



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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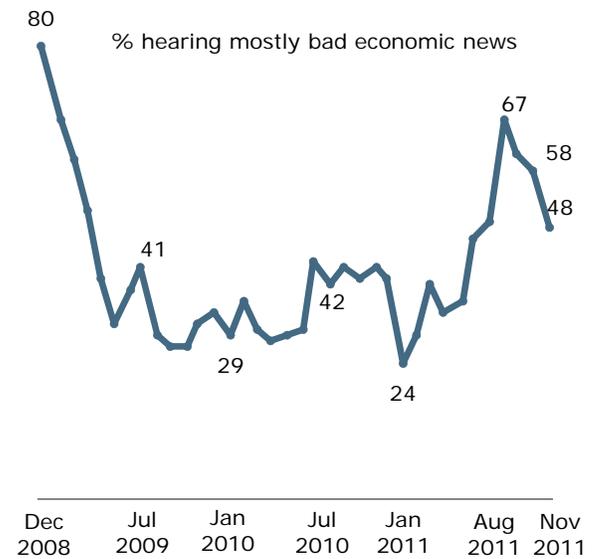
Penn State Scandal Tops Public's News Interest Fewer Hearing Mostly Bad News about Economy

The Penn State child sex abuse scandal topped the public's news interest last week, but Americans also continued to closely track news about the nation's economy.

The public's perceptions of economic news, which took a decided downturn in August, are much less negative today. Currently, 48% say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, down from 58% in October and 67% in August. Still, very few Americans say news about the economy is mostly good (3%). Nearly half (48%) see the news as a mix of good and bad.

The latest weekly News Interest Index survey, conducted Nov. 10-13 among 1,000 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, finds that 32% say they followed news about the Penn State scandal, which led to the firing of legendary football coach Joe Paterno, more closely than any other news. By comparison, 18% cite news about the economy as their top story while 12% cite sexual harassment accusations against GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain.

Economic News Seen as Less Dire



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011.

Views of Economic News

The proportion saying they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy has declined 19 points since August, when there were widespread concerns about a possible double-dip recession. Still, far more say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy today than did so at the beginning of 2011 (48% vs. 24%).

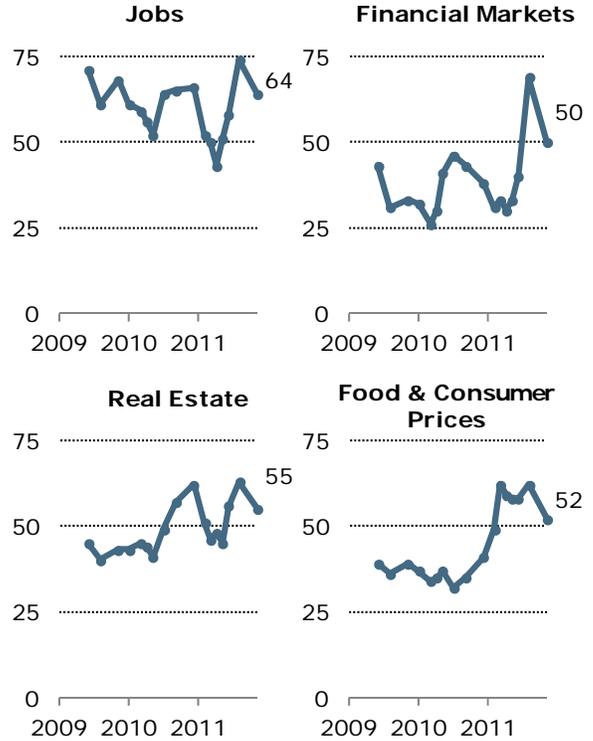
A similar pattern is evident in news about several economic sectors. In the current survey, 50% say they are hearing mostly bad news about the financial markets, down from 69% in August. Yet far more Americans view news about the financial markets negatively now than did so at the start of the year.

