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## Obama Job Rating Declines

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# Pessimism About National Economy Rises, Personal Financial Views Hold Steady

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## Obama Job Rating Declines

# Pessimism about National Economy Rises, Personal Financial Views Hold Steady

With a growing number of Americans saying they have been hearing “mostly bad” economic news, opinions about the current state of the national economy remain grim. Positive expectations regarding future economic conditions, which remained high even during the depths of the recession, have declined and now stand at their lowest point since mid-2008.

Yet Americans express very different views about their *own* financial situations. And these impressions, while hardly favorable, have not become more negative over the past several months.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 15-19 among 1,502 adults, finds that 29% expect that economic conditions will be better a year from now while 23% say things will be worse. Last October, more than twice as many said the economy would be better, rather than worse, in a year (35% vs. 16%).

A separate survey, released June 8, found that the percentage saying they are hearing “mostly bad” economic news has nearly doubled since the start of the year, from 24% in January to 46% in June. (*For more, see “[Number Hearing ‘Mostly Bad’ Economic News Highest Since March 2009.](#)”*)

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### National Economic Outlook Slips, Personal Financial Outlook Steady

	Oct 2010	Apr 2011	June 2011
<i>View of nation's economy today...</i>	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	8	8	8
Only fair/Poor	92	91	91
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
<i>A year from now, economy will be...</i>			
Better	35	--	29
Worse	16	--	23
About the same	45	--	46
Don't know	<u>4</u>	--	<u>2</u>
	100		100
<i>Personal financial situation...</i>			
Excellent/Good	39	36	38
Only fair/Poor	59	62	61
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Over the next year, personal finances will...</i>			
Improve	57	51	56
Get worse	22	33	28
Stay the same (Vol.)	17	13	13
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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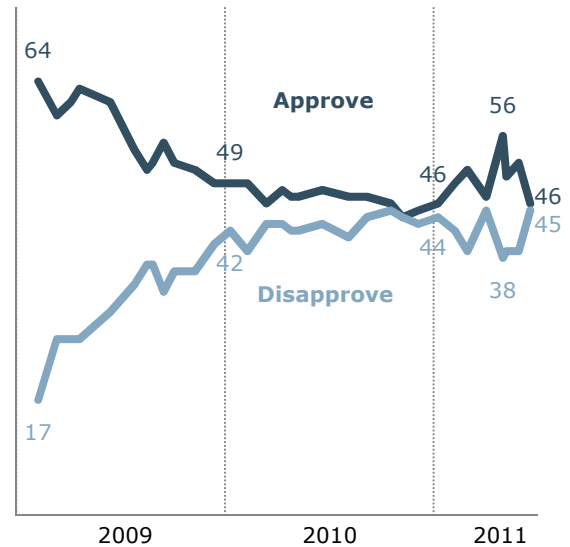
The rise in economic pessimism comes as Barack Obama's job approval rating has declined. Currently, about as many approve (46%) as disapprove (45%) of Obama's performance as president. In three previous surveys conducted after the killing of Osama bin Laden, far more had approved than disapproved. (*For more on changes in Obama's job approval, see the [detailed tables](#) at the end of this report.*)

Satisfaction with national conditions, which rose after bin Laden's death, also has declined. Just 23% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, down from 30% in early May.

The public's economic optimism is now at its lowest point since July 2008, shortly before the financial crisis. In the fall of 2008, as perceptions of *current* national economic conditions turned more negative, views of *future* economic conditions improved – and remained relatively optimistic well into Obama's presidency.

But the percentage saying they expect the economy to be better a year from now has fallen 13 points since April 2010 (from 42% to 29%) and is at the lowest point since Obama took office.

## Obama Job Approval Falls



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## Views of National Economy: Current and Future

	July 2008	Oct 2008	Feb 2009	June 2009	Dec 2009	Apr 2010	Oct 2010	June 2011
<i>View of nation's economy today...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	10	9	4	9	8	11	8	8
Only fair	39	32	24	39	41	39	38	45
Poor	50	58	71	52	50	49	54	46
<i>A year from now, economy will be...</i>								
Better	30	46	40	48	42	42	35	29
Worse	21	16	18	16	17	19	16	23
About the same	41	30	38	34	38	36	45	46

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q32 & Q33.

Fewer than three-in-ten Americans (27%) say that Obama's policies have made economic conditions better, a figure that has changed little over the past two years. Somewhat more (34%) say that Obama's policies have made conditions worse, while 33% say they have had no effect so far.

In terms of the public's priorities for economic policy, more Americans (52%) say they would place a higher priority on reducing the budget deficit rather than on spending to help the economy recover. In February, opinion was more closely divided (49% reduce deficit vs. 46% spend to help the economy recover).

While there are wide ideological and partisan gaps on this issue, independents view deficit reduction as the higher priority. More than half of independents (54%) say this should be a higher priority for the federal government, compared with 39% who prioritize spending to help the economy recover.

