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Prelude

This week report consists of 27 surveys. Five of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 22 are national surveys.

Is Internet a good place to find a life partner?

On the eve of Valentine day, BBC world service poll of 19 countries brought forward some spectacular findings. Three in ten across the world believe that internet is a good place to find a boy/girl friend. Surprisingly, the largest numbers of respondents who believe in this usage of internet are from Pakistan (60%) and India (59). The least support for this idea is in U.S, South Korea and Britain.

In general the more developed nations are comparatively less enthusiastic about the usage of internet for finding the spouse. This is quite a puzzle that maximum support is in Pakistan. Pakistani society in general is considered as vulnerable to extremist ideas probably because by and large it is a traditional society. One would expect that highest support for this idea in the Muslim world might have been in Turkey with it's an advance and liberal society but it is not the case, almost six in ten disagree with this idea.

Thinking of India & Pakistan in a larger context suggest that both share history & to a large extent customs and culture. Both stand unmatched in their support for this idea. Does it mean that this high level of support refer to the changing attitudes of their youth towards their traditional marriage systems? May it be considered as a reaction to the traditional system? People in developing countries generally appreciate the change. They attach high hopes with the 'change'. As it is a 'new' way of selecting the spouse, that is probably the reason of its popularity among Indo-Pak respondents?

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis Turn Frustrated with Netanyahu

The popularity of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decreased this year, according to a poll by Dialog published in *Haaretz*. 46 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with Netanyahu's leadership, while 42 per cent are satisfied.

February 11, 2010

JAPAN & KOREA

Japanese Government Stays Below 50% Mark

Yukio Hatoyama's administration has not rebounded from a rapid slump in popularity, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 41.4 per cent of respondents approve of the current cabinet, while 45.1 per cent disapprove of its work. Responses are practically unchanged since January.

February 11, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Slight Drop for Heavily Popular Russian Leaders

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev holds a high level of public support in Russia, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. 75 per cent of respondents approve of Medvedev's performance, down three points since December.

February 10, 2010

Russians Say Yanukovych Will Benefit Their Country

People in Russia say Ukrainian president-elect Viktor Yanukovych will serve the interests of their own country, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 52 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

February 12, 2010

More Slovenians Content with Government

The popularity of Slovenia's current government has risen considerably this year, according to a poll by Ninamedia. 44.9 per cent of respondents say the work of the current administration has been successful so far, up 9.9 points since December.

February 13, 2010

WEST EUROPE

French Endorse Vote for Non-EU Foreigners

Most French adults think foreigners born in countries not in the European Union (EU) who reside in France should be allowed to vote in local elections, according to a poll by

CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 55 per cent of respondents share this view, while 42 per cent disagree.

February 07, 2010

Dutch Divided on Afghanistan Mission

People in the Netherlands are split on their support for the country's military mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Maurice de Hond. 49 per cent of respondents endorse the Afghan commitment, whereas 45 per cent do not.

February 08, 2010

Britons Ponder Changing Electoral System

Two-in-five adults in Britain would change the current electoral system, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would cast a ballot in favour of the alternative vote system in a referendum, while 31 per cent would retain the first past the post approach.

February 07, 2010

Tories Drop to 38%, Still Lead in Britain

The Conservative party is holding on to the top spot in Britain's political scene, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 38 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in the next election to the House of Commons, down two points since late January.

February 12, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

In U.S., Unemployment Jumps to Top Problem Status

The percentage of Americans mentioning unemployment as the most important problem facing the United States rose nine percentage points in the past month, from 22% to 31%, and has nearly doubled since December. As recently as November 2008, the figure was in the single digits.

February 12, 2010

Voters Divided Over Obama vs. Republican Candidate in 2012

Registered voters are about equally divided as to whether they would more likely vote to re-elect Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, or vote for the Republican candidate. 44 percent will favor Obama while 42 percent will favor a republican candidate.

February 11, 2010

Americans See Life Through Rosiest Lens in Two Years

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Life Evaluation Index reached a new high of 50.3 in January, pushing past the 50.0 threshold for the first time since Gallup and Healthways began tracking well-being daily.

February 11, 2010

Parties Tied in 2010 Midterm Election Preferences

Republicans and Democrats are now tied at 45% in registered voters' preferences for which party's congressional candidate they would support "if the elections for Congress were being held today." Since last fall, the two major parties have been closely matched on this important gauge of the 2010 midterm elections, with neither achieving more than a four percentage-point lead. In mid-2009, the Democrats led by six points.

February 9, 2010

Midterm Election Challenges for Both Parties

Nine months ahead of the midterm elections, voters have conflicted attitudes about both political parties. Opinions of the Republican Party have improved significantly, and for the first time in years the GOP's favorable ratings nearly equal the Democratic Party's. Voting intentions for the fall elections also remain closely divided. However, the Democratic Party is still better regarded in many respects than is the GOP and far more people continue to blame the Republicans than the Democrats for the current state of the economy.

February 12, 2010

Americans OK with Openly Gay Soldiers

A proposal to repeal the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy is supported by two-thirds of Americans, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 66 per cent of respondents agree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.

February 13, 2010

Six in 10 Say Obama Has Spent Too Little Time on Economy

Six in 10 Americans (60%) believe that President Barack Obama has not devoted enough time to economic problems, 33% say he has spent the right amount of time on the issue, and another 5% say he has spent too much time. A majority of Americans are also dissatisfied with Obama's time allocation on healthcare and foreign policy, but views are mixed on whether he has spent too much or too little time on each.

February 10, 2010

Americans Split on Legalizing Euthanasia

There is no clear consensus on whether euthanasia should be legalized in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 42 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 36 per cent are opposed.

February 11, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Brazilians Decidedly Oppose Abortion

About three quarters of people in Brazil are against abortion, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 73.5 per cent of respondents share this view, while 22.7 per cent are in favour of this practice.

February 12, 2010

Venezuelans Say Country is on Wrong Track

Most people in Venezuela have a negative perception of the country's state of affairs, according to a poll by Hinterlaces. 61 per cent of respondents say the Venezuela is heading on the wrong direction.

February 10, 2010

Venezuelans Would Shun Pro-Chávez Candidates

People in Venezuela are not keen on having a legislature controlled by politicians akin to current president Hugo Chávez, according to a poll by Hinterlaces. 51 per cent of respondents would like the National Assembly to have a balance of political forces, while 25 per cent would prefer a pro-government majority.

