# Six in 10 Call a Recession Likely;
Trump Approval Drops by 6 Points

Six in 10 Americans say a recession is likely in the next year and as many are concerned about higher prices because of the trade war with China, helping to knock 6 points off Donald Trump's job approval rating in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll.

Trump fell from a career-high 44 percent approval in July to 38 percent now, a point off his career average, with 56 percent disapproving. His average rating since taking office remains the lowest on record for any modern president at a comparable point in his term, and he is the first never to have achieved majority approval.
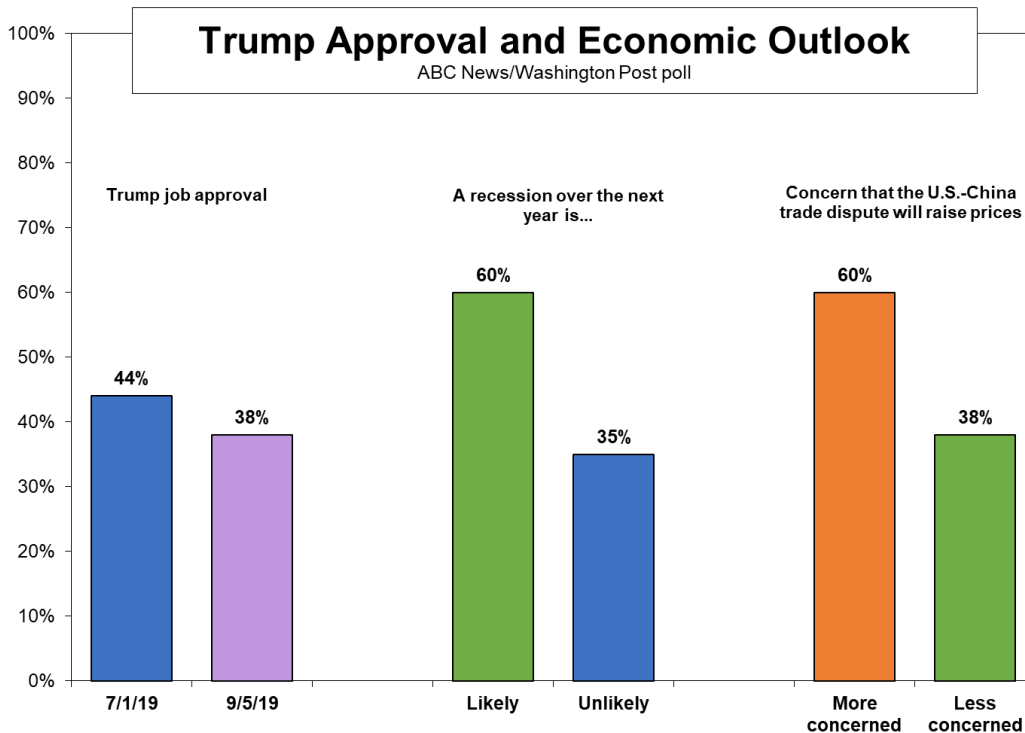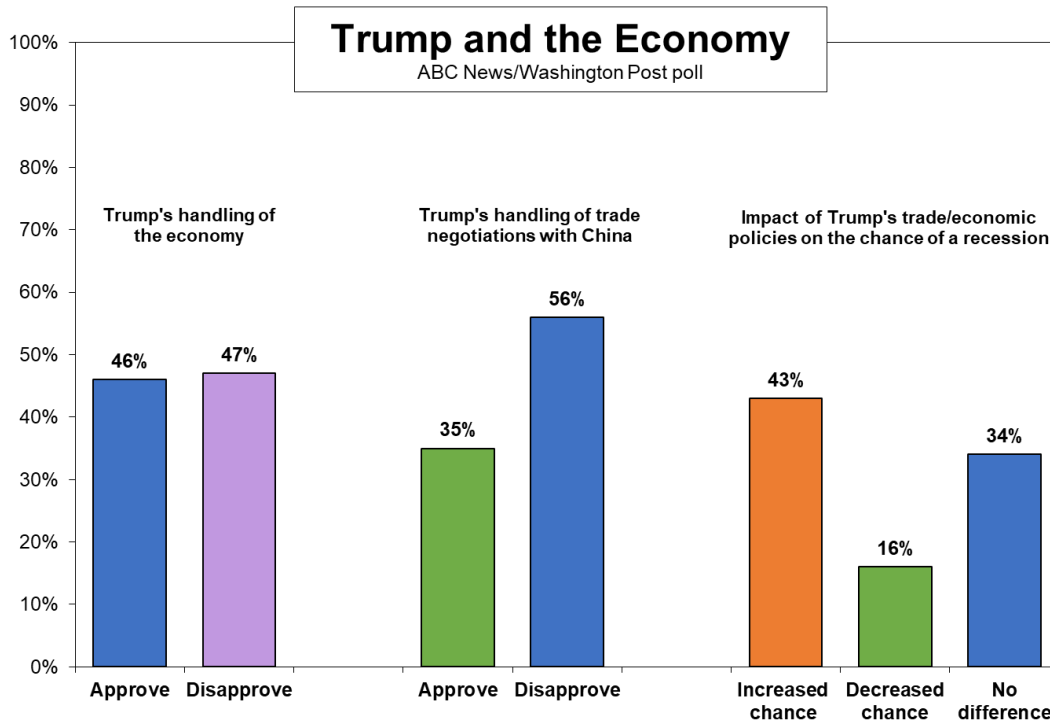

