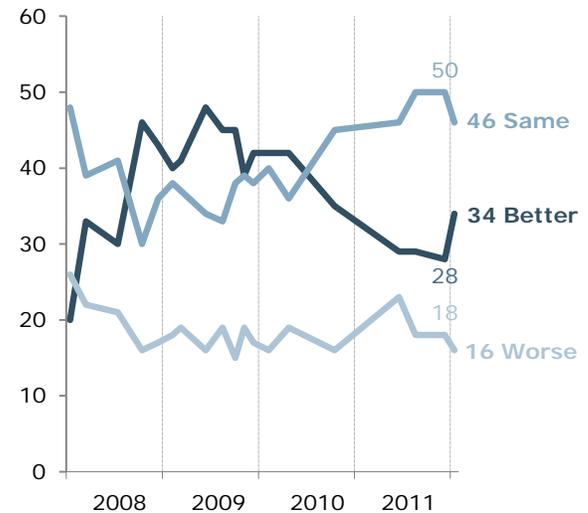
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q50. Data tracking what people are hearing in the news from the Pew Research Center's weekly News Interest Index surveys.

Despite hearing some more positive reports in recent months, the American public enters 2012 with the same negative overall assessments. Most say the economy is in only fair (42%) or poor (47%) shape, with only a small minority (11%) offering a positive rating.

But the economic outlook of Americans has improved slightly over the past month. Currently, 34% say they expect the economy to be in better shape a year from now, up from a 3-year low of 28% last month. This improved outlook comes predominantly from Democrats, 51% of whom say they think the economy will pick up over the next year. Only around half as many Republicans (23%) and independents (29%) share this optimism.

## Economic Outlook Improves

*Economic conditions a year from now will be...*



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## Democrats Increasingly Optimistic about the Economy

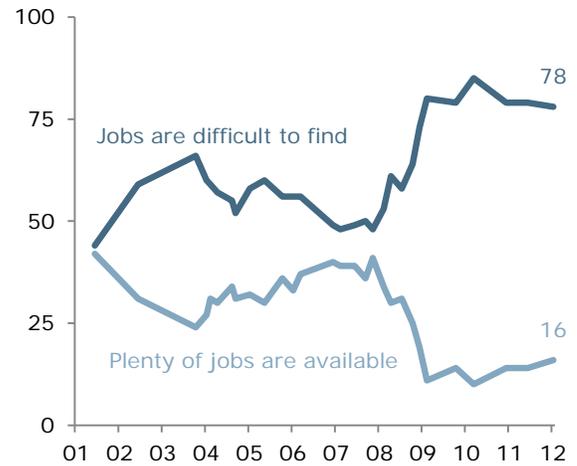
% saying economy will be better a year from now	Aug 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Dec-Jan Change
	%	%	%	%
Total	29	28	34	+6
Republican	22	21	23	+2
Democrat	42	39	51	+12
Independent	24	23	29	+6

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Despite four consecutive months of dropping unemployment rates, Americans continue to see tough times on the job front. Fully 78% say that jobs are difficult to find in their area, down only modestly from a decade high of 85% last March. Just 16% say they think there are plenty of jobs available in their community.

Unlike other economic measures, where Democrats offer a more upbeat assessment than Republicans, Republicans and Democrats have virtually identical assessments of job availability: 21% in each party believe that there are plenty of jobs available. By contrast, independents are particularly skeptical about the job situation – only 10% believe there are plenty of jobs available these days.

### Job Situation Remains Gloomy

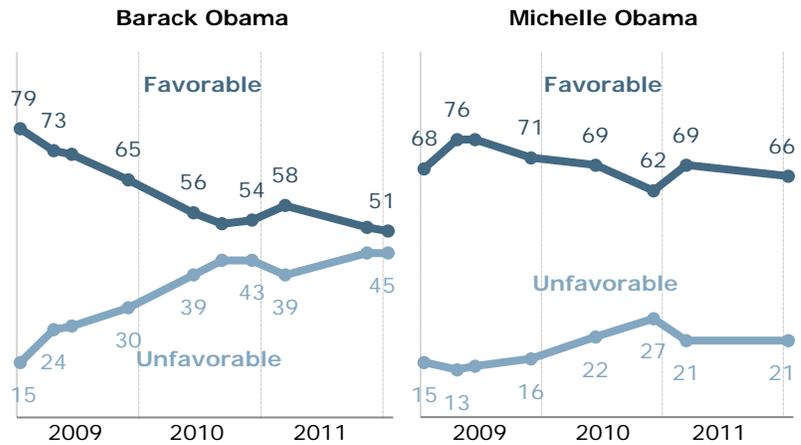


PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q55.

