

# USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

## DECEMBER WAVE 1

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 927615  
G: 603  
Princeton Job #: 10-12-022

Jeff Jones, Lydia Saad  
December 10-12, 2010

---

**Note: Q.3-7, 9-10, 32-40 should be cited as a Gallup poll.**

**Results are based on telephone interviews conducted December 10-12, 2010 with a random sample of –1,019—adults, aged 18+, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit dial sampling.**

**For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points.**

**For results based on the sample of – 840—Internet users, one can say, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points.**

**Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.**

**Samples are weighted on the basis of gender, age, race, education, region and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.**

**In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.**

---

5. In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion		Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion
2010				2007			
2010 Dec 10-12	17	81	2	2007 Dec 6-9	27	70	3
2010 Nov 4-7	19	79	1	2007 Nov 11-14	20	76	3
2010 Oct 28-31	22	75	3	2007 Oct 12-14	26	72	2
2010 Oct 7-10	21	77	2	2007 Oct 4-7	25	73	2
2010 Sep 13-16	19	79	1	2007 Sep 14-16	28	71	2
2010 Aug 27-30	20	78	2	2007 Aug 13-16	24	73	3
2010 Aug 5-8	21	77	2	2007 Jul 12-15	27	71	3
2010 Jul 8-11	21	76	3	2007 Jun 11-14	24	74	2
2010 Jun 11-13	23	75	1	2007 May 10-13	25	73	2
2010 May 24-25	25	73	2	2007 Apr 2-5	33	65	2
2010 May 3-6	24	74	2	2007 Mar 11-14	30	68	2
2010 Apr 8-11	27	71	2	2007 Feb 1-4	34	64	2
2010 Mar 26-28	23	75	2	2007 Jan 15-18	35	63	2
2010 Mar 4-7	19	79	2	2006			
2010 Feb 1-3	21	77	2	2006 Dec 11-14	30	69	1
2010 Jan 8-10	23	76	2	2006 Nov 9-12	31	67	2
2009				2006 Nov 2-5	35	61	4
2009 Dec 11-13	25	73	2	2006 Oct 9-12	30	68	2
2009 Nov 5-8	24	74	1	2006 Sep 7-10	32	67	2
2009 Oct 16-19	26	72	2	2006 Aug 7-10	28	69	3
2009 Oct 1-4	26	71	3	2006 Jul 21-23	33	65	2
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	29	70	1	2006 Jul 6-9	32	65	3
2009 Aug 6-8 ♣	36	63	1	2006 Jun 1-4	30	67	2
2009 July 10-12 ♣	30	65	5	2006 May 8-11	25	72	3
2009 June 14-16 ♣	34	63	4	2006 Apr 10-13	27	71	2
2009 May 7-9 ♣	35	62	3	2006 Mar 13-16	29	68	2
2009 Apr 6-8 ♣	26	69	6	2006 Feb 6-9	35	62	3
2009 Mar 5-7 ♣	19	77	4	2006 Jan 20-22	35	62	3
2009 Feb 9-11 ♣	15	82	3	2006 Jan 9-12	36	61	3
2009 Jan 3-5 ♣	13	85	3	2005			
2008				2005 Dec 19-22	36	62	2
2008 Dec 4-7	10	88	2	2005 Dec 5-8	35	62	3
2008 Nov 13-16	11	87	2	2005 Nov 17-20	36	62	2
2008 Nov 7-9	13	84	3	2005 Nov 7-10	31	66	3
2008 Oct 31-Nov 2	13	85	2	2005 Oct 24-26	35	63	2
2008 Oct 10-12	7	91	1	2005 Oct 13-16	31	68	1
2008 Oct 3-5	9	90	1	2005 Sep 26-28	39	59	2
2008 Sep 8-11	21	77	2	2005 Sep 12-15	34	65	1
2008 Aug 21-23	18	81	1	2005 Aug 22-25	34	62	4
2008 Aug 7-10	17	80	3	2005 Aug 8-11	37	60	3
2008 Jul 10-13	17	81	2	2005 Jul 25-28	40	58	2
2008 Jun 9-12	14	84	2	2005 Jul 7-10	42	57	1
2008 May 8-11	14	85	1	2005 Jun 16-19	42	56	2
2008 Apr 6-9	15	83	1	2005 Jun 6-8	38	60	2
2008 Mar 6-9	19	80	2	2005 May 23-26	41	55	4
2008 Feb 11-14	20	78	2	2005 May 2-5	39	58	3
2008 Jan 4-6	24	73	3	2005 Apr 4-7	38	59	3
				2005 Mar 21-23	38	59	3

