

Views of Economy Remain Negative, More Optimism about Housing than Job Market
 July 18-22, 2013

- 61% say the economy is in bad shape and just 30% say it is improving, down from 34% last month.
- While 48% think the housing market is getting better, just 30% say the same for the job market, and nearly as many (29%) think the job market is getting worse.
- Few Americans are feeling flush: just a quarter say they can save money or buy extras, unchanged since earlier this year.
- At 48%, President Barack Obama’s approval rating is similar to what it was last month. 45% approve of his handling of the economy; 49% disapprove.
- Other issues: Americans are divided about the Zimmerman verdict, 55% now support same-sex marriage and a majority disapproves of Edward Snowden’s actions.

Americans continue to rate the nation’s economy badly: six in ten still say it is in bad shape, while 37% say it is good. Views of the economy are more positive now compared to last year at this time, but the percentage that says the economy is in bad shape has been 60% or higher since January 2008.

	Rating the National Economy									
	Now	6/2013	4/2013	7/2012	6/2011	7/2010	7/2009	2/2009	1/2008	12/2007
Good	37%	39%	31%	27%	18%	17%	18%	5%	38%	42%
Bad	61	60	68	71	81	82	82	94	61	57

Optimism about the economy’s direction has ebbed slightly from last month. 30% of Americans now say the economy is improving – down from 34% in June.

	Direction of the National Economy				
	Now	6/2013	4/2013	10/2012	8/2012
Better	30%	34%	31%	36%	25%
Worse	24	24	24	28	30
Same	45	42	44	35	43

Economic Indicators

Even though the nation’s unemployment rate has inched below 8% for 10 consecutive months, Americans are not feeling especially optimistic about the job market. While 30% think the job market is getting better, about as many (29%) feel it is getting worse.

Americans, however, are more positive about two other economic areas: the housing market and the stock market. 48% think the housing market is improving (only 12% say it’s getting worse). The public is also three times as likely to say the stock market is getting better than getting worse. More than four in ten say the stock market is holding steady.

Direction of Economic Markets

	Job Market	Stock Market	Housing Market
Better	30%	33%	48%
Worse	29	10	12
Same	40	42	35

Personal Finances

As for their own financial situation, most Americans say they can make ends meet, but just a quarter says their income is enough to save money and buy some extras. As might be expected, those with lower household incomes are especially likely to be feeling less financially secure.

Is Your Household Income...?

	Now	2/2013
Enough to save and buy extras	26%	25%
Just enough to pay bills	47	47
Not enough to pay bills	25	27

President Barack Obama

The President's overall approval rating is now 48%, similar to what it was last month. Mr. Obama's approval rating has hovered below 50% for the past few months.

President Obama's Job Rating

	Now	6/2013	4/2013	3/2013	2/2013	1/2013
Approve	48%	47%	47%	45%	52%	51%
Disapprove	45	43	45	46	38	41

More Americans continue to disapprove (49%) than approve (45%) of President Obama's handling of the economy. He receives his highest marks on handling terrorism, while his approval ratings on the economy, foreign policy and immigration remain below 50%. The President's ratings on most of these issues have held steady since last month, although his approval rating on immigration is up four points.

President Obama's Job Ratings on Issues

	Approve	Disapprove
Terrorism	56%	35
Economy	45%	49
Foreign policy	43%	44
Immigration	43%	45

On the heels of Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke's testimony before Congress last week, Americans are split in their assessment of the Fed's ability to promote economic growth. Nearly four in ten say they don't know enough to rate the Federal Reserve.

Confidence in Federal Reserve Promoting Economic Growth

A lot/some	28%
Not much/none	31
Don't know enough	39

About a third of Americans think the country is headed in the right direction, but nearly six in ten think it is on the wrong track. Those figures have changed little in the past few months.

	Direction of the Country					
	Now	6/2013	4/2013	3/2013	2/2013	1/2013
Right direction	35%	35%	34%	32%	40%	38%
Wrong track	60	59	59	61	54	57

After the Zimmerman Verdict

Americans are sharply divided over the Zimmerman verdict, whereby George Zimmerman was found not guilty of all charges. 42% of Americans say they are either satisfied or pleased by the verdict, but 46% describe themselves as either disappointed or angry.

Feelings about the Zimmerman verdict reveal a division along racial lines. While 52% of whites are at least satisfied with the not guilty verdict, an overwhelming 94% of blacks feel differently: 53% of blacks say they are disappointed and 41% describe themselves as angry.

Feelings About the Zimmerman Verdict			
	Total	Whites	Blacks
Satisfied or pleased	42%	52%	3%
Satisfied	18	23	--
Pleased	24	29	3
Disappointed or angry	46	36	94
Disappointed	29	24	53
Angry	17	12	41

There is a large division by political party as well, with 73% of Republicans satisfied or pleased, and 65% of Democrats either disappointed or angry. Independents are more divided, though they lean towards disappointed.

Feelings About the Zimmerman Verdict				
	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
Satisfied or pleased	42%	73%	28%	38%
Disappointed or angry	46	16	65	47

Same-Sex Marriage

Nearly a month after the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on same-sex marriage, 55% of Americans now say it should be legal for same-sex couples to marry, up slightly from June (before the rulings) and the highest percentage since CBS News began asking this question in 2012. 39% say same-sex marriage should not be legal.