## SECTION 4: FAVORABILITY OF OBAMAS, CLINTON, BIDEN

Barack Obama's favorability rating has slipped over the course of his first three years in office. But Michelle Obama continues to be viewed very positively. Two-thirds (66%) of Americans say they have a favorable opinion of the first lady while just 21% have an unfavorable opinion. These views have changed little over the past year and are comparable to public evaluations when she became first lady roughly three years ago.

**Michelle Obama's Favorable Ratings Consistently Higher than Barack's**



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14a-b.

Currently, 51% say they have a favorable view of Barack Obama while 45% have an unfavorable view. Impressions of the president today are somewhat more negative than they were earlier this year, when he had a 58% favorability rating, but are similar to those he received on the eve of the 2010 midterm elections.

Nine-in-ten Democrats have a favorable view of the first lady, as do 61% of independents. Republicans are more divided: 49% have a favorable impression while 40% have an unfavorable view of the first lady.

Among Republicans there are strong differences in opinion by ideology. Moderate and liberal Republicans view Michelle Obama favorably by a 62% to 25% margin.

Conservative Republicans are just as likely to view the first lady unfavorably (46%) as favorably (44%). Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party movement, just 38% view Michelle Obama favorably while 46% have an unfavorable opinion.

Michelle Obama is viewed more favorably by women than men (71% vs. 62%). She also receives higher favorability ratings among young people than among those 50 and older (71% vs. 62%). Nearly all of non-Hispanic blacks (95%) view her favorably, compared with 74% of Hispanics and 60% of non-Hispanic whites.

Although Barack Obama's ratings are more negative than the first lady's, the president remains very popular among many of the groups that were critical to his election in 2008: Democrats (86% favorable), liberals (79%), African Americans (92%) and Hispanics (64%). But among young people – who voted for him by a two-to-one margin in 2008 – Obama's favorable rating is currently no higher than the national average (53%).

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## GOP Divided in Views of Michelle Obama

<i>Opinion of Michelle Obama</i>	<b>Fav</b> %	<b>Unfav</b> %	<b>Can't rate/ DK</b> %
Total	66	21	12=100
Men	62	23	16=100
Women	71	20	9=100
18-49	71	18	12=100
50+	62	26	13=100
White	60	26	14=100
Black	95	2	3=100
Hispanic	74	18	8=100
Republican	49	40	12=100
Conservative Rep	44	46	10=100
Mod/Lib Rep	62	25	14=100
Independent	61	24	15=100
Democrat	90	5	5=100
Cons/Mod Dem	88	6	6=100
Liberal Dem	94	3	3=100
<i>Among Rep/Rep leaners</i>			
Agree w/Tea Party	38	46	16=100
Disagree/No opinion	55	34	11=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14b.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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## Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton

Three years into Joe Biden's term as vice president, the public expresses more mixed views of him than they did in his first year of office. Roughly as many say they have a favorable opinion of Biden (38%) as say they have an unfavorable opinion (41%). In November 2009, half (50%) expressed a favorable view of Biden while 29% viewed him unfavorably.

Biden's favorable ratings have decreased across party lines. Currently, 64% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of the vice president, down from 77% in November 2009. The share of Republicans who have an unfavorable opinion of Biden has grown from 53% to 66% over the same time period.

Vice President Biden's standing among independents has reversed over the past two years. In November 2009, more viewed him favorably than unfavorably by a 45% to 30% margin. Today, more view him unfavorably than favorably by almost exactly the same ratio (31% favorable, 43% unfavorable).

The public continues to view Hillary Clinton positively. Fully 62% have a favorable opinion of the current Secretary of State while half as many have an unfavorable opinion (31%). These numbers are little changed from a year ago, and Clinton has received positive favorability ratings for the past three years since she became Secretary of State. Both Democrats and independents overwhelmingly view her favorably – 82% and 60% respectively. Among Republicans, 41% view Clinton favorably and 52% view her unfavorably.

