

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST
MAY 19-22, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,004**

PEW.1 THROUGH PEW.3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.1 How well do you feel you understand what would happen if the government DOES NOT raise the federal debt limit? **[READ]**¹

May 19-22

2011

18	Very well
32	Fairly well
26	Not too well
21	Not at all well
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.2 How concerned, if at all, are you that **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Very con- cerned</u>	<u>Some- what con- cerned</u>	<u>Not too con- cerned</u>	<u>Not at all con- cerned</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Raising the debt limit would lead to higher government spending and make the national debt bigger May 19-22, 2011	47	30	10	10	2
b. Not raising the debt limit would force the government into default and hurt the nation's economy May 19-22, 2011	37	36	13	10	4

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.3 All things considered, which of these is your greater concern **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

May 19-22

2011

48	That raising the debt limit would lead to higher government spending and make the national debt bigger
35	That not raising the debt limit would force the government into default and hurt the nation's economy
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

¹ Questions PEWWP.1 through PEWWP.3 were asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted May 19-22, 2011, among a national sample of 1,004 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 139 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/detailed>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,004	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	279	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	313	7.0 percentage points
Independents	318	7.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.