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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

National Sample of 1,000 AMERICAN ADULTS AGE 18+ (500 on landline, 500 on cell)

(The margin of error for a sample of 1,000 is +/- 3.1 in 95 out of 100 cases.)

Conducted January 2-6, 2016

1. Now, to start with, do you feel that **THE COUNTRY**, in general, is headed in the right direction, or do you think things are seriously off on the wrong track?

Direction Of Country (Trend Data Among Total Sample)	4/09	7/09	9/09	1/10	4/10	8/10	12/10	3/11
Right direction	47%	38%	38%	34%	34%	27%	30%	26%
Wrong track	42%	50%	50%	55%	54%	62%	60%	60%
Neither	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Don't know / refused	9%	9%	8%	6%	8%	4%	6%	8%

Direction Of Country (Trend Data Among Total Sample)	5/11	10/11	12/11	3/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	4/13
Right direction	28%	20%	20%	30%	33%	35%	41%	29%
Wrong track	58%	70%	70%	60%	57%	56%	51%	60%
Neither	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%
Don't know / refused	10%	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%

Direction Of Country (Trend Data Among Total Sample)	6/13	9/13	11/13	4/14	10/14	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Right direction	30%	25%	23%	27%	24%	33%	27%	23%	25%
Wrong track	58%	64%	65%	62%	63%	54%	59%	62%	62%
Neither	6%	4%	5%	4%	5%	6%	7%	9%	9%
Don't know / refused	5%	8%	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
 [IF APPROVE / DISAPPROVE, ASKED:] Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

Obama Approval/Disapproval <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	7/09	9/09	1/10	4/10	8/10	12/10	3/11
Strongly approve	38%	32%	31%	26%	26%	25%	26%	24%
Somewhat approve	23%	24%	21%	21%	22%	21%	22%	25%
TOTAL APPROVE	61%	56%	52%	47%	48%	46%	48%	49%
Somewhat disapprove	8%	9%	11%	13%	11%	10%	12%	14%
Strongly disapprove	20%	27%	29%	32%	35%	39%	35%	30%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	28%	36%	40%	45%	46%	49%	46%	44%
Don't know / refused	11%	9%	8%	8%	7%	4%	6%	8%

Obama Approval/Disapproval <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	5/11	10/11	12/11	3/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	4/13
Strongly approve	27%	24%	22%	25%	26%	29%	32%	25%
Somewhat approve	24%	20%	22%	27%	21%	21%	22%	21%
TOTAL APPROVE	51%	44%	44%	51%	47%	49%	54%	46%
Somewhat disapprove	13%	11%	12%	12%	12%	8%	9%	11%
Strongly disapprove	28%	39%	37%	32%	36%	37%	34%	38%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	41%	50%	49%	45%	48%	45%	42%	49%
Don't know / refused	8%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%

Obama Approval/Disapproval <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	6/13	9/13	11/13	4/14	10/14	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Strongly approve	24%	19%	18%	21%	17%	24%	22%	23%	24%
Somewhat approve	24%	21%	19%	21%	24%	21%	24%	22%	23%
TOTAL APPROVE	48%	40%	38%	41%	41%	46%	46%	44%	47%
Somewhat disapprove	9%	15%	12%	13%	14%	11%	11%	10%	11%
Strongly disapprove	36%	39%	43%	39%	36%	37%	34%	36%	36%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	46%	54%	55%	52%	49%	48%	46%	47%	47%
Don't know / refused	6%	6%	7%	7%	9%	6%	8%	9%	6%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Congressional Job Approval/Disapproval <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample or Partial Sample if ^ Shown)</i>	11/12	4/13	6/13	9/13	11/13	4/14
TOTAL APPROVE	21%	17%	17%	13%	9%	11%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	72%	76%	77%	76%	84%	80%
Don't know / refused	8%	7%	6%	11%	6%	9%

Congressional Job Approval/Disapproval <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample or Partial Sample if ^ Shown)</i>	10/14	2/15^	5/15	9/15	1/16
TOTAL APPROVE	9%	18%	17%	13%	15%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	80%	71%	73%	78%	77%
Don't know / refused	11%	11%	10%	10%	8%

