

"Slip-Sliding Away" Survey Results

This survey was conducted as part of the 2010 Omnibus which is fielded by Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRAI) from November 18-21, 2010. It is a nationally representative sample of 1,004 adults living in the continental United States. Telephone interviews were conducted by landline (670) and cell phone (334). Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 3.5 percentage points.

	Those who say they are struggling...			Total
	A lot n = 369	A little n = 439	Not at all n = 186	
1. For each type of person that I read, please let me know if you think they are struggling a lot, a little or are not struggling at all these days. [RANDOMIZE]				
<u>People without a college degree</u>				
A lot	86%	71%	58%	75%
A little	11%	27%	35%	22%
Not at all	2%	1%	4%	2%
Don't know	0%	1%	1%	1%
<u>Small business owners</u>				
A lot	83%	73%	62%	75%
A little	16%	25%	30%	22%
Not at all	1%	2%	5%	2%
Don't know	1%	0%	3%	1%
<u>People who work on Wall Street</u>				
A lot	13%	8%	8%	10%
A little	36%	45%	32%	39%
Not at all	46%	43%	56%	46%
Don't know	5%	3%	5%	5%
<u>College graduates</u>				
A lot	63%	48%	39%	53%
A little	33%	48%	51%	42%
Not at all	2%	2%	6%	3%
Don't know	1%	2%	3%	2%
<u>Working families</u>				
A lot	91%	71%	60%	77%
A little	9%	26%	34%	20%
Not at all	0%	1%	5%	2%
Don't know		1%	2%	1%

	Those who say they are struggling...			Total
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You				
A lot	100%			40%
A little		100%		42%
Not at all			100%	17%
Don't know				0%
2. Do you think there are jobs available for most people who really want to work, or not?				
Yes	30%	50%	50%	42%
No	65%	46%	46%	54%
Don't know	4%	4%	5%	4%
3. For each statement, please tell me if you strongly agree with it, somewhat agree with it, somewhat disagree with it or strongly disagree with it. [RANDOMIZE]				
Poor people have become too dependent on government assistance programs				
Strongly agree	39%	42%	42%	41%
Somewhat agree	29%	32%	27%	30%
Somewhat disagree	16%	13%	13%	14%
Strongly disagree	14%	12%	13%	13%
Don't know	1%	2%	4%	2%
The government should provide help to children in poverty even if their parents are unwilling to work				
Strongly agree	41%	34%	44%	39%
Somewhat agree	29%	35%	26%	31%
Somewhat disagree	13%	16%	11%	14%
Strongly disagree	15%	14%	16%	14%
Don't know	2%	2%	3%	2%
4. Do you think it's realistic or unrealistic to believe that U.S. companies will keep jobs in the United States when labor is cheaper elsewhere?				
Realistic	29%	30%	25%	29%
Unrealistic	67%	66%	73%	68%
Don't know	4%	4%	2%	4%

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5. How much responsibility do the following people have when it comes to helping people who are struggling in the current economy? [RANDOMIZE]				
The government				
A lot	57%	49%	43%	51%
A little	35%	42%	47%	39%
None at all	7%	8%	7%	8%
Don't know	1%	1%	3%	2%
Faith-based and other charitable organizations				
A lot	45%	40%	41%	42%
A little	44%	48%	43%	46%
None at all	9%	10%	13%	10%
Don't know	2%	1%	4%	2%
Businesses				
A lot	40%	35%	30%	36%
A little	47%	51%	56%	50%
None at all	11%	11%	12%	11%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	2%
Individuals themselves				
A lot	55%	54%	57%	55%
A little	37%	39%	36%	38%
None at all	6%	5%	4%	5%
Don't know	2%	1%	3%	2%
6. How effective do you think the following proposals are when it comes to helping people who are struggling in the current economy? [RANDOMIZE]				
Requiring more employers to offer flexible scheduling, paid leave and sick time				
Very effective	42%	26%	25%	32%
Somewhat effective	38%	45%	40%	41%
Not too effective	10%	15%	17%	13%
Not at all effective	9%	11%	12%	10%
Don't know	1%	2%	6%	3%

