



Memo

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Chris Murphy and Simon Rosenberg
Dt: Wednesday, September 28th, 2016
Re: Report: America Is Better Off and Safer Today

The questions of whether we are better off, and safer, are always central to our Presidential elections every four years, and this one is no exception. This report does a deep dive on publicly available data to see if we can answer those questions for this election in 2016.

As you will see from the following summary of the data and the many graphs that follow, our findings suggest Americans are indeed better off today, and safer, than they were when Barack Obama took office in 2009.

We also include portions of very recent polls that confirm that Americans are relatively content with the economic progress that has been made in recent years, and feel that things are getting better. These results are consistent with other recent polls showing President Obama hitting his highest job approval ratings of his second term; and they raise the question of whether this is really a “change election” after all.

The US Is Better Off Today

Unemployment Rate – When President Obama came to office the unemployment rate 7.8%. Today it is 5.0%.

Jobs – During George W. Bush's Presidency, the American economy gained 135,000 jobs a year. Under President Obama it has been more than 1.3m a year.

Incomes – After dramatic increases during the Clinton Presidency, incomes fell under President Bush. Incomes have once again risen under President Obama, and preliminary 2016 data suggest that median income for American families will be the highest in recorded history at the close of 2016.

Uninsured Rate – The rate of those without health insurance has dramatically declined in the Obama years and now stands at the lowest level ever recorded, 8.6%. At least 20 million Americans have gained insurance in recent years.

Annual Deficit – When President Obama came to office the annual deficit was \$1.4 trillion. Today it is \$616 billion.

Stock Market – When President Obama came to office the Dow was at 7,494. Today it is around 18,000 and is repeatedly reaching record highs.

Americans Are Safer Today

The question of “are we safer” is a bit harder to get at than the question of “are we better off.” We choose to look measures that have been raised by Donald Trump himself this year (often erroneously). We fully acknowledge that there may be other legitimate data sets that could be added to this section to help paint a fuller picture.

Two things stood out in the section: by most measures, the Obama Presidency has experienced the lowest levels of crime and violence ever recorded; the large flows of undocumented immigrants into the US we witnessed during the Bush Presidency has not been replicated in the Obama years, and there are now fewer undocumented/unauthorized immigrants in the US than there were in 2008.

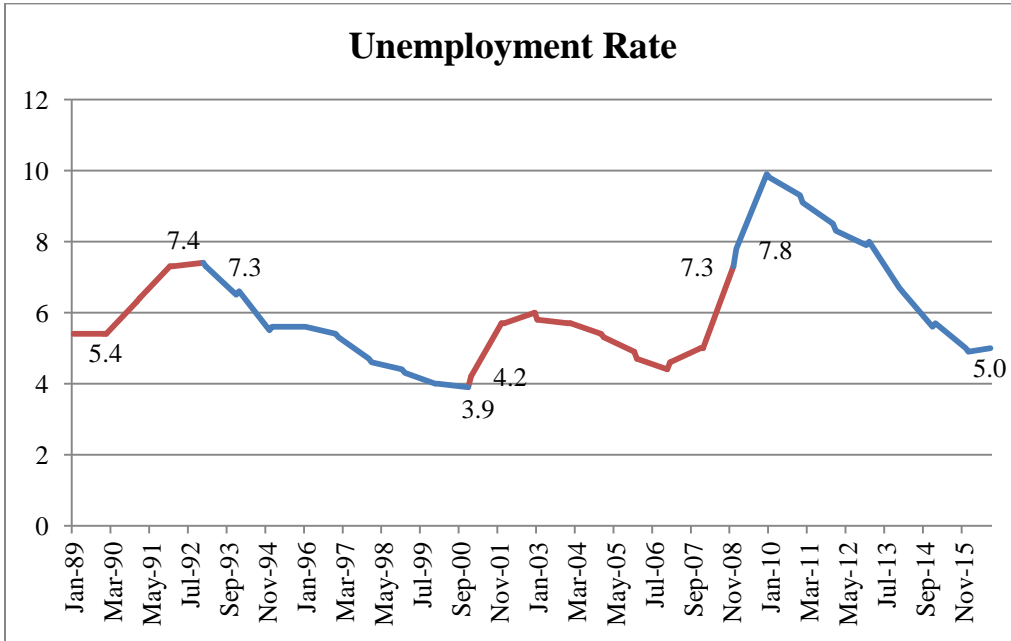
Crime Rate – During the Bush Presidency, the violent crime rate was 476 violent crimes per 100,000 people (average of each year). During Obama's Presidency the violent crime rate has been 387 incidents per 100,000 people.

Americans Killed By Terrorists – During the Bush Presidency, 3006 Americans were killed by terrorists, an average of 376 deaths per year. During the Obama Presidency, 91 Americans have been killed by terrorists, an average of 12 per year.

