



Americans Want the Debt to Take Center Stage in Washington
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

According to this McClatchy-Marist Poll, nearly six in ten American adults -- 59% -- want the federal government to make the reduction of the debt its priority even if the economy is slow to recover. About one-third -- 33% -- want the government to stimulate the weak economy even if it costs more money. Eight percent are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters share these views.

“For the public, it's all about the debt,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “For Washington, the devil is in the details.”

Looking at party, 79% of Republicans want the debt to be paid down while 15% think stimulating the economy should be the priority. There is less of a consensus among Democrats. Half -- 50% -- believe the government should focus on stimulating the economy while 45% say the national debt should top the government's “to do” list. More than six in ten independents -- 61% -- think the priority should be the reduction of the debt even if the economy rebounds slowly. This compares with 32% who say the stimulation of the economy should be the main issue even if it costs more money.

Pessimism about the Economy Remains...Three in Four Believe U.S. Still in Recession

A majority of Americans -- 53% -- say that, when thinking about the U.S. economy, the worst is yet to come. However, 42% believe the worst is behind us. Six percent are unsure. When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in April, 57% thought there was more bad economic news to come, 39% said better economic days were ahead, and 4% were unsure.

And, 75% of residents nationally still think the country is in a recession. This compares with one in five -- 20% -- who say the nation has come out of the recession. Five percent are unsure. In April, similar proportions held these views. At that time, 71% reported the recession was not over, 25% said it was, and 4% were unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,003 Adults

This survey of 1,003 adults was conducted on June 15th through June 23rd, 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 801 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		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	42%
	45 or older	58%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	21%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	33%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	21%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Interview Type	Landline	74%
	Cell Phone	26%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=1003 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 ID	Democrat	34%
	Republican	27%
	Independent	38%
	Other	1%
Support Tea Party	Yes	25%
Political Ideology	Liberal	21%
	Moderate	36%
	Conservative	43%
Region	Northeast	19%
	Midwest	24%
	South	37%
	West	20%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	47%
	\$50,000 or more	53%
Race	White	71%
	African American	10%
	Latino	10%
	Other	9%
Race	White	71%
	Non-white	29%
Age	Under 45	37%
	45 or older	63%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	15%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	36%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	24%
Gender	Men	47%
	Women	53%
Interview Type	Landline	77%
	Cell Phone	23%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=801 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Government's Priority—the Debt or Stimulating the Economy

Asked of National Adults

Question Wording: Which one of the following should be the top priority of the government in Washington:

		National Adults		
		Which one of the following should be the top priority of the government in Washington:		
		To stimulate the weak economy even if it costs more money	To reduce the debt even if the economy is slow to recover	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		33%	59%	8%
Region	Northeast	37%	55%	7%
	Midwest	40%	56%	4%
	South	29%	61%	10%
	West	30%	60%	10%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	34%	58%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	34%	62%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	34%	57%	8%
	College graduate	31%	62%	7%
Age	Under 45	35%	57%	8%
	45 or older	31%	60%	8%
Age	18 to 29	30%	64%	6%
	30 to 44	40%	51%	9%
	45 to 59	35%	62%	3%
	60 or older	28%	59%	13%
Race	White	32%	61%	7%
	Non-white	35%	56%	10%
Gender	Men	33%	60%	7%
	Women	33%	58%	10%
Interview Type	Landline	30%	63%	7%
	Cell Phone	42%	47%	11%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=1003 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Which one of the following should be the top priority of the government in Washington:		
		To stimulate the weak economy even if it costs more money	To reduce the debt even if the economy is slow to recover	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		33%	60%	7%
Party ID	Democrat	50%	45%	6%
	Republican	15%	79%	6%
	Independent	32%	61%	7%
Tea Party Supporters		19%	79%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	54%	37%	8%
	Moderate	37%	57%	6%
	Conservative	21%	75%	4%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=801 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		53%	42%	6%
Region	Northeast	45%	51%	4%
	Midwest	59%	36%	5%
	South	58%	36%	7%
	West	45%	48%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	57%	37%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	48%	47%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	59%	36%	5%
	College graduate	44%	50%	6%
Age	Under 45	49%	47%	5%
	45 or older	56%	37%	6%
Age	18 to 29	46%	47%	7%
	30 to 44	51%	46%	2%
	45 to 59	59%	36%	5%
	60 or older	54%	39%	7%
Race	White	54%	42%	5%
	Non-white	50%	43%	7%
Gender	Men	52%	43%	5%
	Women	53%	40%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	56%	39%	5%
	Cell Phone	44%	48%	8%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=1003 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		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 %
Registered Voters		50%	45%	5%
Party ID	Democrat	36%	57%	7%
	Republican	68%	29%	3%
	Independent	48%	47%	5%
Tea Party Supporters		71%	25%	4%
Political Ideology	Liberal	36%	59%	5%
	Moderate	36%	58%	5%
	Conservative	66%	30%	4%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=801 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 %
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 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		75%	20%	5%
Region	Northeast	75%	21%	4%
	Midwest	78%	17%	5%
	South	73%	22%	5%
	West	74%	20%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	22%	7%
	\$50,000 or more	80%	18%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	74%	22%	5%
	College graduate	78%	17%	5%
Age	Under 45	73%	21%	6%
	45 or older	76%	20%	4%
Age	18 to 29	69%	19%	11%
	30 to 44	75%	23%	2%
	45 to 59	82%	16%	2%
	60 or older	70%	23%	6%
Race	White	78%	19%	3%
	Non-white	68%	24%	9%
Gender	Men	77%	19%	4%
	Women	73%	21%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	77%	19%	4%
	Cell Phone	68%	25%	7%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=1003 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Do you think that the U.S. economy is currently in a recession or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		77%	19%	3%
Party ID	Democrat	72%	26%	3%
	Republican	82%	14%	3%
	Independent	80%	17%	3%
Tea Party Supporters		86%	14%	1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	75%	21%	4%
	Moderate	73%	24%	3%
	Conservative	83%	15%	2%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted June 15th through June 23rd, 2011, N=801 MOE +/- 3.5%. 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 %
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