



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: March 17, 2009
6:30 P.M. EDT

BAILOUTS, THE ECONOMY AND THE PRESIDENT
March 12-16, 2009

Americans make clear distinctions among the Obama Administration's proposals to assist various sectors of the economy, believing some can rebound without government help. A majority favors assistance to struggling homeowners, but not additional assistance to U.S. automakers. Americans also oppose providing more federal assistance to banks and financial institutions.

But the president's approval rating has not changed, and it remains high, despite public concerns about the economy and the bailout. Half think the Administration's economic policies will help their families. And while many don't expect the Obama Administration to solve the country's economic problems quickly, only one in five are willing to wait more than two years for those problems to be solved.

There is a ray of hope: fewer Americans think the economy is getting worse, and the number who says the country is heading in the right direction is rising.

INDUSTRY BAILOUTS

Most Americans oppose providing government assistance to ailing financial institutions and additional aid to the country's major automakers. Seven in 10, however, do approve of the government giving financial assistance to help homeowners struggling with their mortgages.

SUPPORT GOV'T PROVIDING MONEY TO...?

	Banks	Automakers	Homeowners
Yes	37%	18%	71%
No	53	76	25

More than half of Americans (55%) are relieved that President Barack Obama's polices might help homeowners avoid foreclosure, but more Americans are resentful of giving assistance to financial institutions and U.S. automakers.

FEELINGS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDING MONEY TO:

	Banks	Automakers	Homeowners
Relieved	40%	44%	55%
Resentful	48	45	36

Most do not think additional assistance to U.S. carmakers is necessary: 58% of Americans think these companies could probably stay

in business without additional government money. The public is more divided on whether bailing out financial institutions is necessary to help get the economy out of this recession.

On the other hand, 57% think providing government money to struggling homeowners is necessary to help improve the housing market. Just 36% think the housing market could improve without government money.

NECESSARY FOR GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MONEY TO...?

	Banks	Automakers	Homeowners
Yes, necessary	41%	32%	57%
Will recover without it	48	58	36

Although 46% of Americans admit that letting one or more of the big three automakers go out of business would be a major hit to the U.S. economy, that number is down from 55% in December.

**IF AUTOMAKERS WENT OUT OF BUSINESS,
IMPACT ON U.S. ECONOMY WOULD BE...**

	Now	12/2008
Major	46%	55%
Minor	40	35
Not much/no impact	9	8

Few say the current problems with the nation's banks and car companies are due to economic conditions beyond the banks or automakers' control; most say that the problems are the result of decisions made by company management.

Americans appear to be more sympathetic to homeowners, but many don't think they are without blame. 42% blame the homeowners' own financial decisions for the trouble they are having with their mortgages. Almost as many say the problems are the result of economic conditions outside homeowners' control.

CURRENT PROBLEMS MAINLY CAUSED BY...

	Banks	Automakers	Homeowners
Their own decisions	75%	63%	42%
Conditions beyond their control	17	24	40

ECONOMIC CONCERNS: UNEMPLOYMENT, THE BUDGET DEFICIT, AND TAX CUTS

Concern about unemployment, however, has dropped since last month. Now 32% of Americans say they are very concerned that someone in their household might lose their job sometime in the next twelve months - down from an all-time high of 44% at the beginning of February. Still, most Americans are at least somewhat concerned.

CONCERN ABOUT HOUSEHOLD UNEMPLOYMENT OVER THE NEXT YEAR

	Now	2/23/2009	2/5/2009	1/2009
Very concerned	32%	38%	44%	30%
Somewhat concerned	30	26	28	32
Not at all concerned	37	35	27	38

However, when asked to choose from a list of four economic problems, Americans overwhelmingly choose unemployment as the most important, ahead of the federal deficit, inflation, and interest rates. When this question was last asked back in 1985, the federal deficit ran a much closer second.

WHICH IS THE MORE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PROBLEM?

	Now	2/1985
Unemployment	64%	39%
Federal deficit	14	33
Inflation	12	11
Interest Rates	6	13

Even though only 14% of Americans choose the federal deficit as the most important problem, seven in 10 think a high budget deficit will hurt future generations. This is somewhat less than the percentage who said so in 1985.

