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1150 18th Street, N.W., Suite 975
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel (202) 293-3126
Fax (202) 293-2569

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Half Say State of Union Speech is More Important
BUSH CONFRONTS STATE OF ECONOMIC UNEASE

Also Inside ...

- W Independents More Discontented
- W Top Policy Priorities: Guns and Butter
- W Tax Cuts Lowest Priority
- W Republicans Less Concerned By Deficits

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Associate Director
Carroll Doherty, Editor
Michael Dimock, Research Director
Elizabeth Mueller Gross, Special Projects Director
Nilanthi Samaranayake, Peyton Craighill and Nicole Speulda, Project Directors
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/293-3126
<http://www.people-press.org>

Half Say State of Union Speech is More Important
BUSH CONFRONTS STATE OF ECONOMIC UNEASE

As President Bush prepares for his Jan. 28 State of the Union address, the public's mood is more subdued than it was a year ago, especially regarding the nation's struggling economy. Just three-in-ten say they expect economic conditions to improve over the next 12 months, a significant decline from last January when 44% expressed economic optimism. Satisfaction with national conditions has also fallen, from 50% last March to 44% today.

While most people remain upbeat about their personal financial situations, they continue to give the president tepid ratings for his handling of the economy. Fewer than half (47%) approve of Bush's handling of the economy, while 45% disapprove. That is not significantly different from the fall, but represents a major decline since last January when by two-to-one (60%-28%), Americans gave him positive marks on the economy.

Independents Discontented, Disapproving				
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Dem</u>
<i>Expect economic conditions to improve</i>	%	%	%	%
January 2003	30	47	27	19
January 2002	44	55	45	34
<i>Change</i>	-14	-8	-18	-15
<i>Approve of Bush's handling of economy</i>				
January 2003	47	80	42	21
January 2002	60	80	59	45
<i>Change</i>	-13	0	-17	-24

There are political risks inherent in the public's changing economic attitudes and Bush's lower rating on the economy. Most important, independents stand out for their increasingly negative views on both measures. Barely a quarter of independents (27%) think the nation's economy will improve, while just 42% give the president a positive rating on the economy – down from 59% at this time last year.

The president's recently announced economic plan has yet to improve public perceptions of his handling of the issue. Just a third believe the president is doing everything he can to improve economic conditions, while 61% think he could do more. That measure has been stable since last summer. Last January, however, 48% felt Bush was doing all he could on the economy.

The latest Pew Research Center nationwide survey of 1,218 adults conducted January 8-12 finds that, at a time of uncertainty at home and abroad, Americans are attaching far more importance to the president's annual State of the Union speech than they did before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. As was the case in 2002, roughly half of Americans view the speech as more important than past addresses. During the last two years of the Clinton administration, fewer than three-in-ten saw the State of the Union address as particularly momentous.

The survey shows that the public's domestic policy priorities, reordered by the terrorist attacks, continue to be dominated by *both* guns and butter. Fully eight-in-ten (81%) rate defending

the country from terrorism as a top priority, and 73% say the same about strengthening the economy. Other domestic priorities – even traditional concerns such as education and Social Security – rate lower in importance.

The public attaches less importance to most domestic issues than it did in January 2001, nine months before the attacks. In particular, the number of Americans who rate reducing crime as a major concern has fallen 29 points. Protecting the environment (24 points), adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare (21 points), reducing racial tensions (19 points) and regulating HMOs (18 points) have all lost ground as policy priorities.

Who Influences Bush on Policy?

Bush’s overall job approval rating – which is currently 58% – has hovered at around 60% over the past six months, aside from a brief spike around the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The president continues to win the near-unanimous approval of Republicans (88%). And while independents have reservations about Bush’s economic policies, nearly six-in-ten (57%) view his overall job performance positively. Democrats, by 55%-32%, disapprove of the president’s job performance.

More Americans believe the president listens mostly to conservatives in his party than to moderates (41%-35%). A year ago, the public was more evenly divided (38% conservative/40% moderate). When Bush took office, nearly half of the public (48%) said he was more influenced by conservatives than moderates.

