

GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

July 31, 2008

SOUR ECONOMY KEEPS BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS IN NH LOW

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.
UNH Survey Center
603/862-2226
www.unh.edu/survey-center

DURHAM, NH – President George W. Bush remains very unpopular in New Hampshire and his handling of the economy is rated an all-time low.

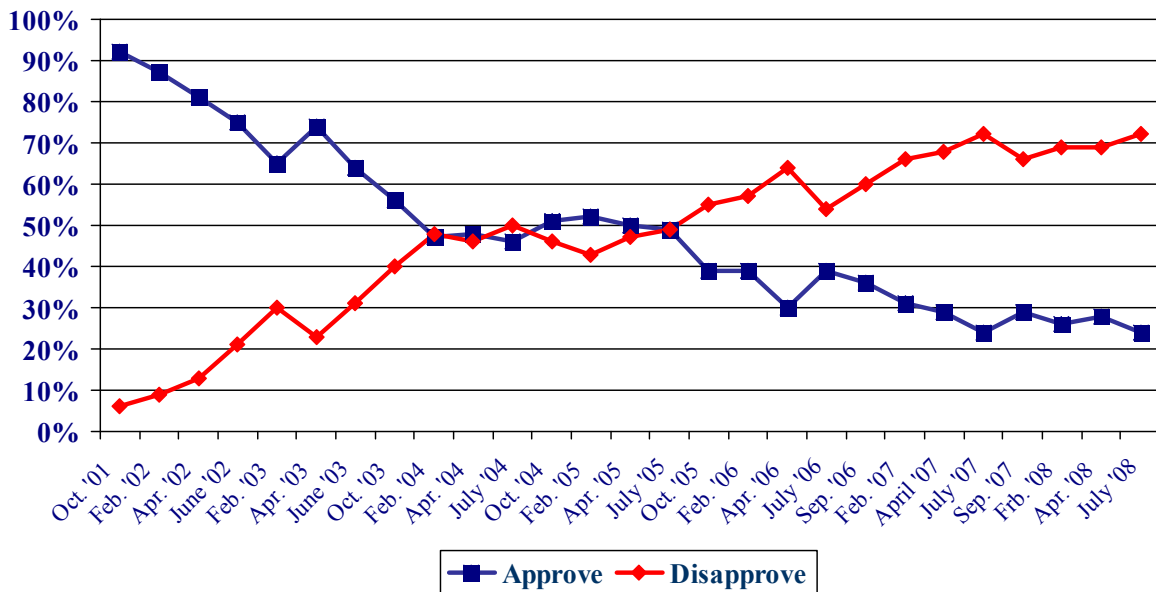
These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred (519) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between July 11 and July 20, 2008. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.3 percent.

Presidential Approval

There are 6 months left in the presidency of George W. Bush and it appears his approval ratings will be among the lowest, if not the lowest, of any president leaving office. In the most recent Granite State Poll, only 24% of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 72% disapprove, and 4% are neutral. This ties Bush's lowest approval rating in New Hampshire last July. This is lower than the average of national presidential polls reported this week on pollster.com which finds 27% nationwide approve of Bush.

Only half of Republicans now approve of Bush's performance as President while 95% of Democrats and 83% of political Independents disapprove.

