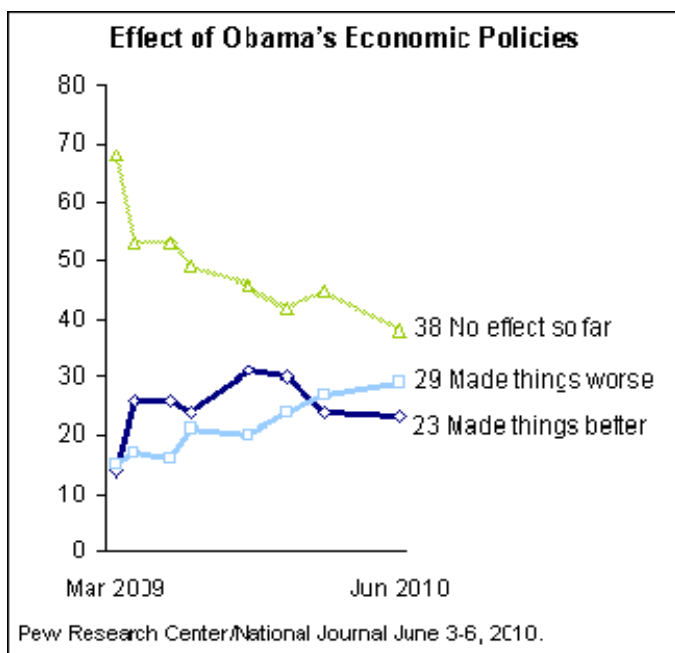


Survey Reports

June 7, 2010

Doubts About Obama's Economic Policies Rise



The public increasingly sees Barack Obama's policies as having an impact on economic conditions and, for the first time, slightly more say the impact has been negative rather than positive.

About three-in-ten (29%) say Obama's economic policies since taking office have made economic conditions worse; 23% say his policies have made conditions better. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they have had no effect so far or volunteer that it is too soon to tell, according to the latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM. The survey was conducted June 3-6 among 1,002 adults.

Opinions about the impact of Obama's economic policies have changed little since February. But the proportion saying that Obama's economic policies have

As More See Obama's Policies Having an Effect, Negative Views Rise

Obama economic policies have made conditions...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
June 2010	%	%	%	%
Better	23	6	47	19
Worse	29	58	11	26
No effect/too soon	38	31	34	47
Don't know	9	5	9	8
	100	100	100	100

June 2009

Better	26	10	40	28
Worse	16	35	3	16
No effect/too soon	53	53	54	54
Don't know	4	1	3	3
	100	100	100	100

09-10 change in "worse"

+13 +23 +8 +10

Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010.

"No effect so far" answers combined with those who volunteer "too soon to tell."

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

made economic conditions worse has nearly doubled – from 16% to 29% – since June 2009. Over this period, the percentage saying his policies have improved conditions has changed little, while the number saying Obama's policies have had no effect or that it is too soon to tell has fallen from 53% to 38%.

A majority of Republicans (58%) now say that Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse; a year ago, just 35% of Republicans expressed that view while a majority (53%) said they had no effect or that it was too soon to tell.

On balance, many more Democrats continue to say Obama's policies have made economic conditions better (47%) than worse (11%). Over the past year, however, there has been an eight-point increase in the percentage saying Obama's policies have had a negative effect. There has been a comparable rise in the percentage saying his policies have improved conditions (seven points).

For many independents, the jury is still out on the effect of Obama's economic policies. Nearly half (47%) say his policies have had no effect so far or say that it is too soon to tell, which is down only modestly from a year ago (54%). since June 2009, there has been a 10-point increase in the proportion of independents who say Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse, and a nine-point decline in the percentage saying his policies have made the economy better.

MANY SAY ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS A LONG WAY OFF

The public has become a bit less gloomy over the current state of the nation's economy, but continues to see recovery as a long way off. And while politicians focus increasing attention on

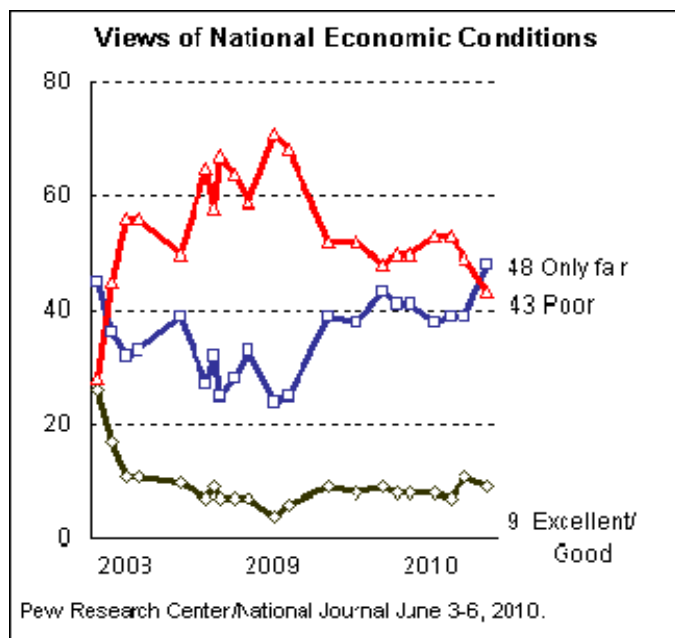
the growing budget deficit, far more Americans point to the job situation, rather than the deficit, as their biggest economic worry.

