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# Views of the Job Situation Improve Sharply, but Many Still Say They're Falling Behind Financially

*Share saying there are 'plenty of jobs available' at 16-year high*

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# Views of Job Situation Improve Sharply, but Many Still Say They're Falling Behind Financially

*Share saying there are 'plenty of jobs available' at 16-year high*

The public's views of local job availability continue to improve. Currently, 50% of Americans say there are plenty of jobs available in their communities – the highest number saying that jobs are plentiful in Pew Research Center surveys dating to 2001.

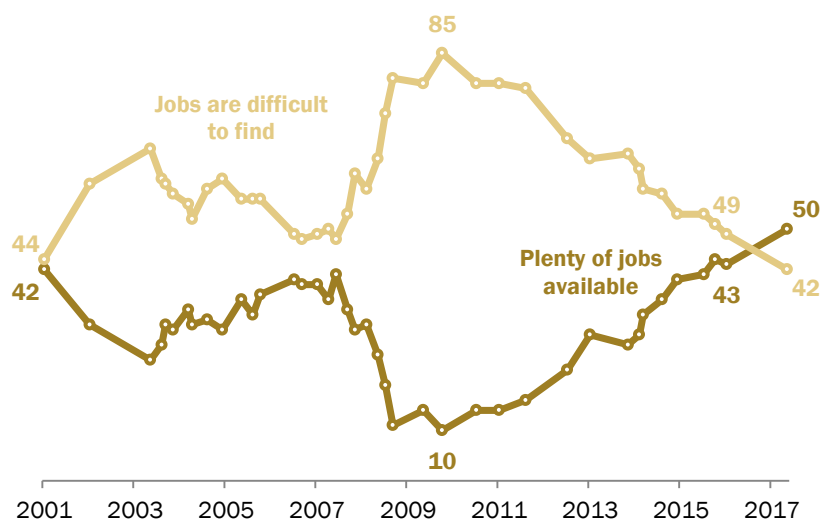
Since June 2016, the share saying plenty of jobs are available has increased seven percentage points, from 43% to 50%, with virtually all of the change coming among Republicans. Yet in both parties, perceptions of the local job situation are much more positive today than they were three or four years ago.

However, the public's brighter outlook on jobs has not been matched by comparable improvement in views of whether people's incomes are keeping pace with the cost of living.

Currently, 49% saying their family's income is falling behind the cost of living, while 40% feel they're staying about even and just 9% feel like they're getting ahead. These views are little changed over the past two years, though the share saying they are falling behind financially is lower today than in 2014 or early 2015.

## Public's views of local job availability are more positive than at any point since 2001

% saying \_\_\_\_\_ in their community ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q40F1.  
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 25-30 among 1,504 adults, finds that views of the national economy continue to be much more positive than they were last December, after the presidential election. Currently, 41% rate economic conditions as excellent or good, while 59% say they are only fair or poor.

The share of Americans viewing current economic conditions as excellent or good is virtually unchanged since February (42%), but higher than last December (31%). Since December, positive views of economic conditions have surged among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (from 14% then to 57% today), while declining among Democrats and Democratic leaners (from 46% to 30%).

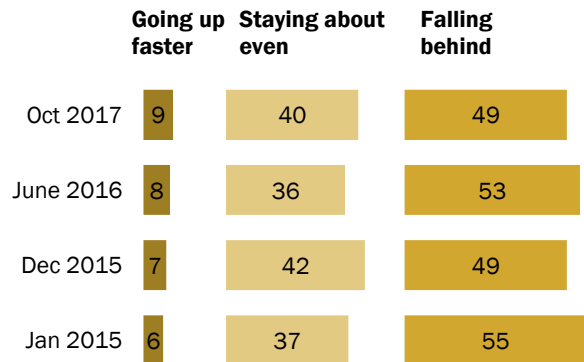
By contrast, economic optimism, which also rose in the months after the election, has subsided since then. Currently, 32% expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, 29% say conditions will be worse, with 37% saying conditions will about the same as today. In February, somewhat more (38%) thought the economy would improve, while 32% thought it would get worse and 28% said it would stay about the same.

For many, it's too early to attribute the economy's overall performance – good or bad – to Donald Trump's economic policies. Less than a year into his administration, 49% say his policies have not had much of an effect on economic conditions; of those who do see an impact, more think his policies have made the economy better (29%) than worse (18%).

Partisans take starkly different views of Trump's economic impact. Most Republicans (63%) say Trump's policies have made the economy better. By contrast, 64% of Democrats say they haven't had much effect.

