



CBS NEWS POLL
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The Economy, the President, and Issues Facing the Country
 May 16-19, 2014

- 43% of Americans think the condition of the economy is at least somewhat good – the highest rating so far during Barack Obama’s presidency. 55% still think the economy is at least somewhat bad.
- But President Obama’s job rating remains stagnant at 43%, and more Americans disapprove than approve of his handling of the economy, foreign policy, and health care.
- In the wake of the botched execution of Clayton Lockett last month, most Americans - 59% - are in favor of the death penalty, though this is the lowest level of support recorded since CBS began asking the question in 1988.
- 59% of Americans think the U.S. is doing enough to help track down the school girls kidnapped in Nigeria, and 58% don’t think the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is the U.S.’s responsibility.
- Most Americans – 54% - still disapprove of the Affordable Care Act, though just 21% think the health care system should go back to the way it was before the law was enacted.

The Condition of the Economy

In the wake of a positive jobs report in April, which showed a drop in the nation’s unemployment rate, Americans’ views of the economy have shown the first significant boost in over six years. 43% now think the economy is at least fairly good – a six point rise from March and the highest rating of Barack Obama’s presidency. Still, 55% view the economy as at least somewhat bad, including one in five who say it is very bad.

		Condition of the Economy					
		Now	3/2014	5/2012	5/2010	2/2009	10/2007
Good	43%	37%	32%	20%	5%	50%	
Bad	55	61	67	79	94	49	

More Americans now think the economy is improving: 30% think the economy is getting better while 26% think the economy is getting worse. These numbers were reversed in March. 42% think the economy is staying the same.

		The Economy is Getting...					
		Now	3/2014	1/2014	5/2013	5/2012	5/2010
Better	30%	26%	31%	34%	36%	30%	
Worse	26	30	25	24	24	28	
The same	42	44	43	42	39	42	

Personal concerns about unemployment remain. Six in 10 Americans are at least somewhat concerned that they or someone else in their household might be out of work and looking for a job in the next twelve months, including one in three who are very concerned.

Concern About Household Job Loss in the Next 12 Months

	Total	1/2014	5/2013
Very concerned	35%	37%	32%
Somewhat concerned	25	27	29
Not at all concerned	38	34	38

Americans differ as to what they consider the best measure of the U.S. economy's health. 33% say the unemployment rate and jobs report is the best measure, followed by their own personal finances and those of people they know (27%), the price of goods and services they buy (26%), or the stock market (7%).

The Best Measure of the Economy

	Total Respondents	Think the economy is getting...		
		Better	Worse	Same
The unemployment rate/jobs report	33%	43%	28%	30%
Your own personal finances	27	24	28	29
Prices of goods and services	26	18	31	29
The stock market	7	10	6	6

Which economic measure people focus on may be related to views of the overall direction of the economy. Those who think the economy is getting better are more likely to think the best economic measure is the unemployment rate and the jobs report, while Americans who think the economy is getting worse or staying the same are more divided in what they use to evaluate the economy.

The President's Job Ratings

But improving views of the national economy have not translated into a rise in the President's job rating. President Obama's overall approval rating is now 43%, while 48% disapprove - similar to ratings he has received for most of this year. Mr. Obama has had a net disapproval rating since September 2013.

President Obama's Job Rating

	Now	3/2014	2/2014	1/2014	11/2013	9/2013
Approve	43%	43%	41%	46%	37%	43%
Disapprove	48	50	51	47	57	49

Like his overall job rating, the President's ratings on specific issues are mostly static and more negative than positive. More Americans continue to disapprove than approve of his handling of health care, the economy, and foreign policy, and Americans are divided on his handling of the situation in Ukraine.

President Obama's Job Ratings on...

	----- Now -----		----- March 2013 -----	
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove
Health care	43%	53	40%	56
Economy	42%	52	39%	56
Ukraine	40%	40	38%	46
Foreign policy	39%	48	36%	49

30% of Americans think the country is headed in the right direction while 62% think it is off on the wrong track, not much different than in March.

The Death Penalty

In the wake of the problematic execution of Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma last month, support for the death penalty is just 59% in this poll, the lowest percentage found in CBS News polls since 1988, when the question was first asked. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support the death penalty.

