Banks and Foreign Military
Lead the List of Y2K Worries

Banking networks and foreign military systems lead the list of the nation's Y2K worries, with majorities of Americans saying they expect the computer bug to cause some disruptions in these areas. And as many as one in three people expect those disruptions to be "serious" ones.

While the numbers who expect serious disruptions don't approach majorities, they do encompass millions of Americans. Thirty-three percent expect serious disruptions in foreign military systems; 28 percent in financial and air traffic control systems; and 23 percent in power distribution networks.

At the same time, only 10 percent of Americans expect serious disruptions in their own lives as a result of the Y2K problem, an ABC Weekend News poll has found. And majorities, 56 percent, believe both the federal government and private businesses are doing enough to prepare for the millennial bug.

To be sure, though, many plan precautions: Nearly one in three Americans say they are planning to take some steps to reduce possible Y2K disruptions in their own lives. Those range from stockpiling consumer goods to fixing the home PC.

PROBLEMS - Most broadly, 45 percent expect Y2K to cause some economic problems in this country, and 22 percent expect those to be serious problems. Thirty-eight percent expect "social disruptions," 19 percent serious. And 31 percent expect disruptions in their own lives; 10 percent expect these to be serious.

	---Expect Y2K Disruptions---			Expect no
	NET	Serious	Not serious	disruptions
Economic problems	45%	22	23	46
Social disruption	38	19	20	52
Disruption in own life	31	10	20	65

SPECIFICS - When it comes to specific areas, the public is less concerned about disruptions in U.S. military system than in foreign ones. And concerns about disruptions in the food supply system trail those about disruptions in power supply, air traffic and banks.

	---Expect Y2K Disruptions--			Expect no
	NET	Serious	Not serious	disruptions
Foreign military systems	56%	33	23	32

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Banks/other fin. instits.    54       28           26           42
Planes/air traffic control   49       28           21           45
Power stations/
    electrical systems       48       23           25           47
U.S. military systems        39       19           19           54
Food supply/
    distribution systems     39       17           21           56
```

DID YOU GET THE HUGGIES? – Twenty-nine percent in this poll say they are planning to do something to reduce possible disruptions in their own lives as a result of the Y2K problem. Stockpiling consumables leads the list at 13 percent; stockpiling money or valuables is next, cited by eight percent.

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                         Planning steps to
                     reduce Y2K disruptions?
                         Yes        29%
                         No         66

                         If yes, what?
        Stockpiling water, food,
            consumer goods            13%
        Stockpiling money or
            valuables                 8
        Assembling personal
            financial records         6
        Buying other supplies         4
        Fixing home computer          3
        Adjusting travel plans        1
        Selling stock/other securities  1
```

GROUPS - The strongest demographic differences in these results are in age groups: Younger adults more likely to expect the Y2K bug to create some economic and social disruptions; older adults are less likely to expect problems. Women also are somewhat more likely to expect Y2K problems.

METHODOLOGY - This poll was conducted by telephone March 5-8, 1999 among a random national sample of 1,015 adults. The results have an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points. Field work by ICR Survey Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Ben Fitzpatrick and Gary Langer.

ABC News polls are available at ABCNews.com on the Internet. News and research organizations may receive ABC New polls via e-mail; to join the list send a request to Ben.Fitzpatrick@ABC.com

Here are the full results:

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1. As you may know, some computers may have trouble operating after
January First, 2000, because of a programming issue known as Y2K. Do you
think the Y2K issue will create (READ ITEM), or not? (IF YES)) Do you
think it will create serious (ITEM), or not serious?
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```
                        --Expect Y2K Disruptions--   Expect no     No
                     NET   Serious  Not serious  disruptions   opin.
Economic problems    45%     22         23           46          10
Social disruption    38      19         20           52          10
Disruption own life  31      10         20           65           5
```

2. Are you personally planning to do anything to reduce possible
disruptions in your own life as a result of the Y2K issue or not?

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              Yes     No    No opin.
3/07/99       29%     66       4
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(IF YES) What would that be?*
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    Stockpiling water, food,
        consumer goods              13%
    Stockpiling money or
        valuables                    8
    Assembling personal
        financial records            6
    Buying other supplies            4
    Fixing home computer             3
    Adjusting travel plans           1
    Selling stock/other securities   1
    Other                            2
```

    *=Percentages are of total sample. Multiple responses accepted.

3. Do you think the Y2K issue will or will not cause disruption in
[AREA].(IF YES) Do you think that will be serious disruption, or not
serious?

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                           --Expect Y2K Disruptions--   Expect no     No
                        NET   Serious  Not serious  disrupts.   opin.
Foreign military sytms.  56%     33         23           32          12
Banks/other fin. instits. 54     28         26           42           3
Planes/air traffic
     control systems     49      28         21           45           6
Power stations/
     electrical systems  48      23         25           47           5
U.S. military systems    39      19         19           54           7
Food supply/
     distribution systems 39     17         21           56           6
```

4. Do you think the federal government is or is not doing enough to
prevent serious disruptions that may result from the Y2K issue?

```
           Is doing      Is not        No
           enough      doing enough   opin.
3/07/99    56%            32            13
```

5. Do you think private businesses in this country are or are not doing
enough to prevent serious disruptions that may result from the Y2K
issue?

```
           Is doing      Is not        No
           enough      doing enough   opin.
3/07/99    56%            32            13
```

END