

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 802 voters
Dates: September 21-23, 2009

FINAL

Study #9694
EPI Survey
September 2009

48 Male
52 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

I'm calling from Hart Research, the national public opinion polling firm. We are conducting a national survey, and I'd really appreciate the chance to get your opinions on a few questions. Your number was selected at random, and in this household, I am supposed to speak with the youngest (man/woman) age 18 or over who is at home now. This is a public opinion survey, and you will not be sold anything.

1. First, are you currently registered to vote at this address?

Registered	100	CONTINUE	[138]
Not registered	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

2. How would you rate the condition of the national economy today—excellent, good, just fair, not so good, or poor?

Excellent.....	-		[143]
Good.....	4		
Just fair.....	23		
Not so good.....	37		
Poor.....	36		
Not sure.....	-		

3. Which ONE or TWO of the following do you think are the most important economic problems facing the country right now. **(IF "ALL," ASK:) Well, if you had to say, which one or two are the MOST important?**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Unemployment and the lack of jobs	53		[144]
The federal budget deficit	27	>	
Cost of health care.....	25		
Wages not keeping up with the cost of living	20		
High taxes.....	16		
Foreclosures and declining home values.....	14		
Problems with the banking system.....	12		
None/other (VOL).....	1		
Not sure	1		

4. How would you rate economic conditions today when it comes specifically to jobs and unemployment—excellent, good, just fair, not so good, or poor?

Excellent.....	-	[145]
Good.....	2	
Just fair.....	16	
Not so good.....	36	
Poor.....	45	
Not sure.....	1	

5a. Do you think that unemployment and the lack of job opportunities are a very big problem today, a fairly big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem today?

Very big problem.....	59	[146]
Fairly big problem.....	24	
Somewhat of a problem.....	15	
Not much of a problem.....	2	
Not sure.....	-	

5b. And looking ahead to a year from now, do you think that unemployment and the lack of job opportunities will be a very big problem, a fairly big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in a year from now?

Very big problem.....	33	[147]
Fairly big problem.....	28	
Somewhat of a problem.....	28	
Not much of a problem.....	9	
Not sure.....	2	

6a. Do you think that wages and salaries not keeping up with cost of living is a very big problem today, a fairly big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem today?

Very big problem.....	39	[148]
Fairly big problem.....	24	
Somewhat of a problem.....	27	
Not much of a problem.....	9	
Not sure.....	1	

6b. And looking ahead to a year from now, do you think that wages and salaries not keeping up with the cost of living will be a very big problem, a fairly big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in a year from now?

Very big problem.....	31	[149]
Fairly big problem.....	26	
Somewhat of a problem.....	31	
Not much of a problem.....	10	
Not sure.....	2	

7. Do you think that the country is still in an economic recession today, or do you think that the recession is now pretty much over?

Country is still in an economic recession	85	[150]
The recession is now pretty much over	13	
Not sure	2	

8. In the last year, have you or has anyone living in your household (**READ ITEM**)? (**IF "NO," ASK:**) Has anyone close to you, such as a family member or close friend (**READ ITEM**) in the last year?

	Someone Living In Household	Someone Close-- Family Member Or Friend	No, Neither	Not Sure	
Been laid off or lost their job	24	33	43	-	[151]
Had work hours or pay cut.....	37	24	39	-	[152]

9. How much do you think the government's policies to deal with the economic recession have helped (**READ ITEM**)—a lot, a fair amount, just some, very little, or not at all?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY HELPED A LOT OR A FAIR AMOUNT

	Helped					Not Sure	
	A Lot	A Fair Amount	Just Some	Very Little	Not At All		
Large banks.....	47	15	14	10	9	5	[153]
Wall Street investment companies.....	38	16	15	12	10	9	[154]
Manufacturing companies.....	9	12	21	25	25	8	[155]
People who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut back	6	9	21	32	29	3	[156]
The average working person	3	10	20	35	30	2	[158]
Small businesses.....	4	7	17	32	33	7	[157]
You and your family	3	7	14	27	46	3	[159]

10a. Do you think that the Obama administration has already done enough to deal with unemployment and the loss of jobs, or do you think that the Obama administration still needs to do more to deal with unemployment and the loss of jobs?

Obama administration has done enough	13	[160]
Obama administration still needs to do more.....	81	
Not sure	6	

11. Which concerns you more about the economy right now that the unemployment rate is rising and is expected to go above ten percent, or that we have had a large increase in the federal deficit and the national debt?