Part of Bush’s strong appeal to Republicans is that both wings of the party – conservatives and moderates – see Bush’s ideological tendencies as their own. Conservatives see him as listening more to conservative members of his party instead of moderates (44%- 34%), while moderates think he is listening more to the moderates (52%-34%).

<i>Who is Bush listening to more?</i>	<i>---Republicans---</i>		<i>---Democrats---</i>	
	<u>Conser- vative</u> %	<u>Moderate & liberal</u> %	<u>Conserv & mod</u> %	<u>Lib- eral</u> %
Conservative party members	44	34	40	64
Moderate party members	34	52	39	18
Don’t know/Ref.	<u>22</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100

Liberal Democrats see Bush as heavily tilting to the right, with 64% saying he is listening more to the conservatives in the Republican party. Conservative and moderate Democrats, as well as independents, are more divided on which faction of the Republican party is more influential in the president’s thinking.

Fully two-thirds of those who believe Bush is more influenced by moderates approve of his job performance. By comparison, only about half of those who say he listens more to conservatives have a positive view of his job performance (49%).

Bush and Republican congressional leaders do not appear to have received much of a boost from the GOP's success in the 2002 midterm elections. Currently, 48% approve and 37% disapprove of the performance of congressional Republicans. These ratings are about the same as before the election, but they are relatively high in historical perspective. For the past year, the leadership's job approval has consistently remained at or near 50%, the first sustained period of positive ratings since Republicans gained a majority in the House in 1995.

Democrats Agree on Speech's Importance

Most Americans believe President Bush's upcoming State of the Union address is more important than previous addresses. Significantly, this view is shared across party lines, by both those who approve of the president's job performance and those who disapprove. But independents (45%) are less likely than Republicans (56%) or Democrats (54%) to view the president's speech as especially important.

Fewer younger people than older Americans view this year's speech as noteworthy. Just 39% of those under age 30 see it as more important; half of those in this age group think it only as important as previous years' efforts (40%), or less important (10%). Majorities in every other age group look at this year's State of the Union as more important.

Importance of State of the Union				
	<u>More</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>DK</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
January 2003	52	35	6	7=100
January 2002	54	36	4	6=100
Republicans	56	37	3	4=100
Democrats	54	28	11	7=100
Independents	45	43	4	8=100
<i>Bush job...</i>				
Approve	54	39	2	5=100
Disapprove	54	28	13	5=100
18-29	39	40	10	11=100
30-49	53	38	5	4=100
50-64	56	33	4	7=100
65+	58	25	6	11=100

Priorities: Major Changes Since 2001

The public's policy priorities remain largely unchanged from a year ago, but are quite different than they were in 2001. Defending against possible terrorist attacks and strengthening the nation's economy continue to be the top issues for the president and Congress to deal with over the coming year. As was the case last year, these key issues are followed by concerns about jobs, education, and taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound.

Health-related issues rank high compared with other policy priorities, but far fewer rate them as major concerns than two years ago. Ensuring the financial stability of Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program are the leading healthcare priorities (56%, 52%, respectively). Nearly as many rate regulating health maintenance organizations and providing health insurance to the uninsured as major priorities (48%, 45%).

Reducing crime and protecting the environment continue to decline as policy priorities. In 2001, fully three-quarters of Americans (76%) viewed crime as a major priority; today, fewer than half do (47%). Two years ago, 63% rated protecting the environment as a top policy priority. That number fell to 44% last year and has declined again, to 39%, in the current survey.

Dealing with moral breakdown and working to reduce racial tensions in the nation are not traditionally top concerns, but these issues also have lost ground over the past two years. Today, just 39% and 33%, respectively, rate these as top policy priorities. African-Americans are twice as likely as whites to rate addressing racial tensions as a top priority (62% vs. 28%). While addressing morality remains a higher priority among white evangelical Protestants than the general population, fewer than half (49%) of these respondents rate it a top priority, down from 70% two years ago.

While Sept. 11 and the war against terrorism had a dramatic and lasting impact on a number of domestic priorities, the public's interest in military funding and missile defense have remained largely unchanged. Roughly half (48%) rate strengthening the military as a top priority, 42% say the same about developing a missile defense system. Both of these percentages are largely unchanged over the past two years.

