

Hot and Bothered, Frustration Remains High

Americans are steamed, and the economy's providing the heat: The ABC News Frustration Index stands at 72 on its scale of 0 to 100, one of its highest readings on record.

The index, based on presidential approval, ratings of the economy, dissatisfaction with the government and anti-incumbent sentiment, matches its level in September 2010, shortly before the Republican Party seized the reins of economic discontent to take control of the House of Representatives and score major inroads in the Senate.

The public has not mellowed since – particularly among those most stressed economically or least enamored of the Obama administration.

The index, drawn from the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, soars to 85 among Americans who say their economic situation has worsened since Barack Obama took office, 83 among those who rate the economy as “poor,” 82 among those most worried about their standard of living and 81 among people who most fear they won't have adequate resources for retirement.

Politically, it's 86 among Republicans (their highest in data since June 2010), 78 among conservatives and 78 again among strong supporters of the Tea Party political movement. It peaks at 87 and 88, respectively, among people who prefer Herman Cain or Mitt Romney to Obama in the 2012 presidential election, vs. the mid-50s among Obama supporters.

But frustration isn't limited to those partisan groups. The index is 74 among registered voters (another high since June 2010) and independents alike. It's even 61 among liberals, up from a cooler 52 in fall 2010, and 56 among Democrats, compared with a recent low of 50 in June.

The index has ranged from a low of 39 in 1998 to a high of 80 in fall 2008. It previously reached 72 in July, in fall 2010, and in spring 1992. It's a highly uncomfortable reading for an incumbent president: The index reached 73 in August 1992, shortly before the first President Bush lost his bid for re-election.

The [Frustration Index](#), produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), correlates strongly with other political and economic measures, including consumer confidence and views of whether the country is headed in the right direction. It also correlates closely with election outcomes, including the rate at which incumbents are re-elected and the loss or gain of House seats by the incumbent president's party.

Data tables follow.

ABC News Frustration Index

	2011			2010				
	Nov	July	June	10/28	10/3	Sept	July	June
All	72	72	68	67	68	72	67	67
Democrats	56	60	50	52	54	55	50	51
Independents	74	73	72	69	71	75	72	73
Republicans	86	85	80	84	85	84	84	82
Financial situation:								
Worse	85	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Same	67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Better	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Standard of living:								
Very worried	82	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Somewhat worried	73	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Not worried	61	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Retirement resources:								
Not at all confident	81	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Not so confident	72	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Confident	65	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support Obama	55	59	48	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support Romney	87	86	85	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support Obama	57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support Cain	88	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reg. voters	74	72	68	69	69	71	69	68
Likely voters	NA	NA	NA	69	70	74	70	69
Liberals	61	60	56	52	60	58	54	57
Moderates	71	71	64	69	66	71	65	64
Conservatives	78	80	77	79	76	81	78	79
Liberal Dems.	55	53	48	44	49	52	46	47
Conserv. Repubs.	86	85	81	87	85	87	84	85
Men	74	72	68	67	69	73	69	69
Women	71	72	67	67	67	70	66	66
Whites	77	75	71	73	73	78	74	72
Non-whites	69	60	57	52	53	56	50	57
White men	77	75	72	74	75	79	75	74
White women	77	76	71	72	71	76	72	70

ABC News
Frustration Index

11/3/2011	72
7/17/2011	72
6/5/2011	68
10/28/2010	67
10/3/2010	68
9/2/2010	72
7/11/2010	67

6/6/2010	67
4/25/2010	67
2/8/2010	67
11/15/2009	64
2008 election	80
2006 election	62
2004 election	58
2002 election	53
2/21/2002	44
2000 election	44
1998 election	44
9/28/1998	39
7/12/1998	43
1/19/1998	43
8/27/1997	50
1996 election	53
1994 election	59
11/6/1994	60
10/31/1994	63
10/23/1994	63
9/11/1994	63
6/26/1994	61
3/27/1994	60
1/23/1994	59
1992 election	68
8/21/1992	73
7/8/1992	71
6/7/1992	72
4/9/1992	72
3/18/1992	72
3/11/1992	73