4. How would you rate the current state of the economy? Is it...?

Current State Of The National Economy <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	9/13	11/13	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Excellent	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Good	10%	10%	22%	15%	20%	20%
EXCELLENT / GOOD	11%	11%	25%	17%	21%	21%
Fair	45%	45%	44%	46%	45%	46%
Poor	43%	44%	29%	36%	32%	32%
FAIR / POOR	88%	88%	73%	82%	77%	78%
Don't know / refused	1%	*	1%	2%	2%	*



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

5. And, over the next 12 months, do you think the economy, overall will...?

Change In National Economy <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	11/12	4/13	6/13	9/13	11/13	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Improve	44%	34%	37%	28%	29%	32%	32%	28%	27%
Stay the same	22%	28%	34%	36%	30%	38%	40%	39%	44%
Become worse	31%	35%	26%	31%	36%	25%	24%	27%	24%
Don't know / refused	3%	3%	2%	5%	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%

6. How would you rate your current personal financial situation? Is it...?

Current Personal Financial Situation <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	10/11	12/11	3/12	5/12	4/13	6/13
Excellent	6%	10%	6%	8%	7%	6%	9%
Good	36%	29%	35%	37%	36%	40%	39%
EXCELLENT / GOOD	42%	39%	41%	45%	43%	46%	49%
Fair	37%	39%	40%	40%	38%	39%	34%
Poor	19%	21%	18%	15%	17%	15%	17%
FAIR / POOR	56%	60%	58%	54%	56%	54%	51%
Don't know / refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	*

Current Personal Financial Situation <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	9/13	11/13	10/14	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Excellent	7%	9%	10%	8%	9%	7%	8%
Good	37%	34%	34%	36%	34%	35%	37%
EXCELLENT / GOOD	44%	44%	44%	44%	43%	42%	45%
Fair	38%	39%	40%	38%	38%	38%	38%
Poor	19%	17%	16%	17%	18%	18%	17%
FAIR / POOR	56%	56%	55%	55%	56%	56%	54%
Don't know / refused	*	*	*	1%	1%	2%	1%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

7. And, thinking ahead to this time next year, do you expect that your personal financial situation will...?

Change In Personal Financial Situation <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	1/10	12/10	3/11	10/11	12/11	3/12	5/12	9/12	11/12
Improve	37%	30%	35%	38%	44%	41%	44%	45%	39%
Stay the same	41%	42%	39%	46%	38%	43%	41%	35%	36%
Become worse	20%	25%	23%	14%	14%	13%	12%	13%	22%
Don't know / refused	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	7%	2%

Change In Personal Financial Situation <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/13	6/13	9/13	11/13	10/14	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Improve	36%	47%	43%	39%	38%	44%	47%	43%	42%
Stay the same	40%	40%	43%	43%	47%	46%	42%	44%	46%
Become worse	22%	11%	12%	15%	11%	8%	10%	10%	9%
Don't know / refused	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	2%	3%	3%



Allstate | National Journal

Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

8. Overall, do you think that the actions being taken by the Obama Administration will...?

Obama Administration's Actions <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	9/09	1/10	4/10	8/10	12/10	3/11	5/11
Increase opportunity for people like you to get ahead	40%	39%	37%	34%	32%	32%	31%	29%
Decrease opportunity for people like you to get ahead	30%	30%	34%	36%	38%	35%	34%	32%
Have no impact	23%	25%	25%	25%	26%	27%	30%	31%
Don't know / refused	8%	7%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	7%

Obama Administration's Actions <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	10/11	12/11	3/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	4/13	6/13
Increase opportunity for people like you to get ahead	31%	28%	31%	32%	36%	36%	29%	29%
Decrease opportunity for people like you to get ahead	37%	37%	34%	34%	36%	34%	43%	40%
Have no impact	26%	29%	29%	29%	21%	26%	21%	26%
Don't know / refused	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%	7%	5%

Obama Administration's Actions <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	9/13	11/13	4/14	10/14	2/15	5/15	9/15	1/16
Increase opportunity for people like you to get ahead	22%	23%	25%	25%	32%	28%	24%	25%
Decrease opportunity for people like you to get ahead	47%	47%	46%	37%	32%	29%	32%	30%
Have no impact	25%	25%	23%	32%	31%	38%	38%	41%
Don't know / refused	5%	5%	7%	6%	4%	5%	5%	4%