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003
Defending US against terrorism	--	83	81
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73
Improving job situation	60	67	62
Improving educational system	78	66	62
Securing Social Security	74	62	59
Securing Medicare	71	55	56
Adding Medicare drug benefits	73	54	52
Strengthening the military	48	52	48
Regulating HMOs	66	50	48
Dealing with problems of poor	63	44	48
Reducing crime	76	53	47
Providing insurance to uninsured	61	43	45
Developing missile defense	41	39	42
Dealing with energy problems	46*	42	40
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	45	39
Protecting the environment	63	44	39
Working to reduce racial tension	52	--	33
Making 2001 tax cuts permanent**	66	43	30

* Early September, 2001
 ** In 2001 and 2002 the item was "reducing middle class taxes"

Reducing taxes on the middle class ranked among the public's top priorities when President Bush first came into office, with two-thirds (66%) rating that as a major objective. But relatively few attach much importance to making the tax cuts passed in 2001 permanent. Just three-in-ten rate this a top priority for the coming year, making this the lowest public priority of 19 items on the survey.

Dueling Agendas

The vast majority of Republicans and Democrats agree that defending against terrorism and strengthening the nation's economy are top priorities for the coming year, but otherwise there is little common ground.

The biggest differences arise over providing insurance for the uninsured and helping the poor. More than six-in-ten Democrats (62%) view each objective as a major priority; fewer than four-in-ten Republicans agree (35%, 37%). Democrats are also substantially more concerned than Republicans about jobs, Medicare, Social Security, the environment and race relations.

Aside from a somewhat higher emphasis on terrorism defenses, Republicans place a higher priority on only two items –

strengthening the military and making the 2001 tax cuts permanent. In the past, Republicans and Democrats have largely agreed on the importance of middle class tax cuts, but this year there is a 15-point gap over the importance of the tax issue (40% of Republicans, 25% of Democrats).

Partisan Gaps Over Priorities			
<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	<u>Repub- licans</u>	<u>Demo- crats</u>	<i>R-D diff.</i>
Providing insurance to uninsured	35	62	-27
Dealing with problems of poor	37	62	-25
Improving job situation	49	70	-21
Securing Medicare	48	69	-21
Protecting the environment	25	45	-20
Securing Social Security	52	70	-18
Working to reduce racial tension	24	42	-18
Adding Medicare drug benefits	45	61	-16
Improving educational system	53	68	-15
Dealing with energy	36	48	-12
Reducing budget deficit	38	48	-10
Regulating HMOs	43	52	-9
Reducing crime	44	49	-5
Strengthening nation's economy	72	75	-3
Developing missile defense	49	48	+1
Dealing with moral breakdown	40	37	+3
Defending US against terrorism	87	74	+13
Making 2001 tax cuts permanent	40	25	+15
Strengthening the military	59	42	+17

Changing Partisan Views on Deficit

Public concern about government deficit spending is much lower than during the mid-1990s. At the same time, there has been an interesting turnaround in the importance Republicans and Democrats place on this issue.

During the Clinton administration, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to view deficit reduction as a top priority. But in the current survey, nearly half of Democrats (48%) say reducing the budget deficit is a top priority, compared with 38% with Republicans. In January 1997, this pattern was reversed, with Republicans 12% more likely to prioritize this issue (66% to 54%).

	<i>Reducing deficit a top priority</i>			<i>R-D</i>
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Diff</u>
	%	%	%	
Dec 1994	65	65	61	+4
Jan 1997	60	66	54	+12
Jan 2002	35	27	41	-14
Jan 2003	40	38	48	-10

Partisan Agreement on Crime, Morality

Just as interesting as the issues on which Democrats and Republicans *disagree* are some of the issues on which they *agree*. As the public's emphasis on reducing crime has fallen in recent years, so has a longstanding partisan gap in which more Democrats than Republicans gave the issue as a top priority. Similarly, the major differences over the importance of dealing with moral breakdown in the country – in January 2001, 61% of Republicans rated this a top priority, compared with 45% of Democrats – have largely disappeared as this has dropped on the list of public priorities.

There also is no partisan gap on the priority of developing a national missile defense system. A year ago, Democrats placed a higher priority on this issue than did Republicans (by a 46% to 38% margin). When Bush first came into office, this was more of a Republican priority (by a 49% to 36% margin).