Death Penalty for Those Convicted of Murder

	Now	2/2013	5/2010	4/2002	5/2001	6/1997	9/1995	3/1990	10/1988
Favor	59%	64%	63%	66%	66%	67%	65%	72%	78%
Oppose	33	27	26	24	24	25	21	20	14

Poll respondents were asked to volunteer the reason, in their own words, why they are in favor or opposed to the death penalty.

Why In Favor of Death Penalty:

Eye for an eye/deserve it	39%
It's the right/just punishment	19
Prison costs too much	15
Deters murder	13

Why Opposed to Death Penalty:

Person could be innocent	24%
Murder is wrong	22
Religious/ethical reasons	10
Govt. should not put people to death	8

Foreign Policy Issues: Nigeria

Americans are following the news about the two hundred-plus Nigerian school girls kidnapped by the Islamic resistance group Boko Haram. 47% have heard or read a lot about the incident, and another 33% have heard or read some.

How Much Have You Heard or Read About the Kidnapped School Girls in Nigeria?

A lot	47%
Some	33
Not much	19

The United States has sent law enforcement and intelligence experts to assist Nigeria in the search for the kidnapped girls. Most Americans - 59% - think the U.S. is doing enough to assist Nigeria in the search for the kidnapped girls, though 26% think the U.S. should be doing more.

The Kidnapped Nigerian School Girls: The U.S. Should be Doing...

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
More	26%	29%	24%	26%
Less	8	6	3	13
Doing enough	59	54	67	56

Foreign Policy Issues: Russia and Ukraine

The U.S. and European countries have enacted sanctions against Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine; though few think those sanctions have been effective so far. Just 29% think they have been even somewhat effective, while 60% think they have not been very or at all effective.

How Effective Have Sanctions Been Against Russia?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Effective	29%	21%	37%	26%
Not effective	60	66	52	62

In March most Americans supported sanctions against Russia, but they are divided now as to whether the U.S. should enact more sanctions. 45% think the U.S. should do so, while 40% think the U.S. should not. Americans are even less enthusiastic about providing military aid and equipment to Ukraine: 63% oppose this.

Russia and Ukraine: The U.S. Should....

	Enact more sanctions Against Russia	Provide military aid to Ukraine
Yes, should	45%	27%
No, should not	40	63

Almost six in 10 Americans don't think the situation between Russia and Ukraine is the U.S.'s responsibility – little changed since March.

Does the U.S. Have a Responsibility to do Something About Russia and Ukraine?

	Now	3/2014
Yes	32%	32%
No	58	61

Nevertheless, eight in 10 Americans say what happens in Ukraine is at least somewhat important to the interests of the United States (though just 27% think it is very important) and Americans think an expansion of the conflict is likely. 71% think it is at least somewhat likely that the situation between Russia and Ukraine will become a more widespread conflict involving neighboring countries and other parts of Europe, including 26% who think that is very likely.

Conflict between Russia and Ukraine Will Become a More Widespread War

	Now	3/2014
Very likely	26%	27%
Somewhat likely	45	42
Not too/at all likely	25	27

Just 6% of Americans have a favorable opinion of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and far more – 48% - view him unfavorably. Another 45% don't have an opinion.

Opinion of Vladimir Putin

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Favorable	6%	5%	5%	7%
Not favorable	48	51	51	44
Undecided/Haven't heard enough	45	43	42	47

The Affordable Care Act

While just 6% of Americans think the 2010 health care law is working well and should be kept in place as it is, a majority thinks there are some good things in the health care law but changes are needed to make it work better. 35% think it needs to be repealed entirely; that percentage has dropped since earlier this year.

Views of the Health Care Law

	Now	2/2014
Working well, keep in place	6%	6%
Good things, but changes needed	56	50
Needs to be repealed entirely	35	42

As for what should replace the ACA, one in five Americans think the law should be repealed and the health care system should revert to the way it was before the ACA took effect. 11% want it replaced with a new law altogether.

If Repealed, What Should Replace It?

Go back to how it was	21%
New health care law	11
Not sure	2
Should not be repealed	65

Views on the long-term impact of the ACA have improved slightly since last November, but are still more negative than positive. 35% think the law will improve the health care system (up from 30%), and 39% think it will make health care worse (down from 44%).

The Health Care Law Will Make The Health Care System...