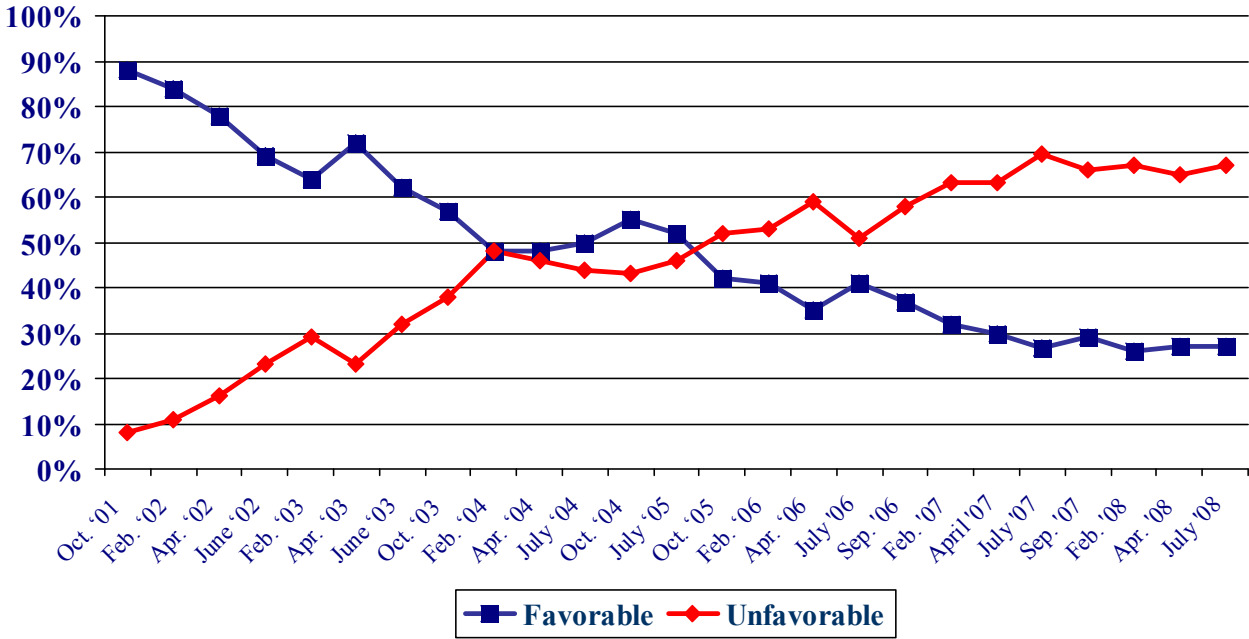
Presidential Approval – G.W. Bush



* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Bush's personal favorability rating is also near record lows. Only 27% of New Hampshire adults have a favorable opinion of Bush, 67% have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 6% are neutral or don't know. Bush's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is an extremely low -40%. Bush's favorability rating has dropped due to a drop in support among Republicans – only 54% of Republicans now say they have a favorable opinion of Bush, down from 66% in September.