44% Satisfied With State of Nation

The public's satisfaction with national conditions reached 57% in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, but has fallen steadily since then. Dissatisfaction runs highest among African-Americans (72%), women (57%) and those with annual household incomes below \$20,000 (56%).

As with the president's job approval ratings, partisanship is playing an increasing role in this evaluation. Today, 69% of Democrats say they are dissatisfied with the state of the nation, up 23% since last March when Democrats were divided on this question. By comparison, Republicans have consistently said they are satisfied by more than a two-to-one margin. Since immediately after the terrorist attacks, satisfaction with national conditions has fallen 24% among Democrats, 10% among independents, and just 4% among Republicans.

	<i>Late Sept 2001</i>		<i>March 2002</i>		<i>January 2003</i>	
	<u>Sat</u> %	<u>Dis</u> %	<u>Sat</u> %	<u>Dis</u> %	<u>Sat</u> %	<u>Dis</u> %
All	57	34	50	40	44	50
Republicans	69	25	67	29	65	28
Independents	54	35	48	44	44	51
Democrats	50	43	43	46	26	69

Personal Economic Optimism

As has been true for the past two years, a little less than half of the public rates its personal financial situation favorably. In the current poll, 7% say their finances are in excellent shape and 38% describe them as good. About four-in-ten (39%) say they are in only fair shape, and 15% say their finances are in poor shape.

More than twice as many blacks as whites (29% vs. 13%) rate their financial situation as poor, and three times as many Democrats as Republicans do so (24% vs. 7%). Two-thirds (67%) of those with family incomes of \$50,000 and above (\$50,000 is the approximate U.S. median family income) rate their situation as excellent or good; only 4% of these people say they are in poor shape. By contrast, nearly four-in-ten (39%) of those with incomes below \$20,000 say their situation is poor, and another 41% of this group says they are in only fair shape.

	<u>Excellent/ Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
	%	%	%	%
All	45	39	15	1=100
White	48	38	13	1=100
Black	27	42	29	2=100
\$50,000+	67	29	4	*=100
\$30-49,999	45	48	7	*=100
\$20-29,999	30	46	24	0=100
<\$20,000	17	41	39	3=100
Republican	58	34	7	1=100
Independent	45	39	15	1=100
Democrat	35	40	24	1=100

A majority of the poll's respondents think their own personal financial situation will improve at least somewhat over the course of the next year (51% say it will improve some, 9% a lot), while about a quarter (23%) think it will get worse and 13% think it will not change. This level of optimism has declined slightly over the past year.

By contrast with optimism about personal finances, just 30% think the nation's economy will get better in the next year. More than four-in-ten (44%) expect economic conditions in the country to stay the same, while 20% think it will get worse. Respondents with higher incomes (\$75,000 and above) are among the most optimistic, but even among this group, less than a majority thinks things will get better this year (43%).

Bush Rating on Economy Tied to Expectations

The public's split verdict on Bush's handling of the economy is virtually identical to opinion in early September 2001, just before the terrorist attacks, when 47% approved of the president's performance in this area. Attitudes toward the president's handling of the economy are linked with current evaluations personal finances, but even more with future expectations.

Disapproval of how the president is handling the economy is understandably greater among people who report that their own family financial situation is poor (61%). But even among those who say their finances are excellent or good right now, more than a third (35%) disapprove of the president's performance in this area.

Opinion is more strongly related to how people think the nation's economy is going to fare in the next year: about two-thirds of those who think things will get worse disapprove of the president's handling of the economy (68%), compared with only about a quarter (23%) of those who think things will get better.

Bush Not Trying Hard Enough on Economy

Given the public's divided views on Bush's performance on the economy, it is not surprising to find that a majority of the public (61%) say the president could be doing more to improve economic conditions; 33% think he's doing as much as he can. The feeling that the president could be doing more has grown since last January, when only 46% felt this way (48% thought he was doing all he could).

