



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: MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 AT 5 PM

17. People all have different concerns about what's going on in the world these days, but you can't worry about everything all the time. Will you please tell me for each of the following whether right now this is something that worries you personally a lot, a little, or not at all?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
The size of the federal deficit				
December 17-19, 2010	68%	25%	7%	*

CNN/TIME TRENDS

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>
The size of the federal deficit			
January, 1995	51	32	15
September, 1986	41	40	18
November, 1985	66	24	9
September, 1985	59	29	10
July, 1985	55	33	12

22. Turning to the federal budget deficit, do you think reducing the budget deficit should be the main goal of government today, should be a very important goal of government, is a problem but not among the most important problems, or is not a problem?

Dec. 17-19
2010

Main goal	22%
Very important	46%
Problem, not most important	28%
Not a problem	4%
No opinion	1%

CNN/TIME TRENDS

	<u>Main goal</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Problem, not most important</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
1990 Mar 14	20	44	27	4	5

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

Dec. 17-19
2010

Acceptable	19%
Not acceptable	79%
Depends (vol.)	1%
No opinion	1%

Question 17C

People all have different concerns about what's going on in the world these days, but you can't worry about everything all the time. Will you please tell me for each of the following whether right now this is something that worries you personally a lot, a little, or not at all?

C. The size of the federal deficit

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
A lot	68%	68%	68%	71%	59%
A little	25%	24%	25%	24%	26%
Not at all	7%	7%	7%	4%	14%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	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
A lot	68%	N/A	68%	74%	80%	62%	76%
A little	25%	N/A	27%	22%	12%	30%	18%
Not at all	7%	N/A	5%	5%	6%	8%	5%
No opinion	*	N/A	*	*	2%	*	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
A lot	68%	66%	69%	69%	67%
A little	25%	25%	26%	21%	27%
Not at all	7%	9%	5%	9%	6%
No opinion	*	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.0

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
A lot	68%	57%	69%	84%	57%	67%	76%
A little	25%	35%	23%	13%	34%	23%	20%
Not at all	7%	8%	8%	3%	8%	10%	3%
No opinion	*	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
A lot	68%	66%	69%	71%	65%	61%	68%	77%
A little	25%	28%	22%	22%	27%	30%	24%	19%
Not at all	7%	5%	9%	7%	7%	9%	7%	5%
No opinion	*	*	*	*	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
A lot	68%	74%	68%	63%
A little	25%	17%	25%	32%
Not at all	7%	10%	6%	5%
No opinion	*	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%

Question 22

Turning to the federal budget deficit, do you think reducing the budget deficit should be the main goal of government today, should be a very important goal of government, is a problem but not among the most important problems, or is not a problem?

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White			
Main goal	22%	25%	18%	23%	18%			
Very important	46%	46%	47%	48%	42%			
Problem, not most important	28%	26%	29%	26%	33%			
Not a problem	4%	3%	4%	3%	6%			
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
Main goal	22%	N/A	24%	25%	22%	19%	24%
Very important	46%	N/A	41%	45%	53%	45%	48%
Problem, not most important	28%	N/A	30%	24%	23%	31%	24%
Not a problem	4%	N/A	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%
No opinion	1%	N/A	*	2%	*	*	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
Main goal	22%	21%	21%	24%	20%
Very important	46%	46%	48%	45%	48%
Problem, not most important	28%	27%	28%	24%	30%
Not a problem	4%	4%	3%	6%	2%
No opinion	1%	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.0

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Main goal	22%	15%	23%	30%	14%	19%	29%
Very important	46%	45%	44%	54%	38%	48%	49%
Problem, not most important	28%	33%	29%	16%	38%	29%	19%
Not a problem	4%	5%	4%	*	10%	3%	2%
No opinion	1%	2%	*	*	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
Main goal	22%	23%	22%	20%	23%	19%	23%	21%
Very important	46%	44%	44%	47%	50%	47%	42%	53%
Problem, not most important	28%	29%	27%	28%	27%	33%	29%	19%
Not a problem	4%	3%	6%	4%	1%	1%	4%	6%
No opinion	1%	1%	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
Main goal	22%	28%	21%	17%
Very important	46%	45%	49%	44%
Problem, not most important	28%	24%	27%	32%
Not a problem	4%	2%	1%	7%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%

Question 37

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

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Acceptable	19%	20%	18%	17%	25%
Not acceptable	79%	80%	79%	81%	75%
Depends	1%	1%	1%	1%	*
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
Acceptable	19%	N/A	17%	15%	15%	22%	15%
Not acceptable	79%	N/A	81%	84%	82%	76%	83%
Depends	1%	N/A	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No opinion	1%	N/A	*	*	2%	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
Acceptable	19%	17%	21%	19%	19%
Not acceptable	79%	83%	77%	80%	79%
Depends	1%	*	1%	*	1%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	1%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-4.0

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Acceptable	19%	26%	18%	11%	27%	21%	12%
Not acceptable	79%	71%	81%	89%	68%	78%	87%
Depends	1%	2%	1%	*	2%	1%	*
No opinion	1%	2%	*	*	2%	*	*
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
Acceptable	19%	19%	21%	18%	19%	22%	17%	19%
Not acceptable	79%	80%	78%	80%	80%	75%	82%	80%
Depends	1%	1%	1%	*	1%	1%	1%	1%
No opinion	1%	1%	*	1%	*	2%	*	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
Acceptable	19%	14%	19%	25%
Not acceptable	79%	86%	80%	72%
Depends	1%	1%	*	2%
No opinion	1%	*	*	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.5

* percentage less than 1%