The percentage saying they were hearing mostly bad news about the job situation reached 74% in August, as high a level as recorded by Pew Research surveys. In the current survey, 64% say they are hearing mostly bad news about jobs, which is 10 points lower than in August but still much higher than in the spring (43% in early April).

The public's perceptions of news about gas prices have shown marked improvement since early 2011. Currently, 47% say the news about gas prices is mostly bad, while nearly as many (45%) say the news is either mixed (36%) or mostly good (9%). In March, 90% said the news about gas prices was mostly bad and 84% expressed this view in May.

Fewer Hearing Mostly Bad News About Major Economic Sectors

Percent hearing mostly bad news about...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011.

Public Hearing Better News about Gas Prices

Recent news about gas prices ...	Mostly bad	Mostly good	Mixed	DK
	%	%	%	%
Nov 10-13, 2011	47	9	36	8=100
Aug 4-7, 2011	66	4	26	4=100
June 2-5, 2011	68	8	23	2=100
May 12-15, 2011	84	1	14	1=100
Mar 31-Apr 3, 2011	88	1	10	1=100
Mar 3-6, 2011	90	1	7	2=100
Feb 3-6, 2011	77	2	18	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov 10-13, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There continue to be partisan differences in views of the tone of overall economic news. Currently, 59% of Republicans say news about the economy is mostly bad, compared with 46% of Democrats and 45% of independents.

However, the decline in negative perceptions has come across partisan lines: In August, 71% of Republicans, 69% of independents and 62% of Democrats said the news they were hearing about the economy was mostly bad.

Partisan Differences in Views of Economic News

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Mostly bad	48	59	46	45
Mix of good and bad	48	40	50	51
Mostly good	3	1	4	2
Don't know	1	*	1	2
	100	100	100	100

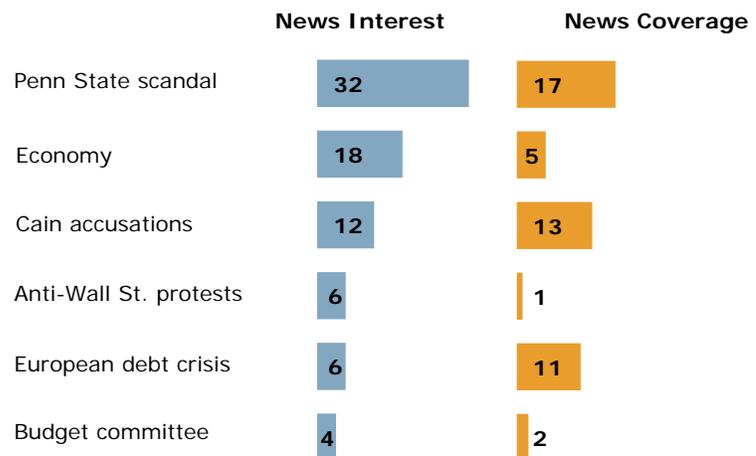
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

News Interest and Coverage

News about the arrest of a former assistant coach at Penn State on sex abuse charges — and its many ramifications — is the week's top story both in public interest and in news coverage.

Nearly a third (32%) cite the Penn State scandal as their most closely followed story. This story accounted for 17% of coverage last week, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ).

News Interest Vs. News Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Nov. 10-13, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, Nov. 7-13, 2011.

The 2012 presidential campaign accounted for a total of 24% of all news coverage. About half of that (13% of total coverage) focused on allegations that Herman Cain sexually harassed several women in the late 1990s when he was president of the National Restaurant Association.

While the economy continues to attract broad public interest (18% cite this as their top story), coverage of the domestic economy accounted for just 5% of coverage. That does not include coverage of the congressional “super committee” working to come up with a deficit reduction plan (2% of coverage) or coverage of the continuing anti-Wall Street protests (1%).