Perceptions that the president is not doing enough on the economy are especially prevalent among Democrats (78%), blacks (86%), and young people age 18-29 (72%). While Republicans have changed relatively little on this measure since January 2002 – the percentage who think

<i>President could be doing more</i>	<u>2002</u> %	<u>2003</u> %	<u>Change</u> %
All	46	61	+15
Republicans	29	37	+8
Independents	53	69	+16
Democrats	56	78	+22
\$50,000+	44	60	+16
\$30-49,999	43	60	+17
\$20-29,999	54	67	+13
< \$20,000	50	60	+10
18-29	58	72	+14
30-49	45	63	+18
50-64	44	57	+13
65+	38	51	+13

the president could be doing more has grown only 8 percentage points – Democrats and independents have grown much more dissatisfied (up 22 and 16 percentage points, respectively). And the growth in the view that the president could do more has occurred all across the income spectrum, with upper income respondents just as likely to say this as those with lower incomes.

Yet public anxiety about terrorism remains relatively high, with two-thirds at least somewhat worried about the possibility that there will soon be another attack on the U.S., and about four-in-ten concerned that they or their family could be victimized. When asked to choose, more say that it is more important for the president to focus on the war on terrorism (43%) than on the economy (38%). This is about the same division of opinion as in late October, and a higher level of support for terrorism as a priority than in August (when 34% choose terrorism, and 39% picked the economy).

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the *January News Interest Index* survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,218 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 8-12, 2003. Based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=611) the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points; for Form 2 (N=607) the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 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.

PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown for Top Five Responses)

	<u>Defending the Country from Terrorist Attacks</u> %	<u>Strengthening the Nation's Economy</u> %	<u>Improving the Job Situation</u> %	<u>Improving the Educational System</u> %	<u>Making Social Security Sound</u> %
Total	81	73	62	62	59
Sex					
Male	81	77	63	60	60
Female	81	70	62	64	59
Race					
White	80	74	59	58	57
Non-white	83	74	76	82	67
Black	81	79	80	85	68
Hispanic [^]	83	78	65	77	61
Race and Sex					
White Men	80	76	60	55	60
White Women	81	71	58	61	55
Age					
Under 30	79	69	52	73	46
30-49	79	74	65	60	48
50-64	86	72	68	60	76
65+	81	79	63	56	81
Sex and Age					
Men under 50	79	78	61	64	48
Women under 50	79	66	59	65	46
Men 50+	84	76	68	53	81
Women 50+	83	74	64	63	76
Education					
College Grad.	77	69	53	53	46
Some College	82	70	57	63	51
High School Grad.	81	80	68	71	70
<H.S. Grad.	86	69	74	53	70
Family Income					
\$75,000+	77	71	59	50	48
\$50,000-\$74,999	81	77	60	61	61
\$30,000-\$49,999	84	70	59	62	62
\$20,000-\$29,999	85	76	60	64	68
<\$20,000	78	77	71	68	68

[^] The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization. Note small sample size (n=66).

Question: I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (First,) should [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... [NEXT ITEM]?

Continued ...

	<u>Defending the Country from Terrorist Attacks</u>	<u>Strengthening the Nation's Economy</u>	<u>Improving the Job Situation</u>	<u>Improving the Educational System</u>	<u>Making Social Security Sound</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	81	73	62	62	59
<i>Region</i>					
East	79	79	72	60	58
Midwest	76	68	60	58	58
South	86	74	62	68	63
West	79	73	57	59	55
<i>Religious Affiliation</i>					
Total White Protestant	81	74	54	55	59
White Protestant Evangelical	82	75	49	59	65
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	80	73	60	51	54
White Catholic	84	74	70	55	56
Secular	80	70	67	68	46
<i>Community Size</i>					
Large City	81	74	68	65	53
Suburb	78	77	63	59	55
Small City/Town	84	69	61	64	62
Rural Area	78	77	58	58	67
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	87	72	49	53	52
Democrat	74	75	70	68	70
Independent	80	73	66	62	55
<i>Party and Ideology</i>					
Conservative Republican	89	72	47	49	51
Moderate/Liberal Republican	82	71	57	62	54
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	77	81	69	61	76
Liberal Democrat	64	64	80	76	60
<i>Bush Approval</i>					
Approve	87	74	56	56	56
Disapprove	67	76	76	70	64
<i>GOP Congressional Approval</i>					
Approve	86	72	54	56	54
Disapprove	73	78	72	68	66
<i>Marital Status</i>					
Married	82	75	62	57	58
Unmarried	80	72	62	69	61
<i>Parental Status</i>					
Parent	84	76	66	62	51
Non-Parent	79	72	61	62	64
<i>Labor Union</i>					
Union Household	74	74	68	64	66
Non-Union Household	82	74	62	62	58

