



**Interviews with 1,041 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on December 2-3, 2009. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.**

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**FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 9 AM**

5. Which of the following is the most important issue facing the country today? (RANDOM ORDER)

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Aug. 28-31 <u>2009</u>	June 26-28 <u>2009</u>	Apr. 23-26 <u>2009</u>	Mar. 12-15 <u>2009</u>
The economy	40%	41%	51%	55%	63%
Health care	17%	20%	13%	9%	9%
The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	16%	8%	8%	9%	6%
The federal budget deficit	13%	15%	14%	10%	8%
Education	7%	8%	4%	6%	5%
Terrorism	4%	5%	5%	6%	5%
Energy and environmental policies*	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Other (vol.)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No opinion (vol.)	*	*	*	1%	*

*\*QUESTION WORDING: Prior to Dec. 2-3, 2009 asked only as "Energy policy"*

6. (IF ECONOMY) And which of those items I just mentioned is the most important issue OTHER THAN THE ECONOMY facing the country today?

QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 COMBINED

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Aug. 28-31 <u>2009</u>	June 26-28 <u>2009</u>
Health care	28%	33%	27%
The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	27%	15%	21%
The federal budget deficit	22%	25%	23%
Education	10%	12%	11%
Terrorism	7%	10%	10%
Energy and environmental policies*	4%	4%	6%
Other (vol.)	1%	1%	2%
No opinion (vol.)	2%	*	1%

*\*QUESTION WORDING: Prior to Dec. 2-3, 2009 asked only as "Energy policy"*

7. How well are things going in the country today -- very well, fairly well, pretty badly or very badly?

	<u>Very Well</u>	<u>Fairly Well</u>	<u>Pretty Badly</u>	<u>Very Badly</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Very+ Fairly Well</u>	<u>Pretty+ Very Badly</u>
Dec. 2-3, 2009	3%	31%	42%	24%	*	34%	66%
Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2009	3%	34%	41%	22%	*	37%	63%
August 28-31, 2009	2%	28%	46%	23%	1%	30%	69%
May 14-17, 2009	3%	25%	45%	26%	*	28%	71%
April 3-5, 2009	3%	20%	51%	26%	*	23%	77%
February 18-19, 2009	3%	18%	47%	32%	*	21%	79%
December 1-2, 2008	2%	18%	39%	40%	*	20%	79%
November 6-9, 2008	2%	14%	45%	38%	*	16%	83%
October 17-19, 2008	3%	22%	42%	33%	*	25%	75%
October 3-5, 2008	3%	17%	45%	35%	*	20%	80%
Aug 23-24, 2008	3%	28%	35%	34%	*	31%	69%
July 27-29, 2008	3%	21%	47%	29%	*	24%	76%
Apr. 28-30, 2008	4%	26%	35%	35%	1%	30%	70%
Nov. 2-4, 2007	8%	34%	35%	23%	*	42%	58%
April 10-12, 2007	8%	40%	34%	17%	1%	48%	51%
January 11, 2007	8%	49%	30%	12%	1%	57%	42%
November 3-5, 2006	9%	42%	30%	18%	1%	51%	48%
October 6-8, 2006	12%	37%	30%	19%	2%	49%	49%
Sept. 29-October 2, 2006	8%	43%	26%	23%	*	51%	49%
August 30-Sept. 2, 2006	9%	37%	29%	25%	*	46%	54%
August 2-3, 2006	8%	47%	29%	15%	1%	55%	44%
May 5-7, 2006	8%	38%	33%	20%	1%	46%	53%

*(CNN/TIME AND CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS ON NEXT PAGE)*

*Trends from 1974 to May, 2004: CNN/Time or Time magazine polls;  
Trends from October, 2004 to Feb, 2006: CNN/USA Today/Gallup polls*

