



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL  
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**THE ECONOMY, THE DEFICIT, AND THE PRESIDENT**  
 July 24-28, 2009

The economy remains the top concern for Americans, but as the stock market climbed above 9,000, Americans' economic hopes have crept up a bit too. More now say the economy is getting better than said so just two weeks ago, though the public's views of the economy have fluctuated in recent months in response to varying economic news. Few say the stimulus package has improved the economy or created jobs so far -- but many think it will in the long run.

Americans, however, are opposed to a second stimulus package. The public thinks there should be more focus on the budget deficit, and President Barack Obama receives lower ratings on his handling of the deficit compared to foreign policy, the economy, and health care.

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY**

While most Americans think that the current recession will last at least another two years, there are glimmers of optimism. Even though more than eight in 10 still think the economy is in bad shape, the number who say the economy is very bad has dropped 9 points - down to 35% from 44% two weeks ago, when it reached a high point following worse than expected unemployment figures. The percentage that now says the economy is very bad is similar to what it was in May and June.

	CONDITION OF THE ECONOMY			
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	5/2009
Very good	1%	1%	1%	1%
Fairly good	17	13	14	17
Fairly bad	47	42	48	45
Very bad	35	44	36	36

And more Americans now think the economy is getting better (32%) than did so just two weeks ago (21%). Fewer now say it is getting worse. Views on this measure have also varied in recent months.

	THE ECONOMY IS GETTING...			
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	5/2009
Better	32%	21%	27%	32%
Worse	22	33	25	23
Staying same	45	45	46	44

The economy remains the most important problem facing the country today, volunteered by 56% of Americans. While only 12% of Americans name health care as the country's most important problem, the number citing it is growing. Back in April, health care was volunteered by only 3% of Americans.

**MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM**

	Now	6/2009	4/2009
Economy and jobs	56%	57%	58%
Health care	12	7	3
Deficit/debt	3	2	2

**PERSONAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS**

Concern about job loss has also fluctuated. Although six in 10 Americans are at least somewhat concerned about losing their jobs, this number has dropped seven points since earlier in the month.

**CONCERNED ABOUT HOUSEHOLD JOB LOSS?**

	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	4/2009
Very concerned	36%	40%	36%	44%
Somewhat concerned	26	29	28	26
Not concerned	38	30	35	30

Still, few Americans are optimistic about the direction in which their own family's financial situation is heading overall. Only 8% say their own family's finances are getting better. More than four times as many, 35%, say they are getting worse. Most say their family's financial situation is holding steady.

**IS YOUR FAMILY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION GETTING...?**

Better	8%
Worse	35
Staying the same	57

**ASSESSING THE STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Americans have yet to see the effects of the nearly \$800 billion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by the President earlier this year. Just a quarter of Americans think the stimulus package has made the national economy better so far, and even fewer think it has improved the economy in their local community.

**THE IMPACT OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE SO FAR**

	Nationwide	Your local community
Better	25%	19%
No impact	57	65
Worse	13	12

But far more - four in 10 - think the stimulus package will help the economy overall and in their communities in the long run.

**THE IMPACT OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE IN THE LONG RUN**

	Nationwide	Your local community
Better	44%	44%
No impact	28	37
Worse	22	13

Most Americans (53%) are optimistic that the stimulus package will create a substantial number of new jobs; very few (4%) think it has done so already. But four in 10 think the stimulus package will never create a substantial number of new jobs.

**THE STIMULUS PACKAGE AND JOBS**

Has created jobs already	4%
Will create jobs	53
Will never create jobs	41

A second stimulus package has been suggested by those who do not think the first stimulus package went far enough. Most Americans (65%) oppose the idea.

**ANOTHER STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Favor	27%
Oppose	65

**THE PRESIDENT AND THE ECONOMY**

The President receives little of the blame for poor economic conditions, and also receives credit for making good economic decisions.

Americans don't blame the Obama Administration for the current state of the economy. Nearly equal numbers put most blame on George W. Bush's Administration (30%) or Wall Street (29%). Another 12% hold Congress accountable. Only 4% blame the Obama Administration.

**WHOM DO YOU BLAME FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ECONOMY?**

Bush administration	30%
Wall Street and financial institutions	29
Congress	12
Obama administration	4

And Americans trust the Obama Administration more than Republicans in Congress to make future economic decisions. 56% think President Obama is more likely to make the right decisions about the economy, compared to only 25% who say the Republicans in Congress will.