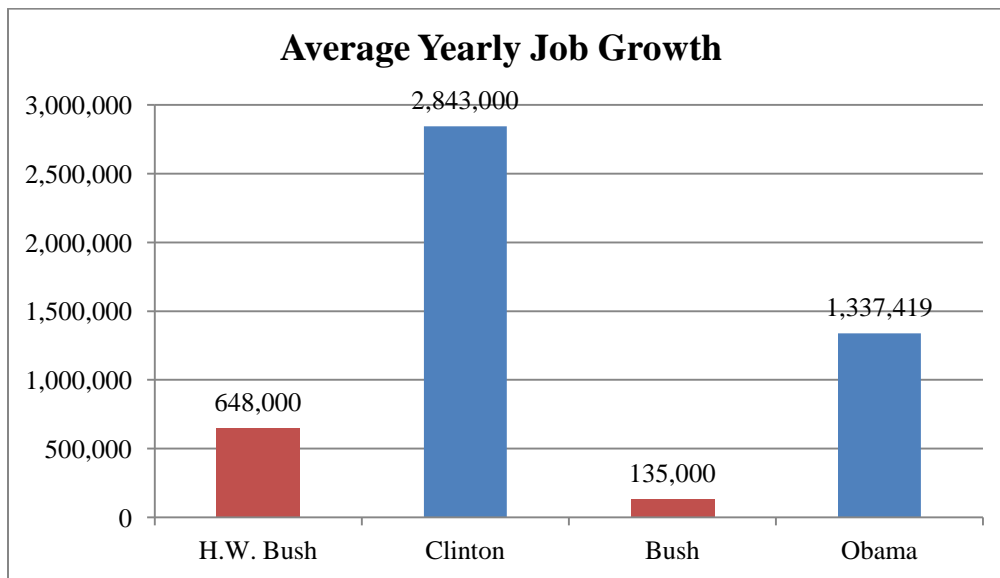
Police Killed In the Line of Duty – During the Bush Presidency, 437 police officers were killed in the line of duty, an average of 55 per year. During the Obama Presidency, 344 police officers have been killed in the line of duty, an average of 49 per year. The Obama Presidency has seen the fewest police officers killed on duty during any Presidency since records began to be kept in the early 1960s.

Flow of Unauthorized Immigrants into US – During the Bush Presidency, the US gained an average 400,000 net new unauthorized immigrants each year. During the Obama Presidency, the average yearly rate is below zero, as there are fewer unauthorized immigrants in the country today than when President Obama took office.

