

**POLITICS**

February 17, 2014

# Unemployment Rises to Top Problem in the U.S.

## Fewer Americans name the government as the most important problem in February

by Rebecca Riffkin

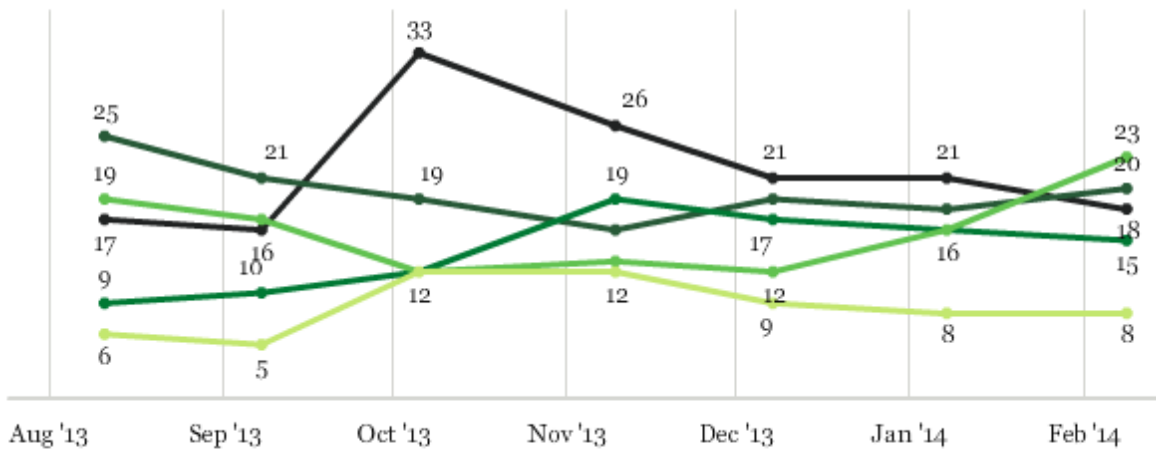
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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans have a new No. 1 problem. Nearly one in four Americans mention jobs and unemployment as the most important problem facing the country, up from 16% in January. The government and politicians had topped the list since the government shutdown in October.

*Recent Trend in Top Five "Most Important" U.S. Problems*

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? (open-ended)

- % Government/Politicians
- % Economy in general
- % Healthcare
- % Unemployment/Jobs
- % Federal budget deficit/Federal debt



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