9. Compared to your parents when they were your age, do you believe that today's economy presents you with...?

Risks the Economy Presents <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	1/16
More risks that endanger your standard of living	64%	57%
Fewer risks that endanger your standard of living	11%	11%
The same amount of risks	22%	27%
Don't know / refused	3%	4%



Allstate | National Journal

Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

10. Compared to your parents when they were your age, would you say you have...?

Opportunity Compared With Parents <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	5/11	9/12	9/13	5/15	1/16
More opportunities to get ahead	54%	44%	48%	45%	41%	44%
Fewer opportunities to get ahead	18%	29%	23%	27%	29%	29%
About the same amount of opportunity	26%	24%	28%	26%	26%	25%
Don't know / refused	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%

11. Thinking ahead to when today's children are your age, do you think they will have...?

Children's Opportunity In The Future <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	12/10	5/11	9/12	9/13	1/16
More opportunities to get ahead	31%	25%	33%	32%	20%	32%
Fewer opportunities to get ahead	36%	39%	35%	32%	45%	33%
About the same amount of opportunity	29%	30%	26%	31%	30%	28%
Don't know / refused	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%

12. Now, I'm going to read you two statements. After each one, please tell me if you agree or disagree.

12a. In the United States today, children from **all races** growing up today have adequate opportunities to be successful.

Adequate Opportunities For All Races <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/16
Agree	65%	51%
Disagree	33%	47%
Don't know / refused	2%	2%

12b. In the United States, children from **all income groups** growing up today have adequate opportunities to be successful.

Adequate Opportunities For All Income Groups <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/16
Agree	48%	40%
Disagree	50%	59%
Don't know / refused	2%	1%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

13. In general, in the last ten years, do you believe that the United States is doing better, worse or about the same at providing equal opportunity for people of ...?

U.S. On Providing Equal Opportunity For All Races <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	5/11	1/16
Doing better	48%	33%
Doing worse	17%	29%
About the same	33%	36%
Don't know / refused	2%	3%

U.S. On Providing Equal Opportunity For All Income Groups	1/16
Doing better	21%
Doing worse	40%
About the same	36%
Don't know / refused	2%

U.S. On Providing Equal Opportunity For All Generations	1/16
Doing better	27%
Doing worse	33%
About the same	36%
Don't know / refused	4%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

14. In recent years, the United States has experienced large scale immigration. Racial and ethnic minorities now comprise more than one-third of the American population. Overall, has this growing racial and ethnic diversity had a positive or negative effect on...?

Immigration's Impact On The Economy	1/16
Positive Effect	36%
Negative Effect	47%
Neutral Effect	12%
Don't know / refused	5%

Immigration's Impact On Your Local Community	1/16
Positive Effect	47%
Negative Effect	29%
Neutral Effect	19%
Don't know / refused	5%

Immigration's Impact On The Nation Overall	1/16
Positive Effect	43%
Negative Effect	44%
Neutral Effect	7%
Don't know / refused	5%

Immigration's Impact On National Security	1/16
Positive Effect	25%
Negative Effect	55%
Neutral Effect	14%
Don't know / refused	6%

Immigration's Impact On American Culture	1/16
Positive Effect	50%
Negative Effect	36%
Neutral Effect	9%
Don't know / refused	5%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

15. In general, which do you think plays the biggest role in determining whether or not you have more opportunity to get ahead?

Biggest Role In Opportunity To Get Ahead <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	5/11	9/12	5/15	1/16
Your own skills and hard work	22%^	41%	33%	35%
Your educational background	39%	23%	28%	27%
Your income level	9%	6%	7%	13%
The state of the economy	23%	18%	14%	10%
Government policies	N/A^^	5%	9%	6%
Your racial or ethnic background	2%	4%	3%	5%
Don't know / refused	4%	5%	5%	3%

[^]Answer wording in first iteration asked "Your own skills"

^{^^}Answer not included in first iteration

16. Do you believe your own financial well-being depends more on...?

Financial Well-Being <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	4/10	1/16
Your own actions, like working hard, doing a good job, leading a healthy life and saving and investing carefully	57%	60%	64%
Events mostly out of your control, like what happens in the economy, decisions by your employer, an unexpected illness, and what happens in the stock market	37%	32%	32%
Don't know / refused	7%	8%	4%

17. Do you think that young people today need a 4-year college education in order to be successful?

4-Year College <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/16
Yes	54%	47%
No	44%	52%
Don't know / refused	2%	1%



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18. As you may know average incomes for Americans in the workforce are higher than in most other countries. However, Americans' incomes have not increased as fast in recent years as they did in the first decades after World War II. Given these trends, which comes CLOSER to your opinion?