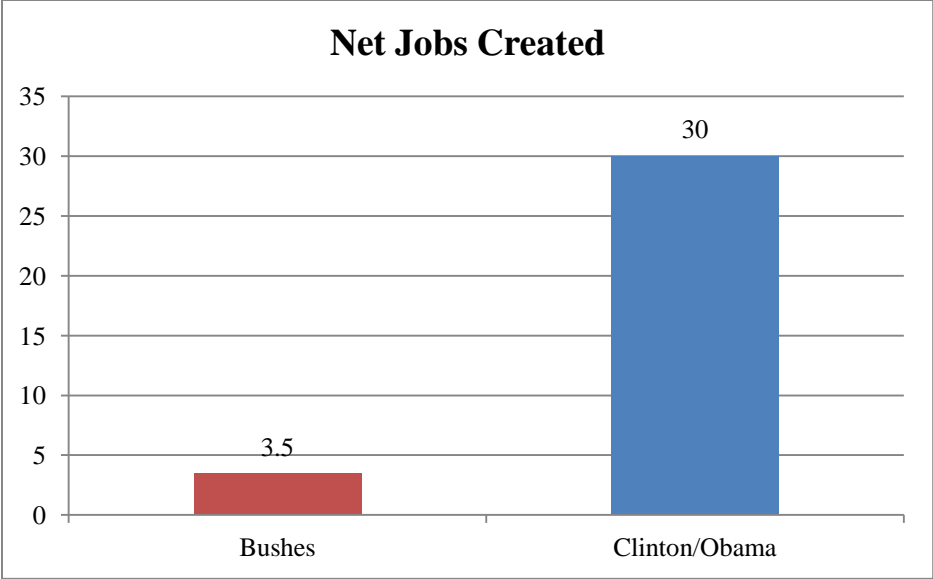
Section One: America Is Better Off



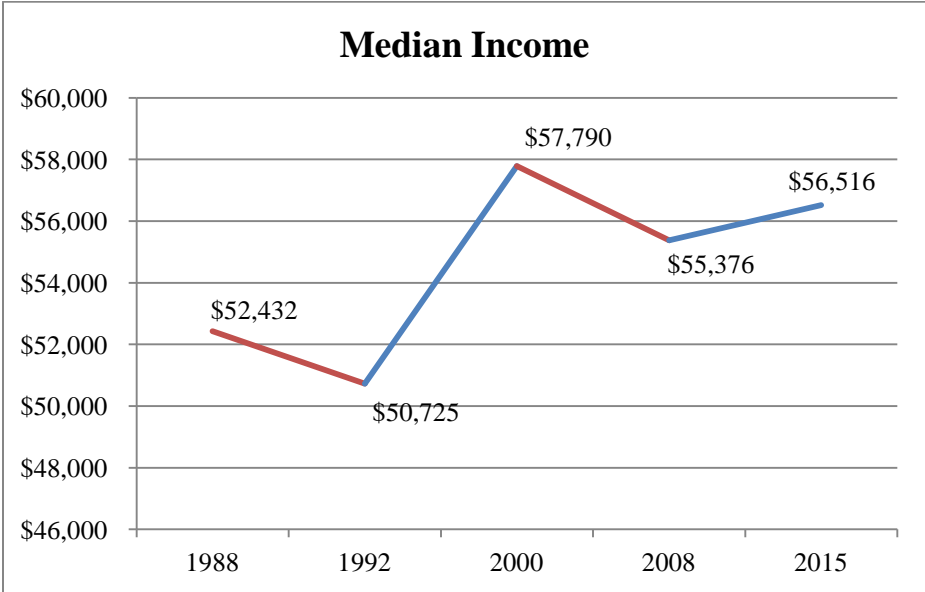
Source: [US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)



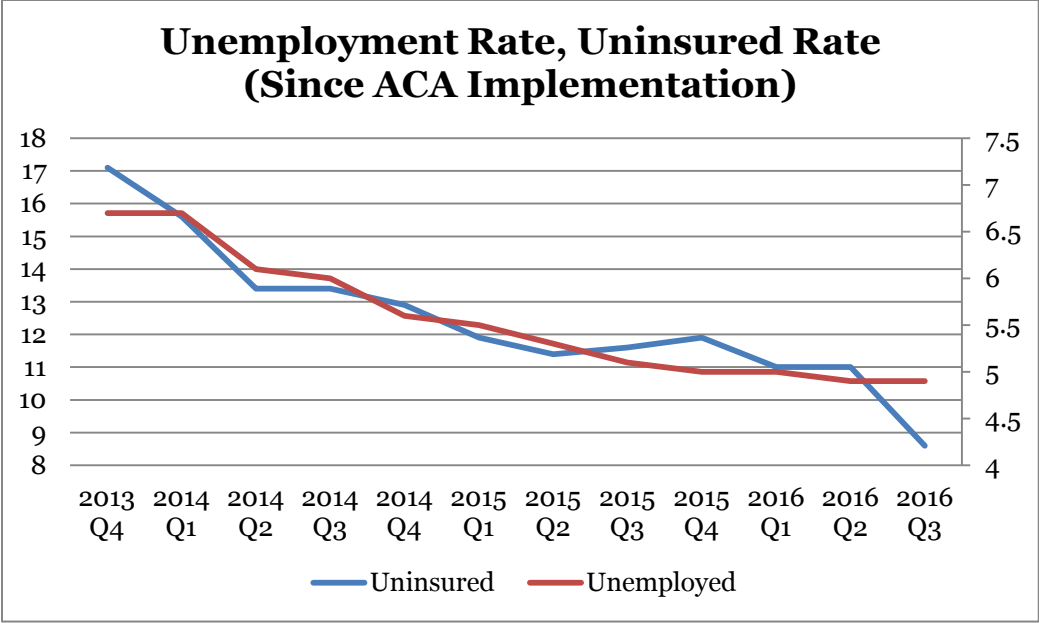
Source: [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) and [White House](#)



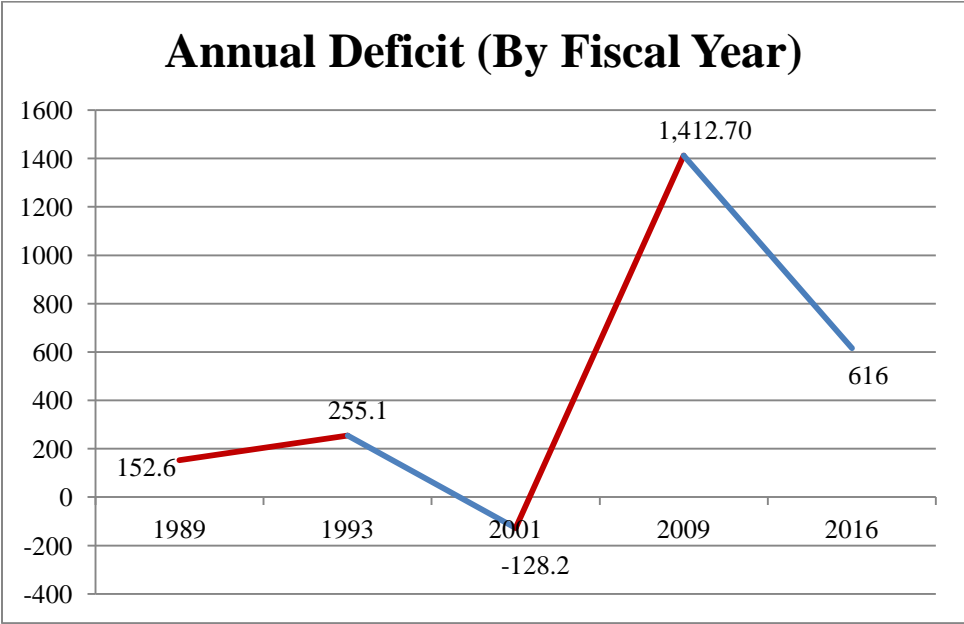
Source: [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) and [White House](#)



