



Despite Increased Economic Optimism, Americans Still Feel Pinch...Gas Prices a Factor

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

More Americans have a brighter outlook about the future of the U.S. economy. According to this national McClatchy-Marist Poll, 49% of U.S. residents say the worst of the country's economic woes are behind us while 45% report there is more bad news ahead. Six percent are unsure. The proportion of residents who believe the nation's tough economic times are over is the highest since January of 2011 when a majority -- 54% -- thought the country had turned the economic corner.

These latest findings are in contrast to McClatchy-Marist's November survey when 53% of Americans reported that, when thinking about the future of the U.S. economy, *the worst was still to come*. 41%, at that time, said *the worst was behind us*, and 5% were unsure.

"A growing number of Americans believe the economy is back on track," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, continued pain at the pump threatens to derail this optimism."

And, while many Americans still view the nation as in a recession, fewer have this perception. In fact, the proportion who currently reports the country is in a recession -- 66% -- is the lowest in four years. Three in ten U.S. adults -- 30% -- now believe the nation is not in a recession, and 4% are unsure.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in November, 73% of residents said America was in a recession, 25% believed the opposite was true, and 3%, at that time, were unsure.

Rising Gas Prices Strap Americans...Plenty of Blame to Go Around

What is the **overall impact of the higher cost of gas** on Americans' wallets? 77% of U.S. adults say rising gas prices have put at least a moderate amount of strain on their family's budget. Included here are 37% who say they have experienced a great deal of strain and 40% who have felt a moderate pinch at the pump. 12% report the increased cost has not had much of a strain on their family finances, and 10% say the prices have had no strain at all.

When Marist last reported this question in April of 2008, 56% of Americans said higher gas prices put a great deal of strain on their finances while 26% thought it added a moderate amount of stress on their family budgets.

As gas prices rise, there's little consensus about the cause of the hike. 34% point a finger at the turmoil in the Middle East followed closely by 31% who blame the U.S. oil companies. 17% say President Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress are responsible while just 7% put the onus on the Republicans in Congress. Four percent report state and local taxes are at fault, and 7% are unsure.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in April 2011, 36% blamed the upset in the Middle East, 34% said the oil companies were at the root of the problem, and 11% thought the president and Congressional Democrats were at fault. Seven percent pointed a finger at the Republicans in Congress, and 3% reported state and local taxes were responsible. 10%, at the time, were unsure.

Higher gas prices impact Americans' daily routine. A majority -- 53% -- say they have changed their driving habits due to the price of gas while 46% have not, and 1% is unsure.

And, U.S. residents see no relief in sight. In fact, Americans expect **the cost of a gallon of gas** in their neighborhood to average \$4.38 a gallon by Memorial Day.

The higher cost of gas isn't the only factor which has prompted Americans to tighten their belts.

- **Higher food costs** have caused a great deal of strain for 20% of Americans. 47% have felt a moderate amount of financial burden while 18% have experienced little strain. 15% have undergone no added financial difficulty. In 2008, 25% reported a substantial strain due to rising food costs while 43% experienced a moderate deal of strain.
- Affording **health care** has also been problematic for many. The increased cost has created a great deal of financial burden for 19% while an additional 40% have felt a moderate amount of burden. 14%, though, have not experienced a lot of strain, and 27% have undergone no financial stress at all. In 2008, 23% of Americans

experienced a great deal of financial stress due to increased health care costs while 29% had a moderate amount of additional strain.

- When it comes to the added financial burden caused by the higher cost of a **mortgage or rent**, 12% have experienced a great deal of financial strain, 28% have felt moderate stress while 17% and 43%, respectively, have undergone very little or none at all. Four years ago, 15% of U.S. residents said increased mortgage or rent payments added a lot to their financial strain while 23% reported it caused some concern.

There has been an increase in the proportion of Americans who believe their **overall, personal financial picture** in the next year will improve. 32% have this view while 14% say it will get worse. A majority -- 55% -- reports there will be no difference in their family finances.

