



Obama's Handling of the Economy at All-Time Low

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Thursday, April 28, 2011

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

Registered voters nationally are not satisfied with how President Barack Obama is handling the nation's economy. According to this McClatchy-Marist Poll, four in ten voters -- 40% -- approve of how the president is dealing with the country's economy while nearly six in ten -- 57% -- disapprove. Only 3% are unsure. Mr. Obama's approval rating on the economy is the lowest of his presidency. His previous low was last September when just 41% gave him a thumbs-up on the issue.

When Marist last reported this question in January, voters divided. At that time, 44% approved of how the president dealt with the economy while 48% disapproved. Eight percent were unsure.

"These economic numbers could spell trouble for President Obama's re-election prospects," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Oddly, though, he still isn't being faulted for the sluggish economy. Most think it was there waiting for him when he took office."

There has been a change among Democrats and independents on this question. While 71% of Democrats approve of how the president is handling the economy, 27% disapprove. This is a 12 percentage point increase in the proportion of Democrats who disapprove since January. Among independent voters, 34% approve while more than six in ten -- 63% -- disapprove. Here, too, there has been a jump in the proportion of voters who are dissatisfied with how Mr. Obama is dealing with the economy. In January, half -- 50% -- shared this view.

There has been little change among Republicans. 11% think the president is on the right economic track while 87% do not. In January, those proportions stood at 7% and 88%, respectively.

Disapproval of the president's fiscal management spans economic divides. 42% of those who earn less than \$50,000 annually approve while a majority -- 56% -- disapprove. Among those who make \$50,000 or more, 41% approve while 57% disapprove.

While voters aren't pleased with how the president is handling the economy, they still do not blame him for the nation's current economic conditions. 63% say they think today's economic situation is mostly something he inherited while 30% believe it is a result of his own policies. Seven percent are unsure.

These proportions are similar to those reported in Marist's January survey. At that time, the same proportion -- 63% -- thought the country's economic conditions were mostly inherited, 25% said they were a result of President Obama's policies, and 12% were unsure.

Changing Tides... Nearly Six in Ten Americans Think More Bad Economic News is Ahead

Many Americans are no longer optimistic about the future of the U.S. economy. 57% of residents nationwide believe that, when thinking about the country's economy, the worst is yet to come. However, 39% say the worst is behind us. Only 4% are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

Public opinion on this question has flipped. In January, a majority -- 54% -- thought the worst was over while 39% said there was more bad news on the economic horizon. Seven percent were unsure.

This increased pessimism crosses party, economic, and gender divides. And, while optimism has waned among all age groups, younger Americans, those under 30, are more optimistic than their older counterparts.

One in Four Americans Think Personal Family Finances will Get Worse

On a more personal level, 25% of Americans think their personal family finances will get worse in the coming year, 27% report their financial situation will get better, and nearly half - 48% -- say they will stay about the same.

There has been a slight bump in the proportion of Americans who think their personal financial picture will get worse. When Marist last reported this question in December, 19% thought they were in for more belt tightening, 29% believed their economic picture would get better, and a majority -- 52% -- reported their economic situation would stay about the same.

Recession Still Looms for Americans

News that the United States is no longer officially in a recession has not trickled down to most Americans. 71% of residents think the nation is in a recession while 25% do not. Four percent are unsure. These proportions remain virtually unchanged from January when the same proportion -- 71% -- believed the country was in a recession, 24% thought the United States was not in a recession, and 5% were unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,274 Adults

This survey of 1,274 adults was conducted on April 10th through April 14th, 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 1,084 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 551 registered voters who completed the survey before President Obama's April 13th speech and 470 registered voters who completed the survey after his speech. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 4.5 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		80%
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	40%
	45 or older	60%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	20%
	Gen X (31-46)	24%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	37%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	19%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	74%
	Cell Phone	26%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1274 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%
President Obama's April 13th Speech	Before	54%
	After	46%
Party ID	Democrat	35%
	Republican	27%
	Independent	36%
	Other	2%
Support Tea Party	Yes	28%
Political Ideology	Liberal	21%
	Moderate	39%
	Conservative	40%
Region	Northeast	20%
	Midwest	21%
	South	37%
	West	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	46%
	\$50,000 or more	54%
Race	White	70%
	African American	11%
	Latino	9%
	Other	10%
Race	White	70%
	Non-white	30%
Age	Under 45	34%
	45 or older	66%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	14%
	Gen X (31-46)	24%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	39%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	22%
Gender	Men	50%
	Women	50%
Interview Type	Landline	79%
	Cell Phone	21%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1084 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

President Obama Handling of the Economy

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?

		Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		40%	57%	3%
Party ID	Democrat	71%	27%	2%
	Republican	11%	87%	2%
	Independent	34%	63%	3%
Tea Party Supporters		14%	86%	<1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	63%	35%	2%
	Moderate	49%	49%	2%
	Conservative	21%	77%	2%
President Obamas April 13th Speech	Before	40%	58%	3%
	After	41%	56%	3%
Region	Northeast	49%	49%	2%
	Midwest	39%	59%	2%
	South	37%	60%	2%
	West	39%	56%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	42%	56%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	41%	57%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	58%	3%
	College graduate	43%	55%	2%
Age	Under 45	46%	52%	2%
	45 or older	37%	60%	3%
Age	18 to 29	47%	50%	3%
	30 to 44	45%	54%	1%
	45 to 59	36%	63%	1%
	60 or older	39%	57%	4%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	47%	51%	2%
	Gen X (31-46)	43%	55%	2%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	37%	62%	1%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	39%	55%	5%
Race	White	34%	64%	3%
	Non-white	56%	41%	2%
Gender	Men	38%	59%	3%
	Women	43%	55%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	38%	59%	3%
	Cell Phone	49%	50%	1%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1084 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

President Obama Handling of the Economy (Over Time)

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?

