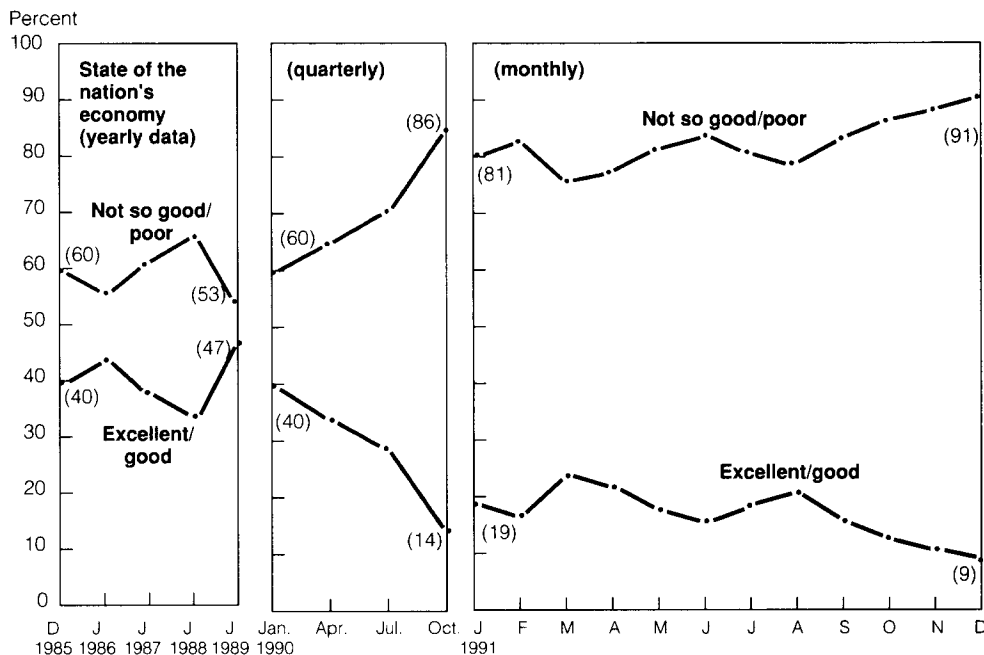


The Nation's Economy..

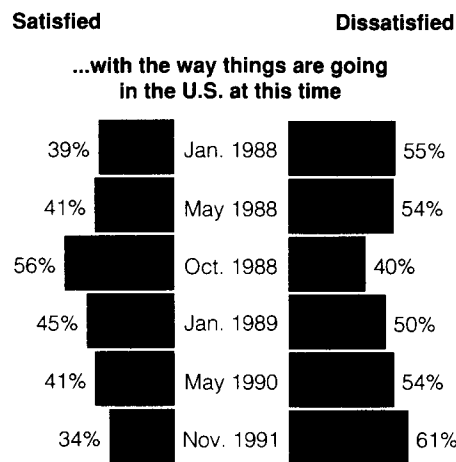
By all measures, the public pronounces the nation's economy ill.

Question: **Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?**



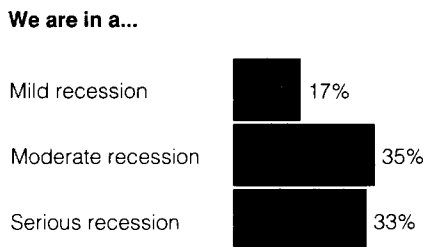
Note: Four-week rolling averages ending last week of each month shown.
Source: Surveys by ABC News/Money, latest that of four weeks ending December 8, 1991.

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



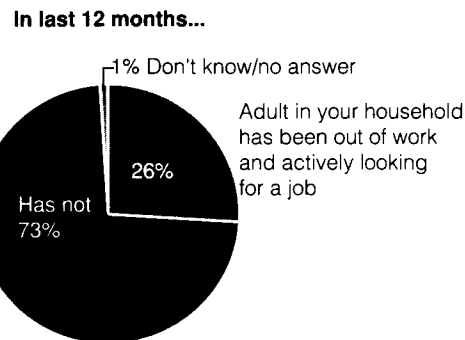
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization (1988-1989) and Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press, latest that of October 31-November 10, 1991.

Question: **Do you think we are in an economic recession, or not? (If yes) Do you think we are in a mild recession, or a moderate recession, or a serious recession?**



Note: Twelve percent said we were not in a recession.
Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, November 21-24, 1991.