In McClatchy-Marist's November survey, 22% thought their money matters would improve, 19% reported they would get worse, and 59% said their finances would remain about the same.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,080 Adults

This survey of 1,080 adults was conducted on March 20th through March 22nd, 2012. 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 846 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 & Registered Voters

Nature of the Sample - National Adults & Registered Voters

		National Adults	Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
Registered Voters		78%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	33%
	Republican	n/a	31%
	Independent	n/a	35%
	Other	n/a	1%
Support Tea Party	Yes	n/a	29%
	No	n/a	64%
	Unsure	n/a	7%
Intensity of Tea Party Support	Strongly support Tea Party	n/a	10%
	Support Tea Party	n/a	19%
	Does not support Tea Party	n/a	64%
	Unsure	n/a	7%
Political Ideology	Very liberal	n/a	5%
	Liberal	n/a	16%
	Moderate	n/a	38%
	Conservative	n/a	28%
	Very conservative	n/a	13%
Gender	Men	49%	48%
	Women	51%	52%
Age	Under 45	38%	30%
	45 or older	62%	70%
Age	18 to 29	18%	11%
	30 to 44	20%	19%
	45 to 59	38%	41%
	60 or older	25%	29%
Race	White	68%	73%
	African American	13%	13%
	Latino	14%	11%
	Other	4%	4%
Region	Northeast	18%	19%
	Midwest	22%	23%
	South	37%	37%
	West	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	56%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	58%
	College graduate	38%	42%
Interview Type	Landline	74%	78%
	Cell Phone	26%	22%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

National Registered Voters: N=846 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

U.S. Economy - Will It Get Worse?

Asked of 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		45%	49%	6%
Registered Voters		45%	50%	5%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	23%	74%	3%
	Republican	64%	30%	5%
	Independent	46%	47%	6%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		72%	23%	5%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	24%	71%	5%
	Moderate	41%	55%	4%
	Conservative	59%	35%	6%
Region	Northeast	42%	54%	5%
	Midwest	50%	47%	4%
	South	48%	43%	9%
	West	38%	57%	5%
Income	Less \$50,000	49%	43%	8%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	45%	51%	5%
	\$100,000 or more	33%	64%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	51%	43%	7%
	College graduate	36%	58%	6%
Age	Under 45	48%	46%	6%
	45 or older	43%	50%	7%
Age	18 to 29	50%	44%	6%
	30 to 44	46%	48%	5%
	45 to 59	44%	49%	7%
	60 or older	42%	52%	6%
Race	White	48%	47%	5%
	African American	29%	63%	8%
	Latino	47%	45%	8%
Gender	Men	44%	49%	7%
	Women	45%	49%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	45%	48%	7%
	Cell Phone	45%	50%	4%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=846 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. 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 %
March 2012	45%	49%	6%
November 2011	53%	41%	5%
September 2011	61%	35%	3%
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			

U.S. in a Recession

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?

		National Adults		
		Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		66%	30%	4%
Registered Voters		65%	32%	2%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	50%	47%	3%
	Republican	76%	21%	3%
	Independent	69%	29%	1%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		77%	21%	2%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	56%	43%	1%
	Moderate	60%	38%	2%
	Conservative	76%	21%	3%
Region	Northeast	59%	38%	3%
	Midwest	62%	33%	5%
	South	67%	29%	4%
	West	72%	25%	3%
Income	Less \$50,000	67%	27%	5%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	66%	33%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	66%	33%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	65%	30%	5%
	College graduate	65%	32%	2%
Age	Under 45	71%	26%	3%
	45 or older	63%	33%	4%
Age	18 to 29	74%	22%	4%
	30 to 44	68%	29%	2%
	45 to 59	68%	29%	3%
	60 or older	55%	40%	5%
Race	White	68%	28%	4%
	African American	52%	47%	1%
	Latino	63%	31%	6%
Gender	Men	66%	30%	4%
	Women	65%	31%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	62%	33%	5%
	Cell Phone	75%	23%	2%

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U.S. in a Recession (Over Time)

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?

	National Adults		
	Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?		
	Yes	No	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
March 2012	66%	30%	4%
November 2011	73%	25%	3%
September 2011	75%	22%	3%
July 2011	75%	20%	5%
April 2011	71%	25%	4%
January 2010	71%	24%	5%
December 2010	79%	19%	2%
September 2010	80%	18%	2%
May 2008	78%	17%	5%
Marist Poll National Adults			

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

Asked of 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		32%	14%	55%
Registered Voters		28%	14%	58%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	41%	6%	53%
	Republican	23%	20%	57%
	Independent	22%	15%	62%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		21%	27%	52%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	35%	10%	55%
	Moderate	28%	10%	62%
	Conservative	25%	20%	55%
Region	Northeast	29%	10%	62%
	Midwest	30%	14%	56%
	South	33%	16%	51%
	West	33%	12%	55%
Income	Less \$50,000	35%	14%	51%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	29%	15%	56%
	\$100,000 or more	33%	9%	59%
Education	Not college graduate	32%	14%	54%
	College graduate	32%	13%	55%
Age	Under 45	45%	11%	43%
	45 or older	23%	15%	62%
Age	18 to 29	47%	10%	43%
	30 to 44	44%	12%	44%
	45 to 59	27%	16%	57%
	60 or older	17%	13%	69%
Race	White	24%	15%	61%
	African American	51%	9%	39%
	Latino	51%	10%	39%
Gender	Men	35%	13%	51%
	Women	28%	14%	58%
Interview Type	Landline	28%	15%	57%
	Cell Phone	42%	9%	49%

