



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:
NBC News/Marist Poll*

**Millions of Americans Having Financial Difficulty,
But Optimism about the Future Grows**

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This NBC News/Marist Poll Reports:

Millions of Americans are having trouble making ends meet. Close to four in ten adults nationally -- 37% -- describe the state of their household finances as either weak -- 17% -- or somewhat weak -- 20%. That 17% of adults translates into approximately 41 million Americans who are struggling to get by. This compares with more than six in ten adults -- 63% -- who say their financial situation is either strong -- 24% -- or somewhat strong -- 39%.

“Despite the fact that many Americans are still struggling to make ends meet, optimism about their personal finances in the coming year is the highest it has been in five years,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

There are demographic differences. Not surprisingly, 30% of adults who earn less than \$50,000 annually describe their finances as weak while only 5% of those who earn more say the same. Americans 45 to 59 years old, who may still be supporting their children while at the same time caring for parents, are more likely than other age groups to say their money situation is faltering. One in five members of this generation -- 20% -- says their household finances are weak.

Looking at the amount of debt Americans have, close to one in ten residents -- 9% -- reports the sum of money they owe overwhelms them. To put this proportion into perspective, this adds up to approximately 22 million U.S. residents who say they are overwhelmed by the money they owe. An additional 35% of Americans are able to manage their debt, but they are worried about what they owe. A majority of residents -- 55% -- believes their debt is under control.

*All references to the survey must be sourced as “NBC News/Marist Poll”

Again, income is key. Americans who earn less than \$50,000 a year are four times more likely than those who make more to be overwhelmed by their level of debt. 16% of those with an annual salary less than \$50,000 experience significant financial stress compared with only 4% who earn more.

Plurality of Americans Saving Less Money

43% of adults say, compared with last year, they are saving less money. 36% are putting more money in the bank, and more than one in five -- 21% -- says they are saving about the same. There are income differences. A majority of those who earn less than \$50,000 a year -- 52% -- are saving less money. This compares with 37% of those who make \$50,000 or more.

Americans Daily Spending Habits... Many Cutting Back

More than six in ten residents -- 63% -- say, compared with last year, they are eating out less. About one in four -- 24% -- has not changed their dining habits, and 13% are eating out more.

Have Americans postponed a major life event, like getting married, having a baby, or retiring, to save money? While 82% have not, 18% of residents or about 43 million adults say they have put off a major event in their life for financial reasons. Of note, Americans between the ages of 45 and 59 are slightly more likely than any other age group to say they have delayed a big event for financial reasons. 23% of Americans in this age group report this to be true.

More than one-third of Americans -- 36% -- have not purchased a big ticket item like a television or car due to affordability. This means that more than 86 million adults have changed their purchasing plans. 64% of residents, though, have not put off a major purchase.

Not surprisingly, income matters. More than four in ten residents who have less than \$50,000 coming in each year -- 43% -- have delayed buying a big ticket item. This compares with 29% of Americans who earn more. Households with children -- 40% -- are more likely than those who do not have children -- 33% -- to have had to forego an expensive item.

Have Americans cancelled their cable or cell phone service because of their financial situation? While 73% have not, 27% of Americans have. Looking at income, 33% of those with an annual salary under \$50,000 have cut back on these types of services. This compares with 22% of those who make more money. Again, Americans age 45 to 59 -- 37% -- are more likely than other age groups to have cut back on services like cable television.

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More than one in ten Americans -- 12% -- or approximately 29 million adults need a new winter coat while 35% have a new one this season. A majority -- 53% -- is wearing a worn coat which is still warm. Residents who earn less than \$50,000 -- 17% -- are more than twice as likely to be in need of a new coat than those who make more money -- 8%.

Are Americans filling their refrigerators? More than seven in ten -- 72% -- have the same amount of food in their fridge as they did last year. Nine percent has more, and a notable 19% have less food in their refrigerator.

Again, income makes a difference. More than one in four Americans who earn less than \$50,000 -- 27% -- has less food in their refrigerator compared with 12% with a larger annual salary.

Optimism about Family Finances Grows

While a majority of Americans -- 54% -- believes their family finances will be status quo in the coming year, 35% think their financial situation will get better. 11% say they will get worse. There has been an increase in the proportion of Americans who think their financial picture will brighten. In Marist's July survey, 29% of residents thought their money matters would get better while 19% believed they would get worse, and a majority -- 52% -- said they would stay about the same.