February 08, 2010

Lula's Favoured Candidate Gains in Brazil

Dilma Rousseff, the Brazilian presidential candidate favoured by incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has gained momentum at the start of the year, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 27.8 per cent of respondents would vote for Rousseff of the ruling Worker's Party (PT), up 6.1 points since November.

February 08, 2010

Chileans Expect Good Piñera Administration

Most people in Chile expect the government of president-elect Sebastián Piñera to be good, according to a poll by *La Tercera*. 62 per cent of respondents share high expectations regarding the new president, while 24 per cent think his performance will be just average.

February 09, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Americans, Britons Question Iraq War Deadline

Many people in the United States and Britain are skeptical about the scheduled timetable for the end of the Iraq War, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 31 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 21 per cent of respondents in Britain—are very or moderately confident that all U.S. forces will withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

February 09, 2010

Global Perceptions of U.S. Leadership Improve in 2009

Perceptions of U.S. leadership worldwide improved significantly from 2008 to 2009. The U.S.-Global Leadership Project, a partnership between the Meridian International Center and Gallup, finds that a median of 51% of the world approves of the job performance of the current leadership of the U.S., up from a median of 34% in 2008.

February 10, 2010

Global Poll Finds Decline in Positive Views of Canada

Public views of Canada's influence have worsened during the last year, particularly in the USA, Britain, and China, according to a new worldwide BBC World Service poll across 18 countries.

February 11, 2010

The centre-right Old dogs and new tricks

"THIS financial crisis", said Daniel Cohn-Bendit in 2008, "is for capitalist neoliberals what Chernobyl was for the nuclear lobby." As the recession began claiming the livelihoods of ordinary workers, other politicians of the left avoided the incendiary glee of the German MEP and former street fighter. Still, many shared his expectation of a popular backlash against their foes on the right.

February 11, 2010

New Global Poll Shows Wide Enthusiasm for Online Dating

As Valentine's Day approaches, a new BBC World Service global poll shows that almost one in three (30%) web users regard the Internet as a good place to find a boyfriend or girlfriend.

February 13, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis Turn Frustrated with Netanyahu

February 11, 2010

The popularity of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decreased this year, according to a poll by Dialog published in *Haaretz*. 46 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with Netanyahu's leadership, while 42 per cent are satisfied.

In February 2009, Israeli voters renewed the Knesset. The Likud party, led by Netanyahu, secured 27 seats in the legislature. The far-right Israel Our Home, the Labour party, the International Organization of Torah-observant Sephardic Jews (Shas), United Torah Judaism, and the Jewish Home joined Likud in a coalition. In March, Netanyahu was sworn in as prime minister.

Netanyahu served as prime minister from June 1996 to July 1999, and resigned from Ariel Sharon's cabinet—where he held the finance portfolio—after opposing the "Disengagement Plan."

On Feb. 9, the Iranian government announced it has begun enriching uranium to a higher level than previously disclosed. While Iran maintains that its uranium-enriching operations are only for civilian purposes—in this case to produce medical isotopes—Israel accuses the country of wanting to assemble nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu reacted to Iran's announcement, saying, "I believe that what is required right now is tough action from the international community. This means not moderate sanctions, or watered-down sanctions. This means crippling sanctions, and these sanctions must be applied right now."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied with the performance of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister?

	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Yes	42%	50%
No	46%	35%

Source: Dialog / Haaretz

Methodology: Interviews with 491 Israeli adults, conducted on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

JAPAN & KOREA

Japanese Government Stays Below 50% Mark

February 11, 2010

Yukio Hatoyama's administration has not rebounded from a rapid slump in popularity, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 41.4 per cent of respondents approve of the current cabinet, while 45.1 per cent disapprove of its work. Responses are practically unchanged since January.

In August 2009, Japanese voters renewed the House of Representatives. Final results gave the DPJ a victory with 308 of the 480 lower house seats at stake. Hatoyama, the DPJ leader, was sworn in as prime minister in September.

Aside from a brief period in the 1990s, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had administered Japan's government for more than five decades.

The former LDP-led government was marred by corruptions scandals. The new government has been the subject of suspicions as well.

In December, Hatoyama was criticized after it was revealed that political donations registered under the names of several individuals actually came from his mother. The Japanese prime minister has acknowledged receiving a monthly contribution of about \$164,000 U.S. from his mother, but vowed to pay back taxes and penalties amounting to about \$6.5 million U.S.

In January, three current and former aides of Ichiro Ozawa, the DPJ's secretary general, were arrested and charged with falsifying information in party fundraising reports. The three men were identified as Mitsutomo Ikeda, current DPJ lawmaker Tomohiro Ishikawa, and Takanori Okubo.

On Feb. 8, Ozawa confirmed that he will not leave his post, declaring, "I asked if I could remain in my current post, and the prime minister said yes, he wanted me to continue giving my best."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Yukio Hatoyama's cabinet?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Approve	41.4%	41.5%	47.2%
Disapprove	45.1%	44.1%	38.1%

Source: Kyodo News

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,012 Japanese adults, conducted on Feb. 5 and Feb. 6, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

EAST EUROPE

Slight Drop for Heavily Popular Russian Leaders

February 10, 2010

Russian president Dmitry Medvedev holds a high level of public support in Russia, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. 75 per cent of respondents approve of Medvedev's performance, down three points since December.

In addition, 78 per cent of respondents approve of Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin's performance, down five points in a month.

Russian voters renewed the State Duma in December 2007. United Russia (YR)—whose candidate list was headed by then president Putin—secured 64.1 per cent of the vote and 315 of the legislature's 450 seats. On that same month, Putin, who had been in office since 2000, endorsed Dmitry Medvedev as a presidential candidate, and Medvedev said it would be of the "utmost importance" to have Putin as prime minister.

In March 2008, Medvedev easily won Russia's presidential election with 70.28 per cent of the vote. In May, Medvedev was sworn in as president. His nomination of Putin as prime minister was confirmed by the State Duma in a 392-56 vote.

