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# Positive Views of Economy Surge, Driven by Major Shift Among Republicans

*Few say stock market movements have big impact on finances*

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# Positive Views of Economy Surge, Driven by Major Shift Among Republicans

*Few say stock market movements have big impact on finances*

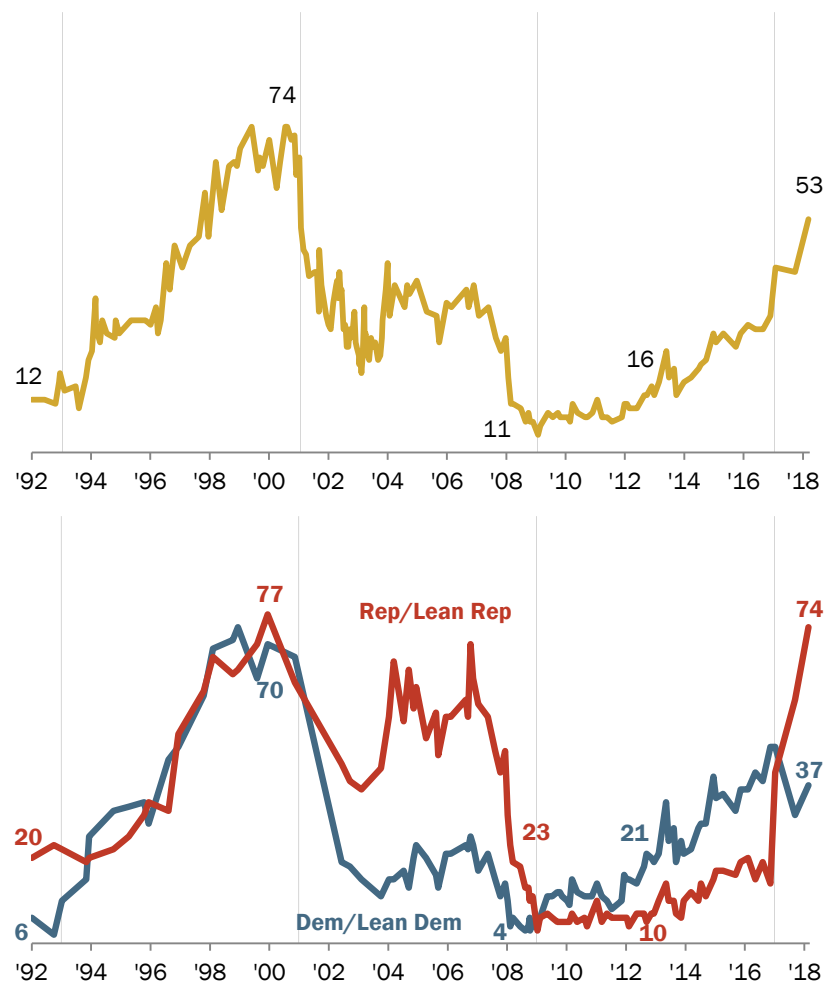
Americans' views of national economic conditions continue to improve, with the share saying the economy is in good or excellent condition now at its highest point in nearly two decades.

The overall rise in positive assessments seen over the last year is driven by the shifting views of Republicans and Republican leaning independents. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans (74%) now view the economy in positive terms. That is a marked improvement from last October (57%). In December 2016, shortly after the presidential election, just 14% of Republicans rated the economy as excellent or good.

By contrast, just 37% of Democrats say the economy is in excellent or good shape. This is modestly higher than last fall (when 30% said this), but lower than the 46% who said this in December 2016.