Nearly Half Say Cain Accusations Have Been Overcovered

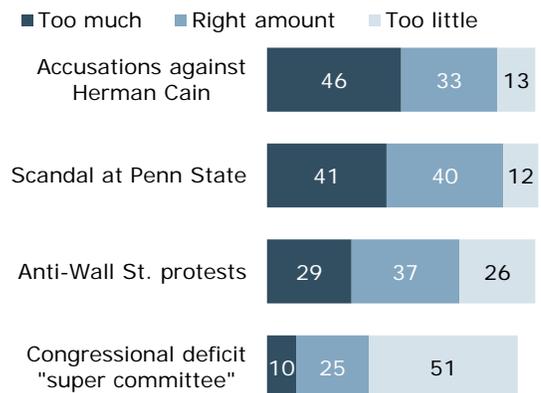
Nearly half of the public (46%) say news organizations have given too much coverage to the sexual harassment allegations against Cain. Fewer (33%) say this story has received the right amount of attention and just 13% say it has received too little.

Perceptions of coverage of the Penn State scandal are more mixed: 41% say the story received too much coverage, while 40% say it received the right amount. Just 12% say it received too little.

By contrast, about half (51%) say the congressional “super committee” – now negotiating behind closed doors to find ways to significantly reduce government spending and federal deficit – has gotten too little attention.

Though a plurality views coverage of anti-Wall Street protests around the country as about right (37%), about a quarter (26%) say the protests are getting too little coverage. About three-in-ten (29%) say the protests have received too much coverage.

Coverage of Accusations Against Cain Seen as Excessive



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011. Don't know responses not shown.

Far more Republicans (57%) than Democrats (39%) say that coverage of the Cain allegations has been excessive; 48% of independents share this view. Just a quarter of Republicans say that Cain has received the right amount of coverage (27%), compared with 40% of Democrats who say this. In June, majorities of Republicans (57%), Democrats (68%) and independents (66%) agreed that coverage of the scandal involving former Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner received too much coverage.

Republicans Far More Likely to See Cain Coverage as Excessive

<i>Coverage of Cain accusations ...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Too much	46	57	39	48
Right amount	33	27	40	31
Too little	13	10	15	13
Don't know	9	6	6	8
	100	100	100	100

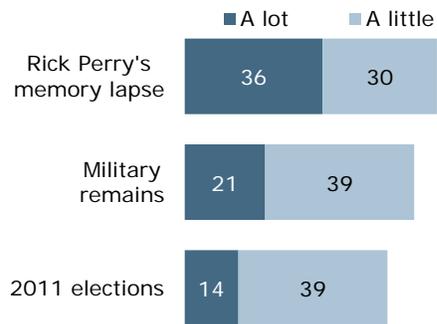
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Perry Memory Lapse Widely Known

Two-thirds of the public (66%) heard at least a little about Rick Perry's memory lapse at a Republican presidential candidate debate last week; 36% say they heard a lot and 30% say they heard a little about this. Another third (33%) say they heard nothing at all.

Partisans are about equally likely to say they heard at least a little about Perry's prolonged effort to recall which government agencies he would eliminate if elected. One week earlier, three-quarters of the public (75%) had heard either a lot (51%) or a little (24%) about the sexual harassment allegations made against Cain.

What the Public is Hearing About



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011. Heard nothing at all and Don't know responses not shown.

The public heard less about last week's off-year elections and ballot initiatives, some of which were seen as indicators of voter sentiment heading into 2012. Just 14% say they heard a lot about the elections, while 39% say they heard a little. Nearly half (46%) say they heard nothing at all about this news. Partisans are about equally likely to have heard at least a little about last week's elections.

Many also had not heard about news that broke late in the week about the mishandling of the remains of U.S. service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. About two-in-ten (21%) say they heard a lot about reports that the mortuary at Dover Air Force Base had dumped cremated body parts in a landfill. About four-in-ten (39%) say they heard a little about this, while 40% say they heard nothing at all.

The Week's News

With elements of the story continuing to unfold all week, the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State University was the top story for 32% of the public, much higher than the second ranking story, the economy, at 18%. About a third (34%) say they very closely followed the Penn State news. Men and women are about equally likely to say they followed this news very closely and that it was their top story of the week.

