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Mixed Views of Regulation, Support for Keystone Pipeline

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## Auto Bailout Now Backed, Stimulus Divisive

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## Mixed Views of Regulation, Support for Keystone Pipeline Auto Bailout Now Backed, Stimulus Divisive

Public support for government loans to major U.S. automakers has increased sharply since 2009. Opinions are far less positive, however, about two other major initiatives to bolster the economy – the 2008 bank bailout and the 2009 stimulus plan.

Americans also are of two minds when it comes to government regulation of business. While regulations are viewed negatively in the abstract, large majorities want to maintain or even strengthen federal regulations in food production, environmental protection, automobile safety and other areas.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 8-12 among 1,501 adults, finds that 56% say the loans the government made to GM and Chrysler were mostly good for the economy, while 38% say the loans to the automakers were mostly bad for the economy.

Opinion about the auto loans has reversed since October 2009. At that time, just 37% said the loans were mostly good for the economy while 54% expressed negative views.

Republicans remain more skeptical than Democrats about the GM and Chrysler loans, but Republican support for the loans has nearly doubled since 2009 – from 23% then to 44% today.

A majority of Americans (55%) say that the auto industry has a positive effect on the way things are going in the country; just 29% say it is having a negative effect. Far more say the auto industry is having a positive impact than say that about large corporations generally (28%) or banks and financial institutions (22%). However, the auto industry is not viewed as positively as small businesses (75% positive effect) or technology companies (70%).

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### Growing Support for Auto Bailout

	<b>Oct 2009</b>	<b>Feb 2012</b>	<b>Change</b>
<i>GM &amp; Chrysler loans were ...</i>	%	%	
Mostly good for economy	37	56	+19
Mostly bad for economy	54	38	-16
Other/Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Loans to banks and financial institutions to secure markets in 2008 were...</i>	<b>Feb 2010</b>	<b>Feb 2012</b>	
Right thing	40	39	-1
Wrong thing	51	52	+1
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Obama's 2009 stimulus plan</i>			
Approve	38	37	-1
Disapprove	49	41	-8
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>23</u>	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012 & Feb. 16-20, 2012 Omnibus. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. See topline for slight differences in question wording for trends.

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The survey finds that while the government's loans to automakers are viewed more positively today than in the fall of 2009, there has been less change in opinions about other major economic policies. About four-in-ten (39%) say the major loans that the government extended to banks and financial institutions during the economic crisis of 2008 were the right thing for the government to do; 52% say they were the wrong thing. These views are virtually identical to opinions two years ago.

The public is now divided over Barack Obama's stimulus plan, which Congress passed in 2009. Overall, 37% approve of the legislation and 41% disapprove, while 23% express no opinion. Two years ago, 38% approved of the stimulus, while nearly half (49%) disapproved; 13% had no opinion.

In terms of policy proposals currently under consideration in Washington, there is far more support than opposition for building the Keystone XL pipeline that would carry oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries in Texas. So far, this issue has not resonated widely with the public; just 24% have heard a lot about this issue, while 37% have heard nothing at all.

Still, among those who have heard at least a little about the Keystone XL pipeline, 66% say the government should approve the pipeline, while just 23% say it should not.

Republicans are far more likely than Democrats or independents to have heard about the pipeline. Among those aware of this issue, 84% of Republicans say the government should build the pipeline, while just 9% say they should not. Independents, by greater than two-to-one (66% to 27%) approve of its construction. Democrats who have heard about the pipeline also are supportive – 49% approve of building the pipeline and 33% disapprove.

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### Among Those Aware, Support for Pipeline

<i>Heard about Keystone XL pipeline?</i>	<b>Feb 2012</b> %
A lot	24
A little	39
Nothing at all	37
Don't know	<u>1</u>
	100
N	1,501
<i>If heard, should gov't approve or not?</i>	
Should approve	66
Should not approve	23
Don't know	<u>11</u>
	100
N	1,072

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q64-65. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Mixed Views of Government Regulation

The public has mixed attitudes about government regulation of business. Over the past year, there has been an increase in the percentage saying that, in general, government regulation of business usually does more harm than good – from 45% last March to 52% today. Four-in-ten (40%) say government regulation is necessary to protect the public interest.

At the same time, there is little support for weakening federal regulations in specific areas such as food packaging and production, environmental protection, automobile safety standards, workplace health and safety and prescription drugs.

In each of these areas, large majorities say the federal government should strengthen regulations or keep them the same as they are now. For the most part, these opinions are little changed from 1995.

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### In General, Gov't Regulation Seen as Doing More Harm than Good

	<i>Gov't regulation of business...</i>		
	<b>Necessary to protect public</b>	<b>Usually does more harm than good</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Feb 2012	40	52	7=100
Mar 2011	47	45	8=100
Dec 2008	47	43	10=100
Oct 2008	50	38	12=100
Jan 2008	41	50	9=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q43. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### But Majorities Favor Either Keeping or Strengthening Regulations in Several Areas

<i>View of federal regulations in these areas ...</i>	<b>Keep as they are</b>			
	<b>Strengthen</b>	<b>they are</b>	<b>Reduce</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Food production & packaging	53	36	7	4=100
Environmental protection	50	29	17	4=100
Car safety & efficiency	45	42	9	3=100
Workplace health & safety	41	45	10	4=100
Prescription drugs	39	33	20	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Moreover, the public does not see individual business sectors as over-regulated, with one notable exception. About half (49%) say there is too much federal regulation of small businesses, compared with just 21% who say there is too little regulation and 23% who say there is the right amount of regulation.