American Income Growth <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	12/10	1/16
It is inevitable that Americans' incomes will grow more slowly in the future than they did before because American workers are now competing with millions of lower paid workers around the world in countries like China and Mexico	58%	47%
If U.S. government and business leaders pursued the right policies, it is possible that Americans' incomes could grow much faster than they have in recent years	37%	46%
Don't know / refused	5%	6%

19. The American Dream has been described as the opportunity to go as far as your talents and hard work will take you and to live better than your parents. Generally speaking, do you believe you are living the American Dream?

Living The American Dream <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	3/11	1/16
Yes	59%	63%
No	39%	35%
Don't know / refused	3%	1%

20. Which of the following statements about personal debt to you agree with more?

Personal Debt And The American Dream <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	10/11	1/16
Personal debt provides a path to achieving the American Dream by making it possible for people to borrow against their future earnings to pay for college, start a business, finance a car, and buy a home	39%	36%
Personal debt creates an obstacle to achieving the American Dream by encouraging people to spend beyond their means, burdening them with high levels of debt and many years of interest payments	56%	57%
Don't know / refused	5%	7%



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21. As you may know, over the last few decades, American culture and society have encouraged the trend of increasing the number of Americans who own homes. Which of the following two statements do you agree with more?

Stability Of Community And Home Ownership <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	3/11	1/16
This trend has resulted in communities that are MORE stable as home ownership has encouraged people to put down roots in a community, start families, and become responsible and active citizens because they have a stake in their neighborhoods and communities	42%	42%
This trend has resulted in communities that are LESS stable as home ownership has encouraged people to take on too much debt and now that many people have lost their jobs, they can't pay mortgages, which has increased foreclosures and hurt communities	51%	53%
Don't know / refused	7%	5%

22. Please tell me which of the two following statements better reflects your view.

View Of Getting Ahead <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/16
Anyone who works hard still has a fair chance to succeed and live a comfortable life in today's America	53%	49%
Today's economy mostly rewards the rich and it's difficult for average people to get ahead	43%	48%
Don't know / refused	4%	3%



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23. As you know, economists generally agree that the U.S. economy was in a recession from 2007 to 2009. I would like to read you two different opinions about the U.S. economy now that it has moved beyond the recession. Which ONE of these statements comes closer to your OWN opinion?

Economic Recovery After Recession <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09[^]	1/16
The way the U.S. economy looks and works today is very different from what it was before the recession	69%	53%
The U.S. economy looks and works more or less the same as before the recession	27%	43%
Don't know / refused	5%	4%

[^]April 2009 Question Language: As you know, economists generally agree that the U.S. economy is in a recession. I would like to read you two different opinions about the U.S. economy when it recovers from the recession. Which ONE of these statements comes closer to your OWN opinion? 1) When the U.S. economy recovers, the way the economy looks and works will be very different from what it was before the recession. 2) When the U.S. economy recovers, the way the economy looks and works will be very different from what it was before the recession.



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24. I would now like to read you a list of some ways the U.S. economy may have changed in the past few years as a result of the recession and its aftermath. After each statement, please tell me if you agree or disagree.

January 2016 Ranked by Agree			
Result of Recession On The Economy	Agree	Disagree	DK/REF
b) Average families suffered economic reversals, like losing a job or facing foreclosure on their homes, more often than they have in the past	86%	13%	2%
c) Young people starting out in their careers didn't get ahead as fast as my generation did	61%	36%	3%
a) The standard of living for people like me grew more rapidly than it had in recent decades	49%	48%	3%

September 2009 Question Language

I would now like to read you a list of some ways the U.S. economy might change as a result of this recession. Please indicate for each of the statements, how likely you think it is that that each of these changes will take place over the next 5-10 years?

