



American Research Group, Inc.

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Americans Still Split on Obama Overall Job Approval

A total of 46% of Americans say they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president and 50% say they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job according to the latest survey from the American Research Group. In July, 48% approved and 47% disapproved.

When it comes to Obama's handling of the economy, 47% of Americans approve and 49% disapprove. In July, 50% approved and 45% disapproved.

Among Americans registered to vote, 47% approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president and 49% disapprove. On Obama's handling of the economy, 47% of registered voters approve and 48% disapprove.

Among registered voters in the sample, 47% say they would vote for Hillary Clinton for president, 42% say Donald Trump, 6% say someone else, and 5% are undecided.

Among the 47% of registered voters in the sample saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 90% say they would vote for Clinton and less than 1% say they would vote for Trump.

Of the 48% saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 83% say they would vote for Trump and 7% say they would vote for Clinton. (Results from the national presidential ballot can be found [here](#).)

The results presented here are based on 1,100 completed interviews conducted among a nationwide random sample of adults 18 years and older (see [methodology](#) for details). The interviews were completed August 17 through 20, 2016. The theoretical margin of error for the total sample is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points, 95% of the time, on questions where opinion is evenly split.

Overall, 46% of Americans say that they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president, 50% disapprove, and 4% are undecided.

Obama job approval	Approve	Disapprove	Undecided
Aug 2016	46%	50%	4%
Jul 2016	48%	47%	5%
Jun 2016	48%	48%	4%
May 2016	46%	49%	5%
Apr 2016	48%	48%	4%
Mar 2016	47%	49%	4%
Feb 2016	45%	50%	5%
Jan 2016	45%	51%	4%
Dec 2015	41%	55%	4%
Nov 2015	43%	54%	3%
Oct 2015	49%	48%	3%
Sep 2015	46%	51%	3%

disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 3% say getting better, 17% say staying the same, and 79% say getting worse.

A total of 41% of Americans say they believe the national economy will be better a year from now, 19% say it will be the same, and 23% say it will be worse.

National economy a year from now	Better than today	The same as today	Worse than today	Undecided
Aug 2016	41%	19%	23%	17%
Jul 2016	43%	30%	17%	10%
Jun 2016	35%	29%	19%	17%
May 2016	26%	35%	34%	5%
Apr 2016	37%	34%	19%	10%
Mar 2016	33%	37%	26%	4%
Feb 2016	33%	35%	27%	5%
Jan 2016	30%	35%	32%	3%
Dec 2015	27%	35%	36%	2%
Nov 2015	30%	32%	35%	3%
Oct 2015	38%	29%	30%	3%
Sep 2015	38%	29%	31%	2%
Aug 2015	35%	32%	31%	2%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 65% say better, 33% say the same as today, and 1% say worse than today. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president, 17% say better, 3% say the same, and 47% say worse.

Overall, 30% of Americans say they believe that the national economy is in a recession, 40% say they do not believe the economy is in a recession, and 30% are undecided.

National economy in a recession	Yes	No	Undecided
Aug 2016	30%	40%	30%
Jul 2016	25%	51%	24%
Jun 2016	22%	44%	34%
May 2016	26%	35%	39%
Apr 2016	28%	49%	23%
Mar 2016	29%	50%	21%
Feb 2016	30%	51%	19%
Jan 2016	31%	49%	20%
Dec 2015	35%	44%	21%
Nov 2015	31%	46%	23%
Oct 2015	29%	48%	23%
Sep 2015	29%	47%	24%
Aug 2015	32%	49%	19%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 16% say the national economy is in a recession, 64% say the national economy is not in a recession, and 20% are undecided. Of those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 43% say the national economy is in a recession, 20% say the national economy is not in a recession, and 37% are undecided.

A total of 52% of Americans rate the national economy as excellent, very good, or good and 46% rate it as bad, very bad, or terrible.

National

National economy	Excellent	Very good	Good	Bad	Very bad	Terrible	Undecided
Aug 2016	5%	16%	31%	28%	5%	13%	2%
Jul 2016	3%	21%	38%	21%	8%	8%	1%
Jun 2016	5%	22%	36%	17%	8%	8%	4%
May 2016	7%	20%	26%	20%	11%	15%	2%
Apr 2016	8%	17%	27%	22%	13%	11%	2%
Mar 2016	8%	11%	28%	28%	13%	11%	1%
Feb 2016	9%	9%	32%	26%	13%	10%	1%
Jan 2016	9%	10%	31%	28%	11%	10%	1%
Dec 2015	8%	12%	29%	30%	11%	9%	1%
Nov 2015	8%	14%	31%	29%	8%	9%	1%
Oct 2015	9%	16%	36%	25%	8%	5%	1%
Sep 2015	8%	18%	38%	23%	7%	5%	1%
Aug 2015	11%	15%	32%	31%	6%	4%	1%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 85% say very good, or good and 13% say bad, very bad, or terrible. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 20% say very good, or good and 78% say bad, very bad, or terrible.

When it comes to rating their household financial situations, 72% of Americans give an excellent, very good, or good rating and 27% give a bad, very bad, or terrible rating.