## Nearly half say their incomes are 'falling behind' the cost of living

*% who say their family income relative to the cost of living is...*



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q39.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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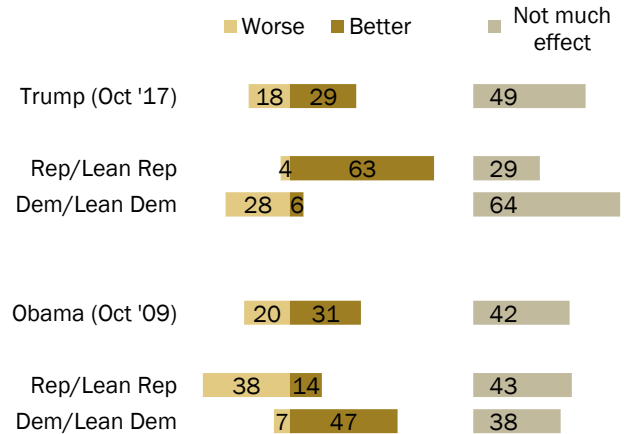
While the public's views of the economy were far more negative at a comparable point in Barack Obama's first year in office than they are today (just 8% rated economic conditions positively), views of Trump's influence on the economy are not all that different from public assessments of Obama's impact.

In October 2009, 42% said Obama's policies hadn't had much impact on the economy, compared with 31% who said they had made things better and 20% who said they had made things worse.

In 2009, views of Obama's impact on the economy were also highly partisan, though the share of Democrats who thought his policies had improved the economy in late 2009 (47%) was somewhat smaller than the share of Republicans who say this about Trump's policies today (63%).

### Many say Trump's economic policies have not had much of an effect

% who say \_\_\_\_\_ economic policies have made economic conditions ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q20.  
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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## Nearly half say family incomes are not keeping pace with cost of living

About half (49%) of all Americans now say their family's income is not keeping pace with the cost of living, while 40% say they are staying about even and just 9% say their income is going up faster than the cost of living.

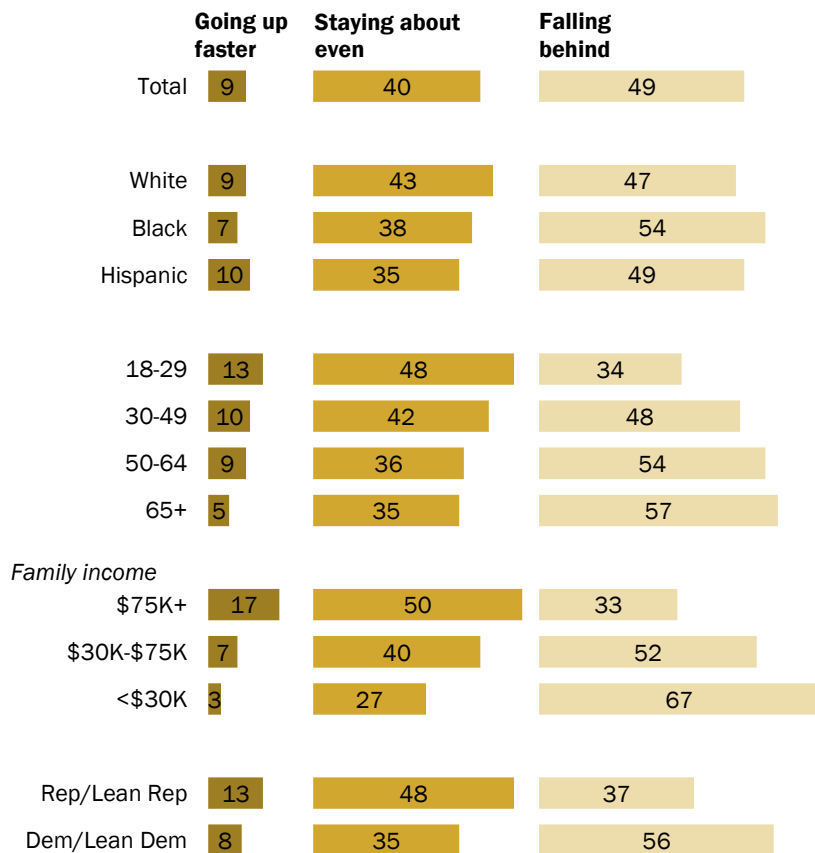
As in the past, those with lower incomes are the most likely to say they are falling behind. Today, two-thirds (67%) of those with incomes of \$30,000 or less per year say they feel like they are falling behind the cost of living. By comparison, those with incomes of \$75,000 or more are far less likely to say this (33%).

Older Americans also remain more likely than younger people to report that they are falling behind. While only 34% of those younger than 30 report feeling like their incomes are falling behind the cost of living, that figure rises to 55% among those 50 and older.

Today, Democrats and Democratic leaners (56%) are significantly more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners (37%) to say that their income is falling behind the cost of living. The reverse was true in surveys conducted from 2014 through 2016, during the Obama administration; however, the size of the partisan gap was somewhat less pronounced in that period than it is today.

### Most older Americans say their incomes are not keeping up with cost of living

% who say their family income relative to the cost of living is ...



