



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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PRESIDENT OBAMA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE ECONOMY
April 1-5, 2009

As President Barack Obama concludes his well-publicized trip abroad to meet foreign leaders at the Group of 20 and NATO summit meetings, Americans are more positive about the respect accorded to a U.S. President than they have been in years. However, fewer than half think the U.S. itself is generally respected by other countries.

Amid continuing serious concerns about the U.S. economy and job loss in particular, Americans see a need for the U.S. to work with other countries to solve domestic economic problems.

President Barack Obama's overall approval rating has reached a high of 66%, and 59% approve of his handling of foreign affairs. In addition, a growing percentage of Americans - the largest number since February 2005 -- thinks the country is headed in the right direction.

THE U.S., THE PRESIDENT, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

Americans believe the President will return to the U.S. with the respect of foreign leaders around the world. Two thirds of Americans think leaders of other countries around the world have respect for this president.

DO WORLD LEADERS RESPECT BARACK OBAMA?

Table with 2 columns: Response (Yes/No) and Percentage (67%/18)

The last time this question was asked about a President of the United States was in July 2006, when only 30% of Americans thought leaders of other countries respected George W. Bush. The only time such a large percentage of Americans felt President Bush was respected by world leaders was in February 2002, just a few months after the September 11th attacks, when 67% thought he was.

But Americans don't believe the United States as a whole is as well-regarded as its president. Just over half of Americans - 52% - think the United States is not respected around the world today. Still, that percentage is down 19 points from when CBS News last asked the question in June 2007.

IS THE U.S. RESPECTED AROUND THE WORLD?

Table with 3 columns: Response (Yes/No), Current Percentage (36%/52), and Previous Percentage (24%/71)

THE U.S. AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

During the Group of 20 summit meeting in London President Obama called for international cooperation to help the flagging economies of countries around the globe, and most Americans agree this is necessary. 60% of Americans think the United States needs to work with other countries to fix the problems facing the global economy in order to fix the economic problems back home.

DOES THE U.S. NEED TO WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO FIX THE GLOBAL ECONOMY?

Yes	60%
No	37

The desire for economic cooperation is reflected in the increased positive views towards trade with other countries. 66% of Americans now think that, on balance, trade with other countries is good for the U.S. economy - up eight percentage points from a year ago.

IS TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES...?

	Now	3/2008
Good for the U.S. economy	66%	58%
Bad for the U.S. economy	23	32
No effect	4	6

Likewise, fewer Americans now think that trade restrictions are necessary to protect domestic industries, though most still think they are.

FREE TRADE VS. TRADE RESTRICTIONS

	Now	3/2008
Restrictions necessary	60%	68%
Free trade must be allowed	28	24

Americans remain concerned that the United States may lose its position as the world's economic leader - nearly eight in 10 are at least somewhat concerned, including 40% who are very concerned. Still, the percentage of Americans who are very concerned is down 10 points from last July.

CONCERNED THAT U.S. MAY LOSE STATUS AS WORLD'S ECONOMIC LEADER

	Now	7/2008
Very	40%	50%
Somewhat	38	33
Not very/not at all	21	15

APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

President Obama's approval rating is 66% in this poll, a new high for his young presidency. 24% of Americans disapprove of the way the president is handling his job.

OBAMA'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	3/2009	2/2009
Approve	66%	64%	63%
Disapprove	24	20	22

Nearly all Democrats (89%) and most independents (63%) approve of the way the president is handling his job; only 31% of Republicans approve.

The President also enjoys the approval of a majority of Americans for his handling of foreign policy, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most approve of his handling of the economy as well.

OBAMA'S JOB APPROVAL RATINGS

	Approve	Disapprove
Overall	66%	24
Foreign policy	59%	19
Iraq	59%	25
Afghanistan	58%	21
Economy	56%	34

Approval of the president coincides with a growing optimism about the direction in which the country is headed. Although a slight majority still thinks the country is off on the wrong track, the percentage that thinks the country is now headed in the right direction has been growing steadily since Barack Obama took office. 39% now think the country is headed in the right direction, up four points from last month and 32 points from the all-time low reached last October. The last time this percentage was as high was in February 2005, just as President George W. Bush was starting his second term.

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

	Now	3/2009	2/2009	12/2008	10/2008
Right direction	39%	35%	23%	12%	7%
Wrong track	53	57	68	83	89

First Lady Michelle Obama continues to be popular with many Americans. 50% view her favorably -- similar to last month.