	Very/ fairly well	Very/ pretty badly		Very/ fairly well	Very/ pretty badly		Very/ fairly well	Very/ pretty badly		Very/ fairly well	Very/ pretty badly
2006 Feb 9-12	52	47	1998 May 18-19	66	30	1993 Aug	39	58	1985 Nov	70	31
2005 Nov 11-13	49	50	1998 Apr 8-9	70	30	1993 Aug	41	57	1985 Sep	67	33
2005 Sep 8-11	50	50	1998 Mar 18-19	76	25	1993 Jun	41	56	1985 Jul	70	31
2005 July 23-24	58	41	1998 Feb 4-5	74	25	1993 May	40	58	1985 Apr	69	32
2005 April 1-2	61	38	1998 Jan 28-29	79	19	1993 May	43	56	1984 Dec	74	26
2005 Jan 7-9	58	41	1998 Jan 22	68	31	1993 Apr	45	53	1984 Oct	74	26
2004 Oct 29-31	55	44	1998 Jan 14-15	65	32	1993 Mar	48	50	1984 Sep	71	30
2004 Oct 9-10	54	46	1997 Oct 30	67	31	1993 Feb	48	49	1984 Aug	68	32
2004 May 12-13	60	39	1997 Sep 10-11	63	34	1993 Feb	48	49	1984 Jan	67	32
2004 Apr 8	63	36	1997 Jul 30-31	69	29	1993 Jan	53	45	1983 Dec	60	40
2004 Feb 5-6	52	47	1997 Jun 4-5	64	34	1993 Jan	47	52	1983 Sep	56	45
2004 Jan 14-15	53	46	1997 May 7-8	63	35	1992 Oct	35	65	1983 Jun	58	41
2003 Dec 30-Jan 1	49	49	1997 Apr 16-17	62	37	1992 Sep	32	68	1983 Mar	46	55
2003 Nov 18-19	52	46	1997 Mar 11-12	57	41	1992 Aug	35	63	1982 Dec	35	65
2003 Sep 3-4	49	49	1997 Feb 26-27	64	35	1992 Jul	31	67	1982 Oct	40	60
2003 Jul 16-17	57	42	1997 Feb 5-6	67	33	1992 Jun	35	62	1982 Jun	40	60
2003 May 21-22	60	39	1997 Jan 8-9	63	35	1992 Jun	33	65	1982 Mar	39	62
2003 Mar 27	63	36	1996 Oct	67	32	1992 May	30	68	1981 Dec	43	58
2003 Feb 19-20	52	47	1996 Jun	61	37	1992 Apr	33	65	1981 Sep	53	47
2003 Feb 6	53	46	1996 Jun	62	37	1992 Mar	33	66	1981 May	51	50
2003 Jan 15-16	49	49	1996 Feb	53	44	1992 Feb	35	62	1981 Jan	26	74
2002 Dec 17-18	54	45	1996 Jan	48	50	1992 Jan	29	71	1980 Oct	32	68
2002 Nov 13-14	56	42	1996 Jan	48	50	1992 Jan	35	64	1980 Aug	30	70
2002 Oct 23-24	49	49	1995 Dec	54	44	1992 Jan	36	64	1980 May	21	79
2002 Aug 28-29	57	41	1995 Oct	46	52	1991 Dec	29	71	1980 Mar	24	76
2002 Jul 10-11	59	39	1995 Oct	47	51	1991 Nov	36	64	1980 Jan	34	65
2002 Jun 19-20	57	41	1995 Sep	50	49	1991 Oct	42	56	1979 Dec	36	64
2002 May 22-23	64	35	1995 Sep	50	49	1991 Oct	42	58	1979 Oct	36	68
2002 Apr 10-11	61	38	1995 Aug	47	52	1991 Sep	49	49	1979 Aug	31	70
2002 Mar 13-14	69	29	1995 Jul	51	47	1991 Aug	53	47	1979 Apr	36	65
2002 Jan 23-24	66	34	1995 Jun	53	47	1991 Jun	53	47	1978 Oct	56	44
2001 Dec 19-20	64	34	1995 Jun	45	51	1991 May	53	47	1978 May	49	51
2001 Nov 7-8	63	35	1995 May	50	49	1991 Apr	56	42	1978 Mar	53	47
2001 Oct 12	65	33	1995 Apr	46	52	1991 Apr	59	41	1977 Nov	64	35
2001 Sep 27	59	38	1995 Mar	52	46	1991 Mar	74	26	1977 Jul	69	31
2001 Sep 13	45	53	1995 Mar	49	48	1991 Feb	58	42	1977 May	65	35
2001 Jul 17-18	70	29	1995 Feb	54	44	1991 Jan	39	61	1977 Mar	69	31
2001 May 23-24	65	33	1995 Jan	58	41	1990 Dec	45	55	1976 Oct	56	44
2001 Feb 7-8	71	28	1995 Jan	56	43	1990 Nov	42	58	1976 Sep	57	44
2001 Jan 10-11	73	24	1995 Jan	54	44	1990 Oct	38	62	1976 Aug	60	40
2000 Nov 10	74	25	1994 Dec	55	44	1990 Oct	41	59	1976 Jun	50	50
2000 Oct 25-26	79	19	1994 Nov	49	48	1990 Oct	42	58	1976 Apr	52	48
2000 Oct 12-13	76	22	1994 Oct	50	49	1990 Sep	52	48	1976 Jan	46	55
2000 Oct 4-5	77	22	1994 Oct	51	47	1990 Aug	55	45	1975 May	40	61
2000 Sep 6-7	79	19	1994 Sep	45	53	1990 Jul	55	45	1975 Jan	23	78
2000 Aug 9-10	77	21	1994 Sep	46	53	1990 May	61	37	1974 Sep	30	70
2000 Jul 26-27	74	24	1994 Sep	42	57	1990 Apr	62	38	1974 Mar	29	71
2000 Jun 14-15	72	27	1994 Aug	42	58	1990 Mar	62	38			
2000 Mar 8-9	76	22	1994 Aug	45	52	1990 Feb	70	30			
2000 Feb 2-3	78	17	1994 Aug	49	50	1990 Jan	67	33			
2000 Jan 12-13	81	19	1994 Jul	51	48	1989 Oct	62	38			
2000 Jan 5-6	80	19	1994 Jun	49	49	1989 Jun	61	39			
1999 Nov 10-11	68	30	1994 Jun	56	41	1989 Jan	69	31			
1999 Jul 14-15	70	28	1994 May	48	51	1988 Oct	70	31			
1999 Jun 9-10	69	31	1994 May	49	50	1988 Sep	73	27			
1999 May 26-27	61	37	1994 Apr	47	52	1988 Apr	64	40			
1999 Mar 25	70	29	1994 Apr	53	44	1988 Mar	65	33			
1999 Mar 4	73	26	1994 Mar	48	49	1988 Feb	60	37			
1999 Jan 20-21	77	22	1994 Mar	49	50	1988 Jan	62	38			
1999 Jan 7	74	25	1994 Feb	47	51	1987 Oct	58	42			
1998 Dec 17-18	60	38	1994 Jan	52	47	1987 Aug	61	39			
1998 Oct 14-15	78	21	1993 Dec	48	50	1987 May	64	37			
1998 Sep 23-24	72	26	1993 Nov	45	54	1987 Feb	61	40			
1998 Sep 16-17	72	25	1993 Oct	40	58	1987 Jan	61	39			
1998 Aug 18	77	21	1993 Oct	39	58	1986 Sep	63	37			
1998 Jul 30	68	31	1993 Oct	41	59	1986 Jul	69	31			
1998 Jun 30-Jul 1	67	31	1993 Sep	47	52	1986 May	65	34			
1998 Jun 26-Jul 5	55	44	1993 Sep	42	57	1986 Apr	67	32			