HOW MUCH WILL A HIGH BUDGET DEFICIT HURT FUTURE GENERATIONS?

	Now	5/1985
A lot	69%	77%
Some	24	12
Not much	5	7

But concern about the future impact of a budget deficit has not dampened the appetite of most Americans for tax cuts. Nearly seven in 10 Americans think tax cuts for individuals and small businesses are necessary to help improve the economy.

ARE TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES NECESSARY TO HELP IMPROVE THE ECONOMY?

Necessary	68%
Not necessary	26

VIEWS OF THE ECONOMY

Americans continue to express overwhelmingly negative assessments of the economy: nearly nine in ten say the economy is in bad shape. Just 12% think the economy is even fairly good.

But there are signs of hope. While 41% of Americans think the economy is getting worse, that's a smaller percentage than said so last month (51%). The percentage who thinks it is getting better, while small, has more than doubled -- from 8% then to 19% now.

THINK THE ECONOMY IS GETTING..

	Now	2/23/2009
Better	19%	8%
Worse	41	51
Staying the same	37	40

Most Americans expect the recession to last at least another year, if not longer.

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL THE RECESSION LAST?

Six months	9%
A year	37
Two years or more	47

And looking ahead over the next few months, Americans show little confidence in the short-term economic condition of the country, and although they are more positive about their own personal finances, half still feel uneasy. Two-thirds say they are at least somewhat uneasy about the economic condition of the country.

FEEL ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF...?

	The country	Your finances
Very confident	6%	14%
Somewhat confident	26	33
Somewhat uneasy	41	34
Very uneasy	26	18

EVALUATIONS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA

So far, the continuing crises in the economy have not affected views of President Obama; his overall job approval rating is holding steady. Just over six in ten approve of the job he is doing; that has not changed since he took office.

OBAMA JOB RATING

	Now	2/23/09	2/5/2009
Approve	62%	63%	62%
Disapprove	24	22	15
Don't know	14	15	23

At this point in his first term, George W. Bush's approval rating was 60%.

The partisan divide that existed throughout the latter part of George W. Bush's presidency (and the Clinton Presidency, too) is evident now as well. President Obama's approval rating is extremely high among members of his party (90%) and is also fairly high (58%) among independents, but is much lower among Republicans, at 23%.

President Obama's ratings for handling the economy are also little changed since last month, with a majority approving.

OBAMA'S HANDLING OF THE ECONOMY

	Now	2/23/09
Approve	56%	57%
Disapprove	33	32
Don't know	11	11

Americans continue to believe it will take some time for the Obama Administration to fix the economy. 50% think it will take one or two years to do so.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE OBAMA TO FIX ECONOMY?

	Now	2/23/09
One year	19%	16%
Two years	31	30
Three to four years	21	29
More than four years	10	11
He never will	16	12

60% of Americans say (for now, at least) that they are willing to be patient with the Obama administration and wait a year or two for his economic plans to work. Just 19% say they have the patience to wait more than two years.

PATIENCE FOR OBAMA ECONOMIC PLANS TO WORK?

One year	25%
Two years	35
More than 2 years	19
Already out of patience	17

Just under half of Americans see the President's economic plans as helping their families. One in four think those policies will hurt their families, and another quarter say they won't affect their family one way or another.

HOW WILL PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ECONOMIC PLANS AFFECT YOUR FAMILY?

Help	49%
Hurt	24
No effect	24

Those with higher incomes and Republicans are more likely to say his plans will hurt their families.

As the President has laid out plans for removing troops from Iraq, his ratings for handling that issue have risen: today 61% approve of his handling Iraq, up from 54% a few weeks ago.

OBAMA'S HANDLING OF IRAQ

	Now	2/23/09
Approve	61%	54%
Disapprove	23	24
Don't know	16	22

OPINIONS OF THE OBAMA TEAM

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton now receives her highest favorable rating ever in this poll; 58% of Americans view her favorably, more than did so when she was a presidential candidate or First Lady. 25% view her unfavorably.

First Lady Michelle Obama is viewed favorably by 53% of Americans - also an all-time high - while only 7% view her unfavorably. More than a third has no opinion.

Vice President Joe Biden enjoys net positive approval rating as well, with 23% saying they have a favorable opinion of him.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF...?