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[^]National Registered Voters: N=846 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. 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 %
March 2012	32%	14%	55%
November 2011	22%	19%	59%
September 2011	28%	17%	55%
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			

Amount of Financial Strain Caused by Higher Food Prices

Asked of Adults (Split Sample)

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of *food, at the supermarket* put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

		National Adults			
		Has the higher cost of food at the supermarket put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
		A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		20%	47%	18%	15%
Registered Voters		19%	48%	17%	16%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	20%	45%	18%	16%
	Republican	19%	46%	17%	18%
	Independent	16%	53%	16%	14%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		27%	54%	9%	9%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	13%	49%	19%	19%
	Moderate	16%	49%	17%	18%
	Conservative	24%	47%	17%	13%
Region	Northeast	18%	52%	12%	17%
	Midwest	16%	59%	15%	9%
	South	23%	41%	21%	15%
	West	19%	40%	22%	19%
Income	Less \$50,000	26%	50%	16%	8%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	15%	49%	18%	18%
	\$100,000 or more	9%	40%	21%	30%
Education	Not college graduate	24%	51%	17%	8%
	College graduate	14%	42%	19%	24%
Age	Under 45	14%	47%	24%	15%
	45 or older	23%	48%	14%	15%
Age	18 to 29	10%	56%	29%	5%
	30 to 44	19%	38%	18%	25%
	45 to 59	26%	41%	18%	14%
	60 or older	18%	58%	9%	15%
Race	White	18%	50%	16%	15%
	African American	17%	35%	25%	23%
	Latino	31%	41%	24%	4%
Gender	Men	20%	42%	19%	19%
	Women	19%	52%	17%	11%
Interview Type	Landline	20%	48%	18%	15%
	Cell Phone	19%	47%	19%	15%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=539 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=428 MOE +/- 5.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Amount of Financial Strain Caused by Higher Mortgage or Rent Prices

Asked of Adults (Split Sample)

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of *your mortgage or rent* put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

		National Adults			
		Has the higher cost of your mortgage or rent put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
		A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		12%	28%	17%	43%
Registered Voters		11%	26%	15%	47%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	13%	29%	14%	43%
	Republican	8%	24%	21%	46%
	Independent	12%	26%	12%	50%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		12%	35%	14%	38%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	7%	25%	11%	56%
	Moderate	10%	28%	15%	48%
	Conservative	13%	25%	18%	43%
Region	Northeast	13%	25%	19%	43%
	Midwest	12%	26%	21%	41%
	South	7%	33%	16%	44%
	West	18%	25%	13%	43%
Income	Less \$50,000	15%	33%	18%	34%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	7%	27%	13%	54%
	\$100,000 or more	10%	20%	19%	50%
Education	Not college graduate	13%	31%	15%	40%
	College graduate	11%	24%	18%	47%
Age	Under 45	16%	33%	27%	23%
	45 or older	10%	25%	11%	54%
Age	18 to 29	13%	39%	29%	19%
	30 to 44	20%	28%	25%	28%
	45 to 59	13%	30%	13%	44%
	60 or older	6%	18%	8%	68%
Race	White	11%	26%	13%	49%
	African American	9%	29%	23%	39%
	Latino	20%	34%	28%	18%
Gender	Men	17%	25%	17%	41%
	Women	8%	31%	17%	44%
Interview Type	Landline	10%	27%	14%	48%
	Cell Phone	16%	32%	24%	28%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=539 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=428 MOE +/- 5.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Amount of Financial Strain Caused by Health Care Prices

Asked of Adults (Split Sample)

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of *health care* put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

