



CBS NEWS POLL
 For release: **October 13, 2010**
 6:30 pm (ET)

The Economy: Still the Public's Top Issue

October 1-5, 2010

As they have for many months, Americans continue to say the economy and jobs are the most important problems facing the country – 54% volunteer it. Other issues such as health care and the budget deficit lag far behind.

Most Important Problem Facing the Country

	Now	9/2010
Economy and jobs	54%	60%
Health care	7	3
Budget deficit/Nat'l debt	3	3
Immigration	3	2

Eight in ten Americans think the economy is in bad shape, a figure that has held pretty steady over the last two years. Only 19% describe the economy as good.

Condition of the Economy

	Now	9/2010	8/2010	1/2010	10/2008
Good	19%	17%	17%	17%	11%
Bad	80	81	83	82	88

Americans are also not very optimistic about the country's economic outlook. Only 22% say the economy is getting better, while 27% think it's getting worse. Half of Americans say the economy is staying the same.

Is the Economy...

Getting better	22%
Getting worse	27
Staying the same	50

With the September unemployment rate remaining at 9.6%, Americans are personally concerned about job loss. 35% are very concerned that someone in their household may be out of a job over the next year, and another 29% are somewhat concerned.

Concern about Unemployment in your Household

Very	35%
Somewhat	29
Not	36

In assessing their family's financial situation, 43% of Americans say their finances are worse than they were two years ago; four times as many as say better. 45% of the public describes their financial situation as the same as it was two years ago.

Compared to Two Years ago, Financial Situation is...

Better	11%
Worse	43
Same	45

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,129 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone October 1-5, 2010. 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
October 1-5, 2010

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep10b
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Economy/Jobs	54	56	52	54	60
Health Care	7	6	7	7	3
Budget Deficit/National Debt	3	5	2	4	3
Immigration	3	2	5	2	2
Education	2	2	2	3	2
Moral Values/Family Values	2	2	0	3	2
The President/Barack Obama	2	3	3	1	2
Other	22	18	13	23	22
DK/NA	5	6	6	3	4

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

					Sep10b
Very good	1	0	1	2	0
Fairly good	18	9	23	19	17
Fairly bad	43	42	42	45	47
Very bad	37	48	33	34	34
DK/NA	1	1	1	0	2

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

Better	22	10	31	24	22
Worse	27	37	19	26	30
Same	50	53	49	49	48
DK/NA	1	0	1	1	0

q83 Compared to two years ago, is your family's financial situation better today, worse today, or about the same?

Better today	11	9	11	13	17
Worse today	43	47	38	45	39
About the same	45	44	51	40	43
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	1

q84 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	35	37	35	33	40
Somewhat concerned	29	23	29	31	22
Not at all concerned	36	39	35	35	37
DK/NA	0	1	1	1	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1129	
Total Republicans	388	308 (27%)
Total Democrats	301	370 (33%)
Total Independents	440	451 (40%)