



GfK Custom Research
North America



THE AP-GfK POLL

Conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media

Interview dates: February 12-17, 2009

Interviews: 1,001 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Please refer to the exact sample number at the bottom of each table.

All results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09	12/03/08- 12/08/08	11/06/08- 11/10/08	10/16/08- 10/20/08	09/05/08- 09/10/08
Right direction	40	35	32	36	17	26
Wrong direction	49	54	60	56	78	70
Don't know	11	11	8	8	5	4
Refused	*	*	*	0	1	0

Based on: N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,000 N=1,001 N=1,101 N=1,217

CUR2./

CUR3. Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president.

IF "APPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve?

IF "DISAPPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

IF "NEITHER," ASK: If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09*	12/03/08- 12/08/08*
Total Approve	67	74	73
Strongly approve	37	43	41
Somewhat approve	23	26	27
Neither/Lean approve	8	5	5
(VOL) Neither—don't lean	4	4	5
Total Disapprove	24	15	14
Neither—lean disapprove	4	3	2
Somewhat disapprove	4	5	5
Strongly disapprove	16	7	6
Don't know	5	6	8
Refused	*	*	*

Based on: N=1,001 N=1,001 N=1,000

* NOTE: Trend comparisons based on the question worded, "Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the transition to the presidency."

CUR4./

CUR5. Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job.

IF "APPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve?

IF "DISAPPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

IF "NEITHER," ASK: If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Congress is handling its job?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	12/03/08- 12/08/08	11/06/08- 11/10/08	10/16/08- 10/20/08
Total Approve	31	24	21	22
Strongly approve	6	3	2	4
Somewhat approve	21	18	15	15
Neither/Lean approve	5	3	4	4
(VOL) Neither—don't lean	5	2	3	1
Total Disapprove	59	67	71	74
Neither—lean disapprove	4	3	6	7
Somewhat disapprove	20	26	25	24
Strongly disapprove	35	38	40	43
Don't know	4	7	5	2
Refused	*	1	1	0

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,000

N=1,001

N=1,101

CURJX. The following are phrases some people use to describe political leaders. For each phrase, please tell me if it describes BARACK OBAMA very well, somewhat well, slightly well, or not at all well. The first phrase is... [RANDOMIZE]

He understands the problems of ordinary Americans...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Very/Somewhat Well	78	81
Very well	51	52
Somewhat well	27	29
Total Slightly/Not At All Well	21	18
Slightly well	9	7
Not at all well	12	11
Don't know	1	1
Refused	-	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

Continues...

CURJX Continued...

He will keep America safe...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Very/Somewhat Well	66	77
Very well	36	40
Somewhat well	30	37
Total Slightly/Not At All Well	29	21
Slightly well	13	9
Not at all well	16	12
Don't know	6	2
Refused	-	*

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

He cares about people like you...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Very/Somewhat Well	76	79
Very well	52	53
Somewhat well	24	26
Total Slightly/Not At All Well	22	19
Slightly well	9	7
Not at all well	13	12
Don't know	2	2
Refused	-	*

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

He is a strong leader...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Very/Somewhat Well	75	78
Very well	50	54
Somewhat well	25	24
Total Slightly/Not At All Well	21	17
Slightly well	10	8
Not at all well	11	9
Don't know	5	4
Refused	-	*

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

CURJ13. People have suggested various ways that the government could act to try to fix the economy. How much do you think each of the following would help fix the country's economic problems: a great deal, some, only a little, or no help at all? [RANDOMIZE]

Cutting taxes...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Great Deal/Some	73	73
Great deal	36	31
Some	37	42
Total Only a Little/No Help at All	25	26
Only a little	15	16
No help at all	10	9
Don't know	3	1
Refused	-	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

Putting more money into the hands of poor people...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Great Deal/Some	62	56
Great deal	30	21
Some	32	35
Total Only a Little/No Help at All	37	42
Only a little	18	22
No help at all	19	20
Don't know	1	2
Refused	-	-

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

Continues...

CURJ13 Continued...