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### **Under-Regulated: Banks, Corporations, Oil; Over-Regulated: Small Businesses**

<i>View of federal regulations of these businesses ...</i>	<b>Too much</b>	<b>Too little</b>	<b>Right amount</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
Small businesses	49	21	23	7=100
Health insurance industry	37	40	18	5=100
Oil & gas industry	36	44	14	7=100
Large corporations	31	43	19	7=100
Banks & financial inst.	30	43	20	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q63. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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By contrast, when it comes to large corporations, banks and financial institutions, and the oil and gas industry, pluralities say there is too little federal regulation. When it comes to the health insurance industry, however, about as many say there is too little (40%) as too much regulation (37%).

There are sharp partisan differences over the level of federal regulation in each of the business sectors included in the survey. Majorities of Republicans say each is over-regulated, while Democrats are far more likely to say there is too little regulation. For the most part, independents are closer to Democrats than Republicans.

For instance, comparable percentages of Democrats and independents say there is too little federal regulation of the oil and gas industry (56% of Democrats, 52% of independents), banks and financial institutions (50%, 54%) and the health insurance industry (50%, 48%).

The survey also finds that the public is skeptical of the federal government taking a more active role in regulating how internet companies handle privacy issues.

A 56% majority says the government should not do more to regulate how internet companies handle online privacy issues. Only about four-in-ten (38%) want to see the government become more involved in these issues.

However, Americans do not have a positive view of the way that internet companies handle privacy matters. When asked about internet companies that collect personal information for targeted ads, 59% say this is an unjustified use of people's personal information. Just 33% view this as a fair exchange for the free internet services— such as email, search and social networking – that these companies provide.

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## Views of Gov't Role in Online Privacy

<i>Gov't role in regulating how internet companies handle privacy issues ...</i>	<b>Feb 2012</b> %
Should do more	38
Should not get more involved	56
Don't know	7
	100
<i>Companies that offer online services collect personal information for targeted ads. Is this ...</i>	
An unjustified use of private information	59
A fair exchange for free online services	33
Don't know	8
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q71-72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Views of Institutions

The survey finds that the public's views of the impact of major institutions and businesses have changed little over the past two years. Substantial majorities continue to say that small businesses (75%) and technology companies (70%) have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country. Colleges and universities (60%), churches (57%) and the auto industry (55%) also are generally viewed as having a positive impact on the country.

By contrast, just 15% say Congress is having a positive effect while 75% say it is having a negative effect. Opinions about Congress's impact have grown even more negative since March 2010 (24% positive, 65% negative).

The public also remains highly critical of the impact of the federal government (66% negative effect) and banks and other financial institutions (68%), but these views have shown little change since March 2010.

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### Most Say Congress, Government, Banks Have Negative Impact

<i>Effect on the way things are going in the country ...</i>	<b>Positive</b> %	<b>Negative</b> %	<b>Other/ DK</b> %
Small businesses	75	18	8=100
Technology companies	70	18	12=100
Colleges & universities	60	26	13=100
Churches & religious organizations	57	26	17=100
Auto industry	55	29	15=100
Labor unions	37	45	19=100
Entertainment industry	32	50	17=100
Large corporations	28	57	14=100
National news media	26	61	12=100
Banks and other financial institutions	22	68	11=100
Federal government	22	66	12=100
Congress	15	75	9=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q5. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## SECTION 1: RECENT ECONOMIC POLICIES, KEYSTONE PIPELINE

A majority of Americans (56%) now say the government loans made to GM and Chrysler in the midst of the financial crisis were mostly good for the economy, while 38% say they were mostly bad. In October 2009, almost a year after the loans were announced, public opinion was reversed: Just 37% said the loans were good, while 54% said they were bad.

Views of the auto bailout have grown more positive among nearly all groups. Today, Republicans are divided over the auto loans (44% mostly good for the economy, 52% mostly bad). In 2009, 70% of Republicans thought they had a negative effect on the economy while just 23% said they were mostly good for the economy.

Independents also had negative perceptions of the auto loans in 2009 (33% mostly good, 59% mostly bad), but opinions are now more positive than negative (54% vs. 40%). And while about half of Democrats (53%) said the loans were good for the economy in 2009, that number has risen to 72% today.

Opinion about the loans to General Motors and Chrysler is particularly positive in the Northeast and Midwest. About two-thirds of Northeasterners (66%) and 61% of Midwesterners say they have been good for the economy, compared with 53% of

### Views of Auto Loans Improve Across-the-Board

<i>Economic effect of loans to GM and Chrysler mostly...</i>	Oct 2009		Feb 2012		09-12 change in "good"	2012 N
	Good %	Bad %	Good %	Bad %		
Total	37	54	56	38	+19	1501
Republican	23	70	44	52	+21	447
Conserv Rep	21	71	38	57	+17	324
Mod/Lib Rep	28	68	57	39	+29	119
Democrat	53	37	72	23	+19	478
Cons/Mod Dem	52	40	72	24	+20	263
Liberal Dem	58	31	72	22	+14	197
Independent	33	59	54	40	+21	508
18-29	40	49	48	44	+8	191
30-49	34	60	57	38	+23	434
50-64	42	51	62	33	+20	465
65+	32	53	55	37	+23	382
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75,000+	37	58	65	32	+28	436
\$30k-\$74,999	37	52	59	38	+22	488
Less than \$30,000	37	55	50	43	+13	418
Northeast	39	51	66	27	+27	231
Midwest	38	49	61	33	+23	369
South	39	53	53	43	+14	542
West	32	62	48	43	+16	359

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q46.

