

**Trump at One Year: Low Job Approval, But the Economy Is Good  
 Retains Support from his Base; Few Say They've Been Helped by His Policies So Far**

January 13-16, 2018

A year after President Donald Trump was sworn into office, he continues to receive historically low and highly partisan approval ratings, despite widely positive views of the economy. He gets at least some credit for that, but most Americans don't feel they've personally benefitted from his policies – only 22% think they've been directly helped.

37% of Americans approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president –lower ratings at the one-year mark than past presidents. 58% now disapprove.

**Presidential Job Ratings: After the First Year**

	Approve	Disapprove	
Trump	37%	58	Now
Obama	50%	40	(1/2010)
G.W. Bush	82%	11	(1/2002)
Clinton	54%	35	(1/1994)
G.H.W. Bush	76%	13	(1/1990)
Reagan	49%	38	(1/1982)
Carter	51%	29	(1/1978)
Nixon	63%	23	(1/1970, Gallup)
Kennedy	79%	10	(1/1962, Gallup)
Eisenhower	70%	18	(1/1954, Gallup)

Americans overall are feeling upbeat about the economy and the President gets some credit for that. 67% say the economy is very or fairly good – a figure that has been at the 60% level or higher since Trump became president. Even half of Democrats give him at least some credit.

**Are Trump's Policies Responsible for the State of the Economy?**

(Among those who say economy is very or fairly good)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Mostly	32%	51%	12%	29%
Partially	39	38	38	42
Not at all	27	11	47	27

But most Americans don't feel they have benefited directly from the President's policies. Feelings on this are largely driven by partisanship. Also, blacks and Hispanics are more likely than whites to say they have been hurt by his policies.

**Impact of Trump's Policies on You and Your Family**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds	Whites	Blacks	Hispanics
Helped	22%	55%	1%	19%	27%	2%	11%
Hurt	24	4	44	21	19	46	40
Not much effect	53	40	55	59	53	53	46

In the history of CBS News polling, Trump’s approval rating has varied the least of any president during a first year going back to Ronald Reagan, when the poll began routinely tracking job approval. The partisan splits have proved as durable as they are wide.

Trump’s first approval rating of his presidency was 40%, which ticked up to 43% in April after the U.S. launched airstrikes against Syrian military targets and is his highest approval to date. In September, Trump got his lowest approval rating of this first year at 35%.



The percent of Americans who disapprove of Trump’s job performance has risen ten points since February of last year, suggesting that many who were undecided at the start of his presidency now disapprove of him.

President Trump’s ratings are low among most demographic groups, with majorities of both men and women, and most Americans of all racial backgrounds and age groups disapproving. Only a majority of Republicans, conservatives, and white evangelicals approve. Whites without a college degree – whose votes helped Trump win the Presidency - are divided today.

**President Trump’s Job Rating**  
(Among key demographic groups)

	Approve	Disapprove
Total	37%	58
Men	41%	54
Women	33%	63

**President Trump's Job Rating**  
(Among key demographic groups)

	Approve	Disapprove
Whites	44%	51
Blacks	3%	96
Hispanics	19%	77
White no college deg.	49%	47
White college deg.	36%	61
Age 18-44	30%	65
Age 45+	42%	53
Republicans	83%	13
Democrats	7%	90
Independents	33%	60
Liberal	10%	87
Moderate	30%	64
Conservatives	65%	31
White Evangelicals	63%	33

Going in, Americans had largely negative expectations about the kind of President Donald Trump would be, and their assessments are now even more negative. Last year, one third of Americans expected Trump to be a "Poor" president, and 53% give him a grade of "Poor" today.

**Grading the President: 2017's Expectations and Today's Assessments...**

	What Has He Been? (Now)	What Will He Be? (1/2017)
Very good	14%	17%
Good	16	18
Average	16	23
Poor	53	36

It's largely Democrats who have become more negative about the Trump presidency. Republicans are mostly positive about Trump's first year: Eight in 10 Republicans approve of the job Donald Trump is doing and most are just as optimistic with him in office now as they were right before he was sworn in as President. Seven in 10 say he has been a very good or good president.

During the campaign, candidate Trump said he would help America win again. Right now, more than half of Americans feel America is losing at the things it tries to do. Three in four Republicans see a country that is winning, but most Democrats and independents do not.