Regardless of their current financial situation, close to seven in ten Americans -- 69% -- are optimistic about how things are going in their lives. Seven percent are pessimistic, and 24% are uncertain.

Money is more likely to buy optimism. Nearly three in four Americans with higher incomes -- 74% -- are positive about their lives. This compares with 66% of those who earn less than \$50,000 a year. Also of note are Americans 45 to 59 years old who are more likely than other age groups to describe their own lives in the coming year as uncertain -- 33%.

More than Six in Ten Think Nation is still in a Recession

While the United States is officially no longer in a recession, 61% of Americans still describe it that way. 34%, however, do not think the country is in a recession, and 4% are unsure. While more residents think the country is in a recession than did in July, the proportion of those who believe this to be the case is about what it was in March 2013. At that time, 63% of Americans said the country was in a recession. When Marist last reported this question in July, 54% said the U.S. was in a recession, 38% reported it was not, and 8% were unsure.

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Nation Needs a New Course?

63% of adults nationally think the country is moving in the wrong direction. Three in ten -- 30% -- say it is moving in the right one, and 8% are unsure. There has been little change on this question since Marist last reported it in December. At that time, 66% of residents believed the nation was off course, 30% thought it was on track, and 4% were unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: NBC News-Marist National Poll of 1,200 Adults

This survey of 1,200 adults was conducted January 12th through January 14th, 2014 by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with NBC News. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.8 percentage points. There are 1,039 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Based upon the 2012 American Community Survey (1-year estimates) each percentage point represents 1.2 million national households and 2.4 million Americans 18 years of age or older.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters	
		Col %	Col %	
National Adults		100%		
National Registered Voters		87%	100%	
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%	
	Republican	n/a	25%	
	Independent	n/a	39%	
	Other	n/a	2%	
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	21%	
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	14%	
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	12%	
	Just Independents	n/a	14%	
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	13%	
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	12%	
	Strong Republicans	n/a	13%	
	Other	n/a	2%	
	Political Ideology	Very conservative	n/a	12%
		Conservative	n/a	33%
Moderate		n/a	36%	
Liberal		n/a	12%	
Very liberal		n/a	7%	
Tea Party Supporters		n/a	22%	
Gender	Men	49%	47%	
	Women	51%	53%	
Age	Under 45	41%	37%	
	45 or older	59%	63%	
Age	18 to 29	17%	13%	
	30 to 44	24%	24%	
	45 to 59	26%	27%	
	60 or older	33%	36%	
Race	White	71%	71%	
	African American	10%	11%	
	Latino	12%	10%	
	Other	7%	7%	
Region	Northeast	18%	19%	
	Midwest	23%	21%	
	South	37%	38%	
	West	22%	22%	
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	47%	
	\$50,000 or more	50%	53%	
Education	Not college graduate	64%	61%	
	College graduate	36%	39%	
Marital Status	Married	52%	55%	
	Not married	48%	45%	
Households with children under 18	Household with children	37%	35%	
	No children in household	63%	65%	
Interview Type	Landline	64%	68%	
	Cell phone	36%	32%	