Increasing spending on domestic programs like health care, education and housing...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Great Deal/Some	76	73
Great deal	43	37
Some	32	36
Total Only a Little/No Help at All	24	27
Only a little	12	13
No help at all	11	14
Don't know	1	1
Refused	-	-

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

Pulling out of Iraq...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Great Deal/Some	65	69
Great deal	41	41
Some	25	28
Total Only a Little/No Help at All	31	29
Only a little	12	14
No help at all	19	15
Don't know	4	2
Refused	*	-

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

Increasing spending on infrastructure, like highways and public buildings...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Great Deal/Some	69	69
Great deal	34	33
Some	34	36
Total Only a Little/No Help at All	30	29
Only a little	17	17
No help at all	13	12
Don't know	1	2
Refused	-	*

Based on: *N=1,001* *N=1,001*

CURJ14. Do you favor or oppose the new economic stimulus package of nearly \$800 billion in government spending and tax cuts?

[IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE]: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09 ¹
Total Favor	52	55
Strongly favor	23	26
Somewhat favor	29	29
Total Oppose	41	38
Somewhat oppose	14	19
Strongly oppose	27	19
Don't know	7	7
Refused	-	*

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

CURJ15. How confident are you that such a stimulus package would work to bring about significant improvements in the U.S. economy? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09
Total Confident	54	58
Very confident	12	14
Somewhat confident	43	44
Total Not Confident	45	41
Not too confident	21	23
Not at all confident	24	18
Don't know	1	2
Refused	-	-

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

¹ In the January questionnaire, the question read: "Do you favor or oppose Congress passing a new economic stimulus package of nearly \$800 billion in government spending and tax cuts?"

CUR30/30a. Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

IF "APPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve?

IF "DISAPPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

IF "NEITHER," ASK: If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Total Approve	68
Strongly approve	32
Somewhat approve	33
Neither/Lean approve	3
(VOL) Neither—don't lean	3
Total Disapprove	27
Neither—lean disapprove	3
Somewhat disapprove	9
Strongly disapprove	15
Don't know	3
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR31/31a. Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling the economy?

IF "APPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve?

IF "DISAPPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

IF "NEITHER," ASK: If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling the economy?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Total Approve	49
Strongly approve	15
Somewhat approve	32
Neither/Lean approve	3
(VOL) Neither—don't lean	4
Total Disapprove	45
Neither—lean disapprove	4
Somewhat disapprove	15
Strongly disapprove	26
Don't know	2
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR32./32a. Overall, please tell me whether you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling the economy?

IF "APPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly approve or somewhat approve?

IF "DISAPPROVE," ASK: Is that strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

IF "NEITHER," ASK: If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling the economy?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Total Approve	33
Strongly approve	7
Somewhat approve	22
Neither/Lean approve	3
(VOL) Neither—don't lean	5
Total Disapprove	59
Neither—lean disapprove	5
Somewhat disapprove	21
Strongly disapprove	33
Don't know	3
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR33. When it comes to solving the country's economic problems, how much do you think Barack Obama is doing to cooperate with the Republicans in Congress? Is he doing...

RANDOMIZE RESPONSES:

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Too much	6
Not enough	30
About the right amount	62
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR33b. When it comes to solving the country's economic problems, how much do you think the Republicans in Congress are doing to cooperate with Barack Obama? Are they doing... RANDOMIZE RESPONSES:

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Too much	5
Not enough	64
About the right amount	27
Don't know (VOL.)	3
Refused (VOL.)	1

Based on:

N=976

CUR34. Thinking about the financial rescue package that was approved by Congress last year to help stabilize banks and the financial industry, do you think that rescue package...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Succeeded in preventing even more serious damage to the economy	16
Did even more damage to the economy than would have happened otherwise	32
Had no real effect on the condition of the economy	47
Don't know (VOL.)	5
Refused (VOL.)	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR35. How easy or difficult is it for you and your family to get ahead financially these days? Would you say...

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Total Difficult	68
Very difficult	34
Somewhat difficult	35
Neither easy nor difficult	18
Total Easy	14
Somewhat easy	11
Very easy	3
Don't know	*
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR36. How much do you worry about each of the following? Do you worry a lot, some, not much, or not at all about... [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

Facing major unexpected medical expenses...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	64
Worry a lot	38
Some	26
Total Not Much/Not at All	35
Not much	16
Not at all	19
Don't know	*
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	1

Based on:

N=1,001

Losing your job...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	47
Worry a lot	28
Some	19
Total Not Much/Not at All	32
Not much	10
Not at all	22
Don't know	*
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	21

Based on:

N=1,001

Seeing the value of your stocks and retirement investments drop...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	69
Worry a lot	48
Some	21
Total Not Much/Not at All	19
Not much	7
Not at all	12
Don't know	*
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	12

Based on:

N=1,001

Continues...