September 2009 (Trend Data Among Total Sample) Ranked by Total Likely						
Expected Impact Of Recession On The Economy	TOTAL LIKELY	TOTAL NOT LIKELY	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Too Likely	Not At All Likely
b) Average families will suffer economic reversals, like losing a job or facing foreclosure on their homes, more often they have in the past	79%	21%	42%	37%	17%	4%
c) Young people starting out in their careers won't achieve as high a standard of living as my generation did	69%	31%	33%	36%	21%	10%
a) The standard of living for people like me will grow more rapidly than it has in recent decades	43%	57%	14%	29%	40%	18%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

25. Which of the following statements best describes your situation?

Financial Situation <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/16
I can live comfortably and save an adequate amount for retirement or other needs	27%	37%
I can get by every month but I find it difficult to save and invest, whether for retirement or other purposes	50%	46%
I find it hard to make ends meet every month	22%	15%
Don't know / refused	2%	2%

26. How confident are you that you have enough financial assets, such as savings accounts, stocks, and the value of your home to provide a reasonable cushion of security for yourself and your family if you were to experience a job loss or significant decrease in your income?

Confidence In Financial Assets <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	1/16
Very Confident	17%	20%
Somewhat Confident	42%	31%
TOTAL CONFIDENT	59%	51%
Not Too Confident	21%	19%
Not At All Confident	17%	28%
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	38%	46%
Don't know / refused	3%	3%

27. And, how confident are you that in the next five years your income will remain steady and you will not lose your job or suffer a significant decline in income at any point?

Confidence In Income Stability Over Next 5 Years <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/09	1/16
Very Confident	31%	33%
Somewhat Confident	41%	38%
TOTAL CONFIDENT	72%	71%
Not Too Confident	12%	14%
Not At All Confident	13%	12%
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	25%	26%
Don't know / refused	4%	3%



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28. Over the past 12 months, have you or has anyone in your family experienced any of the following?

Economic Experiences <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	1/10	1/16
Made significant reductions in spending, including putting off major purchases	48%	48%
Stayed in a job longer, even if I didn't like it because I was worried about being able to find another one	N/A^	41%
Withdrawn money from savings or pension funds to make ends meet	32%	32%
Lost a job or been unemployed for a sustained period	31%	31%
Reduced contributions to a 401 (k) or other pension or retirement fund	27%	30%
Gone without health insurance for a sustained period	22%	24%
Fallen behind on paying your mortgage or rent	14%	16%
Had a house foreclosed upon	5%	6%
Not experienced any significant changes in lifestyle or financial security	23%	18%
None of the above	14%	10%
Don't know / refused	2%	*

^Answer not included in first iteration



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29. I would now like to read you a list of LONG-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS. After I read each one, please tell me how achievable these goals and aspirations are for other people like you. Using a scale of zero to ten, where 0 means the goal is not at all achievable and 10 means it is very achievable, please tell me how achievable each of the following are for people like you.

January 2016 Ranked by Mean Score					
Achievability Of Goals	DK/REF	0-3	4-6	7-10	Mean
a) Owning your own home	2%	13%	23%	63%	7.11
d) Graduating from college	4%	14%	20%	62%	7.05
c) Raising a family and making sure they have more opportunity than you did	3%	12%	31%	55%	6.70
e) Being able to pursue a rewarding career wherever it takes you	3%	14%	32%	51%	6.37
b) Retiring comfortably in the way and at the time you expect	2%	27%	31%	41%	5.48
f) Becoming wealthy	2%	41%	32%	25%	4.26

March 2011 (Trend Data Among Total Sample) Ranked in same order as January 2016					
Achievability Of Goals	DK/REF	0-3	4-6	7-10	Mean
a) Owning your own home	*	9%	28%	63%	7.1
d) Graduating from college	*	9%	25%	66%	7.2
c) Raising a family and making sure they have more opportunity than you did	*	8%	27%	65%	7.2
e) Being able to pursue a rewarding career wherever it takes you	*	10%	28%	61%	7.0
b) Retiring comfortably in the way and at the time you expect	1%	21%	34%	45%	5.9
f) Becoming wealthy	1%	32%	40%	28%	4.8



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30. Today, who do you trust MOST to make decisions that would improve economic opportunity and security for people like you?

Trust To Improve Economic Opportunity And Security <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	9/09	1/16
Elected officials in Washington, D.C.	31%	18%
Labor unions	14%	17%
Investment banks	7%	10%
Major corporations	10%	9%
National banks	7%	7%
None of the above	27%	35%
Don't know / refused	5%	4%

31. Now, I'm going to read you two statements regarding potential government agendas. Please tell me which government agenda you think would create more opportunity for people like yourself?