	Now	11/2013
Better than before	35%	30%
Worse than before	39	44
No difference	22	22

As has been the case since it was passed in 2010, more Americans disapprove (54%) than approve (41%) of the Affordable Care Act. Opinion continues to be highly partisan; 82% of Republicans disapprove, and 73% of Democrats approve.

Approval of the Health Care Law

	Now	3/2014	11/2013	10/2013	9/2012	12/2011	3/2010
Approve	41%	41%	31%	43%	42%	35%	32%
Disapprove	54	53	61	51	46	51	53

The Keystone XL Pipeline

56% of Americans support building the Keystone Pipeline, which would transport oil from Canada to refineries in Texas. Support is especially strong among Republicans. Those who have heard or read at least some about the proposal are more likely to support it.

Views on Keystone Pipeline				
	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Favor	56%	82%	37%	56%
Oppose	28	11	41	27
Don't know	17	7	23	17

Many Americans expect the pipeline is likely to create jobs; far fewer expect the pipeline to cause environmental damage.

Likely Keystone Pipeline Would...			
	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not very/not at all Likely
Create a significant number of jobs	44%	38	14
Harm the environment	22%	34	37

Global Warming

There have been recent reports from the United Nations and the federal government about climate change. Just under half of Americans think global warming is having a serious impact now, and another 31% expect it will have a serious impact in the future. Opinion has changed little since early 2013. Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to view it as having a serious impact now.

Impact of Global Warming				
	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Serious impact now	46%	28%	65%	40%
Will have serious impact in future	31	30	24	36
Won't have serious impact	20	39	7	20

Two thirds of Americans are concerned about global warming, including 32% who are very concerned. 33% are not too or not at all concerned about it.

49% of Americans think global warming is the result of human activity. Another 33% think it is due to natural fluctuations in the earth's temperature.

Global Warming Due to:				
	Now	Reps	Dems	Inds
Human activity	49%	27%	67%	47%
Natural patterns	33	49	23	32
Does not exist	11	20	4	12

Immigration

Public attention has recently been focused on deportations of illegal immigrants, especially if it would split up families. But more Americans see securing the border as a higher priority than addressing the status of illegal immigrants.

	Which Should be a Higher Priority?		
	Now	10/2013	7/2013
Securing the border	55%	50%	56%
Addressing status of illegal immigrants	37	43	37

51% of Americans think illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and eventually apply for citizenship. Just 15% think they should be allowed to stay legally but not apply for citizenship, and another 29% think they should be required to leave the country. There has been little change in these views since the beginning of the year.

This poll was conducted by telephone May 16-19, 2014 among 1,009 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by SSRS 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 National Poll
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Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar14c
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	43	14	76	33	43
Disapprove	48	82	16	54	50
Don't know/No answer	9	4	7	13	7

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	30	13	53	23	32
Wrong track	62	84	38	69	61
Don't know/No answer	7	3	10	8	8

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	39	16	68	30	36
Disapprove	48	76	19	54	49
Don't know/No answer	13	8	13	15	14

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

Approve	42	14	72	34	39
Disapprove	52	82	22	59	56
Don't know/No answer	6	4	5	8	5

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

Approve	43	13	76	34	40
Disapprove	53	85	21	60	56
Don't know/No answer	4	2	3	6	5

Q6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation between Russia and Ukraine?

Approve	40	20	63	33	38
Disapprove	40	58	20	45	46
Don't know/No answer	21	23	17	22	16

Q7. RELEASED SEPARATELY

Q8. 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				Mar14c
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	4	1	5	5	3
Fairly good	39	24	57	34	34
Fairly bad	36	44	26	39	34
Very bad	19	29	11	20	27
Don't know/No answer	2	2	1	3	1

Q9. Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	30	16	47	26	26
Worse	26	40	14	28	30
Same	42	44	38	45	44
Don't know/No answer	1	*	1	1	*

Q10. For you personally, which one of the following do you consider the best measure of how the national economy is doing? 1. The stock market index, 2. The unemployment rate and jobs reports. 3. The prices of goods and services you buy. Or, 4. Your personal finances and those of people you know.

The stock market index	7	10	9	5
The unemployment rate/jobs report	33	36	36	29
The prices of goods & services you buy	26	24	23	30
Your personal finances	27	26	25	29
Don't know/No answer	6	4	7	7

Q11-q35

Q36. Which comes closest to your view about the 2010 health care law? 1. The law is working well and should be kept in place as is. 2. There are some good things in the law, but some changes are needed to make it work better. 3. The law has so much wrong with it that it needs to be repealed entirely.

