

Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY
 1,001 U.S. adults ages 18 and over
 Margin of Error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2014
 March 4-7, 2011
Weighted by age and race

Methodology

March 10 (Bloomberg) -- The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted March 4-7 for Bloomberg News by Selzer & Co. Inc. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 1,001 U.S. adults ages 18 or older.

Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone telephone numbers. Percentages based on the full sample may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Responses were weighted by age and race to reflect the general population based on recent census data. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error. Republishing the copyrighted Bloomberg National Poll without credit to Bloomberg News is prohibited.

Poll Questions

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
28	63	9

Which of the following do you see as the most important issue facing the country right now? (Read list. Rotate.)

Immigration	Health care	The federal deficit and government spending	The war in Afghanistan	Unemployment and jobs	The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico	Other (VOL) (specify):	Not sure
3	12	29	7	43	n/a	4	2

Which of the following do you see as the more important priority for the federal government right now—creating jobs or cutting spending? (Read list. Rotate.)

56	Creating jobs
42	Cutting spending
2	Not sure

I am going to mention two ways people think about the federal government's role in creating jobs. Which one strikes you as the wisest course of action? **(Rotate answers.)**

- 44** The federal government should invest in projects such as high-speed rail, expanding access to broadband internet, and creating new sources of alternative energy. This puts people to work now, and establishes the conditions for future growth
- 53** The federal government should cut spending and lower taxes on individuals and corporations. Individuals would keep more money and would boost the economy by spending it. Corporations will have more money to hire workers
- 3** Not sure

I'm going to mention some areas of government spending where some groups are seeking dramatic changes or complete elimination. Please tell me whether you think the action would result in savings to the federal deficit that would be very large, fairly large, fairly small, or would make little difference at all. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

	Very Large	Fairly Large	Fairly Small	Little Difference	Not Sure
Significantly cut aid to foreign countries	42	30	14	10	4
Significantly cut federal funding for community renewal programs that serve lower-income Americans	14	20	35	27	4
Reduce benefits for Medicare	19	25	27	24	5
Pull all troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan	47	28	12	11	2
Repeal the health care law passed last year	28	21	18	24	9
Significantly cut federal funding for medical and scientific research	14	21	33	28	4
Gradually raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 69	19	28	24	24	5
Significantly cut education programs, including No Child Left Behind, Head Start, and subsidies for college loans	16	18	31	31	4
Significantly cut federal funding for public television and public radio	12	13	34	37	4
Significantly cut the Environmental Protection Agency	17	20	31	28	4
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 per year	25	29	20	20	6
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	19	24	23	27	7

I'm going to mention these areas again. This time, please tell me if you would favor or oppose substantial changes to the program. (Read list. Rotate.)

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Significantly cut aid to foreign countries	72	26	2
Significantly cut federal funding for community renewal programs that serve lower-income Americans	31	66	3
Reduce benefits for Medicare	22	76	2
Pull all troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan	66	30	4
Repeal the health care law passed last year	52	42	6
Significantly cut federal funding for medical and scientific research	26	72	2
Gradually raise the age of eligibility for Social Security to 69	44	54	2
Significantly cut education programs, including No Child Left Behind, Head Start, and subsidies for college loans	21	77	2
Significantly cut federal funding for public television and public radio	46	50	4
Significantly cut the Environmental Protection Agency	35	62	3
Repeal the tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000 per year	59	37	4
Replace Medicare with a system in which government vouchers would help participants pay for their own health insurance	40	54	6

Spending on defense, Medicare, and Social Security account for about two-thirds of the federal budget. Cuts may need to be made in these areas in order to achieve substantial deficit reduction.

Which would be your top priority for cuts: (Read list.)

- 49 Cut defense even if it means eliminating programs that bring jobs to your state
- 19 Cut Medicare even if it means you would lose some benefits
- 22 Cut Social Security even if it means you would lose some benefits or have to delay when you might qualify for benefits
- 10 Not sure

Do you think it is or is not possible to bring down the deficit substantially without raising taxes?

