



**Americans Dismal About Economy's Future...
Obama Not Faulted for Financial Picture**
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

Americans have become significantly more pessimistic about the U.S. economy. According to this national McClatchy-Marist Poll, nearly seven in ten adults nationwide -- 68% -- believe the worst of the country's economic conditions are yet to come. 27% say the worst is behind us, and 6% are unsure.

There has been a 15 percentage point increase in the proportion of Americans who believe there is more bad economic news in the country's future. In McClatchy-Marist's July survey, 53% believed this to be true while 42% reported the worst of the nation's economic problems were behind us. Six percent, at the time, were unsure.

Key points:

- **Among registered voters**, about two-thirds -- 66% -- have a negative view of the future of the economy. 28% have a more positive outlook, and 5% are unsure.
- **Republican voters** -- 75% -- and **independent voters** -- 71% -- think the U.S. economy will get worse. This compares with 57% of **Democrats**.
- Regardless of **region**, there is an increased sense of pessimism. However, the largest change has occurred in those living in the West. 68% of these Americans now say the worst is yet to come, a 23 percentage point change from the 45% who reported the same last month. 72% of those in the South, 65% of residents in the Midwest, and 62% of Americans in the Northeast think the economy will decline. In July, those proportions stood at 58%, 59%, and 45%, respectively.

However, nearly six in ten registered voters -- 59% -- still don't blame President Barack Obama for the nation's current economic conditions. About one-third -- 33% -- believe today's tentative economic conditions are a result of the president's policies, and 8% are unsure.

In McClatchy-Marist's June survey, 61% thought the president inherited the country's economic conditions, and 31% said they stemmed from the president's initiatives. Nine percent, at the time, were unsure.

Few Expect Improvements in Finances...Many Think Future Gen's Will Be Worse Off

Only one in four Americans -- 25% -- believe their personal family finances will get better in the coming year while 26% say they will get worse. Nearly half -- 49% -- report they will stay about the same. Little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist's July survey when 28% said their financial picture would improve, 20% said it would get worse, and 52% thought it would remain the same.

And, many Americans are pessimistic about the financial situation of future generations. 61% say they will be worse off while 16% believe they will be better off. 23% think they will have a similar financial situation to people today.

Key points:

- **Registered voters** have similar views. 64% say future generations will be worse off, 14% think they will be better off, and 23% think they will be about the same as the present.
- **Republican voters** -- 73% -- and **independent voters** -- 67% -- are more likely to be pessimistic about the finances of future generations than **Democrats** -- 54%.
- While 68% of those 60 or older, 63% of Americans 45 to 59, and 63% of residents 30 to 44 years old expect tougher times for generations to come, only 42% of those under 30 say the same.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,000 Adults

This survey of 1,000 adults was conducted on August 2nd through August 4th, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 807 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - National Adults		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Registered Voters		81%
Region	Northeast	19%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	51%
	\$50,000 or more	49%
Race	White	67%
	African American	10%
	Latino	11%
	Other	11%
Race	White	67%
	Non-white	33%
Age	Under 45	41%
	45 or older	59%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	20%
	Gen X (31-46)	26%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	33%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	21%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	72%
	Cell Phone	28%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted August 2nd through August 4th, 2011, N=1000 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

Nature of the Sample - Registered Voters		
		Registered Voters
		Col %
Registered Voters		100%
Party Identification	Democrat	37%
	Republican	25%
	Independent	37%
	Other	1%
Support Tea Party	Yes	29%
Political Ideology	Liberal	20%
	Moderate	43%
	Conservative	37%
Region	Northeast	20%
	Midwest	21%
	South	38%
	West	21%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	46%
	\$50,000 or more	54%
Race	White	70%
	African American	11%
	Latino	8%
	Other	12%
Race	White	70%
	Non-white	30%
Age	Under 45	36%
	45 or older	64%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	15%
	Gen X (31-46)	26%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	36%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	23%
Gender	Men	47%
	Women	53%
Interview Type	Landline	76%
	Cell Phone	24%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted August 2nd through August 4th, 2011, N=807 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

U.S. Economy – Will It Get Worse?

