

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**APRIL 2010 OMNIBUS SURVEY 1**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**April 1-5, 2010**  
**N=1001**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	February, 2005	38	56	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	January, 2005	40	54	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	December, 2004	39	54	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	July, 2004	38	55	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	October, 2003	38	56	6
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	August, 2003	40	53	7
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	January, 2003	44	50	6
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
December, 2008	13	83	4	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	May, 2002	44	44	12
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2002	50	40	10
August, 2008	21	74	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
July, 2008	19	74	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
June, 2008	19	76	5	June, 2001	43	52	5
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	October, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	54	39	7
October, 2007	28	66	6	September, 2000	51	41	8
February, 2007	30	61	9	June, 2000	47	45	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
December, 2006	28	65	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	November, 1998	46	44	10
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
March, 2006	32	63	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	January, 1998	46	50	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
July, 2005	35	58	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	July, 1996	29	67	4
				March, 1996	28	70	2
				October, 1995	23	73	4
				June, 1995	25	73	2
				April, 1995	23	74	3

1 From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN “NEVER HEARD OF” AND “CAN’T RATE.”]

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
<b>ASK ALL:</b>								
a. The Republican Party								
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

## Q.2 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
b. The Democratic Party								
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8

## Q.2 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

NO QUESTIONS 3-4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

Apr 1-5 2010		Mar 11-21 2010	Early Jan 2007	Early Oct 2006	March 2004	Mid- Nov 2001	June 2000	Feb 2000	Oct 1997
23	Basically content	19	21	21	32	53	28	33	29
52	Frustrated	56	58	54	52	34	53	54	56
21	Angry	21	16	20	13	8	13	10	12
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	5	3	5	6	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only sometimes	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 <sup>2</sup>	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

NES <sup>3</sup>	2008	5	25	68	2	*
	2004	4	43	52	1	*
	2002	5	51	44	*	0
	2000	4	40	55	1	1
	1998	4	36	58	1	1
	1996	3	30	66	1	*
	1994	2	19	74	3	1
	1992	3	26	68	2	1
	1990	3	25	69	2	1
	1988	4	37	56	2	1
	1986	3	35	57	2	2
	1984	4	40	53	1	2
	1982	2	31	62	2	3
	1980	2	23	69	4	2
	1978	2	27	64	4	3
	1976	4	30	62	1	3
	1974	2	34	61	1	2
	1972	5	48	44	1	2
	1970	7	47	44	*	2

<sup>2</sup> The November, 1998 survey was conducted October 26-December 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

<sup>3</sup> Trends from the American National Election Studies shown for reference. Additional data from Gallup, CBS/NewYork Times, ABC/Washington Post and CNN polls are used to create charts in the report. The full trend data is available on our website.

**Q.6 CONTINUED...**

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only <u>sometimes</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
1968	7	54	36	*	2
1966	17	48	28	2	4
1964	14	62	22	*	2
1958	16	57	23	0	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.7 How much, if anything, have you heard about Pope Benedict the sixteenth who heads the Roman Catholic Church ...a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Late April <u>2008<sup>4</sup></u>	March <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>
29	A lot	29	18	19
45	A little	55	57	62
25	Nothing at all	15	24	18
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1

**IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE (Q.7=1,2), ASK [N=785]:**

Q.8 In your view, how good a job has the pope done in addressing the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church? Has he done an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Late April <u>2008</u>
3	Excellent	9
9	Good	30
27	Only fair	28
44	Poor	20
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.9 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	<u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
CBS/NYT, November 2003	45	42	4	9
CBS/NYT, July 2003	48	40	5	7
CBS/NYT, January 2002	46	40	3	11
CBS/NYT, January 2001	51	36	5	8
CBS/NYT, September 1999	46	43	5	6
CBS/NYT, February 1996	61	30	4	5

<sup>4</sup> In April, 2008 and before the question read, "In 2005, Pope Benedict the sixteenth became head of the Roman Catholic Church. How much have you heard about Pope Benedict...a lot, a little, or nothing at all?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Is it now a good idea or a bad idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
40	Good idea	46	54
51	Bad idea	42	37
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	9

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress last month?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>	
40	Approve
44	Disapprove
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON (BEFORE HEALTH CARE REFORM SIGNED INTO LAW):**

As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

	Generally <u>favor</u>	Generally <u>oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	40	47	13
Mar 10-14, 2010	38	48	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	50	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	48	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	35	48	17
Nov 12-15, 2009	42	39	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	47	15
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	34	47	19
Sep 10-15, 2009	42	44	14
Aug 20-27, 2009	39	46	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	44	18

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

**ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17



**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
				No	Other	(VOL.)	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
<b><i>Yearly Totals</i></b>								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
<i>2001 Post-Sept 11</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>.6</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>9.4</i>
<i>2001 Pre-Sept 11</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>34.6</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>.5</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>12.5</i>
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--