### Views of Biden and Clinton

<i>Opinion of ...</i>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Never heard/ Can't rate/DK</b>
	%	%	%
<b>Joe Biden</b>			
Jan 2012	38	41	21=100
Nov 2009	50	29	21=100
April 2009	51	28	21=100
Jan 2009	63	20	17=100
Sept 2008	49	30	21=100
<b>Hillary Clinton</b>			
Jan 2012	62	31	7=100
Dec 2010	59	34	6=100
Nov 2009	66	28	7=100
May 2008	48	44	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14f-g.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Biden Viewed Less Favorably

<i>Opinion of...</i>	<b>Nov 2009</b>		<b>Jan 2012</b>		<b>Change in fav</b>
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	
<b>Joe Biden</b>	%	%	%	%	
Total	50	29	38	41	-12
Republican	29	53	20	66	-9
Democrat	77	9	64	20	-13
Independent	45	30	31	43	-14
<b>Hillary Clinton</b>					
Total	66	28	62	31	-4
Republican	36	59	41	52	+5
Democrat	89	8	82	15	-7
Independent	66	27	60	32	-6

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q14f-g.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 11-16, 2012 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (902 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 600 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 293 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,502	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	370	6.5 percentage points
Democrats	468	5.5 percentage points
Independents	586	5.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JANUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**January 11-16, 2012**  
**N=1502**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a BLOCK AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11				

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

Q.1a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Jan 11-16 2011		Sep 22- Oct 4 2011	Aug 17-21 2011	Feb 22- Mar 1 2011	Jan 5-9 2011	Aug 25- Sep 6 2010	Jun 16-20 2010	Jan 6-10 2010	Apr 14-21 2009
44	Approve	43	43	51	46	47	48	49	63
27	Very strongly	26	26	32	27	28	29	30	45
15	Not so strongly	15	15	18	16	17	17	15	13
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	5
48	Disapprove	48	49	39	44	44	43	42	26
35	Very strongly	34	38	29	30	32	31	30	18
12	Not so strongly	13	11	10	13	11	11	11	8
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	7	10	10	9	9	10	11

**RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a BLOCK AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	January, 2006	34	61	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	July, 2005	35	58	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	February, 2005	38	56	6
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	January, 2005	40	54	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	December, 2004	39	54	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	July, 2004	38	55	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	October, 2003	38	56	6
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	<i>April 8, 2003</i>	50	41	9
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	January, 2003	44	50	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	November, 2002	41	48	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	May, 2002	44	44	12
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	March, 2001	47	45	8
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	January, 2001	55	41	4
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
December, 2008	13	83	4	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
August, 2008	21	74	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
July, 2008	19	74	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
June, 2008	19	76	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
March, 2008	22	72	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
October, 2007	28	66	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
February, 2007	30	61	9	January, 1997	38	58	4
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
December, 2006	28	65	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	June, 1995	25	73	2
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 2006	30	65	5	July, 1994	24	73	3
May, 2006*	29	65	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	October, 1993	22	73	5
				September, 1993	20	75	5
				May, 1993	22	71	7
				January, 1993	39	50	11
				January, 1992	28	68	4

<sup>1</sup> In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 1991	34	61	5	May, 1990	41	54	5
<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3	January, 1989	45	50	5
August, 1990	47	48	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

**NO QUESTION 3****ASK ALL:**

Q.4 Looking ahead, so far as you are concerned, do you think that 2012 will be better or worse than 2011?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1993	64	20	16
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1992	61	11	28
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1991	61	31	8
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1990	48	42	10
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1986	53	25	22
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1985	64	20	17
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1984	61	20	19
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1982	50	32	18
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1981	41	44	15

