

# USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

## DECEMBER WAVE 1

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Timberline: 937012  
G: 997  
Princeton Job #: 11-12-022

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December 15-18, 2011

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**Note: Q. 4-7 should be cited as a Gallup poll.**

**Results are based on telephone interviews conducted December 15-18, 2011 with a random sample of –1,019— adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.**

**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 –898— registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points.**

**For results based on the sample of –468—Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 6$  percentage points.**

**For results based on the sample of –461—Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 6$  percentage points.**

**For results based on the sample of –564—professional football fans, the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 5$  percentage points.**

**Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents by region. Landline numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers, cell phone numbers are selected using random-digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.**

**Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and being cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2010 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in 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.**

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

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b><u>2011</u></b>				2008 Nov 13-16	11	87	2
2011 Dec 15-18	15	84	1	2008 Nov 7-9	13	84	3
				2008 Oct 31-Nov 2	13	85	2
2011 Nov 28-Dec 1	14	86	1	2008 Oct 10-12	7	91	1
2011 Nov 3-6	12	86	2	2008 Oct 3-5	9	90	1
2011 Oct 6-9	13	85	2	2008 Sep 8-11	21	77	2
2011 Sep 8-11	11	88	1	2008 Aug 21-23	18	81	1
2011 Aug 11-14	11	88	1	2008 Aug 7-10	17	80	3
2011 Jul 7-10	16	81	2	2008 Jul 10-13	17	81	2
2011 Jun 9-12	20	78	2	2008 Jun 9-12	14	84	2
2011 May 5-8	26	72	2	2008 May 8-11	14	85	1
2011 Apr 20-23	22	75	3	2008 Apr 6-9	15	83	1
2011 Apr 7-11	19	78	3	2008 Mar 6-9	19	80	2
2011 Mar 3-6	18	80	2	2008 Feb 11-14	20	78	2
2011 Feb 2-5	23	75	2	2008 Jan 4-6	24	73	3
2011 Jan 7-9	19	78	3	<b><u>2007</u></b>			
<b><u>2010</u></b>				2007 Dec 6-9	27	70	3
2010 Dec 10-12	17	81	2	2007 Nov 11-14	20	76	3
2010 Nov 4-7	19	79	1	2007 Oct 12-14	26	72	2
2010 Oct 28-31	22	75	3	2007 Oct 4-7	25	73	2
2010 Oct 7-10	21	77	2	2007 Sep 14-16	28	71	2
2010 Sep 13-16	19	79	1	2007 Aug 13-16	24	73	3
2010 Aug 27-30	20	78	2	2007 Jul 12-15	27	71	3
2010 Aug 5-8	21	77	2	2007 Jun 11-14	24	74	2
2010 Jul 8-11	21	76	3	2007 May 10-13	25	73	2
2010 Jun 11-13	23	75	1	2007 Apr 2-5	33	65	2
2010 May 24-25	25	73	2	2007 Mar 11-14	30	68	2
2010 May 3-6	24	74	2	2007 Feb 1-4	34	64	2
2010 Apr 8-11	27	71	2	2007 Jan 15-18	35	63	2
2010 Mar 26-28	23	75	2	<b><u>2006</u></b>			
2010 Mar 4-7	19	79	2	2006 Dec 11-14	30	69	1
2010 Feb 1-3	21	77	2	2006 Nov 9-12	31	67	2
2010 Jan 8-10	23	76	2	2006 Nov 2-5	35	61	4
<b><u>2009</u></b>				2006 Oct 9-12	30	68	2
2009 Dec 11-13	25	73	2	2006 Sep 7-10	32	67	2
2009 Nov 5-8	24	74	1	2006 Aug 7-10	28	69	3
2009 Oct 16-19	26	72	2	2006 Jul 21-23	33	65	2
2009 Oct 1-4	26	71	3	2006 Jul 6-9	32	65	3
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	29	70	1	2006 Jun 1-4	30	67	2
2009 Aug 6-8 ♣	36	63	1	2006 May 8-11	25	72	3
2009 July 10-12 ♣	30	65	5	2006 Apr 10-13	27	71	2
2009 June 14-16 ♣	34	63	4	2006 Mar 13-16	29	68	2
2009 May 7-9 ♣	35	62	3	2006 Feb 6-9	35	62	3
2009 Apr 6-8 ♣	26	69	6	2006 Jan 20-22	35	62	3
2009 Mar 5-7 ♣	19	77	4	2006 Jan 9-12	36	61	3
2009 Feb 9-11 ♣	15	82	3	<b><u>2005</u></b>			
2009 Jan 3-5 ♣	13	85	3	2005 Dec 19-22	36	62	2
<b><u>2008</u></b>				2005 Dec 5-8	35	62	3
2008 Dec 4-7	10	88	2	2005 Nov 17-20	36	62	2

*U.S. Satisfaction trend continued on the next page*

## Q.5 (U.S. SATISFACTION) CONTINUED

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>No</u> <u>opinion</u>		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>No</u> <u>opinion</u>
2005 Nov 7-10	31	66	3	2003 Jan 13-16	42	56	2
2005 Oct 24-26	35	63	2	<b>2002</b>			
2005 Oct 13-16	31	68	1	2002 Dec 5-8	46	51	3
2005 Sep 26-28	39	59	2	2002 Nov 11-14	48	48	4
2005 Sep 12-15	34	65	1	2002 Oct 31-Nov 3	48	47	5
2005 Aug 22-25	34	62	4	2002 Oct 3-6	47	49	4
2005 Aug 8-11	37	60	3	2002 Sep 5-8	47	51	2
2005 Jul 25-28	40	58	2	2002 Aug 5-8	47	50	3
2005 Jul 7-10	42	57	1	2002 Jul 26-28	48	49	3
2005 Jun 16-19	42	56	2	2002 Jul 22-24	49	47	4
2005 Jun 6-8	38	60	2	2002 Jul 9-11	49	48	3
2005 May 23-26	41	55	4	2002 Jun 3-6	52	44	4
2005 May 2-5	39	58	3	2002 May 6-9	56	40	4
2005 Apr 4-7	38	59	3	2002 Apr 8-11	61	37	2
2005 Mar 21-23	38	59	3	2002 Mar 4-7	61	37	2
2005 Mar 7-10	42	56	2	2002 Feb 4-6	61	37	2
2005 Feb 21-24	45	52	3	2002 Jan 7-9	65	32	3
2005 Feb 7-10	46	52	2	<b>2001</b>			
2005 Jan 3-5	46	53	1	2001 Dec 6-9	70	28	2
<b>2004</b>				2001 Nov 8-11	65	33	2
2004 Dec 5-8	45	53	2	2001 Oct 11-14	67	29	4
2004 Nov 7-10	44	54	2	2001 Sep 14-15	61	36	3
2004 Oct 29-31 ^	44	53	3	2001 Sep 7-10	43	55	2
2004 Oct 11-14	41	57	2	2001 Aug 16-19	48	49	3
2004 Sep 13-15	41	56	3	2001 Jul 19-22	51	46	3
2004 Aug 9-11	44	55	1	2001 Jun 11-17	51	46	3
2004 Jul 8-11	41	57	2	2001 May 10-14	46	50	4
2004 Jun 3-6	39	59	2	2001 Apr 6-8	50	47	3
2004 May 7-9	37	62	1	2001 Mar 5-7	53	44	3
2004 May 2-4	36	62	2	2001 Feb 1-4	51	45	4
2004 Apr 5-8	41	57	2	2001 Jan 10-14	56	41	3
2004 Mar 8-11	39	60	1	<b>2000</b>			
2004 Feb 9-12	45	54	1	2000 Dec 2-4	51	46	3
2004 Jan 12-15	46	53	1	2000 Nov 13-15	58	41	1
2004 Jan 2-5	55	43	2	2000 Oct 6-9	62	36	2
<b>2003</b>				2000 Aug 29-Sep 5	59	38	3
2003 Dec 11-14	50	48	2	2000 Aug 18-19	63	33	4
2003 Nov 3-5	44	54	2	2000 Jul 14-16	61	35	4
2003 Oct 6-8	41	57	2	2000 Jun 22-25	56	39	5
2003 Sep 8-10	40	58	2	2000 May 18-21	55	42	3
2003 Aug 4-6	46	52	2	2000 Apr 3-9	59	37	4
2003 Jul 7-9	50	48	2	2000 Feb 25-27	65	32	3
2003 Jun 12-15	47	51	2	2000 Jan 7-10	69	28	3
2003 May 5-7	54	45	1	<b>1999</b>			
2003 Apr 7-9	55	41	4	1999 Sep 23-26	52	45	3
2003 Mar 22-23	60	38	2	1999 Aug 24-26	62	35	3
2003 Mar 3-5	36	61	3	1999 Jun 11-13	55	42	3
2003 Feb 17-19	39	58	3				
2003 Feb 3-6	40	58	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
1999 May 23-24	51	46	3	<b>1992</b>			
1999 Apr 26-27	51	45	4	1992 Nov 11-12	26	68	6
1999 Apr 13-14	58	39	3	1992 Aug 28-Sep 2 ♠	22	73	5
1999 Feb 12-13	71	26	3	1992 Jul 31-Aug 2	17	80	3
1999 Jan 15-17	70	28	2	1992 Jun 12-14	14	84	2
<b>1998</b>				1992 May 7-10	20	77	3
1998 Dec 28-29	50	48	2	1992 Apr 20-22 ^	19	80	1
1998 Oct 29-Nov 1	60	34	6	1992 Mar 20-22	19	80	1
1998 Aug 21-23	63	34	3	1992 Feb 28-Mar 1	21	78	1
1998 Aug 10-12	60	36	4	1992 Jan 31-Feb 2 †	24	75	1
1998 May 8-10	59	36	5	1992 Jan 3-6 †	24	74	2
1998 Apr 17-19	58	38	4	<b>1991</b>			
1998 Feb 20-22	64	32	4	1991 Dec 5-8	37	60	3
1998 Feb 13-15	59	37	4	1991 Oct 31-Nov 2	35	62	3
1998 Jan 30-Feb 1	63	35	2	1991 Oct 10-13	39	57	4
<b>1997</b>				1991 Aug 23-25	49	45	6
1997 Dec 18-21	50	46	4	1991 Jul 11-14	43	50	7
1997 Aug 22-25	50	48	2	1991 May 23-26	49	49	2
1997 May 6-7	46	51	3	1991 Mar 21-24	52	43	5
1997 Jan 10-13	50	47	3	1991 Feb 28-Mar 3	66	31	3
<b>1996</b>				1991 Feb 14-17	54	40	6
1996 Dec 9-11	43	55	2	1991 Jan 17-21	62	33	5
1996 Nov 21-24	47	47	6	1991 Jan 3-6	32	61	7
1996 Oct 26-29	39	56	5	<b>1990</b>			
1996 Aug 30-Sep 1	45	50	5	1990 Dec 13-16	33	64	3
1996 Aug 16-18	38	57	5	1990 Nov 1-4	32	64	4
1996 May 9-12	37	60	3	1990 Oct 25-28	31	66	3
1996 Mar 15-17	36	61	3	1990 Oct 11-14	29	67	4
1996 Mar 8-10	41	56	3	1990 Sep 27-30	37	58	5
1996 Jan 5-7	24	72	4	1990 Aug 30-Sep 2	51	44	5
<b>1995</b>				1990 Aug 9-12	43	51	6
1995 Aug 11-14	33	64	3	1990 Jul 19-22	45	51	4
1995 Jul 7-9	32	65	3	1990 Feb 8-11	55	39	6
1995 Mar 27-29	30	66	4	<b>1989</b>			
<b>1994</b>				1989 May 4-7	44	50	6
1994 Nov 28-29	29	67	4	1989 Jan 27-Feb 5	45	50	5
1994 Nov 2-6	30	66	4	<b>1988</b>			
1994 Oct 22-25	31	66	3	1988 Sep 25-Oct 1	56	40	4
1994 Jul 15-17	33	65	2	1988 May 13-15	41	54	5
1994 May 20-22	33	64	3	<b>1987</b>			
1994 Apr 22-24	32	65	3	1987 Aug 24-Sep 2	45	49	6
1994 Mar 25-27	35	62	3	<b>1986</b>			
1994 Feb 26-28	36	61	3	1986 Dec 4-5 ‡	47	49	4
1994 Jan 15-17	35	62	3	1986 Sep 13-17	58	38	4
<b>1993</b>				1986 Jun 9-16	69	26	5
1993 Dec 4-6	34	63	3	1986 Mar 7-10	66	30	4
1993 Nov 2-4	27	70	3	<b>1985</b>			
1993 May 21-23	24	73	3	1985 Nov 11-18	51	46	3
1993 Feb 12-14	25	71	4				
1993 Jan 8-11	29	68	3				

*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>
<b><u>1984</u></b>				<b><u>1981</u></b>			
1984 Dec 7-10	52	40	8	1981 Dec 11-14	27	67	6
1984 Sep 28-Oct 1	48	45	7	1981 Jun 5-8	33	61	6
1984 Feb 10-13	50	46	4	1981 Jan 9-12	17	78	5
<b><u>1983</u></b>				<b><u>1979</u></b>			
1983 Aug 5-8	35	59	6	1979 Nov 2-5	19	77	4
<b><u>1982</u></b>				1979 Jul 13-16	12	84	4
1982 Nov 5-8	24	72	4	1979 Feb 2-5	26	69	5
1982 Sep 17-20	24	72	4				
1982 Apr 2-5	25	71	4				

^ 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]

	Dec 15-18, 2011	Nov 3-6, 2011	Oct 6-9, 2011	Sep 8-11, 2011	Aug 11-14, 2011	Jul 7-10, 2011	Jun 9-12, 2011
<i>Recent Trend:</i>							
<b>ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>
Economy in general	26	30	31	28	31	31	36
Unemployment/Jobs	25	36	32	39	29	27	24
Federal budget deficit/Federal debt	12	6	9	12	17	16	11
Lack of money	4	6	5	4	7	4	5
Corporate corruption	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Gap between rich and poor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fuel/Oil prices	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Taxes	1	2	1	2	2	3	1
Foreign trade/Trade deficit	1	*	1	1	*	*	*
High cost of living/Inflation	1	3	1	1	1	2	2
Wage issues	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recession	--	1	1	1	*	1	*
<b>NON-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (NET)</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>
Dissatisfaction with government/Congress/politicians;	16	13	13	14	14	9	8
Poor leadership/Corruption/Abuse of power	6	3	3	3	4	3	4
Ethics/moral/religious/family decline; Dishonesty	5	4	5	7	5	8	9
Poor healthcare/hospitals; High cost of healthcare	5	2	1	*	1	2	2
Poverty/ Hunger/Homelessness	4	3	3	4	2	4	4
Education/Poor education/Access to education	4	2	1	2	3	2	2
Lack of respect for each other	3	3	3	4	2	4	5
Immigration/Illegal aliens	2	1	*	1	1	2	1
Judicial system/Courts/Laws	1	1	2	1	1	*	1
Race relations/Racism	1	*	1	1	*	*	1
Unifying the country	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Foreign aid/Focus overseas	1	3	2	3	2	5	3
Wars/War (nonspecific)/Fear of war	1	*	*	*	*	1	2
International issues, problems	1	1	1	2	2	2	*
Social Security	1	*	1	2	1	1	1
Care for the elderly/Medicare	1	1	2	1	1	*	1
Terrorism	1	1	*	1	*	*	*
National security	1	*	*	*	*	1	*
Gay rights issues	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Energy/Lack of energy sources	1	*	1	1	*	1	1
Welfare	1	1	1	1	*	1	*
Environment/Pollution	1	*	*	*	*	1	1
Situation/War in Afghanistan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Situation in Iraq	*	1	1	1	1	1	1
Drugs	*	--	*	*	*	*	*
Children's behavior/Way they are raised	*	*	--	*	*	*	*
Lack of military defense	*	1	*	1	1	1	1
Overpopulation	*	*	1	*	*	*	*
Abortion	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Crime/Violence	*	1	1	*	*	1	1
Elections/Election reform	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
War/conflict between Middle East nations	*	*	*	*	--	*	1
Guns/Gun control	--	--	*	--	--	*	--
The media	--	--	*	*	*	*	*
Advancement of computers/Technology	--	--	*	--	*	*	*
Other non-economic	6	2	3	2	1	6	3
No opinion	1	2	3	1	3	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>141%</b>	<b>137%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>149%</b>	<b>142%</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>147%</b>