Southerners and 48% of Westerners. While those with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000 are divided in their evaluations of the loans (50% mostly good, 43% mostly bad), those with higher incomes are more positive.

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independent registered voters, there are no significant differences of opinions about the auto loans by income or education. Mirroring the pattern within the overall public, Republicans and Republican-leaning independent voters who live in the Northeast and Midwest are more positive in their views of the auto bailout than Republicans who live in the South and West; 52% of those in the Northeast and Midwest say the loans were mostly good for the economy, compared with 36% of those in the South and West.

### Negative Views of TARP Persist

Public views of the major loans to banks and financial institutions made by the federal government in the fall of 2008 remain, on balance, negative. Today, 52% say these loans through the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) were the wrong thing for the government to do, while 39% say they were the right thing. This is little changed from public opinion two years ago. Immediately following the decision to make the loans in mid-September 2008, a 57% majority said the government's loans were the right thing to do.

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#### Little Change in Views of Bank Bailout

<i>Loans to banks and financial institutions to secure markets in 2008 were...</i>	<b>Sept 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Feb 2010</b>	<b>Feb 2012</b>
	%	%	%	%
Right thing	57	47	40	39
Wrong thing	30	43	51	52
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q44. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Partisans continue to differ in their views of these loans: Three-quarters of Republicans (75%) say the loans were the wrong thing for the government to do, as do a smaller majority of independents (55%). By contrast, about six-in-ten Democrats (59%) say the 2008 bank bailout was the right thing to do.

Among Republicans, conservatives are particularly likely to say the bailout was the wrong thing: Eight-in-ten (80%) say this, compared to 63% of moderate and liberal Republicans. There are no significant differences between liberal Democrats (61% right thing, 30% wrong thing) and their moderate and conservative counterparts (59% right thing, 35% wrong thing).

Public perceptions of how much of the TARP money has been paid back to the government have not changed much since April 2010: A majority (56%) say only some of the money has been repaid, while 16% say none has. Just 13% say most of the money has been paid back and only 2% say all of it. There are no significant partisan differences in perceptions of the repayments. College graduates are more likely than those without a college degree to say the loans have been mostly repaid (24% vs. 7%).

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### Republicans, Independents Say Bank Bailout Was Wrong

<i>Loans to banks and financial institutions to secure markets in 2008 were...</i>	<b>Right thing</b>	<b>Wrong thing</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	39	52	8=100
Republican	20	75	6=100
Democrat	59	33	8=100
Independent	38	55	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q44. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Majority Says Only Some of TARP Repaid

<i>How much money provided to banks has been repaid?</i>	<b>Apr 2010</b>	<b>Feb 2012</b>
	%	%
All of it	2	2
Most of it	17	13
Only some of it	57	56
None of it	13	16
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q45. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Opinions about Stimulus Less Negative than in 2010

Three years after the passage of the economic stimulus package, public reaction is split: 37% approve of the \$800 billion economic stimulus plan passed by Obama and Congress, while about the same percentage (41%) disapproves. While the percentage approving of the stimulus package is little changed from two years ago, disapproval has declined (41% disapprove today, compared with 49% in February 2010). In June 2009, a few months after the stimulus was passed, a 55% majority approved of the legislation.

Republicans continue to disapprove of the stimulus by an overwhelming margin (76% disapprove, 12% approve). Two-thirds of Democrats approve of the stimulus while just 16% disapprove. Independents are divided (33% approve, 40% disapprove).

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### Public Divided over 2009 Stimulus

	Jun 2009	Oct 2009	Feb 2010	Feb 2012
<i>Obama's \$800 billion stimulus ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	55	44	38	37
Disapprove	39	44	49	41
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 16-20, 2012 Omnibus. PEW8.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Stimulus In Retrospect: GOP Disapproval, Democratic Approval

	Feb 2010		Feb 2012	
<i>Obama's \$800 billion stimulus ...</i>	Approve	Dis-approve	Approve	Dis-approve
	%	%	%	%
Total	38	49	37	41
Republican	13	79	12	76
Democrat	60	27	66	16
Independent	39	48	33	40

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 16-20, 2012 Omnibus. PEW8.

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## Stimulus' State Aid, Infrastructure Funding Viewed Positively

While overall opinions about the stimulus are divided, a majority of Americans (61%) say the stimulus plan, which included money for states to deal with budget problems and funding for roads and other infrastructure, was mostly good for the economy. Just 31% say the stimulus was mostly bad for the economy.

More than eight-in-ten Democrats (83%) say this stimulus was mostly good; just 11% say it was mostly bad. Independent opinions mirror overall public views: 61% say it has been mostly good for the economy; 32% say it has been mostly bad.

A majority of Republicans (57%) say the stimulus was mostly bad, including 62% of conservative Republicans. Moderate and liberal Republicans are more divided in their opinions: 47% say this stimulus was mostly good, while 45% say it was mostly bad. There are no significant ideological differences among Democrats.