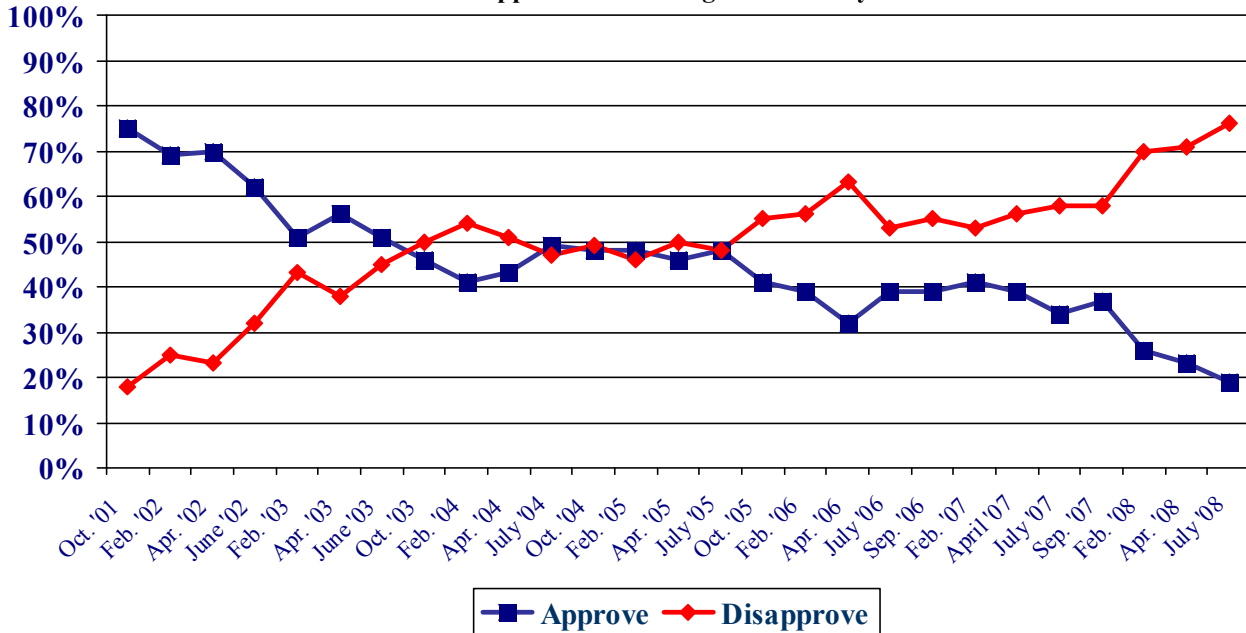
Favorability Ratings – G.W. Bush



Economic Approval Rating

The recent drop in Bush's approval rating can be tied to concerns about the economy. Only 19% of New Hampshire residents, a record low for his presidency, say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 76% disapprove, and 5% are neutral. The percentage of New Hampshire residents who approve of Bush's handling of the economy has dropped steadily over the past year. In particular, the percentages of Republicans who approve of Bush's handling of the economy has dropped from 78% in September to 39% in the most recent poll.

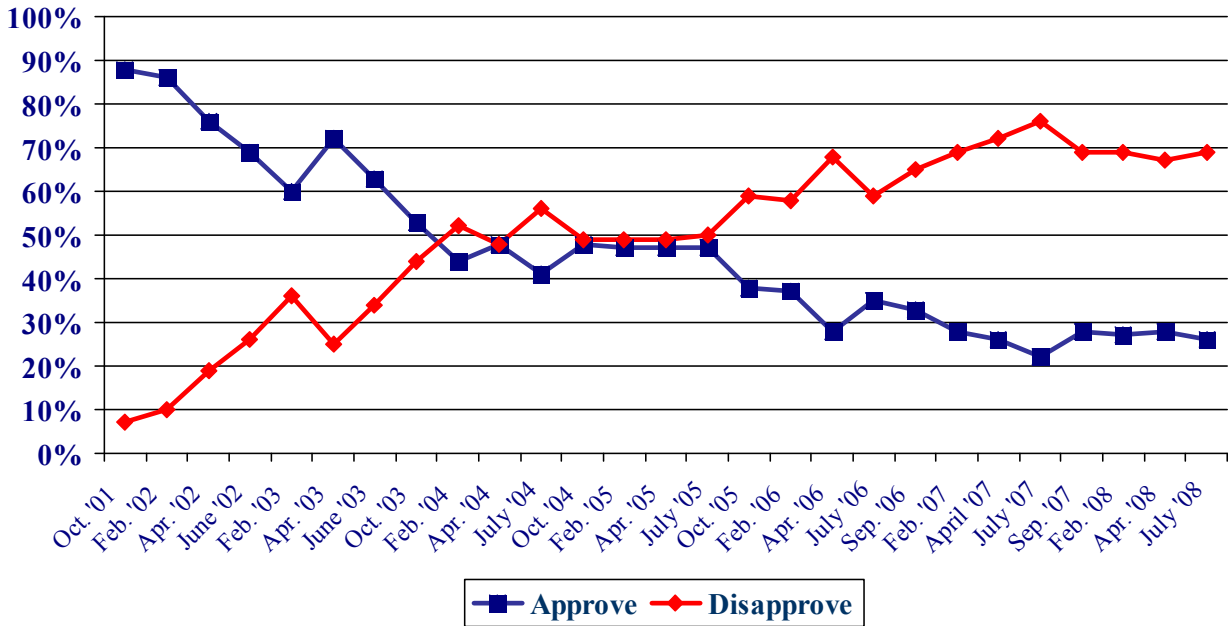
Bush Approval: Handling the Economy



Foreign Affairs

The Bush administration's foreign policy continues to be unpopular in New Hampshire. When asked about how the President is handling foreign affairs, only 26% of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 69% disapprove, and 5% are neutral.

