

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**January 3-6, 2013, OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,003**

**PEW.1a,b,d,e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
c. Congress and the president passing legislation to avoid the Fiscal Cliff January 3-6, 2013	38	26	16	21	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
December 13-16, 2012: <i>The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the president and Congress act</i>	37	28	16	18	1
December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
February 16-20, 2012: <i>Congress passing a bill to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits<sup>1</sup></i>	24	27	21	27	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Congress and the president agreeing to cut federal spending and raise the debt limit</i>	46	25	13	14	1
December 16-19, 2010 <sup>2</sup> : <i>The extension of tax cuts and unemployment benefits approved by Congress and signed by President Obama</i>	37	27	15	19	1
December 9-12, 2010: <i>The agreement reached between Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits</i>	37	29	15	17	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	*

<sup>1</sup> The wording of item PEW.1d was changed after the first night of interviewing (February 16, 2012) to reflect Congress passing this legislation. On February 16, 2012, the item wording was "Negotiations in Congress to extend payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

<sup>2</sup> The wording of item PEW.1c was changed after the first night of interviewing (December 16, 2010), to reflect Congress passing and Obama signing this legislation. On December 16, 2010 the item read "The debate in Washington over extending tax cuts and unemployment benefits."

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
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	*
May, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	25	36	22	15	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>Debate in Congress over G.W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>G.W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
September, 1999: <i>The debate in Washington over how much to cut taxes</i>	18	30	28	23	1
July, 1999	14	34	21	31	*
June, 1997: <i>Competing proposals on ways to cut taxes as part of the recent bipartisan budget agreement</i>	11	27	28	33	1
September, 1992 (RVs): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about recent economic news...

PEW.2 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
January 3-6, 2013	6	32	59	2
December 6-9, 2012	7	36	54	2
November 1-4, 2012	10	33	55	2
October 4-7, 2012	8	28	62	2
September 7-9, 2012	6	35	58	1
August 2-5, 2012	3	41	53	3
July 5-8, 2012	4	40	55	2
May 31-June 3, 2012	3	37	57	3
May 3-6, 2012	6	32	60	2
April 5-8, 2012	11	30	57	2
March 8-11, 2012	11	24	62	2
February 2-5, 2012	8	30	59	3
January 5-8, 2012	9	30	60	1
December 1-4, 2011	6	36	56	1
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

**PEW.2 CONTINUED...**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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	*

**NO QUESTION PEW.3****ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 As you may know, Congress and the president have passed new legislation on taxes. From what you've read and heard, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of this tax legislation?

Jan 3-6

2013

38	NET Approve
6	Strongly approve
32	Approve
41	NET Disapprove
28	Disapprove
12	Strongly disapprove
21	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*As you may know, Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans have reached an agreement to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits. From what you've read and heard, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of this plan?*

Dec 9-12

2010

60	NET Approve
12	Strongly approve
48	Approve
22	NET Disapprove
17	Disapprove
5	Strongly disapprove
18	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking ahead...

PEW.5 Do you think this tax legislation will mostly help or hurt **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

		<u>Help</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	<u>(VOL.) Make no difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	The condition of the U.S. economy January 3-6, 2013	36	46	3	15
b.	People like yourself January 3-6, 2013	30	52	6	13
c.	The federal budget deficit January 3-6, 2013	33	44	4	18

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Thinking ahead...

Do you think this plan will help or hurt **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

(Question asked in reference to Barack Obama and Congressional Republicans reaching an agreement to extend tax cuts and unemployment benefits.)

		<u>Help</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	<u>(VOL.) Make no difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	The condition of the U.S. economy December 9-12, 2010	48	29	5	18
b.	People like yourself December 9-12, 2010	47	25	12	15
c.	The federal budget deficit December 9-12, 2010	26	46	5	23

**NO QUESTION PEW.6****ASK ALL:**PEW.7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** handled negotiations over the tax legislation?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama January 3-6, 2013	48	40	12
b.	Republican leaders in Congress January 3-6, 2013	19	66	15

**ASK ALL:**PEW.8 And just your impression, who do you think got more of what they wanted from the tax legislation **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** OR **[ITEM]**?

Jan 3-6

2013

57	Barack Obama
20	Republican leaders in Congress
4	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>
4	Neither <b>(VOL.)</b>
16	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>