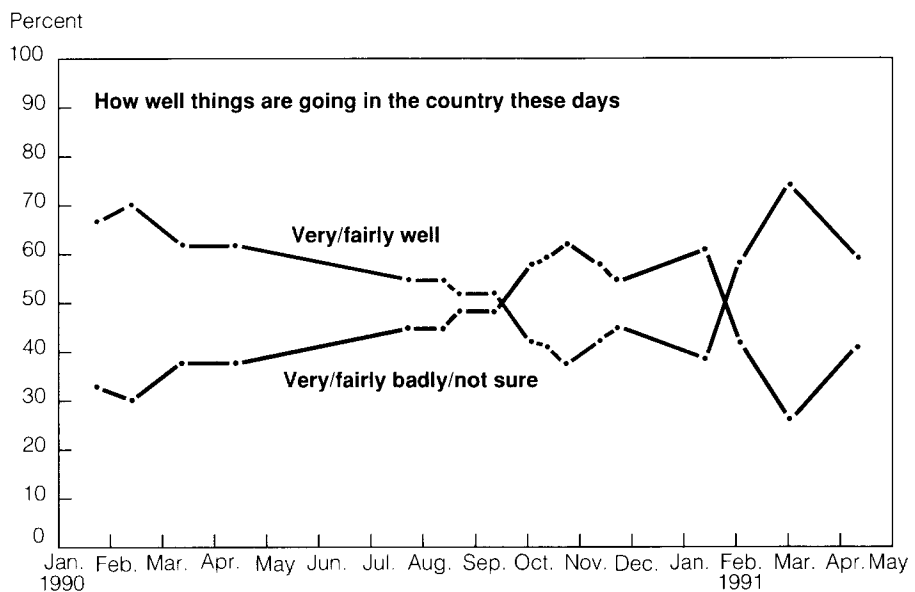


# THE COUNTRY'S MOOD

The events of the Gulf War boosted evaluations of how the country and the economy are faring. Large majorities consistently find a high level of satisfaction in their personal lives.

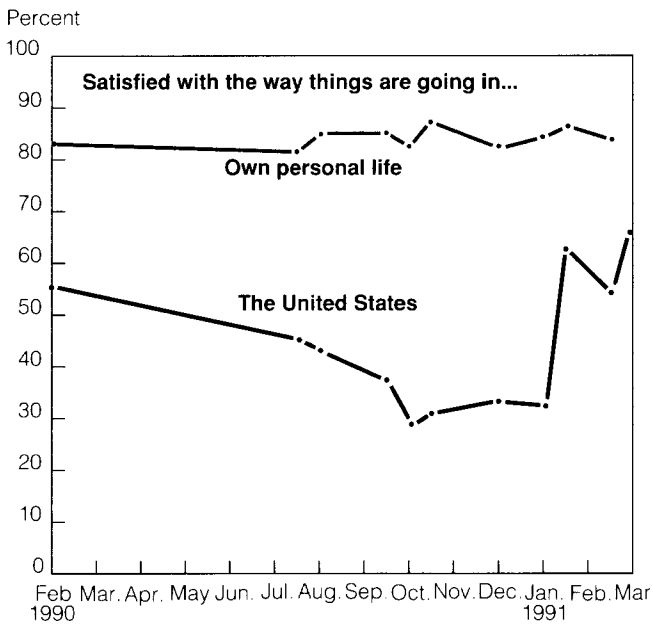
Question: **How well do you think things are going in the country these days—very well, fairly well, fairly badly, or very badly?**



Things in the country these days are going ...	Very/fairly well	Very/fairly badly/not sure
<b>1990</b>		
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	67%	33%
Feb. 14	70	30
Mar. 14	62	38
Apr. 9-10	62	38
Jul. 24-25	55	45
Aug. 9	55	45
Aug. 23	52	48
Sep. 13	52	48
Oct. 3	42	58
Oct. 10	41	59
Oct. 15-17	38	62
Nov. 14	42	58
Nov. 27-28	45	55
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 10	39	61
Feb. 7	58	42
Mar. 7	74	26
Apr. 10-11	59	41

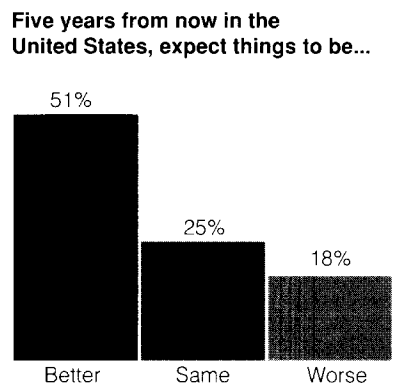
Note: "Not sure" response does not exceed 3% for time period shown.  
Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and Cable News Network.