Last month, Medvedev discussed an arms reduction deal with the United States, saying, "Ninety-five per cent of issues have been coordinated. I have rather optimistic expectations regarding the treaty. As regards the document, President [Barack] Obama and I clearly outlined the limits—what we may not do and what they may not do. Everything is clear here."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Russian president Dmitry Medvedev's performance?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	75%	78%	74%
Disapprove	23%	19%	23%

Do you approve or disapprove of Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin's performance?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	78%	83%	79%
Disapprove	21%	15%	19%

Source: Yury Levada Analytical Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted from Jan. 20 to Feb. 1, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

Russians Say Yanukovych Will Benefit Their Country

February 12, 2010

People in Russia say Ukrainian president-elect Viktor Yanukovych will serve the interests of their own country, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 52 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

Only 11 per cent of respondents say defeated Ukrainian presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko would be beneficial for Russia.

A series of public demonstrations took place in Kiev after the November 2004 presidential run-off. The Ukrainian Supreme Court eventually invalidated the results of the second round, and ordered a special re-vote. Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko—whose supporters wore orange-coloured clothing at events and rallies—received 51.99 per cent of all cast ballots, defeating Yanukovych.

In 2006, the PR secured 186 seats in the Supreme Council. Yanukovych eventually became prime minister in a coalition government with the Socialist Party (SPU) and the KPU. After a long political stalemate and disagreements between the president and prime minister, a new legislative ballot took place in September 2007.

Final election results released in October gave the "orange forces"—including the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Yushchenko's People's Union-Our Ukraine (NS-NU)—228 seats, while Yanukovych and his allies took control of 202 seats. In December, Tymoshenko was ratified as prime minister, with the support of 225 lawmakers.

In September 2008, Ukraine's governing coalition split in great part due to disagreements over a Georgia-Russia conflict. In the days following an incursion by Russian forces into South Ossetia, a Georgian breakaway province, Yushchenko asked the government to fiercely condemn Russia's actions in Georgia, but Tymoshenko refused to take a strong stance against Russia.

Yushchenko left the coalition as a result. A new parliamentary election was scheduled for December 2008, but was later postponed indefinitely on account of the global economic crisis.

The first round of this year's presidential election took place on Jan. 17. Final results gave Yanukovich a first place finish with 35.32 per cent of the vote, followed by Tymoshenko with 25.05 per cent. Since no candidate garnered more than 50 per cent of all cast ballots, a run-off took place on Feb. 7.

Yanukovich won the run-off with 48.95 per cent of the vote, defeating Tymoshenko.

On Feb. 10, Yanukovich asked Tymoshenko to tender her resignation as prime minister in order to avoid "a new crisis," adding, "I call on the prime minister to go into opposition."

Polling Data

The second round of the presidential election in Ukraine features Viktor Yanukovich and Yulia Tymoshenko. Which of these presidential candidates do you think would be better for the national interests of Russia?

Viktor Yanukovich	52%
Yulia Tymoshenko	11%
Neither / Don't know who they are	19%
Hard to answer	18%

Source: Russian Public Opinion Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

More Slovenians Content with Government

February 13, 2010

The popularity of Slovenia's current government has risen considerably this year, according to a poll by Ninamedia. 44.9 per cent of respondents say the work of the current administration has been successful so far, up 9.9 points since December.

In September 2008, Slovenian voters renewed the State Chamber. Final results gave the Social Democracy (SD) party 30.45 per cent of the vote and 29 seats, followed by the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) with 29.26 per cent and 28 seats.

In November, Slovenian president Danilo Tuerk named SD leader Borut Pahor as prime minister-designate. The State Chamber approved the nomination in a 59-24 vote. Pahor took over as prime minister, presiding over a coalition encompassing the SD, For Real (Zares), the Democratic Party of Retired People of Slovenia (DeSUS), and the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS).

On Feb. 4, the government adopted a budget including aggressive job cuts in the public sector, which currently employs 160,000 people. Slovenia's population is roughly 2 million.

Slovenian development minister Mitja Gaspari commented on other aspects of the budget, saying, "We will decide later on which public companies or properties will be sold taking into account only the economic rather than the national interests."

Polling Data

How do you assess the work of the government?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Successful	44.9%	35.0%	38.4%
Unsuccessful	25.5%	58.3%	56.4%
Not sure	29.6%	6.3%	5.2%

Source: Ninamedia

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 700 Slovenian adults, conducted from Jan. 20 to Jan. 22, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

WEST EUROPE

French Endorse Vote for Non-EU Foreigners

February 07, 2010

Most French adults think foreigners born in countries not in the European Union (EU) who reside in France should be allowed to vote in local elections, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 55 per cent of respondents share this view, while 42 per cent disagree.

French residents who were born in EU countries currently have the right to vote in municipal and European elections. Other foreign-born French residents do not have that same right.

In May 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy, candidate for the centre-right Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) and former interior minister, won the presidential run-off with 53.06 per cent of the vote. Sarkozy appointed François Fillon—who had been his adviser and presidential campaign leader—as prime minister.

Last month, the opposition Socialist Party (PS) introduced a bill to allow French residents born in non-EU countries to participate in local elections. PS leader Martine Aubry said she expects the government to support the initiative since it was one of Sarkozy's campaign promises, declaring, "The president said he was in favour, well then, he should make sure it passes."

Polling Data

People who were born in countries that belong to the European Union (EU) and reside in France have the right to vote in municipal and European elections. Do you favour or oppose allowing people who were born in countries that do not belong to the EU and reside in France to vote in local elections (i.e. municipal, cantonal and regional)?

Favour	55%
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Oppose	42%
Not sure	3%

Source: CSA / Le Parisien

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 807 French adults, conducted on Jan. 13, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Dutch Divided on Afghanistan Mission

February 08, 2010

People in the Netherlands are split on their support for the country's military mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Maurice de Hond. 49 per cent of respondents endorse the Afghan commitment, whereas 45 per cent do not.

Afghanistan has been the main battleground in the war on terrorism. The conflict began in October 2001, after the Taliban regime refused to hand over Osama bin Laden without evidence of his participation in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

At least 1,602 soldiers—including 21 Dutch—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Dutch voters renewed the Second Chamber in November 2006. The governing Christian-Democratic Appeal (CDA)—led by current minister president Jan Peter Balkenende—secured 41 out of 150 seats. In February 2007, a coalition encompassing the CDA, the Labour Party (PvdA) of Wouter Bos, and the Christian Union (CU) of Andre Rouvouet was assembled.

In November 2007, the Dutch cabinet agreed on the continuation of the military mission in Afghanistan until December 2010. Nearly 2,000 Dutch soldiers are currently deployed in Afghanistan, most of them in the southern Uruzgan province.