	Registered Voters	
	Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?	
	Approve	Disapprove
	Row %	Row %
April 2011	40%	57%
January 2011	44%	48%
November 23, 2010	42%	55%
September 21, 2010	41%	56%
June 30, 2010	46%	48%
March 31, 2010	46%	49%
December 8, 2009	45%	51%
October 14, 2009	48%	47%
August 12, 2009	52%	41%
June 8, 2009	53%	41%
April 8, 2009	54%	37%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters

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		63%	30%	7%
Party ID	Democrat	84%	11%	4%
	Republican	34%	55%	11%
	Independent	65%	29%	6%
Tea Party Supporters		33%	58%	9%
Political Ideology	Liberal	85%	11%	4%
	Moderate	73%	22%	5%
	Conservative	40%	50%	10%
President Obamas April 13th Speech	Before	61%	33%	6%
	After	65%	27%	8%
Region	Northeast	69%	24%	7%
	Midwest	63%	32%	6%
	South	58%	34%	8%
	West	64%	29%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	59%	34%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	28%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	58%	33%	9%
	College graduate	69%	26%	4%
Age	Under 45	68%	28%	4%
	45 or older	60%	32%	8%
Age	18 to 29	73%	21%	5%
	30 to 44	65%	32%	4%
	45 to 59	61%	30%	9%
	60 or older	58%	34%	7%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	71%	23%	6%
	Gen X (31-46)	65%	32%	4%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	61%	30%	9%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	56%	35%	8%
Race	White	60%	32%	8%
	Non-white	69%	26%	4%
Gender	Men	65%	30%	6%
	Women	60%	31%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	62%	30%	7%
	Cell Phone	64%	30%	6%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1084 MOE +/- 3%. 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 %
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

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		57%	39%	4%
Registered Voters		55%	40%	5%
Party ID	Democrat	45%	51%	4%
	Republican	65%	30%	5%
	Independent	58%	37%	5%
Tea Party Supporters		73%	24%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	42%	55%	3%
	Moderate	48%	49%	4%
	Conservative	70%	25%	5%
President Obamas April 13th Speech	Before	57%	38%	5%
	After	57%	39%	4%
Region	Northeast	49%	47%	3%
	Midwest	61%	36%	3%
	South	60%	36%	4%
	West	54%	38%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	64%	33%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	44%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	33%	5%
	College graduate	48%	48%	4%
Age	Under 45	56%	41%	2%
	45 or older	58%	37%	5%
Age	18 to 29	47%	50%	3%
	30 to 44	65%	33%	2%
	45 to 59	62%	36%	2%
	60 or older	52%	39%	9%
Race	White	57%	39%	3%
	Non-white	56%	38%	6%
Gender	Men	56%	39%	5%
	Women	58%	38%	4%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	36%	59%	5%
	Disapprove	73%	23%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	59%	36%	5%
	Cell Phone	50%	48%	3%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1274 MOE +/- 3%. 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 %
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

Your Personal 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		27%	25%	48%
Registered Voters		25%	26%	49%
Party ID	Democrat	32%	19%	49%
	Republican	21%	30%	49%
	Independent	23%	27%	50%
Tea Party Supporters		19%	37%	45%
Political Ideology	Liberal	33%	17%	50%
	Moderate	25%	22%	53%
	Conservative	22%	33%	45%
President Obamas April 13th Speech	Before	28%	25%	46%
	After	26%	24%	50%
Region	Northeast	21%	27%	51%
	Midwest	27%	23%	50%
	South	32%	26%	42%
	West	26%	22%	52%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	28%	28%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	29%	22%	50%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	28%	44%
	College graduate	27%	20%	54%
Age	Under 45	39%	16%	45%
	45 or older	20%	30%	49%
Age	18 to 29	39%	16%	45%
	30 to 44	38%	17%	45%
	45 to 59	26%	29%	45%
	60 or older	14%	32%	54%
Race	White	21%	28%	52%
	Non-white	41%	18%	41%
Gender	Men	29%	23%	49%
	Women	26%	26%	47%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	34%	14%	52%
	Disapprove	17%	35%	48%
Interview Type	Landline	24%	27%	49%
	Cell Phone	38%	18%	45%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1274 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Your Personal 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 %
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

U.S. in a Recession

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 %
National Adults		71%	25%	4%
Registered Voters		71%	26%	3%
Party ID	Democrat	67%	30%	3%
	Republican	73%	24%	3%
	Independent	73%	25%	2%
Tea Party Supporters		81%	16%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	75%	23%	3%
	Moderate	63%	35%	2%
	Conservative	77%	20%	2%
President Obamas April 13th Speech	Before	72%	25%	4%
	After	70%	26%	4%
Region	Northeast	71%	25%	5%
	Midwest	66%	29%	4%
	South	68%	28%	4%
	West	80%	17%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	72%	24%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	73%	25%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	73%	23%	4%
	College graduate	68%	29%	3%
Age	Under 45	67%	28%	5%
	45 or older	73%	24%	3%
Age	18 to 29	67%	27%	6%
	30 to 44	67%	28%	4%
	45 to 59	77%	21%	2%
	60 or older	69%	27%	4%
Race	White	73%	24%	3%
	Non-white	68%	27%	5%
Gender	Men	72%	26%	2%
	Women	70%	25%	5%
Obama Approval Rating	Approve	64%	34%	2%
	Disapprove	77%	20%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	70%	26%	4%
	Cell Phone	73%	24%	3%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1274 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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 %
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