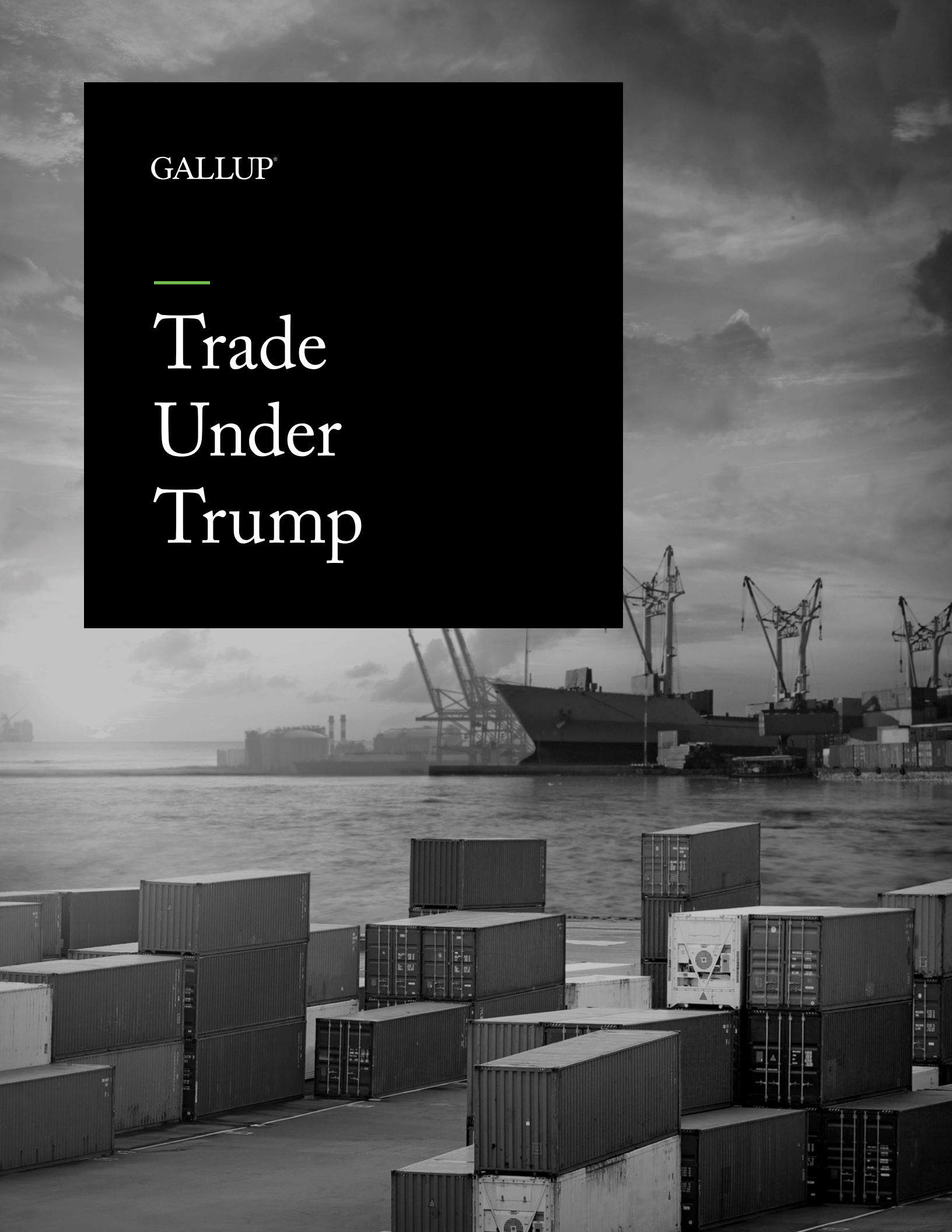


GALLUP®

Trade Under Trump



Foreign Trade: An Opportunity or a Threat?

Change has been the only constant in U.S. trade policy so far in Donald Trump's presidency. However, over the past three years, Americans have been more optimistic about trade in general than ever before.

On specific issues such as the escalation of tariffs between the U.S. and China, Americans are neither highly positive nor highly negative about the effect that it is having on the economy or their own finances.