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted January 12th through January 14th, 2014, n=1200 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.
National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		Would you describe the state of your own household finances as:			
		Strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Weak
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		24%	39%	20%	17%
National Registered Voters		25%	39%	20%	16%
Party Identification^	Democrat	29%	35%	22%	15%
	Republican	28%	42%	19%	11%
	Independent	20%	42%	20%	18%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	33%	34%	18%	15%
	Soft Democrats	21%	38%	22%	19%
	Just Independents	22%	38%	22%	18%
	Soft Republicans	22%	45%	21%	12%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	31%	40%	19%	10%
		23%	36%	27%	14%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	30%	42%	15%	13%
	Moderate	24%	39%	22%	14%
	Conservative-Very conservative	23%	37%	22%	18%
Region	Northeast	18%	42%	25%	14%
	Midwest	23%	42%	15%	20%
	South	27%	33%	20%	20%
	West	26%	44%	20%	10%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	15%	29%	26%	30%
	\$50,000 or more	37%	45%	13%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	18%	38%	24%	19%
	College graduate	34%	42%	12%	12%
Race	White	25%	40%	20%	15%
	African American	22%	36%	23%	19%
	Latino	23%	44%	19%	14%
Age	18 to 29	21%	44%	19%	17%
	30 to 44	22%	43%	19%	15%
	45 to 59	23%	35%	21%	20%
	60 or older	30%	36%	19%	14%
Age	Under 45	22%	43%	19%	16%
	45 or older	27%	36%	20%	17%
Gender	Men	27%	36%	21%	16%
	Women	22%	42%	18%	17%
Marital Status	Married	27%	43%	18%	12%
	Not married	22%	35%	22%	22%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	21%	43%	22%	15%
	No children in household	27%	37%	19%	17%
Interview Type	Landline	26%	40%	19%	15%
	Cell phone	22%	39%	21%	19%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Is the amount of money you owe:		
		Manageable, but		
		Overwhelming to you	worries you	Under control
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		9%	35%	55%
National Registered Voters		8%	36%	55%
Party Identification^	Democrat	11%	36%	53%
	Republican	5%	36%	59%
	Independent	8%	36%	56%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	7%	36%	57%
	Soft Democrats	15%	34%	51%
	Just Independents	6%	35%	59%
	Soft Republicans	5%	42%	52%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	6%	28%	66%
		8%	33%	59%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	9%	33%	57%
	Moderate	8%	42%	50%
	Conservative-Very conservative	8%	35%	57%
Region	Northeast	9%	38%	53%
	Midwest	11%	33%	56%
	South	11%	35%	54%
	West	5%	36%	59%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	16%	38%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	4%	33%	62%
Education	Not college graduate	11%	37%	52%
	College graduate	7%	34%	59%
Race	White	9%	34%	58%
	African American	9%	46%	44%
	Latino	4%	43%	53%
Age	18 to 29	12%	35%	53%
	30 to 44	15%	40%	45%
	45 to 59	8%	41%	51%
	60 or older	4%	29%	67%
Age	Under 45	14%	38%	48%
	45 or older	6%	34%	60%
Gender	Men	7%	38%	55%
	Women	11%	33%	56%
Marital Status	Married	7%	36%	57%
	Not married	12%	36%	53%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	14%	40%	46%
	No children in household	7%	33%	61%
Interview Type	Landline	8%	33%	58%
	Cell phone	11%	40%	50%

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*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Compared with last year, are you:		
		Saving more money	Saving less money	About the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		36%	43%	21%
National Registered Voters		35%	44%	22%
Party Identification^	Democrat	35%	42%	23%
	Republican	35%	46%	19%
	Independent	34%	44%	22%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	40%	38%	22%
	Soft Democrats	38%	41%	21%
	Just Independents	30%	50%	21%
	Soft Republicans	30%	49%	21%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	32%	44%	24%
	Conservative-Very conservative	27%	53%	21%
	Moderate	39%	40%	22%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	43%	33%	24%
	Moderate	39%	40%	22%
	Conservative-Very conservative	27%	53%	21%
Region	Northeast	35%	49%	16%
	Midwest	37%	43%	21%
	South	33%	45%	22%
	West	39%	38%	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	28%	52%	20%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	37%	20%
Education	Not college graduate	32%	47%	20%
	College graduate	41%	37%	22%
Race	White	32%	47%	21%
	African American	42%	37%	20%
	Latino	47%	37%	16%
Age	18 to 29	54%	33%	12%
	30 to 44	40%	43%	17%
	45 to 59	33%	48%	19%
	60 or older	26%	46%	28%
Age	Under 45	46%	39%	15%
	45 or older	29%	47%	24%
Gender	Men	39%	41%	20%
	Women	32%	46%	22%
Marital Status	Married	36%	42%	21%
	Not married	35%	44%	21%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	41%	42%	17%
	No children in household	33%	45%	23%
Interview Type	Landline	32%	44%	25%
	Cell phone	43%	43%	14%

