



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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Many Aware of GOP Debate Fights: Ponzi Schemes and Vaccines Economic Stories Top Public Interest and Coverage

Amid continued worries about the health of the nation's economy and persistent unemployment, the debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation topped the public's news interest last week.

Nearly a quarter of the public (23%) says they followed the back and forth over Obama's proposal more closely than any other news last week, according to the latest News Interest Index survey,

conducted Sept. 15-18 among 1,006 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Other economic stories also drew the public's interest: 11% say their top story was the recent ups and downs in the stock markets and 7% say they followed news about new government poverty figures most closely. Another 5% cite the debt crisis in Greece and other European countries as their top story.

Combining several separate story lines, news about the U.S. economy also topped coverage, making up 20% of the newshole altogether, according to a separate analysis by

News Interest vs. News Coverage

	News Interest	News Coverage
Jobs legislation debate	23	10
2012 elections	13	12
Stock markets	11	1
Rising poverty	7	3
European debt crisis	5	4
Afghanistan attacks	5	6

News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Sept. 15-18, 2011. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, Sept. 12-18, 2011.

the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. About half of that – 10% of total coverage – dealt with the debate over Obama's jobs plan and alternative ideas offered by Republicans. News about the economy's impact on Americans – mostly tied to the government report that said 46 million Americans now live in poverty – accounted for 3% of coverage. News about the stock market swings accounted for another 1%, while other economic news made up another 6%. Separately, the debt crisis in Europe accounted for 4% of overall coverage.

With economic policies expected to play a critical role in next year's elections, Americans also closely followed news about the 2012 presidential candidates; 13% say this was the news they followed most closely. News about the campaign – highlighted by the skirmishing among Republican candidates – accounted for 12% of coverage.

The debate over jobs legislation was a top story across partisan lines, though Democrats express greater interest than Republicans. Nearly three-in-ten Democrats (29%) say this was the story they followed most closely, compared with 11% who cite news about the candidates for the 2012 presidential elections as their top story. Republicans are more evenly divided over their top story: 22% say they followed news about the candidates most closely, while 17% say they followed the debate over jobs legislation this closely. Among independents, 21% cite the jobs debate as their top story, 13% cite ups and downs in the stock market and 10% cite news about the presidential candidates.

Most Aware of Ponzi Talk, Vaccine Debate

Nearly two-thirds of the public (65%) say they have heard at least a little about Texas Gov. Rick Perry's reference to Social Security as a Ponzi scheme. More than a third (36%) say they heard a lot about this, while 29% say they heard a little. Roughly equal numbers of Republicans (69%), Democrats (67%) and independents (65%) say they heard at least a little about Perry's take on Social Security.

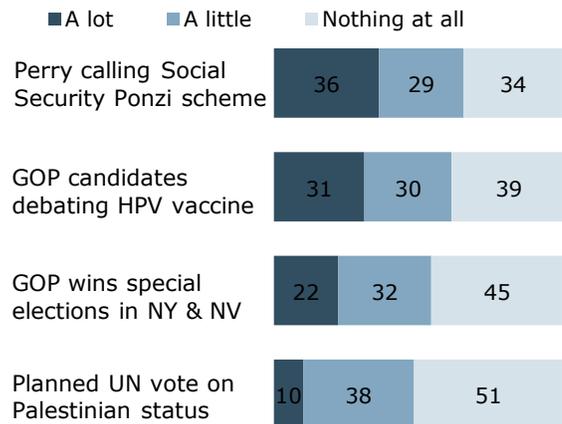
About six-in-ten (61%) say they heard at least a little about the debate among Republican candidates over mandatory vaccinations for young girls against HPV, a sexually transmitted virus linked to cervical cancer; 31% say they heard a lot about this, while 30% say they heard a little. About four-in-ten (39%) had heard nothing at all. On this question also, partisans are about equally likely to have heard at least as little about the HPV vaccine debate.

Republicans, though, are more likely than Democrats or independents to say they heard at least a little about the special congressional elections last week in New York and Nevada, both won by the GOP candidates.