OPINION OF MICHELLE OBAMA

	Now	3/2009	2/2009	12/2009
Favorable	50%	53%	49%	40%
Not favorable	5	7	5	10
Undecided/Don't know	42	38	44	49

THE WARS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

President Obama's second stop on his trip to Europe was the NATO summit meeting in France, much of which focused on the alliance's first military mission outside of Europe - the war in Afghanistan. In December 2001, following the U.S. invasion there, 93% of Americans thought the war there was going well. Now only 36% of Americans think

the war in Afghanistan is going well, and most think it is going badly.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN AFGHANISTAN?

	Now	3/2009	3/2003	5/2002	12/2001
Well	36%	33%	76%	73%	93%
Badly	52	57	14	20	5

Americans are divided as to whether or not the U.S. should send more troops to Afghanistan, a measure being proposed by the Obama administration. While 39% of Americans thinks U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan should be increased, a growing percentage - 33% - thinks they should be decreased, and 18% thinks U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan should remain the same.

U.S. TROOPS LEVELS IN AFGHANISTAN SHOULD BE...?

	Now	2/2009	1/2009
Increased	39%	42%	34%
Kept same	18	23	28
Decreased	33	24	26

Those who think things are going badly in Afghanistan are divided about what should be done: 40% of Americans who think the war in Afghanistan is going badly say troop levels should be increased, while 38% say they should be decreased.

In contrast, Americans continue to be optimistic about how things are going for the U.S. in Iraq. Now 62% think the things are going at least somewhat well there. Just 30% of Americans think things in Iraq are going badly.

HOW THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN IRAQ?

	Now	3/2009	4/2008	6/2007	5/2003
Well	62%	64%	40%	22%	72%
Badly	30	33	57	77	24

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

A majority of Americans - 56% - say President Obama's budget plan sets the right priorities for the country.

DOES OBAMA BUDGET SET THE RIGHT PRIORITIES?

Yes	56%
No	32
Don't know	12

Americans are more likely to say the spending proposals in the budget will help the economy rather than hurt the economy. However, many simply aren't sure yet.

Similarly, Americans are more likely than not to think President Obama's proposed tax plan will help - but again, many aren't sure yet.

EFFECT OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS ON ECONOMY

	Budget spending	Tax proposals
Help	37%	32%
Hurt	23	21
No impact	5	7
Not sure	29	37

Most Americans (74%) think it is a good idea to raise taxes on people making more than \$250,000 dollars per year.

RAISING TAXES ON \$250k-PLUS IS...

Good idea	74%
Bad idea	23

In fact, two-thirds of Americans think the tax code should be changed so that middle-class Americans pay less than they do now, and "upper income" people pay more.

In principle, asked to choose between more stimulus spending and deficit reduction, Americans split: about as many want the spending as want the government to focus on deficit reduction.

WHAT SHOULD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO NOW?

Spend to stimulate economy	45%
Reduce the deficit, not spend	46

There are sharp partisan differences, mirroring much of the division in Washington. Six in ten Democrats see the need for spending, while six in ten Republicans would prioritize the deficit.

In the long term, the national debt looms as a concern: an overwhelming 91% of Americans today do worry that it will create hardships for the next generation.

Americans say they are paying attention at least some attention to the budget discussion - 71% say they've heard at least something about it.

THE PARTIES AND CONGRESS

As the budget battle divides the parties in Congress, President Obama's Democratic Party is - much like the President himself - also seen as more caring about the needs and problems of Americans than is the Republican Party.

WHICH PARTY IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

Democrats	57%
Republicans	22

And by more than three to one, most trust the President (63%), not Republicans in Congress (20%) to guide the country's economy.

In terms of keeping the nation safe, too, the President is favored. 61% think the President will make the right decisions about the

country's safety, while just 27% think Republicans in Congress will do so.

Overall opinion of the Democratic Party is the same as it was last fall, with a majority of 56% of Americans viewing that party favorably. Meanwhile, views of the Republican Party have dropped. Now only 31% of Americans view the Republican Party favorably - a drop of five points from last fall and lowest rating ever recorded for that party.