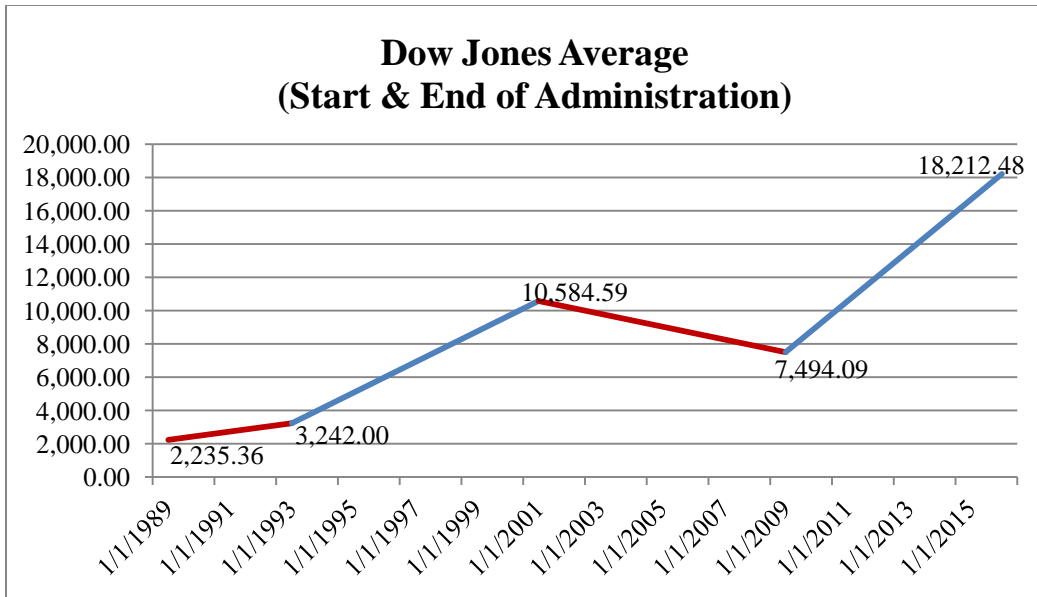
Source: [US Census Bureau](#)



Source: [Gallup](#) and [Vox](#)

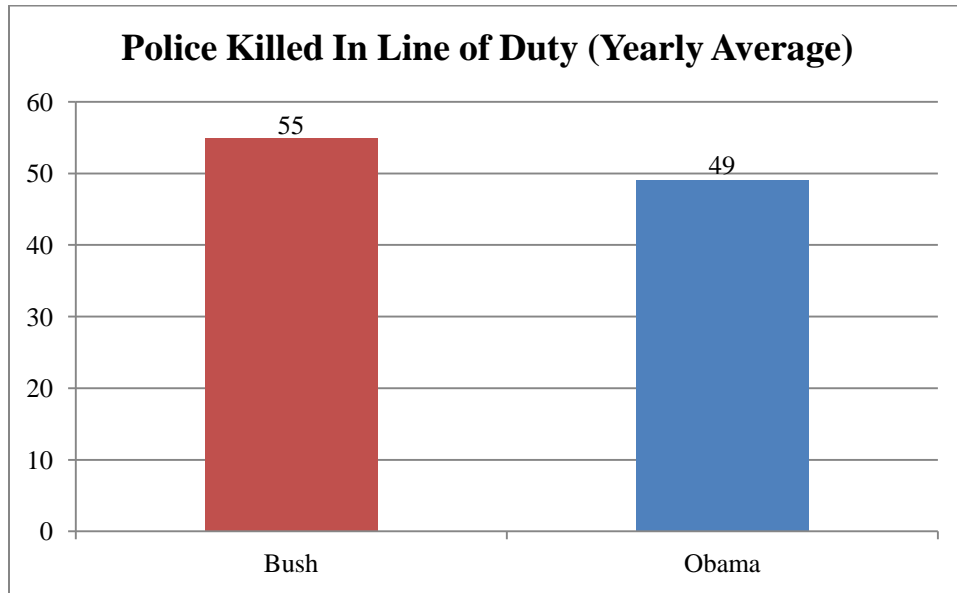


Source: [White House Office of Management and Budget](#)

