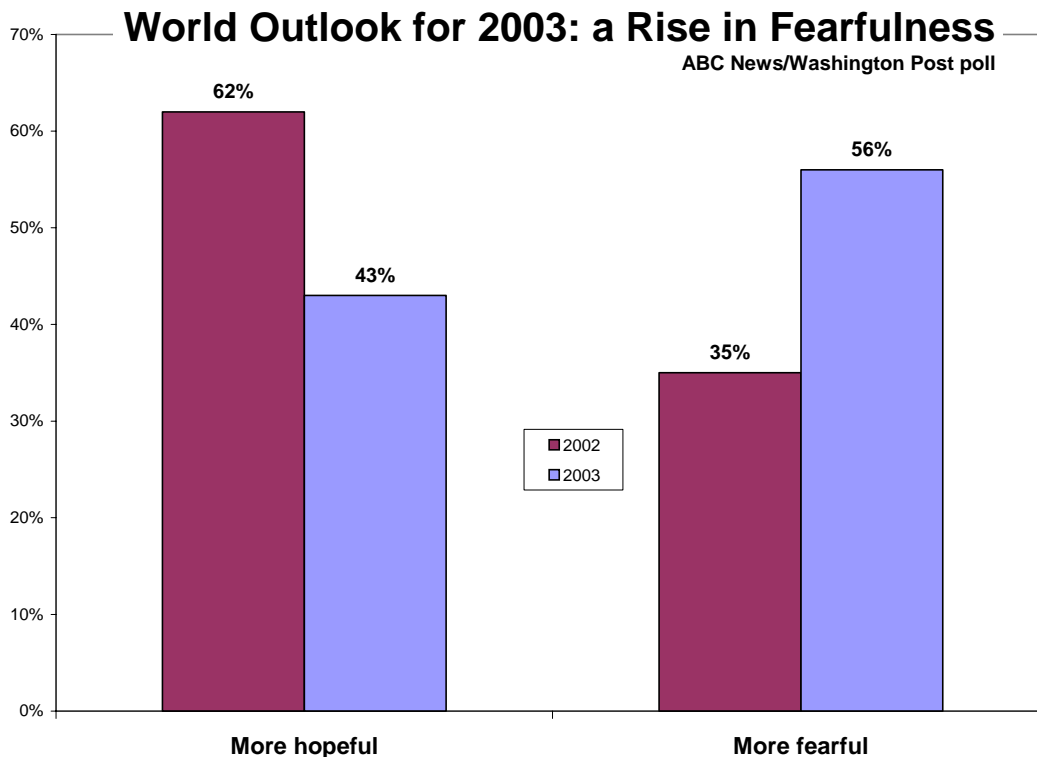


## **Americans Markedly More Fearful About their Prospects, and the World's**

Americans have grown sharply more fearful about the new year ahead, in terms of both their personal outlook and the world's in general. Two prime factors appear to be at play: the possibility of war with Iraq, and the condition of the nation's economy.

Most striking is the change in the public's global outlook: Fifty-six percent of Americans say they're more fearful, rather than more hopeful, about what 2003 holds in store for the world. Last year, in sharp contrast, hopefulness prevailed.

	World Outlook in the Year Ahead		
Are you...	12/02	12/01	Change
More hopeful	43%	62	-19
More fearful	56	35	+21



The personal outlook is less rosy as well. While 63 percent are more hopeful than fearful about their own lives in 2003, that's down from 80 percent last year. And 35 percent are now more fearful personally – more than double its level a year ago.

Personal Outlook in the Year Ahead				
Are you...	12/02	12/01	Change	
More hopeful	63%	80	-17	
More fearful	35	16	+19	

The economy is one strong factor. In terms of their personal prospects, people who rate the economy negatively are 20 points more fearful than are those who rate it positively. And people who rate it the *most* negatively are 30 points more fearful.

Personal outlook:	Rating of economy		
	Positive	Negative	Most negative
More hopeful	77%	55	46
More fearful	22	42	52

Economic views have a similar impact on views of the global situation: People who rate the economy negatively are 22 points more fearful about the world's prospects in 2003 than are those who rate the economy positively.

On Iraq, people who approve of George W. Bush's policy are more hopeful than fearful for their own future prospects by 70-27 percent; but among those who disapprove of Bush's Iraq policy it's an even split – 50 percent hopeful, 49 percent fearful.

Similarly, people who approve of Bush's Iraq policy divide about evenly on the world's prospects, but those who disapprove of his policy are more fearful than hopeful, by a wide 28-point margin.

World's outlook:	Bush's Iraq policy	
	Approve	Disapprove
More hopeful	48%	36
More fearful	51	64

**GROUPS** – In terms, of their personal lives, women are more fearful than men by an 11-point margin, with an increase in the last year of 17 points among men, and 22 points among women. Democrats are 20 points more apt than Republicans to be fearful about their own future, and fearfulness has risen in the last year by 23 points among Democrats, compared to 17 points among Republicans.

In global outlook, Democrats are more fearful than Republicans by a 15-point margin, and liberals are more fearful than conservatives by 11 points – suggesting that it helps calm the nerves to have your guy in the White House.

-----Personally-----					
	2002		2001		Fearful Change
	More hopeful	More fearful	More hopeful	More fearful	
Men	68	30	85	13	+17
Women	58	41	76	19	-22
Age 18-44	67	32	83	15	+17
Age 61+	53	41	74	18	+23

Dem	54	43	73	23	+20
Rep	76	23	87	9	+14
Ind	61	37	82	17	+17

-----For the World-----					
	2002		2001		Fearful
	More hopeful	More fearful	More hopeful	More fearful	Change
Men	47	51	67	31	+20
Women	39	59	57	40	+19
Dem	38	61	52	44	+17
Rep	51	46	69	30	+16
Ind	42	57	64	35	+22
Lib	38	61	61	38	+23
Mod	42	57	59	40	+17
Cons	48	50	68	30	+20

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Dec. 12-15, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,209 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:  
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Results follow.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

33. On another subject, looking ahead to next year, are you more hopeful, or more fearful, about what the year 2003 holds in store for you personally?

	More hopeful	More fearful	No opin.
12/15/02	63	35	2
12/19/01	80	16	4

34. How about for the world in general? Are you more hopeful, or more fearful, about what the year 2003 holds in store for the world in general?

	More hopeful	More fearful	No opin.
12/15/02	43	56	1
12/19/01	62	35	3

\*\*\*END\*\*\*