OPINION OF THE PARTIES

	Democratic Party		Republican Party	
	Now	10/2008	Now	10/2008
Favorable	56%	56%	31%	36%
Not favorable	34	40	58	60

That doesn't mean that Congress - which is now controlled by the Democrats - gets support: Just 26% approve of the job Congress is doing, and 64% disapprove. Most of the nation's Republicans disapprove, as do half of Democrats.

BAILOUTS

The public expresses more support for the Obama Administration's plans for the U.S. auto industry than the Administration's plans for the banking industry, but that approval of the auto industry proposals falls short of a majority.

47% of Americans approve of the Obama Administration's recent proposals dealing with the problems facing the U.S. auto industry; almost four in 10, however, disapprove.

A majority of Americans - 58% - disapprove of the administration providing financial aid to the banking industry.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS FOR...

	AUTO INDUSTRY	BANKING INDUSTRY
Approve	47%	33%
Disapprove	38	58
Don't know	15	9

Republicans oppose both the Obama Administration's banking and auto industry proposals. Democrats approve of the recent proposal addressing the auto industry, but are divided when it comes to providing aid to the banking industry.

Nearly half (45%) the public sees the two industries as being treated the same, but 34% think the government is treating the country's financial institutions better than the automakers, and just 6% say the automakers are being treated better than the banks.

WHO IS THE GOVERNMENT TREATING BETTER?

Financial institutions	34%
Automakers	6
Neither	45

Four in 10 Americans want the bailed-out auto companies and financial institutions to meet the same conditions for receiving loans from the government. 25% says these industries should be subject to different conditions because their problems are different. 31% do not offer an opinion on the matter.

SHOULD AUTO AND FINANCIAL COMPANIES BE SUBJECT TO SAME CONDITIONS?

Yes, same	41%
No, different	25
Don't know	31

A solid majority thinks government regulation of banks and financial institutions should be increased in order to help prevent future financial crises. Both Democrats and Republicans agree.

**SHOULD GOVT. REGULATIONS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
BE INCREASED?**

Yes	71%
No	23

In fact, 64% think in order to receive money from the federal government companies should have to accept instructions from the government on how to run their businesses.

TO GET GOVT. MONEY, SHOULD COMPANIES:

Accept govt. instruction on running them	64%
Run their companies as they see fit	27

Americans divide over who will benefit from the Obama Administration's help to the banking system: 47% think all Americans will benefit, while nearly as many - 40% - say only bankers will.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM PROPOSALS THAT AID THE BANKING SYSTEM?

All Americans	47%
Only Bankers	40

58% of Democrats think all Americans will benefit, while 52% of Republicans say only bankers will benefit.

82% of Americans say it is important to provide money to the auto companies in order to save jobs, including 49% who say it is very important.

IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING AID TO AUTO INDUSTRY TO SAVE JOBS

Very	49%
Somewhat	33
Not	17

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

Americans feel favorably toward President Obama's approach to the economic crisis, and believe the President is looking out for "ordinary people" and the middle class.

Two in three Americans are at least satisfied with how President Obama is approaching the economic crisis - many even express enthusiasm. About one in three are dissatisfied or angry; most of them are Republicans.

OBAMA HANDLING OF ECONOMIC CRISIS MAKES YOU FEEL...

Enthusiastic	28%
Satisfied	40
Dissatisfied	22
Angry	9

Americans feel the nation's chief executive is on their side -- the public overwhelmingly sees President Obama as siding with "ordinary people" over "large corporations."

OBAMA CARES MORE ABOUT...

Ordinary people	71%
Large corporations	17

Similarly, the policies of the Obama Administration are seen as treating all economic classes (rich, middle, and lower) equally, or else as favoring the middle class. Few Americans think the Obama Administration favors the rich.

OBAMA ADMIN POLICIES...

Favor the rich	12%
Favor middle class	25
Favor poor	15
Treat all equally	40

This marks a sharp difference from views of President Obama's predecessor, President George W. Bush. In June of 2001, a majority of Americans (57%) believed President Bush's policies favored the rich, and just 27% said they treated everyone the same.

Some have criticized President Obama for trying to accomplish too much too soon, but 55% of Americans think he is trying to accomplish the right amount. More do say the President is trying to accomplish too much (38%) than say too little (4%).

IS PRESIDENT OBAMA TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH...

Too much	38%
Too little	4
Right amount	55

THE ECONOMY

Just 11% of Americans think the economy is in good shape now and 89% say the economy is bad, about the same percentages that felt that way three weeks ago.