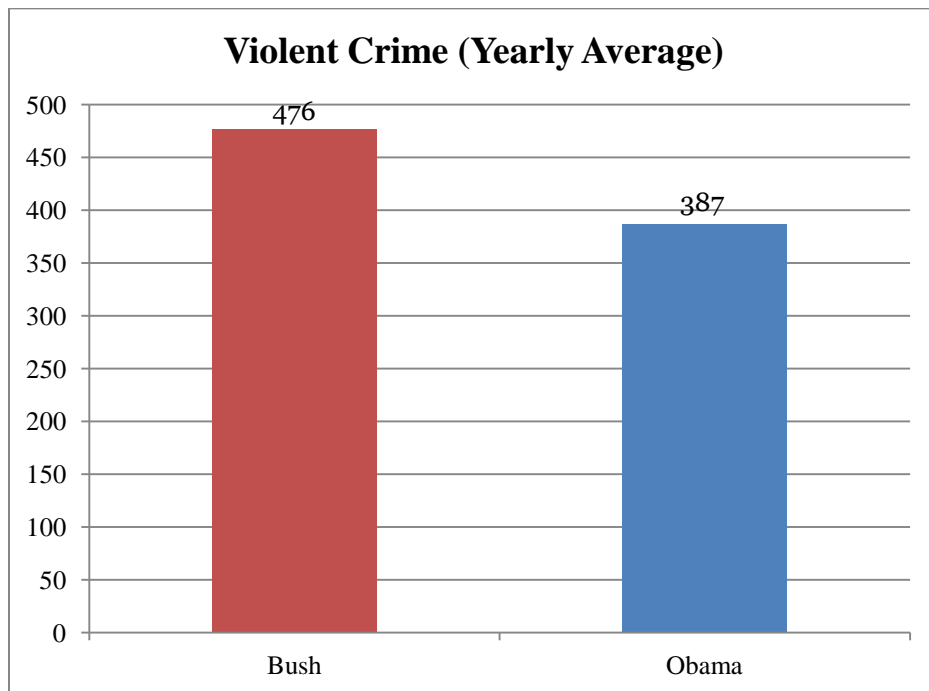


Source: [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Yahoo Finance](#). The latest Dow Jones Average under President Obama reflects the average at close of business last Tuesday, September 20th.