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q39.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

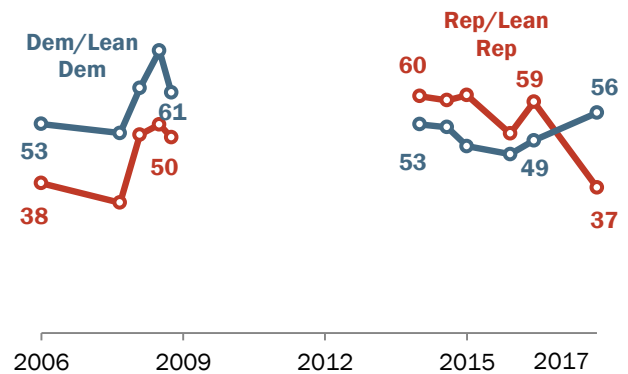
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The share of Democrats who now say their incomes are falling behind the cost of living is seven percentage points higher than it was in June 2016 (56% today, 49% last year), while the share of Republicans who now say their incomes are falling behind has dropped 22 percentage points since last year (37% now, 59% then).

Reflecting a similar partisan pattern, Democrats were more likely than Republicans to say their incomes were falling behind the cost of living in surveys conducted throughout the second term of George W. Bush's presidency.

## Partisan views on whether incomes are 'falling behind' shift with administration

*% who say their family income is falling behind relative to the cost of living*



Note: Question not asked between October 2008 and January 2014. Q39.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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## As perceptions of job availability improve, a partisan gap emerges

Today, 50% of Americans say there are plenty of jobs available in their communities, the highest share saying this in Pew Research Center surveys dating back to 2001. At the same time, 41% now say there are plenty of “good jobs” available. The current gap between the two measures is similar to past surveys.

As with other economic measures, Republicans and Republican leaners have more positive views of the job situation than do Democrats and Democratic leaners.

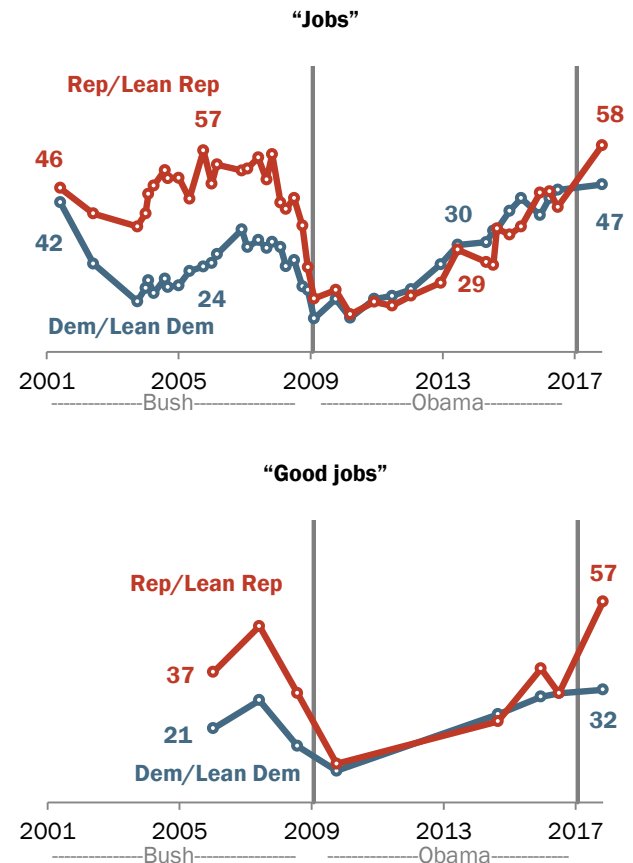
Nearly six-in-ten Republicans (58%) now say there are plenty of jobs available in their local communities, compared with 47% of Democrats. Since the question was last asked in June 2016, GOP views have become considerably more positive (from 41% who said plenty of jobs were available then to 58% who say this today). Democratic views are little changed over this period (45% then, 47% today).

By contrast, following the economic recession and throughout most of the Obama presidency, Republican and Democratic views on this measure tracked together. However, the current gap is similar to the partisan divide in these views during the George W. Bush administration, when Republicans were consistently more likely than Democrats to say plenty of jobs were available in their communities.

The partisan gap is even more pronounced on the question of whether “good jobs” are available (half of respondents are asked about “job” availability, half are asked about “good jobs”

### GOP views of job availability improve; little change in Democratic assessments

*% who say there are plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ available in the community where they live*