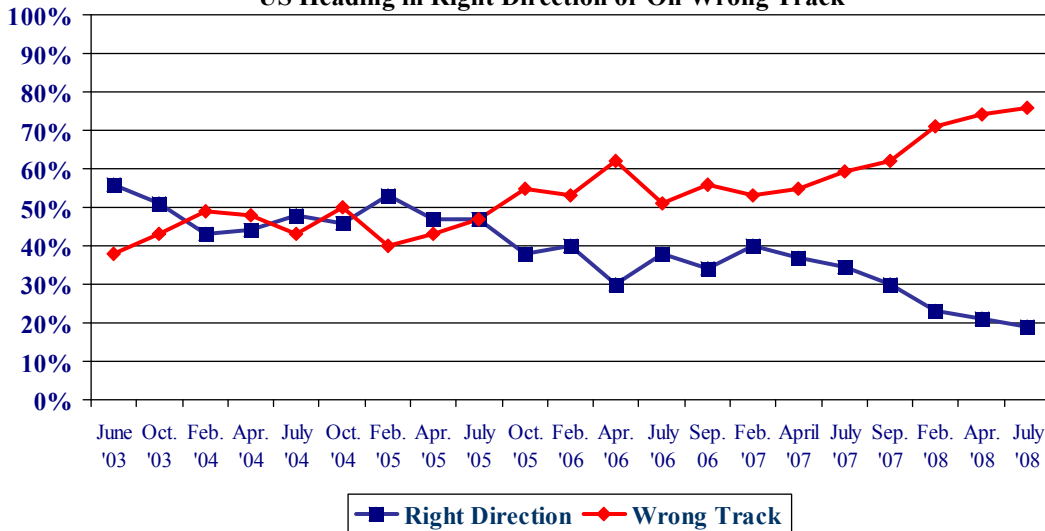
Bush Approval: Foreign Affairs



Right Track – Wrong Track

Overall, New Hampshire residents have become even more pessimistic about the direction the country is heading. Only 19%, a record low in New Hampshire, think things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 73% think things are seriously off on the wrong track, and 8% don't know. Even Republicans are deeply pessimistic with only 35% thinking things are headed in the right direction while only 7% of Democrats and 12% of Independents think things are headed in the right direction.

US Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track



Granite State Poll Methodology

Five hundred (519) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between July 11 and July 20, 2008. The sample was selected at random from all household in New Hampshire with a land-line telephone and a respondent was selected at random within each household. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.3 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

Presidential Approval

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
July '08	24%	4%	72%	516
Apr. '08	28%	3%	69%	(500)
Feb. '08	26%	5%	69%	(550)
Sep. '07	29%	5%	66%	(507)
July '07	24%	4%	72%	(523)
Apr. '07	29%	3%	68%	(512)
Feb. '07	31%	4%	66%	(529)
Sept. '06	36%	3%	60%	(507)
July '06	39%	7%	54%	(501)
Apr. '06	30%	6%	64%	(496)
Feb. '06	39%	3%	57%	(495)
Oct. '05	39%	6%	55%	(505)
July '05	49%	4%	47%	(498)
Apr. '05	50%	3%	47%	(483)
Feb. '05	52%	4%	43%	(533)
Oct. '04	51%	3%	46%	(567)
July '04	46%	4%	50%	(503)
Apr. '04	48%	6%	46%	(536)
Feb. '04	47%	5%	48%	(505)
Oct. '03	56%	4%	40%	(502)
June '03	64%	5%	31%	(511)
Apr. '03	71%	6%	23%	(503)
Feb. '03	65%	4%	30%	(646)
June '02	75%	5%	21%	(658)
Apr. '02	81%	6%	13%	(685)
Feb. '02	87%	4%	9%	(724)
Oct. '01	92%	2%	6%	(687)