## Partisan gap in views of nation's economy grows much wider in Trump's presidency

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



Note: Data before February 2004 from Gallup.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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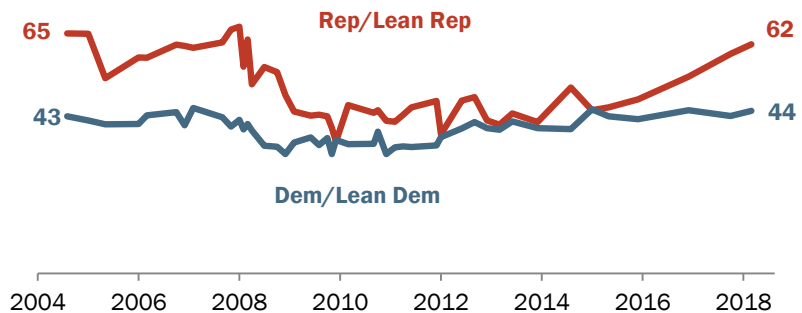
The latest national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted March 7-14 among 1,466 adults, also finds a wider partisan difference in *personal* economic assessments than in recent years. Today, 62% of Republicans say their personal financial situation is in excellent or good shape, compared with 44% of Democrats who say the same. GOP views have improved substantially since Donald Trump's election. Democratic views have changed little following the shift in administration.

Democrats are somewhat less positive about their future personal financial situation than they were

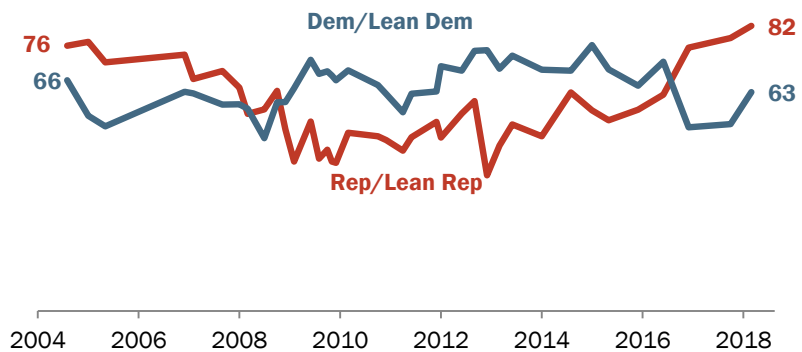
during Barack Obama's presidency, while Republicans have become more bullish. Today Republicans are 19 percentage points more likely to say they expect their personal finances to improve over the next year (82% vs. 63%). Throughout much of Obama's tenure, the expectations gap was the reverse.

## Assessments of personal finances – and financial expectations – have become more partisan

*% who say their personal financial situation is in excellent or good shape*



*% who say they expect their personal financial situation to improve some or a lot over the course of the next year*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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The survey finds that the Americans' views of factors affecting their personal financial pressures have changed somewhat in recent years.

In particular, far fewer Americans (37%) say the price of gas affects their personal finances "a lot" than did so in 2013 or 2011, during periods of higher gas prices. In those years, majorities said the price of gas affected their household finances a lot (64% in 2013, 69% in 2011).

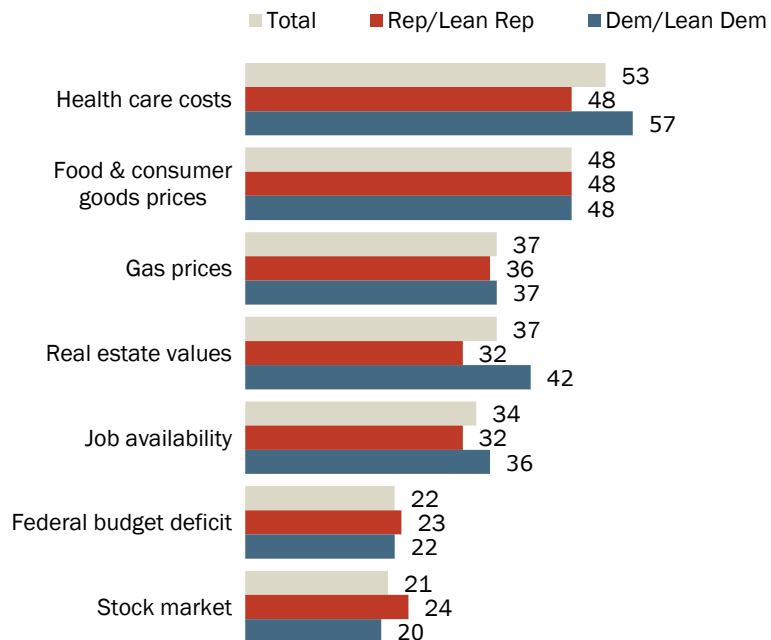
About half each say health care costs (53%) and the price of food and consumer goods (48%) have a major impact. By contrast, just 22% say the federal budget deficit affects their finances a lot and 21% say the same about "how the stock market is doing."