Note: Q40F1 & Q41F2.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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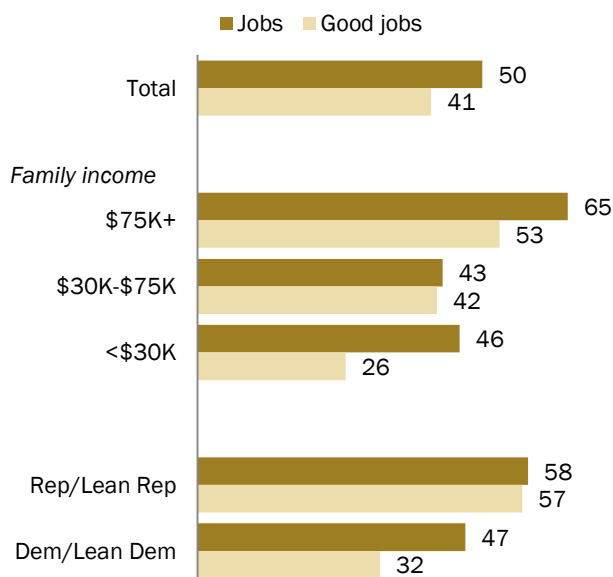
availability). While 57% of Republicans say there are plenty of “good jobs” (little different than the share who say there are plenty of jobs), just 32% of Democrats say this.

Across both questions, higher-income Americans are more likely than those with lower incomes to say plenty of jobs are available in their community. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of those with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or more say there are plenty of jobs available in the community where they live, compared with 46% of those with incomes of less than \$30,000.

And while just 26% of those with annual incomes under \$30,000 say there are plenty of “good jobs” available, that rises to 53% among those with incomes of \$75,000 or more.

### Wide income differences in views of job availability

*% who say there are plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ available in the community where they live*



Notes: Half of the sample was randomly assigned to be asked about “jobs;” the other half was asked about “good jobs.”  
Q40F1 & Q41F2.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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## How have Trump's economic policies affected economic conditions?

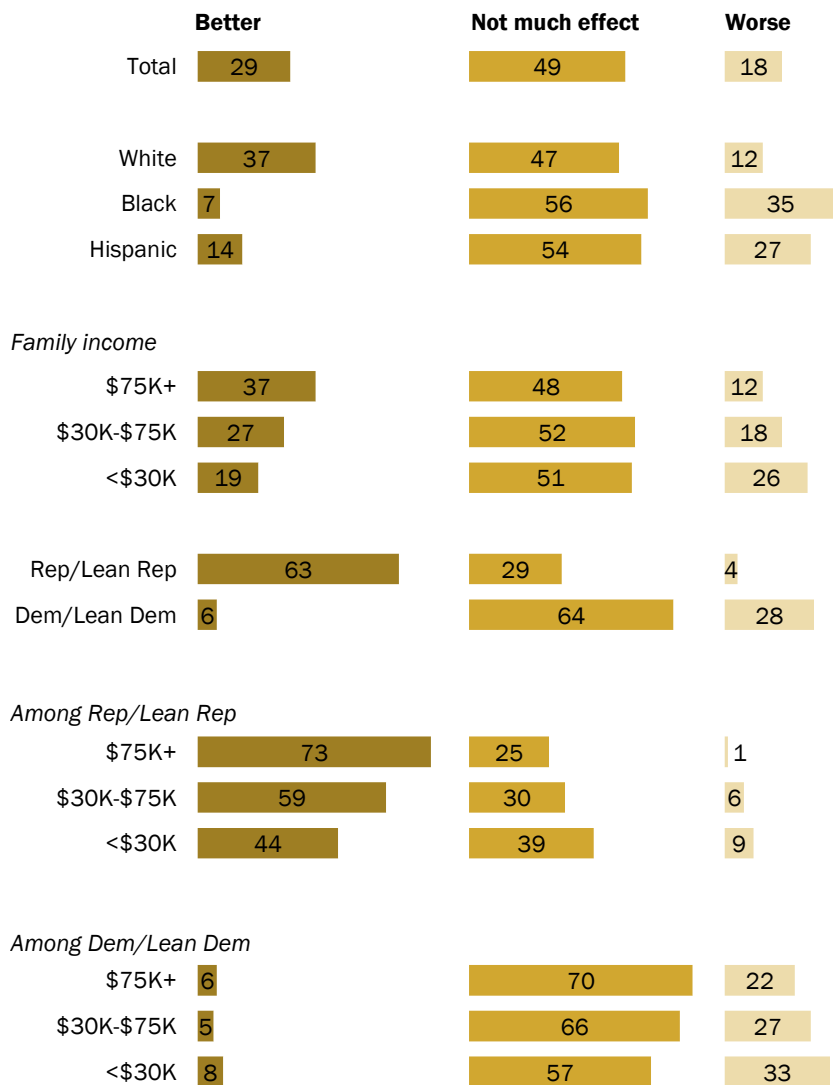
About half (49%) of U.S. adults say that Trump's economic policies have not had much effect on economic conditions, while those who do say they have had an effect are somewhat more likely to say they have made the economy better (29%) than worse (18%).

About six-in-ten (63%) Republicans and Republican leaners say that Trump's policies have improved the economy, while 29% say they have not had much effect (just 4% say they have made economic conditions worse). Most Democrats and Democratic leaners (64%) say that Trump administration policies have not had much effect either way, while 28% say they have made the economy worse and just 6% say they have made the economy better.