About four-in-ten (39%) say they followed news about the condition of the U.S. economy very closely, a level of interest comparable to recent weeks.

About a quarter (24%) say they followed news about the allegations against Cain very closely; 12% say this was the news they followed most closely. Partisans are about equally likely to say they followed this news very closely (28% of Republicans, 27% of Democrats and 21% of independents). That holds true for men and women as well (26% and 22%, respectively).

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Nov. 10-13, 2011.

Fewer (16%) say they followed the continuing anti-Wall Street protests very closely; 6% say this was their top story. The Occupy Wall Street protests accounted for only 1% of coverage last week, dropping from 5% the previous week.

The European debt crisis accounted for 11% of coverage amid efforts to help both Italy and Greece. Developments included a promise by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to resign once the nation's legislature enacted austerity measures. Public attention, though, was modest: 15% say they followed this news very closely and 6% say this was the news they followed most closely.

There was also modest interest in the work of the "super committee" on Capitol Hill which is trying to negotiate a deficit reduction deal ahead of a Nov. 23 deadline. About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed this news very closely; 4% say this was their top story. Partisans are equally likely to say they followed news about the negotiations very closely. With the negotiations taking place largely behind closed doors, news about the super committee has been limited as well. The story accounted for just 2% of coverage last week, according to PEJ.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected Nov. 7-13, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected Nov. 10-13 from a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted Nov. 10-13, 2011, among a national sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 400 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 189 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. 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.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 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	1,000	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	260	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	312	7.0 percentage points
Independents	317	7.0 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 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
NOVEMBER 10-13, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

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. A sex abuse scandal at Penn State University resulting in the firing of the school's president and football coach Joe Paterno November 10-13, 2011	34	29	19	18	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
August 18-21, 2011: <i>Recent scandals in college football</i>	10	12	17	61	*
September 16-19, 2010: <i>Pope Benedict's visit to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse scandals</i>	10	16	26	47	1
April 23-26, 2010: <i>Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church</i>	14	28	29	29	*
March 26-29, 2010	17	24	28	30	*
March 19-22, 2010	8	18	31	42	1
June, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	38	36	17	8	1
May, 2002: <i>The Pope and American cardinals meeting in Rome about sexual abuse by Catholic priests</i>	27	33	21	18	1
Early April, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	27	34	25	13	1
December, 1993	18	32	31	18	1
b. A congressional "super committee" whose goal is to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit November 10-13, 2011	19	21	24	36	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 3-6, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	24	31	21	24	1
October 27-30, 2011	25	28	21	25	1
October 13-16, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	29	32	15	24	1
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>Congress working on a budget extension to avoid a government shutdown</i>	31	26	20	22	*
September 22-25, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	35	26	19	19	1
September 15-18, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation</i>	31	28	19	21	2
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i>	28	18	17	36	1

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
July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	41	27	15	17	*
July 21-24, 2011	38	28	17	17	*
July 14-17, 2011	34	29	18	19	*
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>	24	26	22	28	*
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
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
December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i>	39	26	17	17	1
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i>	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plan to help homeowners facing foreclosure which could cost as much as \$275 billion dollars</i>	31	36	19	13	1
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The \$780 billion economic stimulus legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama</i>	41	37	14	8	*
February 13-16, 2009: <i>Congress passing Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	50	32	13	5	*

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
February 6-9, 2009: <i>The debate in Congress over Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	41	33	15	11	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	36	29	22	13	*
January 16-19, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over what the government should do about the nation's economic problems</i>	35	33	17	15	*
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
October 3-6, 2008: <i>The debate in Washington over a plan to use government funds to stabilize financial markets</i>	62	26	7	5	*
September 26-29, 2008	60	22	10	8	*
September 12-15, 2008: <i>The federal government taking control of the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac</i>	28	35	19	17	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>The buyout of Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns</i>	21	26	21	32	*
February 8-11, 2008: <i>President Bush and Congress agreeing on an economic Stimulus plan</i>	22	33	23	21	1
January 25-28, 2008	24	36	19	21	*
February, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	26	33	23	16	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
August, 1997: <i>The debate in Washington about the federal budget</i>	14	34	25	26	1
May, 1997	16	38	23	22	1
February, 1997	19	28	22	29	2
March, 1996	24	35	23	18	*
January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*
September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*
August, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the federal budget</i>	18	34	27	20	1