	CONDITION OF THE ECONOMY				
	Now	3/2009	2/2009	1/2009	10/2008
Very good	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Fairly good	10	12	5	6	10
Fairly bad	38	36	31	30	41
Very bad	51	52	63	62	48

And the public's outlook for the economy is improving; while only 20% think the economy is getting better, 34% think it is getting worse - the lowest percentage in two years.

	THE ECONOMY IS GETTING...				
	Now	3/2009	2/2009	12/2008	2/2007
Better	20%	19%	5%	8%	15%
Worse	34	41	51	60	34
Staying same	43	37	42	29	49

Still, few Americans see a quick end to the current recession. One in 10 thinks the recession will last another six months, and 38% think it will last a year. As many envision it lasting two years or more.

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL RECESSION LAST?	
Six months	10%
A year	38
Two years or more	49

PERSONAL FINANCES

When it comes to their own financial situation, most Americans are getting by -- but they remain concerned about the possibility of a job loss, and most have made changes in their spending habits.

Many Americans are concerned that someone in their household will lose a job in the next year. 44% are very concerned, up from 30% last month - tied with last February's measure as the highest level seen since the question was first asked in 1996.

	CONCERN ABOUT HOUSEHOLD JOB LOSS					
	Now	3/2009	2/2009	1/2009	6/2004	3/1996
Very	44%	30%	44%	30%	28%	37%
Somewhat	26	30	28	32	27	25
Not concerned	30	39	27	38	45	37

Jobs and unemployment are seen by far as the most important economic problem the country is facing, volunteered by 38%.

And when asked their biggest financial worry, job concerns top the list, mentioned by 22%. Somewhat fewer volunteer paying bills in general or health care costs.

FINANCIAL WORRIES

Job concerns	22%
Bills	17
Health care costs	14
Retirement	9
Housing costs	7

Many have cut back on their day-to-day spending. 40% have eliminated some luxuries, another 10% have cut back spending on necessities, and 31% have cut back on both. Just one in five says they have not made any spending cutbacks. Those who are worried about a possible job loss are most likely to have made changes in their spending.

MADE SPENDING CUTBACKS?

Yes, luxuries	40%
Yes, necessities	10
Yes, both	31
No	19

Higher income Americans are more likely to have cut back only on luxuries, while those with lower incomes are cutting back on necessities as well.

Nevertheless, two thirds describe the financial situation in their household as good. One in three says it is fairly or very bad, and Americans with lower incomes are most likely to say that.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Very good	10%
Fairly good	56
Fairly bad	21
Very bad	12

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 998 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 1-5, 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.

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President Obama, Foreign Affairs and the Economy
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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	Mar09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	66	31	89	63	64
Disapprove	24	54	7	24	20
DK/NA	10	15	4	13	16

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?

					Mar09a
Right direction	39	11	64	31	35
Wrong track	53	82	30	60	57
DK/NA	8	7	6	9	8

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

					Feb09b
Approve	59	31	76	57	57
Disapprove	19	41	4	21	17
DK/NA	22	28	20	22	26

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

					Mar09b
Approve	56	24	82	49	61
Disapprove	34	70	7	41	29
DK/NA	10	6	11	10	10

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

					Mar09a
Approve	59	41	75	54	61
Disapprove	25	34	14	30	23
DK/NA	16	25	11	16	16

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Afghanistan?

Approve	58	48	66	57
Disapprove	21	26	16	23
DK/NA	21	26	18	20

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					Mar09b
Approve	26	15	36	22	30
Disapprove	64	80	50	69	56
DK/NA	10	5	14	9	14

q8 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	1	1	1	0	0
Fairly good	10	4	16	8	12
Fairly bad	38	41	33	42	36
Very bad	51	53	50	50	52
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	0

q9 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	20	14	23	20	19
Worse	34	41	25	39	41
Same	43	39	50	37	37
DK/NA	3	6	2	4	3

q10 What do you think is the most important ECONOMIC problem facing this country today?