Within both parties – but particularly within the GOP – there are differences in these views across income groups. About three-quarters (73%) of Republicans with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more say that Trump's policies have made economic conditions better, compared with 44% of

### About half of the public says Trump's economic policies have had no effect

*% who say Donald Trump's economic policies have made economic conditions ...*



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q20.  
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Republicans with incomes under \$30,000 (39% of whom say Trump's policies have not had much of an effect so far).

Though majorities of Democrats at all income levels say Trump's policies have not had much of an effect, this view is more widely held among higher-income Democrats. Those with lower incomes are somewhat more likely to say Trump's policies have worsened economic conditions.

## Views of national economic conditions

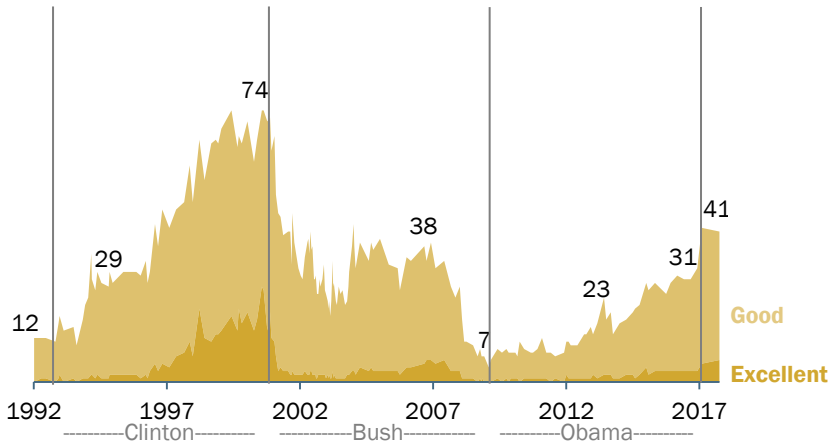
Overall, 41% of Americans rate current economic conditions in the country to be “excellent” or “good.”

About four-in-ten (38%) say the nation’s economy is “only fair,” and 20% say economic conditions are “poor.”

Perceptions of economic conditions are little changed since February (42%), when positive views of the economy reached their highest point in a decade.

### Public perception of economic conditions returns to mid-2000s levels

*% who rate national economic conditions as excellent or good*



Note: Data before February 2004 from Gallup. Q35.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Today, a 57% majority of Republicans and Republican leaners characterize national economic conditions as excellent (10%) or good (47%). Among Democrats, just 30% say the same. At the same time, Democrats are roughly twice as likely as Republicans to describe current conditions as poor (27% vs. 12%).

Throughout much of the Obama administration, Democratic ratings of the economy were considerably more positive than Republican assessments. For instance, as recently as December 2016, just 14% of Republicans said the economy was in excellent or good shape, compared with 46% of Democrats.

This pattern of views of the economy being more positive among those who share the president's party was also apparent throughout much of George W. Bush's administration (briefly narrowing at the height of the economic crisis in late 2008 and early 2009, when clear majorities of both Democrats and Republicans rated economic conditions as poor) and at the tail end of the George H.W. Bush administration (when the question was first asked by Gallup). During Bill Clinton's presidency, Republican and Democratic views tracked one another more closely.

## For more than a decade, economic evaluations have had a partisan cast

*% who rate national economic conditions as ...*



Note: Data before February 2004 from Gallup. Q35.  
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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## Economic expectations

Looking ahead, the public has mixed views of how they think the national economy will perform over the next year. About as many say conditions will be better in a year (32%) as say they will be worse (29%); 37% think they will be about the same as they are now.

The public's outlook is somewhat less positive than it was in February. At that time, slightly more thought the economy would improve (38%) than worsen (32%) over the coming year.

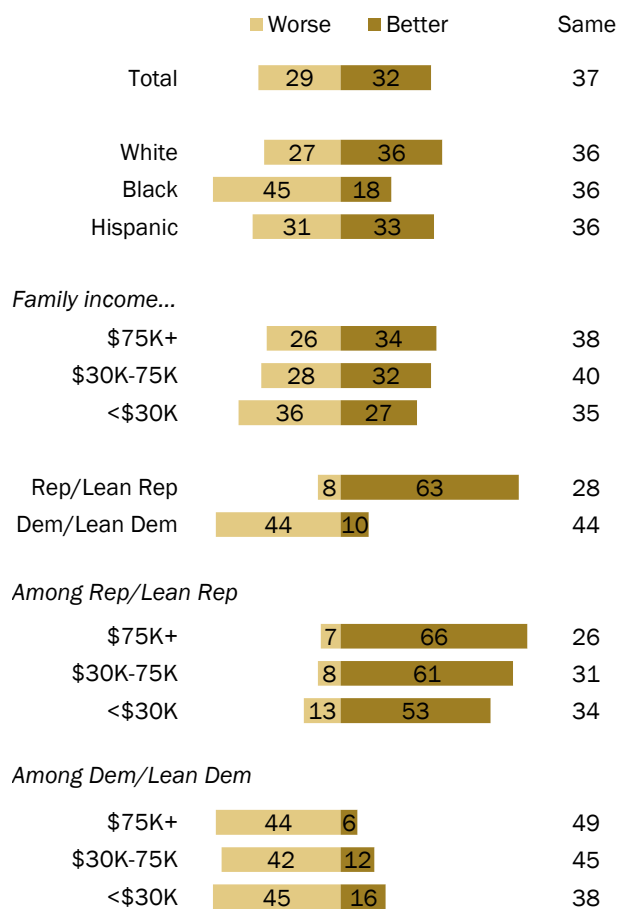
Nearly two-thirds of Republicans and Republican leaners (63%) expect the economy to be better in a year, compared with just 8% who think it will be worse. Democrats are much less optimistic about the economy's direction than Republicans: 44% think conditions will be worse in a year, while an identical share says they will be about the same as now; only 10% expect the economy to be better in a year.