Unlike overall opinions about the economy and personal financial evaluations, views of financial pressures are not all that partisan. However, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say that health care costs and real estate values affect their household finances a lot.

Among members of both parties, particularly Republicans, the shares saying the federal budget deficit has a major effect on their finances is much lower today than it was in 2011. The share of Republicans who say the deficit affects their finances a lot has declined by about half since 2011, from 48% to 23%.

## In both parties, more see bigger financial impact from health care and food costs than from the stock market

% who say each affects their household's financial situation 'a lot'

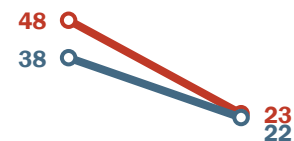


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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## Fewer say budget deficit affects personal finances

% who say *the federal budget deficit* affects their household's financial situation 'a lot'



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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About one-in-five Democrats (22%) also say the deficit has a big financial impact, down from 38% seven years ago.

This is the latest indication of diminished public concern over the budget deficit. [In Pew Research Center's annual policy priorities survey in January](#), 48% of Americans said that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress, down from 72% in 2013. The decline came among members of both parties, though the shift among Republicans was more pronounced.

## Public's views of the economy 2008-2018

The current survey comes 10 years after the collapse of Bear Stearns, [seen by many as the moment the extent of the financial crisis became clear](#).

In March 2008, just days after the firm's collapse, only 11% of the public said that national economic conditions were good or excellent, while 32% said they were only fair and 56% said they were poor.

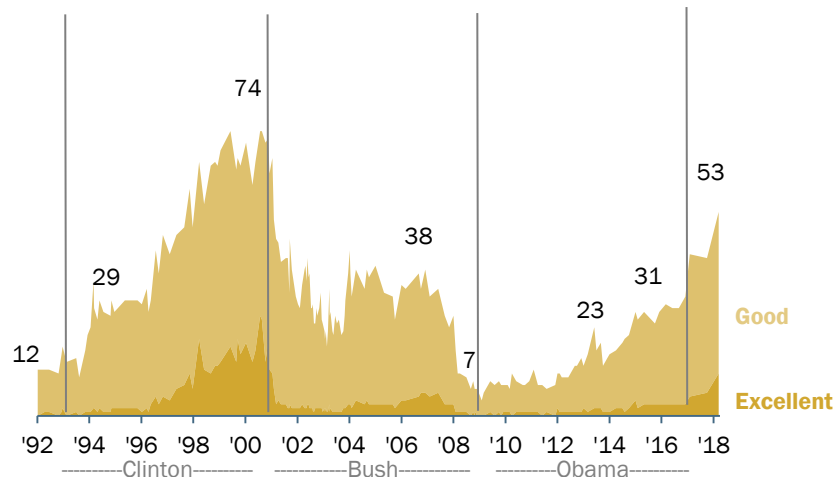
The share viewing the economy in positive terms changed little over the next several years – but the share saying the economy was poor increased as the economic crisis deepened, reaching 71% in February 2009.

