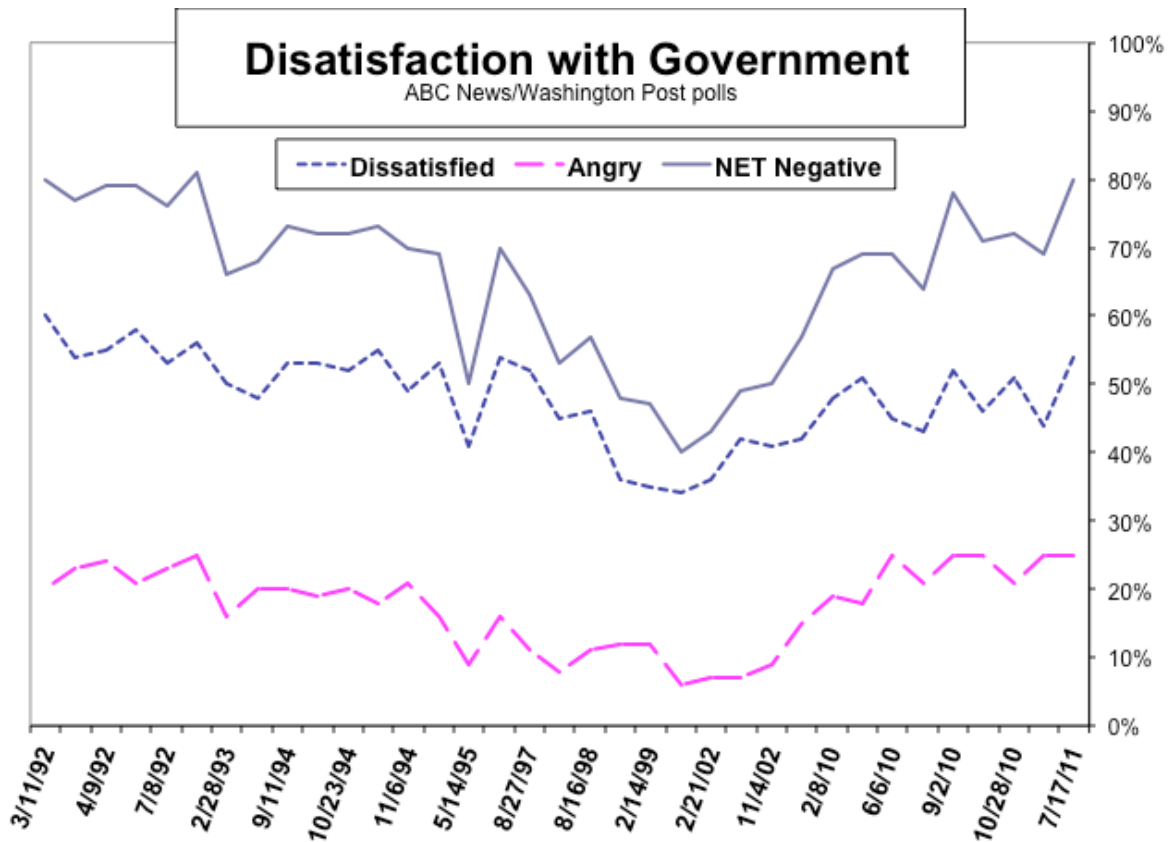


Spurred by Washington's Wrangles, Dissatisfaction Hits a 19-Year High

Discontent with Washington's budget battles has spurred public dissatisfaction with the federal government to its highest level in nearly 20 years – with attendant political peril on both sides of the debate.