Overall, just more than half (54%) say they heard at least a little about the elections, including one to replace New York Democrat Anthony Weiner; 22% heard a lot about this, while 32% heard a little. Nearly half (45%) say they heard nothing at all. Among Republicans, 64% say they heard at least a little about the special elections, compared with 49% of Democrats and 54% of independents.

About half (48%) say they heard at least a little last week about the upcoming debate at the United Nations about the status of the Palestinian Territories. Just 10% say they

News the Public is Hearing About



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 15-18, 2011

GOP Debate Fights Register with Public

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>% hearing at least a little about...</i>	%	%	%	%
Perry calls Social Security a Ponzi scheme	65	69	67	65
GOP candidates debate HPV vaccine	61	61	62	64
GOP wins two special House elections	54	64	49	54
Upcoming UN debate on Palestinian Terr.	48	45	51	50

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 15-18, 2011.

heard a lot about this story, which has drawn more attention this week, and 38% say they heard a little. About half (51%) say they heard nothing at all about this story last week. Partisans are about equally likely to have heard about the expected debate at this week's UN meeting.

The Week's News

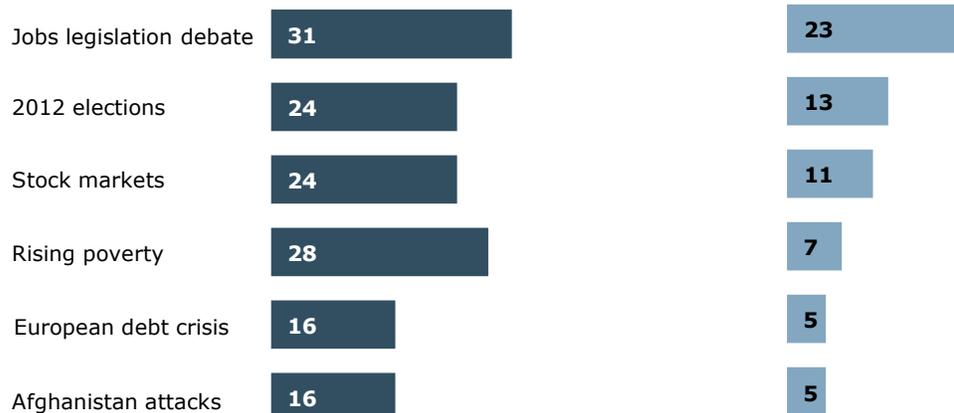
While the public followed the debate about Obama's jobs legislation more closely than any other news, they also closely followed news about new government estimates on the number of Americans living in poverty. Currently, an estimated 15.1% of the population – 46 million people – live in poverty, the highest share since 1993. About three-in-ten (31%) say they followed news about the debate in Washington over jobs legislation *very* closely, about the same as the 28% that say they followed news about the new poverty numbers that closely.

The number following the debate in Washington is comparable to the 28% that said they followed Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress one week earlier. Three-in-ten women (31%) say they followed the news about poverty numbers very closely, compared with 24% of men. Democrats and Republicans express similar interest in this story (34% and 28% very closely, respectively).

News Interest

% following each story very closely

Which one story did you follow most closely?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 15-18, 2011.

About a quarter of Americans say they followed news about the 2012 candidates or the fluctuations in the stock market very closely (24% each). Partisans express comparable levels of interest in both stories. Interest in election news has been relatively steady since late August.

Not surprisingly, those with household incomes of at least \$75,000 are more likely to say they followed news about the stock markets very closely (35%) than those with lower household incomes (21% among those earning \$30,000 to \$74,999 and 16% among those earning less than \$30,000).

Fewer than two-in-ten (16%) each say they followed news about the European debt crisis or last week's attack on the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan very closely. News out of Afghanistan accounted for 6% of coverage.