	<u>Hillary Clinton</u>		<u>Michelle Obama</u>		<u>Joe Biden</u>	
	<u>Now</u>	<u>12/2008</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>2/2009</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>1/2009</u>
Favorable	58%	55%	53%	49%	23%	36%
Unfavorable	25	22	7	5	15	13
Don't know	17	23	38	44	61	50

OBAMA AND REPUBLICANS

This poll asked Americans which side of the partisan divide - President Obama or Congressional Republicans - was trying harder to reach bipartisan solutions to the nation's economic crisis. By a six-to-one margin, Americans see President Obama trying harder to reach out to Republicans than vice-versa. 26% see both trying equally -- and 18% think neither is trying at all.

WHO IS TRYING HARDER FOR BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMY?

Obama trying harder than Republicans	42%
Republicans trying harder than Obama	7
Both trying equally	26
Neither trying	18

CONGRESS AND THE ISSUE OF EARMARKS

Most Americans - 68% - continue to view earmarked legislation - often referred to as "pork" - as unacceptable.

IS "PORK" LEGISLATION ACCEPTABLE?

	<u>Now</u>	<u>6/2007</u>	<u>10/2006</u>
Yes	21%	23%	31%
No	68	67	61

29% think the practice of earmarking should be eliminated, up from 23% in October 2006. 44% think the process by which earmarks are introduced to legislation should be changed - something being reviewed by the Obama Administration and some members of Congress - while only 15% think the system should be left as it is.

WHAT SHOULD CONGRESS DO ABOUT "PORK" LEGISLATION?

	Now	10/2006
Eliminate earmarks	29%	23%
Change how earmarks are introduced	44	42
Leave as is	15	21

Looking at Congress overall, three in 10 approve of the way Congress is doing its job while 56% disapprove - a slight improvement over last month.

CONGRESS' JOB APPROVAL

	Now	2/2009
Approve	30%	26%
Disapprove	56	63

But Americans view Republicans and Democrats in Congress differently. Half of all Americans have a favorable opinion of the Democrats in Congress, while most have a negative opinion of the Republicans in Congress.

VIEWS OF CONGRESS

	Dems in Congress	Reps in Congress
Favorable	50%	29%
Not favorable	40	61
Don't know/no opinion	10	10

Positive views of Democrats in Congress have not translated into a positive opinion of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, however. By about two to one, Americans have an unfavorable opinion of Pelosi, though nearly half of all Americans haven't formed an opinion either way.

OPINION OF NANCY PELOSI

	Now	2/2009
Favorable	18%	10%
Not favorable	35	30
Don't know/no opinion	47	58

COMPARING THE PARTIES

Americans prefer the Democratic Party to the Republican Party as better able to handle a number of key issues, including improving the health care system, ensuring a strong economic recovery, and deciding how the government should spend taxpayers' money. Democrats also have a very slight edge on dealing with terrorism, a traditional strength of Republicans.

WHICH PARTY IS BETTER ABLE TO...?

	Democratic	Republican
Improve the health care system	65%	18
Ensure a strong economic recovery	50%	22
Decide about taxpayers' money	50%	28
Deal with terrorism	41%	39

Many Americans think the Republican leadership is leading their party in the wrong direction - including many Republicans. While 40% of Republicans think the party is headed in the right direction, nearly as many - 36% - think the party is being taken in the wrong direction.

DIRECTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

	Total	Republicans
Right direction	27%	40%
Wrong direction	48	36
Mixed/Depends/Don't know	25	24

Gallup/CNN/USA Today asked this question in March 1994, before the Republican takeover of Congress, and views of the party were very different then. Then, 58% said the leadership of the Republican Party was taking the party in the right direction, and just 24% thought it was headed in the wrong direction.

Conservative radio commentator Rush Limbaugh has recently attacked both the Obama Administration and the Republican leadership. Although only one in five Americans has a favorable opinion of Limbaugh, he remains popular with 47% of Republicans.