The trajectory of these views differed for Republicans and Democrats. In March 2008, though few in either party had positive views of economic conditions, the assessments of Republicans and Republican leaners were somewhat more positive than those of Democrats and Democratic leaners: 23% of Republicans rated national economic conditions as good or excellent, compared with only 4% of Democrats.

After Barack Obama took office, these views reversed, and throughout most of Obama's presidency Democrats were more likely than Republicans to view economic conditions positively. Since Trump's election, Republicans have grown substantially more positive about the state of the national economy. Currently Republicans are twice as likely as Democrats to say that national economic conditions are excellent or good (74% to 37%).

### Public perception of economic conditions hits post-recession high

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



Note: Data before February 2004 from Gallup. Q35.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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## Within parties, income differences in economic expectations

Looking ahead, the public has mixed views of how they think the national economy will perform over the next year. While slightly more say they expect conditions to be better a year from now (34%) than worse (25%), 40% expect conditions to be about the same.

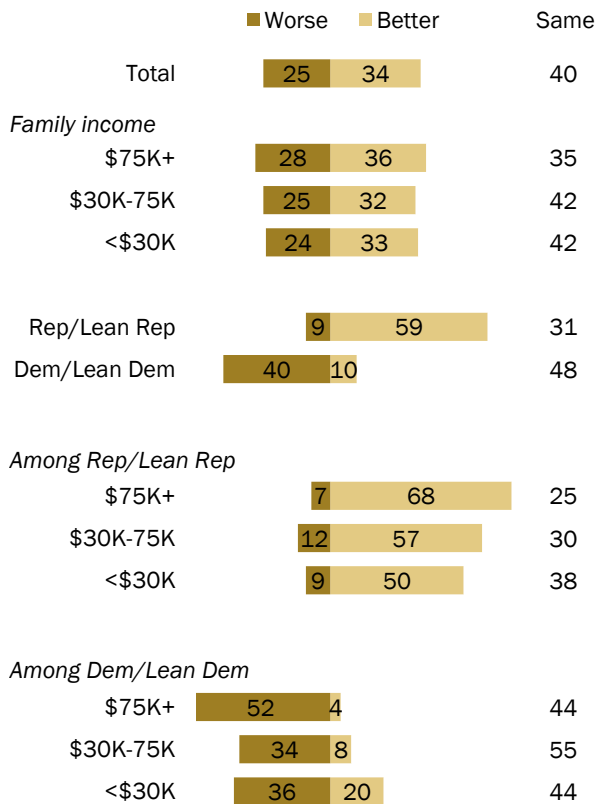
While opinions about the economy are much better today than they were a decade ago, the public's economic expectations are similar to views at that time. In March 2008, 33% expected the economy to be better a year from then, 22% worse and 39% about the same. The public became increasingly optimistic about the economy in 2008 and early 2009, as conditions worsened. But economic optimism subsequently declined.

Republicans and Democrats currently have starkly different expectations. While 59% of Republicans say economic conditions will get better in a year, just 10% of Democrats say the same. Four-in-ten Democrats expect economic conditions to get worse over the next year, compared with just 9% of Republicans (31% of Republicans and 48% of Democrats expect conditions to stay about the same).

While economic expectations do not differ by income in the public overall, the picture is very different within each of the two parties. Higher income Republicans are more likely than those with lower incomes to say that they expect economic conditions to improve in the next year: 68% of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say this, compared with 50% of those with incomes of less than \$30,000.

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

*% who say they expect economic conditions in the country as a whole to be \_\_\_ a year from now*