					Feb09b
Jobs and Unemployment	38	31	48	31	40
Housing/Home mortgage crisis	6	7	6	4	10
Greed/People on Wall Street	5	2	3	8	2
Failure of fin. institutions	4	3	3	4	7
Fuel costs	4	1	2	9	1
Taxes	3	1	1	5	1
Health care	3	2	3	2	2
Foreign financing/trade/NAFTA	3	4	0	3	2
Budget/National Debt	2	4	1	2	2
Jobs going overseas	2	2	2	2	1
Gov't interference in business	2	3	1	1	1
Auto companies/bailouts	2	2	2	3	1
Too much government spending	2	5	1	2	1
Other	15	28	15	16	20
DK/NA	9	5	12	8	9

q11 How much longer do you think the current recession will last --- six months, a year, two years or more than two years?

					Mar09c
Six months	10	11	11	8	9
A year	38	36	44	33	37
Two years	23	22	21	24	26
More than 2 years	26	25	21	32	21
DK/NA	3	6	3	3	7

q12 The national debt is the total amount of money the government owes individuals, banks, and other countries. How concerned are you that increasing the national debt will create hardships for future generations of Americans -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Very	63	80	54	63	65
Somewhat	28	17	35	26	26
Not very	4	2	6	5	7
Not at all	4	1	5	5	2
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	

q13 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?

Bush administration	33	14	53	23
Obama administration	2	2	4	1
Wall Street and financial	21	27	18	21
Congress	11	22	3	14
Someone else	8	14	3	9
All of the above (vol.)	7	13	3	7
Combination (vol.)	14	7	11	22
DK/NA	4	1	5	3

q14 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q15 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

					Mar08c
Smaller gov't, fewer services	48	72	33	48	43
Bigger gov't, more services	41	20	59	34	43
Depends (vol.)	5	3	2	9	4
DK/NA	6	5	6	9	10

q16 Do you think it is still possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and become rich?

					Jun07c
Possible	72	79	73	68	81
Not possible	24	20	20	30	18
DK/NA	4	1	7	2	1

q17 Think back before the recession began. During the last ten years, who had the greatest opportunity for financial gain -- upper income people, middle income people, lower income people or did all people have an equal opportunity for financial gain?

Upper income people	63	47	71	65
Middle income people	6	8	7	5
Lower income people	1	0	1	1
All people	27	39	19	28
DK/NA	3	6	2	1

q18 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?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Barack Obama	63	23	91	57
Republicans in Congress	20	50	4	18
Both (Vol.)	2	5	0	3
Neither (Vol.)	8	11	3	12
DK/NA	7	11	2	10

q19 Regardless of how you usually vote, who do you think is more likely to make the right decisions about keeping the nation safe -- Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

Barack Obama	61	23	88	56
Republicans in Congress	27	65	5	27
Both (Vol.)	3	1	2	5
Neither (Vol.)	5	6	3	6
DK/NA	4	5	2	6

q20 Which comes closer to your view: 1. The federal government should spend money to stimulate the national economy, even if it means increasing the budget deficit and the national debt, OR 2. The federal government should not spend money to stimulate the national economy and should focus instead on reducing the budget deficit and the national debt?

Stimulate the economy	45	29	61	39
Reduce budget deficit	46	63	32	51
DK/NA	9	8	7	10

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

					Mar09a
					%
Favorable	50	29	71	40	53
Not favorable	5	9	3	5	7
Undecided	13	23	5	16	16
Haven't heard enough	29	37	20	35	22
Refused	3	2	1	4	2

q22 Do you think the United States is respected around the world today, or not?

					Jun07c
Respected	36	33	43	30	24
Not respected	52	59	45	56	71
By some/not others (Vol.)	9	6	10	9	3
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	5	2

q23 Do you think leaders of other countries around the world have respect for Barack Obama, or not?

Have respect	67	45	84	61
Do not have respect	18	32	9	18
By some/not others (Vol.)	6	8	2	7
Don't know/No answer	9	15	5	14

q24 How concerned are you that the United States may lose its position as the world's economic leader -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jul08b
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Very	40	52	39	35	50
Somewhat	38	31	42	38	33
Not very	14	13	14	15	10
Not at all	7	4	5	10	5
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	2

q25 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In order to fix the problems of the U.S. economy, the United States first needs to work with other countries to fix the problems facing the global economy?

Agree	60	47	67	60
Disagree	37	48	30	37
DK/NA	3	5	3	3

q26 On balance, do you think trade with other countries -- both buying and selling products -- is good for the U.S. economy, or is it bad for the U.S. economy, or does it have no effect?