Presidential Approval – Economy

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling THE ECONOMY?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
July '08	19%	5%	76%	(515)
Apr. '08	23%	5%	71%	(499)
Feb. '08	26%	4%%	70%	(548)
Sep. '07	37%	5%	58%	(502)
July '07	34%	8%	58%	(518)
Apr. '07	39%	5%	56%	(512)
Feb. '07	41%	5%	53%	(529)
Sept. '06	39%	6%	55%	(508)
July '06	39%	8%	53%	(497)
Apr. '06	32%	5%	63%	(502)
Feb. '06	39%	5%	56%	(495)
Oct. '05	41%	4%	55%	(500)
July '05	48%	4%	48%	(495)
Apr. '05	46%	5%	50%	(490)
Feb. '05	48%	5%	46%	(534)
Oct. '04	48%	3%	49%	(568)
July '04	49%	5%	47%	(499)
Apr. '04	43%	6%	51%	(538)
Feb. '04	41%	5%	54%	(506)
Oct. '03	46%	4%	50%	(499)
June '03	51%	3%	45%	(512)
Apr. '03	56%	6%	38%	(502)
Feb. '03	51%	6%	43%	(644)
June '02	62%	6%	32%	(644)
Apr. '02	70%	7%	23%	(688)
Feb. '02	69%	6%	25%	(725)
Oct. '01	75%	8%	18%	(684)

Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling FOREIGN AFFAIRS?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
July '08	26%	5%	69%	(515)
Apr. '08	28%	5%	67%	(498)
Feb. '08	27%	4%	69%	(546)
Sep. '07	28%	3%	69%	(505)
July '07	22%	3%	74%	(519)
Apr. '07	26%	2%	72%	(510)
Feb. '07	28%	3%	69%	(529)
Sept. '06	33%	2%	65%	(506)
July '06	35%	6%	59%	(497)
Apr. '06	28%	4%	68%	(500)
Feb. '06	37%	5%	58%	(495)
Oct. '05	38%	3%	59%	(502)
July '05	47%	3%	50%	(497)
Apr. '05	47%	4%	49%	(486)
Feb. '05	47%	4%	49%	(533)
Oct. '04	48%	3%	49%	(568)
July '04	41%	3%	56%	(499)
Apr. '04	48%	5%	48%	(539)
Feb. '04	44%	4%	52%	(507)
Oct. '03	53%	3%	44%	(501)
June '03	63%	3%	34%	(512)
Apr. '03	72%	3%	25%	(506)
Feb. '03	60%	4%	36%	(646)
June '02	69%	5%	26%	(644)
Apr. '02	76%	5%	19%	(690)
Feb. '02	86%	4%	10%	(722)
Oct. '01	88%	4%	7%	(685)

Favorability Rating - President George W. Bush

"Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. President George W. Bush."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
July '08	27%	6%	67%	-40%	(519)
Apr. '08	27%	7%	65%	-38%	(500)
Feb. '08	26%	4%	67%	-41%	(554)
Sep. '07	29%	5%	66%	-37%	(507)
July '07	27%	4%	69%	-42%	(523)
Apr. '07	30%	7%	63%	-33%	(515)
Feb. '07	32%	5%	63%	-31%	(535)
Sept. '06	37%	5%	58%	-21%	(513)
July '06	41%	7%	51%	-10%	(500)
Apr. '06	35%	6%	59%	-24%	(505)
Feb. '06	41%	6%	53%	-12%	(499)
Oct. '05	42%	6%	52%	-10%	(510)
July '05	52%	2%	46%	+6%	(497)
Oct. '04	55%	2%	43%	+12%	(574)
July '04	50%	6%	44%	+6%	(506)
Apr. '04	48%	6%	46%	+2%	(540)
Feb. '04	48%	4%	48%	0	(510)
Oct. '03	57%	4%	38%	+19%	(503)
June '03	62%	6%	32%	+30%	(514)
Apr. '03	72%	5%	23%	+49%	(503)
Feb. '03	64%	7%	29%	+35%	(651)
June '02	69%	8%	23%	+46%	(641)
Apr. '02	78%	6%	16%	+62%	(693)
Feb. '02	84%	5%	11%	+73%	(726)
Oct. '01	88%	4%	8%	+80%	(678)

Right Track - Wrong Track

“Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?”

