



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Voter opinions on the economy**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – If you want a prism into why Democrats are struggling so much right now, this may sum it up: only 11% of voters across the country say that their economic situation has improved over the last year compared to 42% who think it has become worse. 47% say it's about the same as it was.

The GOP holds a 57-27 generic Congressional ballot lead with those voters who say their fortunes have worsened, while Democrats lead 49-33 with the folks who have improved or stabilized.

Voter opinions are mixed in laying blame for the current state of the economy. By a 47-42 spread they're more likely to hold George W. Bush responsible than Barack Obama. Simultaneously though they say Democrats as a whole bear more responsibility than Republicans by a 46-39 margin. The split on these questions overall is due largely to a split among independents who match the overall results in laying more blame on both Bush and the Democrats.

Overall just 11% of voters in the country rate the economy as excellent or good, with 34% saying it's fair and 53% calling it poor. Democrats are most likely to call it fair while a majority of both Republicans and independents call it poor.

“If Democrats are going to win this fall there's going to need to be a large increase in the proportion of voters who feel their economic situation's improved since Barack Obama took office,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Voters are going to keep ping ponging between the two parties until they feel one of them is really making progress in restoring prosperity.”

PPP surveyed 584 registered voters from January 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## National Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve*..... 48% *Not Sure*..... 4%  
*Disapprove*..... 49%

**Q2** Would you rate the current state of the economy as excellent, good, fair, or poor? If excellent, press 1. If good, press 2. If fair, press 3. If poor, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

*Excellent*..... 5% *Poor*.....53%  
*Good*..... 6% *Not Sure*..... 2%  
*Fair* .....34%

**Q3** Do you think that George W. Bush or Barack Obama bears more responsibility for the current state of the economy? If George W. Bush, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Bush* ..... 47%  
*Obama*..... 42%  
*Not Sure*..... 10%

**Q4** Do you think that Democrats or Republicans bear more responsibility for the current state of the economy? If Democrats, press 1. If Republicans, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Democrats* ..... 46%  
*Republicans*..... 39%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q5** In the last year has your personal economic situation gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same? If better, press 1. If worse, press 2. If about the same, press 3.

*Better*..... 11%  
*Worse* ..... 42%  
*About the Same* ..... 47%

**Q6** Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

*McCain*..... 45%  
*Obama* ..... 52%  
*Someone else/don't remember* ..... 3%

**Q7** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 19%  
*Moderate*..... 40%  
*Conservative*..... 41%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 38%  
*Republican*..... 34%  
*Independent/Other*..... 28%

**Q10** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 10%  
*White* ..... 74%  
*African American* ..... 12%  
*Other*..... 4%





**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	10%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	23%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	49%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	48%	6%	85%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	90%	13%	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	3%	4%	2%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>State of Economy</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	5%	2%	7%	10%
<b>Good</b>	7%	1%	11%	4%
<b>Fair</b>	34%	23%	44%	22%
<b>Poor</b>	52%	73%	34%	64%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	0%	3%	-

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Bush</b>	47%	10%	79%	53%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	74%	16%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	16%	5%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	45%	79%	16%	41%
<b>Republicans</b>	40%	7%	68%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	14%	16%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>				
<b>Better</b>	11%	4%	17%	12%
<b>Worse</b>	42%	56%	30%	29%
<b>About the Same</b>	47%	39%	53%	59%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	48%	82%	62%	18%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	17%	34%	77%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	1%	4%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>State of Economy</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	5%	9%	6%	3%
<b>Good</b>	6%	11%	7%	4%
<b>Fair</b>	34%	39%	38%	26%
<b>Poor</b>	53%	41%	46%	66%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	-	3%	1%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Bush</b>	47%	82%	62%	17%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	13%	29%	69%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	4%	9%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>46%</b>	19%	32%	73%
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>39%</b>	72%	52%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>15%</b>	9%	16%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>				
<b>Better</b>	<b>11%</b>	16%	13%	5%
<b>Worse</b>	<b>42%</b>	34%	36%	53%
<b>About the Same</b>	<b>47%</b>	50%	51%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>48%</b>	49%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>	46%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>State of Economy</b>			
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>5%</b>	6%	4%
<b>Good</b>	<b>6%</b>	6%	7%
<b>Fair</b>	<b>34%</b>	32%	35%
<b>Poor</b>	<b>53%</b>	53%	53%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>			
<b>Bush</b>	47%	49%	45%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	41%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>			
<b>Democrats</b>	46%	43%	50%
<b>Republicans</b>	39%	39%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	18%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>			
<b>Better</b>	11%	11%	11%
<b>Worse</b>	42%	41%	44%
<b>About the Same</b>	47%	49%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	48%	83%	8%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	13%	88%	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	3%	4%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>State of Economy</b>				
<b>Excellent</b>	5%	8%	3%	4%
<b>Good</b>	6%	11%	1%	6%
<b>Fair</b>	34%	44%	25%	30%
<b>Poor</b>	53%	35%	70%	58%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	3%	0%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Bush</b>	47%	75%	13%	51%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	19%	75%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	7%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	46%	19%	79%	43%
<b>Republicans</b>	39%	67%	8%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	14%	13%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>				
<b>Better</b>	11%	16%	5%	10%
<b>Worse</b>	42%	30%	55%	43%
<b>About the Same</b>	47%	54%	40%	47%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	48%	69%	39%	83%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	27%	57%	17%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	4%	4%	-	5%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>State of Economy</b>					
<b>Excellent</b>	5%	19%	3%	6%	10%
<b>Good</b>	6%	11%	5%	12%	10%
<b>Fair</b>	34%	33%	32%	45%	24%
<b>Poor</b>	53%	30%	60%	35%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	7%	0%	2%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>					
<b>Bush</b>	47%	56%	42%	71%	57%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	41%	46%	24%	33%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	4%	12%	4%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>					
<b>Democrats</b>	46%	33%	52%	22%	41%
<b>Republicans</b>	39%	44%	33%	69%	46%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	22%	15%	8%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>					
<b>Better</b>	11%	22%	8%	17%	7%
<b>Worse</b>	42%	30%	45%	31%	59%
<b>About the Same</b>	47%	48%	47%	52%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	48%	60%	44%	47%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	33%	50%	51%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	7%	6%	2%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>State of Economy</b>					
<b>Excellent</b>	5%	18%	2%	3%	6%
<b>Good</b>	6%	2%	6%	7%	9%
<b>Fair</b>	34%	26%	36%	33%	37%
<b>Poor</b>	53%	50%	54%	56%	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bush/Obama Economy Blame</b>					
<b>Bush</b>	47%	49%	54%	46%	41%
<b>Obama</b>	42%	39%	39%	44%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	10%	12%	8%	10%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Democrats/GOP Economy Blame</b>					
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>46%</b>	46%	44%	45%	52%
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>39%</b>	33%	41%	41%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>15%</b>	21%	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Personal Economic Status</b>					
<b>Better</b>	<b>11%</b>	22%	10%	11%	3%
<b>Worse</b>	<b>42%</b>	39%	43%	44%	39%
<b>About the Same</b>	<b>47%</b>	39%	47%	45%	58%