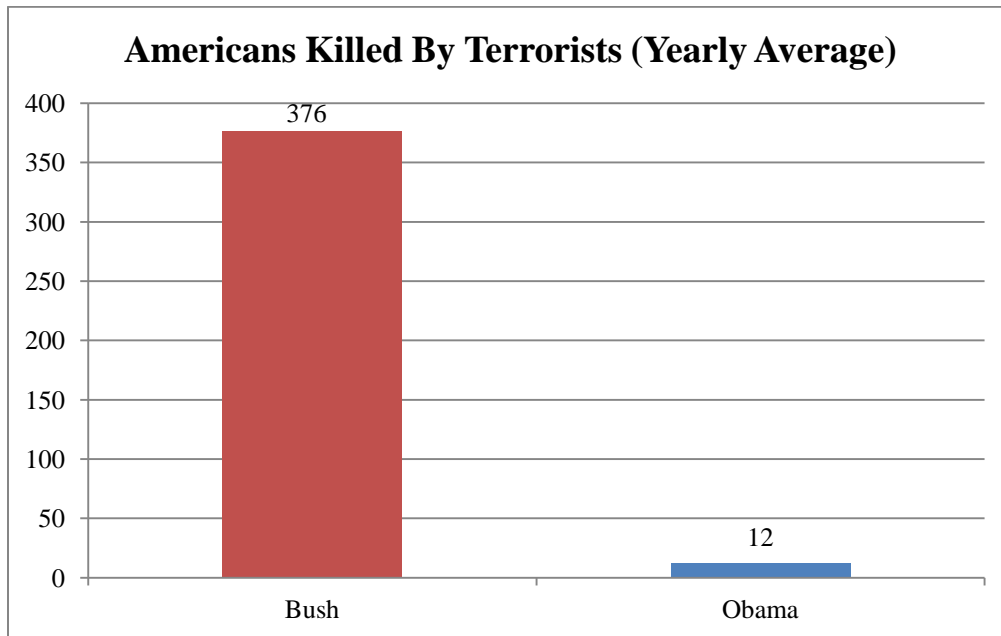
Section Two: America is Safer



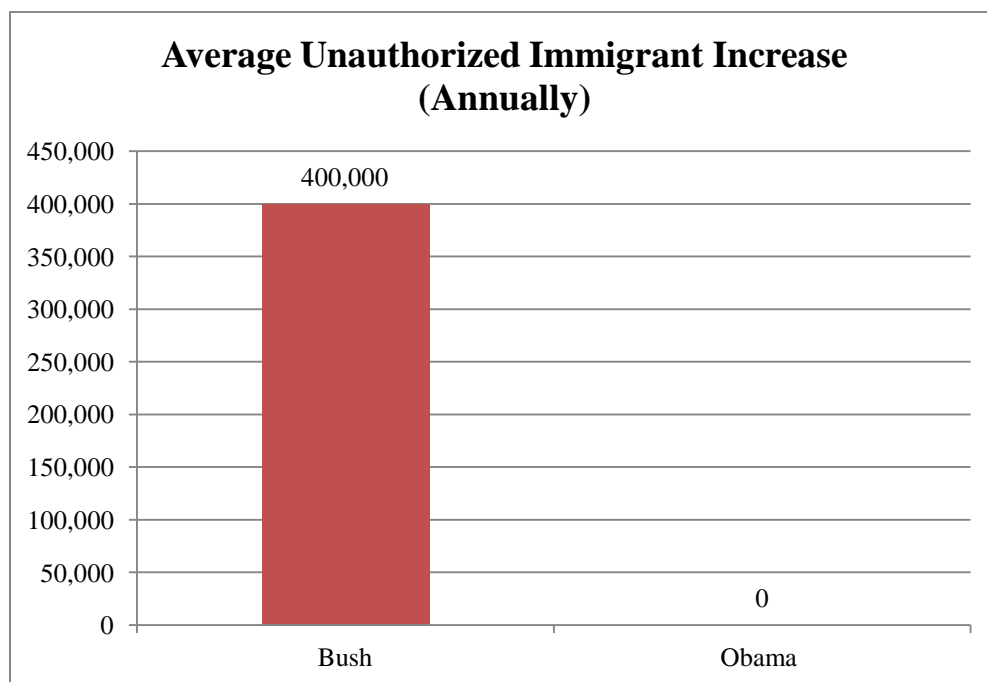
Source: [FBI Uniformed Crime Reporting Program Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed](#). The data is available through 2015.



Source: [FBI Uniformed Crime Reporting Program](#). This graph represents the violent crime rate for 100,000 people, yearly average through 2015.



Source: [New America](#) and [START \(University of Maryland\)](#). The attacks documented are those connected jihadist-related terrorism between 2001 and June 2016.

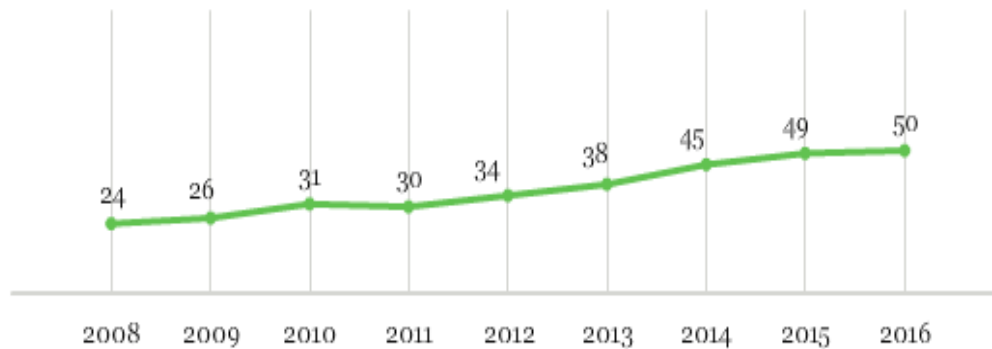


Source: [Pew Hispanic Research Center](#). These numbers are estimates, and the total for Obama is actually negative, as there are fewer undocumented immigrants in the US today than in 2008.

Section Three: Americans See Things Going Well, and Getting Better

Gallup U.S. Standard of Living Index, Yearly Averages

Are you satisfied with your standard of living, all the things you can buy and do? Right now, do you feel your standard of living is getting better or getting worse?



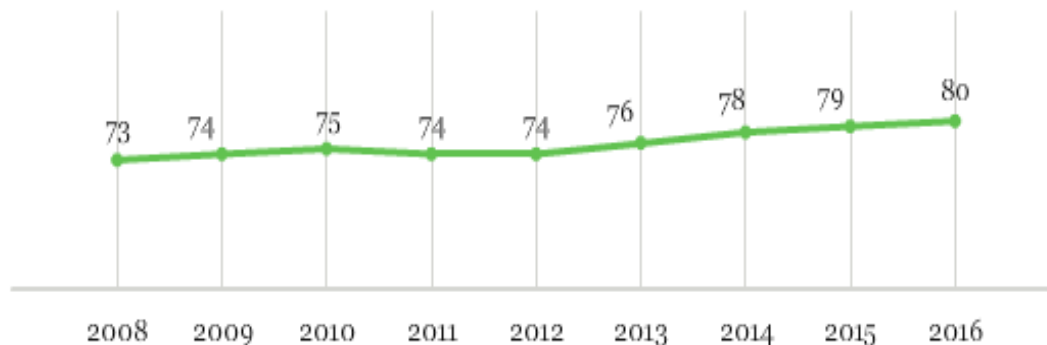
2016 data reflect Jan. 2-July 31, 2016, polling