Notes: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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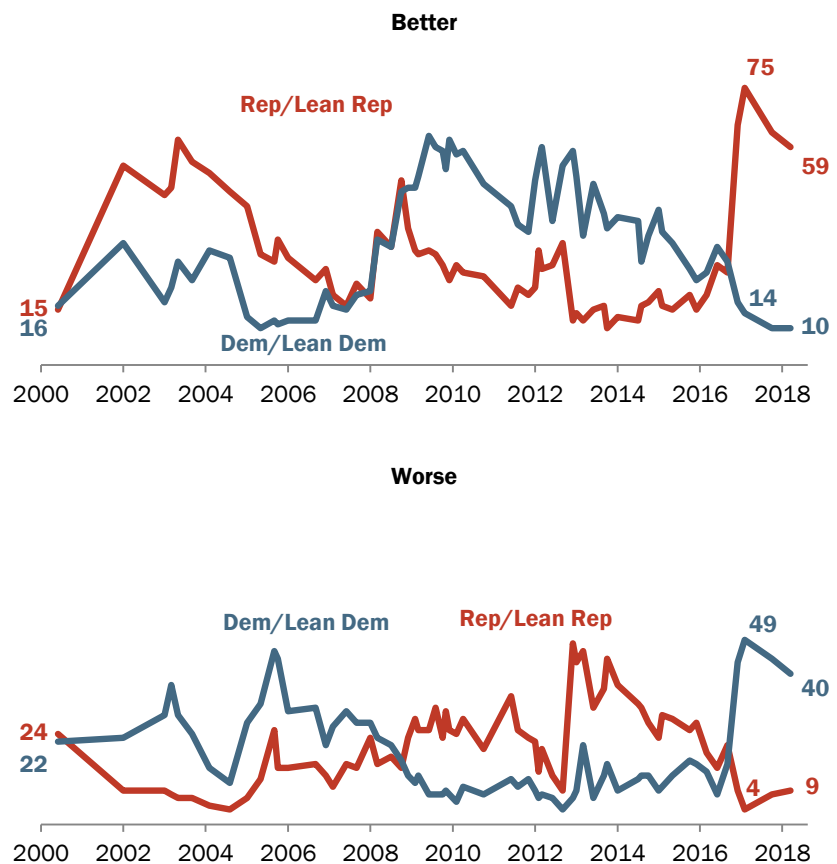
Among Democrats, the pattern is reversed; lower income Democrats are modestly more likely to say they expect economic conditions to improve (though this view is not widely held among Democrats at any income level), and while 52% of Democrats with incomes of \$75,000 or more expect conditions to worsen, that view is only held by about a third (35%) of those with lower family incomes.

Republicans and Republican leaners have become significantly more optimistic about the future economy since Trump took office. Today, 59% say they expect conditions to be better a year from now. Until Trump's election, no more than a third of Republicans had expressed this sentiment during Obama's administration. However, the current share of Republicans expressing this optimistic view is down from the three-quarters (75%) of Republicans and Republican leaners who said this in February 2017, shortly after Trump's inauguration.

Today, 40% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they expect conditions to get worse in the coming year, down nine percentage points since February 2017, but still higher than at any point during Obama's presidency.

### In both parties, fewer expect economy to improve than did so shortly after Trump's inauguration

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



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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## What affects household finances?

Among the factors that affect household finances, the public ranks the cost of health care and the prices of food and consumer goods highest. About half of Americans say the cost of health care affects their household's financial situation a lot (53%), and nearly as many (48%) say the same about prices of food and consumer goods.

Real estate values (37%), gas prices (37%) and the availability of jobs (34%) are mentioned by about a third of Americans as affecting their household's finances a lot. Only about two-in-ten say the same of the stock market (21%) or the federal budget deficit (22%).