In October 2009, the Second Chamber voted, after an intense debate, against renewing the country's troop commitment in Uruzgan beyond December 2010.

On Jan. 27, Ivo Daalder, the U.S. permanent representative to NATO, asked Dutch lawmakers to extend the mission in Uruzgan beyond 2010, saying, "We are at a critical juncture in this operation, and 2010 is clearly the year in which we're either going to turn the corner and move in a fundamentally different direction and succeed, or not. This is therefore not the time to start decreasing effort. It is the time to maintain, if not expand, the effort."

Polling Data

Dutch soldiers have now been active in the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan for several years. The Dutch troops are active at both rebuilding the area and suppressing the Taliban. Does the mission in Uruzgan have your support?

Yes	49%
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No	45%
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Source: Maurice de Hond

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Dutch adults, conducted on Jan. 30, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Britons Ponder Changing Electoral System

February 07, 2010

Two-in-five adults in Britain would change the current electoral system, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would cast a ballot in favour of the alternative vote system in a referendum, while 31 per cent would retain the first past the post approach.

Under the first past the post system, candidates win seats in the House of Commons by getting more votes than any rival in a specific constituency.

Earlier this month, British prime minister Gordon Brown proposed adopting the alternative vote system, which allows voters to rank their first, second and third preference in a specific constituency so that, if no candidate gets 50 per cent of the first-choice votes, the second and third choices are added to the tallies until a candidate achieves a majority.

Brown explained the rationale for the proposed change, declaring, "The current movement for constitutional change and new politics is of historic importance. It signals the demand for a decisive shift in the balance of power in Britain, a long overdue transfer of sovereignty from those who govern to those who are governed, from the old outdated sovereignty to a modern popular sovereignty, not just tidying up our constitution but transforming it."

If the Labour party forms the government after this year's general election, Brown has proposed holding a referendum on whether to change the electoral system in October 2011.

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

If there were a referendum and given what you currently know about the two systems, how would you vote in a referendum if the question were: Do you think General Elections in the UK should use the 'first past the post' or the 'alternative vote' system?

Alternative vote	40%
First past the post	31%
Would not vote	6%
Don't know	23%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,010 British adults, conducted on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Tories Drop to 38%, Still Lead in Britain

February 12, 2010

The Conservative party is holding on to the top spot in Britain's political scene, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 38 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in the next election to the House of Commons, down two points since late January.

The governing Labour party is second with 25 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 20 per cent. 16 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Since December 2005, David Cameron has been the leader of the Conservative party. In December 2007, current parliamentarian Nick Clegg became the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

On Feb. 8, Brown discussed his policies for the National Health Service (NHS)—including a proposal that seeks to provide home care and personalized nursing for cancer sufferers—saying, "These bold plans for reform will be part of our ambition to create an NHS which focuses far more on prevention and early intervention, on keeping people healthy."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

If a General Election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? - Decided Voters with Leaners

	Feb. 10	Jan. 27	Jan. 10
Conservative	38%	40%	40%
Labour	25%	24%	24%
Liberal Democrats	20%	19%	20%
Other	16%	17%	17%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,002 British adults, conducted on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

In U.S., Unemployment Jumps to Top Problem Status

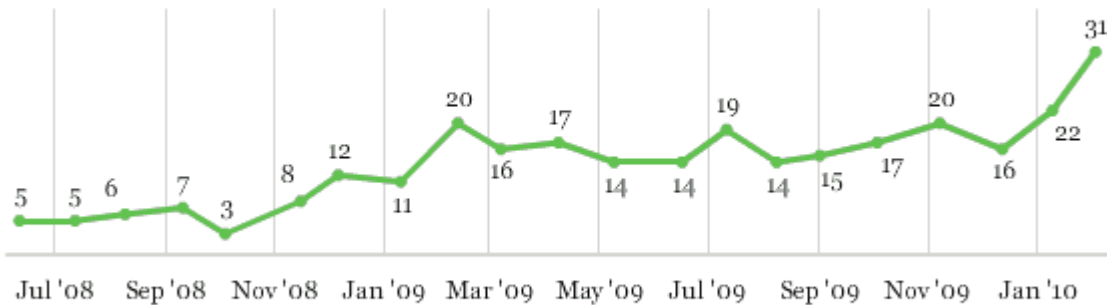
Percentage mentioning unemployment highest since 1983

February 12, 2010

The percentage of Americans mentioning unemployment as the most important problem facing the United States rose nine percentage points in the past month, from 22% to 31%, and has nearly doubled since December. As recently as November 2008, the figure was in the single digits.

Percentage of Americans Mentioning Unemployment as Nation's Most Important Problem

Recent trend



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"The poll also finds 21% of Americans saying they are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States, the lowest figure since March 2009, when it was 19%."

Gallup has not measured a higher percentage of Americans mentioning unemployment since October 1983, when 41% did. The increase comes after President Obama and congressional Democrats have stated that a jobs bill would be their top legislative priority.

Now, unemployment ties the economy in general terms as the most important problem. Until this month, the economy in general ranked alone as the top issue on the list every month since February 2008, when it displaced the Iraq war.

In the latest update, based on a Feb. 1-3 Gallup poll, healthcare is third at 23%, followed by the federal budget deficit (11%) and dissatisfaction with government (10%).

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? [OPEN-ENDED]

Issue	% Mentioning
Unemployment/Jobs	31
Economy in general	31
Healthcare	23
Federal budget deficit	11
Dissatisfaction with government	10
Lack of money	6
Education	4
War (non-specific)/Wars	4
National security	4
Terrorism	4

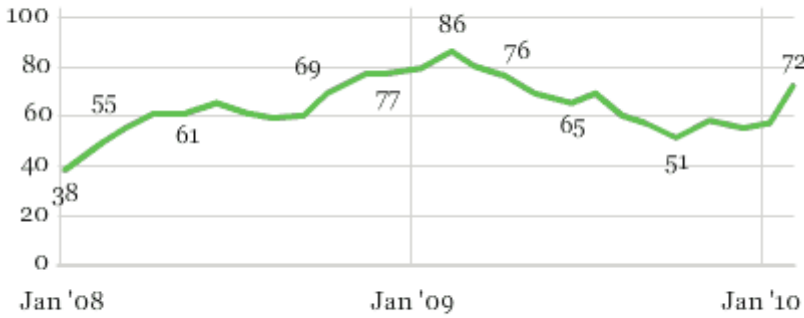
Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

February also saw an increase in mentions of the economy in general terms, from 25% in January to 31%, and the federal budget deficit, from 6% to 11%. This is the first time mentions of the federal budget deficit have reached double figures since July 1996.