					Mar08c
Good	66	74	59	68	58
Bad	23	17	28	22	32
No effect	4	2	5	5	6
DK/NA	7	7	8	5	4

q27 Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion? Trade restrictions are necessary to protect domestic industries, OR Free trade must be allowed, even if domestic industries are hurt by foreign competition?

Restriction necessary	60	54	62	61	68
Free trade must be allowed	28	37	26	26	24
Don't know/no answer	12	9	12	13	8

q28-30 BLANK

q31 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

					Oct08d
Favorable	31	62	16	29	36
Not favorable	58	27	80	55	60
DK/NA	11	11	4	16	4

q32 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	56	24	88	42	56
Not favorable	34	69	9	39	40
DK/NA	10	7	3	19	4

q33-34 BLANK

q35 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more concerned with the needs and problems of people like yourself?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug96d*
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	22	58	4	19	34
Democratic party	57	20	85	49	51
Both (vol.)	4	2	5	4	2
Neither (vol.)	13	14	5	20	8
DK/NA	4	6	1	8	5

*Trend is among registered voters.

q36 Do you think big business has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence on the Republican party?

					Jul02b
Too much influence	75	61	82	76	67
Too little influence	5	5	3	7	4
Right amount of influence	12	24	10	8	20
No influence (vol.)	2	5	1	0	0
DK/NA	6	5	4	9	9

q37 Do you think big business has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence on the Democratic party?

Too much influence	56	63	51	57	49
Too little influence	9	5	11	10	10
Right amount of influence	23	19	28	20	28
No influence (vol.)	2	5	1	0	1
DK/NA	10	8	9	13	12

q38-39 BLANK

q40 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?

Too much	38	58	22	43
Too little	4	6	1	6
About right	55	32	77	47
DK/NA	3	4	0	4

q41 In general, which best describes your feelings about the Obama Administration's approach to addressing the nation's economic problems -- enthusiastic, OR satisfied but not enthusiastic, OR dissatisfied but not angry, OR angry?

Enthusiastic	28	12	42	23
Satisfied, not enthusiastic	40	25	49	40
Dissatisfied but not angry	22	42	8	24
Angry	9	20	1	9
DK/NA	1	1	0	4

q42 Do you think Barack Obama cares more about protecting the interests of ordinary working people or cares more about protecting the interests of large corporations?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08d*
	%	%	%	%	%
Ordinary people	71	50	87	66	73
Large corporations	17	31	7	21	13
Both (vol.)	3	2	4	3	2
Neither (vol.)	3	5	0	4	3
DK/NA	6	12	2	6	9

*Trend is among registered voters.

q43 In general, do you think the policies of the Obama Administration favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or do they treat all groups equally?

Favor the rich	12	16	7	15
Favor the middle class	25	18	29	24
Favor the poor	15	30	5	17
Treat all equally	40	26	55	33
DK/NA	8	10	4	11

q44 How much have you heard or read about Barack Obama's proposed budget plan -- a lot, some, not much so far, or nothing at all?

A lot	29	29	33	25
Some	42	49	43	38
Not much so far	21	19	18	27
Nothing	7	2	6	10
DK/NA	1	1	0	0

q45 From what you've seen or heard, do you think Barack Obama's budget plan has the right priorities for the country, or not?

	** HEARD OR READ ABOUT BUDGET PLAN IN Q44**			
Has the right priorities	56	27	79	51
Doesn't have right priorities	32	65	11	35
DK/NA	12	8	10	14

q46 Do you think the new taxes proposed in the Obama Administration's budget will help the economy, hurt the economy, have no effect on the economy, or haven't you heard enough about the proposed taxes to say?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Help the economy	32	17	49	24
Hurt the economy	21	43	5	23
No effect on the economy	7	2	8	9
Haven't heard enough	37	34	35	42
DK/NA	3	4	3	2

q47 Do you think the spending proposed in the Obama Administration's budget will help the economy, hurt the economy, have no effect on the economy, or haven't you heard enough about the proposed spending to say?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Help the economy	37	20	57	28
Hurt the economy	23	48	5	27
No effect on the economy	5	5	5	6
Haven't heard enough	29	24	28	33
DK/NA	6	3	5	6

q48 The Obama administration has proposed increasing federal income taxes for households making more than \$250,000 a year. Some of the money raised by these new taxes would be used to help improve access to healthcare and provide tax cuts for households making less money. Do you think this proposal is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea	74	50	89	72
Bad idea	23	47	8	23
DK/NA	3	3	3	5

q49 What if raising taxes on upper income people hurts the economy? Then, would you favor or oppose raising income taxes on households and businesses that make more than \$250,000 a year?

