

Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY
 1,002 general population age 18 and over
 Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2079
 May 31-June 3, 2013
 Weighted by sex, age and race

Methodology

June 7 (Bloomberg) — The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted May 31-June 3 for Bloomberg News by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 1,002 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 sex, 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

First, I just need to confirm in what state you live. **(If needed:)** People sometimes take their phone number when they move to another state, so we just need to determine what state I’m talking to.

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
32	60	8

Now, I’m going to mention some people and groups in the news recently. 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.)**

	Net Favorable	Net Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Barack Obama , president of the United States	53	44	25	28	14	30	3
The Republicans in Congress	35	53	7	28	28	25	12
The Democrats in Congress	43	46	11	32	23	23	11
Hillary Clinton , the former Secretary of State	58	37	26	32	15	22	5
Ben Bernanke , chairman of the Federal Reserve	29	26	6	23	14	12	45
Chris Christie , governor of New Jersey	50	16	15	35	12	4	34
Rand Paul , U.S. senator from Kentucky	32	27	11	21	13	14	41
Marco Rubio , U.S. senator from Florida	32	22	11	21	13	9	46

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing: [ITEM FROM LIST]?
(Begin with “As president.” Rotate all other options.)

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
As president	49	46	5
With the economy	42	53	5
With health care	40	56	4
With the budget deficit	32	59	9
With terrorism	51	40	9
With negotiating with the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives	38	49	13
With making people like me feel more economically secure	42	51	7
With immigration	40	49	11
With dealing with the ongoing controversy about Benghazi, Libya where the U.S. ambassador and three others were killed by terrorists	31	51	18

Do you believe that the extra scrutiny the IRS gave to conservative groups seeking nonprofit status was politically motivated or a product of bureaucratic shortcuts?

- 48 Politically motivated
- 31 A product of bureaucratic shortcuts
- 21 Not sure

Do you think Congress is making too much or too little of the allegations that the IRS gave extra scrutiny to conservative groups, or is Congress giving this situation the right amount of attention?

- 29 Too much
- 26 Too little
- 32 Right amount
- 13 Not sure

Do you think President Obama is or is not being truthful when he says he didn't have prior knowledge of the extra scrutiny the IRS gave to conservative groups and that he learned about it through the news media?

- 40 Is being truthful
- 47 Is not being truthful
- 13 Not sure

I have some questions about things that might make you more secure economically. For each of the following, please tell me if this is something you expect to do more in the next year than you've done in the past year, or something you need to do more, but can't, or something you don't need to do more. **(Rotate list, but “Put more money into other savings” must always follow “Put more money into retirement savings.”)**

	Expect to do more	Need to do more, but can't	Don't need to do more	Not Sure
Put more money into retirement savings	31	42	25	2
Put more money into other savings for education, health care expenses, or saving for a big purchase	33	38	28	1
Choose more aggressive investments	18	27	51	4
Pay down debt	30	27	41	2
Look for a better job	24	15	60	1

I have some questions about things that might make you less secure economically. For each of the following, please tell me if this is something you expect to do more in the next year than you've done in the past year, or something you don't need to do more. **(Rotate list.)**

	Expect to do more	Don't need to do more	Not Sure
Take money out of savings to spend on everyday expenses	26	72	2
Borrow money to help you make ends meet	15	83	2
Live with less income because of furloughs or layoffs from your job	22	72	6
Take on more debt	15	84	1
Pay more for health care or insurance	44	53	3

I'm going to mention some aspects of the national economic situation. For each, please tell me if you expect things to be better in the next 12 months, worse, or about the same as the last 12 months. **(Rotate list, but "Overall strength of the economy" is always first.)**

	Better	Worse	About the Same	Not Sure
Overall strength of the economy	39	21	39	1
Job growth	42	22	34	2
The housing market	51	17	28	4
America's economic standing in the world	23	45	29	3
The size of the national debt	17	65	16	2
Health care costs	15	62	20	3
The cost of gasoline	13	59	25	3

I'm going to mention some aspects of your personal situation. For each, please tell me if you expect things to be better in 2013, worse, or about the same as 2012. If the item does not apply to you, just say so. **(Rotate list, but overall financial security is always first.)**

	Better	Worse	About the Same	Does not Apply	Not Sure
Overall financial security	35	11	48	6	-
Job security for workers in your household	24	10	46	19	1
Retirement savings	30	14	40	15	1
The market value of your home	35	10	29	25	1
Household income	33	11	50	5	1
Disposable income to make large household purchases	22	21	41	15	1
Ability to spend money on vacations or entertainment	24	25	41	9	1
Performance of any investments	28	9	36	25	2
Your ability to pay everyday expenses, like food, housing or monthly bills	25	14	57	3	1

How certain are you that [ITEM FROM LIST] will be there if you need it in retirement? Do you think it will definitely be there, probably be there, probably not be there, or definitely not be there if you need it?