CUR36 Continues...

Being unable to pay your bills...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	65
Worry a lot	38
Some	26
Total Not Much/Not at All	35
Not much	12
Not at all	22
Don't know	-
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	1

Based on: *N=1,001*

Having enough money to send your children to college...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	48
Worry a lot	34
Some	14
Total Not Much/Not at All	21
Not much	5
Not at all	16
Don't know	*
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	31

Based on: *N=1,001*

Being unable to keep up with your mortgage and credit card payments...

	2/12/09-2/17/09
Total Worry a Lot/Some	53
Worry a lot	32
Some	22
Total Not Much/Not at All	37
Not much	11
Not at all	26
Don't know	-
Refused	*
Does not apply (VOL.)	9

Based on: *N=1,001*

CUR37. Looking ahead to your retirement, how confident are you that you will have enough money to live comfortably in retirement?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Total Confident	44
Very confident	10
Somewhat confident	35
Total Not Confident	53
Not too confident	22
Not at all confident	31
Don't know	3
Refused	*

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR38. Thinking of the last 6 months, that is since August of last year, have you or someone in your family lost a job as a result of economic conditions, or not?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Yes (self lost job)	10
Yes (someone in family)	25
No	65
Both (self and family member) (VOL)	1
Don't know (VOL.)	*
Refused (VOL.)	-

Based on:

N=1,001

CUR39. And thinking of the last 6 months, that is since August of last year, has someone you know personally, other than a family member, lost a job as a result of economic conditions, or not?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09
Yes	65
No	35
Don't know (VOL.)	1
Refused (VOL.)	-

Based on:

N=1,001

PID1/
PID2.

Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or none of these?

IF "Democrat," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?

IF "Republican," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?

IF "Independent" OR "None," ASK: Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	2/12/09- 2/17/09	1/09/09- 1/14/09	12/03/08- 12/08/08	11/06/08- 11/10/08
Total Democrat	46	47	44	48
Democrat – strong	18	19	17	21
Democrat – moderate	20	18	19	19
Independent – lean Democratic	9	9	8	8
None – lean Democratic	*	1	1	-
Total Republican	30	27	33	34
Republican – strong	9	8	13	13
Republican – moderate	13	12	13	11
Independent – lean Republican	8	7	7	10
None – lean Republican	*	1	*	-
[VOL] Independent – don't lean	6	7	8	5
[VOL] None – don't lean	-	-	-	-
[VOL] Other	*	*	*	-
Don't know	17	18	15	14
Refused	-	-	-	-

Based on:

N=1,001

N=1,001

N=1,000

N=1,001

The following questions are for classification purposes only. Be assured that your responses will be aggregated with those of other participants to this survey.

DM1. What is your marital status? Are you... [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

Married/Living as married/Co-habiting	59
Separated	2
Divorced	9
Widowed	8
Never married	22
Don't know	-
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

DM2. What is the last grade of school you completed?

Less than high school graduate	12
High school graduate	31
Technical/trade school	6
Some college	22
College graduate	15
Some graduate school	3
Graduate degree	10
Don't know	1
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

DM4. In what year were you born?

Age group:

18-29	21
30-49	37
50-64	23
65+	17
DK/Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

Urban area	22
Suburban area	45
Rural area	31
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Based on: N=1,001

DM6. Do you currently own your home, rent it, or do you have some other arrangement?

Own	64
Rent	26
Other arrangement	9
Don't know	-
Refused	1

Based on: N=1,001

DM7. Are you the parent or guardian of one or more children under the age of 18, or not?

Yes	37
No	62
Don't know	-
Refused	1

Based on: N=1,001

DM8. How many different landline telephone numbers, if any, are there in your home that I could have reached you on for this call? This includes listed or unlisted numbers. To answer this question, please don't count cell phones or landlines used ONLY for faxes or modems.