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Americans' Satisfaction With Their Current Standard of Living, Yearly Averages

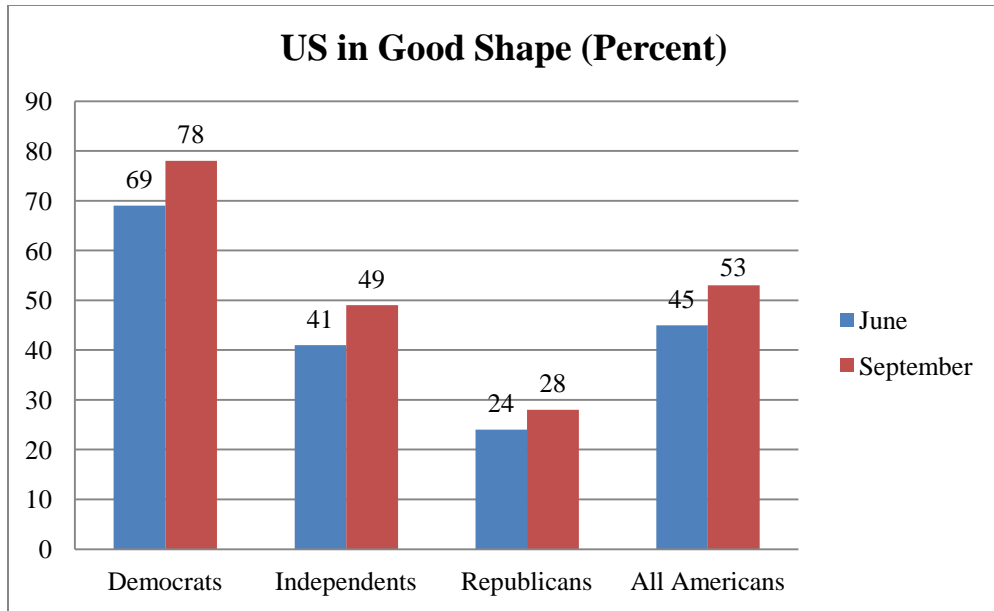
Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your standard of living, all the things you can buy and do?

■ % Satisfied



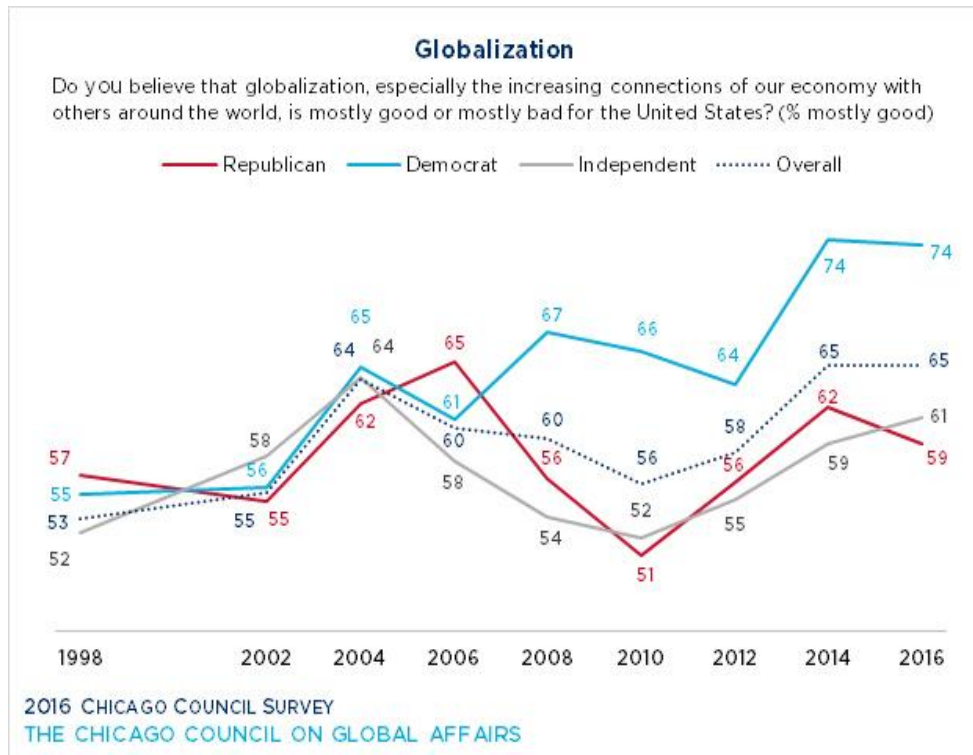
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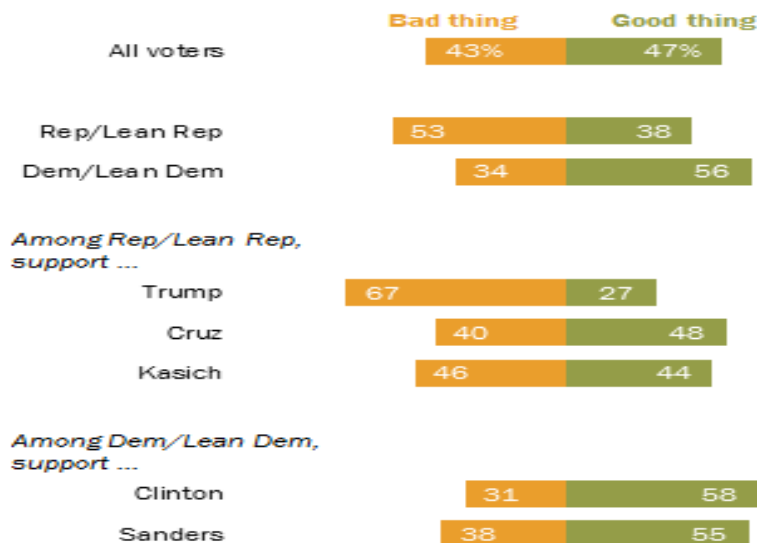
Source: [CNN/ORC poll](#) data from September 1-4, 2016. According to this CNN/ORC poll, 53 percent of Americans believe economic conditions in the US are good. This is an 8 percent increase from June when just 45 percent of Americans said economic conditions in the US are good. The question asked in the survey was: “How would you rate the economic conditions in the country today -- as very good, somewhat good, somewhat poor, or very poor?”