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### Impact of Stimulus Plan on Economy

<i>Effect of stimulus, including state aid, infrastructure funding</i>	<b>Mostly good</b>	<b>Mostly bad</b>	<b>Other/DK (Vol.)</b>
	%	%	%
Total	61	31	8=100
Republican	35	57	8=100
Democrat	83	11	5=100
Independent	61	32	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q47. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Views about the Keystone XL Pipeline

There has been recent controversy over the building of the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries along the Gulf Coast, but the public is not following this issue very closely. Just 24% say they have heard a lot about it while another 39% have heard a little; 37% have heard nothing at all about the pipeline.

Among those who have heard at least a little, there is strong public support for building the pipeline. About two-thirds (66%) think the government should approve the building of the pipeline, while 23% say it should not be approved.

Republicans overwhelmingly support the building of the pipeline. Fully 84% say the government should approve the Keystone XL pipeline, including 88% of conservative Republicans.

Even among Democrats who have heard about the issue, a 49% plurality support the government approving the pipeline while 33% say it should not be approved. But there is a strong ideological division among Democrats; 63% of conservative and

moderate Democrats support the building of the pipeline, compared with just 30% of liberal Democrats. A plurality of liberal Democrats (49%) say the pipeline should not be approved.

By a 66% to 27% margin, far more independents who have heard about the issue think the government should approve the building of the Keystone XL pipeline than say it should not be approved. Independents who lean to the Republican Party overwhelmingly support the building of the pipeline (89% say it should be approved). But Democratic-leaning independents are far more divided; 46% say it should be approved, while 45% say it should not be approved.

### Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Support

	Heard about	Among those who have heard, what should government do?				N
		Should approve	Should not approve	DK		
	%	%	%	%		
Total	62	66	23	11=100	1072	
Republican	77	84	9	6=100	371	
Conserv. Rep	83	88	8	4=100	283	
Mod/Lib Rep	67	--	--	--	88	
Democrat	57	49	33	17=100	319	
Cons/Mod Dem	55	63	23	14=100	166	
Liberal Dem	63	30	49	21=100	144	
Independent	58	66	27	7=100	341	
Lean Rep	69	89	10	1=100	151	
Lean Dem	58	46	45	9=100	146	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q64-65. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Sample sizes are for those who have heard about the issue.

## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION

In general, more Americans say that government regulation of business is harmful than say it is necessary to protect the public. At the same time, when asked about regulations in specific areas, such as food safety and environmental protection, there is broad support for strengthening regulations or keeping current regulations as they are now rather than reducing regulations.

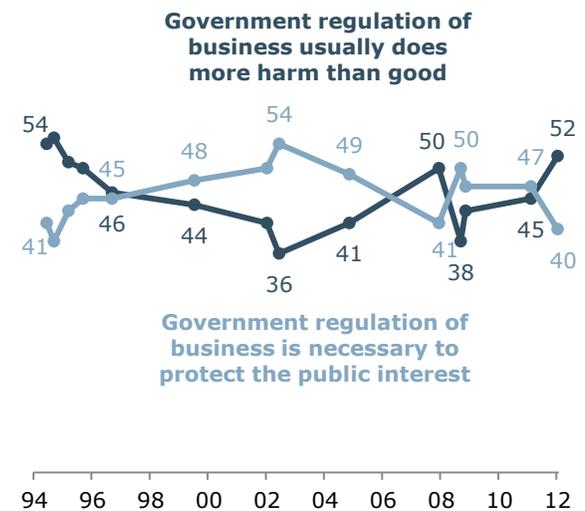
The public also thinks that in many sectors there is too little rather than too much regulation. Pluralities think there is too little regulation of large corporations, banks and financial institutions and the oil and gas industry. But when it comes to small businesses, far more say there is too much rather than too little regulation of small businesses.

Currently, 52% say government regulation of business usually does more harm than good while 40% think regulating business is necessary to protect the public interest. These views are similar to January 2008, before the financial crisis and onset of the economic recession.

Last March, opinion was more divided; 47% said regulating business is necessary to protect the public interest while 45% said government regulation does more harm than good.

The shift since March 2011 has come mostly among Republicans, widening the gap between the parties on this issue. About three-quarters (76%) of Republicans now say government regulation of business does more harm than good, an increase of 12 points from last year.

### Government Regulation Viewed as Doing More Harm than Good



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Fully 83% of conservative Republicans say regulation is harmful, up from 67% last year. A majority of moderate and liberal Republicans (59%) continue to say that government regulation of business usually does more harm than good, little changed from March 2011.

There also has been virtually no change among Democrats or independents on general views of regulation. A majority of Democrats (57%)

think government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest.

Independents continue to be divided; 44% say regulating business is necessary to protect the public while 49% believe it usually does more harm than good.

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### More Conservative Republicans Say Government Regulation is Harmful

<i>Gov't regulation of business ...</i>	March 2011		Feb 2012	
	<b>Is necessary to protect public</b>	<b>Usually does more harm than good</b>	<b>Is necessary to protect public</b>	<b>Usually does more harm than good</b>
	%	%	%	%
Total	47	45	40	52
Republican	29	64	17	76
Conserv. Rep	26	67	12	83
Mod/Lib Rep	36	58	29	59
Independent	47	47	44	49
Democrat	62	31	57	38
Cons/Mod Dem	58	36	54	41
Liberal Dem	71	23	64	32

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q43.