					Feb14c
Working well and kept in place	6	1	11	5	6
Good things, but changes needed	56	42	71	53	50
Needs to be repealed it entirely	35	57	15	38	42
Don't know/No answer	3	*	2	5	2

Q37. If the 2010 health care law is repealed, do you think it should be replaced by a new health care law, or do you think the health care system should go back to the way it was before the 2010 health care law was in effect?

Replaced with new health care law	11	19	2	14
Go back to the way it was	21	36	11	22
Should not be repealed	65	43	85	62
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	2

Q38. In the long run, do you think the 2010 health care law will make the health care system in the U.S. better than it was before, worse than it was before, or don't you think there will be much of a difference either way?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Dec13a1
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Better than before	35	9	66	26	36
Worse than before	39	69	13	43	39
No difference	22	19	17	27	21
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	4	4

Q39. Which statement comes closest to your view about global warming? 1. Global warming is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels, 2. Global warming is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment or 3. Global warming does not exist.

					Feb14c
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Human activity	49	27	67	47	46
Natural patterns	33	49	23	32	34
Global warming does not exist	11	20	4	12	14
Caused by both (vol.)	3	1	3	5	3
Not sure what it's caused by (vol.)	1	1	-	1	2
Don't know/No answer	2	2	3	2	2

Q40. Do you think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now, or do you think the impact of global warming won't happen until sometime in the future, or do you think global warming won't have a serious impact at all?

					Feb13a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Impact now	46	28	65	40	49
In the future	31	30	24	36	28
No serious impact	20	39	7	20	19
Don't know/No answer	4	3	4	3	5

Q41. How concerned are you about global warming -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very concerned	32	15	45	32
Somewhat concerned	34	30	36	34
Not too concerned	16	25	12	14
Not concerned at all	17	29	5	19
Don't know/No answer	1	1	2	1

Q46. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.? 1. They should be allowed to stay in the U.S and eventually apply for citizenship, 2. They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. legally, but not be allowed to apply for citizenship or 3. They should be required to leave the U.S.

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar14c
	%	%	%	%	%
Stay & apply for citizenship	51	38	58	53	56
Stay in the U.S. legally, but not apply	15	12	20	14	12
Required to leave the U.S.	29	45	19	29	29
Don't know/No answer	4	5	3	5	3

Q47. Which should be the higher priority now--securing the nation's border, or addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the US?

					Oct13d
Securing the border	55	64	50	55	50
Addressing status	37	31	44	35	43
Both (vol.)	4	3	3	5	5
Neither (vol.)	1	-	1	2	1
Don't know/No answer	3	2	3	3	2

Q49. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

					Feb13b
Favor	59	78	46	60	64
Oppose	33	16	48	31	27
Don't know/No answer	8	6	6	10	8

Q50. What is the main reason you favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	* THOSE WHO FAVOR THE DEATH PENALTY *			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
An eye for an eye	39	41	40	38
The right punishment for murder	19	15	26	18
It deters crime/murder	13	15	5	15
Costs too much to keep alive in prison	15	16	11	16
Society's right to protect itself	2	1	2	2
Comfort for victims/loved ones	1	2	2	1
Depends upon circumstances	4	1	6	4
Some other reason	5	6	5	3
Don't know/No Answer	3	2	3	2

Q51. What is the main reason you oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

* THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY *

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Person could be innocent/not guilty	24	35	28	16
Murder is wrong no matter what	22	10	21	27
Religious/Ethical reasons	10	15	10	10
Govt shouldn't put people to death	8	16	6	7
It is cruel and unusual punishment	6	9	7	5
Death row costs too much	5	2	3	8
Don't have a humane method	4	3	4	3
Execution is the easy way out	4	1	3	7
It does NOT deter crime/murder	4	2	4	5
Not applied fairly	1	1	1	2
Too many people put to death	*	-	-	1
Some other reason	8	6	10	6
Don't know/No answer	3	-	2	3