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Compared with last year, are you:		
		Eating out more	Eating out less	About the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		13%	63%	24%
National Registered Voters		12%	62%	26%
Party Identification^	Democrat	11%	62%	27%
	Republican	11%	64%	25%
	Independent	14%	60%	26%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	12%	58%	30%
	Soft Democrats	17%	58%	25%
	Just Independents	8%	67%	25%
	Soft Republicans	12%	64%	24%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	10%	63%	27%
		8%	61%	30%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	19%	50%	31%
	Moderate	12%	62%	26%
	Conservative-Very conservative	8%	69%	23%
Region	Northeast	19%	65%	16%
	Midwest	13%	66%	21%
	South	9%	61%	30%
	West	13%	62%	25%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	10%	72%	19%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	56%	27%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	68%	21%
	College graduate	15%	55%	29%
Race	White	14%	62%	24%
	African American	10%	68%	21%
	Latino	8%	72%	20%
Age	18 to 29	19%	70%	12%
	30 to 44	11%	67%	23%
	45 to 59	13%	66%	21%
	60 or older	12%	56%	32%
Age	Under 45	14%	68%	18%
	45 or older	13%	60%	27%
Gender	Men	13%	62%	25%
	Women	13%	64%	23%
Marital Status	Married	11%	60%	29%
	Not married	15%	66%	19%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	13%	67%	20%
	No children in household	13%	60%	26%
Interview Type	Landline	13%	60%	27%
	Cell phone	13%	68%	19%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Adults	
		In the past year, have you put off a major event in your life - like getting married, having a child, or retiring - for financial reasons?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		18%	82%
National Registered Voters		17%	83%
Party Identification^	Democrat	15%	85%
	Republican	18%	82%
	Independent	19%	81%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	11%	89%
	Soft Democrats	20%	80%
	Just Independents	20%	80%
	Soft Republicans	20%	80%
	Strong Republicans	15%	85%
Tea Party Supporters^		14%	86%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	12%	88%
	Moderate	19%	81%
	Conservative-Very conservative	17%	83%
Region	Northeast	17%	83%
	Midwest	16%	84%
	South	19%	81%
	West	16%	84%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	22%	78%
	\$50,000 or more	14%	86%
Education	Not college graduate	19%	81%
	College graduate	14%	86%
Race	White	18%	82%
	African American	19%	81%
	Latino	17%	83%
Age	18 to 29	19%	81%
	30 to 44	19%	81%
	45 to 59	23%	77%
	60 or older	13%	87%
Age	Under 45	19%	81%
	45 or older	17%	83%
Gender	Men	16%	84%
	Women	19%	81%
Marital Status	Married	17%	83%
	Not married	18%	82%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	21%	79%
	No children in household	16%	84%
Interview Type	Landline	17%	83%
	Cell phone	18%	82%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents.

Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults	
		In the past year, have you postponed buying a big ticket item - like a TV or new car - for financial reasons?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		36%	64%
National Registered Voters		36%	64%
Party Identification^	Democrat	36%	64%
	Republican	37%	63%
	Independent	36%	64%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	31%	69%
	Soft Democrats	38%	62%
	Just Independents	36%	64%
	Soft Republicans	42%	58%
	Strong Republicans	30%	70%
Tea Party Supporters^		39%	61%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	32%	68%
	Moderate	39%	61%
	Conservative-Very conservative	37%	63%
Region	Northeast	39%	61%
	Midwest	37%	63%
	South	31%	69%
	West	39%	61%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	43%	57%
	\$50,000 or more	29%	71%
Education	Not college graduate	39%	61%
	College graduate	30%	70%
Race	White	36%	64%
	African American	34%	66%
	Latino	43%	57%
Age	18 to 29	38%	62%
	30 to 44	41%	59%
	45 to 59	41%	59%
	60 or older	26%	74%
Age	Under 45	40%	60%
	45 or older	33%	67%
Gender	Men	33%	67%
	Women	38%	62%
Marital Status	Married	34%	66%
	Not married	37%	63%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	40%	60%
	No children in household	33%	67%
Interview Type	Landline	33%	67%
	Cell phone	41%	59%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents.

Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults	
		In the past year, have you cutback or canceled one or more services such as your cable service or cell phone, for financial reasons?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		27%	73%
National Registered Voters		27%	73%
Party Identification^	Democrat	25%	75%
	Republican	25%	75%
	Independent	30%	70%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	19%	81%
	Soft Democrats	31%	69%
	Just Independents	34%	66%
	Soft Republicans	30%	70%
	Strong Republicans	20%	80%
Tea Party Supporters^		30%	70%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	21%	79%
	Moderate	32%	68%
	Conservative-Very conservative	27%	73%
Region	Northeast	28%	72%
	Midwest	28%	72%
	South	28%	72%
	West	26%	74%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	33%	67%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	78%
Education	Not college graduate	29%	71%
	College graduate	25%	75%
Race	White	28%	72%
	African American	27%	73%
	Latino	32%	68%
Age	18 to 29	29%	71%
	30 to 44	30%	70%
	45 to 59	37%	63%
	60 or older	17%	83%
Age	Under 45	29%	71%
	45 or older	26%	74%
Gender	Men	27%	73%
	Women	28%	72%
Marital Status	Married	25%	75%
	Not married	30%	70%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	32%	68%
	No children in household	24%	76%
Interview Type	Landline	25%	75%
	Cell phone	31%	69%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents.

Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Is your winter coat or the coat you wear when the weather gets colder brand new this season, new but not this season, worn but still warm, or does it need to be replaced?		
		New (Brand new this season/New, but not this season)	Worn, but still warm	Needs to be replaced
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		35%	53%	12%
National Registered Voters		35%	53%	12%
Party Identification^	Democrat	36%	50%	14%
	Republican	36%	56%	7%
	Independent	35%	54%	12%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	36%	53%	11%
	Soft Democrats	35%	50%	15%
	Just Independents	34%	49%	16%
	Soft Republicans	36%	55%	8%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	35%	57%	8%
	Very liberal-Liberal	38%	48%	14%
	Moderate	40%	49%	10%
Political Ideology^	Conservative-Very conservative	36%	53%	11%
	Northeast	32%	55%	13%
	Midwest	37%	50%	12%
Region	South	30%	56%	14%
	West	35%	53%	12%
	Household Income	39%	53%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	30%	53%	17%
Household Income	\$50,000 or more	40%	52%	8%
	Education	33%	54%	13%
Education	Not college graduate	33%	54%	13%
	College graduate	38%	52%	10%
Race	White	33%	55%	11%
	African American	35%	53%	12%
	Latino	41%	50%	9%
Age	18 to 29	44%	42%	14%
	30 to 44	41%	47%	12%
	45 to 59	34%	52%	14%
	60 or older	27%	63%	9%
Age	Under 45	42%	45%	13%
	45 or older	30%	58%	11%
Gender	Men	35%	55%	9%
	Women	34%	52%	14%
Marital Status	Married	34%	54%	12%
	Not married	35%	53%	12%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	39%	46%	15%
	No children in household	32%	58%	10%
Interview Type	Landline	33%	56%	10%
	Cell phone	37%	48%	15%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted January 12th through January 14th, 2014, n=1200 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Compared to last year, do you have more, less, or about the same amount of food in your refrigerator?		
		More	Less	About the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		9%	19%	72%
National Registered Voters		8%	19%	73%
Party Identification^	Democrat	7%	20%	72%
	Republican	8%	17%	75%
	Independent	8%	18%	74%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	9%	17%	74%
	Soft Democrats	8%	20%	73%
	Just Independents	9%	18%	74%
	Soft Republicans	6%	19%	76%
	Strong Republicans	8%	21%	71%
Tea Party Supporters^	12%	18%	70%	
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	8%	14%	78%
	Moderate	6%	21%	73%
	Conservative-Very conservative	9%	19%	72%
Region	Northeast	3%	25%	72%
	Midwest	10%	17%	73%
	South	10%	21%	70%
	West	13%	13%	74%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	10%	27%	63%
	\$50,000 or more	9%	12%	79%
Education	Not college graduate	10%	21%	68%
	College graduate	6%	15%	79%
Race	White	7%	17%	76%
	African American	16%	31%	53%
	Latino	19%	20%	61%
Age	18 to 29	17%	24%	58%
	30 to 44	10%	21%	69%
	45 to 59	5%	25%	70%
	60 or older	8%	11%	81%
Age	Under 45	13%	22%	65%
	45 or older	7%	17%	76%
Gender	Men	12%	17%	71%
	Women	7%	21%	72%
Marital Status	Married	9%	13%	78%
	Not married	9%	26%	65%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	12%	19%	69%
	No children in household	8%	18%	74%
Interview Type	Landline	8%	17%	75%
	Cell phone	12%	22%	66%