TREND IN OUTLOOK OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

	----- January 2002 -----				----- January 2003 -----				Change in Better	(N)
	Better	Worse	Same	DK	Better	Worse	Same	DK		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	44	17	36	3=100	30	20	44	6=100	-14	(1218)
Sex										
Male	50	13	36	1=100	35	16	43	6=100	-15	(589)
Female	38	20	37	5=100	26	24	44	6=100	-12	(629)
Race										
White	46	14	37	3=100	32	19	44	5=100	-14	(1031)
Non-white	28	31	37	4=100	20	27	44	9=100	-8	(160)
Black	25	33	37	5=100	16	30	43	11=100	-9	(107)
Hispanic [^]	44	12	44	0=100	38	17	39	6=100	-6	(66)
Race and Sex										
White Men	53	11	35	1=100	38	16	42	4=100	-15	(490)
White Women	40	16	39	5=100	27	22	45	6=100	-13	(541)
Age										
Under 30	44	17	35	4=100	28	16	52	4=100	-16	(232)
30-49	44	15	40	1=100	29	23	43	5=100	-15	(478)
50-64	45	21	32	2=100	34	20	39	7=100	-11	(288)
65+	43	14	35	8=100	31	20	41	8=100	-12	(214)
Sex and Age										
Men under 50	49	12	39	0=100	32	16	47	5=100	-17	(372)
Women under 50	38	20	38	4=100	26	25	45	4=100	-12	(338)
Men 50+	53	14	30	3=100	41	17	35	7=100	-12	(215)
Women 50+	37	21	36	6=100	26	23	43	8=100	-11	(287)
Education										
College Grad.	53	13	32	2=100	39	18	40	3=100	-14	(410)
Some College	47	18	32	3=100	34	20	40	6=100	-13	(304)
H. S. Grad.	40	16	42	2=100	25	21	48	6=100	-15	(413)
<H.S. Grad.	35	23	35	7=100	22	24	45	9=100	-13	(87)
Family Income										
\$75,000+	52	16	32	*=100	43	17	37	3=100	-9	(263)
\$50,000-\$74,999	53	14	31	2=100	35	20	42	3=100	-18	(188)
\$30,000-\$49,999	42	13	44	1=100	32	19	42	7=100	-10	(281)
\$20,000-\$29,999	40	18	41	1=100	24	21	49	6=100	-16	(150)
<\$20,000	33	26	36	5=100	21	22	50	7=100	-12	(181)

[^] The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization. Note small sample size in 2003 (N=66).

Question: 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?

Continued ...