Higher-income Republicans are more optimistic about the economy than lower-income Republicans. About two-thirds (66%) of Republicans in households earning \$75,000 a year or more think economic conditions will be better in a year. Among Republicans in households earning less than \$30,000 a year, 53% say this.

Republicans reacted to the start of Trump's presidential administration with a burst of economic optimism. The share expecting the economy to be better in a year went from just 28% in September 2016 to 75% in February, shortly after Trump's inauguration. The share of

### Most Republicans expect economic conditions to be better in a year

% who say they expect economic conditions to be \_\_\_ a year from now



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q36. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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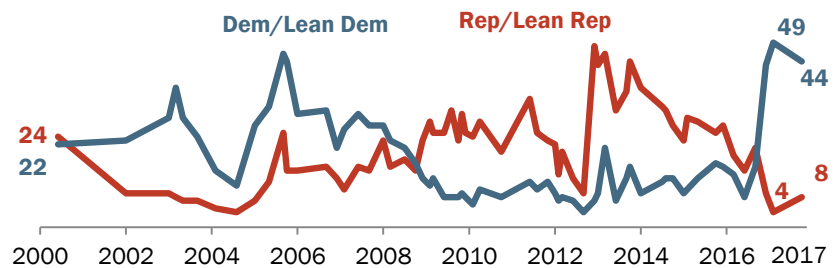
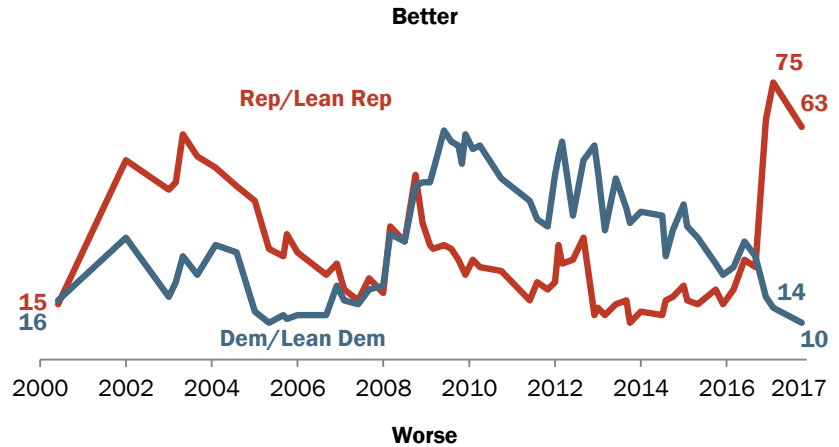
Republicans and Republican leaners expecting the economy to improve over the next year has pulled back somewhat from February (63% in the current survey), but remains higher than at any other point in more than a decade.

Democratic views have moved in the opposite direction. As a result, the partisan gap in economic expectations has been wider in the first year of the Trump administration than at other points in Pew Research Center surveys over the course of the last two decades.

In September 2016, just 16% of Democrats and Democratic leaners thought the economy would get worse in the coming year. That share spiked to 49% in February after Trump’s election and stands at 44% in the current survey. Just 10% of Democrats now think the economy will improve in the next year.