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
February, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the Balanced Budget Amendment</i>	12	31	28	28	1
August, 1993: <i>The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget bill</i>	30	36	21	13	*
June, 1993	12	38	31	18	1
February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's economic plan</i>	49	36	10	5	*
September, 1992 (RV): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
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, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i>	26	30	20	23	1
c. Anti-Wall Street protests in several cities around the country					
November 10-13, 2011	16	30	24	29	1
November 3-6, 2011	18	29	22	30	1
October 27-30, 2011: <i>Anti-Wall Street protests in New York and other cities</i>	19	27	23	31	1
October 20-23, 2011	19	29	20	31	1
October 13-16, 2011	22	31	21	26	1
October 6-9, 2011	17	25	22	35	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 10-13, 2011: <i>Disputes in Wisconsin and other states between state governments and public employee unions</i>	30	26	18	25	1
March 3-6, 2011	29	24	19	27	1
February 24-27, 2011	36	22	15	26	1
April 16-19, 2010: <i>Anti-government protests on April 15</i>	16	21	21	41	1
April 17-20, 2009: <i>Tea party protests against taxes and government spending</i>	27	25	22	25	1
May, 2000: <i>The protests in Washington, D.C., at the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund</i>	6	18	32	43	1
December, 1999: <i>The protests in Seattle at the World Trade Organization meeting</i>	18	30	27	24	1
d. Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Greece and Italy					
November 10-13, 2011	15	23	23	38	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 3-6, 2011: <i>Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Greece and other European countries</i>	18	26	21	34	1
October 27-30, 2011	12	27	24	36	*
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>The debt crisis in Greece and other European countries</i>	15	21	24	39	1
September 15-18, 2011	16	23	24	37	1
August 18-21, 2011: <i>The debate among European leaders on how to address the region's debt crisis</i>	12	21	22	44	1

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
August 11-14, 2011: <i>Riots in London and other parts of Britain</i>	17	28	21	32	1
June 30-July 3, 2011: <i>The financial crisis and violent protests in Greece</i>	14	22	23	39	1
June 16-19, 2011	10	20	25	45	1
May 13-16, 2010: <i>A trillion-dollar bailout package for European governments facing debt problems</i>	21	26	24	28	2
May 7-10, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece and violent protests there</i>	19	23	26	31	*
April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece</i>	6	15	28	51	1
October, 1998: <i>Financial instability around the world</i>	32	40	19	9	*
September, 1998: <i>Economic and political instability in Russia</i>	18	30	28	24	*
Late August, 1998: <i>Economic problems in Russia</i>	8	22	29	41	*
January, 1998: <i>The deepening financial crisis in many Asian countries</i>	15	25	27	33	*
March, 1995: <i>The financial and political instability in Mexico</i>	12	28	30	29	1
e. Accusations that Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain sexually harassed several women in the 1990s					
November 10-13, 2011	24	30	22	23	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Anthony Weiner resigning from Congress amid controversy over sexually suggestive photos he sent to several women online</i>	20	27	24	28	*
June 9-12, 2011: <i>Controversy about Congressman Anthony Weiner admitting that he sent sexually suggestive photos of himself to several women in online messages</i>	15	27	23	34	1
March 12-15, 2010: <i>The resignation of Congressman Eric Massa amid allegations of improper conduct with staff members</i>	7	17	28	47	*
June 26-29, 2009: <i>South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford admitting he had an affair</i>	16	25	28	30	1
August 15-18, 2008: <i>John Edwards' admission that he had an affair</i>	13	26	30	30	1
March 14-17, 2008: <i>The governor of New York, Eliot Spitzer, resigning because of his involvement with a prostitution ring</i>	26	35	24	15	*
September 7-10, 2007: <i>Reports about Idaho Senator Larry Craig's political future following his arrest for disorderly conduct in a men's restroom</i>	16	27	27	29	1
August 30-September 2, 2007: <i>Idaho Senator Larry Craig's arrest for disorderly conduct in a men's restroom in the Minneapolis airport</i>	19	29	22	29	1
October 17-22, 2006: <i>The resignation of Congressman Mark Foley, who sent inappropriate messages to young people</i>	26	32	23	18	1

