

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 8-12, 2012
N=1501

Q.1-Q.3, Q.6a-e, Q.7-Q.8, Q.11, Q.13-Q.14, Q.16, Q.19-Q.21, Q.32-Q.33, Q.37, Q.40-42, Q.55-57, Q.60-61, Q.66-Q.67, Q.75, PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 4, 9-10, 12, 15, 17-18, 22-31, 34-36, 38-39, 49-54, 58-59, 68-70, 73-74

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Please tell me if you think each of the following is having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today? First, (is/are) **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in this country today? How about **[NEXT ITEM]** **[INTERVIEWER: IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: "Overall do you think (it is/they are) having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today?" IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]?**

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither/ No Influence/ Mixed</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=730]:					
a.F1	The federal government				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	22	66	6	6
	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	65	4	5
b.F1	Large corporations				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	28	57	7	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	64	4	8
c.F1	Small businesses				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	75	18	3	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	71	19	3	7
d.F1	Labor unions				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	37	45	5	14
	Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	4	14
e.F1	Churches and religious organizations				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	57	26	8	9
	Mar 11-21, 2010	63	22	7	8
f.F1	Colleges and universities				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	60	26	5	8
	Mar 11-21, 2010	61	26	4	9

NO ITEM g.**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=771]:**

h.F2	Congress				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	15	75	4	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	24	65	4	8

NO ITEMS i AND j.

k.F2	The entertainment industry				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	32	50	10	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	33	51	8	8

Q.5 CONTINUED...

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	(VOL.) Neither No Influence/ <u>Mixed</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
I.F2	Banks and other financial institutions				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	22	68	5	6
	Mar 11-21, 2010	22	69	4	6
m.F2	Technology companies				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	70	18	5	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	68	18	4	10
n.F2	The national news media				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	26	61	7	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	31	57	6	6
o.F2	The auto industry				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	55	29	7	8

ASK ALL:

Q.43 Please tell me which of these statements comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right

	<u>Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest</u>	<u>Government regulation of business usually does more harm than good</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither/DK</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	52	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011 ¹	47	45	8
December, 2008	47	43	10
October, 2008	50	38	12
January, 2008	41	50	9
December, 2004	49	41	10
July, 2002	54	36	10
February, 2002	50	41	9
August, 1999	48	44	8
October, 1996	45	46	9
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	43	51	6
October, 1994	38	55	7
July, 1994	41	54	5

¹ For Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011 and earlier this question was asked as part of a list.

ASK ALL:

Q.44 As you may recall during the financial market problems of 2008, the government made major loans to banks and financial institutions to try to keep the markets secure. Do you think this was the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to do?

Feb 8-12

2012

39	Right thing
52	Wrong thing
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

In 2008, the government made loans of roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this was the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to do?

	Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u> ²	Dec <u>2008</u>	Nov 14-17 <u>2008</u>	Mid- Oct <u>2008</u>	Late Sept <u>2008</u>	Sept 19-22 <u>2008</u>
Right thing	40	48	47	40	47	45	57
Wrong thing	51	40	43	43	37	38	30
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	12	10	17	16	17	13

ASK ALL:

Q.45 From what you've read and heard, how much of the money the government provided to banks and financial institutions has been paid back... All of the money, most of it, only some of it, or none of it?

Feb 8-12

2012

2	All of it
13	Most of it
56	Only some of it
16	None of it
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Apr 23-26

2010³

2
17
57
13
11

² In March 2009, the question began with: "In addition to the economic stimulus program Congress recently passed, the government is investing roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. ..." In December 2008, the question read: "As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" November and October surveys from 2008 did not include the phrase "of dollars" after "billions." In Late September 2008 and in the September 19-22, 2008 the question read: "As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word "committing" instead of "investing" showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

³ For April 23-26, 2010 the question asked about: "...money the federal government provided to troubled banks and financial institutions..."

ASK ALL:

Q.46 The government also gave loans to General Motors and Chrysler during this period. Do you think this was mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

Feb 8-12

2012

56	Mostly good for the economy
38	Mostly bad for the economy
*	No effect (VOL.)
*	Kept the economy from getting worse (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*Now I'd like to ask you about some steps the federal government has taken over the past year in reaction to economic problems facing the nation. First, has **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy? Next, has **[NEXT ITEM]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?*

The government giving loans to General Motors and Chrysler

	Sep 30-Oct 4
	<u>2009⁴</u>
Mostly good for the economy	37
Mostly bad for the economy	54
No effect (VOL.)	2
Kept the economy from getting worse (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

ASK ALL:

Q.47 In early 2009, President Obama and Congress passed a major economic stimulus plan that included money for states to deal with budget problems and funding for roads and other infrastructure. Do you think this stimulus plan was mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

Feb 8-12

2012

61	Mostly good for the economy
31	Mostly bad for the economy
2	No effect (VOL.)
*	Kept the economy from getting worse (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.48 In 2010, the President and Congress passed a law that more strictly regulates financial institutions and markets. What worries you more on this issue? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

Feb 8-12

2012

42	These regulations go too far, making it harder for the economy to grow [OR]
42	These regulations do not go far enough, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

May 13-16

2010⁵

46
44
11

⁴ For September 30-October 4, 2009 this list question also included items about: "The government giving loans to major U.S. banks and financial institutions" and "The government spending billions on roads, bridges and other public works projects."

⁵ For May 13-16, 2010 the question read: "Thinking about financial regulation, what worries you more...". The response options read "That the government will go too far in regulating financial institutions and markets, making it harder for the economy to grow," or "That the government will not go far enough in regulating financial institutions and markets, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=730]:

Next,

Q.62F1 What do you think about regulation in each of the following areas? First, should the federal government strengthen regulations, keep current regulations as they are, or reduce regulations when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Should government regulations on [INSERT ITEM] be strengthened, kept as they are, or reduced?]**

		<u>Strengthen regulations</u>	<u>Keep current regulations as they are</u>	<u>Reduce regulations</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Production and packaging of food Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	53 56	36 34	7 8	4 2
b.F1	Prescription drugs Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	39 37	33 30	20 29	8 4
c.F1	Workplace health and safety Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	41 47	45 40	10 12	4 2
d.F1	Environmental protection Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	50 53	29 26	17 19	4 2
e.F1	Safety and efficiency standards for automobiles Feb 8-12, 2012	45	42	9	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=771]:

Next,

Q.63F2 What do you think about regulation in each of the following areas? First, is there too much, too little or the right amount of federal regulation when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: When it comes to [INSERT ITEM], is there too much, too little or the right amount of federal regulation.]**

		<u>Too much regulation</u>	<u>Too little regulation</u>	<u>Right amount of regulation</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	Small businesses Feb 8-12, 2012	49	21	23	7
b.F2	Large corporations Feb 8-12, 2012	31	43	19	7
c.F2	Banks and financial institutions Feb 8-12, 2012	30	43	20	7
d.F2	The health insurance industry Feb 8-12, 2012	37	40	18	5
NO ITEMS e. AND f.					
g.F2	The oil and gas industry Feb 8-12, 2012	36	44	14	7

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.64 How much, if anything, have you heard about the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas? Have you heard **[READ]**?

Feb 8-12

2012

24	A lot
39	A little
37	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.64=1,2)

Q.65 Do you think the government should or should not approve the building of this pipeline?

BASED ON TOTAL:	BASED ON HEARD A LOT/LITTLE:	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
41	66	Government should approve the pipeline
14	23	Government should not approve the pipeline
7	11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
38	--	<i>Heard nothing/DK/Ref</i>
N 1501	1072	

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the internet...

Q.71 Do you think the government should do more to regulate how internet companies handle privacy issues, or should the government not get more involved in this?

BASED ON TOTAL:	BASED ON INTERNET USERS:	BASED ON SNS USERS:	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
38	36	37	Should do more
56	59	59	Should not get more involved
7	4	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
N 1501	1245	795	

ASK ALL:

Q.72 As you may know, many companies that offer email, search and social networking services on the internet collect information from their users to target advertisements toward them. Do you think this is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

BASED ON TOTAL:	BASED ON INTERNET USERS:	BASED ON SNS USERS:	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
59	56	52	An unjustified use of peoples' private information [OR]
33	39	43	A fair exchange for the free services these companies provide
8	5	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
N 1501	1245	795	

ASK ALL:

INT1 Do you use the internet, at least occasionally?

Feb 8-12

2012

83 Yes

17 No

* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)****ASK ALL:**

SN1 Do you ever use Facebook, Twitter or other social networking sites?

Feb 8-12

2012

58 Yes

42 No

* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
FEBRUARY 16-20, 2012 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006**

**PEW.1-PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
PEW.4-PEW.7 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

PEW.8 As you may know, in early 2009 Congress passed Barack Obama's 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan?

Feb 16-20 <u>2012</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 ⁶ <u>2009</u>
37	Approve	38	44	55
41	Disapprove	49	44	39
23	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	12	6

⁶ In June 2009, the question was worded "roughly 800 billion ..."