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Subsidizing affordable housing				
Very effective	37%	24%	21%	29%
Somewhat effective	40%	50%	45%	45%
Not too effective	11%	12%	15%	12%
Not at all effective	10%	11%	12%	11%
Don't know	2%	3%	4%	3%
Providing financial help to people whose owe more on their mortgage than their house is worth				
Very effective	31%	19%	10%	22%
Somewhat effective	32%	39%	32%	35%
Not too effective	15%	18%	22%	18%
Not at all effective	17%	21%	31%	21%
Don't know	4%	2%	5%	3%
Cutting taxes for the middle class				
Very effective	53%	45%	42%	48%
Somewhat effective	27%	35%	36%	32%
Not too effective	7%	8%	11%	8%
Not at all effective	11%	10%	8%	10%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	2%
Making higher education more affordable				
Very effective	65%	64%	53%	63%
Somewhat effective	20%	24%	28%	23%
Not too effective	8%	6%	7%	7%
Not at all effective	5%	5%	10%	6%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	1%
Preserving social security and Medicare				
Very effective	62%	54%	56%	58%
Somewhat effective	26%	31%	30%	29%
Not too effective	6%	6%	4%	6%
Not at all effective	5%	7%	7%	6%
Don't know	1%	1%	3%	1%
Reducing the federal deficit				
Very effective	40%	39%	46%	40%
Somewhat effective	33%	38%	20%	33%
Not too effective	9%	11%	13%	11%
Not at all effective	14%	9%	16%	12%
Don't know	4%	2%	4%	3%

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Expanding job-training programs					
	Very effective	56%	52%	53%	54%
	Somewhat effective	32%	38%	36%	35%
	Not too effective	4%	5%	6%	5%
	Not at all effective	6%	3%	4%	5%
	Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%
7. Since 2008 have you personally...					
Lost your job					
	Yes	34%	15%	9%	22%
	No	65%	84%	90%	77%
	Don't know	1%	1%		1%
Had problems paying your mortgage or rent					
	Yes	52%	21%	4%	31%
	No	47%	77%	96%	68%
	Don't know	1%	1%		1%
Had to change your housing situation due to financial pressures					
	Yes	41%	22%	8%	27%
	No	59%	78%	92%	73%
	Don't know	0%			0%
Received a raise					
	Yes	21%	32%	37%	28%
	No	79%	66%	61%	70%
	Don't know	0%	1%	1%	1%
8. If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for social classes, which would you say you belong in?					
	The upper class	0%	0%	1%	1%
	Upper-middle class	6%	15%	33%	14%
	Middle class	31%	54%	48%	43%
	Lower-middle class OR	42%	25%	8%	29%
	Lower class	20%	5%	7%	11%
	Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%
D1. Are you now employed full-time, part-time, or not employed?					
	Employed full-time	38%	51%	42%	44%
	Employed part-time	12%	16%	8%	13%
	Not employed	49%	33%	50%	42%
	Don't know/Refused	1%	1%	0%	1%
D2. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 years of age?					
	Yes	37%	35%	21%	33%
	No	63%	64%	78%	66%
	Don't know/Refused		1%	1%	0%