What Recovery?		
	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>
<i>Economy...</i>	%	%
Is now recovering	13	13
Will recover soon	37	35
Will take a long time to recover	48	50
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100

Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Half of Americans (50%) say it will be a long time before the economy recovers, while 35% say the economy is not yet recovering but will soon recover, and just 13% say the economy is now recovering. These numbers are virtually unchanged from March.

The public's views of current economic conditions also remain negative. Just 9% say conditions are excellent or good, which is little changed from measures over the past two years. However, among those viewing the economy negatively – as only fair or poor – the proportion rating it poor has declined over the past few months while the percentage saying it is only fair has risen.



The latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM, finds that opinions about the current state of the economy, as well as about expectations for a recovery, continue to be deeply divided along partisan lines. As was the case in March, most Republicans (58%) and independents (53%) see an economic recovery as a long way off. Democrats are more optimistic, but the percentage saying the economy will recover soon has not increased significantly since March (42% then, 43% today).

Compared with March, fewer Republicans, Democrats and independents rate national economic conditions as poor. Nonetheless, the percentages rating the economy as excellent or good – across all three groups – have not risen since then.

The survey finds that personal financial evaluations have changed very little in recent months. Currently, 38% rate their personal financial situation as excellent or good, while 38% say their finances are only fair and 20% rate their finances as poor.

Economic Worries: Jobs Still Trump Deficit

More Worry About Jobs than Deficit						
<i>Economic issue that worries you most...</i>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Deficit</u>	<u>Prices</u>	<u>Markets</u>	<u>Other None/DK</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	41	23	16	13	6=100	1002
Republican	35	34	15	14	2=100	204
Democrat	47	13	18	15	8=100	300
Independent	40	28	13	13	6=100	328
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75,000 or more	39	30	10	16	6=100	261
\$30,000- / 4,999	32	30	18	16	5=100	306
Less than \$30,000	51	13	22	9	6=100	257
Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.						

A plurality of Americans (41%) cite the job situation as the economic issue that worries them most; 23% cite the federal budget deficit; 16% say rising prices and 13% say problems in the financial and housing markets.

The public's economic concerns are little changed from March, when 45% said that the job situation was their top economic worry and 23% the budget deficit.

Republicans continue to be evenly divided as to whether jobs (35%) or the federal budget deficit (34%) is most worrisome. But among Democrats and independents, substantially more cite the jobs situation than the budget deficit.

MIXED VIEWS OF FINANCIAL REGULATION LEGISLATION

Division, Uncertainty About Financial Regulation Bill	
<i>Financial reform legislation...</i>	<u>June</u> %
Favor	39
Oppose	33
Don't know	<u>28</u>
	100
<i>Stricter gov't regulation of financial companies...</i>	<u>March</u>
Good idea	61
Bad idea	31
Don't know	<u>8</u>
	100
Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.	

For more than a year, the public has supported the idea of stricter government regulations on major financial companies and institutions. But there is less agreement -- and more uncertainty -- over the major legislation dealing with financial regulation currently making its way through Congress.

Slightly more Americans say they favor (39%) than say they oppose (33%) the financial reform legislation being discussed in Congress, while 28% do not give an opinion. In March, fully 61% said it was good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business; just 31% said it was a bad idea while 8% offered no opinion.

According to the latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM, Democrats generally support the financial reform legislation (51% favor,

Partisan Differences on Financial Regulation Measure				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favor	39	28	51	41
Oppose	33	49	18	36
Don't know	<u>28</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100
Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

18% oppose) while Republicans oppose it (28% favor, 49% oppose). Opinion among independents is divided; 41% of independents favor the legislation while 36% oppose it.

The Congressional Connection Poll is a collaboration of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the National Journal, sponsored by (SHRM) the Society for Human Resource Management. The survey will be conducted weekly when Congress is in session, and

each week's survey will focus on themes and issues related to Congress and the political process.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,002 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from June 3-6, 2010 (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 137 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample.....	1,002.....	4.0 percentage points
Republicans.....	284.....	7.0 percentage points
Democrats.....	300.....	7.0 percentage points
Independents.....	328.....	6.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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