	----- January 2002 -----				----- January 2003 -----				Change in Better	(N)
	Better	Worse	Same	DK	Better	Worse	Same	DK		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Total	44	17	36	3=100	30	20	44	6=100	-14	(1218)
Region										
East	41	18	39	2=100	26	20	45	9=100	-15	(219)
Midwest	45	16	36	3=100	31	20	44	5=100	-14	(314)
South	43	17	36	4=100	31	20	44	5=100	-12	(454)
West	47	14	36	3=100	33	21	41	5=100	-14	(231)
Religious Affiliation										
Total White Protestant	45	13	37	5=100	33	17	44	6=100	-12	(573)
White Protestant Evangelical	49	15	30	6=100	37	18	38	7=100	-12	(279)
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	42	12	43	3=100	28	17	50	5=100	-14	(294)
White Catholic	49	13	38	0=100	33	21	42	4=100	-16	(246)
Secular	40	23	36	1=100	25	22	46	7=100	-15	(126)
Community Size										
Large City	45	21	32	2=100	24	24	46	6=100	-21	(233)
Suburb	51	12	33	4=100	38	21	37	4=100	-13	(304)
Small City/Town	40	18	38	4=100	29	17	46	8=100	-11	(437)
Rural Area	43	14	42	1=100	31	21	44	4=100	-12	(236)
Party ID										
Republican	55	8	34	3=100	47	8	39	6=100	-8	(388)
Democrat	34	24	39	3=100	19	28	47	6=100	-15	(371)
Independent	45	14	39	2=100	27	23	45	5=100	-18	(372)
Party and Ideology										
Conservative Republican	59	7	31	3=100	51	7	38	4=100	-8	(236)
Moderate/Liberal Republican	51	10	38	1=100	45	10	41	4=100	-6	(142)
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	37	21	39	3=100	21	26	49	4=100	-16	(238)
Liberal Democrat	25	35	37	3=100	14	34	43	9=100	-11	(116)
Bush Approval										
Approve	49	12	37	2=100	42	12	42	4=100	-7	(725)
Disapprove	17	40	37	6=100	13	35	46	6=100	-4	(379)
GOP Congressional Approval										
Approve	-	-	-	-	45	12	39	4=100	-	(599)
Disapprove	-	-	-	-	15	32	47	6=100	-	(448)
Marital Status										
Married	46	16	35	3=100	35	19	40	6=100	-11	(667)
Unmarried	41	17	39	3=100	26	21	48	5=100	-15	(543)
Parental Status										
Parent	41	21	36	2=100	33	21	40	6=100	-8	(392)
Non-Parent	45	14	37	4=100	29	20	45	6=100	-16	(823)
Labor Union										
Union Household	41	18	40	1=100	24	26	41	9=100	-17	(208)
Non-Union Household	45	16	36	3=100	32	19	44	5=100	-13	(998)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2003 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 8 - 12, 2003
N=1218

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**¹

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
January, 2003	48	37	15=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100

¹ Some trends from 1998 and 1999 have been omitted.

Q.2 CONTINUED...	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
February, 2000	40	43	17=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March, 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 Now thinking about President Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		--- Clinton ---		
		<u>Jan 2002</u>	<u>Jan 2000</u>	<u>Jan 1999</u>
52	More important	54	16	27
6	Less important	4	22	16
35	Same	36	53	51
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.10 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
January, 2003	44	50	6=100
September, 2002 ²	41	55	4=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100
March, 2002	50	40	10=100
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
June, 2001	43	52	5=100
March, 2001	47	45	8=100
February, 2001	46	43	11=100
January, 2001	55	41	4=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100
January, 1999	53	41	6=100
November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

² The September 2002 trend is from the Global Attitudes Report, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

Now thinking about President Bush...

Q.11 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The economy	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	71	23	6=100
Clinton: September, 1997	60	34	6=100
Clinton: January, 1996	50	42	8=100
Clinton: June, 1995	46	46	8=100
Clinton: October, 1994	45	46	9=100
Clinton: July, 1994	38	56	6=100
Bush, Sr.: August, 1990	40	52	8=100
Bush, Sr.: May, 1990	42	47	11=100

Q.12 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on ... the economy or the war on terrorism?

	<u>Late Oct 2002</u>	<u>Late Aug 2002</u>
38 The economy	36	39
43 War on terrorism	45	34
* Neither (VOL.)	*	2
17 Both (VOL.)	17	22
<u>2</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100	100	100

Q.13 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... [READ, ROTATE]

	<u>Jan 2002</u>	<u>Jan 2001</u>
41 Conservative members of his party OR	38	48
35 Moderate members of his party	40	37
<u>24</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
100	100	100

Now, thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.14 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?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993*	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992*	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992*	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992*	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992*	4	32	45	18	1=100

* U.S. News & World Report

Q.15 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?

	Improve <u>A lot</u>	Improve <u>Some</u>	Get a <u>Little Worse</u>	Get a lot <u>Worse</u>	Stay the Same <u>(VOL.)</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992*	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992*	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992*	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992*	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

* U.S. News & World Report

Q.16 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>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
January, 2003	30	20	44	6=100
Early October, 2002	34	18	42	6=100
June, 2002	30	20	46	4=100
January, 2002	44	17	36	3=100
January, 2001*	18	33	44	5=100
June, 2000	15	24	55	6=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5=100
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4=100
May, 1990	18	31	45	6=100
February, 1989	25	22	49	4=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984* (RVs)	35	13	49	3=100

* Newsweek

Q.17 In your opinion, is President Bush doing as much as he can to improve economic conditions or do you think he could be doing more?