OPINION OF RUSH LIMBAUGH

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
Favorable	19%	47%	7%	14%
Not favorable	40	16	58	36
Don't know/no opinion	41	37	36	49

FORMING LABOR UNIONS

Congress is considering legislation, commonly referred to as "card check," that could make it easier for workers to form labor unions. The legislation would allow people to form a union by publicly signing a card, without a secret ballot vote. 38% favor allowing people to form a union by publicly signing a card without a secret ballot, but more - 45% - are opposed.

As expected, Americans who live in union households overwhelmingly support the idea of making it easier to form them.

FAVOR OR OPPOSE MAKING IT EASIER TO FORM LABOR UNIONS

	All	Union Households
Favor	38%	63%
Oppose	45	30

Opposition to this legislation may stem from the opinion that unions have too much influence on American life and politics today, a view held by nearly half the public. 18% think labor unions have too little influence; while about a quarter think they have about the right influence on American life and politics.

Opinions of labor unions were more negative nearly 30 years ago, amid the controversy surrounding striking air traffic controllers. Back then, 60% of Americans said unions had too much influence on life and politics.

INFLUENCE OF LABOR UNIONS ON AMERICAN LIFE AND POLITICS

	Now	9/1981
Too much	47%	60%
Too little	18	11
Right amount	24	22

Those living in union households are more likely to say unions have too little influence - a third of them think that. But just as many think unions have too much influence.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COUNTRY

Overall, the percentage saying the nation is heading in the "right direction" continues to climb, though it is still low by historical standards. Today 35% say the country is on the right track, the highest that figure has been in over two years. It reached record lows just before Barack Obama was elected.

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

	Now	2/5/2009	10/2008	7/2005
Right direction	35%	23%	7%	37%
Wrong track	57	68	89	57

And despite all the bad economic news, Americans have become no more pessimistic about the future generally. When asked about the future for the next generation of Americans, 35% think it will be better than life today, 32% think it will be worse, and 26% say it will be the same. That's about the same as a year ago, and more optimistic than views in 2007.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1142 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 12-16, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines 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.

CBS NEWS POLL
Bailouts, the Economy, and the President
March 12-16, 2009

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	62	23	90	58	63
Disapprove	24	61	3	22	22
DK/NA	14	16	7	20	15

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?

					Feb09a
Right direction	35	8	56	29	23
Wrong track	57	87	32	63	68
DK/NA	8	5	12	8	9

q3 BLANK

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

					Feb09b
Approve	56	21	81	52	57
Disapprove	33	71	7	36	32
DK/NA	11	8	12	12	11

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	61	31	83	58	54
Disapprove	23	53	5	24	24
DK/NA	16	16	12	18	22

q6 Do you think the future of the next generation of Americans will be better, worse, or about the same as life today?

					Mar08c
Will be better	35	15	50	33	33
Worse	32	56	15	33	34
About the same as life today	26	23	25	28	29
DK/NA	7	6	10	6	4

q7 BLANK

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					Feb09b
Approve	30	18	42	27	26
Disapprove	56	73	42	59	63
DK/NA	14	9	16	14	11

q9 In general, is your opinion of the Democrats in Congress favorable or not favorable?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	50	14	79	42	48
Not favorable	40	80	16	41	43
DK/NA	10	6	5	17	9

q10 In general, is your opinion of the Republicans in Congress favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	29	56	11	30	32
Not favorable	61	37	82	55	60
DK/NA	10	7	7	15	8

q11 From what you have seen or heard, who do you think is trying harder to find bipartisan solutions to the nation's economic crisis: is Barack Obama trying harder than Congressional Republicans, or are Congressional Republicans trying harder than Barack Obama, or are both trying about equally hard to be bipartisan, or are neither trying hard to be bipartisan?

Obama trying harder	42	11	60	42
Republicans trying harder	7	19	1	6
Both trying	26	30	26	23
Neither trying	18	33	5	23
DK/NA	7	7	8	6

q12 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

					Feb09b
Very good	0	0	0	0	0
Fairly good	12	11	17	8	8
Fairly bad	36	41	33	35	30
Very bad	52	47	49	56	61
DK/NA	0	1	1	1	1

q13 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	19	11	24	19	8
Worse	41	53	27	47	51
Same	37	32	46	32	40
DK/NA	3	4	3	2	1

q14 How much longer do you think the current recession will last --- six months, a year, two years or more than two years?