Question: **In the last twelve months, has any adult in your household been out of work and actively looking for a job?**

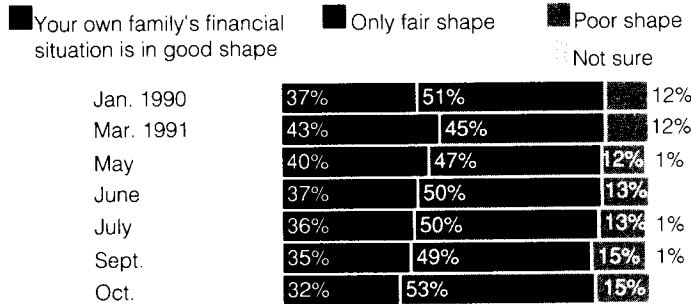


Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, November 18-22, 1991.

And Our Personal Situations

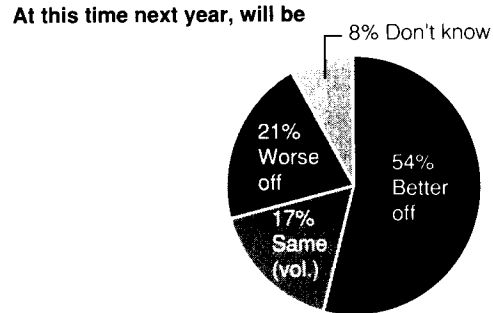
Americans are much less gloomy about their own economic position. Only a minority approve of Bush's handling of the economy, but Americans are dubious about a Democratic president's ability to do better.

Question: **Generally speaking, would you say your own family's financial situation is in good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape?**



Source: Survey by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, latest that of October 25-29, 1991.

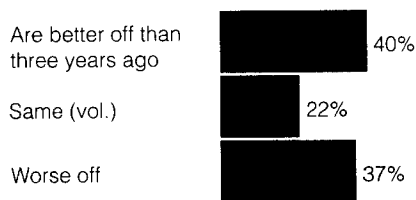
Question: **Now looking ahead, do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now, or worse off than now?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, December 5-8, 1991.

Question: **Would you say that you and your family are better off or worse off than you were three years ago?**

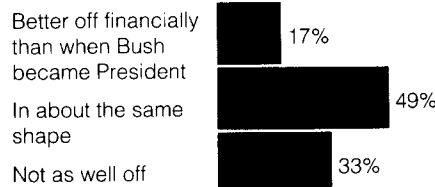
You and your family



Source: Survey by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, October 25-29, 1991.

Question: **Would you say you yourself are better off financially than you were in 1989 when Bush became president, not as well off, or in about the same shape as then financially?**

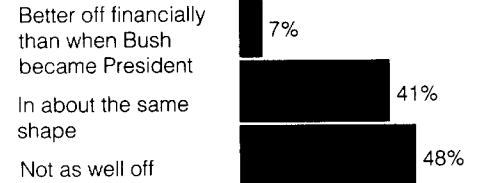
You, yourself are



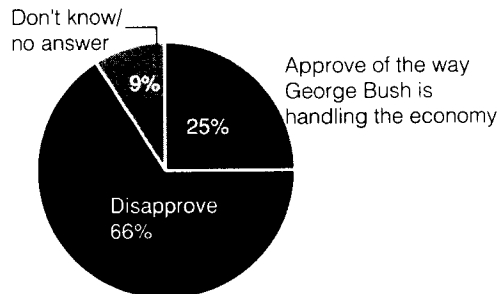
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 16-21, 1991 ("Most Americans") and December 11-15, 1991 ("You, yourself").

Question: **Would you say most Americans are better off financially than they were in 1989 when Bush became president, not as well off, or in about the same shape as then financially?**

Most Americans are

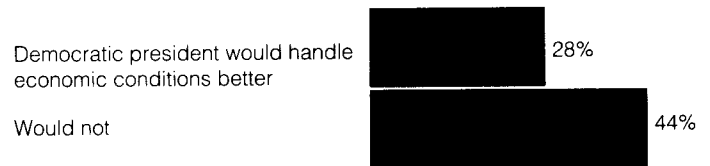


Question: **Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling the economy?**



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, November 18-22, 1991.

Question: **Do you think a Democratic president would handle economic conditions better, or not?**

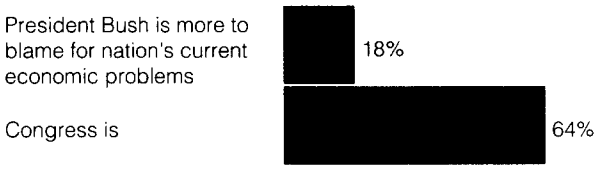


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, October 24-25, 1991.