**Since Donald Trump Has Been President, America Has Been...**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Mostly winning	36%	76%	8%	33%
Mostly losing	55	16	86	54

On specific issues, Trump is relatively strongest on the economy (46%) and terrorism (45%). He gets lower marks on tax policy (38%), immigration (34%) and the situation with North Korea (34%). Most Republicans approve of his handling of these issues, while most Democrats don't.

Republicans feel Trump has made more progress on some of his campaign promises than others. At least four in 10 see a lot of progress on bringing jobs back to the U.S., cutting taxes for the middle class, defeating ISIS, and reducing regulations on business. Fewer Republicans see a lot of progress on repealing Obamacare and only one in 10 think Trump has made a lot of progress in building a border wall.

### Progress on Campaign Promises

(among Republicans)

	A lot	Some	Not much
Bring jobs back from overseas	48%	37	13
Reducing regulations on business	44%	40	9
Defeating ISIS	41%	41	15
Cutting taxes for middle class	41%	38	15
Repealing & replacing Obamacare	19%	51	29
Building a border wall	10%	40	47

Overall, there are dramatic partisan splits on just about every measure, including both the President and the direction of the country overall.

### A Summary of Measures: America After One Year, by Party

	Reps	Dems	Inds
Trump job approval	83%	7%	33%
Think America is "winning"	76%	8%	33%
Feel optimistic about next few years	89%	20%	51%
Trump very good/good president	71%	3%	27%
Trump poor president	10%	87%	52%
Country is headed in right direction	76%	9%	30%

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 This poll was conducted by telephone January 13-16, 2018 among a random sample of 1,225 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by SSRS of Glen Mills, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones.

The poll employed a random digit dial methodology. For the landline sample, a respondent was randomly selected from all adults in the household. For the cell sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish using live interviewers. The data have been weighted to reflect U.S. Census figures on demographic variables.

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 and is available by request. The margin of error includes the effects of standard weighting procedures which enlarge sampling error slightly.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**CBS NEWS POLL**

**Trump at One Year: Low Job Approval, But the Economy Is Good**

**January 13-16, 2018**

Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	<b>** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **</b>			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	37	83	7	33
Disapprove	58	13	90	60
Don't know/No answer	5	5	3	6

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	34	76	9	30
Wrong track	60	18	87	64
Don't know/No answer	6	6	5	6

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy?

Approve	46	89	15	44
Disapprove	49	8	79	49
Don't know/No answer	6	2	6	7

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling tax policy?

Approve	38	83	7	37
Disapprove	53	12	86	52
Don't know/No answer	8	5	8	11

Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the threat of terrorism?

Approve	45	87	15	44
Disapprove	47	9	78	47
Don't know/No answer	7	4	7	9

Q6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation with North Korea?

Approve	34	73	8	32
Disapprove	59	19	89	59
Don't know/No answer	7	9	3	9

Q7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the issue of immigration?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	34	77	6	31
Disapprove	61	18	91	63
Don't know/No answer	5	5	3	6

Q8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	18	21	17	17
Disapprove	75	71	76	76
Don't know/No answer	8	9	7	7

Q11. How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	16	31	7	14
Fairly good	51	58	48	51
Fairly bad	21	9	32	18
Very bad	11	2	12	15
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	2

Q12. Would you say Donald Trump's policies are mostly responsible, partially responsible, or not at all responsible for the current state of the nation's economy?

	Total	Economy Good	Economy Bad
	%	%	%
Mostly	30	32	27
Partially	41	39	44
Not at all	27	27	26
Don't know/No answer	3	2	3

Q13. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next three years with Donald Trump as president?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Optimistic	50	89	20	51
Pessimistic	46	11	77	42
Don't know/No answer	4	*	3	7

Q14. What kind of president do you think Donald Trump has been so far - a very good president, a good president, an average president, or a poor president?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very good	14	36	1	11
Good	16	35	2	16
Average	16	19	9	19
Poor	53	10	87	52
Don't know/No answer	1	-	*	1

Q15. Do you think Donald Trump is making the United States' position in the world stronger, is he making it weaker, or is he not having much of an effect on the United States' position in the world?

Stronger	32	72	6	28
Weaker	49	12	76	51
Not much effect	16	14	16	17
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	4

Q16. So far, do you think Donald Trump's policies have mostly helped you and your family, mostly hurt you and your family, or have they not had much effect?

Helped	22	55	1	19
Hurt	24	4	44	21
Not much effect	53	40	55	59
Don't know/No answer	1	1	*	2

Q17. As you may know, Donald Trump said during the campaign he would help America win again. Since Donald Trump has been president, do you feel America has been mostly winning at the things it tries to do, or mostly losing at the things it tries to do?

