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When it comes to Obama's handling of the economy, 41% of Americans approve and 54% disapprove. In July, 42% of Americans approved of the job Obama was doing and 51% disapproved. When rating Obama's handling of the economy in July, 39% approved and 56% disapproved.  Among Americans registered to vote, 44% approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president and 51% disapprove. On Obama's handling of the economy, 42% of registered voters approve and 53% disapprove. In the lastest survey, 87% of Democrats approve of the way Obama is handling his job. In July, 80% of Democrats approved.  While 49% of Americans say the national economy is getting worse, just 23% say their personal financial situations are getting worse. In July, 44% of Americans said the national economy was getting worse and 40% said their personal financial situations were getting worse.  The results presented here are based on 1,100 completed telephone interviews conducted among a nationwide random sample of adults 18 years and older. The interviews were completed August 17 through 20, 2010. The theoretical margin of error for the total sample is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points, 95% of the time, on questions where opinion is evenly split.  Overall, 43% of Americans say that they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president, 51% disapprove, and 6% are undecided.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Obama job approval** | **Approve** | **Disapprove** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | Aug 2010 | 43% | 51% | 6% | | Jul 2010 | 42% | 51% | 7% | | Jun 2010 | 41% | 51% | 8% | | May 2010 | 49% | 48% | 3% | | Apr 2010 | 47% | 49% | 4% | | Mar 2010 | 47% | 50% | 3% | | Feb 2010 | 48% | 46% | 6% | | Jan 2010 | 51% | 45% | 4% | | Dec 2009 | 47% | 48% | 5% | | Nov 2009 | 51% | 44% | 5% | | Oct 2009 | 57% | 41% | 2% | | Sep 2009 | 50% | 45% | 5% | | Aug 2009 | 52% | 42% | 6% |   Among Republicans (29% of adults registered to vote in the survey and 26% of all adults in the survey), 5% approve of the way Obama is handling his job and 89% disapprove. Among Democrats (33% of adults registered to vote in the survey and 30% of all adults in the survey), 87% approve and 6% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job. Among independents (38% of adults registered to vote in the survey and 35% of all adults in the survey), 36% approve and 60% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president.  Overall, 41% of Americans say that they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy, 54% disapprove, and 5% are undecided. Among registered voters, 42% approve and 53% disapprove of the way Obama is handling the economy.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Obama handling the economy** | **Approve** | **Disapprove** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | Aug 2010 | 41% | 54% | 5% | | Jul 2010 | 39% | 56% | 5% | | Jun 2010 | 38% | 56% | 6% | | May 2010 | 44% | 52% | 4% | | Apr 2010 | 43% | 53% | 4% | | Mar 2010 | 44% | 54% | 2% | | Feb 2010 | 43% | 49% | 8% | | Jan 2010 | 46% | 48% | 6% | | Dec 2009 | 45% | 52% | 3% | | Nov 2009 | 47% | 47% | 6% | | Oct 2009 | 43% | 47% | 10% | | Sep 2009 | 49% | 47% | 4% | | Aug 2009 | 50% | 45% | 5% |   Among Republicans, 5% approve of the way Obama is handling the economy and 89% disapprove. Among Democrats, 87% approve of the way Obama is handling the economy and 10% disapprove. Among independents, 32% approve and 64% disapprove of the way Obama is handling the economy.  A total of 27% of Americans say that the national economy is getting better, 23% say it is staying the same, and 49% say the national economy is getting worse.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **National economy** | **Getting better** | **Staying the same** | **Getting worse** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 27% | 23% | 49% | 1% | | Jul 2010 | 29% | 23% | 44% | 4% | | Jun 2010 | 26% | 28% | 40% | 6% | | May 2010 | 31% | 25% | 40% | 4% | | Apr 2010 | 39% | 19% | 41% | 1% | | Mar 2010 | 32% | 25% | 41% | 2% | | Feb 2010 | 30% | 33% | 35% | 2% | | Jan 2010 | 32% | 32% | 34% | 2% | | Dec 2009 | 32% | 30% | 35% | 3% | | Nov 2009 | 29% | 26% | 43% | 2% | | Oct 2009 | 31% | 28% | 37% | 4% | | Sep 2009 | 36% | 33% | 25% | 6% | | Aug 2009 | 41% | 21% | 35% | 3% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 57% say getting better, 30% say staying the same, and 11% say getting worse. Of those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 2% say getting better, 16% say staying the same, and 82% say getting worse.  