Section Four: Trade and Globalization



Trump supporters view free trade agreements as bad thing for U.S.

Free trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries have been a ___ thing for the United States



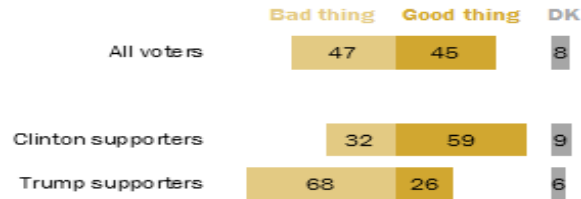
Note: Don't know responses not shown. Based on registered voters.

Source: Survey conducted March 17-27, 2016.

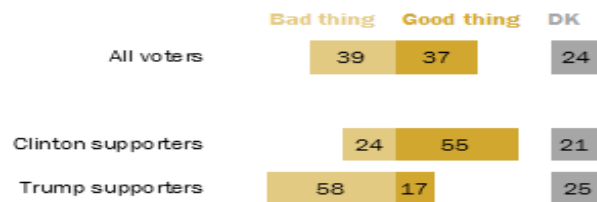
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Voters split on impact of free trade agreements and the TPP on the U.S.

% of registered voters who say free trade agreements have been ____ for the U.S. ...



% of registered voters who say the Trans-Pacific Partnership would be ____ for the U.S. ...

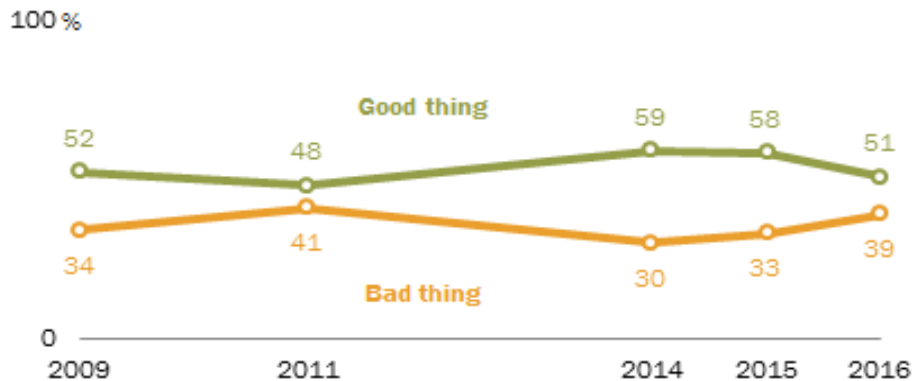


Note: Based on registered voters. Don't know responses for TPP include those who have not heard of the agreement. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding, Q55F2 & Q56F1.
Source: Survey conducted August 9-16, 2016.

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Americans continue to favor free trade agreements

Free trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries have been a ____ for the United States



Source: Survey conducted March 17-27, 2016.

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