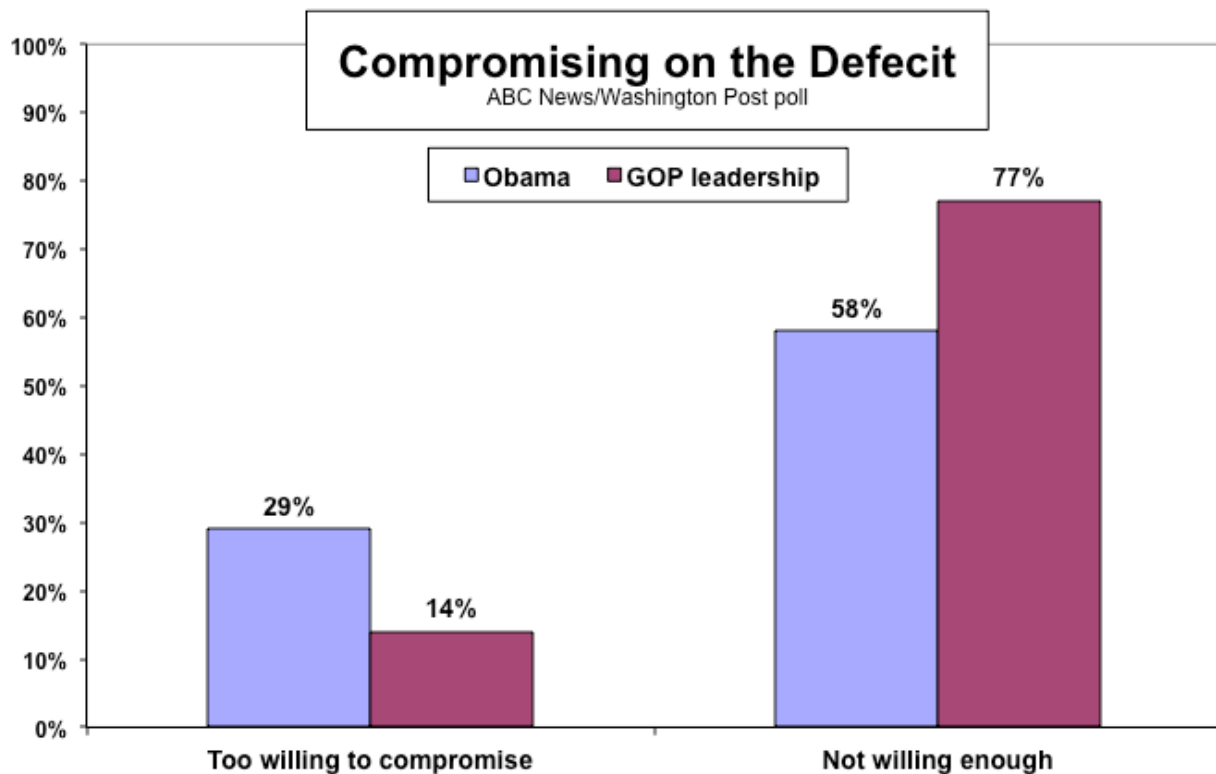
Against a backdrop of broad concern about the impact of default, 80 percent of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll say they're dissatisfied or even angry with the way the federal government is working, up 11 points in a single month. It last was this high in 1992, during the economic downturn that cost the first President Bush a second term.



The times today are nearly as tough: The ABC News Frustration Index has risen to 72 on its scale of 0 to 100, its highest since just before the 2010 midterm elections and well into the political danger zone. The index combines dissatisfaction with the government, anti-incumbent sentiment and ratings of the president and the economy alike.

But unlike 1992 – or 2010 – the opposition party’s taking even more heat than the president. While President Obama for the first time has fallen under 40 percent approval for handling the economy, the Republicans in Congress do even worse, 28 percent approval. On handling the deficit, it’s a weak 38 percent approval for Obama, but a weaker 27 percent for the GOP. And on handling taxes, Obama has 45 percent approval, the GOP, 31 percent.

Obama maintains 47 percent job approval overall in this poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#). That’s better than it might be, given the economy and the public’s palpable annoyance with Washington. And in the budget debate he has some comparative advantages: Head-to-head he leads the congressional Republicans in trust to handle the debt debate, 48 percent to 39 percent. And while 58 percent say he hasn’t done enough to compromise on the deficit, many more, 77 percent, say the same about the GOP leaders.



Those views of intransigence are up by 6 points for both sides, indicating increased frustration with the budget wrangles. That includes each side’s own faithful: Forty-three percent of liberals say Obama is not willing enough to compromise on the deficit, up 13 points from this spring. But more conservatives and Republicans, 58 percent in both cases, say GOP leaders aren’t doing enough to compromise; the latter is up by 16 points. Even among Tea Party supporters, 62 percent say congressional Republicans have not been willing enough to compromise on the deficit.

TAXES and CUTS – The president benefits from a broad preference, 62-32 percent, that deficit reduction include a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, not the GOP-favored

approach of cuts alone. Support for just cuts lost some ground this month from its high in June, although at 37 percent that, too, was well short of a majority,

The Republicans, at the same time, have gained on one of their arguments: Forty-seven percent of Americans now think large spending cuts will create jobs, up by 6 points overall (and by 12 points among Democrats) from an ABC/Post poll in March. Still, about as many, 44 percent, think spending cuts will result in job losses – a nearly even divide on this crucial question.

Among those who think the deficit should be tackled only with spending cuts, Obama trails the Republicans in Congress in trust to handle the current debate by 41 points, 65 percent vs. 24 percent. But the majority that prefers a combination of cuts and tax increases favors Obama to deal with the issue, by 57 to 28 percent.