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### Deficit Cut a Higher Priority than Spending to Help Recovery

*Gov't should place higher priority on ...*

	<b>Spending to help recovery</b>	<b>Reducing budget deficit</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	42	52	6=100
Conserv Rep	13	82	4=100
Mod/Lib Rep	39	58	3=100
Independent	39	54	7=100
Conserv/Mod Dem	54	42	4=100
Liberal Dem	65	30	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q31. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Financial Views Stable, Financial Pain Persists

Over the past three years, there has been little change in people's assessments of their personal financial situations. Currently, 38% rate their personal finances as excellent or good, and 56% say they expect their personal financial situation to improve over the course of the next year.

Notably, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party have a much gloomier future financial outlook than do those who do not agree with the movement. Just 39% of Republican and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party expect their personal financial situation to improve over the course of the next year; that compares with 57% of Republicans and Republican leaners who disagree with the Tea Party or have no opinion of the movement.

The survey finds that the number of Americans facing severe financial problems has remained steady over the past year, but is higher than in early 2009.

In the new survey, 29% say that in the past year they have had trouble getting or paying for medical care and 26% say they have had problems paying their rent or mortgage. Another 16% say they have been laid off or lost their job.

Overall, 44% say they have encountered one or more of these financial problems over the past year, which is unchanged from last year but higher than in February 2009 (37%). These problems are increasingly affecting the poor – fully 70% of those with family incomes of below \$30,000 have experienced one or more financial difficulty, up from 59% last year.

Moreover, substantial numbers of working people continue to express job-related anxiety: 27% say it is very or somewhat likely they may have their health care benefits reduced or eliminated, while 26% say it is at least somewhat likely they may be asked to take a pay cut. More than half of those who work full- or part-time (55%) say it is likely they may face one or more job-related problems in the next year – a pay cut, benefits cut or losing their job – up from 49% last year.

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### No Decline in Number Facing Severe Financial Challenges

	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Feb 2009</b>	<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>June 2011</b>
<i>In past year, have you...</i>	%	%	%	%
Had trouble getting or paying for medical care	23	23	26	29
Had problems paying rent or mortgage	16	20	24	26
Been laid off or lost your job	14	18	21	16
<b>One or more of these problems</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>

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## SECTION 1: VIEWS OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

Amid persistent unemployment and slow economic growth, the public continues to take a very negative view of current national economic conditions. Just 8% call economic conditions excellent or good, while an overwhelming majority (91%) says things are either only fair (45%) or poor (46%).

Economic ratings have been consistently downbeat for more than three years – the percentage rating the national economy as excellent or good has not topped 20% since January 2008. The proportion viewing the economy as poor has fluctuated over the past few months. Currently, 46% rate economic conditions as poor, down from 53% in early April, though up slightly from February (42%).

### Republicans, Independents More Likely to View Economy as Poor

	<b>Excl/ Good</b>	<b>Only fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	8	45	46	1=100
18-29	12	44	44	0=100
30-49	5	44	50	1=100
50-64	7	48	44	1=100
65+	12	42	44	2=100
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	7	52	41	*=100
\$30,000-\$74,999	7	47	46	*=100
Less than \$30,000	9	39	50	2=100
Republican	7	41	52	*=100
Democrat	11	51	37	1=100
Independent	6	43	50	1=100

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Across all demographic and political groups, no more than about one-in-ten has a positive view of the economy. Half (50%) of people with family incomes of \$30,000 say the economy is poor, compared with 41% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more. Republicans (52%) and independents (50%) are more likely than Democrats (37%) to view current economic conditions as poor.

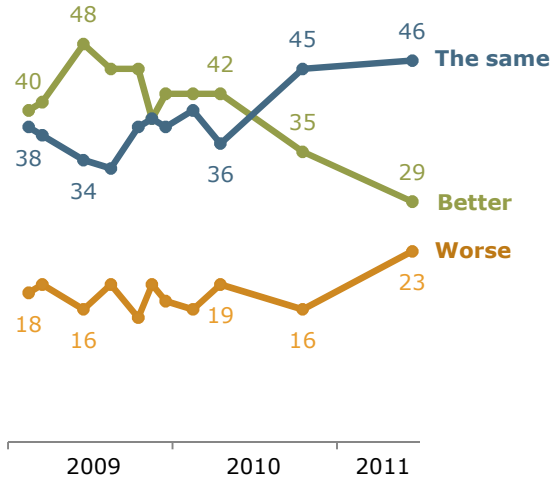
The public's future outlook for the economy also is gloomy, and more negative than it was last year. Nearly half of Americans (46%) say that a year from now economic conditions in the country will be about the same as today, 29% say things will be better and 23% say things will be worse.

Since April 2010, there has been a broad decline in the percentage saying that the economy will be better a year from now. Only about a third of college graduates (34%) expect the economy to be better a year from now, down from 49% in April 2010. Similar declines have occurred among those with some college experience (12 points) and those with no more than a high school diploma (11 points).

Optimism has also fallen among households of all income levels – and affluent homes are no more likely than others to expect conditions to improve over the next year.

Democrats (45%) remain far more likely than independents (24%) and Republicans (16%) to say they think the economy will improve over the next year. However, economic optimism has fallen over the past year among Democrats (by 16 points), independents (12 points) and Republicans (11 points).