					Feb09b*
Six months	9	5	13	8	6
A year	37	40	40	33	27
Two years	26	22	29	25	28
More than 2 years	21	25	14	25	35
DK/NA	7	8	4	9	4

*Related Trend: How long do you think the current recession will last...

q15 Which comes closer to your view? Government should do more to solve problems, OR government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Government should do more	41	15	56	42	41
Government is doing too much	51	78	35	49	52
DK/NA	8	7	9	9	7

q16 Do you think labor unions have too much influence, too little influence, or about the right amount of influence on American life and politics today?

					Sept1981
Too much influence	47	65	34	50	60
Too little influence	18	5	27	17	11
Right amount of influence	24	19	29	22	22
DK/NA	11	11	10	11	7

q17 Do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or isn't this the responsibility of the federal government?

					Feb07b
Should guarantee	62	26	82	64	64
Not responsibility	30	67	11	27	27
DK/NA	8	7	7	9	9

q18 Is your opinion of Joe Biden favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Joe Biden yet to have an opinion?

					Jan09a
Favorable	23	9	40	15	36
Not favorable	15	33	3	16	13
Undecided	17	20	16	18	18
Haven't heard enough	44	37	41	51	32
Refused	1	1	0	0	1

q19 Is your opinion of Michelle Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Michelle Obama yet to have an opinion?

					Feb09b
Favorable	53	29	76	46	49
Not favorable	7	19	1	6	5
Undecided	16	25	10	16	13
Haven't heard enough	22	24	12	32	31
Refused	2	3	1	0	2

q20 Is your opinion of Nancy Pelosi favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Nancy Pelosi yet to have an opinion?

					Feb09a
Favorable	18	2	30	14	10
Not favorable	35	69	14	35	30
Undecided	19	15	20	20	17
Haven't heard enough	28	14	35	28	41
Refused	0	0	1	3	2

q21 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dec08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	58	16	87	54	55
Not favorable	25	61	4	25	22
Undecided	14	17	6	19	19
Haven't heard enough	3	5	2	3	4
Refused	0	1	1	0	0

q22-23 BLANK

q24 Members of Congress sometimes add provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own home states and districts, sometimes known as 'earmarks' or 'pork.' Do you think this practice is generally acceptable or not acceptable?

					Jun07c
Acceptable	21	11	27	21	23
Not acceptable	68	85	58	69	67
It depends (Vol.)	3	1	5	3	3
DK/NA	8	3	10	7	7

q25 What should Congress do about the practice of earmarking? 1. Eliminate earmarks altogether, or 2. Allow Congress to add earmarks to bills, but change the rules about how and when they can be added, or 3. Leave the system for adding earmarks as it is now.

					Oct06a
Eliminate them	29	41	20	31	23
Change the rules	44	41	51	40	42
Leave it as it is	15	12	16	17	21
DK/NA	12	6	13	12	14

q26 Regardless of what you hope will happen, do you think Barack Obama's economic plans will help you and your family, hurt you and your family, or will Barack Obama's economic plans not have an impact on you and your family?

Help	49	18	75	40
Hurt	24	52	6	24
No Impact	24	27	15	31
DK/NA	3	3	4	5

q27 How long do you think it will take the Obama Administration to make real progress on fixing the nation's economy -- one year, two years, three to four years, more than four years, or won't they be able to?

					Feb09b
One year	19	12	25	16	16
Two years	31	18	40	29	30
Three to four years	21	18	20	24	29
More than four years	10	11	9	11	11
Won't be able to	16	37	4	16	12
DK/NA	3	4	2	4	2

q28 How long are you, personally, willing to wait to decide if the Obama Administration's economic policies are a success -- Would you say you are willing to be patient for about one year, about two years, longer than two years, or are you already running out of patience?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
About one year	25	27	27	22
About 2 years	35	25	39	37
Longer than two years	19	9	25	20
Already out of patience	17	34	6	17
DK/NA	4	5	3	4

q29 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is better able to ensure a strong economic recovery?

					June 1983*
					%
Republican Party	22	60	2	19	40
Democratic Party	50	8	84	42	36
Both (Vol.)	3	3	3	4	4
Neither (Vol.)	14	23	4	20	3
DK/NA	11	6	7	15	17

*Omits the word "usually": Regardless of how you vote...

q30 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with terrorism?

