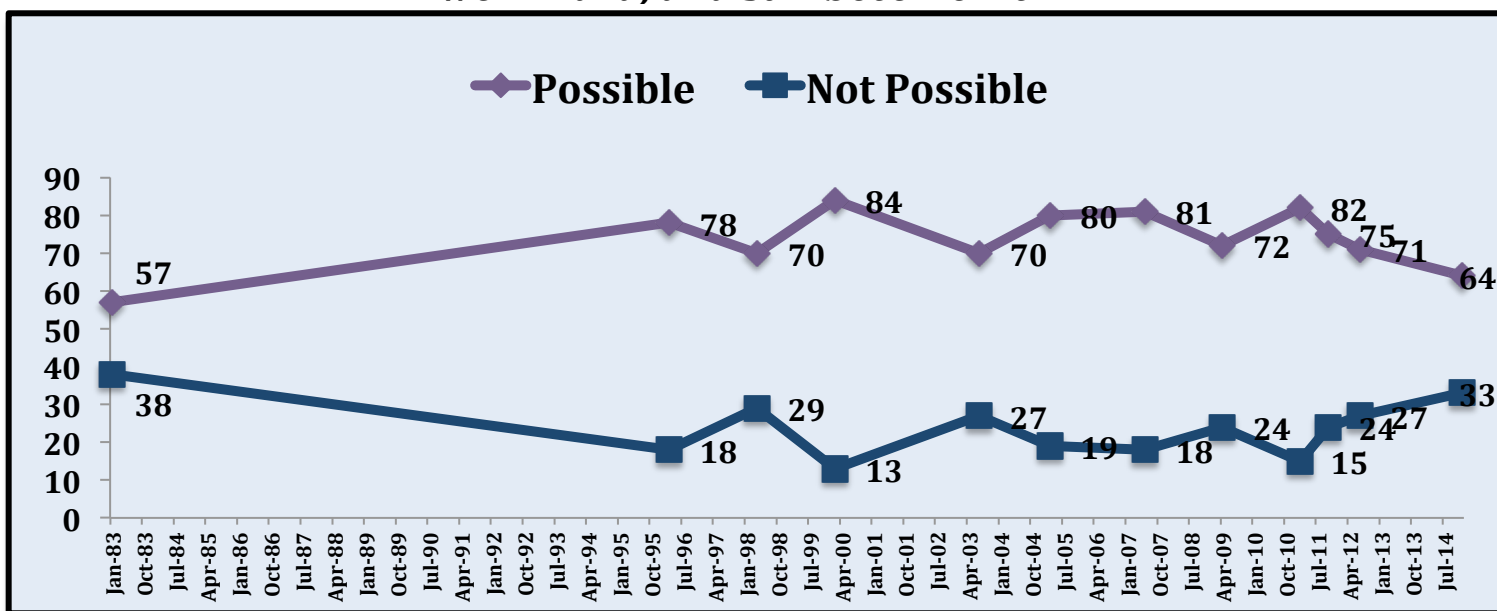


More Say ‘American Dream’ Out Of Reach Today: President Barack Obama and other Democrats claim the economy has experienced a strong recovery, but fewer people say they believe in the ‘American Dream’ today than at any other time in over thirty years. According to a recent *New York Times/CBS News* [poll](#), well over half (64%) of people in the country say they still think it is possible to “start out poor” in this country today and “still become rich” through hard work and perseverance. Thirty-three percent think it is no longer possible.

While these numbers are better than they were in 1983, when they were 57% and 38%, respectively, optimism is down significantly from the last time this question was asked by *New York Times/CBS News* in July 2012. Then 71% said they believed they could better their circumstance if they worked hard, and only 27% said the ‘American Dream’ was out of reach. In fact, from 1996 to 2012, the number of Americans who thought they could achieve more by working hard reached as high as 84% and never dropped below 70%.

Do you think it is still possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and still become rich?



In addition to this growth of pessimism about economic mobility, many Americans told the *New York Times/CBS News* they are worried about the government harming the economy. Fifty-four percent of respondents say they are more concerned about “over-regulation that may interfere with economic growth” than with “too little regulation that may create an unequal distribution of wealth.” When Republicans begin the next Congress with new majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, they have an opportunity to address these concerns with policies (some already supported by many Congressional Democrats) that expand economic growth and opportunity and raise wages, so more Americans are again optimistic about the future.