	Same Sex Marriage Should be...				
	Now	6/2013	3/2013	9/2012	5/2012
Legal	55%	51%	53%	51%	42%
Not legal	39	44	39	41	51

Partisan and age differences persist: Most Democrats and independents favor allowing same-sex couples to marry, but most Republicans do not. Young Americans, those ages 18 to 29, are especially likely to support same-sex marriage, while those who are older are less likely to.

Snowden and NSA Surveillance

Most Americans, including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans, disapprove of government contractor Edward Snowden leaking information about the government's collection of Americans' phone call records.

	Edward Snowden's Actions			
	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	25%	22%	21%	30%
Disapprove	56	60	59	51

And while two in three Americans view the government's collection of phone records as a violation of privacy, a majority also sees it as a necessary tool to help find terrorists.

	Government's Collection of Phone Call Records	
	Yes	No
A violation of privacy	67%	31
Necessary tool to find terrorists	52%	43

This poll was conducted by telephone from July 18-22, 2013 among 1,036 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by Social Science Research Solutions of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS POLL

Views of the Economy Remain Negative, More Optimism about Housing than Job Market

July 18-22, 2013

Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS				May13b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	48	13	81	42	47
Disapprove	45	84	15	47	43
Don't know/No answer	7	3	4	11	10

Q2. Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	35	10	59	31	35
Wrong track	60	89	36	63	59
Don't know/No answer	4	1	5	6	6

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	43	11	73	38	45
Disapprove	44	82	15	47	39
Don't know/No answer	12	8	12	15	16

Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Approve	45	12	75	39	44
Disapprove	49	83	19	54	50
Don't know/No answer	6	4	5	7	6

Q6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the threat of terrorism?

Approve	56	27	82	52	56
Disapprove	35	62	13	36	35
Don't know/No answer	9	11	4	12	9

Q7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	43	12	69	40	39
Disapprove	45	81	20	46	49
Don't know/No answer	12	7	11	14	12

Q8-14 RELEASED SEPARATELY

Q17. How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS				May13b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	3	2	3	5	3
Fairly good	34	23	52	26	36
Fairly bad	36	42	30	38	37
Very bad	25	33	15	29	23
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	2	1

Q18. Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	30	15	42	28	34
Worse	24	29	16	26	24
Same	45	56	41	44	42
Don't know/No answer	1	*	*	1	1

Q19. Do you think the housing market is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	48	49	60	39
Worse	12	10	8	16
Same	35	36	29	40
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4	5

Q20. Do you think the stock market is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	33	33	34	31
Worse	10	7	6	14
Same	42	47	43	39
Don't know/No answer	16	12	17	16

Q20a. Do you think the job market is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	30	15	42	28
Worse	29	32	20	33
Same	40	51	37	36
Don't know/No answer	2	2	1	2

Q20b. How much confidence do you have in the Federal Reserve's ability to promote economic growth--a lot, some, not much, or none at all, or don't you know enough about the Federal Reserve to say?

A lot	5	1	8	6
Some	23	19	31	20
Not much	20	25	12	24
None	11	15	2	14
Don't know enough	39	37	46	34
Don't know/No answer	2	2	1	2

Q21-50b RELEASED SEPARATELY

Q51. How much have you heard or read about the leaking of information by Edward Snowden about a government program to help find terrorists that involves the collection of Americans' phone call records – have you heard or read a lot, some, or not much?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS			
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
A lot	32	29	33	33
Some	33	38	35	28
Not much	29	30	28	29
Nothing	5	3	3	8
Don't know/No answer	1	*	*	2

Q52. From what you have heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of Edward Snowden's actions in leaking information about this government program?

Approve	25	22	21	30
Disapprove	56	60	59	51
Don't know/No answer	19	18	20	19

Q53. Do you think the government's collection of Americans' phone call records is a violation of privacy, or not?

Yes	67	66	65	69
No	31	33	32	28
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	3

Q54. Do you think the government's collection of Americans' phone call records is a necessary tool to help find terrorists, or do you think it is NOT necessary?

					Jun13a %
Necessary tool	52	48	62	47	53
Not necessary	43	48	34	47	40
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4	6	7

Q58. Thinking about your household income, would you say that it is more than enough so that you can save money or buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or is it not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

					Feb13a
Can save and buy extras	26	35	23	23	25
Just enough to pay bills	47	48	46	48	47
Not enough to pay bills, etc	25	16	28	27	27
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	2	2

Q56. Do you think it should be legal or not legal for same sex couples to marry?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS				May13b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Legal	55	41	65	54	51
Not legal	39	57	30	37	44
Don't know/No answer	6	3	6	9	5

Q57. Which of these comes closest to your view? 1. Abortion should be generally available to those who want it. 2. Abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now. 3. Abortion should not be permitted.

					Feb13b
Generally available	37	26	51	32	42
Available but limits	40	41	34	45	31
Should not be permitted	21	32	14	20	24
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	3	3

Q54b. How do you feel about the jury's verdict in the George Zimmerman trial in which he was found not guilty in the shooting death of a teenager named Trayvon Martin – are you (pleased), (satisfied but not pleased), (disappointed but not angry), or (angry)?

Pleased	18	40	8	15
Satisfied but not pleased	24	33	20	23
Disappointed but not angry	29	12	38	31
Angry	17	4	27	16
Don't Know/No Answer	11	10	7	16

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1036	
Total Republicans	264	234
Total Democrats	335	343
Total Independents	437	460