The increases in mentions of these specific economic issues result in an increase in the "net" percentage of Americans who named any economic concern (including unemployment, the economy in general, and the federal budget deficit, but also inflation, taxes, and wages) as the nation's most important problem. In all, 72% of Americans mentioned some economic issue in response to the question this month, up sharply from 57% last month and the highest since the 76% recorded last April. The all-time high of 86% mentioning an economic concern was also reached last year, in February.

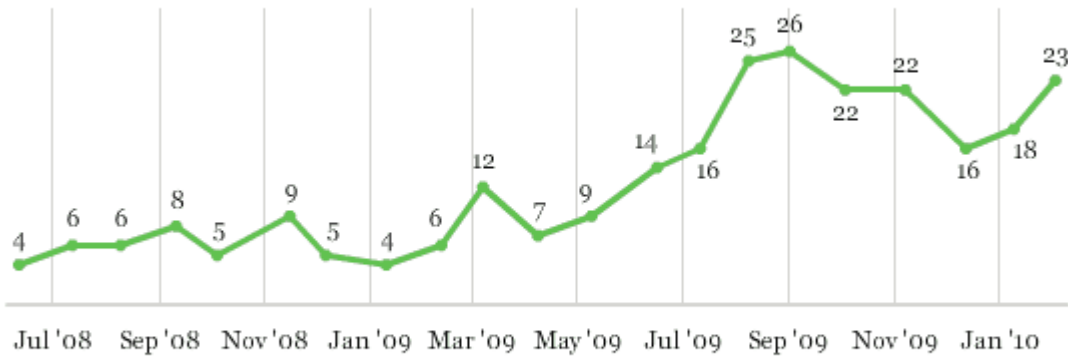
Percentage of Americans Mentioning Any Economic Issue as Nation's Most Important Problem



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Healthcare remains a prominent concern for Americans even as the fate of a reform bill in Congress is increasingly uncertain. In fact, mentions of healthcare actually rose from 18% last month to 23% this month, just below the recent peak of 26% in late August/early September 2009.

Percentage of Americans Mentioning Healthcare as Nation's Most Important Problem



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Satisfaction Drops to 21%

The poll also finds 21% of Americans saying they are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States, the lowest figure since March 2009, when it was 19%. Satisfaction was even lower for most of 2008 and the first few months of 2009, but climbed to as high as 36% last August. Since that time, the percentage satisfied has generally trended downward.

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

Recent trend, 2008-2010



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Satisfaction is low from a historical perspective. The historical Gallup average since 1979 is 40%.

Democrats are currently not highly satisfied with the state of the United States, though, at 33%, they are considerably more satisfied than independents (20%) and Republicans (8%).

Bottom Line

Concerns about unemployment have surged to levels not seen since 1983 and, after subsiding to some degree in recent months, economic issues again dominate Americans' perceptions of the most important problems facing the country. Although public satisfaction with the state of the nation is better than the historically low levels measured in 2008, it is generally trending downward and remains low from a historical perspective. The president and Congress have made job creation their primary focus as they try to boost Americans' spirits heading into the important midterm elections.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,025 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 1-3, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Voters Divided Over Obama vs. Republican Candidate in 2012

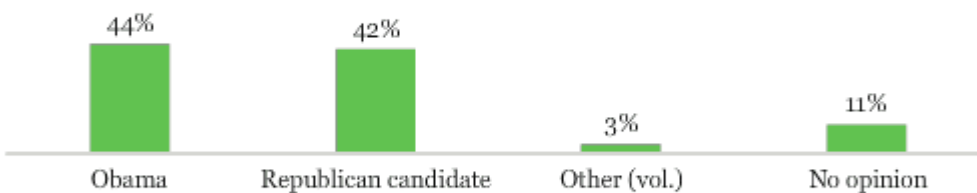
Republicans most often mention Romney, Palin as preferred candidate

February 11, 2010

Registered voters are about equally divided as to whether they would more likely vote to re-elect Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, or vote for the Republican candidate.

If Barack Obama runs for re-election in 2012, in general, are you more likely to vote for Obama or for the Republican Party's candidate for president?

Based on registered voters



Feb. 1-3, 2010

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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These results are based on a Feb. 1-3 Gallup poll. Forty-four percent of U.S. registered voters say they are more likely to vote for Obama, 42% for the Republican candidate, and the remaining 14% are undecided or would vote for another candidate.

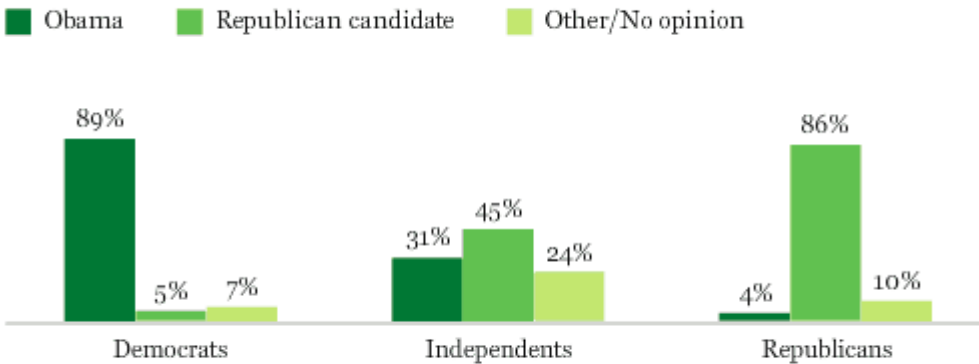
"It is clear at this early date that most Republicans have not developed a preference, with 42% not having an opinion or volunteering that they do not prefer any candidate."

A year into his first term as president, Obama's approval ratings are hovering around 50%. The 50% approval figure has been a strong predictor of an incumbent president's re-election: presidents who averaged 50% or better from January of an election year through Election Day have all been re-elected. This includes George W. Bush, who averaged 51% in 2004, though his approval rating was 48% in Gallup's final pre-election poll.