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:**

Q.5F2 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of Barack Obama? Just the one word that best 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>Jan 11-16, 2012</u>	<u>Jan 5-9, 2011</u>	<u>January, 2010</u>	<u>Mid-April, 2009<sup>2</sup></u>			
24	Good	30	Good	25	Intelligent	30	Intelligent
21	Incompetent	25	Trying	21	Inexperienced	29	Good
19	Intelligent	20	Socialist	21	Trying	20	Socialist
17	Socialist	19	Inexperienced	18	Good	17	Liberal
16	Honest	16	Incompetent	15	Socialist	16	Great
16	Trying	14	Great	12	Honest	15	Confident
15	Disappointing	13	Intelligent	12	Unqualified	13	Inexperienced
11	Smart	13	Leader	11	Arrogant	12	Honest
10	Unqualified	12	Liar	11	Fair	12	Trying
9	Inexperienced	11	Strong	11	Incompetent	11	Smart
8	Failure	11	Smart	10	Confident	10	Change
8	Great	10	Determined	10	Different	10	Competent
8	Leader	10	Liberal	10	Strong	10	Excellent
7	Hardworking	9	Disappointing	8	Change	10	Spender/Spending
7	President	9	Honest	8	Great	9	Arrogant
7	Sincere	9	Idiot	7	OK	9	Hope/Hopeful
7	Sucks	8	President	7	Smart	8	Charismatic
6	Arrogant	7	Capable	6	Capable	8	President/Presidential
6	Bad	7	Fair	6	Disappointing	7	Different
6	Competent	6	Alright	6	Excellent	7	Leader
6	Determined	6	Excellent	6	Fake	5	Caring/Cares
6	Hopeful	6	OK	6	Leader	5	Determined
6	Inept	5	Deceitful/Deceptive	6	Liar	5	Efficient
6	Weak	5	Talker	5	Charismatic	5	Strong
5	Brilliant	5	Unqualified	5	Communist	5	Young
5	Capable	4	Arrogant	5	Idiot	4	Ambitious
5	Courageous	4	Dynamic	5	Liberal	4	Awesome
5	Excellent	4	Hope/Hopeful	5	President	4	Capable
5	Fair	4	Naïve	4	Clueless	4	Impressed
5	Ineffective	4	Personable	4	Competent	4	Incompetent
5	Fake	4	Puppet	4	Dedicated	4	Integrity
4	Awesome	4	Weak	4	Determined	4	Naïve
4	Change		<b>(N=766)</b>	4	Dishonest	4	Politician
4	Confused			4	Hopeful		<b>(N=742)</b>
4	Mediocre			4	Integrity		
4	OK			4	Young		
4	Untrustworthy				<b>(N=740)</b>		
	<b>(N=748)</b>						

**NO QUESTIONS 6-7**

<sup>2</sup> Full trend not shown. Question was also asked in September 2008 and February 2009.

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Q.8F1 In the long run, do you think Barack Obama will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>Obama</b>				
Jan 11-16, 2012	27	32	39	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	25	26	47	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	24	21	52	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
<b>Bush</b>				
January, 2007	24	45	27	4
January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
January, 2005	36	27	35	2
December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
January, 2001	26	15	58	1
<b>Clinton</b>				
January, 1999	44	24	29	3
Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
February, 1995	18	34	43	5
October, 1994	14	35	48	3
May, 1994	21	26	52	1
January, 1994	21	19	57	3
October, 1993	18	25	56	1
September, 1993	22	22	54	2
August, 1993	13	25	60	2

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:**

Q.9F2 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Obama Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

	<u>Accomplishments will outweigh failures</u>	<u>Failures will outweigh accomplishments</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>Obama</b>			
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	44	12
<b>Bush</b>			
December, 2008	24	64	12
January, 2008	28	59	13
January, 2007	31	53	16
January, 2004	49	36	15
<b>Clinton</b>			
January, 2001	60	27	13
January, 2000	51	37	12
August, 1999	56	38	6
January, 1999	50	34	16
Early September, 1998	52	35	13
<b>Reagan</b>			
<i>Newsweek</i> : May 1987	46	41	13
<i>Newsweek</i> Feb 1987	52	38	10

**QUESTIONS 10-11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTION 12**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [ITEM] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. The Republican Party								
Jan 11-16, 2012	35	7	27	58	28	30	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	7	29	55	27	28	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

## Q. 13 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. The Democratic Party								
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	13	29	51	23	28	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	13	32	45	19	26	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Jan 11-16, 2012	23	5	18	69	33	36	*	8
Aug 17-21, 2011	25	4	21	70	30	40	4	6
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9

## Q.13 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.14 And how about [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
<b>a. Barack Obama</b>								
Jan 11-16, 2012	51	23	28	45	24	21	0	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	21	31	45	24	21	*	3
Mar 8-14, 2011	58	22	36	39	20	19	*	3
Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	32	30	16	14	*	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
<b>b. Michelle Obama</b>								
Jan 11-16, 2012	66	33	34	21	10	12	*	12
Mar 8-14, 2011	69	30	39	21	9	12	1	9
Dec 2-5, 2010	62	30	31	27	15	12	1	10
Jun 10-13, 2010	69	31	38	22	9	12	1	9
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	71	33	38	16	8	8	1	11
Jun 10-14, 2009	76	36	39	14	5	9	1	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	76	36	40	13	4	9	1	10
Jan 7-11, 2009	68	28	40	15	4	11	2	15
Mid-September, 2008	56	23	33	25	11	14	2	17
Late May, 2008	43	14	29	21	8	13	4	32