- 61 Is possible
- 37 Is not possible
- 2 Not sure

If taxes need to be raised to reduce the deficit, do you think enough revenue can be raised by taxing only those with household incomes of \$250,000 a year or more, or do you think all taxpayers will have to pay more?

- 34 Just those with \$250,000 or more
- 61 All taxpayers will have to pay more
- 5 Not sure

Do you think President Obama does or does not have an effective strategy for improving the long-term strength of the U.S. economy?

- 40 Does
- 51 Does not
- 9 Not sure

Who do you think has laid out a better vision for a successful economic future for the U.S.—
President Obama or the Republicans?

- 45 President Obama
- 33 Republicans
- 14 Neither (VOL)
- 8 Not sure

Which of the following better describes your opinion about the battle in Congress over cutting
spending to bring down the deficit: **(Read list.)**

- 20 Deep cuts need to be made, even if it means shutting down the government for a while to get
that done
- 77 Cuts need to be made, but compromises should be reached to avoid a government shutdown
- 3 Not sure

Which party do you think will benefit more if the federal government shuts down? **(Read list. Rotate.)**

- 45 Republicans for taking a strong stand against government spending
- 34 Democrats for trying to keep the government open
- 21 Not sure

Do you think public employees receive better, worse, or about the same compensation as
comparable private sector employees?

- 43 Better
- 21 Worse
- 27 About the same
- 9 Not sure

Do you think public employees should or should not have the right to collectively bargain for
wages?

- 64 Should
- 32 Should not
- 4 Not sure

With states facing budget crunches, several Republican governors across the country are trying to
scale back benefits for state workers. Which of the following positions comes closest to your view?

- 46 Public employees enjoy generous benefits that cash-strapped states can ill afford, and they should
be willing to sacrifice to help states avoid a budget crisis
- 49 Governors are unfairly targeting public employee unions, and should not seek to balance their
budgets by taking away benefits promised to state workers
- 5 Not sure

Some state pension plans no longer have enough money to pay what was agreed to. In this difficult
situation, do you think the state should or should not have the power to break agreements on what
pensions will pay current retirees?

- 33 Should have power
- 63 Should not have power
- 4 Not sure

Who do you believe has more political power—labor unions or corporate America?

- 32 Labor unions
- 63 Corporate America
- 5 Not sure

For each of the following types of work, please tell me if you think a union is or is not appropriate. Just answer yes or no. (Rotate list.)

	Is Appropriate	Is not Appropriate	Not Sure
Firefighters	72	27	1
Nurses at public hospitals	62	36	2
Prison guards	63	36	1
Teachers	66	33	1
Custodians and office workers	50	49	1
Police officers	70	29	1

In general, when governors and state legislators try to reduce the benefits of public employees, do you think they are doing this mostly to reduce state budget deficits or mostly to weaken the power of unions?

- 49 Reduce budget deficits
- 43 Weaken the power of unions
- 8 Not sure

Are you better off or worse off than you were two years ago?

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Better off | Worse off | Not sure |
| 39 | 49 | 12 |

What is your current view of the economy in the U.S.?

- 14 A recovery is well underway and the economy is steadily improving
- 49 The recovery is fragile and the economy could fall back into recession
- 37 The U.S. economy is still in recession
- Not sure

In your household, are you doing any of the following? Just answer yes or no. (Mark all that apply. Multiple responses accepted, so total may exceed 100%.)

- 20 Making substantial purchases you had been putting off
- 19 Going out for entertainment or dining out more often
- 20 Planning or taking vacations you had put off
- 46 Paying down any credit card debt
- 43 Putting more in savings than you had been
- 27 None of these (VOL)
- Not sure

In your neighborhood, is it your sense housing prices are going up, going down, or staying about the same?

- 17 Going up
- 40 Going down
- 40 About the same
- 3 Not sure

Turning to the health care bill passed last year, what is your opinion of the bill? **(Read list.)**

It should be repealed	We should see how it works	It should be left alone	Not sure
41	42	12	5

How much would you say you know about what is in the health care law passed last year—do you know a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

- 15** A lot
- 50** Some
- 25** Not much
- 10** Nothing at all
- Not sure

Part of the law that has not yet taken effect is a requirement that every American have health insurance coverage or pay a penalty. This has been challenged in court. Do you favor or oppose this part of the health care law?