Most Democratic voters and Republican voters plan to support their own party's candidate for president in the 2012 election. Independents currently show a greater preference for the Republican candidate than for Obama, by 45% to 31%, though about one in four do not have an opinion. However, even with independents leaning in the Republican candidate's direction, Obama is tied among all voters because of the greater proportion of Democratic identifiers in the registered voter population.

Vote Preference for 2010 Presidential Election, by Political Party Affiliation

Based on registered voters



Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

The re-election question pits Obama against an unnamed Republican candidate. Several prominent Republicans have already visited the early caucus and primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire, and later this year, some may announce their intention to seek the party's nomination.

The poll asked Republicans and Republican-leaning independents to name, without prompting, whom they would most like to see as the party's 2012 presidential candidate. It is clear at this early date that most Republicans have not developed a preference, with 42% not having an opinion or volunteering that they do not prefer any candidate.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin are most frequently mentioned, by 14% and 11%, respectively. Seven percent mention Arizona Sen. John McCain, the 2008 nominee. Newly elected Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, former Arkansas Gov. and 2008 candidate Mike Huckabee, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich are each mentioned by at least 3% of Republicans.

Just off the top of your head, which Republican would you most like to see as the party's candidate for president in the 2012 election? [OPEN-ENDED]

Based on Republicans and Republican-leaning independents

	%
Mitt Romney	14
Sarah Palin	11
John McCain	7
Scott Brown	4
Mike Huckabee	3
Newt Gingrich	3
Ron Paul	2
Tim Pawlenty	1
Bob McDonnell	1
Fred Thompson	1
Bobby Jindal	1
Other	10
None/No opinion	42

Feb. 1-3 Gallup poll

GALLUP®

Whereas conservative (15%) and moderate or liberal (14%) Republicans are about equally likely to mention Romney as their preferred nominee, Palin is much more likely to be mentioned by conservatives (14%) than by moderates and liberals (3%). Conservatives generally outnumber moderates and liberals by about 2 to 1 within the Republican Party.

When Gallup asked Republicans last July which of several candidates they would be most likely to support in the 2012 primaries, Romney, Palin, and Huckabee received the most support.

Early tests of nomination preferences often reflect candidates' name recognition as much as their potential viability as candidates. Historically, however, early Republican front-runners usually have won the party's nomination. That did not hold in 2008, however, as Rudy Giuliani typically led early nomination tests but performed poorly in the primaries and caucuses, with McCain emerging as the eventual nominee.

Bottom Line

American voters are at this point about equally divided as to whether they would re-elect Obama or the Republican candidate as president. The current data update Obama's re-election prospects, but generally would not hold much predictive value for the actual election outcome more than two years from now. As the election draws near, such trial-heat races -- in addition to his approval rating -- become more predictive of the ultimate outcome.

Obama's re-election chances partly hinge on whom the Republicans nominate, because it is not clear whether a "generic" Republican (as measured in the current data) would perform better or worse than a specific candidate. At this point, Romney and Palin can be considered the early front-runners for the GOP nomination, a position that has proven advantageous in most past Republican nomination campaigns.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,025 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 1-3, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error is ± 4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 942 registered voters, the maximum margin of error is ± 4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 490 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, the maximum margin of error is ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Americans See Life Through Rosiest Lens in Two Years

New high in life evaluation pushes overall well-being in January to post-financial crisis high

February 11, 2010

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Life Evaluation Index reached a new high of 50.3 in January, pushing past the 50.0 threshold for the first time since Gallup and Healthways began tracking well-being daily.

Gallup-Healthways Life Evaluation Index

Complete trend



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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The Life Evaluation Index, one of six sub-indexes in the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, is calculated using two questions, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Scale, which ask respondents to rate their present and future lives now on a ladder scale with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst possible life and 10 is the best possible life. Depending on their responses, Americans are classified as "thriving," "struggling," or "suffering." Improvements in 2009 versus 2008 on this metric alone compensated for declines across each of the other five areas that together make up the Well-Being Index.

Based on their responses, a new high of 53.3% of American adults were thriving in January, while a new low of 3.0% were suffering. January's Life Evaluation Index score is not only a new high since tracking began in January 2008, but it is also a 10 point improvement from 40.3 in January 2009 and a 5.50 point improvement from 44.8 in January 2008.

Gallup-Healthways Life Evaluation Index Scores

January comparisons since start of measurement

	January 2008	January 2009	January 2010	One year change	Two year change
Life Evaluation Index	44.8	40.3	50.3	10.0	5.5
Rating of life today	6.7	6.5	7.0	0.5	0.3
Expectation of life in five years	7.7	7.6	7.8	0.2	0.1
THRIVING	48.9	44.5	53.3	8.8	4.4
STRUGGLING	47.0	51.4	43.6	-7.8	-3.4
SUFFERING	4.1	4.1	3.0	-1.1	-1.1

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP®

The gains in life evaluation in January 2010 helped to push Americans' overall well-being to its best showing since February 2008. The current 66.8 score also represents a significant improvement from 64.6 in January of last year and is still higher than the pre-financial crisis 66.3 of January 2008.

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Composite Score

Complete trend



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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A Tale of Three Januarys

Because Gallup and Healthways are now in their third year measuring Americans' well-being, it is possible to compare Americans' well-being in January of this year with January of the past two years.

Overall, Americans are faring far better in January 2010 than they were in January 2009 and in many cases better than they were in January 2008 in regard to the six individual sub-indexes that comprise the overall Well-Being Index. In particular, it is worth noting that the Life Evaluation, Emotional Health, Physical Health, and Healthy Behavior Index scores -- all measures that are arguably in the individual's control -- are up from scores in 2009 at the height of the financial crisis. Further, all index scores individuals can influence -- with the exception of the Healthy Behavior Index score -- are up from two years ago. In contrast, the Work Environment and Basic Access Index scores, which are more the result of efforts by employers and communities, are down from 2008 and 2009 scores.