## A Year from Now Economic Conditions Will Be ...



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## Broad Decline in Economic Optimism

	Apr 2010	Oct 2010	Jun 2011	Apr-Jun change
<i>% saying economy will be better in a year</i>				
Total	42	35	29	-13
18-29	42	32	35	-7
30-49	40	37	27	-13
50-64	44	35	28	-16
65+	42	38	28	-14
College grad+	49	41	34	-15
Some college	39	35	27	-12
HS or less	39	32	28	-11
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	46	38	31	-15
\$30,000-74,999	39	37	30	-9
Less than \$30,000	42	32	30	-12
Republican	27	23	16	-11
Democrat	61	52	45	-16
Independent	36	32	24	-12

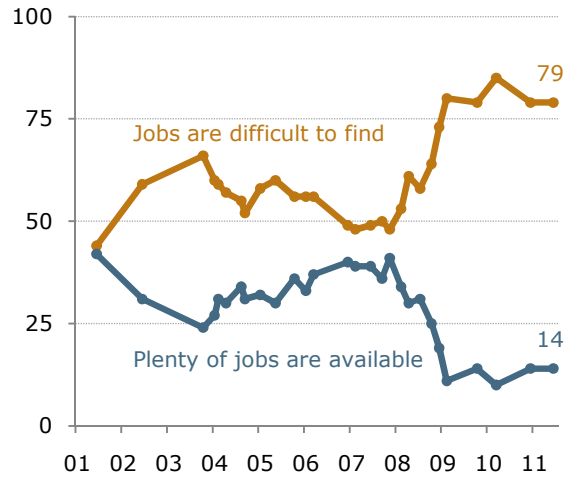
PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q33.

## Jobs Still Viewed as Scarce

The public continues to take an overwhelmingly negative view of the job situation: 79% say jobs in their area are hard to find compared with just 14% who say plenty of jobs are available. There has been no change since December in views of the job market and the percentage saying jobs are difficult to find has been at or around 80% since February 2009.

The view that jobs are scarce is widely held across demographic groups and there is no difference between partisans. Similar percentages of Republicans (81%), independents (80%), and Democrats (77%) say job opportunities in their area are hard to find.

### Job Opportunities Where You Live



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## House Prices Still Seen as Falling, But Hopes for a Rebound

Nearly two-thirds (65%) say that home prices in their area have gone down either a lot (36%) or a little (29%) over the past year. Only 25% say home prices have gone up in that time period. Overall, these assessments are about as negative as they have been over the past several years.

As has been the case since 2007, a majority of Americans (54%) expect that price of homes in their area will go up at least a little over the next few years; 37% say they think home prices will go down a lot or a little.

### No Recovery Seen in Local Home Prices

	Sept 2007	Dec 2008	Oct 2009	Dec 2010	Jun 2011
<i>Over last year, local home prices have ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Gone up a lot/little	50	22	21	25	25
Gone down a lot/little	40	67	66	63	65
Stayed about the same (Vol.)	3	5	6	5	5
Don't know	7	6	8	8	6
	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q82.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



Perceptions of real estate prices over the past year vary by home ownership status. Home owners – especially those who have a mortgage – are more likely than renters to say that prices have gone down in the last year.

About seven-in-ten (72%) homeowners say that home prices in their area have gone down in the past year, including 76% of those who currently pay a mortgage and 64% of those who own their home outright. By contrast, fewer renters (53%) say it is their impression that home prices have fallen in the last 12 months.

In the Midwest (71%) and West (68%) broad majorities say that home prices in their area have fallen over the past year. In the Northeast and South, somewhat smaller majorities say prices have dropped (59% and 61%, respectively).

These differences largely disappear when it comes to expectations for real estate prices over the next few years. Similar majorities of owners (54%) and renters (56%) think prices will go up in coming years. And almost identical percentages of those in the Northeast (54%), Midwest (54%), South (54%), and West (56%) expect home prices in their area to rise over the next few years.

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## Far More Homeowners than Renters Say Prices Have Fallen

<i>In past year, home prices have...</i>	<b>Gone up</b>	<b>Gone down</b>	<b>(Vol.) Same</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	25	65	5	6=100
Own	19	72	5	4=100
Paid for	24	64	6	6=100
Mortgage	17	76	4	3=100
Rent	36	53	4	7=100
Northeast	32	59	4	4=100
Midwest	18	71	5	7=100
South	29	61	4	6=100
West	21	68	6	5=100
<i>Next few years, home prices will...</i>	<b>Go up</b>	<b>Go down</b>	<b>(Vol.) Same</b>	<b>DK</b>
Total	54	37	4	5=100
Own	54	37	4	4=100
Rent	56	37	2	4=100
Northeast	54	37	3	6=100
Midwest	54	38	6	2=100
South	54	37	3	6=100
West	56	36	3	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q82 & Q83.

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## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF PERSONAL FINANCES

More than a quarter of Americans say that in the past year they have had trouble getting or paying for medical care (29%) or paying their rent or mortgage (26%); another 16% say they have been laid off in the past year. Overall, 44% report experiencing at least one of these three problems, about the same percentage as last year (43%) and seven points higher than in 2009.