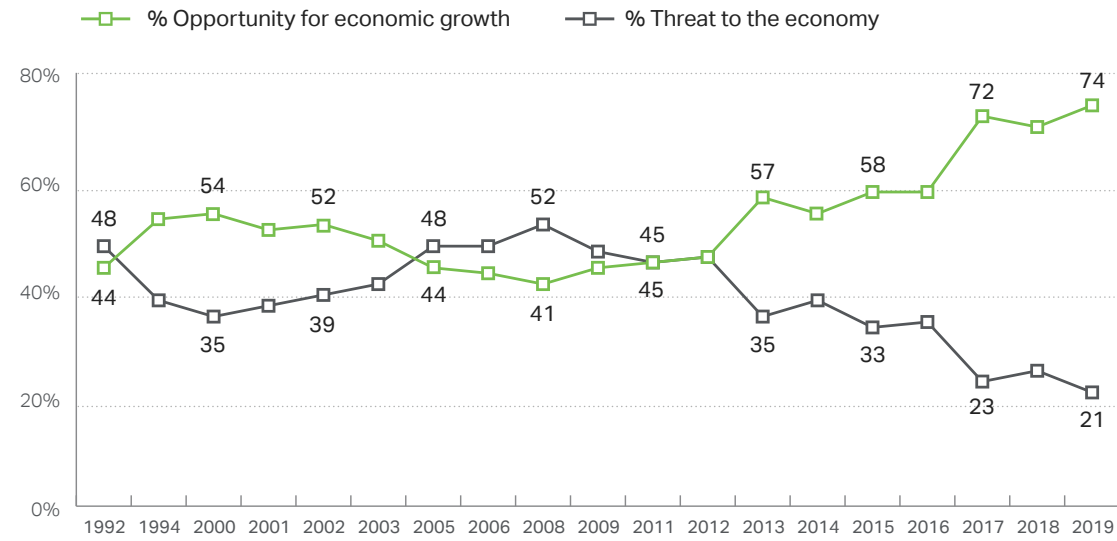
Americans' broad view of trade is the most positive it has been in more than a quarter-century. Nearly three-fourths of U.S. adults (74%) today say trade represents an "opportunity for economic growth through increased U.S. exports," whereas 21% say it represents a "threat to the economy from foreign imports."

Shifts in Americans' sentiment on trade over time have largely followed U.S. economic conditions. In 1992, more Americans saw trade as a threat than an opportunity, as consumers were still rattled by the 1990-1991 recession. By 1994, the economy was doing well, and the majority saw trade as an opportunity. Perceptions shifted again in 2005 as the economy slowed and entered an 18-month recession in late 2007, but they have since grown increasingly positive.



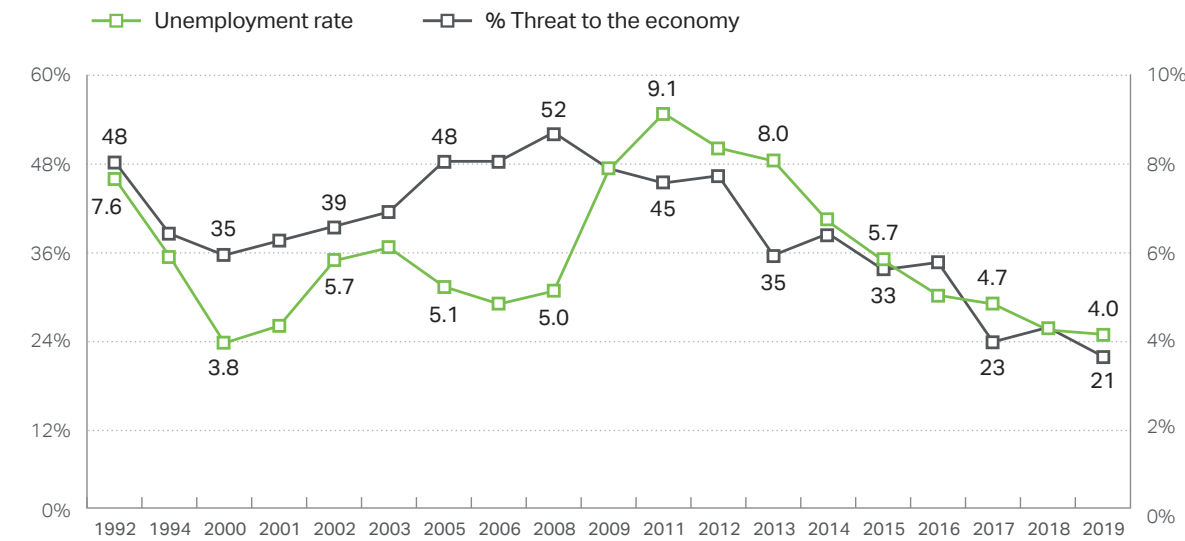
Perceived Effects of Foreign Trade on the U.S.