**ITEM 14c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<b>d. John Boehner</b>								
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	5	16	40	16	24	22	17
Mar 8-14, 2011	26	7	19	27	11	16	32	16
Dec 2-5, 2010	28	8	20	25	12	14	34	12
Jun 10-13, 2010	12	3	9	22	8	15	54	12
<b>e. Harry Reid</b>								
Jan 11-16, 2012	18	4	15	38	20	18	28	16
Dec 2-5, 2010	23	5	18	39	21	18	26	12
December, 2006	17	3	14	20	7	13	45	18

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

<b>f.F1 Joe Biden</b>								
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	10	28	41	18	22	9	12
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	50	13	36	29	13	16	8	13

## Q.14 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Mid-Apr 2009	51	14	37	28	10	18	8	13
Jan 2009	63	22	41	20	7	13	6	11
Mid-Oct 2008	55	20	34	35	10	19	6	10
Early Oct 2008 (callback)	61	20	41	30	10	20	1	8
Late Sep 2008	49	15	34	30	10	20	8	13
Mid-Sep 2008	48	14	34	30	11	19	8	14
Apr 2006	28	7	21	20	5	15	38	14
Late Oct 2005	21	4	17	20	6	14	43	16
Sep 1987	22	4	18	15	4	11	25	38

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:

g.F2 Hillary Clinton

Jan 11-16, 2012	62	26	36	31	16	15	1	6
Dec 2-5, 2010	59	24	35	34	15	20	2	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	66	26	40	28	11	17	1	6
Late May, 2008	48	17	31	44	22	22	*	8
April, 2008	49	16	33	47	23	24	0	4
March, 2008	50	16	34	44	23	21	*	6
Late February, 2008	51	19	32	44	23	21	0	5
Early February, 2008	52	20	32	42	24	18	*	6
January, 2008	52	20	32	44	25	19	*	4
Late December, 2007	50	21	29	44	26	18	*	6
August, 2007	55	21	34	39	21	18	2	4
December, 2006	56	22	34	39	21	18	*	5
April, 2006	54	20	34	42	21	21	1	3
Late October, 2005	56	20	36	38	19	19	1	5
Late March, 2005	57	22	35	36	17	19	*	7
December, 2002	47	15	32	44	23	21	1	8
July, 2001	53	20	33	42	23	19	1	4
January, 2001	60	25	35	35	16	19	*	5
May, 2000	49	15	34	42	22	20	1	8
Early December, 1998	66	32	34	31	15	16	*	3
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	58	24	34	36	18	18	*	6
Early September, 1998	64	24	40	31	13	18	0	5
Late August, 1998	63	25	38	34	13	21	*	3
March, 1998	65	26	39	31	14	17	*	4
January, 1997	57	17	40	40	17	23	*	3
June, 1996	53	13	40	43	17	26	*	4
April, 1996	49	12	37	46	19	27	0	5
February, 1996	42	14	28	54	27	27	0	4
January, 1996	42	10	32	54	26	28	0	4
October, 1995	58	14	44	38	14	24	--	4
August, 1995	49	16	33	47	22	25	*	4
December, 1994	50	17	33	45	20	25	1	4
July, 1994	57	19	38	40	18	22	1	2
May, 1993	60	19	41	29	11	18	1	10

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**Q.15F1 This year should the Republican leaders in Washington... **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u>		Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Voters</b> Nov <u>2008</u> <sup>4</sup>
58	Try as best they can to work with Barack Obama to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Republican supporters? [OR]	61	55	66
35	Should they stand up to Barack Obama on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	33	38	28
8	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	8	6

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:***This year should the Democratic leaders in Washington... [READ]*

	Jan <u>2007</u> <sup>5</sup>	Nov <u>2006</u>
Try as best they can to work with George W. Bush to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Democratic supporters? [OR]	52	54
Should they stand up to George W. Bush on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	43	36
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	11

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:**Q.16F2 This year should Barack Obama... **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u>		Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u> <sup>6</sup>
59	Try as best he can to work with Republican leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Democratic supporters? [OR]	65	62
28	Should he stand up to the Republicans on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	28	27
13	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7	11

**NO QUESTION 17**<sup>3</sup> In Nov 2010 and before, the question began "Next year..."<sup>4</sup> November 2008 trend is based on voters, not the general public. The question was rotated and figures are based only on those who received the question first in the rotation.<sup>5</sup> In January 2007 and November 2006 the question was rotated. Figures are based only on those who received this question first in the rotation.<sup>6</sup> In Nov 2010 the question began "Next year..."