Unemployment rate is rising.....	53	[161]
Large increase in the federal deficit and national debt.....	42	
Not sure	5	

12. Who would you trust more to have the right policies for improving the economy--Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

Trust Barack Obama more.....	43	[162]
Trust Republicans in Congress more.....	32	
Trust both equally (VOL).....	3	
Do not trust either (VOL).....	18	
Not sure	4	

13. Let me read you two statements about the economy and get your reaction. **(IF RESPONDENT TAKES A POSITION, ASK:)** Is that somewhat more or much more?

Statement A: The focus for improving the economy should be on shrinking government spending in order to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Statement B: The focus for improving the economy should be on creating good jobs, and investing in education and energy independence.

Statement A/Shrinking Government Spending		[163]
Much more.....	23	
Somewhat more.....	13	
Statement B/Creating Jobs And Investing		
Somewhat more.....	19	
Much more.....	42	
Not sure	3	

14. Thinking specifically about the federal budget deficit now, which one of the following statements do you agree with more. **(IF RESPONDENT TAKES A POSITION, ASK:)** Is that somewhat more or much more?

Statement A: The growing federal budget deficit is the biggest economic threat we face today, and it would be better for our country in the long run if we focus on cutting government spending and reducing the deficit, rather than investing in job creation, education, and energy independence

Statement B: The federal budget deficit is an important problem, but we need to deal with it in a way that allows us to invest in job creation, education, and energy independence, because we cannot solve the deficit problem without getting people back to work and getting our economy growing again.

Statement A/Growing Budget Deficit Is The Biggest Economic Threat We Face		[164]
Much more.....	15	
Somewhat more.....	9	
Statement B/Deal With Deficit In A Way That Allows Us To Invest		
Somewhat more.....	19	
Much more.....	54	
Not sure	3	

15. Who do you think is more responsible for creating our current federal budget deficit—the Bush administration or the Obama administration?

Bush administration more responsible.....	52	[165]
Obama administration more responsible	27	
Both equally (VOL)	12	
Neither (VOL)	6	
Not sure	3	

16 Earlier this year, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the seven-hundred-eighty-seven-billion-dollar economic recovery bill, also known as the stimulus package, that increased spending for infrastructure projects and education, gave tax cuts to ninety-five percent of taxpayers, provided aid to state and local governments, and provided assistance to people who had lost their jobs.

Do you think that this economic recovery bill has helped the economy a lot, helped the economy a little, has had no effect on the economy, or has hurt the economy?

Helped the economy a lot	12	[166]
Helped the economy a little	53	
Has had no effect on the economy ...	17	
Hurt the economy	16	
Not sure	2	

Q.17a AND Q.17b ARE ROTATED.

17a. I am going to read you a statement that supporters might make in favor of the economic recovery bill.

Supporters say that at the start of this year, our economy was in serious trouble, and economists agreed that failing to act could have led us into a depression like we had in the 1930s. The recovery bill has helped put more than one million Americans to work, is making essential long-term investments in our economy, and will create another two to three million jobs when it is completed. Unemployment is still far too high because of the terrible recession Obama inherited when he took office, but the recovery bill was a worthwhile step in starting to turn the economy around, and we would be much worse off today if we had done nothing at all.

Do you think this statement in favor of the economic recovery bill is very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not convincing.

Very convincing	20	[167]
Fairly convincing.....	18	
Just somewhat convincing.....	26	
Not convincing	34	
Not sure	2	

17b. I am going to read you a statement that opponents might make against the economic recovery bill.

Opponents says the economic stimulus bill has been a failure. Despite spending over hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayers' money, unemployment is much higher today than when the bill passed. Too much of the money from this bill is going to government programs that have nothing to do with creating jobs. Increasing government spending and increasing the deficit is not the right way to create jobs and strengthen the economy, and the bill should never have been passed in the first place.

Do you think this statement against the economic recovery bill is very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not convincing.

Very convincing	25	[168]
Fairly convincing.....	18	
Just somewhat convincing.....	23	
Not convincing	32	
Not sure	2	

17c. With this background in mind, who do you agree with more—the supporters who say the economic recovery bill was necessary and a worthwhile step in starting to turn the economy around, or the opponents who say that the economic recovery bill has been a failure and should never have been passed in the first place.