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*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		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		35%	11%	54%
National Registered Voters		34%	11%	56%
Party Identification^	Democrat	41%	7%	52%
	Republican	22%	15%	63%
	Independent	32%	12%	56%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	44%	4%	53%
	Soft Democrats	39%	10%	51%
	Just Independents	37%	13%	51%
	Soft Republicans	22%	13%	65%
	Strong Republicans	21%	17%	62%
Tea Party Supporters^		31%	17%	52%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	36%	4%	59%
	Moderate	36%	10%	54%
	Conservative-Very conservative	28%	15%	57%
Region	Northeast	37%	9%	53%
	Midwest	34%	11%	55%
	South	35%	13%	53%
	West	34%	8%	58%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	37%	11%	52%
	\$50,000 or more	33%	10%	57%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	11%	51%
	College graduate	30%	9%	60%
Race	White	29%	13%	58%
	African American	58%	2%	40%
	Latino	44%	6%	50%
Age	18 to 29	59%	5%	36%
	30 to 44	38%	9%	52%
	45 to 59	35%	13%	52%
	60 or older	20%	12%	68%
Age	Under 45	47%	7%	46%
	45 or older	27%	13%	61%
Gender	Men	38%	11%	51%
	Women	32%	11%	58%
Marital Status	Married	30%	11%	58%
	Not married	40%	10%	50%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	44%	10%	46%
	No children in household	30%	11%	59%
Interview Type	Landline	28%	11%	61%
	Cell phone	48%	9%	43%

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*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	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 %
February 2014	35%	11%	54%
July 2013	29%	19%	52%
March 2013	26%	26%	48%
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			

		National Adults		
		Thinking about the coming year, are you optimistic, pessimistic, or uncertain about how things are going in your own life?		
		Optimistic	Pessimistic	Uncertain
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		69%	7%	24%
National Registered Voters		70%	7%	22%
Party Identification^	Democrat	79%	4%	17%
	Republican	69%	6%	26%
	Independent	65%	11%	24%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	83%	4%	12%
	Soft Democrats	74%	5%	21%
	Just Independents	64%	13%	23%
	Soft Republicans	62%	8%	30%
	Strong Republicans	70%	8%	22%
Tea Party Supporters^		66%	9%	24%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	88%	2%	10%
	Moderate	71%	7%	22%
	Conservative-Very conservative	63%	10%	27%
Region	Northeast	66%	7%	27%
	Midwest	68%	7%	24%
	South	65%	8%	27%
	West	79%	6%	15%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	66%	8%	26%
	\$50,000 or more	74%	7%	19%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	7%	28%
	College graduate	77%	7%	16%
Race	White	70%	6%	25%
	African American	74%	8%	18%
	Latino	62%	12%	25%
Age	18 to 29	75%	4%	21%
	30 to 44	76%	8%	16%
	45 to 59	60%	7%	33%
	60 or older	69%	7%	24%
Age	Under 45	75%	7%	18%
	45 or older	65%	7%	28%
Gender	Men	68%	9%	23%
	Women	70%	6%	24%
Marital Status	Married	72%	6%	22%
	Not married	67%	8%	25%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	75%	7%	19%
	No children in household	66%	7%	26%
Interview Type	Landline	68%	8%	24%
	Cell phone	71%	6%	23%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted January 12th through January 14th, 2014, n=1200 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