	<u>Right</u> <u>Direction</u>	<u>Wrong</u> <u>Track</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
July '08	19%	73%	8%	(508)
Apr. '08	21%	74%	5%	(487)
Feb. '08	23%	71%	7%	(553)
Sep. '07	30%	62%	8%	(505)
July '07	34%	59%	6%	(523)
Apr. '07	37%	55%	8%	(510)
Feb. '07	40%	53%	7%	(516)
Sept. '06	34%	56%	10%	(510)
July '06	38%	51%	11%	(496)
Apr. '06	30%	62%	8%	(501)
Feb. '06	40%	53%	7%	(487)
Oct. '05	38%	55%	7%	(498)
July '05	47%	47%	6%	(492)
Apr. '05	46%	43%	11%	(487)
Feb. '05	53%	40%	7%	(535)
Oct. '04	46%	50%	4%	(574)
July '04	48%	43%	10%	(500)
Apr. '04	44%	48%	8%	(535)
Feb. '04	43%	49%	8%	(503)
Oct. '03	51%	43%	6%	(487)
June '03	56%	38%	5%	(511)

Presidential Approval Rating - Overall

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 24%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Disapprove</u> 72%	<u>(N=)</u> 516
Registered Democrat	5%	3%	92%	128
Undeclared	21%	4%	76%	200
Registered Republican	47%	5%	48%	134
Not registered	25%	9%	66%	50
Democrat	4%	2%	95%	205
Independent	13%	4%	83%	80
Republican	50%	8%	42%	201
Liberal	3%	2%	94%	116
Moderate	19%	2%	80%	202
Conservative	48%	10%	42%	155
Union household	23%	1%	76%	68
Non-union	24%	5%	70%	424
5 years or less in NH	17%	3%	80%	46
6 to 10 years	23%	12%	65%	36
11 to 20 years	21%	8%	72%	89
More than 20 years	27%	3%	70%	309
18 to 34	20%	7%	73%	59
35 to 49	26%	3%	71%	119
50 to 64	20%	5%	75%	192
65 and over	34%	5%	61%	101
Male	27%	8%	65%	248
Female	21%	1%	78%	268
High school or less	23%	4%	73%	112
Some college	27%	5%	68%	114
College graduate	25%	4%	71%	157
Post-graduate	21%	5%	74%	108
Less than \$30K	23%	7%	70%	48
\$30K to \$60K	28%	5%	67%	74
\$60K to \$75K	21%	1%	78%	52
\$75K to \$100K	29%	1%	69%	65
More than \$100K	21%	5%	74%	122
Married	26%	4%	71%	326
Divorced/separated	22%	3%	74%	90
Never married	19%	10%	71%	76
Protestant	32%	7%	61%	176
Catholic	25%	1%	74%	169
Other	16%	5%	79%	122
Attend services 1 or more/week	29%	6%	65%	128
1-2 times a month	33%	3%	63%	59
Less often	20%	5%	75%	143
Never	22%	4%	74%	149
North Country	22%	7%	71%	47
Central/Lakes	25%	2%	73%	86
Connecticut Valley	20%	5%	75%	74
Mass Border	25%	4%	71%	153
Seacoast	26%	8%	66%	81
Manchester Area	23%	2%	75%	75
1st Cong. District	24%	6%	70%	257
2nd Cong. District	24%	3%	73%	259