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:

		National Adults		
		When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
		The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		68%	27%	6%
Registered Voters		66%	28%	5%
Party Identification[^]	Democrat	57%	40%	4%
	Republican	75%	22%	4%
	Independent	71%	22%	8%
Tea Party Supporters[^]		85%	12%	3%
Political Ideology[^]	Liberal	57%	36%	7%
	Moderate	61%	33%	6%
	Conservative	78%	18%	3%
Region	Northeast	62%	34%	4%
	Midwest	65%	29%	6%
	South	72%	23%	5%
	West	68%	24%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	23%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	65%	32%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	72%	22%	5%
	College graduate	60%	34%	6%
Age	Under 45	69%	26%	5%
	45 or older	67%	26%	6%
Age	18 to 29	56%	38%	7%
	30 to 44	79%	18%	3%
	45 to 59	65%	30%	6%
	60 or older	70%	23%	7%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	58%	35%	8%
	Gen X (31-46)	74%	21%	5%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	68%	28%	4%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	70%	23%	8%
Race	White	69%	25%	6%
	Non-white	65%	31%	4%
Gender	Men	70%	25%	5%
	Women	66%	28%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	71%	24%	5%
	Cell Phone	60%	34%	6%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted August 2nd through August 4th, 2011, N=1000 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=807 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

U.S. Economy – Will It Get Worse? (Over Time)

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:

	National Adults		
	When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
	The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
August 2011	68%	27%	6%
July 2011	53%	42%	6%
April 2011	57%	39%	4%
January 2011	39%	54%	7%
December 2010	53%	39%	8%
November 29, 2010	51%	45%	5%
October 28, 2010	47%	45%	8%
October 8, 2010	50%	46%	4%
September 21, 2010	52%	44%	4%

Marist Poll National Adults

Current Economic Conditions Inherited

Asked of Registered Voters

Question Wording: Do you think the current economic conditions are mostly something President Obama inherited or are they mostly a result of his own policies?

		Registered Voters		
		Do you think the current economic conditions are mostly something President Obama inherited or are they mostly a result of his own policies?		
		Economic conditions mostly inherited	Economic conditions mostly result of his own policies	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		59%	33%	8%
Party Identification	Democrat	80%	17%	3%
	Republican	33%	59%	8%
	Independent	58%	31%	11%
Tea Party Supporters		23%	70%	7%
Political Ideology	Liberal	89%	9%	1%
	Moderate	68%	23%	9%
	Conservative	34%	60%	7%
Region	Northeast	65%	25%	9%
	Midwest	61%	33%	7%
	South	53%	40%	7%
	West	64%	29%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	62%	32%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	61%	31%	8%
Education	Not college graduate	56%	36%	8%
	College graduate	66%	29%	5%
Age	Under 45	62%	28%	9%
	45 or older	58%	35%	7%
Age	18 to 29	59%	27%	13%
	30 to 44	64%	29%	7%
	45 to 59	63%	30%	6%
	60 or older	53%	40%	7%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	60%	28%	12%
	Gen X (31-46)	63%	29%	8%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	63%	33%	5%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	50%	41%	9%
Race	White	58%	33%	8%
	Non-white	65%	30%	6%
Gender	Men	56%	35%	10%
	Women	63%	31%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	59%	34%	7%
	Cell Phone	60%	29%	11%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted August 2nd through August 4th, 2011, N=807 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Current Economic Conditions Inherited Over Time

Asked of Registered Voters

Question Wording: Do you think the current economic conditions are mostly something President Obama inherited or are they mostly a result of his own policies?