It also helps Obama that independents, the keystone of national politics, side with Democrats in their preference for a combination of spending cuts and tax increases (64 and 74 percent, respectively are in favor). Republicans, for their part, split nearly evenly between spending cuts only (50 percent) and a combined approach (46 percent). And the choice creates a division in conservative ranks: People who call themselves very conservative favor spending cuts over cuts and taxes together, 62 vs. 33 percent; but those who are “somewhat” conservative break in the opposite direction, 36-62 percent. In this, “somewhat” conservatives look more like moderates and liberals.

	Cut spending only	Raise taxes only	Do both
All	32%	4	62
Democrats	17	7	74
Independents	31	2	64
Republicans	50	2	46
Liberals	22	9	66
Moderates	24	2	76
Somewhat conservatives	32	6	62
Very conservatives	62	4	33

There are two specifics measured in this poll on which, even among Republicans, support for tax increases reaches majorities: raising taxes on people with incomes higher than \$250,000 a year and raising taxes on oil and gas companies. While not quite a majority, half of Republicans also support raising Medicare premiums for wealthy retirees, and nearly that many back raising the Medicare eligibility age and raising taxes on hedge fund managers.

CONSEQUENCES – Americans’ discontent could be worse were it not for the majority belief that, whatever their differences, Obama and the Republicans will settle on a debt/deficit plan and avoid default by the Aug. 2 deadline – 54 percent think so. But there’s also very substantial concern about the impacts if that doesn’t happen:

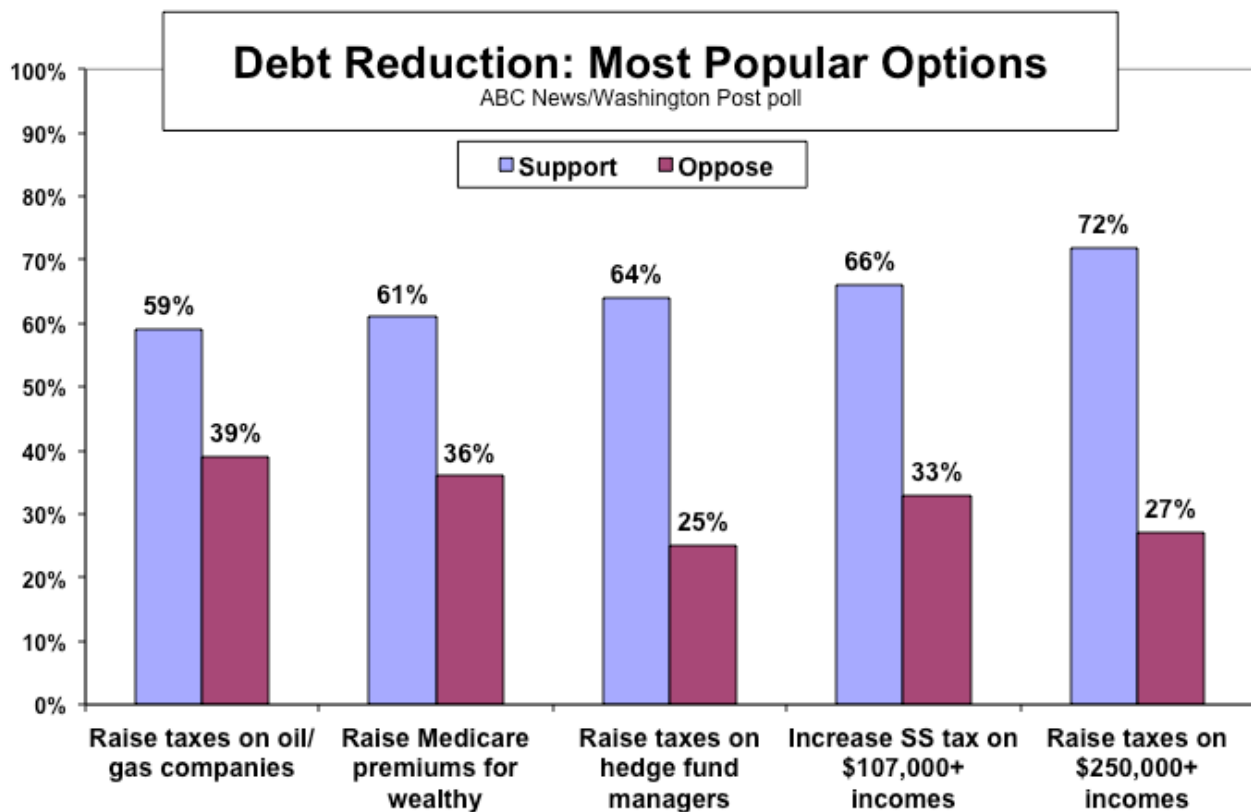
- Eighty-two percent of Americans foresee serious harm to the U.S. economy overall if the debt limit isn’t raised, up from 71 percent in a similar question last month.