Mostly winning	36	76	8	33
Mostly losing	55	16	86	54
Neither/Both equally (vol.)	3	3	2	5
Don't know/No answer	6	4	4	8

Q18. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with them, do you think Donald Trump has made a lot of progress, some progress or not much progress on the following campaign promises? How about...?

a. Defeating ISIS

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot of progress	19	41	5	17
Some progress	30	41	19	32
Not much progress	46	15	70	46
Don't know/No answer	5	3	6	5

b. Building a wall along the U.S-Mexico border

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot of progress	5	10	1	5
Some progress	25	40	14	24
Not much progress	67	47	81	67
Don't know/No answer	3	3	3	4

c. Bringing U.S. jobs back from going overseas

A lot of progress	18	48	2	14
Some progress	30	37	20	32
Not much progress	47	13	72	46
Don't know/No answer	6	3	6	8

d. Repealing and replacing Obamacare

A lot of progress	13	19	7	15
Some progress	37	51	27	37
Not much progress	45	29	60	43
Don't know/No answer	4	2	7	4

e. Reducing government regulations on business

A lot of progress	28	44	14	29
Some progress	36	40	31	37
Not much progress	27	9	45	23
Don't know/No answer	10	7	11	10

f. Cutting taxes for the middle class

A lot of progress	18	41	3	16
Some progress	26	38	13	29
Not much progress	50	15	78	48
Don't know/No answer	6	6	5	6



Q19. Please tell me how much of a priority each of the following should be for the President and Congress this year. Should it be a high priority, a medium priority, not much of a priority, or not a priority at all? How about...?

a. Improving health care

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
High priority	76	74	82	74
Medium priority	16	23	8	17
Not much of a priority	4	3	6	4
Not a priority at all	3	*	3	4
Don't know/No answer	1	*	1	1

b. Fixing infrastructure, roads and bridges

High priority	58	52	63	59
Medium priority	31	41	25	29
Not much of a priority	8	7	8	10
Not a priority at all	2	*	4	1
Don't know/No answer	1	*	1	1

c. Reforming immigration

High priority	54	68	48	50
Medium priority	25	22	24	26
Not much of a priority	13	7	15	14
Not a priority at all	7	2	11	7
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	2

e. Reforming welfare

High priority	47	59	41	45
Medium priority	33	31	32	34
Not much of a priority	12	8	16	13
Not a priority at all	6	3	8	5
Don't know/No answer	2	*	3	3

f. Strengthening the military

High priority	52	73	40	48
Medium priority	25	20	28	26
Not much of a priority	14	4	19	15
Not a priority at all	8	2	13	8
Don't know/No answer	1	-	*	3

g. Making better trade deals

**\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
High priority	47	57	40	47
Medium priority	36	35	34	37
Not much of a priority	11	6	17	9
Not a priority at all	3	*	6	3
Don't know/No answer	3	2	3	4

Q21. From what you have heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the tax law that was passed by Congress and signed by Donald Trump in December? IF APPROVE: Do you strongly approve or somewhat approve? IF DISAPPROVE: Do you somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove?

Strongly approve	23	54	5	20
Somewhat approve	17	26	6	20
Somewhat disapprove	14	6	19	16
Strongly disapprove	34	6	60	31
Don't know/No answer	12	9	11	14

Q22. From what you have heard or read, overall, does the tax law seem fair to people like you, or seem unfair to people like you?

Fair to people like you	42	80	13	41
Unfair to people like you	50	14	79	50
Don't know/No answer	8	7	7	9

Q23. Do you think the tax law will make the economy better, make the economy worse, or not affect the economy?

Better	37	77	9	37
Worse	36	3	64	34
No effect	19	14	19	22
Don't know/No answer	8	6	9	7

Q38. Is your overall opinion of the U.S. military very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable	53	63	47	51
Mostly favorable	38	35	40	37
Mostly unfavorable	5	*	9	5
Very unfavorable	2	*	3	3
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	3

Q39. 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. OR 3. Abortion should not be permitted.

	<b>** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **</b>			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Generally available	45	20	63	44
Available but under limits	32	41	24	33
Should not be permitted	21	37	12	19
Don't know/No answer	2	2	1	4

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1,225	
Total Republicans	323	298
Total Democrats	376	394
Total Independents	526	534