

# Bloomberg News National Poll

SELZER & COMPANY  
 1,000 general population age 18 and over  
 Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points

Study #2083  
 September 20-23, 2013  
 Weighted by sex, age and race

## Methodology

**September 27 (Bloomberg)** -- The Bloomberg National Poll, conducted September 20-23 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 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

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 |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| 25              | 68          | 7        |

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 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>Barack Obama</b> , president of the United States | 47            | 49              | 20             | 27               | 21                 | 28               | 4        |
| <b>The Republican Party</b>                          | 34            | 56              | 8              | 26               | 30                 | 26               | 10       |
| <b>The Democratic Party</b>                          | 44            | 47              | 14             | 30               | 25                 | 22               | 9        |

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing: [ITEM FROM LIST]?  
 (Begin with "As president," then rotate all others.)

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Not Sure |
|--|---------|------------|----------|
| As president   | 45      | 49         | 6        |
| With the economy   | 38      | 56         | 6        |
| With managing the United States' reputation in the world                           | 43      | 51         | 6        |
| With the budget deficit  | 29      | 61         | 10       |
| With health care   | 39      | 54         | 7        |
| With negotiating with the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives | 39      | 46         | 15       |
| With making people like me feel more economically secure                           | 38      | 53         | 9        |
| With the situation in Syria  | 31      | 53         | 16       |
| With handling the appointment of a new chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve        | 33      | 25         | 42       |

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 other expenses must always follow 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  | 34                | 42                         | 22                    | 2        |
| Put more money into other savings for education, health care expenses, or saving for a big purchase | 34                | 40                         | 24                    | 2        |
| Pay down debt   | 32                | 28                         | 39                    | 1        |
| Look for a better job   | 22                | 19                         | 57                    | 2        |

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 | 24                | 73                    | 3        |
| Borrow money to help you make ends meet                 | 14                | 84                    | 2        |
| Take on more debt                                       | 11                | 87                    | 2        |
| Pay more for health care or insurance                   | 40                | 56                    | 4        |

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          | 27     | 28    | 44             | 1        |
| Job growth                               | 36     | 27    | 34             | 3        |
| The housing market                       | 42     | 18    | 36             | 4        |
| America's economic standing in the world | 19     | 41    | 36             | 4        |
| The size of the national debt            | 12     | 66    | 18             | 4        |
| Health care costs                        | 20     | 57    | 20             | 3        |

Let's turn to aspects of your personal 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. 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     | 14    | 45             | 5              | 1        |
| Job security for workers in your household           | 23     | 15    | 45             | 16             | 1        |
| Retirement savings                                   | 28     | 17    | 41             | 13             | 1        |
| The market value of your home                        | 30     | 13    | 33             | 23             | 1        |
| Ability to spend money on vacations or entertainment | 22     | 22    | 47             | 8              | 1        |
| Performance of any investments                       | 22     | 14    | 40             | 22             | 2        |

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 |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| 56            | 35                  | 9        |

Which of the following best reflects your view of why the economy hasn't fully recovered from the recession that ended in June of 2009: **(Read list. Rotate.)**

- 32 President Obama has pursued the wrong policies
- 29 Republicans have blocked Obama's proposals to speed up recovery
- 30 The recession was so severe that the government had only limited ability to influence the recovery
- 9 Not sure

Across-the-board budget cuts in defense and domestic programs enacted by Congress started taking effect in March. Do you think these cuts, known as sequester, are doing more to help the economy or more to hurt the economy?

| More to help | More to hurt | Not sure |
|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 26           | 56           | 18       |

There will be another round of automatic across-the-board budget cuts unless Congress takes action. Are you generally satisfied with the automatic cuts, as a way to reduce government spending, or would you be more satisfied with cuts in targeted programs approved by Congress?

- 21 Satisfied with automatic cuts
- 64 Would be more satisfied with targeted cuts
- 15 Not sure

To your knowledge, has anyone in your household been personally affected by the across-the-board cuts?