8. Do you think the economy is in a recession, or not?

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Sept. 11-13 <u>2009</u>	Aug. 28-31 <u>2009</u>	May 14-17 <u>2009</u>
Yes	84%	86%	87%	90%
No	16%	13%	12%	10%
No opinion	*	1%	1%	*

	Dec. 1-2 <u>2008</u>	Oct. 17-19 <u>2008</u>	Aug. 29-31 <u>2008</u>	June 26-29 <u>2008</u>	Apr. 28-30 <u>2008</u>
Yes	89%	76%	73%	75%	79%
No	10%	23%	26%	25%	19%
No opinion	1%	1%	1%	*	2%

	Mar. 14-16 <u>2008</u>	Feb. 1-3 <u>2008</u>	Jan.9-10 <u>2008</u>	Dec. 6-9 <u>2007</u>	Oct. 12-14 <u>2007</u>
Yes	74%	66%	61%	57%	46%
No	25%	31%	37%	42%	51%
No opinion	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Jan 2-5	32	66	2
2003 Apr 22-23	56	41	3
2003 Mar 24-25	41	54	5
2002 Nov 22-24	52	45	3
2002 Oct 3-6*	55	40	5
2002 Jul 29-31	46	50	4
2002 Jun 28-30	52	45	3
2002 May 6-9	45	53	2
2002 Apr 8-11	45	52	3
2002 Mar 8-9*	56	38	6
2001 Nov 8-11	59	38	3
2001 Oct 11-14	49	49	2
2001 Sep 21-22	52	43	5
2001 Sep 7-10	51	43	6
2001 May 10-14	33	62	5
2001 Apr 6-8	42	52	6
2001 Mar 5-7*	31	64	5
2001 Feb 1-4*	44	49	7
1994 May 20-22	35	61	4
1994 Feb. 26-28	34	62	4
1993 Dec 4-6	45	50	5
1992 Sept 11-15	79	19	2
1992 Jan. 3-6	84	14	2
1991 March	81	16	4

\* Asked of a half sample.

8. Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?  
 9. (IF YES:) Do you think we are in a mild recession, or a moderate recession, or a serious recession?

QUESTIONS 8 AND 9 COMBINED

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Sept. 11-13 <u>2009</u>	Aug. 28-31 <u>2009</u>	May 14-17 <u>2009</u>
Serious recession	36%	42%	36%	42%
Moderate recession	35%	35%	39%	35%
Mild recession	13%	10%	12%	12%
Not in a recession (from Q.8)	16%	13%	12%	10%
No opinion	*	1%	1%	*

	Oct. 17-19 <u>2008</u>	June 26-29 <u>2008</u>	Mar. 14-16 <u>2008*</u>
Serious recession	32%	27%	29%
Moderate recession	30%	29%	29%
Mild recession	14%	19%	16%
Not in a recession	23%	25%	25%
No opinion	1%	*	1%

\*Asked of half sample

LOS ANGELES TIMES POLL TRENDS

	<u>Serious</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Mild</u>	<u>None</u>		<u>Serious</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Mild</u>	<u>None</u>
2003 Apr 22-23**	10	25	21	41	1993 Sep 25-28	29	27	16	24
2002 Dec 12-15	13	24	24	35	1993 Jun 12-14	25	27	18	26
2002 Aug 22-25	11	23	25	36	1993 Feb 18-19	25	25	15	30
2002 Jan 31-Feb 2	18	34	29	15	1993 Jan 14-17	27	27	17	25
2001 Sep 13-14	9	19	23	41	1992 Oct 24-26	46	30	12	9
1997 Sep 6-9	7	16	12	59	1992 Oct 2-5	45	26	15	11
1997 Feb 5-6	6	14	13	62	1992 Aug 20-21	45	27	16	9
1996 Oct 24-27	12	15	16	52	1992 Aug 12-14	45	31	13	8
1996 Sep 7-10	8	14	16	53	1992 Jul 7-9	42	33	12	10
1996 Aug 3-6	11	15	19	47	1992 Mar 27-29	35	31	18	13
1995 Jun 9-11	12	20	21	39	1992 Jan 31-Feb 2	41	34	14	8
1995 Mar 15-19	13	18	20	45	1991 Nov 21-24	33	35	17	12
1994 Jul 23-26	16	20	17	41	1991 Sep 21-25	30	33	19	14
1994 Apr 16-19	12	22	17	44	1991 Jun 28-30	32	33	18	14
1994 Jan 15-19	20	20	18	37	1991 Mar 9-11	21	38	29	9
1993 Dec 4-7	22	26	18	29	1991 Feb 15-17	23	33	28	13

\*\*003 results from CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll

10. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of economic conditions today?

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Oct. 16-18 <u>2009</u>	June 26-28 <u>2009</u>
The economy is starting to recover from the problems it faced in the past year or so	15%	17%	12%
An economic recovery has not started but conditions have stabilized and are not getting any worse	46%	50%	48%
The economy is still in a downturn and conditions are continuing to worsen	39%	33%	40%
Recession is over/Economy has recovered (vol.)	*	*	*
No opinion	*	*	*

11. As you may know, the U.S. went through a depression in the 1930s in which roughly one out of four workers were unemployed, banks failed across the country, and millions of ordinary Americans were temporarily homeless or unable to feed their families. Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all that another depression like that will occur in the U.S. within the next 12 months?

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	July 31-Aug. 3 <u>2009</u>	Mar. 12-15 <u>2009</u>	Dec. 1-2 <u>2008</u>	Oct. 17-19 <u>2008</u>
Very likely	17%	12%	12%	10%	12%
Somewhat likely	26%	29%	33%	28%	29%
Not very likely	39%	36%	36%	41%	35%
Not likely at all	19%	22%	18%	20%	24%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	*	1%