

The Economy, the President and the START Treaty
November 29 - December 2, 2010

The Economy

As they have for more than two years, Americans rate the economy poorly. Eight in 10 Americans say the nation's economy is in bad shape.

	Condition of the Economy				
	Now	10/2010	9/2010	4/2010	12/2009
Good	18%	21	17%	26%	22%
Bad	82	78	81	72	77

However, Americans are more optimistic about the country's economic outlook than they have been for months. 31% say the economy is getting better, the highest number since April. 24% think it's getting worse and 44% say it is staying the same.

	Is the Economy...					
	Now	10/2010	9/2010	5/2010	4/2010	12/2009
Getting better	31%	25%	22%	30%	41%	29%
Getting worse	24	28	30	28	15	23
Staying the same	44	46	48	42	43	47

The President

President Barack Obama's overall job approval rating is up slightly in this poll, from 45% last month to 48% now. 42% disapprove. Approval among independents has risen as well, from 40% last month to 45% now.

	President Obama's Overall Job Rating				
	Now	11/2010	10/2010	5/2010	4/2010
Approve	48%	45%	45%	47%	51%
Disapprove	42	45	47	43	39

The START Treaty

Against the backdrop of the new START agreement and the delay in ratification, Americans overwhelmingly favor the idea of the U.S. and Russia coming to an agreement to limit nuclear weapons. These views are similar to those held more than thirty years ago, as the cold war raged: in 1979, 77% favored the idea.

Favor or Oppose U.S. and Russia Agreement to Limit Nukes?

	Now	6/1979	6/1978
Favor	82%	77%	78%
Oppose	12	15	14

Majorities of liberals (91%), moderates (86%) and conservatives (74%) support an agreement to limit nuclear weapons, although support among conservatives is lower than it is among liberals or moderates.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,067 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone November 29-December 2, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard landlines 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.