



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

Views of the National Economy are Clouded by Personal Finance and Employment Concerns

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Interviews: 4/14-18/2016

1,008 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Q31A/Q31B COMBINED. How would you describe the nation's economy these days?

IF NEITHER OR DID NOT ANSWER/REFUSED: If you had to choose, do you lean more towards the nation's economy being good or the nation's economy being poor?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Very/somewhat/lean good NET	42
Very good	1
Somewhat good	30
Lean toward good	11
Neither good nor poor	1
Lean/somewhat/very poor NET	57
Lean toward poor	11
Somewhat poor	34
Very poor	13
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

Q32. In the next year, do you expect the nation's economy to get better, worse, or stay the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Better	23
Worse	28
Stay the same	49
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Q33. How much do you think the national economy has recovered from the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Completely/mostly recovered NET	22
Completely recovered	1
Mostly recovered	21
Recovered about halfway	35
Only a little recovered/hasn't recovered at all NET	42
Only a little recovered	34
Hasn't recovered at all	8
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

Q34A/Q34B COMBINED. And how would you describe the financial situation in your own household these days?

IF NEITHER OR DID NOT ANSWER/REFUSED: If you had to choose, do you lean more towards the financial situation in your own household as being good or being poor?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Very/somewhat/lean good NET	66
Very good	11
Somewhat good	39
Lean toward good	16
Neither good nor poor	*
Very/somewhat/lean poor NET	33
Lean toward poor	10
Somewhat poor	18
Very poor	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Q35. In the next year, do you expect the financial situation in your own household to get better, worse, or stay the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Better	43
Worse	6
Stay the same	50
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,008</i>

Q36. How concerned are you that you or someone in your house might be...?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

a. Laid off from work

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Extremely/Very concerned NET	14
Extremely concerned	6
Very concerned	8
Somewhat concerned	19
Not very concerned/Not concerned at all NET	50
Not very concerned	25
Not concerned at all	25
No one working in household	17
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,008</i>

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

b. Forced to work reduced hours or take a cut in pay

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Extremely/Very concerned NET	15
Extremely concerned	5
Very concerned	10
Somewhat concerned	17
Not very concerned/Not concerned at all NET	50
Not very concerned	24
Not concerned at all	27
No one working in household	17
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

If employed

Q37. Over the last five years, has your pay increased rapidly, made steady advances, stayed about the same, or lost some ground?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Increased rapidly	5
Steady advances	32
Stayed about the same	46
Lost some ground	16
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

548

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

If employed

Q38. How confident are you that...?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

a. If you left your current job for any reason, you could find another job as good or better

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Extremely/very confident NET	28
Extremely confident	7
Very confident	21
Somewhat confident	36
Not very/not at all confident NET	35
Not very confident	24
Not at all confident	11
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

548

b. You will have enough retirement savings to be able to retire when you want to

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Extremely/very confident NET	14
Extremely confident	4
Very confident	10
Somewhat confident	31
Not very/not at all confident NET	54
Not very confident	27
Not at all confident	27
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

548

VIEWES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Q39. How much financial difficulty would you have if you had to pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000 right away?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
A lot	40
A little	25
Not much	17
None at all	17
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,008

Q40. Suppose you had an unexpected bill of \$1,000. Based on your current financial situation, how likely is it that you do any of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016	Extremely/ Very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very/ Not at all likely NET	Not very likely	Not at all likely	DK	Ref.
Pay the bill right away by cash or check	36	17	19	20	43	17	26	*	1
Put it on a credit card and pay it off in full at the next statement	21	9	12	16	62	21	41	-	1
Put it on a credit card and pay it off over time	20	7	13	19	61	17	43	*	1
Borrow money from a bank	6	2	4	12	80	19	62	-	1
Borrow money from a payday lender	4	2	2	6	88	15	73	*	1
Borrow money from family or friends	14	4	10	14	70	20	51	-	1
Arrange a payment plan	37	15	23	23	38	10	28	*	1
Skip paying one or more other bills	13	5	9	16	69	21	48	*	1
Not pay the bill at all	11	6	5	10	78	16	63	*	1

N=1,008

VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

Q41. Do you have any money invested in the stock market right now?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Individual stocks/stock mutual funds	6
401(k) or IRA retirement accounts	25
Both	20
No money in the stock market at all	50
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,008</i>

If has money in stock market in Q41

Q41a. About how often do you actively trade or make other changes to any of the individual stocks, stock mutual funds, or retirement accounts you own?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Once a month or more	8
Only a few times a year	22
Less often than that	34
Never	35
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>474</i>

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Democrat	34
Republican	26
Independent	24
None of these	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,008</i>

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If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Lean Democrat	26
Lean Republican	32
Don't lean	40
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>394</i>

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Strong Democrat	32
Moderate Democrat	67
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>361</i>

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Strong Republican	31
Moderate Republican	68
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>253</i>

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POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Democrat NET	44
Strong Democrat	11
Moderate Democrat	23
Lean Democrat	10
Independent/None – Don't lean	16
Republican NET	39
Lean Republican	13
Moderate Republican	18
Strong Republican	8
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,008

AGE

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	19
45-54	15
55-64	17
65-74	13
75+	6

N=

1,008

GENDER

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Male	48
Female	52

N=

1,008

IEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE CLOUDED BY PERSONAL FINANCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
White	65
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	15
Other	8

N= 1,008

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Married	52
Widowed	6
Divorced	10
Separated	2
Never married	22
Living with partner	7

N= 1,008

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Employed	58
Not employed	42

N= 1,008

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	30
Some college	23
College graduate or above	35

N= 1,008

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INCOME

	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2016
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	11
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	11
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	7

N=

1,008

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AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using AmeriSpeak®, which is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face).

Interviews for this survey were conducted between April 14 and 18, 2016, with adults age 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak®, and 1,008 completed the survey—761 via the web and 247 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 29.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 36.9 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 94.3 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 10.2 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and household phone status. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of the AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help

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ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.