- 32** Favor
- 65** Oppose
- 3** Not sure

Last year, the U.S. government issued new regulations on the banking industry in the aftermath of the financial meltdown of 2008. Which of the following best reflects your view:

- 19** Banks are now regulated too strictly, which is preventing them from lending money to Main Street business and homebuyers which is hampering the economy
- 38** Bank regulations are doing their job by preventing the kinds of risky acts that hurt the U.S. economy
- 38** Banks are still not regulated enough and so are still endangering the economy with risky acts
- 5** Not sure

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

(Follow with:) Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate all elements after “As president”.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
As president	51	43	6
With the economy	43	52	5
With health care	44	50	6
With the budget deficit	38	56	6
With creating jobs	44	51	5
With handling the recent turmoil in the Middle East	49	43	8

Now, I'd like to mention some major economic and political figures and groups. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. (Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)

	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Barack Obama , President of the United States	22	33	19	22	4
Sarah Palin , former governor of Alaska	9	19	22	38	12
Labor unions	14	35	22	18	11
The Republican Party	11	30	27	20	12
The Democratic Party	13	36	27	15	9
The Tea Party	13	19	18	25	25
John Boehner , the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	9	22	15	10	44
Public employees	23	49	12	5	11
Chris Christie , governor of New Jersey	9	12	9	8	62
Donald Trump , businessman and television personality	10	27	24	19	20
Newt Gingrich , former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	8	20	18	22	32
Scott Walker , governor of Wisconsin	9	13	12	16	50
Wall Street	5	25	27	22	21

National Football League players and team owners are locked in a labor dispute over sharing revenue and the number of regular season games to be played. Which side do you favor—the players or the owners?

- 43 Players
- 20 Owners
- 24 Neither/don't follow football (VOL)
- 13 Not sure

What is your age?

- 14 Under 25
- 18 25 to 34
- 18 35 to 44
- 19 45 to 54
- 15 55 to 64
- 16 65 and over
- Refused/not sure

In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

- 22 Republican
- 30 Democrat
- 44 Independent
- 1 Other (VOL)
- 3 Refused/not sure

Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party Movement? (If yes, ask:) Do you consider yourself a strong supporter, or just a supporter?

Yes, strong supporter	Yes, just a supporter	No, not a supporter	Not sure
6	20	63	11

What is the last grade of school you completed?

- 29 High school graduate or less
- 26 Some college
- 27 College degree
- 17 Postgraduate work or degree
- 1 Refused/not sure

Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

- 35 Yes
- 64 No
- 1 Refused/not sure

Are you yourself or is anyone in your household a member of a labor union or a professional organization that bargains collectively for wages?

- 9 Yes, respondent
- 7 Yes, other in household
- 2 Yes, both
- 80 No
- 2 Refused/not sure

Are you yourself or is anyone in your household a public employee?

- 12 Yes, respondent
- 9 Yes, other in household
- 4 Yes, both
- 73 No
- 2 Refused/not sure

If the 2012 general election for President, Congress and other state officials were held today, would you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

- 73 Definitely vote
- 13 Probably vote
- 5 Might or might not vote
- 7 Probably not vote
- 2 Refused/not sure

With what racial or ethnic group do you identify most—White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or some other group?

- 68 White
- 12 Black
- 8 Hispanic
- 4 Asian
- 3 Other
- 5 Refused/not sure

Is your total annual household income before taxes above or below \$50,000 per year?

Below **ASK b**
Above **ASK c**

Is it above or below \$25,000 per year?

19 Below (<\$25,000)

22 Above (\$25,000-\$49,999)

Is it above or below \$100,000 per year?

27 Below (\$50,000-\$99,999)

24 Above (\$100,000 or more)

8 Refused/not sure

Sex:

48 Male

52 Female