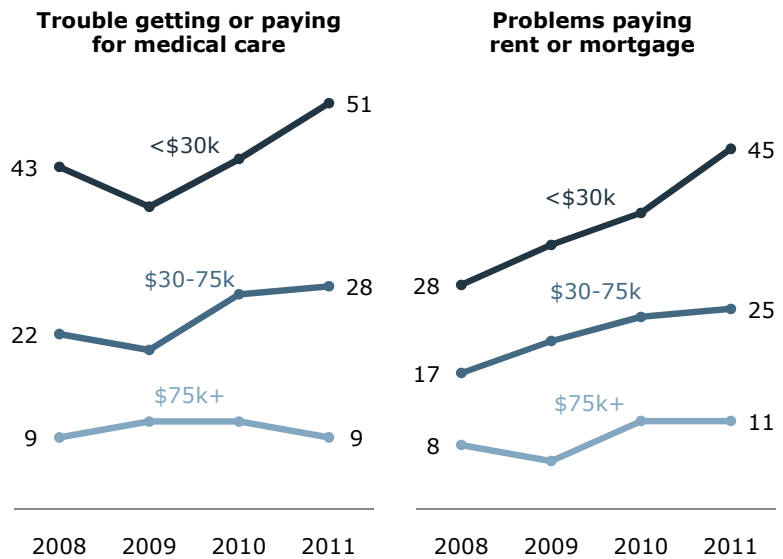
Growing numbers of lower income Americans are facing these problems. In 2008,

43% of adults with family incomes below \$30,000 said they had experienced trouble getting medical care or paying for it. In the current survey, 51% of low-income people say they have faced this problem. By contrast, among those with family incomes of \$75,000 or higher, the percentage reporting this type of financial trouble was much lower – just 9% – and basically unchanged over the past three years.

Similarly, 28% of lower income respondents in January 2008 said they had experienced trouble paying their rent or mortgage over the past 12 months. In the current survey, 45% reported this financial difficulty. The percentage of more affluent Americans experiencing this problem is much lower (11%) and has remained stable over the past three years.

Apart from the affluent, people age 65 and older are one of the only groups not broadly affected by one of these three types of economic troubles. Just 13% say they have had trouble

### Economic Stress Continues to Rise for Low Income Americans



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q41a,b.

### Seniors Face Less Financial Stress

% reporting one or more financial problem in past year*...	%
Total	44
18-29	54
30-49	49
50-64	48
65+	20
White	40
Black	58
Republican	36
Democrat	47
Independent	48

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q41a-Q41c. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic.

\* Trouble obtaining medical care, paying for housing, or been laid off.

obtaining or paying for medical care, 10% have had trouble paying the mortgage or rent, and – not surprisingly given their low level of participation in the labor force– just 3% reported being laid off from a job. Overall, 20% of respondents ages 65 and older reported at least one of the troubles. Nearly half or more of all other age groups experienced at least one of these types of difficulties.

## Job Worries Still Common

Anxiety about job security, pay and benefits also continues to be widespread. Overall, more than half of those who work full- or part-time (55%) say it is likely they may face pay or benefit cuts, or a possible layoff or job loss over the next 12 months. The percentage reporting one or more of these possible problems is slightly higher than last year (50%) or in 2009 (47%).

Higher-income workers are about as likely as those who are less well off to express concern about a possible cutback or loss of health or retirement benefits. However, far more lower-income workers say they may be laid off or be asked to take a pay cut.

For instance, 36% of workers with family incomes of

## Majority of Workers Say They May Face Job Problems over the Next Year

	Total %	\$75k+ %	\$30-\$75k %	Less than \$30k %	High-low diff %
<b>Health care benefits may be reduced/eliminated</b>					
Jun 2011	27	28	29	25	+3
Mar 2010	23	24	25	23	+1
Feb 2009	24	27	28	16	+11
Jan 2008	20	17	20	24	-7
<b>Retirement benefits may be reduced/eliminated</b>					
Jun 2011	25	21	28	26	-5
Mar 2010	22	19	25	25	-6
Feb 2009	18	17	20	17	0
<b>May be asked to take a pay cut</b>					
Jun 2011	26	20	26	37	-17
Mar 2010	25	22	22	31	-9
Feb 2009	25	24	23	26	-2
Jan 2008	13	9	12	23	-14
<b>May be laid off</b>					
Jun 2011	21	12	20	36	-24
Mar 2010	24	15	26	36	-21
Feb 2009	21	15	29	19	-4
Jan 2008	15	8	15	23	-15
<b>Employer may go out of business or relocate</b>					
Jun 2011	12	5	17	14	-9
Mar 2010	13	7	12	25	-18
Feb 2009	13	11	14	14	-3
Jan 2008	12	6	12	21	-15
<b>Expect one or more of these problems</b>					
Jun 2011	55	48	57	64	-16
Mar 2010	50	46	48	59	-13
Feb 2009	47	46	49	45	+1

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q42.  
Based on people who are employed full- or part-time.

\$30,000 or less say it is very or somewhat likely they may be laid off; that compares with just 12% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more. The proportion of lower income workers who say they may face a layoff in the next year is unchanged from last year but has nearly doubled (from 19%) in 2009.

Fewer than half (41%) of those who are currently employed say they got a pay raise or found a better job in the past twelve months. That is little changed from last year or 2009. In January 2008, a 56% majority reported having gotten a raise or a new job.