- Nearly as many, 77 percent foresee serious harm to the United States’ reputation as a safe place to invest.
- Fewer, but still 60 percent, think a default would cause serious harm to their own financial situation.

These concerns cross partisan and ideological lines. Views that default would seriously harm the economy, hurt the United States’ reputation as a safe place to invest and harm individuals’ own finances are expressed, respectively, by 80, 76 and 56 percent of Republicans, as well as by 90, 83 and 66 percent of Democrats. Even among very conservative adults, majorities see damage to the economy, the country’s reputation and their own finances.

TO DO? – There are deficit-reducing proposals that receive majority support, and, as noted, even to some extent bipartisan support. Wealthy Americans generally are seen as more able to chip in; thus 72 percent of the public backs higher taxes on wealthy individuals overall, 66 percent would raise the income level subject to Social Security taxes, 64 percent favor raising taxes on hedge fund managers and 61 percent would raise Medicare premiums for better-off retirees.

Fifty-nine percent support higher taxes on oil and gas companies, another well-off target.



Other measures garner less support: Forty-six percent favor raising the age of eligibility for Medicare health insurance from 65 to 67 – not a majority, but a sizable number, and 13 points

higher than the result of a similar question asked 14 years ago. Forty-two percent favor slowing the rate of growth in Social Security benefits. And 43 percent support cutting military spending, not much different from what it was, 38 percent, in a similar ABC/Post question nearly 30 years ago.

Least popular of all is the notion of cutting Medicaid spending, the insurance program for the poor: Just 26 percent are in favor. (It's been reported that members of both parties have called in budget talks for Medicaid cuts.) Opposition to Medicaid cuts reaches 85 percent among those who would be most affected – those making less than \$20,000 a year. But among the highest-income Americans, 58 percent also are opposed.

There are substantial partisan differences on most of these, as the table shows:

	All	Party ID			Dem-Rep diff.
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Raise taxes on \$250K+	72	87	54	73	33 points
Increase SS tax on \$107K+	66	79	44	70	35
Raise taxes on hedge fund mgrs	64	70	47	70	23
Raise Medicare premiums on wealthy	61	68	50	66	18
Raise oil/gas company taxes	59	66	55	60	11
Raise Medicare age to 67	46	41	48	46	-7
Cut military spending	43	52	28	46	24
Slow SS benefit increases	42	43	43	42	0
Cut Medicaid spending	26	19	37	23	-18

FRUSTRATION and OBAMA – It doesn't take much to see the public's frustration in all this, particularly with 9.2 percent unemployment (16.2 percent counting discouraged workers) thrown into the stew. Ninety percent of Americans say the economy's in bad shape, and the 80 percent who express dissatisfaction with the way the government is working includes 25 percent who are downright angry about it, tying the record.

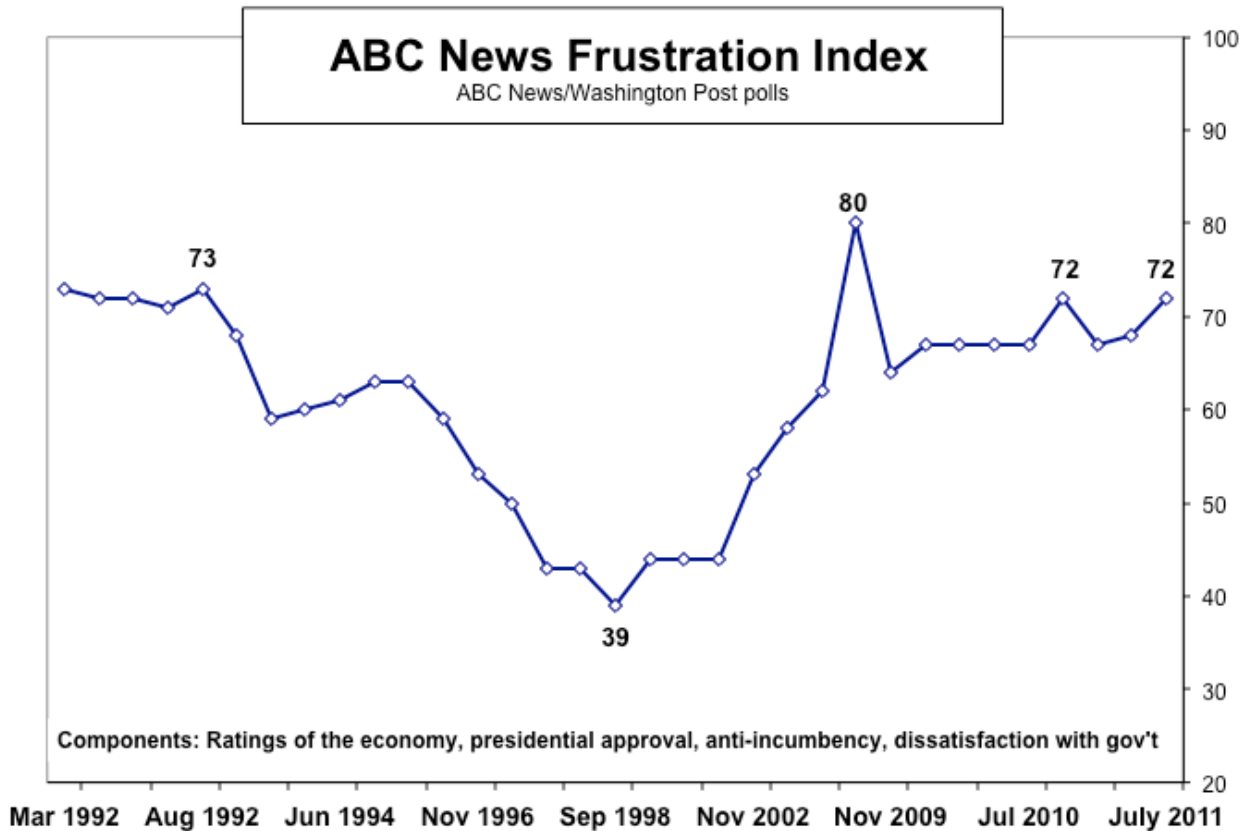
Given these, it's remarkable, as noted, that Obama's overall job approval rating is still holding so close to the 50 percent mark – 47 percent in this survey, identical in three ABC/Post readings since April.