Trump has slipped by a slight 5 percentage points specifically on his handling of the economy, from 51 percent approval in midsummer to 46 percent now. Fewer – 35 percent – approve of his handling of trade negotiations with China, and 60 percent are concerned that the trade dispute will raise the price of things they buy.

Ratings of the U.S. economy overall, 56 percent positive, are down from 65 percent last fall in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates. Most ominously, 60 percent see a

recession as very or somewhat likely in the next year. That's within sight of the 69 percent who said so in November 2007, in advance of the Great Recession.

In another measure, Trump gets far more criticism than credit for his economic stewardship. Americans by nearly a 3-1 margin, 43-16 percent, say his trade and economic policies have increased rather than decreased the chance of a recession in the next year.

Trump and the Economy
ABC News/Washington Post poll

Trump's handling of the economy
- Approve: 46%
- Disapprove: 47%

Trump's handling of trade negotiations with China
- Approve: 35%
- Disapprove: 56%

Impact of Trump's trade/economic policies on the chance of a recession
- Increased chance: 43%
- Decreased chance: 16%
- No difference: 34%

IMPACTS – Economic attitudes are related to Trump's overall job performance rating. He gets just 20 percent approval from those who see a recession as likely and 19 percent from those who are concerned the trade dispute with China will cost them money. His ratings from those who are less pessimistic about the economy and the trade dispute are 50 and 51 points higher, respectively.

Economic attitudes include a high degree of partisanship. Ninety percent of Republicans rate the economy positively, compared with 52 percent of independents and 33 percent of Democrats. One in three Republicans sees a recession as very or somewhat likely in the next year; that rises to 60 percent of independents and 83 percent of Democrats.

That said, looking just at Republicans and Republican-leaning independents – "leaned Republicans" – shows the risk that negative economic attitudes pose to Trump. His approval rating is 58 percent among leaned Republicans who are concerned that the trade dispute with China will raise the price of things they buy, compared with 90 percent among those who are less worried about that outcome. There's a similar gap among leaned Republicans based on whether or not they think a recession is more or less likely in the next year.

A statistical analysis called regression backs this result. Controlling for demographics, partisanship and political ideology, seeing a recession as more likely independently predicts lower approval for Trump, as do both being concerned about paying more because of the trade dispute with China and holding more negative views of the economy overall. Indeed, each of these alone, in its respective equation, is the single strongest predictor of Trump's approval rating – more so than the customary prime factors in presidential approval, partisanship, ideology and race or ethnicity.

Trump Approval by Economic Views				
	Among all		**Among leaned Republicans**	
	Approve	**Disapprove**	**Approve**	**Disapprove**
Recession:				
More likely	20%	74%	63%	27%
Less likely	70	26	89	8
Trade dispute raising prices:				
More concerned	19	77	58	35
Less concerned	70	21	90	5

In a further sign of political risk, economic anxiety is nearly as high in the red states Trump won in 2016 – 58 percent there see a recession as very or somewhat likely – as in the blue states, where it's 63 percent. (Most in the red states, 57 percent, also are concerned that the trade dispute with China will raise the price of things they buy, as are 65 percent in the blue states.) Trump's overall approval rating is underwater in the red states, 43 percent, if not so much as in the blue states, where he has 32 percent approval.

APPROVAL/GROUPS – The president's overall approval rating continues to vary widely among groups. Among the sharpest declines, he's lost 10 points since July among urban residents, 9 points among college graduates and 8 points among women. (A broad gender gap remains; he has 47 percent approval among men, 30 percent among women.)