**WHO WILL MAKE BETTER DECISIONS ABOUT THE ECONOMY?**

	Now	4/2009
Barack Obama	56%	63%
Republicans in Congress	25	20

Not surprisingly, whom Americans favor generally coincides with their own party affiliation: Democrats (82%) overwhelmingly favor Obama to make the right decisions, while most Republicans (56%) favor members of their own party in Congress. 51% of independents trust Mr. Obama more.

**THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATINGS**

President Obama's overall approval rating stands at 58% in this poll - about what it was two weeks ago, but still down five points from June. He receives the approval of more than eight in 10 Democrats, but just a quarter of Republicans. 52% of independents approve.

	<b>PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB APPROVAL RATING</b>				
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	4/2009	3/2009
Approve	58%	57%	63%	68%	64%
Disapprove	30	32	26	23	20

The president's personal favorability has dropped slightly since he marked his first 100 days in office from 54% to 50%. He still enjoys a net positive rating, but his unfavorable number has increased five points to 23%.

More than half of Americans approve of Mr. Obama's handling of foreign policy and the economy, the public's top concern -- and economic approval has risen slightly in the last two weeks along with the slight increase in economic optimism. However, fewer than half support his handling of health care and the federal budget deficit. The President receives his lowest approval rating on the deficit.

	<b>PRESIDENT OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATINGS</b>				
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	4/2009	
Overall	58%	57%	63%	68%	
Foreign Policy	54%	53%	59%	59%	
Economy	51%	48%	57%	61%	
Health Care	46%	49%	44%	--	
Budget deficit	40%	--	--	--	

Mr. Obama's handling of the federal budget deficit is the only area polled where more Americans disapprove than approve (43% disapprove; 40% approve). 60% of Democrats approve of the president's handling of this issue, but that is much lower than the percentage that approves of his overall performance (86%). Both independents and Republicans disapprove.

	<b>PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT</b>			
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	40%	17%	60%	35%
Disapprove	43	71	24	45
Don't know	17	12	16	20

## REDUCING THE DEFICIT

Americans have historically been concerned about budget deficits, and they continue to be in this poll. More are in favor - in general - of reducing the budget deficit than spending more money to stimulate the economy. When asked to choose between the two, 58% think the federal government should focus on reducing the deficit, while only 35% think it should spend more to stimulate the economy.

### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD...

	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009
Spend to stimulate economy	35%	33%	41%
Focus on deficit reduction	58	61	52

There are partisan differences on this matter. Republicans and independents support focusing on deficit reduction, while nearly half of Democrats favor spending more to stimulate the economy.

But while they support the principle of reducing the budget deficit, many are not willing to have the government provide fewer services in areas such as health care, education, and defense spending to do that, nor are they willing to pay more in taxes to meet that goal.

### TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO...?

	Yes	No
Have fewer services	31%	53
Pay more in taxes	41%	56

## VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT

Some have criticized Mr. Obama for trying to do too much too soon, and while 48% of Americans agree with that sentiment, almost as many (45%) think the president is trying to accomplish the right amount. These opinions are similar to what they were earlier this month, but a change from April, when a majority thought Mr. Obama was trying to accomplish the right amount.

### IS PRESIDENT OBAMA TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH...

	Now	7/13/2009	4/2009
Too much	48%	52%	38%
Too little	5	4	4
Right amount	45	39	55

However, more than six months into his presidency, a solid majority of Americans continues to say Mr. Obama shares their priorities for the country. Democrats and independents view the president as sharing their priorities, while Republicans do not.

### DOES PRES. OBAMA SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTRY?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	62%	37%	84%	57%
No	31	59	12	33

## THE WAR FRONT

Americans view how the wars are going in Iraq and Afghanistan differently. A majority (56%) continues to say things are going at least somewhat well for the United States in Iraq, just about the same percentage that held that view two weeks ago.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN IRAQ?					
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	4/2009	3/2009
Well	56%	58%	62%	71%	64%
Badly	37	33	31	24	33

But assessments of the war in Afghanistan remain negative, with nearly six in 10 saying things are going somewhat badly or very badly.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN AFGHANISTAN?					
	Now	7/13/2009	6/2009	4/2009	3/2009
Well	33%	36%	30%	38%	33%
Badly	57	55	55	53	57

## THE POLICE AND RACE

Some Americans believe minorities and whites are treated differently by most police.

38% of Americans say most police generally treat blacks and Hispanics worse than whites; just 3% think they are treated better. But more people - just about half -- say all groups are treated the same by most police.