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## Views of Specific Regulations Little Changed from 1995

Overall, the public overwhelmingly supports strengthening regulations or keeping them as they are in specific areas, such as food safety and environmental protection; very few want to reduce regulations in these areas. And these views of regulation have changed little from July 1995.

A 53% majority says that the federal government should strengthen regulations of food production and packaging, while 36% say they should be kept the same as they are now; just 7% say regulations in this area should be reduced.

### Most Say Strengthen or Keep Regulations the Same

<i>What should the federal gov't do when it comes to regulating...</i>		<b>July 1995</b>	<b>Feb 2012</b>	<i>Feb 2012 among...</i>			<b>D-R gap</b>
				<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	
		%	%	%	%	%	
Food production & packaging	Strengthen	56	53	44	63	52	+19
	Keep same	34	36	43	29	36	-14
	Reduce	8	7	9	3	9	-6
Environmental protection	Strengthen	53	50	28	64	53	+36
	Keep same	26	29	30	28	32	-2
	Reduce	19	17	36	6	15	-30
Car safety & efficiency	Strengthen	--	45	33	57	44	+24
	Keep same	--	42	49	35	44	-14
	Reduce	--	9	14	5	10	-9
Workplace health & safety	Strengthen	47	41	25	52	43	+27
	Keep same	40	45	52	42	43	-10
	Reduce	12	10	18	4	11	-14
Prescription drugs	Strengthen	37	39	31	41	40	+10
	Keep same	30	33	37	36	31	-1
	Reduce	29	20	24	16	21	-8
	N	499	730	222	224	254	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q62.  
July 1995 data from NBC/Wall Street Journal.

Similarly, half say that environmental protection regulations should be strengthened while 29% think they should stay the same and 17% say they should be reduced. Fewer than half (45%) think safety and efficiency standards for automobiles should be strengthened, while nearly as many say they should stay the same (42%).

About four-in-ten (41%) say workplace health and safety regulations should be strengthened; 45% say they should be kept the same. When asked about prescription drugs, 39% think regulations in this area should be strengthened while 33% think they should stay the same.

There are substantial partisan differences in views of regulation, but the gaps have not widened since 1995. In general, Democrats and independents are more likely than Republicans to support strengthening regulations. Majorities of Democrats (63%) and independents (53%) think that the federal government should strengthen environmental

regulations, compared with just 28% of Republicans. Similarly, 57% of Democrats and 44% of independents favor strengthening workplace health and safety regulations. Just 25% of Republicans agree. But even among Republicans, far more say regulations in these areas should be strengthened or kept as they are than say they should be reduced.

Women also are more supportive of strengthening regulations than men. About six-in-ten women (61%) say the federal government should strengthen food safety regulations, compared with 45% of men. And by a 47% to 34% margin more women also support stronger regulations of workplace health and safety. There also is a 9-point gap between men and women on strengthening environmental protection and prescription drugs.

### Small Businesses Seen as Over-Regulated

Overall, the public is more likely to say there is too little rather than too much regulation in most business sectors.

About four-in-ten (43%) say there is too little regulation of large corporations, 19% say there is the right amount and 31% say there is too much regulation.

Opinion is nearly identical for banks and financial institution, with a 43% plurality saying there is too little regulation. By a 44% to 36% margin more also say there is too little rather than too much regulation of the oil and gas industry.

### Republicans See Too Much Regulation in All Business Sectors

<i>Is there ___ regulation when it comes to ...</i>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>D-R gap</b>
		%	%	%	%	
Small businesses	Too much	49	74	30	49	-44
	Too little	21	10	29	24	+19
	Right amount	23	9	33	23	+24
Health insurance industry	Too much	37	68	22	29	-46
	Too little	40	19	50	48	+31
	Right amount	18	7	23	20	+16
Oil & gas industry	Too much	36	66	22	29	-44
	Too little	44	19	56	52	+37
	Right amount	14	9	18	14	+9
Large corporations	Too much	31	58	16	27	-42
	Too little	43	22	58	46	+36
	Right amount	19	14	18	24	+4
Banks & financial institutions	Too much	30	55	19	23	-36
	Too little	43	20	50	54	+30
	Right amount	20	16	26	18	+10
	N	771	225	254	254	

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Opinion is more divided on the health insurance industry (40% too little; 37% too much). And when it comes to small businesses, a plurality (49%) says there is too much regulation; 23% think there is the right amount and just 21% say there is too little regulation.

Republicans are far more likely than Democrats and independents to say there is too much regulation of many specific groups. Majorities of Republicans say each of the industry sectors tested are over-regulated – from 74% who say there is too much regulation of small businesses to 58% and 55%, respectively, who say there is too much regulation of banks and large corporations.

By contrast, half or more Democrats say each of the sectors is under-regulated, except for small businesses; just 29% say there is too little regulation of small businesses. Independents' views are close to those of Democrats, again with the exception of opinions about regulation of small businesses. Nearly half of independents (49%) say there too much regulation of small businesses.

## Internet Privacy and Government Regulation

Most Americans (59%) see the business practice of targeting ads based on data collected from users of email, search or social networking sites as an unjustified use of private information. Only one-in-three (33%) see this as a fair exchange for the free services these companies provide.