Supporters--bill was necessary.....	51	[169]
Opponents--bill has been a failure....	40	
Both equally (VOL)	2	
Neither (VOL)	4	
Not sure.....	3	

18. I'm going to mention some specific economic proposals that could be considered by Congress. For each one, please tell me whether this is something you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY FAVOR

	Favor		Oppose		Not Sure	
	Strongly	Some-what	Some-what	Strongly		
Pass a major new job creation tax credit for businesses that create jobs in the United States in the next two years.....	56	31	6	4	3	[170/176]
Extend unemployment insurance benefits for those who have lost their jobs during the recession and are unable to find new jobs	48	33	10	6	3	[172/178]
Put unemployed people back to work at government-funded public service jobs that help meet important community needs *	41	30	10	17	2	[174]
Put unemployed people back to work at government-funded public service jobs that help meet important community needs as Roosevelt did when he created the Civilian Conservation Corps **	40	34	11	13	2	[180]
Give a new round of tax rebates to lower- and middle-income Americans	35	28	18	16	3	[173/179]
Provide increased federal assistance to state and local governments to prevent additional layoffs of government employees because government layoffs add to unemployment and harm vital services **	23	29	23	21	4	[208]
Provide increased federal assistance to state and local governments to prevent additional layoffs of government employees *	20	26	20	30	4	[175]
Repeal the economic recovery bill passed by Congress earlier this year, and prohibit federal agencies, states, and local governments from spending any of the remaining funds from the bill for infrastructure, education, or other projects.....	20	19	22	33	6	[171/177]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

19. Getting near the end of the survey, let me read you two statements about the idea of providing a tax credit to companies that create new jobs in the next two years, and tell me which statement you agree with more.

Supporters of the tax credit say that it will create two to three million new jobs at a time when unemployment is rising and fifteen million Americans are already out of work. Giving the private sector an incentive to create new jobs is the right way for government to strengthen the economy.

Opponents of the tax credit say that with the federal budget deficit already over one trillion dollars, we just can't afford the cost of this fifty billion dollar tax credit plan. The economy has already started to recover, and more government spending will do more harm than good.

Do you agree more with the supporters or the opponents of this proposed jobs creation tax credit? **(IF RESPONDENT TAKES A POSITION, ASK:)** Is that somewhat more or much more?

Agree With Supporters		
Much more.....	30	[209]
Somewhat more	29	
Agree With Opponents		
Somewhat more	21	
Much more.....	12	
Not sure	8	

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

- F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school	-	[210-211]
Some high school	4	
High school graduate.....	26	
Some college, no degree	17	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	13	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	24	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	12	
Doctoral/law degree	1	
Not sure/refused	1	

- F2. Are you currently employed? **(IF "CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:)** What type of work do you do?

(IF "NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:) Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional/ manager	23	[212-213]
White-collar worker	21	
Blue-collar worker	13	
Farmer, rancher	1	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student.....	1	
Homemaker	5	
Retired	24	
Unemployed, looking for work.....	10	
Other	-	
Not sure	2	

F3a. Are you a labor union member?

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "NO" OR "NOT SURE" IN Q.F3a.)

F3b. Is anyone else in your household a labor union member?

Labor union member	13	[220-221]
Labor union household.....	7	
Nonunion household	78	
Not sure	2	

F4a. Regardless of how you may be registered, how would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

Mostly Democratic	30	[222]
Leaning Democratic.....	11	
Completely independent.....	23	
Leaning Republican.....	12	
Mostly Republican	20	
Not sure.....	4	

F4b. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be very conservative, somewhat conservative, middle of the road, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?

Very conservative	17	[223]
Somewhat conservative	29	
Middle of the road.....	31	
Somewhat liberal.....	13	
Very liberal.....	7	
Not sure.....	3	

F5. How would you describe the area in which you live?

Urban.....	21	[224]
Suburban.....	34	
Small town.....	27	
Rural.....	18	

F6. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than twenty-five thousand dollars, between twenty-five thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, between one hundred thousand dollars and one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$25,000	13	[225]
Between \$25,000 and \$50,000.....	21	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	19	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	14	
Between \$100,000 and \$125,000.....	8	
More than \$125,000	11	
Not sure/refused.....	14	

F7. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? **(IF “REFUSED,” ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?**

18-24	7	[139-140]
25-29	8	
30-34	10	
35-39	8	
40-44	9	
45-49	9	
50-54	9	
55-59	10	
60-64	9	
65-69	8	
70-74	5	
75 and over.....	7	
Refused	1	

F8. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? **(IF “NO” OR “NOT SURE,” ASK:) And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race—white, black, Asian, or something else?**

White.....	75	[141-142]
Black	12	
Asian.....	1	
Other.....	3	
Hispanic.....	8	
Not sure/refused	1	