The trick appears to be Obama's ability, in these partisan times, both to hold on to substantial support among his core groups while remaining competitive in the political center. Again, some of his positioning helps: In addition to taking the more popular road on taxes and cuts, he holds an advantage over GOP leaders in being seen as looking out for the economic interests of the middle class, small businesses and "you and your family." (See separate [analysis](#).)

Yet with this much frustration the president, too, is highly vulnerable. People who strongly disapprove of his performance outnumber strong approvers by 10 points. Discontent – a key political motivator – peaks in specific groups; the Frustration Index hits 85 among Republicans and 83 among very conservative Americans and strong supporters of the Tea Party movement.

Then there's the wildcard of the current deficit and debt limit debate. The range of taxes and cuts on the table include some most Americans will accept – but others most reject. Alternatively, if

the government does go into default, 42 percent say they'd blame the Republicans in Congress, while 36 percent would blame Obama and 19 percent volunteer that they'd blame both equally – in all, plenty of heat to share.



METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone July 14-17, 2011, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y, with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

----- Approve ----- ----- Disapprove ----- No

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/17/11	47	25	22	48	14	35	5
6/5/11	47	27	20	49	13	37	4
5/2/11*	56	29	27	38	14	24	6
4/17/11	47	27	21	50	12	37	3
3/13/11	51	27	24	45	12	33	4
1/16/11	54	30	23	43	15	28	3
12/12/10	49	24	25	47	15	32	4
10/28/10	50	27	23	45	11	34	5
10/28/10 LV	46	31	15	52	8	44	2
10/3/10	50	26	24	47	13	34	3
9/2/10	46	24	22	52	14	38	3
7/11/10	50	28	22	47	12	35	3
6/6/10	52	30	22	45	12	33	4
4/25/10	54	31	23	44	11	33	3
3/26/10	53	34	20	43	8	35	3
2/8/10	51	29	22	46	12	33	3
1/15/10	53	30	24	44	13	32	2
12/13/09	50	31	18	46	13	33	4
11/15/09	56	32	23	42	13	29	2
10/18/09	57	33	23	40	11	29	3
9/12/09	54	35	19	43	12	31	3
8/17/09	57	35	21	40	11	29	3
7/18/09	59	38	22	37	9	28	4
6/21/09	65	36	29	31	10	22	4
4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
3/29/09	66	40	26	29	9	20	5
2/22/09	68	43	25	25	8	17	7

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center poll

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

3/17/11 - Summary Table*

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
a. The economy	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
b. The federal budget deficit	38	22	16	60	14	45	2
d. Taxes	45	24	21	47	13	34	8
c-e. Held for release							

*Full sample asked item a; half samples asked items b and d.