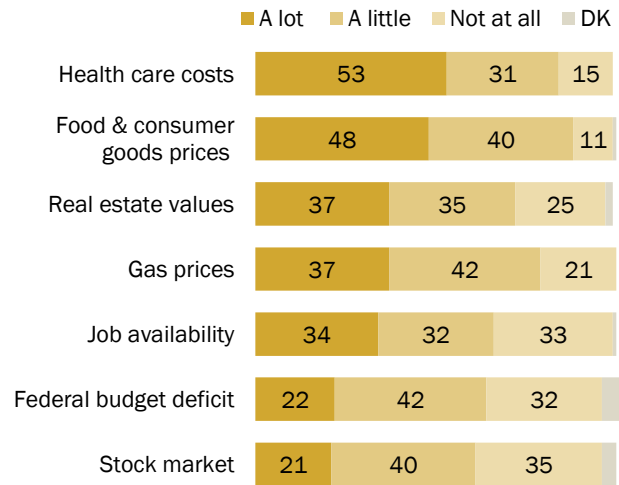
Today, far fewer consider gas prices as a top pressure than did so seven years ago: In April 2011, when gas prices were far higher than they have been in recent years, fully 69% of Americans said gas prices affected their situation a lot – the highest of the six factors included in the survey. Today, the cost of health care – asked for the first time in this survey – ranks higher than most other pressures.

Fewer today see the federal budget deficit as a chief concern for their household's financial situation than did so in 2011, and the then 10-percentage-point partisan gap in assessments of its personal impact has dissipated.

And while the prices of food and consumer goods remains a top pressure for household

## Health care costs, food prices rank highest in impact on household finances

*% who say each affects their household's financial situation ...*

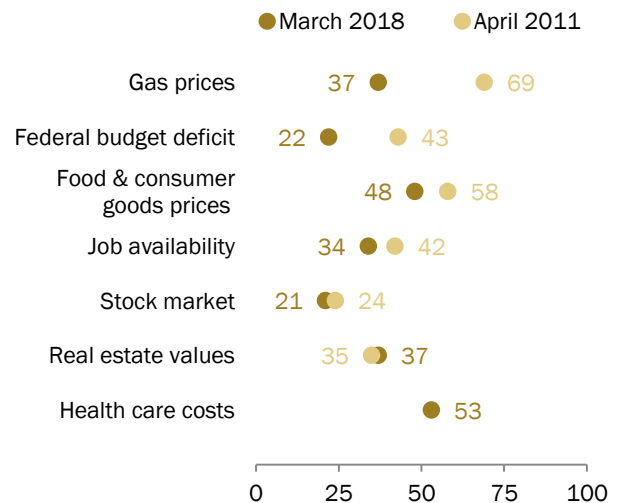


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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## In 2011, about twice as many said gas prices had a lot of impact on finances

*% who say each affects their household's financial situation 'a lot'*



Note: Health care costs not asked in 2011.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-14, 2018.

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finances, the share reporting it affects them a lot has dipped 10 points since 2011, from 58% to 48%.

Those who say the availability of jobs affects their finances a lot also has declined slightly from 2011, in the midst of the financial recession, when 42% said it impacted their household finances a lot.

The share who say their households are affected a lot by the stock market or real estate values is little different today than it was seven years ago.