		-- Bush, Sr. --				
		<u>Early Oct</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Jan</u>
		<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
33	Doing as much as he can	31	33	48	21	21
61	Could be doing more	63	62	46	76	76
<u>6</u>	Can't say	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.18 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (First,) should [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>But lower</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	
ASK ITEMS a THRU j OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=611]:						
a.F1	Improving the job situation	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	40	44	11	2	3=100
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref
c.F1	Reducing crime	47	42	8	2	2=100
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Protecting the environment	39	50	9	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
e.F1	Working to reduce racial tensions	33	43	18	4	2=100
	January, 2001	52	35	7	3	3=100
	January, 2000	46	40	10	2	2=100
	July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2=100
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2=100
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1=100
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2=100
f.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	48	38	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
g.F1	Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks	42	34	13	8	3=100
	January, 2002	39	35	15	7	4=100
	Early September, 2001	35	39	14	11	1=100
	January, 2001	41	32	14	9	4=100
h.F1	Adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare coverage	52	36	9	2	1=100
	January, 2002	54	34	8	3	1=100
	Early September, 2001	60	31	6	2	1=100
	January, 2001	73	19	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	54	31	9	3	3=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100
j.F1	Making the cuts in federal income taxes passed in 2001 permanent	30	39	15	9	7=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref
ASK ITEMS k THRU s OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=607]:						
k.F2	Improving the educational system	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
l.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	56	39	4	*	1=100
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
n.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	48	45	5	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
o.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	39	34	16	7	4=100
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
p.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		Top Priority	Important But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref
q.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	48	34	11	4	3=100
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100
r.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	73	23	2	1	1=100
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001 ³	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
s.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ⁴	46	41	6	2	5=100

Q18 RANK ORDERED SUMMARY TABLE

Top priority	Important but lower priority	
%	%	
81	16	i. Defending the country from future terrorist attacks
73	23	r. Strengthening the nation's economy
62	32	a. Improving the job situation
62	31	k. Improving the educational system
59	34	l. Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound
56	39	m. Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound
52	36	h. Adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare coverage
48	45	n. Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people
48	38	f. Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans
48	34	q. Strengthening the U.S. military
47	42	c. Reducing crime
45	41	p. Providing health insurance to the uninsured
42	34	g. Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks
40	46	s. Dealing with the nation's energy problem
40	44	b. Reducing the budget deficit
39	50	d. Protecting the environment
39	34	o. Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country
33	43	e. Working to reduce racial tensions
30	39	j. Making the cuts in federal income taxes passed in 2001 permanent

³ In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded "Keeping the economy strong."

⁴ In Early September 2001 the item was worded "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

Q.35 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.35, ASK:

Q.36 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

	<i>Computer User</i>			Based on Total Respondents: <i>Goes Online</i>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2003	76	24	0=100	67	33	*=100
December, 2002	76	24	*=100	67	33	*=100
Early October, 2002	75	25	*=100	63	37	*=100
June, 2002	74	26	*=100	66	34	*=100
May, 2002	75	25	*=100	66	34	*=100
April, 2002	71	29	*=100	62	38	0=100
February, 2002	71	29	*=100	62	38	0=100
January, 2002	73	27	0=100	62	38	0=100
Mid-November, 2001	73	27	0=100	62	38	0=100
Mid-September, 2001	72	28	*=100	62	38	*=100
June, 2001	72	28	*=100	62	38	0=100
May, 2001	75	25	*=100	64	36	0=100
April, 2001	72	28	*=100	62	38	0=100
February, 2001	72	28	0=100	60	40	*=100
January, 2001	71	29	*=100	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	68	31	1=100	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	68	31	1=100	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	68	32	*=100	54	46	*=100
March, 2000 ⁵	72	28	0=100	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	--	--	--	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100	36	63	1=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100	--	--	--
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100	--	--	--
July, 1996	56	44	*=100	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 ⁶	--	--	--	14	86	*=100

⁵ In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

⁶ The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions: (1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?) (2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?