Trend:

a. The economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/17/11	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
6/5/11	40	20	20	59	10	49	2
5/2/11*	40	18	22	55	16	39	4
4/17/11	42	23	19	57	11	46	2
3/13/11	43	22	21	55	13	41	2
1/16/11	46	22	24	51	13	38	2
12/12/10	43	21	22	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 RV	44	21	23	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 LV	42	23	19	55	10	45	2
10/3/10	45	22	23	53	13	41	2
9/2/10	41	20	21	57	13	44	2
7/11/10	43	20	23	54	13	41	4

6/6/10	50	26	24	49	12	37	2
4/25/10	49	24	25	49	10	39	2
3/26/10	45	23	22	52	12	40	3
2/8/10	45	22	23	53	15	38	2
1/15/10	47	22	24	52	13	39	1
12/13/09	46	23	24	52	12	40	2
11/15/09	51	26	25	47	12	36	2
10/18/09	50	29	22	48	13	35	1
9/12/09	51	28	24	46	13	33	2
8/17/09	52	27	25	46	13	33	2
7/18/09	52	29	23	46	10	35	3
6/21/09	56	28	28	41	13	27	3
4/24/09	58	31	28	38	13	25	4
3/29/09	60	34	25	38	12	26	3
2/22/09	60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center poll

b. The federal budget deficit

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/17/11	38	22	16	60	14	45	2
6/5/11	33	16	17	61	12	49	6
4/17/11	39	21	18	58	11	47	3
3/13/11	39	18	20	55	13	42	6
1/16/11	43	21	22	52	11	41	6
12/12/10	38	16	22	55	19	36	7
9/2/10	39	18	20	58	13	45	3
7/11/10	40	20	20	56	11	45	4
6/6/10	39	22	17	56	13	42	6
4/25/10	40	20	20	55	14	42	5
3/26/10	43	22	21	52	14	38	5
2/8/10	40	17	23	56	16	40	4
1/15/10	38	18	20	56	15	41	6
12/13/09	37	16	21	56	12	44	6
11/15/09	42	19	23	53	10	43	5
10/18/09	45	20	25	51	14	37	4
9/12/09	39	17	22	55	13	42	6
8/17/09	41	19	22	53	12	41	5
7/18/09	43	19	24	49	11	38	8
6/21/09	48	22	26	48	13	35	5
4/24/09	51	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	7
3/29/09	52	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	5

d. Taxes

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/17/11	45	24	21	47	13	34	8
1/16/11	50	23	27	44	14	31	6
8/17/09	51	23	28	40	12	28	8
4/24/09	56	NA	NA	38	NA	NA	6

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling [ITEM]?

7/17/11 - Summary Table*

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. The economy	28	67	5
b. The federal budget deficit	27	68	5

c. Held for release
d. Taxes 31 65 4
*Full sample asked items a-b; half sample asked item d.

Trend:

a. The economy

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
7/17/11	28	67	5
4/17/11	34	62	3
11/4/90 LV*	26	69	5

* "the nation's economy"

b. The federal budget deficit

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
7/17/11	27	68	5
4/17/11	33	64	3
10/14/90	23	72	5
10/7/90	33	59	8

d. No trend.

4. As you may know, there is a debate in Washington right now about reducing the federal budget deficit and increasing the government's debt limit. Who do you trust more to handle this issue (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Obama -----			----- Republicans -----			Both	Neither	No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	(vol.)	(vol.)	op.
7/17/11	48	34	14	39	11	28	1	10	3

5 previously released.

6. I am going to mention four phrases and ask you which one best describes how you feel about the way the federal government works. Do you feel enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			None/	No
	NET	Enthusi- astic	Satis- fied	NET	Dissat- isfied	Angry	Other	opinion
7/17/11	20	2	18	80	54	25	NA	1
6/5/11	30	3	27	69	44	25		1
10/28/10	27	4	23	72	51	21		1
10/28/10 LV	23	3	20	76	50	25		1
10/3/10	29	4	25	71	46	25		*
9/2/10	22	2	20	78	52	25		*
7/11/10	36	4	32	64	43	21		1
6/6/10	30	2	28	69	45	25		1
4/25/10	30	4	26	69	51	18		1
2/8/10	32	3	29	67	48	19		*
10/29/03	42	2	41	57	42	15		*
11/4/02 LV	49	4	45	50	41	9		1
11/3/02 LV	50	5	45	49	40	9		1
11/2/02 LV	51	6	45	49	40	9		1
10/27/02	50	4	47	49	42	7		1
10/27/02 LV	53	3	50	47	41	6		1
2/21/02	56	7	49	43	36	7		1
12/15/00	59	4	55	39	34	6		1