Question: **In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time? In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your own personal life?**



Personal life	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>1990</b>		
Feb. 8-11	83%	16%
Jul. 19-22	81	17
Aug. 9-12	85	13
Sep. 27-30	85	14
Oct. 11-14	82	16
Oct. 25-28	87	11
Dec. 13-16	82	18
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 3-6	84	14
Jan. 17-20	86	12
Feb. 14-17	84	15
<b>In the United States</b>		
<b>1990</b>		
Feb. 8-11	55%	39%
Jul. 19-22	45	51
Aug. 9-12	43	51
Sep. 27-30	37	58
Oct. 11-14	29	67
Oct. 25-28	31	66
Dec. 13-16	33	64
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 3-6	32	61
Jan. 17-20	62	33
Feb. 14-17	54	40
Mar. 1*	65	28

Question: **What is your best guess about the United States five years from now? Generally, if things go pretty much as you expect, do you think things will be better, worse, or about the same as they are today?**

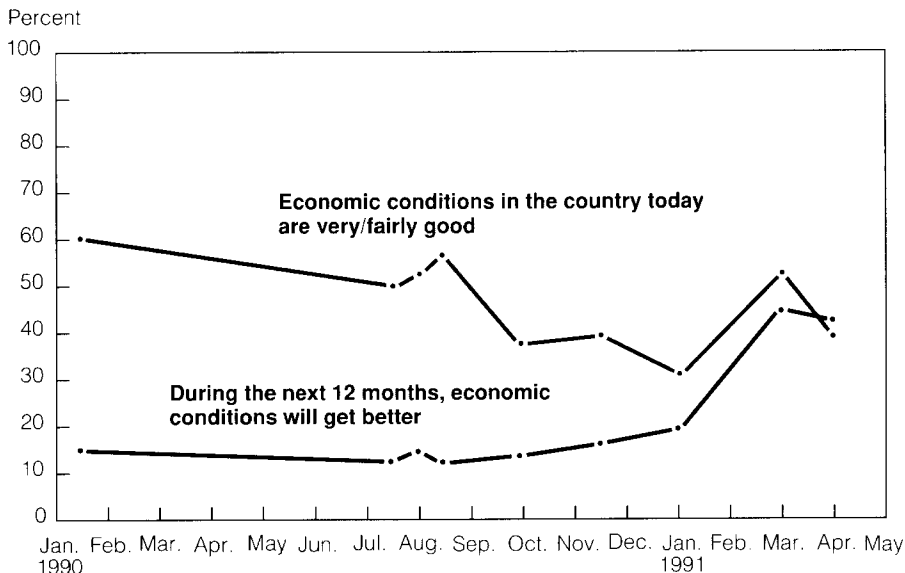


Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, March 4-6, 1991.

Note: \* = Gal'up poll for Newsweek  
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of March 1, 1991.

The public's economic forecasts are becoming more optimistic. Assessments about current economic conditions, however, are still more negative than positive.

Question: **How would you describe the economic conditions in the country today—as being very good, fairly good, poor, or very poor? During the next 12 months, do you think the economic conditions in this country will get better, become worse, or stay about the same?**



