CNN OPINION RESEARCH POLL

Interviews with 1,008 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on December 17-19, 2010. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT NOON

As you may know, on a regular basis, Congress must pass bills that authorize the federal government to spend money. When that legislation expires, the government must shut down until Congress passes a new spending bill.

35.   Suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few days because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you view a government shutdown that lasted a few days as a crisis, as a major problem, as a minor problem, or as not a problem at all?

	Dec. 17-19 2010
Crisis	13%
Major problem	30%
Minor problem	35%
Not a problem at all	22%
No opinion	1%

36.   Now suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few weeks because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you view a government shutdown that lasted a few week as a crisis, as a major problem, as a minor problem, or as not a problem at all?

	Dec. 17-19 2010
Crisis	33%
Major problem	38%
Minor problem	20%
Not a problem at all	8%
No opinion	*

FOR COMPARISON
CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS DURING 1995 GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

So far, the Republicans in Congress and President Clinton have not reached a final agreement on the federal budget. As a result, the federal government has shut down again and will remain that way until some agreement is reached. Do you view the shutdown as a crisis, as a major problem, as a minor problem or as not a problem at all?

	Crisis	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not Problem At All	No Opinion
1995 Dec 15-18	12	44	30	12	1
1995 Nov 14	11	40	33	14	2

Question 35

Suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few days because Congress did not pass a new spending bill. Would you view a government shutdown that lasted a few days as a crisis, as a major problem, as a minor problem, or as not a problem at all?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Crisis	13%	11%	14%	12%	15%
Major problem	30%	27%	33%	31%	29%
Minor problem	35%	34%	36%	35%	36%
Not a problem at all	22%	27%	16%	21%	20%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-8.0

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Crisis	13%	N/A	10%	14%	14%	12%	14%
Major problem	30%	N/A	31%	24%	37%	31%	29%
Minor problem	35%	N/A	31%	38%	29%	35%	35%
Not a problem at all	22%	N/A	27%	23%	18%	21%	21%
No opinion	1%	N/A	1%	*	1%	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Under $50K	$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Crisis	13%	14%	12%	13%	13%
Major problem	30%	33%	27%	33%	28%
Minor problem	35%	33%	37%	36%	34%
Not a problem at all	22%	19%	24%	17%	25%
No opinion	1%	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.0

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crisis	13%	14%	13%	10%	7%	17%	9%
Major problem	30%	39%	27%	25%	34%	29%	30%
Minor problem	35%	32%	36%	38%	36%	38%	31%
Not a problem at all	22%	15%	24%	28%	22%	15%	28%
No opinion	1%	1%	*	*	*	*	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-7.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Crisis	13%	13%	8%	14%	14%	13%	11%	15%
Major problem	30%	31%	31%	30%	29%	34%	27%	34%
Minor problem	35%	32%	32%	37%	36%	31%	39%	32%
Not a problem at all	22%	23%	27%	19%	20%	22%	22%	19%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	*	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Crisis	13%	7%	16%	14%
Major problem	30%	20%	33%	36%
Minor problem	35%	43%	30%	34%
Not a problem at all	22%	31%	20%	15%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.5

 * percentage less than 1%

Question 36

Now suppose the federal government had to shut down for a few weeks because Congress did not pass
a new spending bill. Would you view a government shutdown that lasted a few week as a crisis, as
a major problem, as a minor problem, or as not a problem at all?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Crisis	33%	31%	36%	35%	29%
Major problem	38%	35%	42%	37%	41%
Minor problem	20%	24%	17%	20%	21%
Not a problem at all	8%	11%	5%	7%	9%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-8.0

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Crisis	33%	N/A	32%	30%	34%	34%	32%
Major problem	38%	N/A	35%	41%	39%	37%	40%
Minor problem	20%	N/A	23%	21%	21%	20%	21%
Not a problem at all	8%	N/A	9%	8%	6%	8%	7%
No opinion	*	N/A	*	*	1%	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0		+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Under $50K	$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Crisis	33%	35%	32%	34%	33%
Major problem	38%	39%	37%	42%	35%
Minor problem	20%	19%	22%	19%	21%
Not a problem at all	8%	7%	9%	5%	10%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.0

	Total	Demo-crat	Indep-endent	Repub-lican	Lib-eral	Mod-erate	Conser-vative
Crisis	33%	40%	32%	25%	33%	35%	32%
Major problem	38%	42%	36%	37%	42%	42%	32%
Minor problem	20%	15%	20%	28%	19%	17%	26%
Not a problem at all	8%	2%	11%	10%	6%	6%	11%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-4.5	+/-6.0	+/-7.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Crisis	33%	39%	30%	34%	30%	37%	30%	35%
Major problem	38%	37%	39%	38%	39%	34%	40%	40%
Minor problem	20%	19%	18%	20%	24%	20%	22%	17%
Not a problem at all	8%	6%	12%	8%	6%	8%	7%	8%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	1%	*	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.0

	Total	Tea Pty Support	Tea Pty Neutral	Tea Pty Oppose
Crisis	33%	22%	36%	40%
Major problem	38%	32%	39%	43%
Minor problem	20%	28%	20%	14%
Not a problem at all	8%	17%	6%	3%
No opinion	*	*	*	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.5

 * percentage less than 1%