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 5-8, 1996: <i>The resignation of (Bill) Clinton advisor Dick Morris over charges of sexual misconduct</i>	17	29	33	21	*
October 5-8, 1989: <i>The scandal involving Congressman Barney Frank and a male prostitute</i>	6	19	26	48	1
September 1-15, 1987: <i>The end of Gary Hart's candidacy and the Donna Rice allegations</i>	28	35	27	10	*
f. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
November 10-13, 2011	39	31	15	14	*
November 3-6, 2011	37	31	15	17	1
October 27-30, 2011	38	33	14	15	1
October 20-23, 2011	38	32	14	16	1
October 13-16, 2011	39	32	14	14	*
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	46	26	14	14	*
September 22-25, 2011	44	33	11	11	*
September 8-11, 2011	40	30	15	14	1
September 1-4, 2011	44	30	11	15	*
August 25-28, 2011	44	28	14	13	1
August 18-21, 2011	44	29	12	14	1
August 4-7, 2011	46	30	11	13	1
July 28-31, 2011	43	30	13	13	*
July 21-24, 2011	41	32	13	13	1
July 14-17, 2011	41	30	14	14	1
July 7-10, 2011	36	30	15	18	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	38	32	13	16	1
June 23-26, 2011	37	29	15	19	*
June 16-19, 2011	39	33	14	13	*
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*
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, 2011	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

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
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	*
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	*

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
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	*
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

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
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	*
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

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.]**

Nov 10-13

2011

32	A sex abuse scandal at Penn State University resulting in the firing of the school's president and football coach Joe Paterno
18	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
12	Accusations that Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain sexually harassed several women in the 1990s
6	Anti-Wall Street protests in several cities around the country
6	Efforts to deal with the debt crisis in Greece and Italy
4	A congressional "super committee" whose goal is to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit
5	Some other story (VOL.)
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3a How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Texas Governor Rick Perry's memory lapse at a Republican presidential debate November 10-13, 2011	36	30	33	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON: October 6-9, 2011: <i>Reports that Texas Governor Rick Perry's family once leased a hunting camp with a racially insensitive name</i>	17	26	56	1
September 22-25, 2011: <i>Texas Governor Rick Perry criticizing Barack Obama's policy towards Israel and the Palestinians</i>	23	42	35	1
b. Results of the 2011 elections and ballot initiatives in several states November 10-13, 2011	14	39	46	1
c. Reports that the remains of U.S. service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were mistreated November 10-13, 2011	21	39	40	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON: March, 2007: <i>Problems with outpatient care for injured military personnel at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.</i>	41	34	23	2

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Sexual harassment accusations against Herman Cain November 10-13, 2011	46	13	33	9
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
June 9-12, 2011: <i>Congressman Anthony Weiner sending sexually suggestive photos online to women</i>	63	7	20	11
March 12-15, 2010: <i>The resignation of New York Congressman Eric Massa amid allegations of improper conduct with staff members</i>	39	12	32	16
March 14-17, 2008: <i>Eliot Spitzer's resignation as governor of New York</i> ¹	53	5	35	7
August 17-20, 1995: <i>Sexual harassment charges leveled against Senator Bob Packwood</i> ²	28	14	52	6
b. Anti-Wall Street protests in several cities November 10-13, 2011	29	26	37	8
c. The congressional deficit reduction "super committee" November 10-13, 2011	10	51	25	13
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
June 30-July 3, 2011: <i>The federal budget deficit and the national debt</i>	11	34	44	11
April 21-25, 2011	8	41	44	6
April 2-7, 2003: <i>The federal budget deficit</i>	11	42	40	7
d. The sex abuse scandal at Penn State University November 10-13, 2011	41	12	40	7

Thinking about recent economic news...