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*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		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		61%	34%	4%
National Registered Voters		61%	35%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	49%	47%	4%
	Republican	72%	23%	5%
	Independent	64%	34%	2%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	47%	51%	1%
	Soft Democrats	49%	46%	5%
	Just Independents	65%	32%	3%
	Soft Republicans	75%	23%	2%
Strong Republicans		73%	20%	7%
Tea Party Supporters^		76%	21%	3%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	49%	48%	3%
	Moderate	55%	41%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	73%	24%	3%
Region	Northeast	59%	37%	3%
	Midwest	60%	34%	6%
	South	62%	34%	3%
	West	62%	32%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	67%	28%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	56%	42%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	30%	5%
	College graduate	56%	41%	3%
Race	White	64%	32%	3%
	African American	53%	41%	5%
	Latino	65%	26%	9%
Age	18 to 29	64%	30%	6%
	30 to 44	56%	41%	4%
	45 to 59	68%	31%	1%
	60 or older	59%	35%	6%
Age	Under 45	59%	36%	4%
	45 or older	63%	33%	4%
Gender	Men	61%	37%	2%
	Women	62%	32%	6%
Marital Status	Married	58%	38%	4%
	Not married	64%	31%	5%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	60%	36%	4%
	No children in household	62%	34%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	61%	35%	5%
	Cell phone	62%	34%	3%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted January 12th through January 14th, 2014, n=1200 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	National Adults		
	Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?		
	Yes	No	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
February 2014	61%	34%	4%
July 2013	54%	38%	8%
March 2013	63%	33%	4%
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 2011	71%	24%	5%
December 2010	79%	19%	2%
September 2010	80%	18%	2%
May 2008	78%	17%	5%
Marist Poll National Adults			

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?		
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		30%	63%	8%
National Registered Voters		30%	62%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	56%	32%	12%
	Republican	12%	82%	6%
	Independent	21%	75%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	63%	26%	11%
	Soft Democrats	42%	47%	11%
	Just Independents	22%	72%	5%
	Soft Republicans	11%	85%	4%
Tea Party Supporters^	Strong Republicans	5%	91%	4%
		11%	85%	4%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	50%	38%	12%
	Moderate	37%	57%	5%
	Conservative-Very conservative	17%	77%	6%
Region	Northeast	34%	58%	8%
	Midwest	25%	63%	12%
	South	25%	69%	6%
	West	38%	56%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	28%	65%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	33%	62%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	63%	9%
	College graduate	32%	62%	6%
Race	White	24%	69%	7%
	African American	58%	35%	7%
	Latino	30%	56%	13%
Age	18 to 29	36%	52%	12%
	30 to 44	35%	60%	5%
	45 to 59	23%	69%	8%
	60 or older	30%	64%	7%
Age	Under 45	35%	57%	8%
	45 or older	27%	66%	7%
Gender	Men	31%	63%	6%
	Women	28%	62%	10%
Marital Status	Married	26%	68%	6%
	Not married	34%	56%	10%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	30%	64%	6%
	No children in household	30%	61%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	26%	66%	8%
	Cell phone	36%	56%	8%

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^National Registered Voters: n=1039 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	National Adults		
	In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?		
	Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
February 2014	30%	63%	8%
December 2013	30%	66%	4%
July 2013	30%	60%	11%
April 2013	38%	58%	4%
March 2013	35%	60%	5%
December 2012	40%	55%	5%
March 2012	43%	53%	4%
November 2011	25%	70%	4%
September 2011	22%	73%	5%
August 2011	21%	70%	10%
June 2011	32%	59%	9%
April 2011	31%	64%	5%
January 2011	41%	47%	12%
December 2010	34%	58%	8%
November 23, 2010	41%	53%	6%
October 28, 2010	38%	52%	10%
September 22, 2010	41%	56%	3%
July 6, 2010	37%	56%	7%
March 31, 2010	43%	53%	4%
February 8, 2010	38%	54%	8%
December 8, 2009	46%	46%	8%
October 14, 2009	47%	47%	6%
August 12, 2009	50%	42%	8%
June 8, 2009	50%	40%	10%
April 27, 2009	44%	44%	12%
April 15, 2009	49%	40%	11%
November 2007	23%	67%	10%
May 2007	26%	65%	9%
February 2007	29%	63%	8%
December 2006	31%	60%	9%
October 2006	33%	58%	9%
February 2006	34%	61%	5%
October 2005	31%	62%	7%
May 2005	38%	56%	6%
February 2005	47%	48%	5%
October 21, 2004	42%	55%	3%
October 07, 2004	39%	53%	8%
September 2004	38%	52%	10%
August 2004	40%	48%	12%
July 2004	37%	52%	11%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
March 2004	43%	52%	5%
November 2003	45%	48%	7%
April 2003	55%	34%	11%
January 2003	42%	48%	10%
October 2002	45%	46%	9%
April 2002	60%	32%	8%
January 2002	60%	30%	10%
March 2001	41%	44%	15%
January 2001	56%	32%	12%
Marist Poll National Adults			