	THOSE WHO RESPONDED "GOOD IDEA" OR "DK/NA" IN Q48			
Favor	51	25	55	56
Oppose	34	56	31	30
Depends (vol.)	6	11	5	6
Don't know/No answer	9	8	9	8

q50 Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration's proposals to provide financial aid to the banking industry?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Approve	33	29	43	24
Disapprove	58	65	43	68
DK/NA	9	6	14	8

q51 When it comes to government regulation of banks and financial institutions, which comes closer to your opinion: 1. The government should increase regulations on these institutions now to help prevent more financial crises from happening again in the future, OR 2. The government should NOT increase regulations on these institutions now, because that will discourage private investors and slow down economic growth.

Should increase regulations	71	59	80	70
Should not increase	23	37	15	23
DK/NA	6	4	5	7

q52 Do you think the Obama administration's proposals to help the banking system will benefit all Americans by addressing a broad economic problem, or will it only benefit bankers?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **
 *** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
All Americans	47	36	58	43
Bankers	40	52	29	44
DK/NA	13	12	13	13

q53 How much have you heard or read about the Obama Administration's recent proposals to deal with the financial problems of the auto industry -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	35	40	39	27
Some	41	37	37	48
Not much	17	19	18	15
Nothing at all	7	3	6	9
Don't know/No answer	0	1	0	1

q54 Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration's recent proposals to deal with the financial problems of the auto industry?

Approve	47	37	55	46
Disapprove	38	47	33	39
DK/NA	15	16	12	15

q55 As a condition for receiving additional aid from the federal government, President Obama has imposed varying degrees of control over financial institutions and automakers. Do you think in order to receive federal funds, companies should have to accept instructions from the government on how to run their business, or should they be able to run their companies as they see fit?

Should accept instructions	64	55	70	64
Should run as they see fit	27	39	23	24
Depends (Vol.)	4	4	4	5
DK/NA	5	2	3	7

q56 How important do you think it is for the federal government to provide financial aid to the auto industry in order to save jobs -- is it very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

**** HALF SAMPLE A ****

Very important	49	36	56	48
Somewhat important	33	38	32	32
Not too important	7	10	4	8
Not at all important	10	14	7	12
DK/NA	1	2	1	0

q57 How important do you think it is for the federal government to provide financial aid to the auto industry in order to correct the mismanagement of auto companies -- is it very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

**** HALF SAMPLE B ****

	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very important	31	27	39	25
Somewhat important	36	27	33	43
Not too important	15	14	17	12
Not at all important	16	30	8	16
DK/NA	2	2	3	4

q58 How much have you heard or read about the 165 million dollars in bonuses that the insurance company AIG , one of the companies that received money from the federal government, has paid to some of its executives -- a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Mar09b*
					%
A lot	58	61	62	52	57
Some	29	31	24	34	29
Not much	7	3	11	6	10
Not at all	4	5	1	7	4
DK/NA	2	0	2	1	--

*Wording change: "...is paying..."

q59 Do you think Congress has spent too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the bonuses paid to AIG executives?

Too much	32	46	28	29
Too little	36	30	34	40
Right amount	24	14	32	22
DK/NA	8	10	6	9

q60 Do you think the Obama administration has spent too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the bonuses paid to AIG executives?

Too much	26	38	20	24
Too little	32	35	25	38
Right amount	34	18	45	33
DK/NA	8	9	10	5

q61 Do you think the tax code should be changed so that middle and lower income people pay less in taxes than they do now and upper income people pay more in taxes than they do now, or don't you think the tax code should be changed?

Should be changed	65	43	83	59
Should not	29	54	11	32
DK/NA	6	3	6	9

q62 The US government has given loans to some US auto makers and to some financial institutions. The government required automakers to restructure their companies. The financial institutions were not required to meet the same kinds of conditions. Do you think the auto industry and financial institutions should be subject to the same conditions from the government, or are the problems faced by the auto industry and financial institutions so different that they should be subject to different conditions, or don't you know enough to really say?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Same conditions	41	44	42	37
Different conditions	25	29	18	28
Don't know enough	31	22	37	31
DK/NA	3	5	3	4

q63 Do you think the government is treating the financial institutions better than the U.S. automakers, or is the government treating the U.S. automakers better than the financial institutions, or are they treating neither one better than the other?