	Registered Voters		
	Do you think the current economic conditions are mostly something President Obama inherited or are they mostly a result of his own policies?		
	Economic conditions mostly inherited	Economic conditions mostly result of his own policies	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
August 2011	59%	33%	8%
June 2011	61%	31%	9%
April 2011	63%	30%	7%
January 2011	63%	25%	12%
November 29, 2010	65%	28%	8%
October 28, 2010	60%	30%	10%
October 8, 2010	61%	33%	6%
September 21, 2010	59%	35%	6%
June 30, 2010	62%	28%	10%
March 31, 2010	64%	27%	9%
February 8, 2010	62%	29%	9%
December 8, 2009	65%	27%	8%
October 14, 2009	70%	24%	6%
August 12, 2009	74%	18%	8%
June 8, 2009	74%	18%	8%
April 27, 2009	80%	14%	6%
April 8, 2009	76%	13%	11%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters

Your Personal Family Finances – Better, Worse, or the Same?

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

		National Adults		
		In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?		
		Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		25%	26%	49%
Registered Voters		24%	27%	49%
Party Identification[^]	Democrat	30%	17%	53%
	Republican	15%	35%	50%
	Independent	21%	33%	46%
Tea Party Supporters[^]		19%	40%	41%
Political Ideology[^]	Liberal	30%	24%	45%
	Moderate	24%	20%	57%
	Conservative	21%	38%	42%
Region	Northeast	22%	23%	55%
	Midwest	18%	24%	57%
	South	32%	28%	40%
	West	21%	29%	50%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	24%	30%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	27%	21%	53%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	27%	50%
	College graduate	27%	25%	48%
Age	Under 45	33%	17%	49%
	45 or older	19%	32%	49%
Age	18 to 29	44%	15%	41%
	30 to 44	25%	19%	56%
	45 to 59	24%	31%	45%
	60 or older	13%	34%	53%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	43%	17%	40%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%	21%	55%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	21%	32%	47%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	14%	32%	54%
Race	White	18%	28%	54%
	Non-white	41%	21%	39%
Gender	Men	27%	26%	48%
	Women	23%	27%	50%
Interview Type	Landline	21%	29%	50%
	Cell Phone	36%	18%	46%

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[^]National Registered Voters: N=807 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Your Personal Family Finances – Better, Worse, or the Same? (Over Time)

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	National Adults		
	In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?		
	Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
	Row %	Row %	Row %
August 2011	25%	26%	49%
July 2011	28%	20%	52%
April 2011	27%	25%	48%
December 2010	29%	19%	52%
September 21, 2010	30%	18%	52%
June 9, 2010	33%	15%	52%
April 15, 2009	28%	22%	50%

Marist Poll National Adults

Financial Expectations for Future Generations

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: Do you think future generations will be better off, worse off, or about the same financially as people are now?

		National Adults		
		Do you think future generations will be better off, worse off, or about the same financially as people are now?		
		Better off	Worse off	About the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		16%	61%	23%
Registered Voters		14%	64%	23%
Party Identification[^]	Democrat	19%	54%	27%
	Republican	9%	73%	17%
	Independent	12%	67%	22%
Tea Party Supporters[^]		8%	76%	16%
Political Ideology[^]	Liberal	19%	56%	24%
	Moderate	16%	59%	25%
	Conservative	8%	74%	18%
Region	Northeast	12%	65%	22%
	Midwest	14%	66%	19%
	South	18%	56%	26%
	West	18%	61%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	17%	54%	28%
	\$50,000 or more	14%	65%	21%
Education	Not college graduate	15%	62%	24%
	College graduate	17%	60%	22%
Age	Under 45	18%	54%	28%
	45 or older	15%	65%	20%
Age	18 to 29	27%	42%	32%
	30 to 44	12%	63%	25%
	45 to 59	16%	63%	21%
	60 or older	14%	68%	19%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	24%	46%	30%
	Gen X (31-46)	14%	61%	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	15%	65%	20%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	14%	67%	19%
Race	White	12%	67%	21%
	Non-white	24%	47%	29%
Gender	Men	15%	61%	24%
	Women	17%	61%	22%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	9%	24%	15%
	Disapprove	3%	40%	8%
Interview Type	Landline	14%	65%	21%
	Cell Phone	20%	52%	28%

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