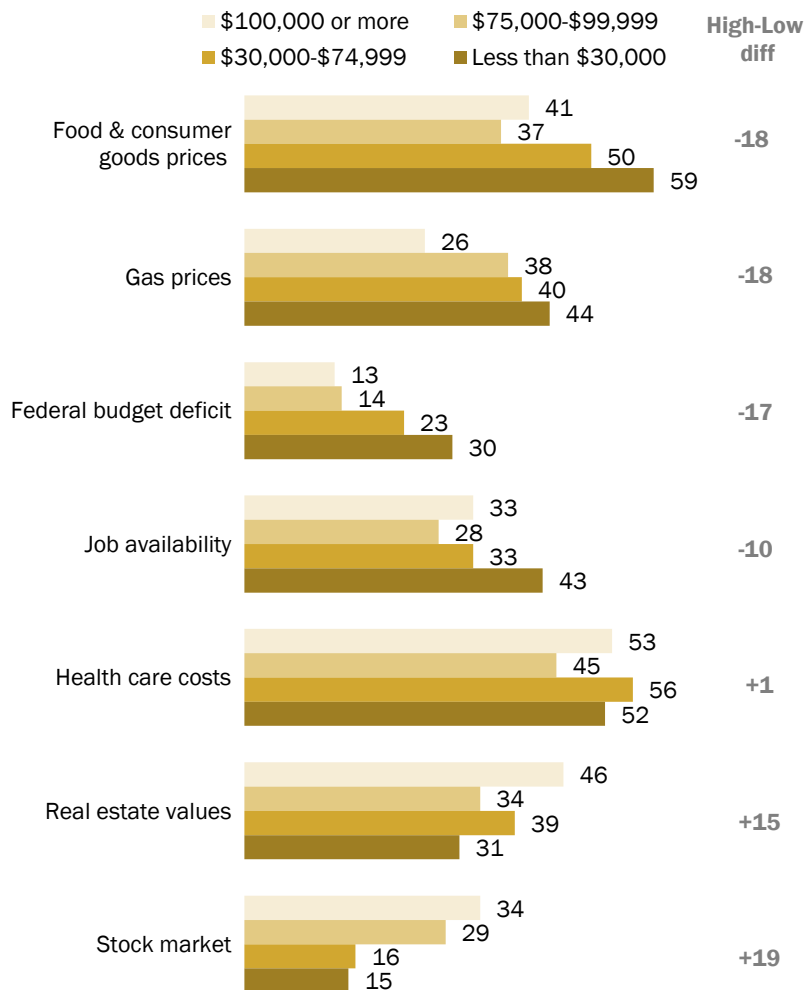
There continue to be wide differences across income categories in assessments of the impact of financial pressures, but health care costs is a top household financial pressure across all income levels. About half (53%) of households earning \$100,000 or more a year say it affects their financial situations a lot; about as many (52%) of those earning \$30,000 a year or less say the same.

On the impact of other pressures, there are some substantial differences across income groups. While about six-in-ten in lower income households say the prices of food and

consumer goods impacts their finances a lot (59% of those in households with incomes of less than \$30,000 a year), four-in-ten of those in higher income households say the same (40% of households making \$75,000 annually or more).

**Across income levels, health care costs rank high in financial impact; wide gaps on stocks, food, gas prices**

*% who say each affects their household's financial situation a lot*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Mar. 7-14, 2018.

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Gas prices are also more likely to be characterized as having a lot of impact among middle and low income households than higher income households: Just 26% of those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more say this, compared with about four-in-ten of those with lower family incomes.

By contrast, high-earning households are more likely to see real estate values (46% of those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more a year, compared with only about a third of those with lower incomes). And while about one-in-three with family incomes of \$75,000 or more (32%) say the stock market affects their households' finances a lot, only 15% of those with lower family incomes say this.

## Acknowledgements

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

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Alissa Scheller, *Information Graphics Designer*

## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 7-14, 2018 among a national sample of 1,466 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (384 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,082 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 653 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted under the direction of ICF Incorporated. 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 2016 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 March 7-14, 2018*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,466	3.0 percentage points
Half form	707	4.3 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	655	4.5 percentage points
Half form Rep/Lean Rep	317	6.4 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	682	4.4 percentage points
Half form Dem/Lean Dem	319	6.4 percentage points

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Sample sizes

errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

and sampling

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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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
MARCH 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
MARCH 7-14, 2018  
N=1,466**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-14, 2018	30	66	4	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5
Jan 10-15, 2018	32	62	6	Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	27	68	6	Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4
Oct 25-30, 2017	26	70	5	Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017	28	67	5	May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8
Apr 5-11, 2017	30	66	4	May 2, 2011	32	60	8
Feb 7-12, 2017	30	65	5	Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5
Jan 4-9, 2017	28	68	4	Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	30	65	5	Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6
Oct 20-25, 2016	33	63	4	Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	31	66	3	Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	71	5	Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7
Apr 12-19, 2016	26	70	3	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5
Mar 17-26, 2016	31	65	4	Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	25	70	5	May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7
Dec 8-13, 2015	25	72	3	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	27	67	5	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	December, 2008	13	83	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	July, 2008	19	74	7
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5	June, 2008	19	76	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	March, 2008	22	72	6
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	October, 2007	28	66	6
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	February, 2007	30	61	9
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6				
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6				
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4				