Government Agenda To Create Opportunity <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	7/09	1/10	4/10	5/11	1/16
A government agenda focused on investment in education and training, infrastructure projects like roads, and scientific research into areas like alternative energy	48%	46%	46%	50%	50%
A government agenda focused on cutting taxes, reducing regulation of business, and helping people start their own businesses	46%	48%	48%	45%	46%
Don't know / refused	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%

32. In your opinion, did the economic policies put in place during the recession by President Obama...?

Obama Economic Policies Over Last 8 Months <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	9/09[^]	1/16
Help avoid an even worse economic crisis, and are laying the foundation for our eventual economic recovery	43%	46%
Run up a record federal deficit while failing to end the recession or slow the record pace of job losses	43%	48%
Don't know / refused	14%	6%

[^]September 2009 Question Language: In your opinion, did President Obama's economic policies over the last 8 months...



Allstate | National Journal

Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

33. And, thinking some more about the economy here in the United States, which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Free Market View <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	5/11	1/16
Left to itself the free market economy creates more opportunities than problems because it provides the most effective way to create economic growth and allow people to rise as far as their talent and hard work will take them	62%	56%
Left to itself the free market economy creates more problems than opportunities because it creates too much inequality and leaves too many people in poverty	32%	39%
Don't know / refused	6%	6%

34. Which of the following comes CLOSEST to your view regarding the proper role of government in the economy?

Proper Role Of Government In The Economy <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	1/10	4/10	8/10	5/11	10/11	5/12	9/12	11/12	4/13	2/15	1/16
In the current economic environment, government is not the solution to our economic problems; government is the problem	35%	33%	35%	36%	40%	38%	38%	38%	37%	35%	36%
I would like to see government play an active role in the economy to ensure it benefits people like me, but I am not sure that I can trust government to do this effectively	33%	28%	33%	34%	29%	31%	27%	28%	31%	34%	39%
In the current economic environment, the government must play an active role in regulating the marketplace and ensuring that the economy benefits people like me	29%	32%	28%	27%	27%	27%	29%	31%	27%	27%	22%
Don't know / refused	3%	7%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%



Allstate | National Journal

Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

35. As you may know, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act in 2010 which reformed the American healthcare system. Do you think the Affordable Care Act has been a...?

Public Opinion On Healthcare <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	4/10[^]	1/16
Good thing for the country	44%	43%
Bad thing for the country	45%	51%
Don't know / refused	12%	7%

[^]**April 2010 Question Language:** As you may know, Congress recently passed and President Obama signed into law a bill to reform the American healthcare system. Do you think this will be a...

36. Now I am going to read you two statements about international trade. After I read them, please tell me which statement comes closer to your point of view?

Impact Of International Trade Policy <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	12/10	1/16
International trade has been GOOD for the U.S. economy, because demand for U.S. products abroad has resulted in economic growth and jobs for Americans here at home and provided more choices for consumers	43%	39%
International trade has been BAD for the U.S. economy, because imports from abroad have reduced demand for American-made goods, cost jobs here at home, and produced potentially unsafe products	52%	53%
Don't know / refused	6%	8%

37. As you may know, programs like Social Security and Medicare are coming under financial strain, particularly as the Baby Boom Generation begins reaching retirement age. When it comes to what government should do to make these programs financially viable, which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSEST to your opinion?

Entitlement Policies <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	8/10	1/16
RESTRAIN COSTS* Government should try to restrain the costs of these programs and avoid raising taxes to pay for them, even if it means reducing the benefits promised to future retirees	22%	16%
MAKE FINANCIALLY VIABLE* Government should try to make these programs financially sustainable over the long run, both by making some reductions in benefits promised to future retirees AND raising some taxes to fund the programs	34%	38%
DELIVER PROMISED BENEFITS* Government should spend whatever it costs to ensure that future retirees receive all the benefits they have been promised, even if that means increasing taxes	35%	37%
Don't know / refused	9%	9%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

38. Thinking about the major challenges facing the country, do you think there is more progress being made today at...?

More Progress Being Made At... <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	2/15	1/16
The state and local level	64%	61%
The national level	26%	26%
Don't know / refused	10%	13%

39. Overall, when you think about the biggest economic and social challenges facing America, do you think new ideas and solutions are more likely to come from...?