					Oct06a
Republican Party	39	84	12	39	41
Democratic Party	41	4	71	33	40
Both (Vol.)	6	5	6	5	4
Neither (Vol.)	4	1	1	8	4
DK/NA	10	6	10	15	11

q31 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions about how the government should spend taxpayers' money?

Republican Party	28	73	3	25	29
Democratic Party	50	11	80	44	52
Both (Vol.)	2	2	2	3	1
Neither (Vol.)	12	10	8	18	7
DK/NA	8	4	7	10	11

q32 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to improve the health care system?

					Oct08b
Republican Party	18	48	5	14	18
Democratic Party	65	33	89	61	55
Both (Vol.)	1	1	1	0	2
Neither (Vol.)	8	10	2	12	11
DK/NA	8	8	3	13	14

q33 Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government providing money to banks and other financial institutions to try to help fix the country's economic problems?

**** PARTIAL SAMPLE ****

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	37	21	45	39	39
Disapprove	53	74	43	51	50
Depends (Vol.)	6	3	6	6	7
DK/NA	4	2	6	4	4

Interviews conducted among 896 adults nationwide, March 12-15, 2009

q34 Do you think providing government money to banks and other financial institutions is necessary to get the economy out of recession, or would the economy probably improve without doing that?

Necessary	41	20	51	43
Improve without gov't money	48	70	37	46
DK/NA	11	10	12	11

Interviews conducted among 896 adults nationwide, March 12-15, 2009

q35 Are the problems facing the banks and financial institutions mostly the result of the companies' management strategies and decisions, or are they mostly the result of economic conditions outside the companies' control?

Management decisions	75	75	73	78
Outside companies' control	17	16	22	12
Both/neither (Vol.)	4	6	2	6
DK/NA	4	3	3	4

Interviews conducted among 896 adults nationwide, March 12-15, 2009

q36 Which best describes your feelings about Barack Obama's policies toward the nation's banks and financial institutions - mostly relieved that those institutions might start lending to home buyers and businesses again, or mostly resentful that the policies could benefit irresponsible managers and bankers?

Mostly relieved	40	27	48	39
Mostly resentful	48	64	36	52
DK/NA	12	9	16	9

Interviews conducted among 896 adults nationwide, March 12-15, 2009

q37 The federal government has a plan to help homeowners refinance their mortgages, avoid foreclosure, and make more credit available for mortgages. Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government providing this financial help to homeowners?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Approve	71	43	90	69
Disapprove	25	52	8	25
DK/NA	4	5	2	6

q38 Do you think providing government money to people who are having trouble paying their mortgages is necessary to help improve the housing market, or would the housing market probably improve without doing that?

Necessary	57	32	73	57
Not necessary	36	59	22	36
DK/NA	7	9	5	7

q39 Are the problems facing homeowners who are having difficulty paying their mortgages mostly the result of the homeowners own financial decisions, or are they mostly the result of economic conditions outside the homeowners' control?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Own financial decisions	42	65	31	39
Outside homeowners' control	40	22	48	44
Both/Neither (Vol.)	13	10	15	14
DK/NA	5	3	6	3

q40 Which best describes your feelings about Barack Obama's policies toward the nation's housing and mortgage crisis - mostly relieved that some homeowners might be able to avoid foreclosure, or mostly resentful that the policies could benefit irresponsible lenders and homeowners?

Mostly relieved	55	30	73	52
Mostly resentful	36	59	20	40
DK/NA	9	11	7	8

q41 BLANK

q42 The federal government has given some of the major U.S. auto companies more than \$13 billion dollars in loans to prevent them from going into bankruptcy. Some of those auto companies now say they need more money. Should the federal government give them additional financial assistance, or not?

					Feb09b
					%
More assistance	18	9	20	21	22
No more assistance	76	88	72	74	68
Depends (Vol.)	3	2	3	3	4
DK/NA	3	1	5	2	6

q43 Do you think providing government money to U.S. automakers is necessary to keep the automakers in business or could they probably stay in business without government money?