Q42. How much have you heard or read about a proposal to build a pipeline called the Keystone XL, which would transport oil from Canada through the United States to refineries in Texas – a lot, some, or not much?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	26	30	22	26
Some	29	32	28	29
Not much	37	35	37	37
Nothing	8	3	11	7
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1

Q43. Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada through the United States to refineries in Texas?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	56	82	37	56
Oppose	28	11	41	27
Don't know/No answer	17	7	23	17

Q44. How likely do you think it is the Keystone XL pipeline would harm the environment? – very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very likely	22	7	32	22
Somewhat likely	34	32	36	34
Not very likely	24	41	15	22
Not at all likely	13	15	7	16
Don't know/no answer	7	4	10	7

Q45. How likely do you think it is that the Keystone XL pipeline would create a significant number of jobs in the U.S.—very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Very likely	44	62	32	43
Somewhat likely	38	35	39	40
Not very likely	9	1	16	7
Not at all likely	5	1	8	6
Don't know/no answer	4	2	5	4

Q53a. How much have you heard or read about the kidnapping of more than 200 school girls in Nigeria by an Islamic extremist group – A lot, some or not much?

A lot	47	47	52	43
Some	33	39	32	30
Not much	19	14	15	24
Nothing	1	1	1	2
Don't know/No answer	*	-	-	*

Q53b. The United States has sent law enforcement and intelligence experts to assist Nigeria in the search for the kidnapped girls. Should the U.S. be doing more to assist Nigeria in the search for the kidnapped girls, should it be doing less, or is the U.S. doing the right amount?

Should be doing more	26	29	24	26
Should be doing less	8	6	3	13
Is doing the right amount	59	54	67	56
Don't know/No answer	7	11	6	5

Q54. Is your opinion of Russian President Vladimir Putin favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Vladimir Putin yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	6	5	5	7
Not favorable	48	51	51	44
Undecided	17	17	15	18
Haven't heard enough	28	26	27	29
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	2

Q55. How much have you heard or read about the situation between Russia and Ukraine? Have you heard or read a lot, some, or not much?

					Mar14c %
A lot	36	38	36	35	36
Some	34	35	36	31	33
Not much	29	27	28	32	29
Nothing	1	*	-	1	2
Don't know/No answer	*	*	*	-	

Q56. Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the situation between Russia and Ukraine, or doesn't the United States have this responsibility?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Mar14c
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	
US has responsibility	32	38	32	30	32
US doesn't have this responsibility	58	54	58	59	61
Don't know/No answer	10	8	10	11	7

Q57. The United States and European countries have enacted sanctions against Russia in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine. So far, how effective do you think sanctions have been in changing Russian actions in Ukraine – very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not at all effective?

Very effective	3	2	4	2
Somewhat effective	26	19	33	24
Not very effective	38	43	37	36
Not at all effective	22	23	15	26
Don't know/No answer	12	12	11	13

Q58. Do you think the U.S. should or should not enact additional sanctions against Russia in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine?

Should	45	48	49	41
Should not	40	41	36	43
Don't know/No answer	14	11	14	16

Q59. Do you think the U.S. should or should not provide military aid and equipment to Ukraine in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine?

Should	27	33	22	27	26*
Should not	63	59	66	64	65
Don't/Know answer	10	8	12	10	8

*wording change: "... in Ukraine and Crimea?"

Q60. How likely do you think it is that the situation between Russia and Ukraine will become a more widespread conflict involving neighboring countries and other parts of Europe – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely.

Very likely	26	32	23	25	27
Somewhat likely	45	40	47	45	42
Not too likely	19	21	20	18	20
Not at all likely	6	5	5	7	7
Don't know/No answer	4	2	6	5	5

Q61. How important to the interests of the United States is what happens between Russia and Ukraine --very important, somewhat important, or not very important?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very important	27	32	28	23
Somewhat important	52	50	57	50
Not very important	17	16	13	21
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	6

Q62-Q64 RELEASED SEPARATELY

Q65. How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job— very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

					Jan14c
Very concerned	35	28	34	38	37
Somewhat concerned	25	27	25	25	27
Not at all concerned	38	43	39	35	34
Someone looking for a job (vol.)	2	2	1	2	2
Don't know/No answer	*	*	*	*	1

	Unweighted	Weighted
Total respondents	1009	
Republicans	239	228
Democrats	325	327
Independents	445	453

Margin of error: 3pts.