

Polling News & Notes

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Government, Economy, and Unemployment Remain Top Concerns: Recent polls suggest that approximately 31% of Americans are satisfied with the general direction of the country. A March NBC/*Wall Street Journal* [poll](#) found 60% of Americans think the country is “on the wrong track.” What concerns possibly drive these sentiments? According to a recent Gallup [poll](#), voters consider the government, economy, and unemployment continue to be the top three problems facing the country.

According to Gallup, 18% of Americans say the most important problem today is their dissatisfaction with the government. This is the fourth consecutive month in which government was the top issue. Despite the recent uptick in the national economic situation, 11% still say that the economy is a top concern. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for February 2015 was 5.5%, yet unemployment remains the third most important issue (10%). This is likely because the real unemployment rate is much higher. The U-6 rate for February 2015, which adds Americans who are marginally attached to the labor force and those working part-time for economic reasons to the official unemployment rate, was 11.0%.

It is no wonder Americans are growing more and more concerned about unemployment over the past three months, despite news reports and White House press releases saying things are getting better. The fact remains that many Americans have yet to feel relief.