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 Sept. 12-18, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected Sept. 15-18 from a nationally representative sample of 1,006 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 Sept. 15-18, 2011, among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (604 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 402 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 176 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	1,006	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	264	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	289	7.0 percentage points
Independents	390	6.0 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
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006

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. The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation September 15-18, 2011	31	28	19	21	2
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i>	28	18	17	36	1
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
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	*
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	*
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

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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
August, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i>	26	30	20	23	1
b. A government report showing that 46 million Americans live in poverty					
September 15-18, 2011	28	27	20	25	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 6-9, 2009: <i>Reports about the rising unemployment rate</i>	34	29	22	14	*
May 8-11, 2009	33	33	17	17	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 3-6, 2009	36	37	16	11	*
March 6-9, 2009	42	33	13	11	1
January 9-12, 2009	45	34	14	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	40	33	17	10	*
November 7-10, 2008	39	32	17	12	*
February 6-9, 2009	44	36	11	9	*
c. Attacks on the U.S. embassy and NATO's headquarters in Afghanistan					
September 15-18, 2011	16	24	22	37	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 1-4, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	17	32	26	25	*
August 11-14, 2011: <i>The 30 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan in a helicopter attack</i>	39	33	13	14	1
June 30-July 3, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	22	34	24	20	1
June 23-26, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan</i>	27	32	20	20	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	20	35	23	21	1
March 3-6, 2011: <i>U.S. airmen killed at an airport in Frankfurt, Germany</i>	16	22	19	42	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>The Obama administration's review of the Afghanistan war strategy</i>	17	26	25	31	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	22	22	1
November 18-21, 2010	27	33	21	18	1
October 21-24, 2010	21	34	23	21	1
October 7-10, 2010	21	36	20	22	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	23	37	23	15	1
September 23-26, 2010	29	40	19	11	1
September 9-12, 2010	30	33	20	17	*
July 29-August 1, 2010	34	35	22	9	*
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
June 17-20, 2010	21	30	27	22	*
May 20-23, 2010	22	33	25	20	*
April 9-12, 2010	21	29	27	22	1
February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	24	36	21	19	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	43	33	14	8	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
August 19-22, 2008: <i>A terrorist bombing at the U.S. embassy in Yemen</i>	15	27	31	26	1
July 18-21, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
March 2-5, 2007: <i>A bombing in Afghanistan near where Vice President Cheney was staying</i>	19	33	26	21	1
Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
9January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1
October, 2000: <i>The terrorist attack on the navy warship U.S.S. Cole</i>	44	35	12	9	*
August, 1998: <i>The bombing at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania</i>	27	37	18	18	*
July, 1996: <i>The bombing of a military base in Saudi Arabia</i>	32	36	20	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
d. The debt crisis in Greece and other European countries					
September 15-18, 2011	16	23	24	37	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
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
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. News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
September 15-18, 2011	24	28	21	27	1
September 8-11, 2011	22	26	21	31	*
September 1-4, 2011	22	23	22	32	1
August 25-28, 2011	22	22	22	33	1
August 18-21, 2011	27	26	19	28	1
August 11-14, 2011	19	24	20	36	1
August 4-7, 2011	18	21	22	37	1
July 28-31, 2011	17	27	21	35	1
July 21-24, 2011	17	22	28	32	*
July 14-17, 2011	18	26	27	28	1
July 7-10, 2011	16	23	27	33	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	21	28	24	25	2
June 23-26, 2011	19	26	24	31	*
June 16-19, 2011	23	29	23	25	*
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
2008 Election					
October 31-November 3, 2008: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	57	29	9	5	*
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	44	36	11	8	1
October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*
September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	*
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign</i>	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 – December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	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 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007: <i>Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008</i>	24	27	22	26	1
2004 Election					
November, 2004: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	47	35	10	7	1
Mid-October, 2004: <i>News about candidates for the 2004 presidential election</i>	46	30	12	11	1
September, 2004	40	34	14	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
June, 2004	28	34	19	18	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004 (GAP)	24	40	23	12	1
Early February, 2004: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	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
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003: <i>Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004</i>	14	28	29	28	1
2000 Election					
Early November, 2000: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	33	41	15	10	1
Mid-October, 2000: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	36	35	17	11	1
Early October, 2000	35	35	19	10	1
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	1
July, 2000: <i>News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election</i>	21	38	20	20	1
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
1996 Election					
November, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election</i>	28	42	19	10	*
October, 1996: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	31	39	18	12	*
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1
April, 1996	23	35	25	17	*
March, 1996 <i>News about the Republican presidential candidates</i>	26	41	20	13	*
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1
October, 1995	12	36	30	22	*
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1
1992 Election					
October, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>	55	36	8	2	0
September, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election campaign</i>	42	37	13	8	*
August, 1992: <i>News about the presidential election (RVs)</i>	36	51	11	2	0
July, 1992: <i>News about the presidential campaign</i>	20	45	26	9	*
May, 1992: <i>The presidential election campaign</i>	32	44	16	8	*
March, 1992: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>	35	40	16	9	*
March, 1992: <i>The race for the Republican presidential nomination</i>	25	40	22	13	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 1992: <i>The Democratic primary in New Hampshire</i>	19	31	26	24	*
February, 1992: <i>The Republican primary in New Hampshire</i>	19	31	26	23	1
January, 1992: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	11	25	36	27	1
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*
October, 1991	12	26	31	29	2
October, 1988: <i>News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (RVs)</i>	43	44	11	2	*
1988 Election					
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*
May, 1988 (RVs)	22	46	23	6	3
November, 1987: <i>News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	15	28	35	21	1
November, 1987: <i>News about the Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	13	28	36	22	1
September, 1987: <i>Coverage of the Democratic and Republican candidates for the presidential nomination</i>	14	34	37	14	1
f. Recent ups and downs in the stock market					
September 15-18, 2011	24	27	18	30	1
August 11-14, 2011	32	28	16	24	1
July 28-31, 2011	18	23	20	39	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 27-30, 2011: <i>Recent gains in the stock market</i>	13	17	20	49	1
August 12-15, 2010: <i>Recent ups and downs in the stock market</i>	17	21	20	42	1
March 26-29, 2010	13	23	23	40	1
October 16-19, 2009: <i>Recent gains in the stock market</i>	15	23	19	43	*
July 24-27, 2009	23	25	24	28	*
March 13-16, 2009	38	31	14	17	0
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	35	31	15	19	*
February 20-23, 2009	31	32	20	17	*
November 21-24, 2008	50	23	15	12	*
October 17-20, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	54	31	9	6	*
October 10-13, 2008: <i>Recent major drops in the U.S. stock market</i>	59	26	9	6	*
July 3-7, 2008: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	22	29	23	26	*
March 14-17, 2008	25	31	23	21	*
January 25-28, 2008	29	28	19	23	1
August 17-20, 2007	21	24	22	33	*
July 27-30, 2007	15	26	21	37	1
March 2-5, 2007: <i>The recent drop in the U.S. stock market</i>	21	28	25	26	*
Early September, 2002: <i>Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market</i>	27	30	20	22	1
Late July, 2002	33	33	15	18	1
March, 2001	27	27	18	27	1
Mid-October, 2000	20	26	23	31	1
April, 2000	18	28	23	31	*

