

THE ECONOMY (tackling the deficit and recession)

Thinking about the government's economic policies, which of the following best reflects your view?

The government should stick to its current strategy of reducing the deficit, even if this means growth remains slow

The government should change its strategy to concentrate on growth, even if this means the deficit stays longer or gets worse

	Stick to current strategy	Change strategy	Neither	Not sure
2014	%	%	%	%
March 13-14	38	30	10	22
2013				
June 27-28	35	39	10	16
May 30-31	31	42	7	20
April 25-26	33	38	8	21
March 21-22	32	41	9	18
February 21-22	31	41	8	20
2012				
December 6-7	36	37	10	18
August 23-24	29	42	9	20
July 26-27	28	45	6	21
July 19-20	31	43	8	18
June 28-29	30	38	10	22
May 17-18	33	39	8	21
May 10-11	32	40	9	19
May 3-4	30	41	8	21
April 26-27	33	41	9	17
April 19-20	33	37	9	21
March 1-2	38	34	7	21
2011				
Nov 17-18	36	37	8	19
Sept 29-30	36	38	8	18

Thinking about the current state of the economy, which of the following best reflects your view?

	The economy is still getting worse	Economy stopped getting worse, but no signs of recovery	Economy in bad way, but signs of recovery	Economy improving and on the way to recovery	Don't know
2015					
March 19-20	15	33	29	16	7
February 19-20	18	33	26	16	6
January 14-15	19	30	32	12	7
2014					
December 2-3	22	30	29	11	8
August 11-12	13	29	33	17	7
July 28-29	14	26	34	18	8
June 11-12	17	28	34	15	7
April 13-14	16	29	36	11	8
March 13-14	14	32	38	11	6
2013					
December 5-6	22	29	36	7	7
August 22-23	22	36	32	5	6
August 8-9	25	34	30	5	5
April 23-24	43	38	13	1	4

Thinking about the government's policies on the economy, do you think...

	They have made economy worse	They have helped the economy	They haven't really made much difference	Don't know
2015				
March 19-20	23	45	22	11
February 19-20	27	41	21	11
2014				
March 13-14	28	38	24	10
2013				
December 5-6	30	36	24	11
August 22-23	34	32	23	12
August 8-9	36	32	23	8

If Labour had won the last election and formed a government, do you think the economy would be doing better, doing worse, or would it be much the same?

	Doing better	Doing worse	Much the same	Don't know
2014				
March 13-14	19	39	29	13
2013				
December 11-12	21	42	26	11
2012				
December 5-6	24	38	29	8
2011				
November 29-30	25	37	29	9

Thinking about how the government is cutting public spending, do you think the government should cut spending less, cut spending more, or are they getting the balance about right?

	Cut spending more	Cut spending less	Balance is right	Don't know
2013				
July 25-26	15	47	25	14
2012				
May 3-4	11	49	23	16
April 19-20	13	48	24	15
March 1-2	15	43	27	16

Who would you trust more to run the economy?

	Cameron and Osborne	Miliband and Balls	Not sure
2015			
March 27-28	42	29	29
2014			
June 5-6	36	25	39
January 27-28	39	24	37
January 9-10	40	29	31
2013			
July 25-26	39	26	35
June 27-28	36	26	38
February 24-25	35	29	37
2012			
December 6-7	37	26	37
July 26-27	34	31	35
April 26-27	36	28	35
2011			
March 24-25	39	30	31

In 2009 a new top rate of income tax of 50p in the pound was introduced for earnings over £150,000. Previously the top rate of income tax had been 40p in the pound

Do you think George Osborne should or should not abolish the 50p top rate of income tax on those earning over £150,000, meaning the top rate would be 40p?

	Abolish	Don't abolish	Don't know
2012			
March 15-16	27	60	13
Jan 26-27	19	68	13
Sept 8-9 2011	27	60	13

How likely do you think it is that Britain will go back into recession during the next 12 months?

	Likely	Not Likely	Don't know
2012			
Jan 26-27	74	15	11
2011			
Nov 10-11	72	15	13
Sept 22-23	73	17	11
Feb 17-18	59	28	13
27 - 28 Jan	57	28	15
20-21 Jan	52	32	16
2010			
Sept 2-3	55	31	15