**ASK ALL:**

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

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

NO QUESTIONS 18-19, 21-22, 24-28, 32-34, 39

QUESTIONS 20, 23, 29-31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 35-38 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

**ASK ALL:**

Now, thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues...

Q.40 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The economy			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
	Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6
	Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
	May 2, 2011	40	55	4
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
	Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
	May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
	Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
	Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
	Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
	Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
	Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

b.F1	The federal budget deficit			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	34	62	5
	Nov 9-14, 2011	34	57	9
	Aug 17-21, 2011	32	60	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	59	8
	Jan 6-9, 2011	35	53	12
	Jun 16-20, 2010	35	56	9
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	58	11
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	58	11
	Jul 22-26, 2009	32	53	15
	April 14-21, 2009	50	38	12
c.F1	The environment			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	49	36	15
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	51	35	14
d.F1	Dealing with Iran			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	48	41	11
	Jan 6-9, 2011	42	39	19
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	43	19
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	40	17
dd.F1	The situation in Afghanistan			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	56	37	7
	May 2, 2011	60	29	11
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	43	45	11
	Jan 6-9, 2011	44	42	13
	Jun 16-20, 2010	45	46	9
	Apr 21-26, 2010	41	42	17
	Mar 10-14, 2010	51	35	15
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	43	12
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	49	15
	Jul 22-26, 2009	47	33	19

## Q.40 CONTINUED...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:</b>				
e.F2	The nation's foreign policy			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	46	45	10
	Nov 9-14, 2011	46	40	13
	Jun 16-20, 2010	45	40	15
	Mar 10-14, 2010	42	40	18
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	40	16
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	44	38	18
	Jul 22-26, 2009	47	32	21
	Jun 10-14, 2009	57	31	12
	Apr 14-21, 2009	61	22	17
	Feb 4-8, 2009	52	17	31
f.F2	Energy policy			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	36	46	18
	Nov 9-14, 2011	44	38	18
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	44	16
	Jan 6-9, 2011	46	37	18
	Jun 16-20, 2010	45	40	15
	Apr 21-26, 2010	43	34	23
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	35	20
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	50	34	16
	Jul 22-26, 2009	46	31	22
g.F2	The threat of terrorism			
	Jan 11-16, 2012	65	28	7
	Aug 17-21, 2011	56	33	12
	May 2, 2011	69	21	10
	Jan 6-9, 2011	55	33	12
	Jan 6-10, 2010	51	39	10
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 <sup>7</sup>	52	34	14
	Apr 14-21, 2009	57	26	17
	Feb 4-8, 2009	50	21	29

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, please tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?**

**NO ITEM a.**

		<u>Aug 17-21 2011</u>	<u>May 25-30 2011</u>	<u>Jan 5-9 2011</u>	<u>Jun 16-20 2010</u>	<u>Jan 6-10 2010</u>	<u>Sep 10-15 2009</u>	<u>Feb 4-8 2009</u>
	Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u>							
b.	46 Able to get things done	44	55	54	55	57	58	70
	50 Not able to get things done	50	38	38	39	35	31	15
	2 Neither particularly <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3	3	2	3	3	2
	2 Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	5	5	4	5	8	13
c.	52 A strong leader	49	58	53	53	62	65	77
	45 Not a strong leader	47	37	41	42	32	29	13
	2 Neither particularly <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1	2	2	2	2	1
	2 Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	3	4	3	3	5	9

<sup>7</sup> In surveys conducted in, 2009, the item was worded "Terrorist threats."