New Ideas And Solutions Come From... <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	2/15	1/16
State and local institutions like government, businesses, and volunteer or community organizations because they are closer to the problems, are more adaptable, and have more at stake in finding solutions	69%	67%
National institutions like the federal government, national businesses, and major non-profit organizations because they have more financial resources, experience, and long-term stability	22%	24%
Don't know / refused	10%	8%

40. Given all of the complex problems the U.S. now faces at home and abroad, which statement comes closest to your view?

Role Of Next President	1/16
As our next president, we need an outsider who will shake up the way things are usually done in Washington	50%
As our next president, we need someone with a lot of experience in the political system and elected office	42%
Don't know / refused	8%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

41. These days, a great deal of information about people can be collected and used by businesses, law enforcement, government, individuals, and other groups. This information can come from a variety of sources, including public databases, transaction history, internet usage, security cameras, GPS, and other sources. Generally speaking, would you say that the collection and use of this information is...?

View Point On The Collection And Use Of Data <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	6/13	1/16
Mostly POSITIVE because more information can result in better decisions about how to improve the economy, grow businesses, provide better service, and increase public safety	38%	38%
Mostly NEGATIVE because the information can be collected and used in a way that can risk personal privacy, peoples' safety, financial security, and individual liberties	55%	53%
Don't know / refused	7%	9%

42. Which of the following would you be MOST willing to support to improve national security?

Willing To Support To Improve National Security <i>(Trend Data Among Total Sample)</i>	6/13	1/16
Increased camera surveillance of public places	44%	48%
Increased censorship of websites and less freedom to access sources on the Internet	16%	24%
Expanded government monitoring of cell phone and email activities	10%	16%
None, I don't support any of these options	42%	24%
Don't know / refused	3%	6%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

DEMOGRAPHICS

A/B. State/Region

<u>Region</u>	1/16
Northeast	11%
Mid-Atlantic	12%
Upper Midwest	17%
Great Plains	6%
Deep South	22%
Outer South	9%
Mountain	7%
Pacific	16%

C. Age

<u>Age</u>	1/16
18 – 29	21%
30 – 39	17%
40 – 49	18%
50 – 59	18%
60 – 64	7%
65+	18%
Don't know / refused	1%

D. What is your main ethnic or racial background?

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	1/16
White or Caucasian	67%
Hispanic or Latino	12%
African-American or Black	12%
Asian-American or Asian	3%
Native American	1%
Other	2%
Don't know / refused	3%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

E. Gender

Gender	1/16
Male	49%
Female	51%

F. What is the last grade of formal education you have completed?

Education	1/16
Less than high school	4%
High school graduate	21%
Some college/vocational school	23%
College graduate	31%
Post graduate	17%
Don't know / refused	4%

G. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employment Status	1/16
Employed full-time	47%
Employed part-time	10%
Retired	20%
Student	5%
Homemaker	4%
Unemployed and looking for work	5%
Unemployed but not looking for work	3%
Don't know / refused	6%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

H. Please tell me which of the following categories best applies to your total annual household income?

Annual Household Income	1/16
Less than \$15,000	12%
\$15,000 to less than \$30,000	13%
\$30,000 to less than \$50,000	15%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	15%
\$200,000 or more	4%
Don't know / refused	12%

I. People are often classified in different economic categories. Do you consider yourself to be...?

Economic Status	1/16
Upper Class	2%
Upper Middle Class	12%
Middle Class	47%
Lower Middle Class	21%
Lower Class	11%
Don't know / refused	7%

J. Which of the following best describes your current relationship status? Are you...?

Marital Status	1/16
Single and never married	22%
Married	48%
Not married but living together with a partner	6%
Divorced	9%
Separated	3%
Widowed	7%
Don't know / refused	5%



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Heartland Monitor Poll XXV

K. Thinking about children, which of the following best describes you?

Children	1/16
Parents (multiple responses accepted)	67%
I have school-age children	30%
I have adult children age 18 or older	42%
Non-Parents	28%
I have no children but hope to one day	17%
I have no children and no plans to have any	11%
Don't know / refused	5%

L. And, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

Party Affiliation	1/16
Republican	20%
Democrat	27%
Total Independent / Other	44%
Independent	29%
Something Else	14%
Other	2%
Don't know / refused	8%