

Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY
1,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and over
Margin of Error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2023
June 17-20, 2011
Weighted by age and race

Methodology

June 23 (Bloomberg) -- The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted June 17-20 for Bloomberg News by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 1,000 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
26	66	8

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

- 42 Unemployment and jobs
- 17 Government spending
- 13 The federal deficit
- 10 Health care
- 5 The war in Afghanistan
- 4 Gas prices
- 3 Immigration
- 1 Taxes
- 2 Other (VOL) (specify:)
- None of these (VOL)
- 3 Not sure

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

- 23 Hopeful because there are signs of improvement
- 25 Fearful because things are getting worse
- 51 Cautious because nothing is really happening
- 1 Not sure

Which of the following approaches is more likely to be successful in growing the U.S. economy and creating jobs? (Rotatae.)

- 55 Spending cuts and tax cuts will give businesses more confidence to hire
- 17 Government needs to keep spending at current level now because the job market is so weak
- 17 Government needs to spend more to stimulate the economy
- 11 Not sure

Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to reduce the federal deficit or are you not willing to pay more, even if the deficit grows?

- 36 Willing to pay more
- 61 Not willing to pay more
- 3 Not sure

Regardless of whether you are willing or unwilling to pay higher taxes, do you think it is or is not inevitable that taxes will go up for all Americans as part of a plan to bring down the deficit?

- 77 Is inevitable
- 19 Is not inevitable
- 4 Not sure

Proposals to change the income tax system would reduce the overall rate you pay in exchange for also reducing or eliminating some tax deductions and credits. For each, please tell me if you would favor or oppose eliminating or reducing the deduction. (Read list. Rotatae.)

Ranked by Favor	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
The deduction for mortgage interest	49	45	6
The benefits for education expenses	49	48	3
The deduction for charitable contributions	48	47	5
The benefits for child care expenses	46	50	4
The exclusion of employer-paid health insurance premiums from your taxable income	40	51	9
The deduction for 401(k) contributions	39	54	7

Are you better off or worse off than you were at the beginning of 2009?

- 34 Better off
- 44 Worse off
- 21 About the same (VOL)
- 1 Not sure

Do you expect American children will have a higher, lower, or about the same standard of living than their parents do today?

- 23 Higher
- 55 Lower
- 19 Same
- 3 Not sure

When do you expect the U.S. unemployment rate will return to about 5%, where it was before the recession hit in 2008—within the next two years, next three to five years, next six to 10 years, longer than 10 years from now or never?

- 8 Next two years
- 41 Next three to five years
- 28 Next six to 10 years
- 9 Longer than 10 years from now
- 10 Never
- 4 Not sure

I'm going to mention some possible reasons the unemployment rate has not changed much in the last two or three years. For each, please tell me if you think this is a major reason, a minor reason, or not relevant to the unemployment rate. **(Rotate list.)**

Ranked by Major Reason	Major Reason	Minor Reason	Not Relevant	Not Sure
U.S. companies are investing in jobs overseas instead of in the U.S.	78	16	5	1
The size of the federal deficit makes the economy unstable	65	21	12	2
The job market has changed and the kinds of jobs people used to have are gone and never coming back	61	26	12	1
Situations like the 2008 financial crisis just take time to heal	58	28	12	2
Uncertainty about new government regulations and taxes is discouraging companies from hiring	52	30	16	2
The government stimulus didn't work	45	32	20	3
The government is cutting spending, which hurts jobs	35	38	25	2

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

- 40 President Obama
- 37 Republicans
- 16 Neither (VOL)
- 7 Not sure

Thinking ahead to the election in 2012, which worries you more: **(Read items. Rotate.)**

49	Republicans will gain control of both houses of Congress and the presidency and will implement their proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and many other domestic programs
40	Democrats will retain the White House and at least one house of Congress and continue current spending policies
11	Not sure

For each of the following statements, please tell me if you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree. **(Rotate list.)**

	Strongly Agree	Mostly Agree	Mostly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
In 2012, President Obama will have had his chance—if the economy isn't substantially better by election day, it will be very hard to vote for him	45	16	16	21	2
To win the nomination, the Republican nominee will have moved so far to the right on fiscal and social issues it will be very hard to vote for that candidate	33	27	20	15	5

Congress is currently debating raising the limit on the national debt, which allows the government to borrow the money it needs to pay for all its programs. Republicans want to tie any increase in the debt ceiling to substantial decreases in spending. Do you think Republicans should or should not hold out for more spending cuts in exchange for a vote to increase the debt ceiling, even if the delay leads to the U.S. government defaulting on its debt obligations?

- 45** Should hold out
- 46** Should not hold out
- 9** Not sure

If the Congress does not raise the debt limit and the U.S. government defaults on its obligations on its debt, do you expect this would be a catastrophe, a serious problem, a small problem, or not a problem?