Treating financial better	34	34	38	30
Treating automakers better	6	6	4	8
Neither treated better	45	44	47	45
DK/NA	15	16	11	17

q64 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?

					Mar09a
					%
Very well	12	18	8	13	10
Somewhat well	50	51	50	50	54
Somewhat badly	23	24	28	18	22
Very badly	7	2	5	13	11
Don't know/No answer	8	5	9	6	3

q65 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	5	2	3
Somewhat well	33	28	37	31	30
Somewhat badly	37	40	33	40	36
Very badly	15	15	14	17	21
DK/NA	12	15	11	10	10

q66 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Afghanistan, what should the United States do now -- should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan as there are now, or decrease the number of troops in Afghanistan?

					Feb09b
Increase	39	49	33	38	42
Keep the same	18	19	18	17	23
Decrease	33	19	39	34	24
DK/NA	10	13	10	11	11

q67, q72 BLANK

q68-71,q75 RELEASED SEPARATELY; q73,q74,q79 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q80 Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now, do you think your own standard of living now is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than theirs was?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Mar08c
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Much better	33	37	33	31	32
Somewhat better	25	33	21	25	30
About the same	20	14	21	22	19
Somewhat worse	13	9	15	13	12
Much worse	8	6	7	9	5
DK/NA	1	1	3	0	2

q81 When your children are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than yours is now?

	** AMONG PARENTS **				
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
Much better	19	9	20	24	19
Somewhat better	24	18	30	22	27
About the same	18	21	20	15	24
Somewhat worse	25	34	21	23	19
Much worse	9	11	7	10	9
DK/NA	5	7	2	6	2

q82-q84 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE; q85-86 BLANK

q87 How would you rate the financial situation in your household these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Very good	10	14	8	9
Fairly good	56	58	55	57
Fairly bad	21	23	24	17
Very bad	12	5	12	16
Don't know/No answer	1	0	1	1

q88 When you think about your current financial situation, what, if anything, worries you the most?

Job concerns	22	21	24	21
Afford bills	17	13	20	16
Health care costs	14	12	17	13
Retirement/Social Security	9	9	9	9
Afford housing	7	4	8	9
Paying for college	3	3	3	4
Uncertain future	2	2	1	4
Credit cards/debts	2	4	1	1
Taxes	2	3	0	2
Nothing	2	1	1	2
National debt	1	1	0	0
Investments/stocks	1	3	1	0
Everything	1	0	1	1
Other	6	11	6	6
DK/NA	11	13	8	12

q89 Think about your household income, would you say that it is more than enough so that you can save money or buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or is it not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Can save and buy extras	29	37	22	31	27
Just enough to pay bills	49	43	53	48	55
Not enough to pay bills, etc.	22	20	24	21	17
Don't know/No answer	0	0	1	0	1

q90 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?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar09a
Very confident	3	2	3	3	6
Somewhat confident	32	21	39	31	26
Somewhat uneasy	44	49	40	44	41
Very uneasy	20	25	18	19	26
Don't know/No answer	1	3	0	3	1

q91 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?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Very concerned	44	38	51	40	30
Somewhat concerned	26	26	25	26	30
Not at all concerned	30	37	23	33	39
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	1

q92 In the past year, have you made cutbacks in your day-to-day spending? IF YES, ASK: Did you cut back on luxury items or necessities?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes, luxuries	40	40	37	43
Yes, necessities	10	8	12	8
No	19	21	19	19
Both Lux. & Necess. (Vol.)	31	30	32	30
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q93 Are you currently employed, or are you temporarily out of work, or are you not in the market for work at all?

IF NOT IN MARKET FOR WORK, ASK: Are you currently retired, or not?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Currently employed	52	52	48	56
Temporarily out of work	17	14	19	15
Not in the market for work	15	14	18	13
Retired	16	19	16	15
DK/NA	0	1	0	1

q94 How concerned are you about not having enough money for retirement -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	49	43	54	46	43
Somewhat concerned	33	33	27	40	39
Not at all concerned	18	24	19	13	17
DK/NA	0	0	0	1	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	998	
Total Republicans	264	230
Total Democrats	349	391
Total Independents	385	377
Half Sample A	485	483
Half Sample B	513	515