U.S. Satisfaction trend continued on the next page

Q.5 (U.S. SATISFACTION) CONTINUED

	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion		Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion
2005				2002			
2005 Mar 7-10	42	56	2	2002 Mar 4-7	61	37	2
2005 Feb 21-24	45	52	3	2002 Feb 4-6	61	37	2
2005 Feb 7-10	46	52	2	2002 Jan 7-9	65	32	3
2005 Jan 3-5	46	53	1	2001			
2004				2001 Dec 6-9	70	28	2
2004 Dec 5-8	45	53	2	2001 Nov 8-11	65	33	2
2004 Nov 7-10	44	54	2	2001 Oct 11-14	67	29	4
2004 Oct 29-31 ^	44	53	3	2001 Sep 14-15	61	36	3
2004 Oct 11-14	41	57	2	2001 Sep 7-10	43	55	2
2004 Sep 13-15	41	56	3	2001 Aug 16-19	48	49	3
2004 Aug 9-11	44	55	1	2001 Jul 19-22	51	46	3
2004 Jul 8-11	41	57	2	2001 Jun 11-17	51	46	3
2004 Jun 3-6	39	59	2	2001 May 10-14	46	50	4
2004 May 7-9	37	62	1	2001 Apr 6-8	50	47	3
2004 May 2-4	36	62	2	2001 Mar 5-7	53	44	3
2004 Apr 5-8	41	57	2	2001 Feb 1-4	51	45	4
2004 Mar 8-11	39	60	1	2001 Jan 10-14	56	41	3
2004 Feb 9-12	45	54	1	2000			
2004 Jan 12-15	46	53	1	2000 Dec 2-4	51	46	3
2004 Jan 2-5	55	43	2	2000 Nov 13-15	58	41	1
2003				2000 Oct 6-9	62	36	2
2003 Dec 11-14	50	48	2	2000 Aug 29-Sep 5	59	38	3
2003 Nov 3-5	44	54	2	2000 Aug 18-19	63	33	4
2003 Oct 6-8	41	57	2	2000 Jul 14-16	61	35	4
2003 Sep 8-10	40	58	2	2000 Jun 22-25	56	39	5
2003 Aug 4-6	46	52	2	2000 May 18-21	55	42	3
2003 Jul 7-9	50	48	2	2000 Apr 3-9	59	37	4
2003 Jun 12-15	47	51	2	2000 Feb 25-27	65	32	3
2003 May 5-7	54	45	1	2000 Jan 7-10	69	28	3
2003 Apr 7-9	55	41	4	1999			
2003 Mar 22-23	60	38	2	1999 Sep 23-26	52	45	3
2003 Mar 3-5	36	61	3	1999 Aug 24-26	62	35	3
2003 Feb 17-19	39	58	3	1999 Jun 11-13	55	42	3
2003 Feb 3-6	40	58	2	1999 May 23-24	51	46	3
2003 Jan 13-16	42	56	2	1999 Apr 26-27	51	45	4
2002				1999 Apr 13-14	58	39	3
2002 Dec 5-8	46	51	3	1999 Feb 12-13	71	26	3
2002 Nov 11-14	48	48	4	1999 Jan 15-17	70	28	2
2002 Oct 31-Nov 3	48	47	5	1998			
2002 Oct 3-6	47	49	4	1998 Dec 28-29	50	48	2
2002 Sep 5-8	47	51	2	1998 Oct 29-Nov 1	60	34	6
2002 Aug 5-8	47	50	3	1998 Aug 21-23	63	34	3
2002 Jul 26-28	48	49	3	1998 Aug 10-12	60	36	4
2002 Jul 22-24	49	47	4	1998 May 8-10	59	36	5
2002 Jul 9-11	49	48	3	1998 Apr 17-19	58	38	4
2002 Jun 3-6	52	44	4	1998 Feb 20-22	64	32	4
2002 May 6-9	56	40	4	1998 Feb 13-15	59	37	4
2002 Apr 8-11	61	37	2	1998 Jan 30-Feb 1	63	35	2

U.S. Satisfaction trend continued on the next page

Q.5 (U.S. SATISFACTION) CONTINUED

	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion		Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	No opinion
1997				1991			
1997 Dec 18-21	50	46	4	1991 Dec 5-8	37	60	3
1997 Aug 22-25	50	48	2	1991 Oct 31-Nov 2	35	62	3
1997 May 6-7	46	51	3	1991 Oct 10-13	39	57	4
1997 Jan 10-13	50	47	3	1991 Aug 23-25	49	45	6
1996				1991 Jul 11-14	43	50	7
1996 Dec 9-11	43	55	2	1991 May 23-26	49	49	2
1996 Nov 21-24	47	47	6	1991 Mar 21-24	52	43	5
1996 Oct 26-29	39	56	5	1991 Feb 28-Mar 3	66	31	3
1996 Aug 30-Sep 1	45	50	5	1991 Feb 14-17	54	40	6
1996 Aug 16-18	38	57	5	1991 Jan 17-21	62	33	5
1996 May 9-12	37	60	3	1991 Jan 3-6	32	61	7
1996 Mar 15-17	36	61	3	1990			
1996 Mar 8-10	41	56	3	1990 Dec 13-16	33	64	3
1996 Jan 5-7	24	72	4	1990 Nov 1-4	32	64	4
1995				1990 Oct 25-28	31	66	3
1995 Aug 11-14	33	64	3	1990 Oct 11-14	29	67	4
1995 Jul 7-9	32	65	3	1990 Sep 27-30	37	58	5
1995 Mar 27-29	30	66	4	1990 Aug 30-Sep 2	51	44	5
1994				1990 Aug 9-12	43	51	6
1994 Nov 28-29	29	67	4	1990 Jul 19-22	45	51	4
1994 Nov 2-6	30	66	4	1990 Feb 8-11	55	39	6
1994 Oct 22-25	31	66	3	1989			
1994 Jul 15-17	33	65	2	1989 May 4-7	44	50	6
1994 May 20-22	33	64	3	1989 Jan 27-Feb 5	45	50	5
1994 Apr 22-24	32	65	3	1988			
1994 Mar 25-27	35	62	3	1988 Sep 25-Oct 1	56	40	4
1994 Feb 26-28	36	61	3	1988 May 13-15	41	54	5
1994 Jan 15-17	35	62	3	1987			
1993				1987 Aug 24-Sep 2	45	49	6
1993 Dec 4-6	34	63	3	1986			
1993 Nov 2-4	27	70	3	1986 Dec 4-5 ‡	47	49	4
1993 May 21-23	24	73	3	1986 Sep 13-17	58	38	4
1993 Feb 12-14	25	71	4	1986 Jun 9-16	69	26	5
1993 Jan 8-11	29	68	3	1986 Mar 7-10	66	30	4
1992				1985			
1992 Nov 11-12	26	68	6	1985 Nov 11-18	51	46	3
1992 Aug 28-Sep 2 ♠	22	73	5	1984			
1992 Jul 31-Aug 2	17	80	3	1984 Dec 7-10	52	40	8
1992 Jun 12-14	14	84	2	1984 Sep 28-Oct 1	48	45	7
1992 May 7-10	20	77	3	1984 Feb 10-13	50	46	4
1992 Apr 20-22 ^	19	80	1	1983			
1992 Mar 20-22	19	80	1	1983 Aug 5-8	35	59	6
1992 Feb 28-Mar 1	21	78	1	1982			
1992 Jan 31-Feb 2 †	24	75	1	1982 Nov 5-8	24	72	4
1992 Jan 3-6 †	24	74	2	1982 Sep 17-20	24	72	4
				1982 Apr 2-5	25	71	4

U.S. Satisfaction trend continued on the next page

Q.5 (U.S. SATISFACTION) CONTINUED

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
1981				1979			
1981 Dec 11-14	27	67	6	1979 Nov 2-5	19	77	4
1981 Jun 5-8	33	61	6	1979 Jul 13-16	12	84	4
1981 Jan 9-12	17	78	5	1979 Feb 2-5	26	69	5

^ Asked of a half sample.

† Registered voters

‡ Gallup/Newsweek

♣ Gallup/CNN/Knight-Ridder

♣ Gallup Daily Poll

6. What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? [Open-ended]

Recent Trend:		Dec 10-12, 2010	Nov 4-7, 2010	Oct 7-10, 2010	Sep 13-16, 2010	Aug 5-8, 2010	Jul 8-11, 2010	Jun 11-13, 2010
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)		66	69	69	69	65	64	57
1	Economy in general	30	31	35	33	30	31	28
2	Unemployment/jobs	24	33	28	28	28	22	21
3	Federal budget deficit/federal debt	10	9	5	7	7	6	7
4	Taxes	4	2	2	1	2	2	1
5	Lack of money	3	3	4	3	2	3	4
6	Gap between rich and poor	1	1	1	1	*	*	*
7	High cost of living/inflation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	Recession	1	*	1	1	*	1	1
9	Fuel/Oil Prices	1	*	*	*	*	5	*
10	Corporate corruption	*	1	1	*	2	1	1
11	Foreign trade/trade deficit	*	1	*	*	1	*	*
12	Wage issues	*	*	--	*	--	*	*
NON-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)		52	51	46	44	51	53	65
1	Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/politicians; Poor leadership; corruption; abuse of power	13	14	11	11	12	11	14
2	Poor health care/ hospitals; high cost of health care	8	15	10	6	7	7	11
3	Education/poor education/access to education	6	5	5	3	3	3	2
4	Ethics/moral/religious/family decline; dishonesty	5	2	3	3	5	3	4
5	Wars/War (non-specific)/Fear of war	5	3	5	3	4	4	4
6	Immigration/illegal aliens	4	4	4	5	7	7	5
7	Poverty/ hunger/ homelessness	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
8	Lack of respect for each other	2	3	2	1	3	2	2
9	Unifying the country	2	*	*	1	*	*	*
10	Terrorism	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
11	Lack of military defense	1	*	1	1	*	*	*
12	Foreign aid/focus overseas	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
13	National security	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	International issues/ problems	1	1	1	1	1	*	1
15	Environment/ pollution	1	1	1	1	1	2	3
16	Situation/War in Iraq	1	1	1	1	1	3	2
17	Drugs	1	1	*	*	*	1	1
18	Social Security	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	Judicial system/courts/laws	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
20	Situation in China	1	*	*	--	--	*	--
21	Energy/Lack of energy sources	*	*	1	1	1	1	2
22	Situation/War in Afghanistan	*	1	1	*	2	3	1
23	Care for the elderly/Medicare	*	*	1	1	*	1	1
24	Children's behavior/way they are raised	*	*	--	--	--	--	*
25	Race relations/ racism	*	1	*	1	*	1	1
26	Gay rights issues	*	*	*	*	*	--	*
27	War/conflict between Middle East nations	*	--	*	*	1	*	1
28	Abortion	*	1	1	*	*	--	1
29	Crime/violence	*	*	1	1	1	1	1
30	Guns/gun control	*	1	*	--	--	--	*
31	Welfare	*	1	*	*	*	*	1
	Natural disaster response/relief	--	*	--	*	3	7	18
	The media	--	*	*	*	*	1	*
	Elections/Election reform	--	1	*	*	*	*	--
	Other non-economic	3	3	2	3	4	2	1
	No opinion	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
	Total	143%	155%	144%	132%	141%	144%	153%