Despite this concern, Americans are not eager for the government to take a larger role on this issue. A majority (56%) say that the government should not get more involved in regulating how internet companies handle privacy issues, while just 38% say the government should do more.

People under age 30 are evenly split on the legitimacy of internet companies using

## Regulating How Internet Companies Handle Privacy Issues

	<i>Government should ...</i>		
	<b>Do more to regulate</b>	<b>Not get more involved</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	38	56	7=100
18-29	33	62	4=100
30-49	43	54	3=100
50+	36	53	11=100
College grad+	33	62	5=100
Some coll. or less	40	53	7=100
Republican	30	67	3=100
Democrat	45	49	7=100
Independent	38	56	6=100
<i>Use social networking sites</i>			
Yes	37	59	4=100
No	39	51	10=100

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personal information to target ads: 47% call it an invasion of privacy while 46% see it as a fair exchange for free services. By contrast, people over age 30 see this as an unjustified use of private information, by a 62% to 30% margin. In keeping with this, younger Americans are more likely than those age 30 and older to say the government should not get more involved in this issue (62% vs. 54%).

There is also a substantial educational difference in how people view internet privacy. College graduates are more accepting than those without college degrees of the use of personal information by internet companies for advertising, and are more opposed to government regulation.

There is relatively little partisan divide over the legitimacy of how companies use personal information; majorities of Republicans (55%), Democrats (60%) and independents (60%) alike think targeted advertising is an unjustified use of peoples' private information. But there is a sharp partisan difference over the role the government should take. Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) and a majority of independents (56%) say that the government should not get more involved in this issue. Democrats are evenly divided (45% government should do more vs. 49% should not get more involved).

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## Personal Information Used for Targeted Advertising Online

*Internet companies collecting information from their users to target ads toward them is...*

	<b>An unjustified use of private information</b>	<b>A fair exchange for free services</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	59	33	8=100
18-29	47	46	7=100
30-49	59	36	5=100
50+	64	25	11=100
College grad+	47	48	5=100
Some coll. or less	63	27	9=100
Republican	55	39	6=100
Democrat	60	31	9=100
Independent	60	34	6=100
<i>Use social networking sites</i>			
Yes	52	43	5=100
No	68	20	12=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12 2012. Q72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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People who use social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter are far more likely than those who do not use them to say that collecting personal information for targeted advertising is a fair exchange for services (43% vs. 20%). Yet even among social network users, roughly half (52%) say collecting personal information to target advertisements is an unjustified use of private information. Social network users are more opposed to greater government regulation in this area (59%) than are those who do not use social networking sites (51%).

Even among those who are uncomfortable with companies using personal information to target ads, there is no call for greater government regulation. Only about half (45%) of those who think this is an unjustified use of people's private information say the government should do more to regulate internet privacy, while about the same number (49%) say it should not get more involved. Not surprisingly, among the minority who see the use of personal information as a fair exchange for the free services internet companies provide, 72% oppose any greater government role.

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### Many Who Dislike Privacy Policies Still Oppose More Gov't Regulation

<i>Government should...</i>	<i>Think companies using personal information is...</i>	
	<b>An unjustified use of private information</b>	<b>A fair exchange for free services</b>
	%	%
Do more to regulate internet privacy	45	24
Not get more involved	49	72
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100
N	877	505

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q71-72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## SECTION 3: IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONS

The public offers very positive ratings of the impact of small businesses and technology companies on the way things are going in this country today. Fully three-quarters (75%) say small businesses are having a positive effect on the country and nearly as many (70%) say they same about technology companies.

By contrast, government, banks, and large corporations continue to receive highly negative ratings. Just 15% say Congress is having a positive effect on the country; 75% say negative. Ratings of Congress have fallen from an already low rating in 2010 (24% positive effect). Evaluations of the impact of the federal government, and banks and other financial institutions, are little better than those of Congress: Just 22% say the government and banks have a positive effect on the way things are going; more than six-in-ten say the government (66%) and banks (68%) have a negative effect. Opinions about the impact of these institutions have changed little since 2010.

### Small Businesses, Tech Companies Viewed Positively

<i>% saying each has positive effect ...</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Small businesses	75	74	73	77
Technology companies	70	65	71	73
Colleges & universities	60	51	67	61
Churches & religious organizations	57	68	55	56
Auto industry	55	46	65	57
Labor unions	37	19	47	42
Entertainment industry	32	19	44	33
Large corporations	28	29	24	33
National news media	26	18	34	27
Banks and other financial institutions	22	22	24	21
Federal government	22	10	35	19
Congress	15	13	19	14

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q5. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans and Democrats generally agree in their positive evaluations of small business and technology companies and their negative views of Congress and large corporations, but there are wide partisan divides on the impact of other institutions. For example, 47% of Democrats say labor unions have a positive effect, compared with just 19% of Republicans. And while nearly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) say the auto industry has a positive impact, 46% of Republicans agree.

Overall, comparable majorities say colleges and universities (60%) and churches and religious organizations (57%) are having a positive effect on the country. But Republicans are more likely to rate the impact of religious organizations positively than that of colleges and universities (68% vs. 51%) while Democrats are more likely to see colleges and universities as having a positive impact than churches and religious organizations. (67% vs. 55%).