**Economic conditions today ...**

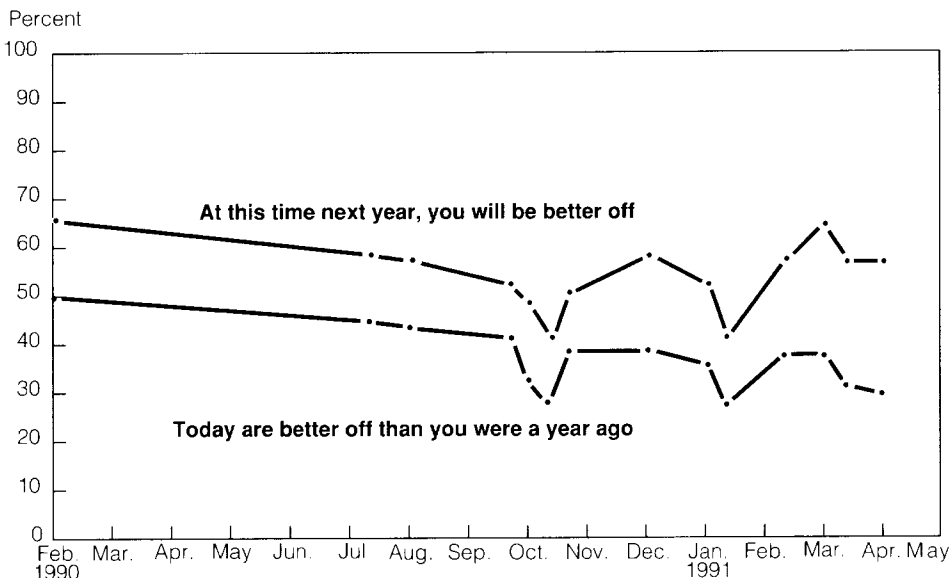
Year	Very good/fairly good	Poor/very poor
<b>1990</b>		
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	60%	39%
Jul. 24-25	49	50
Aug. 9	52	46
Aug. 23	56	43
Oct. 10	37	63
Nov. 27-28	39	61
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 10	31	68
Mar. 7	52	46
Apr. 10-11	39	59

**During next 12 months, economic conditions will ...**

Year	Get better	Stay the same	Get worse
<b>1990</b>			
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	14%	64%	20%
Jul. 24-25	12	57	29
Aug. 9	14	38	44
Aug. 23	12	32	50
Oct. 10	13	32	50
Nov. 27-28	16	36	45
<b>1991</b>			
Jan. 10	19	32	43
Mar. 7	44	40	15
Apr. 10-11	42	40	15

Source: Surveys by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and Cable News Network, latest that of April 10-11, 1991.

Question: **We are interested in how people's financial situation may have changed. Would you say you are financially better off now than you were a year ago, or are you financially worse off now? Now looking ahead, do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now, or worse off than now?**



**Today are ...**

Year	Better off than a year ago	Worse off
<b>1990</b>		
Feb. 8-11	49%	26%
Jul. 19-22	44	27
Aug. 9-12	43	29
Sep. 27-30	40	32
Oct. 11-14	32	41
18-21	27	30
25-28	38	35
Dec. 13-16	38	36
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 3-6	35	32
11-13	27	33
Feb. 14-17	37	28
Feb. 28-Mar. 3	37	28
Mar. 21-24	31	37
Apr. 11-14	29	33

**At this time next year will be ...**

Year	Better off	Worse off
<b>1990</b>		
Feb. 8-11	65%	16%
Jul. 19-22	58	17
Aug. 9-12	57	20
Sep. 27-30	52	20
Oct. 11-14	48	30
18-21	41	34
25-28	50	27
Dec. 13-16	58	18
<b>1991</b>		
Jan. 3-6	52	18
11-13	41	25
Feb. 14-17	57	15
Feb. 28-Mar. 3	64	9
Mar. 21-24	56	18
Apr. 11-14	56	17

Note: "Same" a volunteered response in both questions not shown here  
 Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of April 11-14, 1991.

Pundits pay extraordinary attention to a question about whether the country is headed in the right direction, or off on the wrong track. A careful reading of the responses shows wide variation in results by polling organizations, although the findings generally go in the same direction. George Bush's high overall ratings suggest that he is on the right track.