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

	<u>Hearing mostly good news</u>	<u>Hearing mostly bad news</u>	<u>A mix of good and bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 10-13, 2011	3	48	48	1
October 6-9, 2011	1	58	39	2
September 1-4, 2011	2	61	35	1
August 4-7, 2011	1	67	30	2
July 7-10, 2011	3	49	46	2
June 2-5, 2011	2	46	50	1
May 12-15, 2011	6	35	56	2
March 31-April 3, 2011	5	33	60	2
March 3-6, 2011	7	38	53	2
February 3-6, 2011	6	29	64	1
January 6-9, 2011	7	24	68	1
December 2-5, 2010	4	39	55	1
November 11-14, 2010	5	41	53	2
October 7-10, 2010	6	39	53	2
September 2-6, 2010	3	41	54	2
August 5-8, 2010	4	38	55	3
July 1-5, 2010	3	42	54	1

¹ Item not asked as part of a list.

² Item not asked as part of a list and was worded: "Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the sexual harassment charges leveled against Senator Bob Packwood, TOO LITTLE attention, or the right amount of attention?"

PEW.4 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
June 10-13, 2010	4	30	65	1
May 7-10, 2010	4	29	66	1
April 1-5, 2010	6	28	66	*
March 5-8, 2010	4	30	66	1
February 5-8, 2010	4	35	61	*
January 8-11, 2010	5	29	65	1
December 4-7, 2009	7	33	59	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	5	31	62	2
October 9-12, 2009	6	27	66	1
September 3-6, 2009	5	27	68	1
August 7-10, 2009	11	29	59	1
July 2-5, 2009	3	41	56	*
June 12-15, 2009	4	37	59	*
May 8-11, 2009	4	31	64	1
April 9-13, 2009	4	39	56	1
March 13-16, 2009	2	51	46	1
February 13-16, 2009	2	60	37	1
January 16-19, 2009	2	67	30	1
December 5-8, 2008	1	80	19	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The financial markets				
November 10-13, 2011	4	50	41	5
August 4-7, 2011	2	69	25	4
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	13	30	51	6
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	16	32	47	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	33	48	7
August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values				
November 10-13, 2011	6	55	32	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	63	27	6
June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9
May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	6	48	38	8
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7
December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	12	44	38	6
March 5-8, 2010	8	45	42	5
January 8-11, 2010	11	43	40	5
October 30-November 2, 2009	13	43	37	6
August 7-10, 2009	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods				
November 10-13, 2011	5	52	36	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	62	28	5
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	30	6
May 12-15, 2011	3	58	32	6
March 31-April 3, 2011	3	59	34	4
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5
February 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5
December 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9
April 1-5, 2010	10	35	46	9
March 5-8, 2010	9	34	50	7
January 8-11, 2010	12	37	45	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	39	42	7
August 7-10, 2009	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation				
November 10-13, 2011	5	64	28	2
August 4-7, 2011	4	74	21	2
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	34	3
May 12-15, 2011	9	51	37	3
March 31-April 3, 2011	12	43	42	2
March 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3
February 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2
December 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1
September 2-6, 2010	5	65	28	2
July 1-5, 2010	5	64	30	1
May 7-10, 2010	9	52	38	2
April 1-5, 2010	9	56	33	2
March 5-8, 2010	5	59	35	1
January 8-11, 2010	6	61	31	2
October 30-November 2, 2009	3	68	27	2
August 7-10, 2009	6	61	32	1
June 12-15, 2009	1	71	27	1
e. Gas prices				
November 10-13, 2011	9	47	36	8
August 4-7, 2011	4	66	26	4
June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2
May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1
March 31-April 3, 2011	1	88	10	1
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3