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 19%	<u>Neutral</u> 5%	<u>Disapprove</u> 76%	<u>(N=)</u> 515
Registered Democrat	4%	2%	94%	128
Undeclared	16%	3%	81%	201
Registered Republican	40%	11%	49%	133
Not registered	17%	5%	77%	49
Democrat	4%	0%	96%	205
Independent	10%	7%	83%	80
Republican	39%	10%	51%	199
Liberal	3%	2%	95%	116
Moderate	12%	5%	83%	203
Conservative	45%	8%	47%	152
Union household	20%	1%	79%	68
Non-union	20%	6%	75%	423
5 years or less in NH	18%	2%	80%	45
6 to 10 years	21%	7%	73%	36
11 to 20 years	20%	5%	75%	89
More than 20 years	20%	5%	75%	309
18 to 34	8%	4%	88%	59
35 to 49	23%	4%	72%	119
50 to 64	17%	4%	78%	193
65 and over	28%	8%	64%	100
Male	24%	6%	70%	248
Female	15%	4%	81%	266
High school or less	18%	6%	75%	112
Some college	19%	6%	75%	113
College graduate	19%	4%	77%	156
Post-graduate	23%	3%	74%	109
Less than \$30K	21%	4%	76%	48
\$30K to \$60K	13%	6%	82%	74
\$60K to \$75K	21%	5%	74%	53
\$75K to \$100K	24%	0%	76%	65
More than \$100K	22%	4%	74%	122
Married	23%	3%	73%	323
Divorced/separated	14%	11%	76%	91
Never married	11%	4%	86%	76
Protestant	28%	7%	65%	172
Catholic	21%	3%	76%	170
Other	10%	4%	86%	122
Attend services 1 or more/week	24%	7%	69%	124
1-2 times a month	31%	6%	62%	59
Less often	18%	2%	79%	145
Never	14%	5%	81%	149
North Country	18%	10%	72%	47
Central/Lakes	21%	1%	78%	85
Connecticut Valley	18%	6%	76%	73
Mass Border	17%	4%	79%	154
Seacoast	23%	7%	70%	81
Manchester Area	21%	3%	76%	75
1st Cong. District	20%	6%	74%	256
2nd Cong. District	19%	4%	77%	258

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
STATEWIDE	26%	5%	69%	515
Registered Democrat	7%	3%	90%	126
Undeclared	25%	2%	72%	201
Registered Republican	50%	6%	44%	135
Not registered	18%	13%	69%	49
Democrat	5%	3%	92%	203
Independent	19%	8%	73%	79
Republican	54%	5%	41%	202
Liberal	6%	3%	90%	116
Moderate	21%	4%	75%	201
Conservative	51%	6%	43%	154
Union household	20%	0%	80%	69
Non-union	28%	5%	66%	422
5 years or less in NH	22%	3%	74%	45
6 to 10 years	38%	8%	54%	36
11 to 20 years	24%	4%	72%	89
More than 20 years	28%	4%	68%	309
18 to 34	19%	7%	74%	59
35 to 49	30%	5%	64%	120
50 to 64	25%	1%	74%	193
65 and over	37%	7%	56%	99
Male	33%	4%	63%	247
Female	21%	5%	74%	268
High school or less	26%	5%	69%	112
Some college	29%	7%	63%	113
College graduate	30%	4%	66%	157
Post-graduate	21%	2%	77%	109
Less than \$30K	31%	6%	63%	48
\$30K to \$60K	28%	7%	65%	73
\$60K to \$75K	26%	2%	72%	54
\$75K to \$100K	38%	0%	62%	65
More than \$100K	24%	2%	74%	122
Married	29%	4%	67%	324
Divorced/separated	25%	5%	71%	91
Never married	20%	7%	73%	76
Protestant	37%	9%	55%	175
Catholic	29%	1%	70%	168
Other	15%	3%	83%	122
Attend services 1 or more/week	32%	5%	64%	126
1-2 times a month	42%	4%	54%	59
Less often	25%	5%	71%	144
Never	22%	4%	74%	149
North Country	27%	7%	67%	47
Central/Lakes	28%	2%	70%	85
Connecticut Valley	21%	2%	78%	72
Mass Border	29%	4%	67%	155
Seacoast	28%	5%	67%	79
Manchester Area	23%	8%	68%	75
1st Cong. District	27%	5%	68%	256
2nd Cong. District	26%	4%	70%	258

