

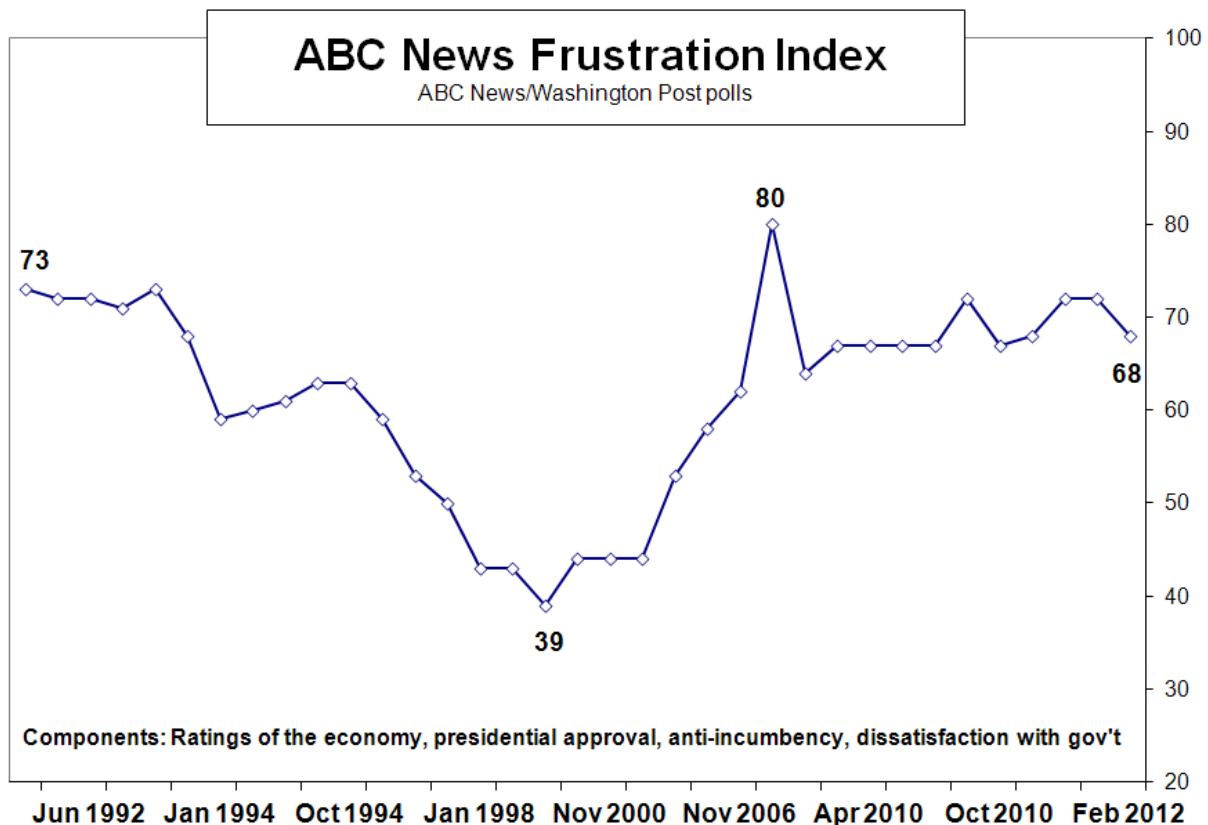
Frustration Index: Still Hot in the Kitchen

Public frustration has eased a bit from its summer and fall levels, but it's still plenty hot in the kitchen.

The ABC News [Frustration Index](#) stands at 68 on its scale of 0 to 100, cooling just slightly from readings of 72 in July and November. The change reflects slight gains in presidential approval, an easing of anti-incumbent sentiment and a dip in dissatisfaction with the government overall.

While those shifts are based on less-bad economic indicators, views of the economy still are struggling: Eighty-nine percent of Americans say it's in bad shape, steady in recent months. But fewer say the economy's in "poor" shape, 42 percent now vs. 50 percent in July.

The Frustration Index, based on these gauges, is a measure of political and economic discontent produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#). It's been as high as 80 in fall 2008 and as low as 39 in 1998. At 68, it's moved a bit below its level in August 1992, 73, shortly before the first President Bush lost re-election.



The index has improved chiefly among groups loyal to President Obama. Among Democrats it's gone from 60 in July to 50 now; among liberals from 61 in November to 57 now; and, merging those groups, among liberal Democrats from 55 in November to 47. Among nonwhites, another generally pro-Obama group, it's gone from 69 in November to 53 now.

There's been little movement elsewhere. The Frustration Index jumps to 74 among independents and 84 among Republicans, about as high as it's been lately in both groups. It's 75 among conservatives, 84 among conservative Republicans and 73 among whites.

Of the individual components of the index, the president's approval rating is now 50 percent, up from a career low 42 percent in October; 75 percent are dissatisfied or even angry with the way the federal government is working, down from 80 percent in July and November; and 53 percent say they're inclined to look around for someone new to support for Congress next fall, down from a record 69 percent in August. Negative views on the economy, as noted, are 89 percent. (See [Monday's story](#) for full results and question wordings.)

The index 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								
	2012	-----	2011	-----	-----	2010	-----	-----
	Feb	Nov	July	June	10/28	10/3	Sept	July
All Americans	68	72	72	68	67	68	72	67
Democrats	50	56	60	50	52	54	55	50
Independents	74	74	73	72	69	71	75	72
Republicans	84	86	85	80	84	85	84	84
Views of Obama:								
Approve	49	50	53	44	47	48	49	46
Disapprove	88	90	89	90	89	89	92	90
Views of economy:								
Positive	25	26	33	19	22	20	25	22
Negative	73	77	76	73	72	73	76	73
Not so good	65	71	67	65	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poor	82	83	84	83	79	81	84	82
Support Obama	52	55	59	48	NA	NA	NA	NA
Support Romney	86	87	86	85	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reg. voters	68	74	72	68	69	69	71	69
Re incumbents:								
Re-elect	49	50	51	46	46	44	45	41
Look around	81	85	82	82	83	81	87	81
Liberals	57	61	60	56	52	60	58	54
Moderates	68	71	71	64	69	66	71	65

Conservatives	75	78	80	77	79	76	81	78
Liberal Dems.	47	55	53	48	44	49	52	46
Conserv. Repubs.	84	86	85	81	87	85	87	84
Men	68	74	72	68	67	69	73	69
Women	68	71	72	67	67	67	70	66
Whites	73	77	75	71	73	73	78	74
Non-whites	53	69	60	57	52	53	56	50
White men	73	77	75	72	74	75	79	75
White women	73	77	76	71	72	71	76	72

ABC News
Frustration Index

2/4/2012	68
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