- 19** Catastrophe
- 52** Serious problem
- 20** Small problem
- 7** Not a problem
- 2** Not sure

If Congress fails to raise the U.S. debt ceiling and markets fall as a result, whom would you hold responsible: **(Read options. Rotate.)**

- 44** Republicans, for insisting that any debt ceiling vote be tied to comparable budget cuts
- 41** President Obama for resisting Republican demands on spending cuts
- 15** Not sure

On Afghanistan, which best reflects your view: **(Read list.)**

- 30** U.S. troops should start coming home immediately
- 53** U.S. troops should come home gradually over the next couple of years
- 15** U.S. troops should stay until the Taliban and al Qaeda are completely defeated
- 2** Not sure

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

- 35** It should be repealed
- 51** It may need small modifications, but we should see how it works
- 11** It should be left alone
- 3** Not sure

In order to preserve Medicare in largely its current state, some changes might need to be made. For each of the following, please tell me if you would favor or oppose the change. **(Rotate list.)**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
New limits on medical services that would be covered by Medicare	49	47	4
Higher payroll taxes than employees and employers currently pay so that the Medicare system has more money	41	56	3
Means-testing for Medicare benefits which would reduce coverage for wealthy Americans	67	28	5

One proposal currently being debated in Congress is to replace traditional Medicare so that individuals buy their own private insurance with the help of government subsidies. Do you think you would be better off or worse off under this proposed system for Medicare?

- 34** Better off
- 57** Worse off
- 9** Not sure

In general, which party do you think is doing a better job of dealing with Medicare—the Republicans or the Democrats?

- 34** Republicans
- 43** Democrats
- 23** 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.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
As president	49	44	7
Ranked by Approve			
With terrorism	69	27	4
With health care	45	50	5
With the economy	39	57	4
With creating jobs	38	57	5
With the budget deficit	32	61	7

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	32	19	23	4
Sarah Palin , former governor of Alaska	10	21	22	36	11
Herman Cain , former CEO of Godfather's Pizza	7	11	9	6	67
The Republican Party	12	30	31	16	11
The Democratic Party	13	35	26	16	10
The Tea Party	11	21	20	25	23
John Boehner , the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	7	25	19	9	40
Jon Huntsman , former governor of Utah	3	10	9	5	73
Chris Christie , governor of New Jersey	10	14	13	6	57
Mitt Romney , former governor of Massachusetts	8	29	20	11	32
Newt Gingrich , former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	6	19	27	24	24
Tim Pawlenty , former governor of Minnesota	4	14	14	6	62
Paul Ryan , congressman from Wisconsin and chairman of the House Budget Committee	8	15	16	10	51
Michele Bachmann , congresswoman from Minnesota	8	18	12	13	49

In the 2012 election, do you anticipate you will definitely vote for President Obama, consider voting for another candidate, or definitely vote for another candidate?

- 30 Definitely Obama
- 27 Consider another candidate
- 36 Definitely vote for another candidate
- 1 Will not vote (VOL)
- 6 Not sure

I'm going to mention some things Republican candidates have done or proposed that have drawn criticism from other Republicans. For each, please tell me if it would make you think the candidate less attractive, would not matter, or if it makes the candidate more attractive. (If "less attractive, ask:) A lot or a little less attractive? (Based on those who will definitely vote for or consider a candidate other than President Obama; n=646.)

	A lot less Attractive	A little less Attractive	Would not Matter	More Attractive	Not Sure
Supported a health insurance mandate	30	22	18	24	6
Supported tax increases in the past	30	30	27	10	3
Supported civil unions for gay and lesbian couples	31	14	34	21	-
Is a member of the Mormon faith	13	12	67	5	3
Wants to change Medicare to a private pay system with government subsidies	34	21	15	26	4
Supported a cap and trade plan to cut greenhouse gases	25	17	24	29	5
Voted to raise the national debt ceiling	36	31	17	12	4
Was unfaithful to a spouse	52	23	22	2	1
Served in the Obama administration	26	20	41	10	3

Which is better for a Republican candidate seeking your support: (Read items. Rotate. Based on those who will definitely vote for or consider a candidate other than President Obama; n=646.)

- 10 To focus almost entirely on social issues, and a little on economic issues
- 83 To focus almost entirely on economic issues, and a little on social issues
- 7 Not sure

Are you mostly happy with the current slate of Republican candidates, or do you wish some other candidate would get in the race? (Based on those who will definitely vote for or consider a candidate other than President Obama; n=646.)

- 28 Mostly happy
- 58 Wish another candidate would get in race
- 14 Not sure

What is your age?

(CODE PROPER CATEGORY :)

- 14 Under 25
- 17 25 to 34
- 18 35 to 44
- 19 45 to 54
- 15 55 to 64
- 17 65 and over
- Refused/not sure

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

- 27 Republican
- 32 Democrat
- 39 Independent
- Other (VOL)
- 2 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
8	19	66	7

What is the last grade of school you completed?

- 26 High school graduate or less
- 21 Some college
- 34 College degree
- 18 Postgraduate work or degree
- 1 Refused/not sure

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

- 33 Yes
- 66 No
- 1 Refused/not sure

Which of the following best describes your religious beliefs—Catholic, Protestant, some other kind of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other, or none?

- 21 Catholic
- 25 Protestant
- 25 Some other kind of Christian
- 2 Jewish
- Muslim
- 12 Other
- 13 None
- 2 Refused/not sure

Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or fundamentalist Christian, or not?
(Based on all, so percentages do not add to 100%.)

- 24 Yes
- 24 No
- 2 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
- 14** Probably vote
- 6** Might or might not vote
- 6** Probably not vote
- 1** 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
- 5** Asian
- 2** Other
- 5** Refused/not sure

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

Below
Above

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| Is it above or below \$25,000 per year? | 15 | Below (<\$25,000) |
| | 23 | Above (\$25,000-\$49,999) |
| Is it above or below \$100,000 per year? | 30 | Below (\$50,000-\$99,999) |
| | 22 | Above (\$100,000 or more) |
| | 10 | Refused/not sure |

Sex:

- 50** Male
- 50** Female