What do you think foreign trade means for America? Do you see foreign trade more as an opportunity for economic growth through increased U.S. exports or a threat to the economy from foreign imports?



The relationship between Americans' perceptions of trade and U.S. economic conditions has been particularly strong since 2011. As the unemployment rate declined from over 9% in January 2011 to 4% in January 2019, the percentage of Americans perceiving trade as a threat from imports **dropped by more than half, from 45% to 21%.**

Negative View of Trade vs. Unemployment



Unemployment data retrieved from <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>

Both Republicans and Democrats have become more positive about trade in recent years, each with a particularly sharp improvement after Trump took office in 2017. This likely reflects opposing partisan responses.

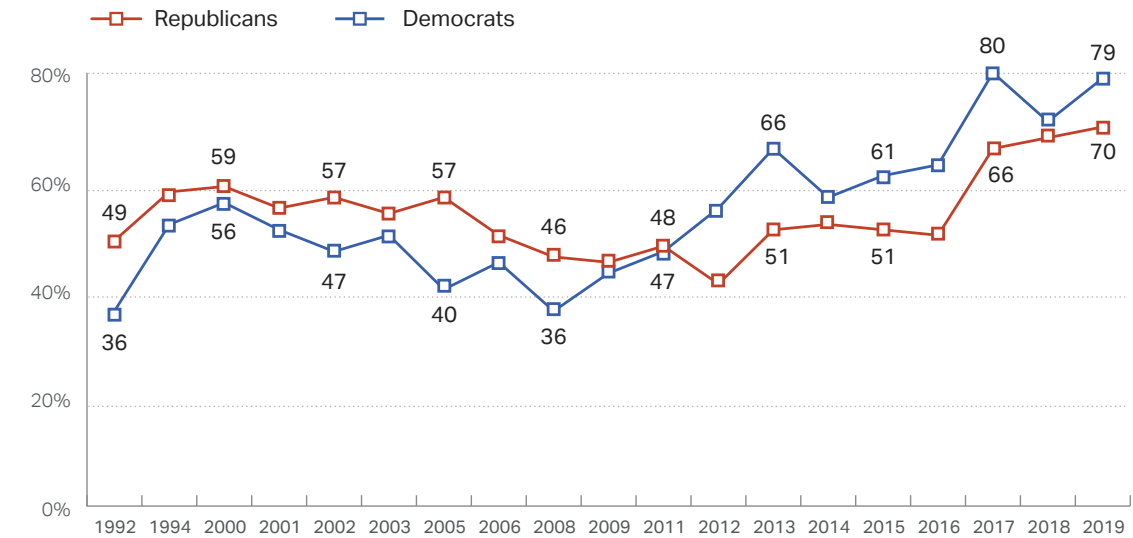
REPUBLICANS

may feel confident that Trump will fulfill his promises to negotiate more favorable trade deals for the U.S.

DEMOCRATS

may be more upbeat about trade as a way to dispute Trump's strong statements against NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) trade agreement.