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Scores

January comparisons since start of measurement

	January 2008	January 2009	January 2010	One year change	Two year change
WELL-BEING INDEX COMPOSITE SCORE	66.3	64.6	66.8	2.2	0.5
Well-Being Sub-Indexes					
Life Evaluation Index	44.8	40.3	50.3	10	5.5
Emotional Health Index	78.8	78	79.1	1.1	0.3
Physical Health Index	76.7	76.5	77.1	0.6	0.4
Healthy Behavior Index	63.3	61.2	62.9	1.7	-0.4
Work Environment Index	51.3	49.1	48.9	-0.2	-2.4
Basic Access Index	83	82.4	82.3	-0.1	-0.7

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Each sub-index is based on several specific questions. The following highlights questions that showed the biggest movement from January 2008 to January 2010 within these indexes:

- **Emotional Health:** Significantly more Americans in January 2010 said they learned or did something interesting yesterday (62.2% versus 60.1% in January 2009 and 56.3% in January 2008), possibly reflecting an increasing entrepreneurial or innovative spirit in a climate of continuing job loss.
- **Physical Health:** Fewer Americans reported having a cold in January 2010 (7.4%) than did so in January 2008 (9.9%) and January 2009 (8.4%). This is consistent with Gallup reporting that cold and flu cases in the 2009-2010 cold and flu season are trending lower than in the season prior.
- **Healthy Behavior:** Fewer Americans reported exercising three or per times per week in January 2010 (46.9%) than in January 2008 (49.0%) though still more than in January 2009 (45.6%). This is consistent with year-over-year declines in exercise previously reported by Gallup.
- **Work Environment:** Despite a decline in the overall Work Environment Index score, which is made up of four individual questions, more Americans report that their supervisor treats them more like a partner than a boss: 57.8% said so in January 2010 versus 56.4% in January 2009 and 55.8% in January 2008.
- **Basic Access:** Significantly fewer Americans in January 2010 say the city or area where they live is getting better as a place to live (54.9%) than did so in January 2008 (59.0%). Still, this is up from January 2009 (52.8%).

Bottom Line

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index reveals some encouraging signs about Americans' state of mind, even as hard indicators such as unemployment paint a bleak picture. When asked to rate their own lives, now and in the future, Americans give their best assessments since Gallup and Healthways started tracking well-being daily in January 2008. The new high in thriving and new low in suffering scores recorded in January serve as a powerful sign of Americans' resiliency even as many still struggle with job loss and other consequences of the financial downturn that gripped the country in 2009.

Three years of well-being tracking highlights that Americans are in many ways faring far better in January 2010 than they were a year ago, and in some cases, they are making gains over January 2008 when the recession was just beginning. In general, measures that individuals can have an effect on at the personal level are improving more so than measures employers and leaders can influence at the organization and community level. Because the sum total of these elements is the best measure of well-being, employers and leaders have the opportunity to join individuals in doing all they can to move these measures for the better.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 29,483 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 1-31, 2010, and similar samples in months prior to that. For results based on the

total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 2 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index™

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index measures the daily pulse of U.S. well-being and provides best-in-class solutions for a healthier world. To learn more, please visit well-beingindex.com.

Parties Tied in 2010 Midterm Election Preferences

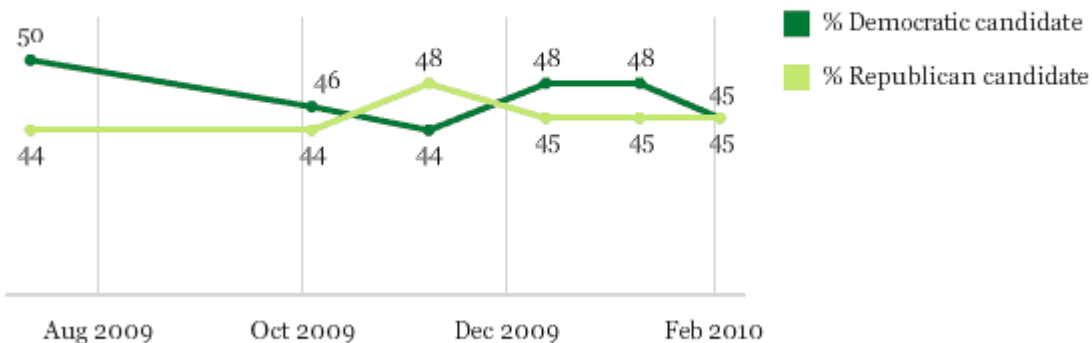
Registered voters split at 45% in party preferences for Congress

February 9, 2010

Republicans and Democrats are now tied at 45% in registered voters' preferences for which party's congressional candidate they would support "if the elections for Congress were being held today." Since last fall, the two major parties have been closely matched on this important gauge of the 2010 midterm elections, with neither achieving more than a four percentage-point lead. In mid-2009, the Democrats led by six points.

Generic Ballot for Congress

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district -- [the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate]? (If unsure): As of today, do you lean more toward -- [the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate]?



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The closeness of the two parties over the past several months on this "generic ballot" measure is similar to that found in most Gallup readings from 1994 through 2005 (spanning the period when Republicans won control of the U.S. House and subsequently maintained it for more than a decade).

"While voter enthusiasm today is fairly high, overall, more than half of Republicans (including independents who lean Republican) say they are 'more enthusiastic' about voting, compared with 41% of Democrats/Democratic leaners."

Closer to elections, Gallup bases its generic-ballot results on voters deemed most likely to vote. Because Republicans are generally more likely than Democrats to turn out to vote, particularly in midterm elections, their positioning improves by several points when the generic ballot is based on likely voters rather than registered voters. Thus, a tie between Democrats and Republicans among registered voters probably corresponds to a Republican lead among likely voters.

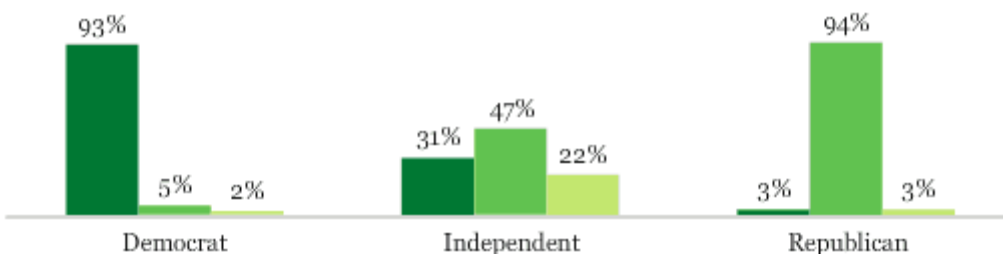
Independents Currently in GOP Corner

While Democrats outnumber Republicans nationwide among registered voters, it is independents' preference for Republicans, 47% to 31%, that is responsible for the tie between the parties. However, a sizable 22% of independents are unsure or plan to vote for neither party -- highlighting the potential for volatility in voter preferences in the months ahead. At the same time, the vast majority of Republicans and Democrats plan to vote for their own party's candidate.