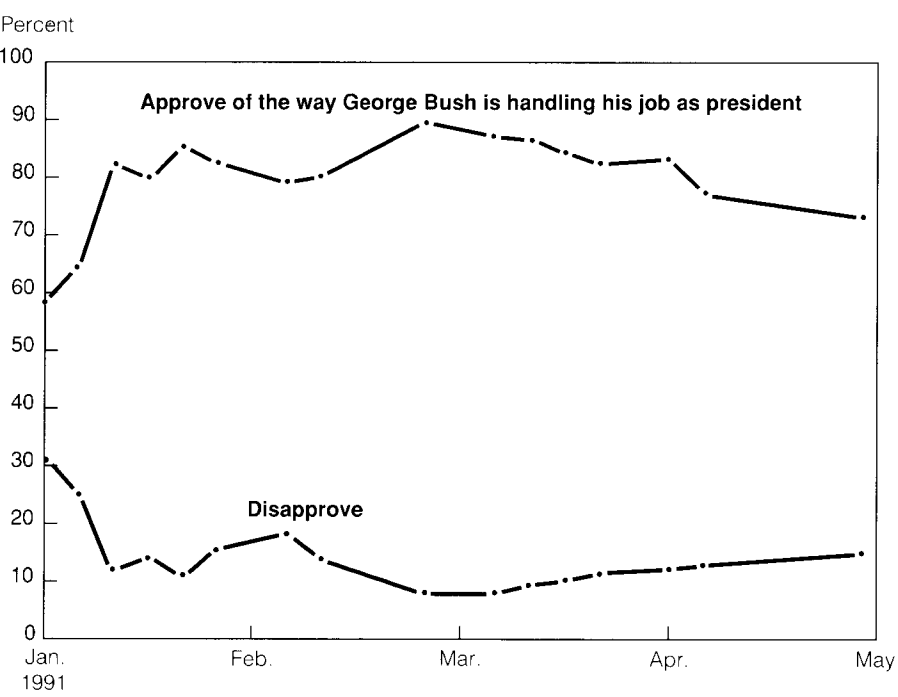
Question: Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track. (ABC/WP) All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track? (NBC/WSJ) Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track? (CBS/NYT) Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track? (Wirthlin)

	Jan. 1990	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1991	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
<b>ABC/WP</b>																
Right track	48%	49%	—	—	39%	—	37%	—	36%	19%	—	—	49%	58%	—	42%*
Wrong	49	48	—	—	60	—	60	—	60	79	—	—	48	39	—	51
<b>NBC/WSJ</b>																
Right track	49%	—	44%	47%	42%	—	40%	—	45%	22%	—	28%	—	65%	55%	—
Wrong	29	—	31	32	38	—	37	—	40	59	—	51	—	22	26	—
<b>CBS/NYT</b>																
Right track	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51%*	—	51%	—
Wrong	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	42	—
<b>Wirthlin</b>																
Right track	45%	48%	43%	40%	36%	38%	35%	35%	35%	20%	25%	26%	58%	47%	—	44%
Wrong	44	43	48	51	56	53	58	57	54	73	64	64	32	43	—	47

Note: \* = Washington Post poll, CBS News poll.  
 Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, CBS News/New York Times, NBC News/Wall Street Journal, and the Wirthlin Group, latest that of April 5-9, 1991; March 4-6, 1991; March 13-15, 1991; and April 15-17, 1991, respectively.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as president?

Handling of job as president



		Approve	Disapprove
Gallup	1/3-6/91	58%	31%
CBS/NYT	1/5-7	62	27
YCS/Time/CNN	1/10	61	30
Gallup	1/11-13	64	25
CBS/NYT	1/11-13	66	25
NBC/WSJ	1/23	77	15
Gallup	1/23-26	83	13
YCS/Time/CNN	1/24	82	12
Gallup	1/30-2/2	82	15
YCS/Time/CNN	2/7	80	14
Gallup	2/7-10	79	18
CBS/NYT	2/12-13	78	13
Gallup	2/14-17	80	14
LA Times	2/15-17	82	14
Gallup	2/21-24	80	13
CBS/NYT	2/24-25	85	10
NBC/WSJ	2/26-27	85	11
NYT	2/28-3/1	86	10
Gallup	2/28-3/3	89	8
CBS/NYT	3/4-6	88	8
YCS/Time/CNN	3/7	86	9
Gallup	3/7-10	87	8
LA Times	3/9-11	84	13
NBC/WSJ	3/15-19	81	13
Gallup	3/28-30	82	11
CBS/NYT	4/1-3	80	12
Gallup	4/4-6	83	12
ABC/WP	4/5-9	80	18
LA Times	4/6-9	82	16
YCS/Time/CNN	4/10-11	76	18
Gallup	4/11-14	77	13
Gallup	4/25-28	76	15

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of April 25-28, 1991