No lines	17
One Line	77
Two lines	4
Three or more lines	1
Don't know	*
Refused	1

Based on: N=1,001

DM9. And on how many different cell-phone numbers, if any, could I have reached you for this call?

None	16
One	43
Two	25
Three or more	14
Don't know	*
Refused	1

Based on:

N=1,001

DM10. [IF BOTH LAND AND CELLPHONE, ASK:] Generally speaking, would you say you use your landline phone most of the time, your cell phone most of the time, or would you say you use both about equally?

Landline	33
Cell phone	34
Both equally	34
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Based on:

N=699

DM10a. How many adults, in addition to you, carry and use this cell phone at least once a week or more?

None	64
One	27
Two	7
Three or more	2
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Based on:

N=200

DM12. Do you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes, born-again/evangelical	41
No	56
Don't know	1
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM13. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or don't you belong to any religious denomination?

Protestant	36
Catholic	22
Mormon	2
Jewish	1
Muslim	*
Other religion [SPECIFY]	16
Don't belong to religious denomination	21
Don't know	*
Refused	3

Based on:

N=1,001

DM14. [IF "OTHER RELIGION" IN DM13, ASK:] Do you consider yourself a Christian, or not?

Yes, a Christian	88
No, not a Christian	11
Don't know	1
Refused	-

Based on:

N=138

DM15. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? Would you say more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, less often than a few times a year, or never?

More than once a week	11
Once a week	29
Once or twice a month	15
A few times a year	19
Less often than a few times a year	9
Never	15
Don't know	*
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM16. [ASK EVERYONE] Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

Yes	13
No	85
Don't know	*
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM17. [IF SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO (D16=1), ASK:] In addition to being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino, what race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

DM18. [IF NOT SPANISH/HISPANIC/LATINO (D16=2), ASK:] What race or races do you consider yourself to be? [DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

White	76
Black, African-American, or Negro	12
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian Indian	1
Native Hawaiian	-
Chinese	*
Guamanian or Chamorro	-
Filipino	1
Samoan	-
Japanese	*
Korean	-
Vietnamese	-
Other Asian	1
Other Pacific Islander	1
Some other race [SPECIFY]	4
Don't know	1
Refused	3
Multiple races (VOL)	2

Based on:

N=1,001

DM19. Does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall below \$50,000 dollars, or is it \$50,000 or higher? [READ LIST]

Below \$50,000	49
\$50,000+	44
Don't know	1
Refused	6

Based on:

N=1,001

DM20. And in which group does your total household [IF SINGLE: "PERSONAL"] income fall? [READ LIST]

Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	7
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	8
\$150,000 or more	5
Don't know	3
Refused	10

Based on:

N=1,001

DM21. Do you currently own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

Yes	45
No	52
Don't know	1
Refused	2

Based on:

N=1,001

[ASK DM21 ONLY IF YES IN DM21:]

DM22. In the past 12 months, how many times did you make changes in your investments— buying or selling stocks or mutual funds either within or outside an employer-sponsored 401K plan? Would you say...

1	16
2	11
3	4
4	4
5-9 times	7
10-14 times	2
15-19 times	1
20-24	1
25 times or more	4
None	48
Don't know	4
Refused	*

Based on:

N=547

DM25. INTERVIEWER RECORD Respondent's Gender:

Male	49
Female	51

Based on:

N=1,001

REGION:

Northeast	18
Midwest	23
South	37
West	22

Based on:

N=1,001

AP-GfK Poll Methodology

The **Associated Press-GfK Poll** was conducted February 12th – 17th, 2009, by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media – a division of GfK Custom Research North America. This telephone poll is based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 1,001 adults age 18 or older. The interviews were conducted with 801 respondents on landlines and 200 on cellular telephones. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. The survey sample included the contiguous 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

The combined landline and cell phone data were weighted to account for probabilities of selection, as well as age, sex, education and race, using targets from the March 2008 supplement of the Current Population Survey. In addition to these factors, the weighting takes into account the patterns of land and cell phone usage by region from the 2008 Spring estimates provided by Mediamark Research Inc.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total significantly more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

Trend data are displayed for selected questions from previous AP-GfK Polls that also consisted of telephone interviews with nationally-representative probability samples of adults age 18 or older. Details about all AP-GfK Polls are available at <http://www.ap-gfkipoll.com>.