On balance, the federal government and the national news media are viewed more negatively than positively by both Republicans and Democrats, but Republicans express stronger distaste for both institutions than do Democrats. Republicans say the impact of the federal government on the country is negative by an 86%-10% margin. Among Democrats, the balance of opinion is still negative, but less one-sided (49%-35%). Similarly, the news media is seen as having a negative impact on the country by 76% of Republicans, compared with 50% of Democrats.

## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 8-12, 2012, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 601 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 284 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,501	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	730	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	771	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	447	5.5 percentage points
Conserv Rep	324	6.5 percentage points
Mod/Lib Rep	119	10.5 percentage points
Democrats	478	5.5 percentage points
Cons/Mod Dem	263	7.0 percentage points
Liberal Dem	197	8.5 percentage points
Independents	508	5.5 percentage points
Family income		
\$75,000+	436	5.5 percentage points
\$30k-\$74,999	488	5.5 percentage points
Less than \$30,000	418	6.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 16-20, 2012, among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (603 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 403 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 190 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,006	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	294	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	282	7.0 percentage points
Independents	331	6.5 percentage points
Family income		
\$75,000+	236	7.5 percentage points
\$30k-\$74,999	302	7.0 percentage points
Less than \$30,000	318	6.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 8-12, 2012**  
**N=1501**

**Q.1-Q.3, Q.6a-e, Q.7-Q.8, Q.11, Q.13-Q.14, Q.16, Q.19-Q.21, Q.32-Q.33, Q.37, Q.40-42, Q.55-57, Q.60-61, Q.66-Q.67, Q.75, PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**NO QUESTIONS 4, 9-10, 12, 15, 17-18, 22-31, 34-36, 38-39, 49-54, 58-59, 68-70, 73-74**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Please tell me if you think each of the following is having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today? First, (is/are) **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in this country today? How about **[NEXT ITEM]** **[INTERVIEWER: IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: "Overall do you think (it is/they are) having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today?" IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]?**

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither/ No Influence/ Mixed</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=730]:</b>					
a.F1	The federal government				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	22	66	6	6
	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	65	4	5
b.F1	Large corporations				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	28	57	7	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	64	4	8
c.F1	Small businesses				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	75	18	3	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	71	19	3	7
d.F1	Labor unions				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	37	45	5	14
	Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	4	14
e.F1	Churches and religious organizations				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	57	26	8	9
	Mar 11-21, 2010	63	22	7	8
f.F1	Colleges and universities				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	60	26	5	8
	Mar 11-21, 2010	61	26	4	9

**NO ITEM g.****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=771]:**

h.F2	Congress				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	15	75	4	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	24	65	4	8

**NO ITEMS i AND j.**

k.F2	The entertainment industry				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	32	50	10	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	33	51	8	8

**Q.5 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	(VOL.) Neither No Influence/ <u>Mixed</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
I.F2	Banks and other financial institutions				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	22	68	5	6
	Mar 11-21, 2010	22	69	4	6
m.F2	Technology companies				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	70	18	5	7
	Mar 11-21, 2010	68	18	4	10
n.F2	The national news media				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	26	61	7	5
	Mar 11-21, 2010	31	57	6	6
o.F2	The auto industry				
	Feb 8-12, 2012	55	29	7	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.43 Please tell me which of these statements comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right

	<u>Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest</u>	<u>Government regulation of business usually does more harm than good</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither/DK</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	52	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	47	45	8
December, 2008	47	43	10
October, 2008	50	38	12
January, 2008	41	50	9
December, 2004	49	41	10
July, 2002	54	36	10
February, 2002	50	41	9
August, 1999	48	44	8
October, 1996	45	46	9
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	43	51	6
October, 1994	38	55	7
July, 1994	41	54	5

<sup>1</sup> For Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011 and earlier this question was asked as part of a list.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 As you may recall during the financial market problems of 2008, the government made major loans to banks and financial institutions to try to keep the markets secure. Do you think this was the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to do?

Feb 8-12

2012

39	Right thing
52	Wrong thing
8	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*In 2008, the government made loans of roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this was the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to do?*

	Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u> <sup>2</sup>	Dec <u>2008</u>	Nov 14-17 <u>2008</u>	Mid- Oct <u>2008</u>	Late Sept <u>2008</u>	Sept 19-22 <u>2008</u>
Right thing	40	48	47	40	47	45	57
Wrong thing	51	40	43	43	37	38	30
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	9	12	10	17	16	17	13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 From what you've read and heard, how much of the money the government provided to banks and financial institutions has been paid back... All of the money, most of it, only some of it, or none of it?

Feb 8-12

2012

2	All of it
13	Most of it
56	Only some of it
16	None of it
13	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

Apr 23-26

2010<sup>3</sup>

2
17
57
13
11

<sup>2</sup> In March 2009, the question began with: "In addition to the economic stimulus program Congress recently passed, the government is investing roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. ..." In December 2008, the question read: "As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" November and October surveys from 2008 did not include the phrase "of dollars" after "billions." In Late September 2008 and in the September 19-22, 2008 the question read: "As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?" In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word "committing" instead of "investing" showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

<sup>3</sup> For April 23-26, 2010 the question asked about: "...money the federal government provided to troubled banks and financial institutions..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 The government also gave loans to General Motors and Chrysler during this period. Do you think this was mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

Feb 8-12

2012

56	Mostly good for the economy
38	Mostly bad for the economy
*	No effect <b>(VOL.)</b>
*	Kept the economy from getting worse <b>(VOL.)</b>
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Now I'd like to ask you about some steps the federal government has taken over the past year in reaction to economic problems facing the nation. First, has **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy? Next, has **[NEXT ITEM]** been mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?*

*The government giving loans to General Motors and Chrysler*

	Sep 30-Oct 4
	<u>2009<sup>4</sup></u>
Mostly good for the economy	37
Mostly bad for the economy	54
No effect <b>(VOL.)</b>	2
Kept the economy from getting worse <b>(VOL.)</b>	1
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 In early 2009, President Obama and Congress passed a major economic stimulus plan that included money for states to deal with budget problems and funding for roads and other infrastructure. Do you think this stimulus plan was mostly good or mostly bad for the economy?