2/14/99		52	3	48	47	35	12		1
9/28/98		50	4	46	49	36	12		1
9/28/98	LV	48	4	44	50	37	14		1
8/16/98*		41	2	39	57	46	11	"	1
1/19/98		46	2	43	53	45	8	1	*
8/27/97		34	2	33	64	52	11	2	1
3/17/96		29	2	27	70	54	16	NA	*
5/14/95		48	3	45	50	41	9	NA	1
1/4/95		29	2	27	69	53	16	*	1
11/6/94	RV	28	2	26	70	49	21	1	1
10/31/94		26	1	25	73	55	18	1	1
10/23/94		28	1	26	71	52	20	*	*
10/9/94		25	2	24	72	53	19	2	*
9/11/94		26	2	25	73	53	20	NA	*
3/27/94		30	1	29	68	48	20	1	1
2/28/93		33	4	29	66	50	16	*	*
10/4/92	LV	17	1	16	81	56	25	1	1
10/4/92	RV	17	1	16	81	56	25	1	1
7/8/92		23	1	22	76	53	23	*	1
6/7/92		21	1	20	79	58	21	*	1
4/9/92		21	1	20	79	55	24	1	*
3/18/92		22	1	21	77	54	23	1	*
3/11/92		18	1	17	80	60	20	1	1

*After 8/16/98: No "None/other" option recorded

7. On another subject, would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	NET	----- Positive ----- Excellent	Good	NET	----- Negative ----- Not so good	Poor	No opinion	
7/17/11	10	1	9	90	40	50	*	
6/5/11	11	1	10	89	46	44	*	
1/16/11	13	1	12	87	45	41	*	
10/28/10	9	*	9	90	41	49	1	
10/28/10	LV	8	7	92	42	50	1	
10/3/10	9	1	8	90	40	50	*	
9/2/10	8	*	7	92	40	53	0	
7/11/10	10	1	9	90	44	46	0	
6/6/10	12	*	11	88	43	45	0	
1/16/09	5	1	5	94	32	62	*	
9/22/08	9	*	9	91	34	57	*	
4/13/08	10	1	9	90	39	51	*	
2/1/08	19	1	18	81	43	38	0	
12/9/07	28	3	25	72	40	32	*	
11/1/07	35	3	32	64	39	26	*	
4/15/07	42	5	37	57	37	20	*	
12/11/06	50	7	42	50	36	14	*	
10/22/06	55	10	45	45	28	17	*	
10/8/06	47	7	40	53	37	16	*	
3/5/06	43	5	38	57	37	19	*	
1/26/06	40	5	35	60	37	23	*	
12/18/05	45	5	39	55	38	17	*	
11/2/05	35	3	32	65	36	29	*	
9/11/05	40	3	37	59	37	22	1	
6/5/05	44	3	40	56	38	19	*	
4/24/05	37	2	35	63	44	20	*	
9/26/04	RV	46	3	43	53	38	15	1
8/29/04	RV	45	3	41	55	37	18	*
7/25/04		46	4	42	53	39	14	*
6/20/04		45	4	41	55	38	17	*
4/18/04		43	4	39	57	39	18	*
3/7/04		39	2	37	60	38	22	1

1/18/04	42	3	39	58	42	16	0
12/21/03	42	4	39	57	41	16	1
10/29/03	33	1	32	67	45	23	*
9/13/03	30	2	27	70	45	25	*
8/11/03	32	2	30	68	43	25	*
4/30/03	35	1	34	64	46	19	*
2/9/03	28	1	27	72	49	23	*
1/20/03	25	1	25	74	48	26	1
12/15/02	35	1	33	65	44	21	1
11/4/02 LV	28	1	27	72	55	17	1
11/3/02 LV	27	1	26	72	56	17	1
11/2/02 LV	29	1	28	71	54	17	*
9/26/02	31	2	28	69	50	19	*
7/15/02	39	3	36	61	44	17	1
2/21/02	30	1	29	69	51	18	*
1/27/02	31	1	29	69	50	19	*
9/20/01	38	3	35	60	47	14	2
9/9/01	33	1	32	66	47	19	*
7/30/01	50	3	46	50	39	12	*
4/22/01	50	3	47	50	40	9	*
1/15/01	70	10	59	29	24	6	1
10/27/00 LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
10/26/00 LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
6/11/00	74	17	57	26	19	6	*
2/27/00	80	25	55	20	14	5	*
10/31/99	74	18	56	26	18	7	1
9/2/99	76	19	57	23	16	6	1
3/14/99	80	22	58	19	15	4	1
11/1/98	73	12	61	26	21	5	1
11/1/98 LV	78	13	65	22	19	3	*
10/13/97	61	12	49	39	27	11	*

8-14 held for release.

15. Has the leadership of the Republican Party been too willing or not willing enough to compromise with Obama on the budget deficit?

	Too willing	Not willing enough	About right (vol.)	No opinion
7/17/11	14	77	3	6
3/13/11	16	71	5	8

Compare to: Has the leadership of the Democratic Party been too willing or not willing enough to compromise with Bush on the issue of the budget deficit?