### Personal Financial Ratings Unchanged

A majority of Americans (61%) say their finances are in only fair (40%) or poor (21%) shape, while 38% rate their finances as either excellent (5%) or good (33%). Personal financial ratings have changed little over the past three years; since December 2008, the percentage rating their finances as excellent or good has consistently been between 35% and 38%.

Seven-in-ten (70%) of those with family incomes of \$75,000 more say they are in excellent or good shape financially, compared with 36% of those with incomes of \$30,000 to less than \$75,000 and 14% of those earning less than \$30,000 a year. Republicans (47% excellent/good) rate their finances somewhat more positively than do Democrats and independents (35% excellent/good).

### In Past Year, Fewer Than Half Got Pay Raises or a Better Job

	Total	\$75k+	\$30-\$75k	Less than \$30k	High-low diff
	%	%	%	%	%
Jun 2011	41	48	44	30	-18
Mar 2010	39	48	36	30	-18
Feb 2009	45	49	48	40	-9
Jan 2008	56	65	57	45	-20

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q41d.  
Based on people who are employed full or part time.

### Personal Finance Ratings

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	5	33	40	21	1=100
18-29	3	34	40	22	1=100
30-49	5	32	41	21	*=100
50-64	6	30	38	25	1=100
65+	5	37	38	16	3=100
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000+	13	57	26	3	1=100
\$30k-74,999	3	33	50	14	1=100
<\$30,000	1	13	39	46	1=100
Republican	8	39	38	14	1=100
Democrat	3	32	44	20	1=100
Independent	5	30	36	27	1=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q34.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Durable Personal Financial Optimism

More than half of Americans (56%) expect their finances will improve a lot (7%) or some (49%) over the course of the next year. Just 28% expect their financial situation and that of their families to get a little (21%) or a lot (7%) worse; 13% volunteer that they expect them to stay the same.

While expectations for the national economy have turned more negative since the spring of 2010, personal financial expectations have been more stable. The percentage expecting their finances to improve over the next year is little changed from October (57%) or March (61%) of last year.

As in the past, age is a major factor when it comes to personal financial expectations.

About eight-in-ten (81%) of those younger than 30 say they think their finances will improve in the next year compared with 62% of those 30 to 49, 44% of those 50 to 64 and 33% of those 65 and older. Democrats (64%) are somewhat more optimistic about their finances than are independents (52%) or Republicans (51%).

## Tea Party Republicans: High Current Ratings, Less Optimism

Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party view their current personal finances fairly positively, but are deeply pessimistic about their future finances. Among Republicans who agree with the Tea Party, about as many (50%) rate their finances as either excellent or good as say they are in only fair or poor shape (49%). By contrast, among Republicans who disagree with or have no opinion of the Tea Party far more say they are in only fair or poor

### Over Next Year, Your Personal Financial Situation Will ...

	Mar 2010	Oct 2010	April 2011	June 2011
	%	%	%	%
Improve a lot/Some	61	57	51	56
Worsen a lot/Some	23	22	33	28
Stay the same (Vol.)	12	17	13	13
Don't know	4	5	3	3
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q35.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Tea Party Republicans More Worried about Future Finances

	Rep/Lean Rep	
	Agree with Tea Party	Disagree/ No opinion
<i>Personal economic rating</i>	%	%
Excellent/Good	50	42
Only fair/Poor	49	58
Don't know	1	*
	100	100
<i>Situation will</i>		
Improve	39	57
Worsen	43	28
Don't know	1	3
	100	100
N	285	325

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 15-19, 2011. Q34 & Q35.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

shape (58%) than say they are in excellent or good shape (42%).

Nonetheless, Republicans who agree with the Tea Party express deep concern about the state of their finances over the course of the next year: about as many expect them to worsen (43%) as improve (39%). Republicans who do not agree with the Tea Party, or have no opinion of the movement, are far more optimistic: 57% expect their personal finances to improve a lot or some over the next year, just 28% think they will worsen.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 15-19, 2011 among a national sample of 1,502 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,001 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 200 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,502	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	408	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	495	5.5 percentage points
Independents	479	5.5 percentage points
<i>Family income</i>		
\$75,000+	395	6.0 percentage points
\$30k-\$74,999	487	5.5 percentage points
<\$30,000	389	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.

## PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	JAN 2011		MAY 2011		JUNE 2011			N
	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	
<b>TOTAL</b>	46	44	52	39	46	45	8	1502
<b>SEX</b>								
Men	46	44	52	39	45	48	8	690
Women	46	44	51	38	48	43	9	812
<b>AGE</b>								
18-49	46	43	53	34	48	43	8	608
50+	45	45	49	45	44	48	8	862
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>								
18-29	50	41	57	27	55	37	8	217
30-49	44	44	51	38	44	47	9	391
50-64	47	45	50	44	47	46	7	458
65+	43	45	47	46	39	51	10	404
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>								
Men 18-49	47	43	53	34	52	42	6	313
Men 50+	44	45	50	45	35	56	9	370
Women 18-49	46	43	54	33	45	45	10	295
Women 50+	46	45	49	44	52	41	7	492
<b>RACE</b>								
White, non-Hispanic	37	53	42	47	38	55	8	1160
Black, non-Hispanic	92	4	97	2	87	5	8	131
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
College grad+	46	45	53	38	54	42	4	563
Some college	42	49	53	39	48	42	9	371
HS or less	48	41	50	39	41	49	10	557
<b>INCOME</b>								
\$75,000+	44	48	50	43	47	47	6	395
\$30,000-\$74,999	45	46	51	39	45	49	7	487
<\$30,000	51	37	54	33	48	42	10	389
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>								
Total White NH Prot.	27	61	35	55	30	63	7	634
White NH evang. Prot.	17	69	28	63	18	75	7	311
White NH mainline Prot.	38	53	42	45	40	52	8	321
Total Catholic	44	45	51	41	46	45	9	288
White NH Cath.	40	50	46	47	41	51	8	222
Unaffiliated	62	30	63	25	56	35	9	258
<b>REGION</b>								
Northeast	55	39	55	37	56	37	7	290
Midwest	44	42	54	37	49	44	7	373
South	43	47	49	40	42	50	8	565
West	43	46	50	40	43	47	10	274



## PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	JAN 2011		MAY 2011		JUNE 2011			N
	<u>Approve</u> %	Dis- <u>approve</u> %	<u>Approve</u> %	Dis- <u>approve</u> %	<u>Approve</u> %	Dis- <u>approve</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>								
Yes, certain	45	46	52	40	46	48	6	1230
Not registered	47	38	50	33	48	39	13	272
<b>PARTY ID</b>								
Republican	14	78	18	74	14	82	4	408
Democrat	78	15	80	15	77	17	6	495
Independent	44	45	49	37	42	46	11	479
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>								
Rep/Lean Rep	15	77	23	69	16	79	5	626
Dem/Lean Dem	76	16	78	15	76	17	6	678
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative	29	64	32	62	26	69	5	579
Moderate	53	36	58	32	51	40	10	530
Liberal	72	18	77	14	73	21	7	313
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative Republican	7	87	14	80	6	91	2	281
Mod/Lib Republican	27	63	27	62	29	65	6	123
Mod/Cons Democrat	77	16	76	20	75	20	4	271
Liberal Democrat	80	12	90	4	81	14	5	199
<b>TEA PARTY MOVEMENT</b>								
Agree	16	78	14	83	9	87	5	339
Disagree	81	12	85	11	76	18	6	430
No opinion/Don't know	45	42	50	35	46	44	11	733
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>								
Men	38	53	40	50	36	58	6	530
Women	35	54	43	45	40	51	9	630
18-49	36	54	41	42	38	53	8	423
50+	38	53	42	52	37	56	7	718
College grad+	43	49	47	44	48	48	4	457
Some college or less	34	55	39	48	33	58	9	698
\$75,000+	40	54	45	49	40	54	6	326
\$30,000-\$74,999	38	55	45	45	36	57	7	387
<\$30,000	37	48	39	45	33	58	9	260
Republican	11	83	13	79	12	85	3	373
Democrat	74	18	72	20	71	22	7	320
Independent	35	53	45	40	39	51	10	386
Northeast	49	47	46	47	51	42	7	229
Midwest	36	49	46	44	42	50	8	318
South	31	60	35	50	28	64	7	416
West	35	56	44	45	35	56	9	197

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JUNE 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**June 15-19, 2011**  
**N=1502**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

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

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

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	December, 2008	13	83	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	August, 2008	21	74	5
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	July, 2008	19	74	7
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	June, 2008	19	76	5
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	March, 2008	22	72	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	October, 2007	28	66	6
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7				

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

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2007	30	61	9	February, 2001	46	43	11
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
December, 2006	28	65	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
July, 2006	30	65	5	August, 1999	56	39	5
May, 2006*	29	65	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
March, 2006	32	63	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
January, 2006	34	61	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1998	46	50	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
January, 2005	40	54	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
May, 2004	33	61	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
December, 2003	44	47	9	July, 1994	24	73	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
April 8, 2003	50	41	9	September, 1993	20	75	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
November, 2002	41	48	11	January, 1993	39	50	11
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1992	28	68	4
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	November, 1991	34	61	5
May, 2002	44	44	12	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
March, 2002	50	40	10	August, 1990	47	48	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	May, 1990	41	54	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	January, 1989	45	50	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
March, 2001	47	45	8				

**NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 9-15, 19-29****QUESTIONS 7-8, 16-18, HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.30 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	No effect <u>so far</u>	(VOL.) <u>Too soon/ early to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	27	34	33	2	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	28	31	35	2	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	27	32	36	2	4
Jun 3-6, 2010	23	29	35	3	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	24	27	42	3	5
Dec 9-13, 2009	30	24	39	3	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	31	20	42	4	3
Jul 20-26, 2009	24	21	46	3	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	26	16	49	4	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	26	17	47	6	4
Mar 9-12, 2009	14	15	64	4	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?

Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>		Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>
42	Spending to help the economy recover	46
52	Reducing the budget deficit	49
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

**TREND FOR COMPARISON**

*If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?*

	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>	Jul 15-18 <u>2010</u>	Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u> <sup>2</sup>	Jun 18-21 <u>2009</u>
Spending more to help the economy recover	43	51	47	53	48
Reducing the budget deficit	50	40	47	38	46
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9	6	9	6

**RANDOMIZE Q.32/Q.33 IN BLOCK WITH Q.34/Q.35 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.32 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1

<sup>2</sup> In July, 2009, question was asked as part of a list that included items on: spending on education, spending on health care and spending to develop energy technology.