- 30 Yes
- 66 No
- 4 Not sure

Let's turn to the federal budget deficit. This is the amount the government spends that is more than the amount it takes in from taxes and other revenue. Is it your sense that this year the deficit is getting bigger or getting smaller, or is it staying about the same as last year?

| Bigger | Smaller | About the same | Not sure |
|--------|---------|----------------|----------|
| 59     | 10      | 26             | 5        |

There has been debate on raising the debt ceiling, which allows the U.S. government to borrow money to pay for spending already approved by Congress. Which better reflects your view of how the U.S. debt ceiling should be viewed by Congress? **(Read options. Rotate.)**

|  |  |                 |
|--|--|-----------------|
| <b>The full faith and credit of the U.S. should be protected at any cost; the debt ceiling should be raised when necessary, with no conditions</b> | <b>It is necessary to limit the amount the U.S. can borrow because Congress lacks discipline on spending, so it is right to require spending cuts when the debt ceiling is raised even if it risks default</b> | <b>Not sure</b> |
| 28   | 61   | 11              |

Do you think a major overhaul of [ITEM FROM LIST] is or is not necessary to substantially reduce the deficit? **(Rotate list.)**

|                 | Necessary | Not Necessary | Not Sure |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Social Security | 45        | 48            | 7        |
| Medicare        | 50        | 41            | 9        |

Do you favor or oppose creating a sliding scale for [ITEM FROM LIST] so that poorer people get more benefits and wealthy people get fewer benefits? (**Rotate list.**)

|                 | Favor | Oppose | Not Sure |
|-----------------|-------|--------|----------|
| Social Security | 53    | 38     | 9        |
| Medicare        | 59    | 32     | 9        |

Who do you blame more for what's gone wrong in Washington—President Obama and the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?

| President Obama and Democrats in Congress | Republicans in Congress | Not sure |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| 38  | 40                      | 22       |

How closely would you say you are following what is happening with the implementation of the new health care law—are you following this very closely, somewhat closely, or really not that closely?

- 29 Very closely
- 46 Somewhat closely
- 25 Not that closely
- Not sure

How likely is it that your access to health care, your insurance, or the way you pay for health care will change when the new health care law is fully implemented—is that very likely, fairly likely, just somewhat likely, or not likely?

- 32 Very likely
- 13 Fairly likely
- 23 Just somewhat likely
- 28 Not likely
- 4 Not sure

When the new health care law is fully implemented, is it your expectation that overall health care costs will go up, down, or stay about the same?

- 60 Up
- 13 Down
- 22 Stay about the same
- 5 Not sure

What about for you personally? In general, will members of your household be better off or worse off when all the provisions of the health care law come into effect, or do you not know enough to say?

- 22 Better off
- 33 Worse off
- 40 Do not know enough to say
- 5 Not sure

Which of the following is closest to your view about the Congressional debate over the health care law? (**Read list. Rotate.**)

- 43 This is one of the single-most important issues Congress should be addressing and Congress should keep at it until it is eliminated
- 50 Congress should accept that this is the law of the land and stop wasting time that could be spent on more important issues
- 7 Not sure

A few last issues. In less than two years, state lawmakers have passed 200 bills that restrict abortions. What is your view of the abortion issue?

- 22 State legislatures should continue to restrict abortions even more than they are now
- 29 Current restrictions are okay, but they should not do more
- 39 Current restrictions have gone too far and some should be repealed
- 10 Not sure

Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to get married?

| <b>Support</b> | <b>Oppose</b> | <b>Not sure</b> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 55             | 36            | 9               |

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear another case about whether it is right or wrong for colleges to include race in their decisions of whom to admit. Do you think today in the United States race relations are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same? **(If “better,” follow with:)** Would you say a lot better or a little better?

- 10 Getting a lot better
- 17 Getting a little better
- 43 Staying about the same
- 27 Getting worse
- 3 Not sure