		National Adults			
		Has the higher cost of health care put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
		A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		19%	40%	14%	27%
Registered Voters		19%	41%	13%	27%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	15%	37%	17%	31%
	Republican	18%	49%	11%	22%
	Independent	23%	39%	9%	29%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		17%	52%	10%	21%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	17%	41%	18%	24%
	Moderate	20%	35%	9%	37%
	Conservative	19%	49%	12%	19%
Region	Northeast	21%	43%	13%	23%
	Midwest	18%	37%	15%	31%
	South	19%	43%	13%	26%
	West	18%	38%	16%	29%
Income	Less \$50,000	23%	40%	14%	23%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	17%	39%	15%	29%
	\$100,000 or more	11%	44%	12%	32%
Education	Not college graduate	20%	40%	12%	28%
	College graduate	16%	42%	16%	26%
Age	Under 45	18%	40%	10%	32%
	45 or older	19%	41%	16%	24%
Age	18 to 29	19%	38%	7%	37%
	30 to 44	17%	42%	13%	28%
	45 to 59	20%	40%	16%	24%
	60 or older	18%	42%	17%	23%
Race	White	21%	39%	15%	25%
	African American	10%	42%	17%	31%
	Latino	18%	48%	5%	29%
Gender	Men	16%	42%	16%	26%
	Women	22%	38%	11%	28%
Interview Type	Landline	19%	40%	14%	26%
	Cell Phone	17%	40%	13%	29%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=541 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=418 MOE +/- 5.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Amount of Financial Strain Caused by Higher Gas Prices

Asked of Adults (Split Sample)

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of *gasoline* put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

		National Adults			
		Has the higher cost of gasoline put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
		A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		37%	40%	12%	10%
Registered Voters		36%	42%	12%	10%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	27%	45%	17%	11%
	Republican	38%	45%	7%	11%
	Independent	40%	39%	11%	10%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		43%	43%	7%	7%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	22%	49%	19%	11%
	Moderate	36%	44%	9%	10%
	Conservative	44%	36%	10%	9%
Region	Northeast	34%	37%	12%	16%
	Midwest	40%	40%	13%	8%
	South	41%	39%	12%	8%
	West	32%	45%	13%	10%
Income	Less \$50,000	41%	38%	11%	10%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	39%	43%	14%	5%
	\$100,000 or more	24%	42%	12%	21%
Education	Not college graduate	45%	36%	10%	9%
	College graduate	26%	47%	15%	12%
Age	Under 45	36%	43%	12%	9%
	45 or older	38%	38%	13%	11%
Age	18 to 29	25%	48%	13%	13%
	30 to 44	45%	38%	12%	5%
	45 to 59	40%	39%	11%	11%
	60 or older	36%	37%	15%	12%
Race	White	38%	42%	11%	9%
	African American	43%	34%	14%	9%
	Latino	33%	37%	16%	14%
Gender	Men	32%	45%	11%	12%
	Women	43%	35%	14%	8%
Interview Type	Landline	38%	40%	12%	10%
	Cell Phone	37%	41%	12%	9%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=541 MOE +/- 4.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=418 MOE +/- 5.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Amount of Financial Strain Summary (Over Time)

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: Has the higher cost of *gasoline* put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?

	National Adults			
	Has the higher cost of each of the following put a great deal of strain on your family budget, a moderate amount, not very much, or no strain at all?			
	A great deal	A moderate amount	Not very much	No strain at all
	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
March 2012				
Gasoline	37%	40%	12%	10%
Food at the supermarket	20%	47%	18%	15%
Health Care	19%	40%	14%	27%
Your mortgage or rent	12%	28%	17%	43%
April 2008				
Gasoline	56%	26%	8%	10%
Food at the supermarket	25%	43%	14%	18%
Health Care	23%	29%	15%	33%
Your mortgage or rent	15%	23%	13%	49%
Marist Poll National Adults				

Cost of Gas per Gallon by Memorial Day

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: What do you expect a gallon of gas where you live will cost by Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer?

		What do you expect a gallon of gas where you live will cost by Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer?
		Mean
National Adults		\$4.38
Registered Voters		\$4.38
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	\$4.41
	Republican	\$4.45
	Independent	\$4.31
Tea Party Supporters [^]		\$4.43
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	\$4.42
	Moderate	\$4.30
	Conservative	\$4.43
Region	Northeast	\$4.33
	Midwest	\$4.46
	South	\$4.28
	West	\$4.50
Income	Less \$50,000	\$4.41
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	\$4.31
	\$100,000 or more	\$4.42
Education	Not college graduate	\$4.38
	College graduate	\$4.37
Age	Under 45	\$4.32
	45 or older	\$4.41
Age	18 to 29	\$4.28
	30 to 44	\$4.35
	45 to 59	\$4.44
	60 or older	\$4.34
Race	White	\$4.37
	African American	\$4.50
	Latino	\$4.32
Gender	Men	\$4.34
	Women	\$4.42
Interview Type	Landline	\$4.38
	Cell Phone	\$4.37

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[^]National Registered Voters: N=846 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Cost of Gas per Gallon by Memorial Day (Over Time)

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: What do you expect a gallon of gas where you live will cost by Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer?