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

			Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>	May 25-30 <u>2011</u>	Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:</b>									
d.F1	75	Stands up for what he believes in	71	75	77	--	--	--	--
	19	Doesn't stand up for what he believes in	22	18	16	--	--	--	--
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	1	1	--	--	--	--
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	5	--	--	--	--
e.F1	71	Warm and friendly	70	73	70	68	77	78	87
	23	Cold and aloof	22	20	23	26	16	16	8
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	3	1	2	4	3	2	2
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	5	2	4	4	3
f.F1	69	Well informed	63	67	64	67	69	70	79
	28	Not well informed	33	27	31	30	26	23	15
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	4	4	2	4	4	5
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:</b>									
g.F2	43	Liberal	--	40	--	--	42	44	38
	37	Middle of the road [OR]	--	32	--	--	36	36	40
	13	Conservative	--	16	--	--	14	9	13
	1	None particularly (VOL.)	--	3	--	--	1	2	2
	6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--	9	--	--	7	9	7
h.F2	78	A good communicator	75	75	75	77	83	83	92
	20	Not a good communicator	22	20	21	20	14	13	6
	*	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	1	1	2	1	1	*
	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	4	1	2	3	2
i.F2	61	Someone who cares about people like me	63	64	60	60	64	68	81
	35	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	31	30	34	35	30	25	14
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	*	1	2	1	1	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	5	3	4	6	4
j.F2	61	Trustworthy	59	62	58	58	61	64	76
	36	Not trustworthy	37	31	36	37	31	30	15
	*	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5	4	3	5	5	8

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Q.42F1 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	Liberal members of his party	Moderate members of his party	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 11-16 2012	42	41	18
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	34	20
Feb 3-9, 2010	44	35	21
Dec 9-13, 2009	43	31	25
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	44	32	24
Jul 22-26, 2009	41	31	27
Jun 10-14, 2009	39	35	26
Apr 14-21, 2009	40	33	27
Mar 9-12, 2009	44	30	26
Jan 7-11, 2009	34	44	22

**QUESTION 43 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 44-49****RANDOMIZE Q.50/Q.51 IN BLOCK WITH Q.52/Q.53 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.50 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.) DK/Ref</b>
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2

## Q.50 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late February, 2004 <sup>8</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

## RANDOMIZE Q.50/Q.51 IN BLOCK WITH Q.52/Q.53 BLOCK

## ASK ALL:

Q.51 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
Newsweek: January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
Newsweek: January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

<sup>8</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**RANDOMIZE Q.50/Q.51 IN BLOCK WITH Q.52/Q.53 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about your own personal finances...

Q.52 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	6	29	42	22	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	6	32	37	24	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	5	33	40	21	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	29	36	26	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	7	29	41	22	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	30	40	23	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	6	33	36	23	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	6	30	40	23	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	6	32	38	20	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	6	31	39	22	2
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	28	39	24	2
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	5	30	40	25	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
U.S. News:January, 1993	4	33	46	16	1
U.S. News:October, 1992	6	34	40	19	1
U.S. News:August, 1992	5	30	47	17	1
U.S. News:May, 1992	4	35	45	15	1
U.S. News:January, 1992	4	32	45	18	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.50/Q.51 IN BLOCK WITH Q.52/Q.53 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.53 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.) DK/Ref
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	50	18	7	11	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	9	49	17	5	15	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	7	49	21	7	13	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	44	23	10	13	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	7	49	20	6	14	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	9	48	16	6	17	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	52	15	8	12	4
Dec 9-13, 2009	9	44	19	8	15	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	6	50	19	8	13	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
Feb 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
U.S. News: October, 1992	9	51	14	3	15	8
U.S. News: August, 1992	6	50	20	5	14	5
U.S. News: May, 1992	8	49	22	4	13	4
U.S. News: January, 1992	9	46	19	5	16	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.54 Overall, which of the following best describes how the recession affected your own personal financial situation? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 3; KEEP OPTION 2 SECOND]**

Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u>	Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>
36	It had a major effect, and your finances have not recovered	40	36
28	It had a major effect, but your finances have mostly recovered	24	25
33	It didn't have a major effect on your finances	34	37
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.55 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 <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	16	78	2	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	14	79	3	4
Dec 1-5, 2010	14	79	3	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	10	85	3	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
<i>U.S. News:August, 1992</i>	15	76	6	3
<i>U.S. News:May, 1992</i>	16	77	4	3
<i>U.S. News:January, 1992</i>	12	79	6	3

**QUESTIONS 56-61 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 62-63, 66-67****QUESTIONS 64-65, 68-69 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>9</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>9</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."