



**Interviews with 1,019 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on March 14-16, 2008. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.**

---

**FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, MARCH 17 AT NOON**

17. Which of the following issues will be MOST important to you when you decide how to vote for president? (RANDOM ORDER)

	Mar. 14-16 <u>2008</u>	Feb. 1-3 <u>2008</u>
Economy	42%	44%
War in Iraq	21%	20%
Health care	18%	16%
Terrorism	10%	8%
Illegal immigration	7%	10%
Other (vol.)	1%	2%
No opinion	1%	*

	Jan. 9-10 <u>2008</u>	Dec. 6-9 <u>2007</u>	Nov. 2-4 <u>2007</u>	Oct. 12-14 <u>2007</u>	June 22-24 <u>2007</u>
Economy	35%	29%	29%	22%	23%
War in Iraq	25%	23%	28%	28%	31%
Health care	18%	20%	18%	20%	17%
Terrorism	9%	10%	12%	12%	10%
Illegal immigration	10%	14%	10%	15%	15%
Other (vol.)	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
No opinion	*	2%	1%	1%	2%

27. Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 515 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION B. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 4.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

	Mar. 14-16 <u>2008</u>	Feb. 1-3 <u>2008</u>	Jan.9-10 <u>2008</u>	Dec. 6-9 <u>2007</u>	Oct. 12-14 <u>2007</u>
Yes	74%	66%	61%	57%	46%
No	25%	31%	37%	42%	51%
No opinion	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Jan 2-5	32	66	2
2003 Apr 22-23	56	41	3
2003 Mar 24-25	41	54	5
2002 Nov 22-24	52	45	3
2002 Oct 3-6 ^	55	40	5
2002 Jul 29-31	46	50	4
2002 Jun 28-30	52	45	3
2002 May 6-9	45	53	2
2002 Apr 8-11	45	52	3
2002 Mar 8-9 ^	56	38	6
2001 Nov 8-11	59	38	3
2001 Oct 11-14	49	49	2
2001 Sep 21-22	52	43	5
2001 Sep 7-10	51	43	6
2001 May 10-14	33	62	5
2001 Apr 6-8	42	52	6
2001 Mar 5-7*	31	64	5
2001 Feb 1-4*	44	49	7
1994 May 20-22	35	61	4
1994 Feb. 26-28	34	62	4
1993 Dec 4-6	45	50	5
1992 Sept 11-15	79	19	2
1992 Jan. 3-6	84	14	2
1991 March	81	16	4

\* Asked of a half sample.

27. Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?  
 28. (IF YES:) Do you think we are in a mild recession, or a moderate recession, or a serious recession?  
 (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 515 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION B.  
 SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 4.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

QUESTIONS 27 AND 28 COMBINED

Mar. 14-16  
2008

Serious recession	29%
Moderate recession	29%
Mild recession	16%
Recession, unsure how serious	1%
Not in a recession (from Q.27)	25%
No opinion	1%

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Serious recession</u>	<u>Moderate recession</u>	<u>Mild recession</u>	<u>No, not in recession</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2003 Apr 22-23	10	25	21	41	3

LOS ANGELES TIMES TRENDS

2002 Dec 12-15	13	24	24	35	4
2002 Aug 22-25	11	23	25	36	5
2002 Jan 31-Feb 2	18	34	29	15	4
2001 Sep 13-14	9	19	23	41	8
1997 Sep 6-9	7	16	12	59	6
1997 Feb 5-6	6	14	13	62	5
1996 Oct 24-27	12	15	16	52	5
1996 Sep 7-10	8	14	16	53	9
1996 Aug 3-6	11	15	19	47	8
1995 Jun 9-11	12	20	21	39	8
1995 Mar 15-19	13	18	20	45	4
1994 Jul 23-26	16	20	17	41	6
1994 Apr 16-19	12	22	17	44	5
1994 Jan 15-19	20	20	18	37	5
1993 Dec 4-7	22	26	18	29	5
1993 Sep 25-28	29	27	16	24	4
1993 Jun 12-14	25	27	18	26	4
1993 Feb 18-19	25	25	15	30	5
1993 Jan 14-17	27	27	17	25	4
1992 Oct 24-26	46	30	12	9	3
1992 Oct 2-5	45	26	15	11	3
1992 Aug 20-21	45	27	16	9	3
1992 Aug 12-14	45	31	13	8	3
1992 Jul 7-9	42	33	12	10	3
1992 Mar 27-29	35	31	18	13	3
1992 Jan 31-Feb 2	41	34	14	8	3
1991 Nov 21-24	33	35	17	12	3
1991 Sep 21-25	30	33	19	14	4
1991 Jun 28-30	32	33	18	14	3
1991 Mar 9-11	21	38	29	9	3
1991 Feb 15-17	23	33	28	13	3

27. Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?
29. (IF YES:) How much longer do you think the country's current economic recession will last – less than six months, six months to a year, one to two years, or longer than that? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 515 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION B. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 4.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

QUESTIONS 27 AND 29 COMBINED

Mar. 14-16  
2008

Recession will last less than 6 months	2%
Recession will last 6 months to a year	18%
Recession will last 1-2 years	34%
Recession will last longer than 2 years	19%
Recession, unsure how long it will last	1%
Not in a recession (from Q.27)	25%
No opinion	1%