Household financial situation	Excellent	Very good	Good	Bad	Very bad	Terrible	Undecided
Aug 2016	9%	20%	43%	18%	6%	3%	1%
Jul 2016	12%	19%	42%	17%	7%	2%	1%
Jun 2016	18%	11%	41%	19%	9%	2%	3%
May 2016	13%	12%	39%	21%	11%	3%	1%
Apr 2016	12%	18%	36%	19%	6%	5%	4%
Mar 2016	11%	19%	33%	19%	7%	6%	5%
Feb 2016	11%	19%	35%	18%	7%	8%	2%
Jan 2016	10%	17%	35%	19%	7%	8%	4%
Dec 2015	8%	17%	41%	17%	7%	6%	4%
Nov 2015	10%	20%	39%	17%	7%	5%	2%
Oct 2015	8%	19%	49%	15%	4%	4%	1%
Sep 2015	8%	18%	51%	14%	5%	2%	2%
Aug 2015	5%	15%	55%	15%	4%	4%	2%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 85% say excellent, very good, or good and 13% say bad, very bad, or terrible. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 59% say very good, or good and 40% say bad, very bad, or terrible.

A total of 7% of Americans say they think the financial situations in their households are getting better, 60% say staying the same, and 24% say getting worse.

Household financial situation	Getting better	Staying the same	Getting worse	Undecided
Aug 2016	7%	60%	24%	9%
Jul 2016	17%	60%	22%	1%
Jun 2016	19%	52%	25%	3%
May 2016	21%	48%	27%	4%

Apr 2016	17%	53%	24%	6%
Mar 2016	13%	52%	28%	7%
Feb 2016	16%	50%	26%	8%
Jan 2016	17%	45%	30%	8%
Dec 2015	14%	50%	29%	7%
Nov 2015	15%	50%	28%	7%
Oct 2015	20%	51%	24%	5%
Sep 2015	19%	56%	22%	3%
Aug 2015	22%	53%	19%	6%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 15% say getting better, 60% say staying the same, and 10% say getting worse. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 1% say getting better, 59% say staying the same, and 37% say getting worse.

Looking to a year from now, 25% of Americans say that they think their household financial situations will be better than today, 38% say the same as today, and 27% say worse than today.

Household financial situation a year from now	Better than today	The same as today	Worse than today	Undecided
Aug 2016	25%	38%	27%	10%
Jul 2016	35%	47%	13%	5%
Jun 2016	26%	46%	16%	12%
May 2016	25%	40%	27%	8%
Apr 2016	28%	48%	17%	7%
Mar 2016	21%	52%	19%	8%
Feb 2016	24%	51%	19%	6%
Jan 2016	23%	45%	25%	7%
Dec 2015	19%	45%	29%	7%
Nov 2015	21%	44%	28%	7%
Oct 2015	28%	41%	25%	6%
Sep 2015	28%	41%	25%	6%
Aug 2015	28%	38%	27%	7%

Among those saying they approve of the way Obama is handling his job, 35% say better than today, 51% say the same as today, and 4% say worse than today. Among those saying they disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job, 13% say better than today, 30% say the same as today, and 47% say worse than today.

About this Survey -

Survey Sponsor: American Research Group, Inc.

The American Research Group has been conducting national surveys of consumers since 1985.

Sample Size: 1,100 completed interviews among a random sample of all adults age 18 and older living in households in the continental United States (see [methodology](#) for details).

Sample Dates: August 17-20, 2016

Margin of Error: ± 3 percentage points, 95% of the time, on questions where opinion is evenly split.

Question Wording and Order:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

How do you rate the condition of the national economy these days - would you say it is excellent, very good, good, bad, very bad, or terrible?

Do you think the national economy is getting better, staying the same, or getting worse?

Would you say that the national economy is in a recession, or not?

A year from now, do you expect the national economy to be better than it is today, the same as it is today, or worse than it is today?

How do you rate the condition of the financial situation in your household - would you say it is excellent, very good, good, bad, very bad, or terrible?

Do you think the financial situation in your household is getting better, staying the same, or getting worse?

A year from now, do you expect the financial situation in your household to be better than it is today, the same as it is today, or worse than it is today?

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American Research Group, Inc.

National Presidential Ballot

Interview dates: August 17-20, 2016

Sample size: 994 registered voters (350 Democrats, 306 Republicans, and 338 independents)

Margin of error: \pm 3.2 percentage points, 95% of the time

Question wording and responses:

If the election for president were being held today between Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, and Donald Trump, the Republican, for whom would you vote - Clinton or Trump? (names rotated)

National Presidential Ballot

	Clinton	Trump	Other**	Undecided
Registered voters	47%	42%	6%	5%
Democrats (35%)	90%	4%	2%	4%
Republicans (31%)	8%	81%	5%	6%
Independents (34%)	38%	47%	10%	5%
Men (49%)	38%	53%	5%	4%
Women (51%)	55%	32%	6%	6%
18 to 49 (52%)	48%	40%	7%	5%
50 and older (48%)	46%	45%	4%	5%
White (74%)	40%	47%	7%	6%
African American (13%)	94%	2%	*	4%
July 17-20	43%	42%	6%	9%
June 17-20	50%	41%	3%	6%
May 17-20	46%	46%	2%	6%

* Less than 1/2 of 1% **Volunteered

See [methodology](#) for sampling details.

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