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9. How worried are you personally about the following?				
That you might lose your job in the next year or so [BASE: EMPLOYED]				
Very worried	32%	10%	2%	17%
Somewhat worried	25%	29%	12%	25%
Not too worried	22%	24%	20%	23%
Not at all worried	19%	35%	65%	34%
[VOL.] Doesn't apply (includes college paid for/no mortgage/no debts)		1%		0%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%
That you will have trouble paying for your children's college education [BASE: PARENTS]				
Very worried	77%	35%	7%	51%
Somewhat worried	11%	38%	48%	27%
Not too worried	5%	14%	17%	10%
Not at all worried	8%	13%	28%	12%
[VOL.] Doesn't apply (includes college paid for/no mortgage/no debts)		0%		0%
Don't know				
That you won't be able to pay your mortgage, credit card bills or other debt				
Very worried	45%	8%	2%	22%
Somewhat worried	26%	34%	11%	27%
Not too worried	16%	26%	21%	21%
Not at all worried	14%	31%	63%	29%
[VOL.] Doesn't apply (includes college paid for/no mortgage/no debts)		1%	3%	1%
Don't know		0%	0%	0%
That you won't be able to afford to retire				
Very worried	61%	22%	8%	35%
Somewhat worried	16%	34%	24%	25%
Not too worried	8%	15%	15%	12%
Not at all worried	13%	23%	46%	23%

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[VOL.] Doesn't apply (includes college paid for/no mortgage/no debts) Don't know	2% 0%	5% 0%	5% 0%	4% 0%
10. Do you feel your job would be secure if a child or family member becomes sick and requires you to take time off from work? [BASE: EMPLOYED]				
Yes	46%	64%	75%	59%
No	49%	35%	19%	37%
Don't know	3%	1%	4%	3%
11. Since 2008, how much time have you been spending at work? Have you been working more hours at work, have you been working fewer hours or have you been spending about the same amount of time at work? [BASE: EMPLOYED]				
More hours	36%	30%	37%	33%
Fewer hours	19%	13%	3%	14%
The same	44%	54%	60%	51%
Don't know	1%	1%		1%
D3. Respondent's Sex				
Male	44%	50%	56%	49%
Female	56%	50%	44%	51%
D4. What is the last grade or class you completed in school?				
None, or grade 1 to 8	2%		1%	1%
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11)	13%	11%	8%	11%
High school graduate, Grade 12, or GED certificate	39%	27%	21%	31%
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	3%	4%	4%	3%
Some college or university work, but no four-year degree	23%	28%	20%	24%
College or university graduate (BA, BS or other four-year degree received)	14%	18%	27%	18%
Post graduate or professional schooling after college (including work towards an MA, MS, Ph.D., JD, DDS, or MD degree)	6%	12%	19%	11%
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%
D5. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?				
Yes	17%	10%	8%	12%
No	83%	88%	90%	87%
Don't know/Refused	0%	2%	3%	1%

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D6. What is your race?	White	69%	72%	76%	72%
	Black or African-American	15%	10%	6%	11%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	0%	4%	4%	2%
	Mixed race	2%	3%	5%	3%
	Native American/American Indian	3%	2%	1%	2%
	Other	7%	4%	3%	5%
	Don't know/Refused	2%	5%	6%	4%
D7. Last year, that is in 2009, approximately what was your total family income before taxes?	Less than \$10,000	15%	3%	6%	9%
	\$10,000 to under \$20,000	22%	8%	3%	13%
	\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11%	13%	7%	11%
	\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11%	9%	9%	10%
	\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9%	7%	8%	8%
	\$50,000 to under \$75,000	10%	15%	15%	13%
	\$75,000 to under \$100,000	4%	13%	15%	10%
	\$100,000 to under \$150,000	2%	8%	11%	6%
	\$150,000 or over	1%	6%	9%	5%
	Don't know/Refused	13%	17%	17%	16%
D8. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?	Republican	21%	27%	28%	25%
	Democrat	34%	27%	34%	31%
	Independent	35%	39%	29%	36%
	No preference (VOL.)	8%	4%	3%	5%
	Other party (VOL.)	1%		1%	0%
	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2%	2%	4%	3%
D9. As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party/As of today do you lean more to the Democratic Party or Republican Party?	Republican	31%	36%	29%	33%
	Democratic	29%	30%	34%	30%
	Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	41%	34%	37%	37%