



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voters' Opinion of the state of the National Economy Linked to Ideology; Personal Finances Far More Revealing

While the majority of Americans do not believe their personal economic situation has changed over the last year, they do think the overall American economy is in worse shape. 50% of voters believe their personal economic situation is about the same as it was a year ago, while 41% think the condition of the US economy has sunk.

Americans are not optimistic about the future—51% believe their economic situation will remain unchanged over the next five months. There are mixed feelings about the national economy, 33% see hope, 34% are pessimistic and 33% don't think there will be change.

However, a closer look reveals that voters' opinions about the economy are closely tied to their political ideologies. 53% of those who voted for President Obama believe the economy has improved, while 64% of those who voted for Senator John McCain believe the economy has become worse over the last year. This question seems to measure voter perceptions of the government's handling of the economy, rather than the actual state of the economy.

Liberals are also more optimistic about the future of the economy. 62% of liberals believe the US economy will improve in comparison with a meager 12% of conservatives. Though, liberals and the public generally are more pessimistic about their personal finances, only 37% of liberals believe their economic situation will improve.

Voters are more likely to respond along ideological lines when asked about the state of the national economy. Americans' feelings about their personal finances may shed more light on the actual state of the economy.

“For the average American the significance of the state of the national economy is abstract. But the state of their personal bank account is incredibly relevant,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Voters' perception of their personal finances are far more revealing.”

PPP surveyed 650 American voters from June 4th- 7th. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing?

Approve..... 35% *Not Sure*..... 11%
Disapprove..... 54%

Q2 you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing?

Approve..... 20% *Not Sure*..... 17%
Disapprove..... 62%

Q3 If the election for Congress was today would you vote for a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat..... 43%
Republican..... 41%
Undecided..... 16%

Q4 Compared to a year ago is your personal economic situation better, worse, or about the same as it was?

Better..... 16%
Worse..... 34%
About the same..... 50%

Q5 Compared to a year ago is your personal economic situation better, worse, or about the same as it was?

Better..... 31%
Worse..... 41%
About the same..... 28%

Q6 Five months from now do you think your personal economic situation will be better, worse, or about the same as it is now?

Better..... 25%
Worse..... 23%
About the same..... 51%

Q7 Five months from now do you think the overall American economy will be better, worse, or about the same as it is now?

Better..... 34%
Worse..... 33%
About the same..... 33%

Q8 Who did you vote for President last year?

John McCain..... 42%
Barack Obama..... 49%
Someone else/don't remember..... 8%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 38%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman..... 49%
Man..... 51%

Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 43%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 24%

Q12 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%
White..... 72%
African American..... 12%
Other..... 6%





Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29.....	10%
30 to 45.....	26%
46 to 65.....	45%
Older than 65.....	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Congress Dem Approval				
Approve	35%	4%	65%	21%
Disapprove	54%	93%	19%	60%
Not Sure	11%	4%	16%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Congress GOP Approval				
Approve	20%	39%	5%	16%
Disapprove	62%	36%	87%	52%
Not Sure	17%	25%	8%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Generic Ballot				
Democrat	43%	5%	77%	29%
Republican	41%	83%	8%	32%
Undecided	16%	12%	15%	39%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA				
Better	16%	4%	26%	19%
Worse	34%	51%	20%	32%
About the same	50%	46%	54%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
US Economy vs. 1 YA				
Better	31%	6%	53%	32%
Worse	41%	64%	19%	46%
About the same	28%	30%	27%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.				
Better	25%	7%	40%	29%
Worse	23%	38%	11%	24%
About the same	51%	55%	49%	47%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/don't remember
US Economy in 5 mo.				
Better	34%	5%	60%	27%
Worse	33%	58%	11%	37%
About the same	33%	37%	29%	36%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congress Dem Approval				
Approve	35%	72%	44%	8%
Disapprove	54%	18%	41%	85%
Not Sure	11%	10%	15%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congress GOP Approval				
Approve	20%	13%	13%	32%
Disapprove	62%	83%	71%	43%
Not Sure	17%	4%	16%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Ballot				
Democrat	43%	84%	52%	13%
Republican	41%	9%	27%	74%
Undecided	16%	7%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA				
Better	16%	32%	19%	5%
Worse	34%	20%	29%	47%
About the same	50%	48%	52%	48%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
US Economy vs. 1 YA				
Better	31%	52%	41%	10%
Worse	41%	19%	29%	65%
About the same	28%	29%	30%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.				
Better	25%	37%	33%	10%
Worse	23%	13%	18%	35%
About the same	51%	50%	49%	55%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
US Economy in 5 mo.				
Better	34%	62%	42%	12%
Worse	33%	11%	23%	55%
About the same	33%	27%	35%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congress Dem Approval			
Approve	35%	37%	34%
Disapprove	54%	49%	58%
Not Sure	11%	14%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congress GOP Approval			
Approve	20%	22%	19%
Disapprove	62%	57%	68%
Not Sure	17%	21%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Ballot			
Democrat	43%	47%	39%
Republican	41%	38%	44%
Undecided	16%	15%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA			
Better	16%	15%	17%
Worse	34%	34%	34%
About the same	50%	52%	48%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
US Economy vs. 1 YA			
Better	31%	30%	33%
Worse	41%	40%	41%
About the same	28%	30%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.			
Better	25%	23%	28%
Worse	23%	19%	28%
About the same	51%	59%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
US Economy in 5 mo.			
Better	34%	35%	33%
Worse	33%	30%	36%
About the same	33%	36%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congress Dem Approval				
Approve	35%	68%	5%	19%
Disapprove	54%	19%	89%	66%
Not Sure	11%	13%	6%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congress GOP Approval				
Approve	20%	7%	43%	11%
Disapprove	62%	83%	34%	66%
Not Sure	17%	10%	23%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Ballot				
Democrat	43%	84%	6%	21%
Republican	41%	8%	87%	36%
Undecided	16%	8%	7%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA				
Better	16%	26%	5%	13%
Worse	34%	21%	51%	34%
About the same	50%	52%	44%	54%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
US Economy vs. 1 YA				
Better	31%	53%	10%	24%
Worse	41%	18%	64%	49%
About the same	28%	29%	27%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.				
Better	25%	39%	10%	22%
Worse	23%	11%	37%	27%
About the same	51%	50%	53%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
US Economy in 5 mo.				
Better	34%	61%	8%	24%
Worse	33%	11%	57%	37%
About the same	33%	28%	35%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congress Dem Approval					
Approve	35%	48%	27%	80%	26%
Disapprove	54%	44%	61%	13%	62%
Not Sure	11%	7%	12%	7%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congress GOP Approval					
Approve	20%	19%	23%	3%	23%
Disapprove	62%	78%	57%	87%	56%
Not Sure	17%	4%	20%	10%	21%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Generic Ballot					
Democrat	43%	52%	34%	93%	28%
Republican	41%	33%	49%	-	41%
Undecided	16%	15%	16%	7%	31%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA					
Better	16%	22%	12%	40%	10%
Worse	34%	41%	36%	10%	46%
About the same	50%	37%	52%	50%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
US Economy vs. 1 YA					
Better	31%	44%	26%	60%	23%
Worse	41%	44%	44%	10%	62%
About the same	28%	11%	31%	30%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.					
Better	25%	30%	18%	67%	26%
Worse	23%	26%	25%	-	41%
About the same	51%	44%	57%	33%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
US Economy in 5 mo.					
Better	34%	46%	27%	66%	36%
Worse	33%	31%	36%	7%	51%
About the same	33%	23%	37%	28%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congress Dem Approval					
Approve	35%	46%	32%	38%	29%
Disapprove	54%	41%	57%	51%	64%
Not Sure	11%	13%	12%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congress GOP Approval					
Approve	20%	30%	19%	19%	20%
Disapprove	62%	55%	61%	66%	60%
Not Sure	17%	15%	19%	16%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Ballot					
Democrat	43%	50%	38%	47%	36%
Republican	41%	35%	46%	38%	48%
Undecided	16%	16%	17%	15%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Personal Economic Situation vs. 1 YA					
Better	16%	27%	18%	16%	7%
Worse	34%	23%	31%	38%	35%
About the same	50%	50%	51%	46%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
US Economy vs. 1 YA					
Better	31%	42%	31%	34%	21%
Worse	41%	32%	35%	41%	51%
About the same	28%	26%	34%	25%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Personal Economic Situation in 5 mo.					
Better	25%	45%	28%	25%	13%
Worse	23%	22%	23%	24%	24%
About the same	51%	33%	49%	52%	63%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
US Economy in 5 mo.					
Better	34%	40%	31%	37%	28%
Worse	33%	25%	33%	32%	39%
About the same	33%	36%	36%	31%	33%