**Q.32 CONTINUED...**

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

**RANDOMIZE Q.32/Q.33 IN BLOCK WITH Q.34/Q.35 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.33 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8

<sup>3</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**Q.33 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b>
July, 2008	30	21	41	8	
March, 2008	33	22	39	6	
January, 2008	20	26	48	6	
September, 2007	19	23	53	5	
June, 2007	16	24	55	5	
February, 2007	17	20	58	5	
December, 2006	22	18	56	4	
September, 2006	16	25	55	4	
January, 2006	20	22	55	3	
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3	
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2	
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3	
January, 2005	27	18	52	3	
August, 2004	36	9	47	8	
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8	
September, 2003	37	17	43	3	
May, 2003	43	19	35	3	
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7	
January, 2003	30	20	44	6	
January, 2002	44	17	36	3	
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5	
June, 2000	15	24	55	6	
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5	
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4	
May, 1990	18	31	45	6	
February, 1989	25	22	49	4	
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9	
May, 1988	24	20	46	10	
January, 1988	22	26	45	7	
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3	

**RANDOMIZE Q.32/Q.33 IN BLOCK WITH Q.34/Q.35 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about your own personal finances...

Q.34 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b>
Jun 15-19, 2011	5	33	40	21	1	
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	29	36	26	2	
Feb 2-7, 2011	7	29	41	22	1	
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	30	40	23	2	
Oct 13-18, 2010	6	33	36	23	1	
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	6	30	40	23	1	
Jun 3-6, 2010	6	32	38	20	4	
Mar 10-14, 2010	6	31	39	22	2	
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	28	39	24	2	
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	5	30	40	25	1	
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1	
Aug 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2	
Jun 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1	
Feb 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1	
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1	
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1	
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2	
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2	
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2	
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2	
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2	

**Q.34 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
U.S. News:January, 1993	4	33	46	16	1
U.S. News:October, 1992	6	34	40	19	1
U.S. News:August, 1992	5	30	47	17	1
U.S. News:May, 1992	4	35	45	15	1
U.S. News:January, 1992	4	32	45	18	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.32/Q.33 IN BLOCK WITH Q.34/Q.35 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.35 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	7	49	21	7	13	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	44	23	10	13	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	7	49	20	6	14	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	9	48	16	6	17	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	52	15	8	12	4
Dec 9-13, 2009	9	44	19	8	15	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	6	50	19	8	13	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
Feb 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4

**Q.35 CONTINUED...**

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
<i>U.S. News:October, 1992</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8
<i>U.S. News:August, 1992</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5
<i>U.S. News:May, 1992</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4
<i>U.S. News:January, 1992</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5

**NO QUESTION 36****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

Q.37F1 Some people think that the federal government cannot fix the economy as easily as it could in the past. Others believe that the government still has the power to fix the economy. Which of these comes closer to your view?

Jun 15-19

2011

39	The government can't fix it as easily as it could in the past
56	The government still has the power to fix it
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=762]:**

Q.38F2 Some people think that the federal government cannot fix the economy so easily these days because the U.S. is part of a global economy. Others believe that the government still has the power to fix the economy. Which of these comes closer to your view?

Jun 15-19

2011

		Feb <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>2008</u>
39	The government can't fix it so easily	40	35	37	26
55	The government still has the power to fix it	52	59	56	68
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	8	6	7	6



**ASK ALL:**

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

**IF NOT EMPLOYED (3 IN EMPLOY) ASK:**

EMPLOY1 Are you currently looking for work, or not?

**IF PART TIME (2 IN EMPLOY) ASK:**

EMPLOY7 Would you prefer to be working full time, or not?

Jun 15-19

2011

44 Full-time  
 14 Part-time  
 8 Yes, would prefer full time  
 6 No, would not  
 \* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**  
 41 Not employed  
 12 Yes, looking for work  
 29 No, not looking  
 \* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**  
 \* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK OF EMPLOYED ONLY (EMPLOY=1,2) [N=807]:**

Q.39 How would you rate the financial condition of the company or organization that employs you? Would you say it is in excellent financial shape, good shape, only fair shape or in poor shape?

	Excellent <u>shape</u>	Good <u>shape</u>	Only fair <u>shape</u>	Poor <u>shape</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Does not <u>apply</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	40	25	11	1	*
Dec 1-5, 2010	23	41	27	7	2	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	18	42	27	10	2	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	15	43	29	10	*	3
December, 2008	20	43	27	8	1	1
Early October, 2008	22	44	25	5	2	2
Early February, 2008	30	39	21	6	2	2
June, 2001	31	39	20	7	2	1
U.S. News:October, 1992	27	38	23	10	--	2
U.S. News:August, 1992	23	40	26	9	--	2
U.S. News:May, 1992	25	40	22	11	--	2
U.S. News:January, 1992	22	39	24	12	--	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	14	79	3	4
Dec 1-5, 2010	14	79	3	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	10	85	3	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6