The percentage that says minorities are treated worse by most police increases among blacks and non-white Hispanics. It should be noted that the sample size for African Americans and non-white Hispanics is relatively small and subject to greater sampling error.

TREATMENT OF BLACKS AND HISPANICS BY MOST POLICE			
	All	Whites	Blacks & non-white Hispanics
Better than whites	3%	3%	0%
Worse than whites	38	34	50
Same as whites	46	49	41

Only one in five Americans report a specific instance of being discriminated against by the police because of their race or ethnicity. But that number rises to 52% among African Americans and non-white Hispanics. Fewer than one in ten whites report such an instance.

EVER DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY POLICE BECAUSE OF RACE OR ETHNICITY?			
	All	Whites	Blacks & non-white Hispanics
Yes	18%	8%	52%
No	82	91	48

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1050 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone July 24-28, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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**The Economy, the Deficit and the President**  
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q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jul09a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
Approve	58	24	86	52	57
Disapprove	30	56	10	33	32
DK/NA	12	20	4	15	11

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
Right direction	42	19	60	39	35
Wrong track	49	78	28	52	57
DK/NA	9	3	12	9	8

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
Economy & jobs	56	46	64	55	57
Health care/health insurance	12	12	14	10	7
Budget/national debt/deficit	3	6	1	4	2
Moral values/family values	2	6	0	1	1
Other	24	27	18	27	30
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	3

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
Approve	54	32	71	51	53
Disapprove	24	44	11	24	30
DK/NA	22	24	18	25	17

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
Approve	51	24	73	46	48
Disapprove	41	68	18	46	44
DK/NA	8	8	9	8	8

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
Approve	46	22	65	43	49
Disapprove	38	67	18	41	37
DK/NA	16	11	17	16	14

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the federal budget deficit?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	40	17	60	35
Disapprove	43	71	24	45
DK/NA	17	12	16	20

q8-9 BLANK

q10-11 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q12 In his first few months in office, do you think Barack Obama has been trying to accomplish too much, trying to accomplish too little, or trying to accomplish about the right amount?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Too much	48	56	39	51	52
Too little	5	11	2	4	4
About right	45	30	57	42	39
DK/NA	2	3	2	3	5

q13 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	1	3	2	0	1
Fairly good	17	11	21	16	13
Fairly bad	47	48	47	45	42
Very bad	35	37	29	38	44
DK/NA	0	1	1	1	0

q14 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	32	30	34	30	21
Worse	22	30	14	25	33
Same	45	40	50	43	45
DK/NA	1	0	2	2	1

q15 How much longer do you think the current recession will last -- six months, a year, two years or more than two years?

Six months	8	9	9	7	6
A year	33	31	33	34	38
Two years	25	25	28	22	26
More than 2 years	28	32	26	29	24
DK/NA	6	3	4	8	6

q16 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

	Apr09b				
Favorable	50	22	79	40	54
Not favorable	23	50	7	23	18
Undecided	16	21	6	21	15
Haven't heard enough	11	6	8	15	12
Refused	0	1	0	1	1

q17 Do you think Barack Obama has the same priorities for the country as you have, or doesn't he?

	Feb09b				
Yes	62	37	84	57	65
No	31	59	12	33	28
DK/NA	7	4	4	10	7

q18-19 BLANK

q20 Who do you think is mostly to blame for the current state of the nation's economy -- 1. the Bush administration, 2. the Obama administration, 3. Wall Street and financial institutions, 4. Congress, or 5. someone else? IF SOMEONE ELSE, ASK: Who do you think is mostly to blame?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Bush administration	30	8	53	22	33
Obama administration	4	7	2	3	2
Wall Street and financial	29	38	26	27	21
Congress	12	19	3	16	11
Someone else	7	10	3	9	8
All of the above (vol.)	6	8	2	8	7
Combination (vol.)	11	10	10	12	14
DK/NA	1	0	1	3	4

q21 Regardless of how you usually vote, who do you think is more likely to make the right decisions about the nation's economy -- Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

Barack Obama	56	24	82	51	63
Republicans	25	56	9	23	20
Both (vol.)	3	3	2	3	2
Neither (vol.)	9	9	3	13	8
DK/NA	7	8	4	10	7

q22 So far, do you think the federal government's stimulus package has made the economy better, made the economy worse, or has it had no impact on the economy so far?

					Jul09a
Better	25	15	36	21	21
Worse	13	26	4	13	15
No impact	57	52	55	62	60
DK/NA	5	7	5	4	4

q23 In the long run, do you think the federal government's stimulus package will make the economy better, will make the economy worse, or will it have no impact on the economy in the long run?