Percentage Saying Trade Is Opportunity for Economic Growth

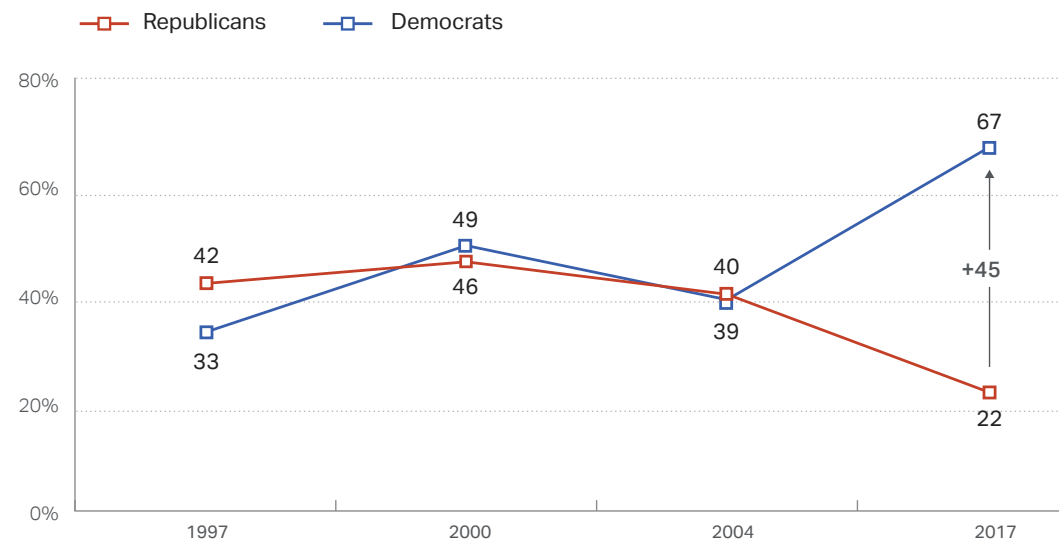


NAFTA Attitudes Showcase Partisan Divide on Trade

There is a **45-percentage-point gap** in the percentage of Democrats versus Republicans who say that NAFTA has been good for the United States. Since Gallup measured this in 2004, Democrats' support for NAFTA has surged, while Republicans' has plunged.

Percentage Thinking NAFTA Has Been Good for the U.S.

Thinking about the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Mexico — also known as NAFTA — overall, do you think NAFTA has been good for the U.S. or bad for the U.S.?

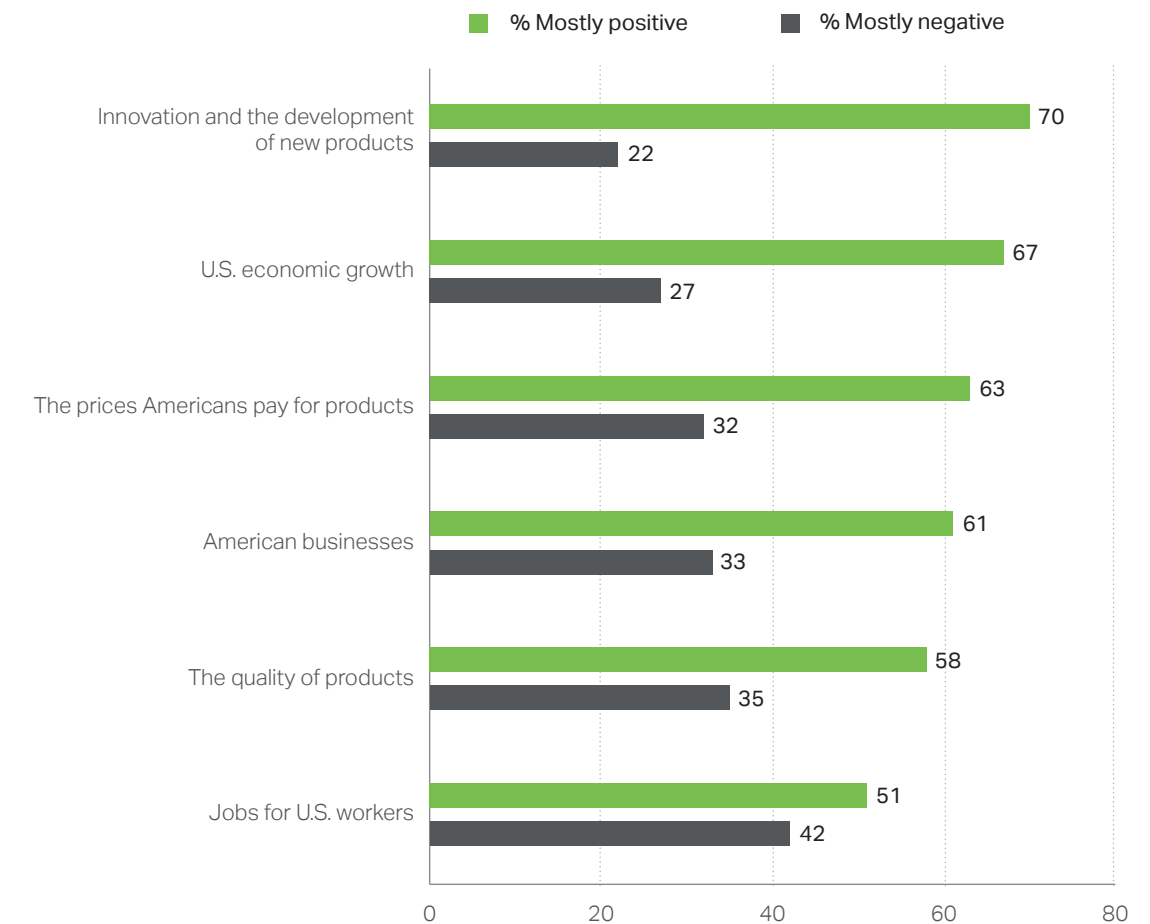


Trade Seen as Beneficial to U.S. More Broadly

Most Americans today believe trade is beneficial to several key aspects of the economy — particularly innovation and economic growth. Americans are the least positive about the effect that trade has on the availability of jobs for U.S. workers. Still, the slight majority say U.S. trade with other countries has a mostly positive effect on jobs for U.S. workers. Notably, Republicans and Democrats largely agree about the impact that trade has in these areas.