**Partisan gap in economic expectations grows dramatically at outset of Trump administration**

*% who say they expect economic conditions to be \_\_\_ a year from now*



Note: Q36.  
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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## Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

### Research team

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## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 25-30, 2017 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (378 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 698 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of SSRS. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2015 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2016 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 among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

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

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*Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Half form	735 (min)	4.2 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	628	4.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep half form	307 (min)	6.4 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	735	4.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem half form	365 (min)	5.9 percentage points

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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## Appendix: Topline questionnaire

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
OCTOBER 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
OCTOBER 25-30, 2017  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 10, 19, 42-48, 58-59 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 3-9, 11-18, 22-25, 28-34, 49-53, 56-57, 60-79, 83-90**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 Since taking office, have Donald Trump's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had much of an effect?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	Not had much of <u>an effect</u>	Too soon/ <u>early to tell</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	29	18	49	2	2
<b>Obama</b>					
Jan 7-11, 2015	38	28	30	1	2
Jun 12-16, 2013 <sup>1</sup>	35	35	27	1	2
Oct 4-7, 2012	33	35	27	1	5
Feb 9-12, 2012	33	35	25	1	6
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	20	38	37	1	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	27	34	33	2	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	28	31	35	2	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	27	32	36	2	4
Jun 3-6, 2010	23	29	35	3	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	24	27	42	3	5
Dec 9-13, 2009	30	24	39	3	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	31	20	42	4	3
Jul 20-26, 2009	24	21	46	3	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	26	16	49	4	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	26	17	47	6	4
Mar 9-12, 2009	14	15	64	4	3

**QUESTIONS 21, 26-27 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>1</sup> In June 2013 and earlier surveys, this question read: "Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?"

**RANDOMIZE Q.35/Q.36 BLOCK WITH Q.37/Q.38 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the nation's economy ...

Q.35 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	6	35	38	20	1
Feb 7-12, 2017	5	37	39	18	1
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	3	28	44	24	1
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	3	25	39	33	1
Jun 15-26, 2016	3	25	44	28	1
Mar 17-26, 2016	3	26	43	28	1
Dec 8-13, 2015	3	24	45	28	1
Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	3	21	43	33	*
May 12-18, 2015	3	24	43	30	*
Feb 18-22, 2015	2	23	43	31	*
Jan 7-11, 2015	4	23	48	24	*
Oct 15-20, 2014	2	19	45	33	1
Aug 20-24, 2014	1	19	48	31	1
Jul 8-14, 2014	2	17	46	35	*
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	2	15	43	40	1
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	1	15	45	39	1
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	1	14	48	36	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	1	12	39	48	*
Sep 4-8, 2013	2	17	48	32	*
Jul 17-21, 2013	2	15	45	37	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	2	21	47	29	*
Mar 13-17, 2013	1	15	43	40	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	2	11	38	49	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	1	14	50	35	1
Oct 24-28, 2012	1	12	42	44	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	1	12	43	44	1
Jun 7-17, 2012	1	9	47	42	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	1	9	38	51	1
Feb 8-12, 2012	1	10	46	43	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1

**Q.35 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 <sup>2</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.35/Q.36 BLOCK WITH Q.37/Q.38 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.36 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	32	29	37	1
Feb 7-12, 2017	38	32	28	2
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	37	28	33	2
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	26	20	44	10
Jun 15-26, 2016	29	13	54	5
Mar 17-26, 2016	22	17	55	6
Dec 8-13, 2015	20	22	54	4
Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	23	21	53	3
May 12-18, 2015	25	20	53	2
Feb 18-22, 2015	27	20	52	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	17	51	1
Oct 15-20, 2014	27	21	50	3
Aug 20-24, 2014	22	22	54	2
Jul 8-14, 2014	26	22	51	1
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	25	24	49	2
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	27	22	50	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	28	44	3
Sep 4-8, 2013	28	25	46	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	33	19	47	1

<sup>2</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

## Q.36 CONTINUED...

	Better	Worse	Same	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 13-17, 2013	25	32	41	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	25	40	2
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	25	36	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	43	8	42	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	34	11	50	5
Mar 7-11, 2012	44	14	38	4
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

**RANDOMIZE Q.37/Q.38 BLOCK WITH Q.35/Q.36 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about your personal finances ...

Q.37 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Oct 25-30, 2017	9	39	33	18	1
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	9	37	33	19	1
Oct 20-25, 2016	10	37	37	15	1
Jun 15-26, 2016	10	36	37	15	1
Dec 8-13, 2015	8	35	39	17	1
May 12-18, 2015	8	35	37	19	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	7	35	37	21	1
Aug 20-24, 2014	8	34	36	21	1
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	6	31	39	23	1
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	6	34	38	22	1
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	6	34	40	19	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	7	33	39	20	1
Mar 13-17, 2013	6	32	41	21	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	7	32	38	22	1
Oct 24-28, 2012	8	35	36	20	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	8	35	36	20	1
Jun 7-17, 2012	7	34	38	21	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	6	29	42	22	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	6	32	37	24	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	5	33	40	21	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	29	36	26	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	7	29	41	22	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	30	40	23	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	6	33	36	23	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	6	30	40	23	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	6	32	38	20	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	6	31	39	22	2
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	28	39	24	2
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	5	30	40	25	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1

**Q.37 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1993	4	33	46	16	1
U.S. News: October, 1992	6	34	40	19	1
U.S. News: August, 1992	5	30	47	17	1
U.S. News: May, 1992	4	35	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1992	4	32	45	18	1