Necessary	32	22	39	32
Not necessary	58	65	55	57
DK/NA	10	13	6	11

q44 If one or more of the big three automakers were to go out of business, how much of an impact do you think that would have on the nation's economy? Do you think it would have a major impact, a minor impact, not much impact, or no impact at all?

					Dec08a
Major impact	46	44	51	42	55
Minor impact	40	45	37	42	35
Not much impact	7	6	5	10	6
No impact	2	1	3	1	2
DK/NA	5	4	4	5	2

q45 Are the problems facing the big three auto companies mostly the result of the companies' management strategies and decisions, or are they mostly the result of economic conditions outside the companies' control?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Dec08a
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Management decisions	63	67	61	63	56
Outside companies' control	24	17	27	25	28
Both/neither (Vol.)	9	11	7	10	11
DK/NA	4	5	5	2	5

q46 Which best describes your feelings about Barack Obama's policies toward the nation's auto makers - mostly relieved that the auto makers might be able to stay in business and keep jobs, or mostly resentful that the policies could support poorly managed companies?

Mostly relieved	44	33	55	41
Mostly resentful	45	62	33	48
DK/NA	11	5	12	11

q47 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q48 Which do you think is a better approach to the problems facing some U.S. automakers: 1. The government should provide money to some U.S. auto makers, since those companies have a large impact on the U.S. economy and employ thousands of people; or 2. The government should not provide more money to some U.S. automakers, because the U.S. auto industry will be better off if these companies are allowed to succeed or fail on their own.

Govt. should provide money	35	22	43	36
Gov't should not	59	74	50	59
DK/NA	6	4	7	5

q49 Do you think significant tax cuts for individuals and small businesses are necessary to get the economy out of recession, or would the economy probably improve without that?

Necessary	68	68	67	70
Improve without tax cuts	26	25	28	24
DK/NA	6	7	5	6

q50 When you think about economic conditions in this country over the next few months, do you feel very confident, somewhat confident, somewhat uneasy, or very uneasy?

Very confident	6	3	8	7
Somewhat confident	26	19	32	23
Somewhat uneasy	41	43	39	42
Very uneasy	26	34	20	27
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q51 When you think about your own personal finances over the next few months, do you feel very confident, somewhat confident, somewhat uneasy, or very uneasy?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very confident	14	16	17	11
Somewhat confident	33	31	31	36
Somewhat uneasy	34	32	38	31
Very uneasy	18	22	13	21
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q52 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?

					Feb09b
					%
Very concerned	32	29	32	33	38
Somewhat concerned	30	24	33	31	26
Not at all concerned	37	47	33	35	35
DK/NA	1	0	2	1	1

q53 Which of these four economic problems do you think is most important right now: the federal budget deficit, unemployment, inflation, or interest rates?

					Feb
					1985
Federal deficit	14	20	10	15	33
Unemployment	64	54	70	65	39
Inflation	12	17	9	13	11
Interest rates	6	7	8	2	13
DK/NA	4	2	3	5	4

q54 How much will future generations be hurt if the budget deficit remains high--a lot, some, or not much?

					May1985
A lot	69	78	67	67	77
Some	24	19	26	25	12
Not much	5	1	6	6	7
DK/NA	2	2	1	2	4

q55 BLANK

q56 Currently, employers can demand employees vote by secret ballot if they wish to form a labor union. Legislation has been proposed that would make it easier to form labor unions by allowing employees to publicly sign a card saying they want to form a union without having to vote by secret ballot. Do you favor or oppose making it easier for people to form labor unions by allowing them to publicly sign a card, even if that might eliminate a secret ballot vote?

Favor	38	21	53	34
Oppose	45	72	29	44
DK/NA	17	7	18	22

q57 Is your opinion of Rush Limbaugh favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Rush Limbaugh yet to have an opinion?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul94c
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	19	47	7	14	25
Not favorable	40	16	58	36	36
Undecided	21	26	12	27	17
Haven't heard enough	20	11	24	22	21
Refused	0	0	0	1	1

q58 In your view, is the leadership of the Republican Party currently taking the party in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Right direction	27	40	20	26
Wrong direction	48	36	59	44
Mixed/depends (Vol.)	4	6	3	4
DK/NA	21	18	18	26

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1142	
Total Republicans	301	265
Total Democrats	419	442
Total Independents	422	435