Favorability Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 27%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 67%	(N=) 519
Registered Democrat	7%	2%	91%	128
Undeclared	23%	8%	69%	202
Registered Republican	52%	7%	41%	135
Not registered	30%	1%	69%	50
Democrat	4%	1%	94%	205
Independent	19%	6%	76%	80
Republican	54%	10%	36%	203
Liberal	5%	3%	91%	116
Moderate	19%	7%	75%	203
Conservative	56%	6%	38%	156
Union household	23%	4%	74%	69
Non-union	28%	6%	66%	426
5 years or less in NH	28%	9%	63%	46
6 to 10 years	34%	7%	60%	36
11 to 20 years	26%	7%	67%	89
More than 20 years	27%	5%	69%	312
18 to 34	24%	1%	76%	59
35 to 49	30%	6%	64%	120
50 to 64	24%	5%	71%	194
65 and over	33%	9%	58%	101
Male	33%	7%	60%	249
Female	21%	5%	73%	269
High school or less	26%	4%	70%	113
Some college	29%	7%	63%	114
College graduate	30%	6%	64%	157
Post-graduate	23%	5%	73%	110
Less than \$30K	26%	6%	68%	48
\$30K to \$60K	28%	7%	65%	74
\$60K to \$75K	24%	6%	70%	54
\$75K to \$100K	33%	5%	61%	65
More than \$100K	27%	3%	71%	122
Married	29%	6%	65%	326
Divorced/separated	22%	7%	71%	92
Never married	23%	3%	74%	76
Protestant	35%	8%	57%	176
Catholic	29%	6%	65%	171
Other	18%	1%	81%	122
Attend services 1 or more/week	32%	5%	63%	128
1-2 times a month	42%	13%	45%	59
Less often	22%	7%	72%	145
Never	25%	2%	73%	149
North Country	28%	6%	67%	47
Central/Lakes	32%	3%	64%	86
Connecticut Valley	20%	7%	74%	74
Mass Border	26%	9%	64%	156
Seacoast	32%	3%	65%	81
Manchester Area	22%	6%	72%	75
1st Cong. District	30%	6%	64%	258
2nd Cong. District	24%	6%	70%	261

U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u> 19%	<u>Wrong Track</u> 73%	<u>Don't Know</u> 8%	<u>(N=)</u> 508
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	7%	88%	5%	126
Undeclared	15%	77%	8%	196
Registered Republican	40%	53%	8%	133
Not registered	14%	72%	15%	50
Democrat	7%	87%	6%	203
Independent	12%	79%	8%	77
Republican	35%	54%	11%	200
Liberal	5%	88%	7%	116
Moderate	20%	74%	6%	197
Conservative	32%	57%	12%	154
Union household	25%	68%	8%	69
Non-union	19%	73%	8%	417
5 years or less in NH	23%	73%	3%	44
6 to 10 years	23%	64%	13%	36
11 to 20 years	21%	71%	8%	86
More than 20 years	18%	73%	8%	308
18 to 34	14%	74%	12%	58
35 to 49	26%	68%	6%	117
50 to 64	15%	78%	7%	193
65 and over	24%	64%	12%	98
Male	22%	70%	8%	245
Female	17%	75%	7%	263
High school or less	12%	75%	13%	111
Some college	19%	75%	6%	113
College graduate	23%	68%	9%	153
Post-graduate	22%	74%	4%	109
Less than \$30K	14%	72%	14%	48
\$30K to \$60K	14%	77%	9%	72
\$60K to \$75K	10%	82%	9%	52
\$75K to \$100K	24%	69%	7%	65
More than \$100K	27%	71%	2%	119
Married	21%	72%	7%	319
Divorced/separated	18%	78%	4%	91
Never married	13%	69%	17%	76
Protestant	20%	68%	12%	174
Catholic	26%	70%	4%	167
Other	14%	79%	7%	121
Attend services 1 or more/week	18%	71%	11%	127
1-2 times a month	31%	63%	6%	59
Less often	19%	73%	8%	141
Never	18%	76%	7%	146
North Country	23%	75%	2%	46
Central/Lakes	17%	76%	6%	85
Connecticut Valley	12%	76%	13%	70
Mass Border	22%	69%	9%	155
Seacoast	25%	66%	10%	79
Manchester Area	15%	81%	3%	74
1st Cong. District	21%	72%	7%	254
2nd Cong. District	18%	74%	9%	255