Better	44	23	60	42	42
Worse	22	37	10	24	21
No impact	28	34	26	28	29
DK/NA	6	6	4	6	8

q24 Do you think the federal government's stimulus package has made the economy in your local community better, made the economy in your local community worse, or has it had no impact on the economy in your local community so far?

Better	19	12	31	13
Worse	12	17	6	14
No impact	65	68	59	68
DK/NA	4	3	4	5

q25 In the long run, do you think the federal government's stimulus package will make the economy in your local community better, will make the economy in your local community worse, or will it have no impact on the economy in your local community in the long run?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	44	25	60	41
Worse	13	20	4	17
No impact	37	50	30	37
DK/NA	6	5	6	5

q26 From what you know so far, which comes closest to your own view? 1. the economic stimulus package has already created a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. OR 2. it will create a substantial number of new jobs but hasn't done that yet OR 3. it will not create a substantial number of new jobs?

Has already created jobs	4	3	6	2
Will create jobs	53	31	67	52
Will not create new jobs	41	62	26	42
DK/NA	2	4	1	4

q27 Earlier this year, Congress passed a nearly 800 billion dollar stimulus package in order to get the economy back on track. Some people say the stimulus package was not large enough, others say it was too large. In the months ahead, if things continue the way they are now, would you favor or oppose the government spending additional money on another stimulus package?

Favor	27	14	40	23
Oppose	65	85	50	68
DK/NA	8	1	10	9

q28 What if passing an additional stimulus package meant that the federal budget deficit would increase, then would you favor or oppose another stimulus package?

\*THOSE WHO FAVOR ANOTHER STIMULUS PACKAGE\*

Favor	68	67	68	68
Oppose	25	33	21	28
DK/NA	7	0	11	4

q29 As you may know, the budget deficit is the shortfall when the amount of money the government spends is more than the amount of money it takes in. How much have you heard or read about the federal government's current budget deficit -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

					Jun09a
A lot	30	39	23	31	38
Some	34	26	36	37	36
Not much	28	29	38	21	20
Nothing at all	7	6	3	11	6
DK/NA	1	0	0	0	

q30 Which comes closer to your own view? The federal government should spend money to stimulate the national economy, even if it means increasing the budget deficit, OR The federal government should NOT spend money to stimulate the national economy and should instead focus on reducing the budget deficit.

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Stimulate the economy	35	19	48	33	33
Reduce budget deficit	58	79	43	59	61
DK/NA	7	2	9	8	6

q31 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing for the government to provide fewer services, in areas such as health care, education and defense spending?

Willing	31	37	24	34
Not willing	53	45	62	50
Some, but not others (Vol.)	11	14	9	12
DK/NA	5	4	5	4

q32 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing to pay more in taxes?

					Mar04a
Willing	41	27	48	43	34
Not willing	56	69	48	56	61
DK/NA	3	4	4	1	5

q33-35 BLANK

q36-85 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q86 Thinking about the country as a whole, do you think most police generally treat blacks and Hispanics better than whites, do they treat blacks and Hispanics worse than whites, or do they generally treat all groups the same?

Better than whites	3	2	2	4
Worse than whites	38	27	54	31
Same as whites	46	56	33	52
Depends (Vol.)	5	6	3	6
DK/NA	8	9	8	7

q87 Was there ever a specific instance when you felt discriminated against by the police because of your race or ethnic background?

Yes	18	14	24	15
No	82	86	76	84
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q88 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very well	7	12	6	5	4
Somewhat well	49	47	49	50	54
Somewhat badly	25	21	25	27	25
Very badly	12	13	10	12	8
Don't know/No answer	7	7	10	6	9

q89 What is your impression of how the war in Afghanistan is going for the United States right now--very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	3	2	2	3	2
Somewhat well	30	35	33	26	34
Somewhat badly	39	38	38	41	40
Very badly	18	18	20	17	15
DK/NA	10	7	7	13	9

q90-91 HELD FOR RELEASE

q92-94 BLANK

q95 Do you think your household's financial situation is getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

Getting better	8	11	10	5
Getting worse	35	31	34	36
Same	57	57	55	59
DK/NA	0	1	1	0

q96 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	36	29	43	33	40
Somewhat concerned	26	26	26	26	29
Not at all concerned	38	44	32	41	30
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	1

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1050	
Total Republicans	248	208 (20%)
Total Democrats	335	355 (34%)
Total Independents	467	487 (46%)