Who Gets the Blame?

In general, Congress gets more blame than President Bush for the country's problems. Not surprisingly, cost considerations have a dampening effect on support for government action. Supporters of a Canadian-style health plan would accept only modest tax increases to pay for it (average acceptable increase is \$114).

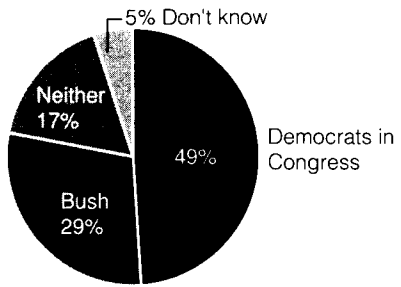
Question: **In your opinion, which of the following is more to blame for the nation's current economic problems...?**



Note: Responses were virtually identical in September.
Sources: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 31–November 3, 1991.

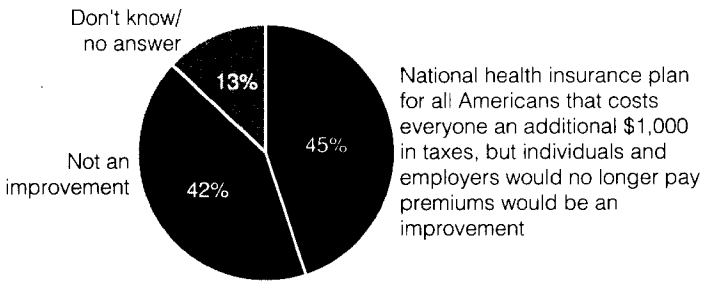
Question: **When the federal government fails to act on major problems facing the country, whose fault is it usually: Bush or the Democrats in Congress?**

When the federal government fails to act on major problems, fault is



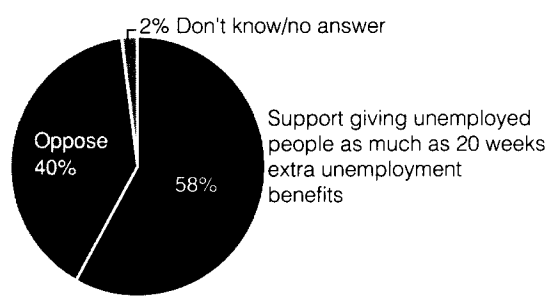
Note: In two later questions in this poll, respondents were asked to name one thing the federal government should be taking care of that it is not doing. In this open-ended question, the highest response was "homeless/poverty/hunger" cited by 10%. The next question asked who respondents blamed more for the federal government not taking care of the problem. Bush was blamed more than Democrats in Congress, by 41-35%.
Sources: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 24–29, 1991.

Question: **What if a national health insurance plan that covered all Americans would cost everyone an additional \$1,000 a year in taxes, but individuals and employers would no longer have to pay any premiums for basic health care coverage? Do you think this would be an improvement over the system we have now, or not?**



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, August 18-22, 1991.

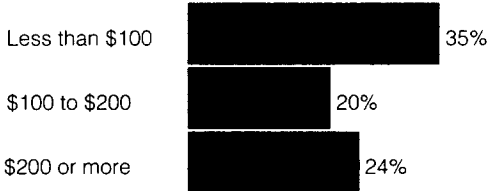
Question: **Would you support or oppose a federal law giving unemployed people as much as 20 weeks of extra unemployment benefits? Would you support or oppose a federal law giving unemployed people as much as 20 weeks of extra unemployment benefits, at a cost to the federal government of \$6.4 billion?**



....at a cost to the federal government of \$6.4 billion?

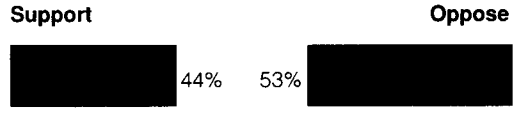
Question: **In general, do you approve or disapprove of a health care system like Canada's where doctors are privately employed, but the government sets rates for medical procedures and pays all medical bills for every Canadian citizen? Asked of 66% who approved: How much more in taxes would you personally be willing to pay per year for this plan?**

Would be willing to pay in taxes per year for this plan



Mean = \$114

Source: Survey by Public Opinion Strategies, July 14-16, 1991.



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, October 16-21, 1991.