<sup>1</sup> In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"



**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
July, 2006	30	65	5	April, 2000	48	43	9
May, 2006*	29	65	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	February, 1998	59	37	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
December, 2004	39	54	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
December, 2003	44	47	9	April, 1995	23	74	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
August, 2003	40	53	7	March, 1994	24	71	5
April, 2003	50	41	9	October, 1993	22	73	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1993	22	71	7
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
May, 2002	44	44	12	November, 1991	34	61	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	August, 1990	47	48	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	January, 1989	45	50	5
March, 2001	47	45	8	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
February, 2001	46	43	11				

**QUESTION 2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 8-11, 13, 16-23****QUESTIONS 7, 12, 14-15, 24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****RANDOMIZE Q.25a/Q.25b BLOCK WITH Q.26a/Q.26b BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the nation's economy ...

Q.25a How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-14, 2018	11	42	34	13	1
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

**Q.25a CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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

**Q.25a CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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.25a/Q.25b BLOCK WITH Q.26a/Q.26b BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.25b 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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-14, 2018	34	25	40	1
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

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

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
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

**Q.25b CONTINUED...**

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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.25a/Q.25b BLOCK WITH Q.26a/Q.26b BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about your personal finances ...

Q.26a 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.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-14, 2018	11	39	32	17	1
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

**Q. 26a CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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
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

**Q. 26a CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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.25a/Q.25b BLOCK WITH Q.26a/Q.26b BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.26b 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>
Mar 7-14, 2018	14	58	13	4	10	2
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
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

**Q.26b CONTINUED...**

					(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	Stay the <u>same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
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.27 Not all people face the same financial pressures ... Thinking about YOUR own household's financial situation [do/does] **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little, or not at all? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Does this affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little, or not at all?]**

				(VOL.)
	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The availability of jobs in your area Mar 7-14, 2018	34	32	33	1

	Mar 14-17, 2013 <sup>3</sup>	39	25	34	2
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 <sup>4</sup>	42	26	30	1
b.	How the stock market is doing				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	21	40	35	4
	Mar 14-17, 2013	23	33	40	4
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	24	37	34	5

**NO ITEM c.****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:**

d.F1	Prices for food and consumer goods				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	48	40	11	1
	Mar 14-17, 2013	58	32	9	1
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	58	34	7	1
e.F1	The cost of health care				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	53	31	15	*
f.F1	Real estate values in your area				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	37	35	25	2
	Mar 14-17, 2013	32	33	32	3
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 <sup>5</sup>	35	28	34	3

**NO ITEM g.**

<sup>3</sup> In 2013 and 2011 surveys, question stem was worded: "Not all people face the same financial pressures. Please tell me how much each of the following affects your own household's financial situation. First, [**INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE**] - does this affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little, or not at all? How about [**INSERT NEXT ITEM**]?" [**REPEAT AS NECESSARY**: Does this affect your household's financial situation a lot, a little or not at all?]"

<sup>4</sup> In 2011, item read "The job situation."

<sup>5</sup> In 2011, item read "Real estate values."



**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=707]:</b>					
h.F2	Gas prices				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	37	42	21	*
	Mar 14-17, 2013	64	25	10	1
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	69	23	7	1
i.F2	The federal budget deficit				
	Mar 7-14, 2018	22	42	32	5
	Mar 14-17, 2013	39	36	20	5
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	43	34	19	4

**NO QUESTIONS 28-39, 43-45, 54, 56-58, 60, 62, 64-89, 91-93**

**QUESTIONS 40, 46-47, 53, 55, 59, 61, 63, 90 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**QUESTIONS 41-42, 48-52, 94-95 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

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**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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