Effect That Trade With Other Countries Has on Each Aspect

Do you think U.S. trade with other countries has a mostly positive effect or a mostly negative effect on — [RANDOM ORDER]?



Survey administered in February 2019. "No opinion" responses not included.

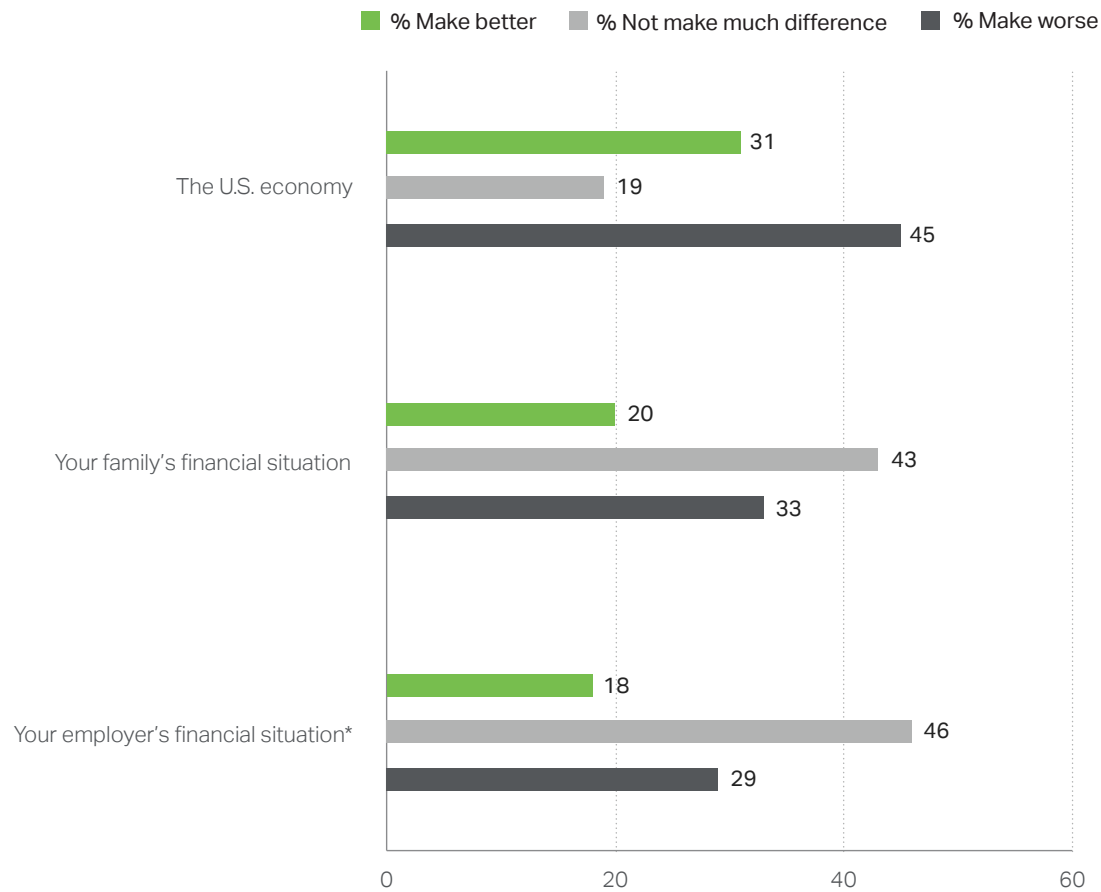
Enthusiasm for U.S.-China Trade War Is Scarce

Relatively few Americans in 2018, 31%, thought the tariffs imposed by both countries during the ongoing U.S.-China trade war would have a positive effect on the U.S. economy. **Less than half, 45%, said the tariffs would make things worse, while 19% thought the tariffs wouldn't make much difference to the economy in the long run.**

Americans were even more ambivalent about the effect of the trade war on their own financial situation and, in the case of U.S. workers, on their employer's financial situation.

Effect New U.S.-China Tariffs Would Have on Each

In the long run, do you think these new tariffs will make things better, not make much difference or make things worse for each of the following? How about — [RANDOM ORDER]?



Survey administered in July 2018. "No opinion" responses not included.

*Based on employed adults

Final Thoughts

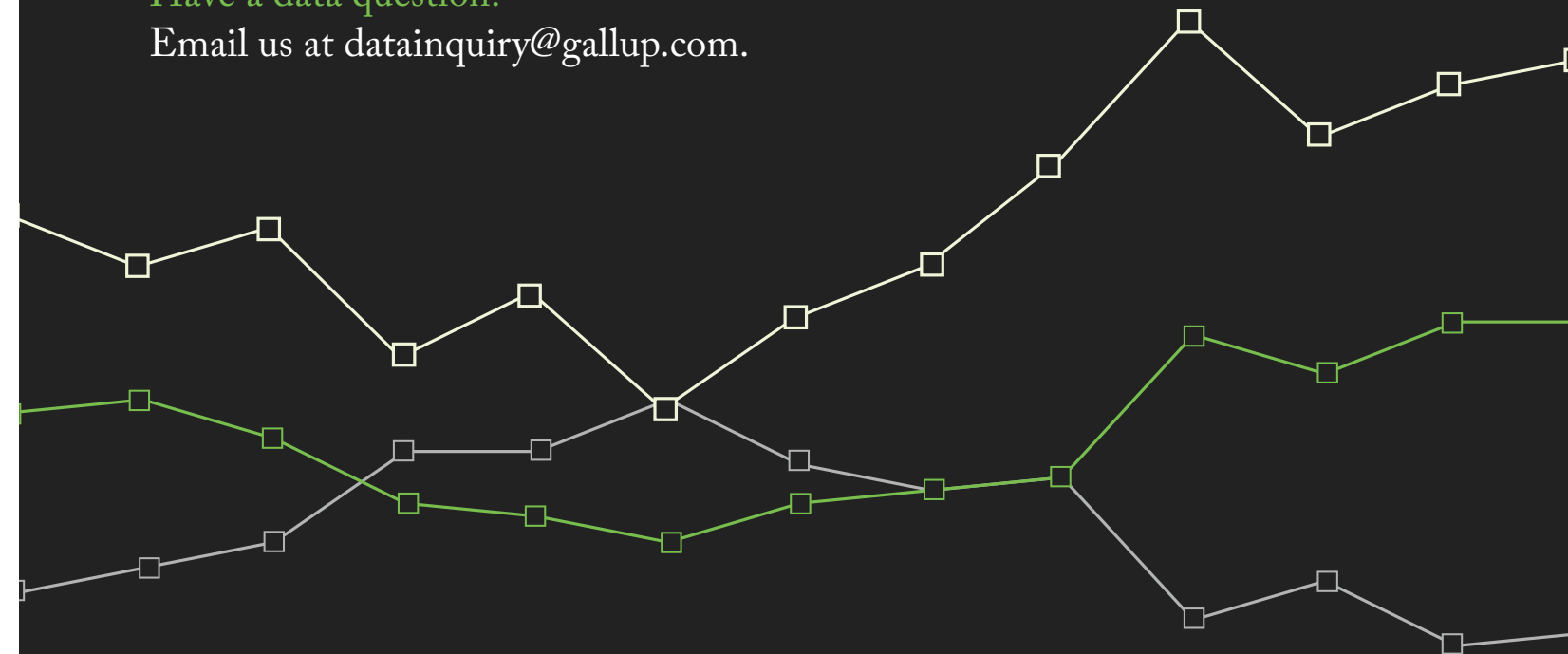
In 2017, at the start of Trump's presidency, 71% of Americans said that promoting favorable trade policies for the U.S. in foreign markets ought to be a very important foreign policy goal of the United States.

In recent years, Republicans and Democrats have diverged on whether NAFTA has been positive for the U.S., with support surging among Democrats and sinking among Republicans.

The difference of opinion may have given rise to broader support among both parties for trade generally, with Democrats likely considering old trade agreements as beneficial and Republicans thinking about Trump's approach to new trade deals.

Meanwhile, the trade war with China is not generally seen as beneficial to the U.S., but with the economy still relatively strong and unemployment historically low, Americans don't perceive foreign trade as a threat to the U.S. economy.

Have a data question?
Email us at datainquiry@gallup.com.



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