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
Early April, 2000	19	29	20	32	*
March, 2000	23	29	21	26	1
March, 1999	18	29	22	31	*
January, 1999	24	28	19	28	1
Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*
Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*
January, 1998	21	25	23	31	*
Mid-November, 1997	25	36	18	20	1
Early November, 1997: <i>Thinking about last Monday when the stock market dropped, how closely did you follow what was happening?</i>	16	29	22	33	*

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.**]

Sep 15-18

2011

23	The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation
13	News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
11	Recent ups and downs in the stock market
7	A government report showing that 46 million Americans live in poverty
5	The debt crisis in Greece and other European countries
5	Attacks on the U.S. embassy and NATO's headquarters in Afghanistan
16	Some other story (VOL.)
20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

PEWWP.1-PEWWP.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 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.) DK/Ref
a. The planned debate at the United Nations over the status of the Palestinian territories September 15-18, 2011	10	38	51	1
b. Texas Governor Rick Perry calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme September 15-18, 2011	36	29	34	1
c. Republicans winning two special congressional races in New York and Nevada September 15-18, 2011	22	32	45	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: July 2-5, 2009: <i>The Court declaring Al Franken the winner of Minnesota's U.S. Senate race</i>	16	43	41	*

PEW.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d. Republican candidates debating mandatory vaccination for young girls against a sexually transmitted virus September 15-18, 2011	31	30	39	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: April 24-27, 2009: <i>The federal government's decision allowing over-the-counter sale of the Plan B contraceptive to women as young as 17</i>	19	46	35	*