## Q.40 CONTINUED...

	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
<i>U.S. News: August, 1992</i>	15	76	6	3
<i>U.S. News: May, 1992</i>	16	77	4	3
<i>U.S. News: January, 1992</i>	12	79	6	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that happened to you in the past year.... (In the past year) Have you **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? [IF RESPONDENT SAYS THIS DOES NOT APPLY, CODE AS NO]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Had trouble getting or paying for medical care for yourself or your family			
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	70	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	26	74	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	23	77	*
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	23	76	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:<sup>4</sup></b>			
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	21	78	*
b. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage			
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	73	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	24	76	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	20	80	*
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	16	83	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	13	87	*
c. Been laid off or lost your job			
Jun 15-19, 2011	16	84	*
Mar 10-14, 2010	21	79	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	18	82	*
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	14	85	1

<sup>4</sup> Trends for comparison for items 41a, 41b and 41d and are from a study conducted by the Washington Post, Kaiser and Harvard from June 30 to August 30, 1999. The introduction to these items was: "For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that has happened to you and your immediate family during the past year..." The wording for the trend to item 38d was: "Have you gotten a promotion or a big pay raise at work?"

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Gotten a pay raise at your current job or gotten a better job			
Jun 15-19, 2011	25	74	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	24	74	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	29	70	1
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	41	57	2
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
<i>Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard: August, 1999</i>	29	69	2

**ASK IF EMPLOYED (EMPLOY=1,2) [N=807]:**

Q.42 Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely is it that **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely? What about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely that (REPEAT ITEM)]**

	<b>NET</b> <b>Likely</b>	<i>Very</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>Some-</i> <i>what</i> <i>likely</i>	<b>NET</b> <b>Not</b> <b>likely</b>	<i>Not</i> <i>too</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>Not</i> <i>at all</i> <i>likely</i>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Your employer may go out of business or relocate to another city							
Jun 15-19, 2011	<b>12</b>	4	8	<b>88</b>	19	69	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	<b>13</b>	4	9	<b>85</b>	17	68	2
Feb 4-8, 2009	<b>13</b>	4	9	<b>85</b>	19	66	2
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	<b>12</b>	4	8	<b>87</b>	24	63	1
b. You may have your health care benefits reduced or eliminated by your employer							
Jun 15-19, 2011	<b>27</b>	11	16	<b>65</b>	20	45	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	<b>23</b>	9	15	<b>67</b>	17	51	9
Feb 4-8, 2009	<b>24</b>	10	14	<b>69</b>	19	50	7
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	<b>20</b>	7	13	<b>74</b>	25	49	6
c. You may be asked to take a cut in pay							
Jun 15-19, 2011	<b>26</b>	11	15	<b>72</b>	23	49	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	<b>25</b>	9	16	<b>73</b>	25	48	2
Feb 4-8, 2009	<b>25</b>	10	15	<b>73</b>	23	50	2
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	<b>13</b>	4	9	<b>86</b>	27	59	1
d. You may be laid off							
Jun 15-19, 2011	<b>21</b>	5	16	<b>77</b>	29	48	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	<b>24</b>	9	15	<b>74</b>	25	49	2
Feb 4-8, 2009	<b>21</b>	5	16	<b>77</b>	31	46	2
<i>Pew Social Trends: January, 2008</i>	<b>15</b>	5	10	<b>84</b>	28	56	1
e. You may have your retirement benefits reduced or eliminated by your employer							
Jun 15-19, 2011	<b>25</b>	9	16	<b>66</b>	20	46	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	<b>22</b>	10	12	<b>68</b>	17	51	10
Feb 4-8, 2009	<b>18</b>	6	12	<b>75</b>	22	53	7

**NO QUESTIONS 43-48, 52, 58-59, 62-71, 76**

**QUESTIONS 49-51, 53-57, 60-61, 72-75, 77-81 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

OWNRENT Do you own or rent your home?

**IF 'OWN' (1 IN OWNRENT) ASK:**

MORTGAGE Do you pay money on a mortgage or other home loan, or is your home paid for?

Jun 15-19

2011

64	Own
40	Pay a mortgage
23	Paid for
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
29	Rent
5	Other arrangement <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.82 What's your impression about the real estate market in your area? Over the past year, have home prices in your area gone up a lot, gone up a little, gone down a little, or gone down a lot?

Jun 15-19

2011

		Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Early Oct <u>2008</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sep <u>2007</u>
9	Gone up a lot	8	8	11	19	20	28	28
16	Gone up a little	17	13	11	14	13	18	22
29	Gone down a little	34	35	33	29	32	23	25
36	Gone down a lot	29	31	34	25	24	18	15
5	Stayed about the same <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	6	5	4	5	3	3
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	8	8	6	9	6	10	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.83 And how about over the next few years... Do you think the price of homes in your area will go up a lot, go up a little, go down a little or go down a lot?

Jun 15-19

2011

		Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	July <u>2008</u>	Early Feb <u>2008</u>	Sep <u>2007</u>	June <u>2007</u>
9	Go up a lot	10	14	15	17	26
45	Go up a little	47	40	40	36	36
28	Go down a little	25	29	26	28	23
9	Go down a lot	8	7	8	8	5
4	Stay about the same <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	4	4	5	4
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7	6	7	6	6

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK ALL:**

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

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--

## TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

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

<sup>5</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."