		What do you expect a gallon of gas where you live will cost by Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer?
		Average Cost
March 2012		
National Adults		\$4.38
Region	Northeast	\$4.33
	Midwest	\$4.46
	South	\$4.28
	West	\$4.50
April 2008		
National Adults		\$4.03
Region	Northeast	\$4.06
	Midwest	\$4.01
	South	\$3.93
	West	\$4.15
Marist Poll National Adults		

Impact of Gas Prices on Driving Habits

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: Have you changed your driving habits because of high gas prices?

		National Adults		
		Have you changed your driving habits because of high gas prices?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		53%	46%	1%
Registered Voters		53%	46%	1%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	53%	45%	2%
	Republican	53%	47%	0%
	Independent	52%	48%	0%
Tea Party Supporters [^]		62%	37%	0%
Political Ideology [^]	Liberal	51%	49%	1%
	Moderate	52%	48%	0%
	Conservative	55%	44%	2%
Region	Northeast	53%	45%	2%
	Midwest	54%	44%	2%
	South	50%	50%	0%
	West	57%	42%	0%
Income	Less \$50,000	60%	39%	1%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	53%	47%	0%
	\$100,000 or more	38%	61%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	57%	41%	1%
	College graduate	46%	54%	0%
Age	Under 45	57%	43%	0%
	45 or older	51%	48%	1%
Age	18 to 29	54%	45%	1%
	30 to 44	59%	41%	0%
	45 to 59	54%	46%	1%
	60 or older	47%	51%	2%
Race	White	51%	48%	1%
	African American	52%	47%	1%
	Latino	61%	39%	1%
Gender	Men	52%	47%	1%
	Women	54%	45%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	46%	1%
	Cell Phone	54%	45%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted March 20th through 22nd, 2012, N=1080 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Cause of High Gas Prices

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: What do you think is most to blame for the high cost of gas today:

		National Adults					
		What do you think is most to blame for the high cost of gas today:					
		President Obama and the Democrats	U.S. oil companies	The turmoil in the Middle East	State and local taxes	The Republicans in Congress	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		17%	31%	34%	4%	7%	7%
Registered Voters		19%	30%	36%	4%	5%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	3%	37%	42%	2%	9%	8%
	Republican	33%	18%	34%	7%	1%	6%
	Independent	20%	33%	31%	3%	5%	8%
Tea Party Supporters^		42%	20%	25%	5%	2%	5%
Political Ideology^	Liberal	6%	35%	41%	4%	6%	8%
	Moderate	11%	34%	39%	5%	4%	8%
	Conservative	32%	23%	31%	4%	5%	5%
Region	Northeast	15%	25%	38%	7%	9%	7%
	Midwest	20%	34%	32%	4%	5%	5%
	South	19%	29%	34%	3%	8%	7%
	West	13%	35%	34%	3%	7%	8%
Income	Less \$50,000	14%	34%	31%	4%	10%	8%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	20%	26%	38%	3%	7%	6%
	\$100,000 or more	19%	31%	41%	6%	2%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	32%	33%	3%	9%	7%
	College graduate	18%	29%	37%	5%	3%	7%
Age	Under 45	11%	36%	36%	4%	9%	3%
	45 or older	20%	28%	33%	4%	6%	9%
Age	18 to 29	6%	42%	35%	5%	11%	1%
	30 to 44	16%	31%	37%	4%	7%	4%
	45 to 59	18%	28%	37%	4%	7%	7%
	60 or older	24%	28%	28%	3%	5%	12%
Race	White	19%	30%	35%	3%	5%	7%
	African American	4%	38%	30%	9%	11%	8%
	Latino	13%	28%	36%	5%	11%	6%
Gender	Men	17%	31%	34%	4%	7%	7%
	Women	17%	31%	34%	4%	7%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	18%	29%	35%	3%	7%	8%
	Cell Phone	13%	37%	33%	6%	8%	4%

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Cause of High Gas Prices

Asked of Adults

Question Wording: What do you think is most to blame for the high cost of gas today:

	National Adults					
	What do you think is most to blame for the high cost of gas today:					
	President Obama and the Democrats	U.S. oil companies	The turmoil in the Middle East	State and local taxes	The Republicans in Congress	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
March 2012	17%	31%	34%	4%	7%	7%
April 2011	11%	34%	36%	3%	7%	10%
Marist Poll National Adults						