He's also fallen just under 50 percent approval from whites – down a slight 6 points to 48 percent. That compares with 25 percent approval among Hispanics and just 10 percent among blacks, one of the country's most Democratic-leaning groups.

Two other shifts this month make Trump appear increasingly isolated in a core support group, white men who don't have a college degree. They give him 69 percent approval. But he's lost 12 points among non-college white women, to 42 percent; and Trump is down 15 points among college-educated white men, to 34 percent, a new low. They're now as critical of the president as are college-educated white women.

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                          Approve of Trump's job performance
                              July   Now   Change
    Non-college white men       64%   69%    +5 pts
    Non-college white women     54    42    -12
    College-educated white men  49    34    -15
    College-educated white women 40   37     -3
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Lastly, Trump has 82 percent approval among Republicans, back near his career average after peaking at 87 percent in July. Marking the extent of polarization, his approval rating is 8 percent among Democrats. Among independents – often, though not always, swing voters in national elections – it's 36 percent.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Sept. 2-5, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults. Results have a margin of sampling error of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 28-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by Langer Research Associates of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology here.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our mailing list to get updates on new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

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8-13, 15, 16-21 previously released. 14 held for release.
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1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

| | -------- Approve -------- | | | ------- Disapprove ------ | | | No |
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/5/19	38	27	11	56	8	48	6
7/1/19	44	32	12	53	8	45	3
4/25/19	39	28	12	54	9	45	6
1/24/19	37	28	9	58	9	49	5
11/1/18	40	28	12	53	9	43	8
10/11/18	41	29	12	54	7	46	6
8/29/18	36	24	12	60	7	53	4
4/11/18	40	25	15	56	10	46	4
1/18/18	36	24	13	58	9	49	5
11/1/17	37	25	12	59	8	50	4
9/21/17	39	26	13	57	9	48	4
8/20/17	37	22	15	58	13	45	5
7/13/17	36	25	11	58	10	48	6
4/20/17	42	27	15	53	10	43	5

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy?

| | -------- Approve -------- | | | ------- Disapprove ------ | | | No |
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/5/19	46	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	7
7/1/19	51	NA	NA	42	NA	NA	6
10/11/18	49	35	14	46	11	35	5
8/29/18	45	30	15	47	12	36	8

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4/11/18      46        30         16       48       12          36           6
9/21/17      43        27         16       49       13          36           8
7/13/17      43        26         17       41       12          29          16
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3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling trade negotiations with China?

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        Approve  Disapprove   No opinion
9/5/19    35         56            9
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4. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

| | ------ Positive ------ | | | ------- Negative ------- | | No |
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
9/5/19	56	16	40	43	30	13	1
11/1/18	65	15	49	34	25	9	1
8/29/18	58	12	46	40	31	9	2
1/18/18	58	14	44	40	28	12	2
1/15/17	51	6	45	48	35	14	1
3/29/15	40	2	38	59	40	19	1
1/15/15	41	3	39	58	40	18	1
10/26/14	27	1	26	72	44	28	1
9/7/14	30	1	29	69	42	27	1
4/27/14	29	1	27	71	40	31	1
3/2/14	27	2	26	72	44	28	*
10/20/13	24	2	23	75	45	30	1
9/29/12 RV	18	2	16	81	42	39	*
8/25/12	15	1	14	84	39	45	1
8/5/12*	13	1	12	87	42	44	*
5/20/12	17	1	16	83	47	36	*
2/4/12	11	*	11	89	46	42	*
11/3/11	10	1	9	89	43	47	*
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
10/3/10	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	*

Call for trend.
*Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation

5. As you may know, periods of economic growth are followed by periods of recession. Do you think a recession over the next year is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely?

| | ------- Likely ------ | | ----- Unlikely ------ | | No |
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
9/5/19	60	22	38	35	19	17	5
11/1/07	69	23	46	28	20	8	2
2/14/99	49	14	35	46	26	20	4

6. Do you think Trump's trade and economic policies have (decreased) the chance of a recession in the next year, (increased) the chance of a recession, or have they made no difference in this?

	Decreased	Increased	Made no difference	No opinion
9/5/19	16	43	34	7

7. How concerned are you that the current trade dispute with China will raise the price of things you and your family buy? Are you very concerned about this, somewhat concerned, not so concerned or not concerned at all?

	-- More concerned ---			---- Less concerned -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
9/5/19	60	33	27	38	14	24	2

*** END ***