A total of 39% of Americans say they believe the national economy will be better a year from now, 18% say it will be the same, and 37% say it will be worse.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **National economy a year from now** | **Better than today** | **The same as today** | **Worse than today** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 39% | 18% | 37% | 6% | | Jul 2010 | 42% | 18% | 38% | 2% | | Jun 2010 | 38% | 23% | 36% | 3% | | May 2010 | 47% | 18% | 32% | 3% | | Apr 2010 | 40% | 15% | 36% | 9% | | Mar 2010 | 46% | 21% | 33% | - | | Feb 2010 | 47% | 24% | 25% | 4% | | Jan 2010 | 47% | 22% | 24% | 7% | | Dec 2009 | 50% | 19% | 29% | 3% | | Nov 2009 | 45% | 25% | 28% | 2% | | Oct 2009 | 48% | 19% | 28% | 4% | | Sep 2009 | 48% | 21% | 24% | 7% | | Aug 2009 | 53% | 15% | 26% | 6% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 78% say better, 11% say the same as today, and 8% say worse than today. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president, 8% say better, 24% say the same, and 61% say worse.  Overall, 60% of Americans say they believe that the national economy is in a recession, 18% say they do not believe the economy is in a recession, and 22% are undecided.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **National economy in a recession** | **Yes** | **No** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | Aug 2010 | 60% | 18% | 22% | | Jul 2010 | 62% | 25% | 13% | | Jun 2010 | 65% | 17% | 18% | | May 2010 | 56% | 27% | 17% | | Apr 2010 | 62% | 19% | 19% | | Mar 2010 | 71% | 18% | 11% | | Feb 2010 | 54% | 18% | 28% | | Jan 2010 | 70% | 14% | 16% | | Dec 2009 | 72% | 13% | 15% | | Nov 2009 | 65% | 16% | 19% | | Oct 2009 | 53% | 21% | 26% | | Sep 2009 | 72% | 15% | 13% | | Aug 2009 | 69% | 18% | 13% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 49% say the national economy is in a recession, 24% say the national economy is not in a recession, and 27% are undecided. Of those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 69% say the national economy is in a recession, 16% say the national economy is not in a recession, and 15% are undecided.  A total of 32% of Americans rate the national economy as excellent, very good, or good and 67% rate it as bad, very bad, or terrible.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **National economy** | **Excellent** | **Very good** | **Good** | **Bad** | **Very bad** | **Terrible** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 1% | 8% | 23% | 36% | 17% | 14% | 1% | | Jul 2010 | - | 5% | 26% | 31% | 20% | 17% | 1% | | Jun 2010 | 5% | 4% | 21% | 39% | 20% | 10% | 1% | | May 2010 | 3% | 7% | 16% | 46% | 12% | 15% | 1% | | Apr 2010 | 1% | 6% | 23% | 34% | 16% | 19% | 1% | | Mar 2010 | 2% | 3% | 20% | 37% | 20% | 17% | 1% | | Feb 2010 | 3% | 8% | 20% | 32% | 17% | 19% | 1% | | Jan 2010 | 3% | 5% | 19% | 42% | 13% | 17% | 1% | | Dec 2009 | 3% | 1% | 30% | 31% | 16% | 18% | 1% | | Nov 2009 | 1% | 4% | 24% | 31% | 21% | 18% | 1% | | Oct 2009 | 2% | 1% | 19% | 49% | 14% | 14% | 1% | | Sep 2009 | 2% | 7% | 25% | 40% | 14% | 11% | 1% | | Aug 2009 | 4% | 2% | 21% | 30% | 22% | 20% | 1% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 71% say very good, or good and 28% say bad, very bad, or terrible. Among those saying they disapprove of  the way Obama is handling his job, 2% say very good, or good and 98% say bad, very bad, or terrible.  When it comes to rating their household financial situations, 76% of Americans give an excellent, very good, or good rating and 23% give a bad, very bad, or terrible rating.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Household financial situation** | **Excellent** | **Very good** | **Good** | **Bad** | **Very bad** | **Terrible** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 6% | 21% | 49% | 18% | 3% | 2% | 1% | | Jul 2010 | 3% | 19% | 38% | 24% | 5% | 10% | 1% | | Jun 2010 | 8% | 12% | 43% | 27% | 4% | 5% | 1% | | May 2010 | 8% | 19% | 39% | 24% | 4% | 5% | 1% | | Apr 2010 | 7% | 14% | 44% | 22% | 9% | 3% | 1% | | Mar 2010 | 7% | 11% | 48% | 20% | 8% | 5% | 1% | | Feb 2010 | 4% | 16% | 45% | 23% | 5% | 6% | 1% | | Jan 2010 | 7% | 16% | 40% | 24% | 7% | 5% | 1% | | Dec 2009 | 9% | 14% | 43% | 19% | 9% | 5% | 1% | | Nov 2009 | 6% | 13% | 45% | 18% | 9% | 8% | 1% | | Oct 2009 | 3% | 14% | 43% | 27% | 5% | 7% | 1% | | Sep 2009 | 5% | 15% | 49% | 16% | 8% | 6% | 1% | | Aug 2009 | 7% | 12% | 50% | 14% | 1% | 15% | 1% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 89% say excellent, very good, or good and 10% say bad, very bad, or terrible. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 67% say very good, or good and 32% say bad, very bad, or terrible.  A total of 10% of Americans say they think the financial situations in their households are getting better, 63% say staying the same, and 23% say getting worse.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Household financial situation** | **Getting better** | **Staying the same** | **Getting worse** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 10% | 63% | 23% | 4% | | Jul 2010 | 8% | 49% | 40% | 3% | | Jun 2010 | 10% | 56% | 32% | 2% | | May 2010 | 12% | 59% | 27% | 2% | | Apr 2010 | 16% | 51% | 29% | 4% | | Mar 2010 | 8% | 56% | 35% | 1% | | Feb 2010 | 8% | 59% | 31% | 2% | | Jan 2010 | 16% | 48% | 34% | 2% | | Dec 2009 | 11% | 52% | 35% | 2% | | Nov 2009 | 9% | 54% | 34% | 3% | | Oct 2009 | 12% | 53% | 33% | 2% | | Sep 2009 | 14% | 51% | 34% | 1% | | Aug 2009 | 16% | 53% | 29% | 2% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 22% say getting better, 73% say staying the same, and 3% say getting worse. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, none say getting better, 55% say staying the same, and 43% say getting worse.  Looking to a year from now, 30% of Americans say that they think their household financial situations will be better than today, 43% say the same as today, and 23% say worse than today.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Household financial situation a year from now** | **Better than today** | **The same as today** | **Worse than today** | **Undecided** | |  | | | | | | Aug 2010 | 30% | 43% | 23% | 4% | | Jul 2010 | 27% | 36% | 31% | 6% | | Jun 2010 | 25% | 45% | 28% | 2% | | May 2010 | 26% | 43% | 28% | 3% | | Apr 2010 | 23% | 36% | 34% | 7% | | Mar 2010 | 28% | 38% | 28% | 6% | | Feb 2010 | 24% | 43% | 27% | 6% | | Jan 2010 | 32% | 38% | 24% | 6% | | Dec 2009 | 26% | 43% | 26% | 5% | | Nov 2009 | 31% | 44% | 21% | 4% | | Oct 2009 | 27% | 39% | 30% | 3% | | Sep 2009 | 28% | 40% | 26% | 6% | | Aug 2009 | 42% | 38% | 14% | 6% |   Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 59% say better than today, 35% say the same as today, and 5% say worse than today. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 4% say better than today, 47% say the same as today, and 41% say worse than today.    About this Survey -  Survey Sponsor: American Research Group, Inc.  The American Research Group has been conducting national surveys of consumers since 1985.  Sample Size: 1,100 completed telephone interviews among a random sample of all adults age 18 and older living in telephone households in the continental United States.  Sample Dates: August 17-20, 2010  Margin of Error: ± 3 percentage points, 95% of the time, on questions where opinion is evenly split.  Question Wording and Order:  Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?  Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?  How do you rate the condition of the national economy these days - would you say it is excellent, very good, good, bad, very bad, or terrible?  Do you think the national economy is getting better, staying the same, or getting worse?  Would you say that the national economy is in a recession, or not?  A year from now, do you expect the national economy to be better than it is today, the same as it is today, or worse than it is today?  How do you rate the condition of the financial situation in your household - would you say it is excellent, very good, good, bad, very bad, or terrible?  Do you think the financial situation in your household is getting better, staying the same, or getting worse?  A year from now, do you expect the financial situation in your household to be better than it is today, the same as it is today, or worse than it is today? |   [**TOP**](http://www.americanresearchgroup.com/economy/#top) **|** [**ARG Home**](http://www.americanresearchgroup.com/) |