	Too willing	Not willing enough	About right (vol.)	No opinion
10/29/03	30	56	4	10

16. Has Obama been too willing or not willing enough to compromise with the leadership of the Republican Party on the budget deficit?

	Too willing	Not willing enough	About right (vol.)	No opinion
7/17/11	29	58	8	6
3/13/11	30	52	10	8

Compare to: Has Bush been too willing or not willing enough to compromise with the leadership of the Democratic Party on the issue of budget deficit?

	Too willing	Not willing enough	About right (vol.)	No opinion
10/29/03	22	64	6	8

17. Just your best guess, do you think Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline the administration has set for raising the debt limit?

	Will	Will not	No opinion
7/17/11	54	43	3

18. If the government cannot borrow more money after August second to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think that would or would not cause serious harm to [ITEM]? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

7/17/11 - Summary Table

	Would	Would not	No opinion
a. The U.S. economy	82	16	2
b. The reputation of the United States as a safe place to invest	77	20	3
c. Your own personal financial situation	60	37	3

Compare item a to: As you may have heard, in August the federal government will reach its debt limit. Unless Congress raises the amount of money the government can borrow, the government would not be able to borrow more to fund its operations and pay its debts. If the limit is not raised, do you think that would or would not cause serious harm to the U.S. economy?

	Would	Would not	No opinion
6/5/11	71	22	6

19. Overall, what do you think is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit - (by cutting federal spending), (by increasing taxes), or by a combination of both?

	Cutting federal spending	Increasing taxes	Combination of both	No opinion
7/17/11	32	4	62	3
6/5/11	37	4	57	2
4/17/11	36	3	59	2
3/13/11	31	3	64	3
12/12/10	36	2	60	1

20. In order to reduce the national debt, would you support or oppose [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

7/17/11 - Summary Table*

	NET	Support Strngly	Smwht	NET	Oppose Smwht	Strngly	No op.
a. Cutting spending on Medicaid, which is the government health insurance program for the poor	26	11	16	72	18	54	2
b. Cutting military spending	43	23	20	56	17	39	2
c. Raising taxes on Americans with incomes over 250-thousand dollars a year	72	55	17	27	10	17	1

d. Gradually raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67	46	25	21	54	12	42	1
e. Changing the way Social Security benefits are calculated so that benefits increase at a slower rate than they do now	42	18	24	53	14	38	5
f. Raising taxes on oil and gas companies	59	42	17	39	9	31	2
g. Raising Medicare premiums for wealthier retirees	61	31	30	36	15	21	3
h. Increasing the amount of Social Security tax paid by people with incomes over 107-thousand dollars a year	66	36	30	33	16	16	1
i. Raising taxes on people who manage financial investments known as hedge funds	64	37	27	25	16	9	11

*Full sample asked items a-c; half sample asked items d-f; other half sample asked items g-i.

Trend:

a. Cutting spending on Medicaid, which is the government health insurance program for the poor

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	opinion
7/17/11	26	11	16	72	18	54	2
4/17/11	30	14	16	69	17	52	2

b. Cutting military spending

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	opinion
7/17/11	43	23	20	56	17	39	2
4/17/11	42	22	20	56	15	41	2

c. Raising taxes on Americans with incomes over 250-thousand dollars a year

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	opinion
7/17/11	72	55	17	27	10	17	1
4/17/11	72	54	18	27	10	17	1

d. Gradually raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	opinion
7/17/11	46	25	21	54	12	42	1

Compare to: Would you favor or oppose gradually raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67 over the next 30 years?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
7/8/97	33	64	3

e-i. No trend.

21. Do you think large cuts in federal spending would do more to (create jobs) or do more to (cut jobs) in this country?

	Create jobs	Cut jobs	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/17/11	47	44	3	6
3/13/11	41	45	7	7

22. If the debt limit is not raised, the federal government will have to start shutting down many of its activities, and may not be able to send out Social Security checks, pay salaries for government workers or meet its obligations to bondholders. If this occurs, who do you think will be mainly to blame - (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)?

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/17/11	36	42	19	1	2

Compare to:

As you may know, unless Congress and the president can agree to raise the federal debt limit soon, the government will not be able to borrow more money to fund its operations and pay its debts. If the limit is not raised, who do you think would mainly be responsible for this - (the Obama administration) or (the Republicans in Congress)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	---- Obama admin ----		-- Reps in Congress --		Both	Neither	No		
	NET	Strongly	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Strongly	(vol.)	(vol.)	opin.
6/19/11*	33	24	10	42	12	30	13	4	7

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center poll

23-35 held for release.

END