**RANDOMIZE Q.37/Q.38 BLOCK WITH Q.35/Q.36 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.38 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	<u>Improve a lot</u>	<u>Improve some</u>	<u>Get a little worse</u>	<u>Get a lot worse</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Stay the same</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	13	51	17	6	11	3
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	13	49	13	5	15	4
Oct 20-25, 2016	10	50	14	5	13	7
Jun 15-26, 2016	12	54	12	4	13	5
Dec 8-13, 2015	9	53	17	6	14	2
May 12-18, 2015	11	52	13	7	16	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	11	56	14	5	12	2
Aug 20-24, 2014	10	56	15	5	11	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	8	51	19	8	12	3
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	10	50	17	6	14	2
Jun 12-16, 2013	12	51	18	7	11	2
Mar 13-17, 2013	8	52	19	9	10	2
Dec 5-9, 2012	9	50	18	8	13	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	12	54	11	4	11	7
Jun 7-17, 2012	10	53	15	5	14	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	50	18	7	11	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	9	49	17	5	15	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	7	49	21	7	13	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	44	23	10	13	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	7	49	20	6	14	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	9	48	16	6	17	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	52	15	8	12	4
Dec 9-13, 2009	9	44	19	8	15	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	6	50	19	8	13	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
Feb 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4



**Q.38 CONTINUED...**

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
<i>U.S. News</i> : October, 1992	9	51	14	3	15	8
<i>U.S. News</i> : August, 1992	6	50	20	5	14	5
<i>U.S. News</i> : May, 1992	8	49	22	4	13	4
<i>U.S. News</i> : January, 1992	9	46	19	5	16	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 Do you think your family's income is going up faster than the cost of living, staying about even with the cost of living, or falling behind the cost of living?

	Going up <u>faster</u>	Staying <u>about even</u>	Falling <u>behind</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	9	40	49	2
Jun 15-26, 2016	8	36	53	2
Dec 8-13, 2015	7	42	49	2
Jan 7-11, 2015	6	37	55	1
Aug 20-24, 2014	5	37	56	2
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	7	34	57	2
October, 2008	5	34	57	4
July, 2008	6	28	64	2
Early February, 2008	6	33	58	3
September, 2007	10	43	44	3
January, 2006	9	41	47	3
<i>NBC/WSJ</i> : June, 1996	9	38	50	3

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=769]:**

Q.40F1 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

	Plenty of <u>jobs available</u>	Jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	(VOL.) Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	50	42	3	5
Jun 15-26, 2016	43	49	4	4
Mar 17-26, 2016	44	51	2	3
Dec 8-13, 2015	41	53	3	4
May 12-18, 2015	40	53	4	3
Jan 7-11, 2015	36	57	3	3
Aug 20-24, 2014	33	58	4	5
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	62	4	5
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	27	65	4	4
Jun 12-16, 2013	29	64	3	4
Dec 5-9, 2012	22	68	5	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	16	78	2	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	14	79	3	4
Dec 1-5, 2010	14	79	3	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	10	85	3	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	14	79	3	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	11	80	3	6
December, 2008	19	73	4	4
Early October, 2008	25	64	4	7
July, 2008	31	58	4	7
April, 2008	30	61	4	5
Early February, 2008	34	53	5	8
November, 2007	41	48	4	7
September, 2007	36	50	6	8
June, 2007	39	49	5	7
February, 2007	39	48	6	7
December, 2006	40	49	5	6
March, 2006	37	56	3	4
January, 2006	33	56	6	5
Early October, 2005	36	56	4	4
May, 2005	30	60	6	4
January, 2005	32	58	5	5
Mid-September, 2004	31	52	6	11
August, 2004	34	55	4	7
Late April, 2004	30	57	4	9
Late February, 2004	31	59	5	6
Mid-January, 2004	27	60	6	7
October, 2003	24	66	5	5
June, 2002	31	59	4	6
June, 2001	42	44	8	6
U.S. News: August, 1992	15	76	6	3
U.S. News: May, 1992	16	77	4	3
U.S. News: January, 1992	12	79	6	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=735]:**

Q.41F2 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of good jobs available or are good jobs difficult to find?

		(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Plenty of good <u>jobs available</u>	Good jobs are <u>difficult to find</u>	Lots of some jobs, <u>few of others</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	41	53	2	5
May 25-June 29, 2016	31	65	2	3
Dec 8-13, 2015	33	62	1	3
Aug 20-24, 2014	26	71	1	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	84	2	4
Jul 23-27, 2008	22	73	1	4
May 30-Jun 3, 2007	36	55	3	6
Jan 4-8, 2006	28	64	3	5

**QUESTIONS 54-55, 80-82, 91, 99-101 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**QUESTIONS 92-95 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 96-98**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	32	41	3	1	2	17	19
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	25	31	39	3	1	2	16	18
Apr 5-11, 2017	24	31	42	2	1	*	17	20
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**QUESTION 102 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls