

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

SOCIAL SECURITY

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

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Jeff Jones, Lydia Saad
July 8-12 and August 5-9, 2015

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted July 8-12 and August 5-9, 2015 with a random sample of – 2,020—adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on this sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of –1,282—non-retirees, the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –738—retirees, the margin of sampling error is ± 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 of national adults includes a minimum quota of 50% cell phone respondents and 50% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by region. Landline and cell phone telephone 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 to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2014 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the July-December 2014 National Health Interview Survey. Population density targets are based on the 2010 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

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.

Q.1-33 REPORTED SEPARATELY

Turning to Social Security,

34. *(Asked of non-retired adults)* Do you think the Social Security system will be able to pay you a benefit when you retire?

BASED ON –1,282—NON-RETIREES

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Doesn't apply</u> <u>(vol.)</u> | <u>No</u> <u>opinion</u> |
|----------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2015 Jul-Aug | 45 | 51 | 1 | 4 |
| 2010 Jul 8-11 | 36 | 60 | 1 | 2 |
| 2005 Jan 7-9 | 45 | 50 | 1 | 4 |
| 2001 Mar 26-28 | 52 | 41 | 2 | 5 |
| 2000 Aug 11-12 | 49 | 42 | 2 | 7 |
| 1994 Jan | 47 | 52 | -- | 1 |
| 1992 Mar | 49 | 49 | -- | 2 |
| 1991 Mar | 49 | 48 | -- | 3 |
| 1991 Mar | 51 | 42 | -- | 7 |
| 1990 Mar | 48 | 47 | -- | 5 |
| 1989 Dec | 49 | 47 | -- | 4 |

35. *(Asked of retired adults)* Do you think the Social Security system will be able to continue to pay you full benefits, or do you think there will eventually be cuts in your benefits?

BASED ON –738—RETIREES

| | <u>Continue to get</u> <u>full benefits</u> | <u>Will be cut</u> <u>in benefits</u> | <u>Doesn't apply</u> <u>(vol.)</u> | <u>No</u> <u>opinion</u> |
|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2015 Jul-Aug | 49 | 43 | 2 | 7 |
| 2010 Jul 8-11 | 37 | 56 | 2 | 6 |
| 2005 Jan 7-9 | 57 | 32 | 4 | 7 |

36. Which of these statements do you think best describes the Social Security system -- it is in a state of crisis, it has major problems, it has minor problems, or it does not have any problems?

| | <u>Crisis</u> | <u>Major problems</u> | <u>Minor problems</u> | <u>Does not have any problems</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2015 Jul-Aug | 21 | 45 | 28 | 5 | 1 |
| 2010 Jul 8-11 | 26 | 51 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| 2005 Feb 4-6 | 17 | 55 | 23 | 4 | 1 |
| 2005 Jan 7-9 | 18 | 53 | 24 | 3 | 2 |
| 2002 Sep 20-22 ^ | 13 | 54 | 29 | 3 | 1 |
| 1998 Dec 4-6 ^ | 15 | 55 | 23 | 5 | 2 |

^ WORDING: Which of these statements do you think best describes the Social Security system today -- the Social Security system is in a state of crisis, it has major problems, it has minor problems, or it does not have any problems?

37. If you had to choose one of the following approaches to ensuring Social Security's long-term future, would you rather -- [ROTATED: raise Social Security taxes (or) curb the amount of benefits for future Social Security recipients]?

| | <u>Raise taxes</u> | <u>Curb benefits</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2015 Jul-Aug | 51 | 37 | 12 |
| 2010 Jul 8-11 | 49 | 40 | 11 |
| 2005 Apr 29-May 1 | 53 | 38 | 9 |