Feb 8-12

2012

61	Mostly good for the economy
31	Mostly bad for the economy
2	No effect <b>(VOL.)</b>
*	Kept the economy from getting worse <b>(VOL.)</b>
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.48 In 2010, the President and Congress passed a law that more strictly regulates financial institutions and markets. What worries you more on this issue? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

Feb 8-12

2012

42	These regulations go too far, making it harder for the economy to grow [OR]
42	These regulations do not go far enough, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis
16	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

May 13-16

2010<sup>5</sup>

46
44
11

<sup>4</sup> For September 30-October 4, 2009 this list question also included items about: "The government giving loans to major U.S. banks and financial institutions" and "The government spending billions on roads, bridges and other public works projects."

<sup>5</sup> For May 13-16, 2010 the question read: "Thinking about financial regulation, what worries you more...". The response options read "That the government will go too far in regulating financial institutions and markets, making it harder for the economy to grow," or "That the government will not go far enough in regulating financial institutions and markets, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis."

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=730]:**

Next,

Q.62F1 What do you think about regulation in each of the following areas? First, should the federal government strengthen regulations, keep current regulations as they are, or reduce regulations when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Should government regulations on [INSERT ITEM] be strengthened, kept as they are, or reduced?]**

		<u>Strengthen regulations</u>	<u>Keep current regulations as they are</u>	<u>Reduce regulations</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Production and packaging of food Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	53 56	36 34	7 8	4 2
b.F1	Prescription drugs Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	39 37	33 30	20 29	8 4
c.F1	Workplace health and safety Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	41 47	45 40	10 12	4 2
d.F1	Environmental protection Feb 8-12, 2012 <i>NBC/WSJ</i> : July, 1995	50 53	29 26	17 19	4 2
e.F1	Safety and efficiency standards for automobiles Feb 8-12, 2012	45	42	9	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=771]:**

Next,

Q.63F2 What do you think about regulation in each of the following areas? First, is there too much, too little or the right amount of federal regulation when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: When it comes to [INSERT ITEM], is there too much, too little or the right amount of federal regulation.]**

		<u>Too much regulation</u>	<u>Too little regulation</u>	<u>Right amount of regulation</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	Small businesses Feb 8-12, 2012	49	21	23	7
b.F2	Large corporations Feb 8-12, 2012	31	43	19	7
c.F2	Banks and financial institutions Feb 8-12, 2012	30	43	20	7
d.F2	The health insurance industry Feb 8-12, 2012	37	40	18	5
<b>NO ITEMS e. AND f.</b>					
g.F2	The oil and gas industry Feb 8-12, 2012	36	44	14	7

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.64 How much, if anything, have you heard about the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas? Have you heard **[READ]**?

Feb 8-12

2012

24	A lot
39	A little
37	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.64=1,2)**

Q.65 Do you think the government should or should not approve the building of this pipeline?

<b>BASED ON TOTAL:</b>	<b>BASED ON HEARD A LOT/LITTLE:</b>	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
41	66	Government should approve the pipeline
14	23	Government should not approve the pipeline
7	11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
38	--	<i>Heard nothing/DK/Ref</i>
N 1501	1072	

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the internet...

Q.71 Do you think the government should do more to regulate how internet companies handle privacy issues, or should the government not get more involved in this?

<b>BASED ON TOTAL:</b>	<b>BASED ON INTERNET USERS:</b>	<b>BASED ON SNS USERS:</b>	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
38	36	37	Should do more
56	59	59	Should not get more involved
7	4	4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
N 1501	1245	795	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 As you may know, many companies that offer email, search and social networking services on the internet collect information from their users to target advertisements toward them. Do you think this is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

<b>BASED ON TOTAL:</b>	<b>BASED ON INTERNET USERS:</b>	<b>BASED ON SNS USERS:</b>	
Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	
59	56	52	An unjustified use of peoples' private information [OR]
33	39	43	A fair exchange for the free services these companies provide
8	5	5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
N 1501	1245	795	

**ASK ALL:**

INT1 Do you use the internet, at least occasionally?

Feb 8-12

2012

83 Yes

17 No

\* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)****ASK ALL:**

SN1 Do you ever use Facebook, Twitter or other social networking sites?

Feb 8-12

2012

58 Yes

42 No

\* Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FEBRUARY 16-20, 2012 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1,006**

**PEW.1-PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
PEW.4-PEW.7 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

PEW.8 As you may know, in early 2009 Congress passed Barack Obama's 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan?

Feb 16-20 <u>2012</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <sup>6</sup> <u>2009</u>
37	Approve	38	44	55
41	Disapprove	49	44	39
23	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	13	12	6

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<sup>6</sup> In June 2009, the question was worded "roughly 800 billion ..."