	Definitely be there	Probably be there	Probably not be there	Definitely not be there	Not Sure
Social Security	14	36	31	15	4
Medicare	15	40	32	10	3

How confident are you what you receive from [SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE] will be sufficient to help cover your expenses without help from others—very confident, fairly confident, just somewhat confident, or not confident? (Asked only of those who answered definitely or probably for each item in previous question.)

		Very Confident	Fairly Confident	Just Somewhat Confident	Not Confident	Not Sure
Social Security	n=560	13	15	28	42	2
Medicare	n=590	13	17	33	35	2

Do you have enough money put aside to cover expenses if something unexpected happened and you needed to live off of savings for 90 days? (If yes, ask:) Could you live off savings for six months?

- 43 No, could not live off savings for 90 days
- 22 Yes, could live off savings for 90 days, but not six months
- 33 Yes, could live off savings for six months or more
- 2 Not sure

Across-the-board budget cuts enacted by Congress started taking effect in March. Do you think these cuts are doing more to help the economy or more to hurt the economy?

- 25 More to help
- 55 More to hurt
- 20 Not sure

Do you feel you are moving closer to your hopes for your career and/or finances, or do you feel you are moving further away from your dreams?

Moving closer	Moving further away	Not sure
50	37	13

Congress is debating changing immigration laws. Do you support or oppose a revision of immigration policies that would provide a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.?

- 46 Support
- 45 Oppose
- 9 Not sure

For each of the following elements that might be part of a new law, please tell me if you favor or oppose it as part of an immigration bill. (Rotate list.)

	Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
Allowing immigrants living in the country illegally to become citizens, provided they don't have criminal records, they pay fines and back taxes, and they wait more than 10 years	74	21	5
Strengthening border security and creating a system to track foreigners entering and leaving the country	85	12	3
Requiring employers to check potential employees' immigration status or face penalties	85	13	2
Deporting those living in the United States illegally and increasing border security so no immigrants can enter the country without permission	65	29	6

The focus of changes in immigration policy have two groups of immigrants in mind — those who work in low-skilled jobs and those who work in high-tech fields. When it comes to agriculture and other low-skilled jobs, which of the following better fits your view?

- 50 Allowing more foreign workers to come to the U.S. for agricultural and other low-skilled jobs will help economic growth because there is high demand and not enough Americans who are able or willing to do this work
- 39 Allowing more foreign workers for agricultural and other low-skilled jobs will keep wages low and create more competition for American workers already having trouble finding jobs
- 11 Not sure

When it comes to high-tech jobs, which of the following better fits your view?

- 40 Allowing more foreign workers to come to the U.S. for high-tech jobs will help economic growth because there is high demand for capable workers
- 50 Allowing more foreign workers to come to the U.S. for high-tech jobs will mean American citizens will be shut out of well-paying jobs
- 10 Not sure

If the immigration legislation passes, would that be mostly good or mostly bad for the U.S. economy?

- 47 Mostly good for the U.S. economy
- 36 Mostly bad for the U.S. economy
- 17 Not sure

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon decide two cases I'd like to ask you about. First is the Voting Rights Act, passed in 1965, which is directed to protecting rights of blacks and other minorities in casting votes. Do you think this law is still needed and should be kept, or do you think times have changed and it is not needed?

- 53 Needed
- 38 Not needed
- 9 Not sure

The Supreme Court may also decide on the constitutionality of a prohibition on gay marriage in California. Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to get married?

- 52 Support
- 41 Oppose
- 7 Not sure

Do you think there should be a national law allowing same-sex marriage, or should it be state-by-state? (Asked of those who support allowing same-sex couples to get married; n=506.)

- 61 National law
- 37 Determined state-by-state
- 2 Not sure

Hillary Clinton may decide to run for president in 2016. If she is the Democratic nominee, will you definitely vote for her, probably vote for her, might or might not vote for her, or definitely not vote for her?

- 23 Definitely vote for her
- 17 Probably vote for her
- 23 Might or might not vote for her
- 34 Definitely not vote for her
- 3 Not sure

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hillary Clinton handled the situation in Benghazi where the U.S. consulate was attacked and four Americans killed when she was Secretary of State?

- 34 Approve
- 47 Disapprove
- 19 Not sure