2010 Generic Congressional Ballot Vote Preference, by Political Party

Based on registered voters

■ Democratic candidate ■ Republican candidate ■ Other/Undecided



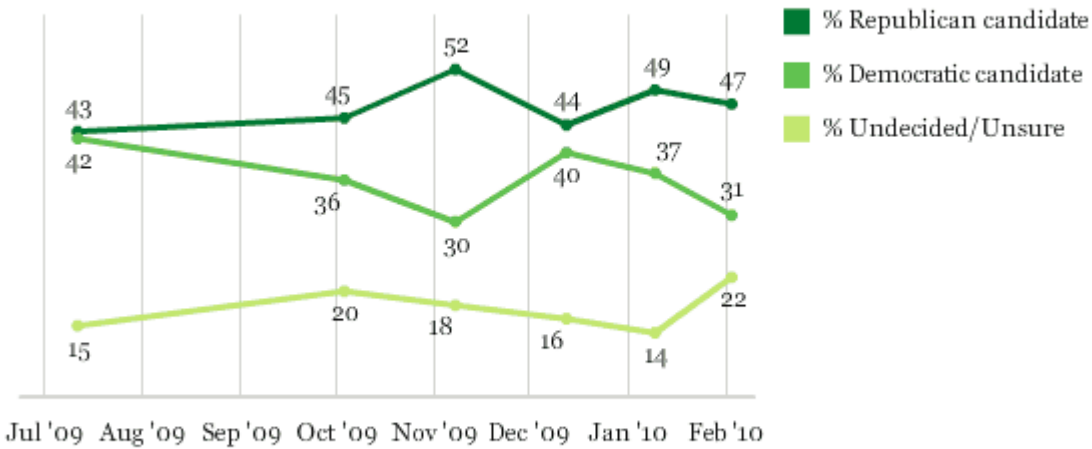
Feb. 1-3, 2010

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Republicans have tied or led Democrats among independents in every Gallup generic ballot measure for the 2010 midterms, starting with the initial measurement in July 2009. Although independents' support for Democratic candidates slipped six percentage points in the past month (from 37% to 31%), the percentage favoring the Republican candidate also fell slightly, while the percentage undecided about their 2010 vote rose to 22%, the highest to date.

2010 Generic Congressional Ballot Vote Preference, Among Independents

Based on registered voters

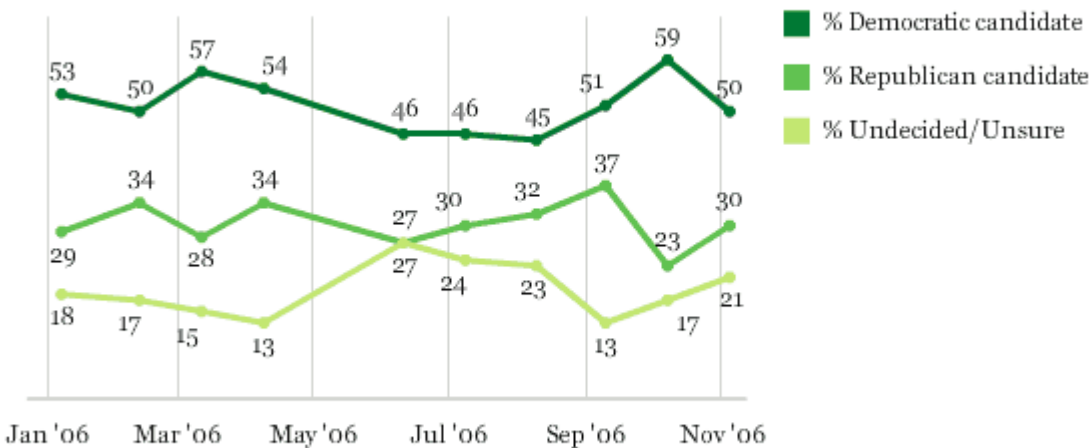


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The congressional voting preferences of independents leading up to the 2010 midterms have thus far been markedly different from independents' preferences prior to the 2006 elections -- highlighting the changed political climate this year. In 2006 polling from January through early November, Gallup found independents consistently favoring the Democrats, in some cases by substantial margins. That year the Democrats recaptured control of the U.S. House, gaining 30 seats. (Independents also tended to prefer Democratic congressional candidates in 2008, a year when the Democrats expanded their majority status.)

2006 Generic Congressional Ballot Vote Preference, Among Independents

Based on registered voters



GALLUP®

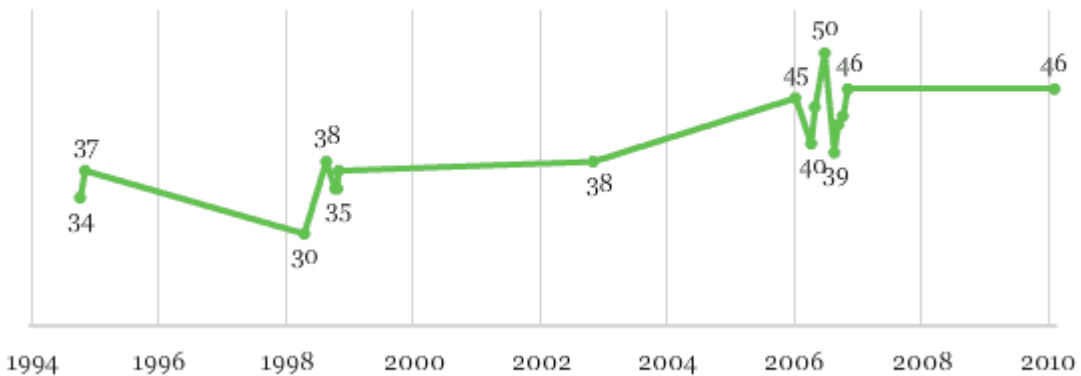
Voter Enthusiasm Apparent Early This Election Year

Nearly half of all national adults today (46%) say that, compared to previous elections, they are "more enthusiastic" about voting. Another 39% are less enthusiastic, while 14% volunteer that they feel the same. The percentage more enthusiastic is similar to the levels seen through most of the 2006 midterm election year. However, it is higher than what Gallup found in 1994 and 1998, even right before those years' elections.

Enthusiasm About Voting in Midterm Election Years, 1994-2010

Based on national adults

■ % More enthusiastic

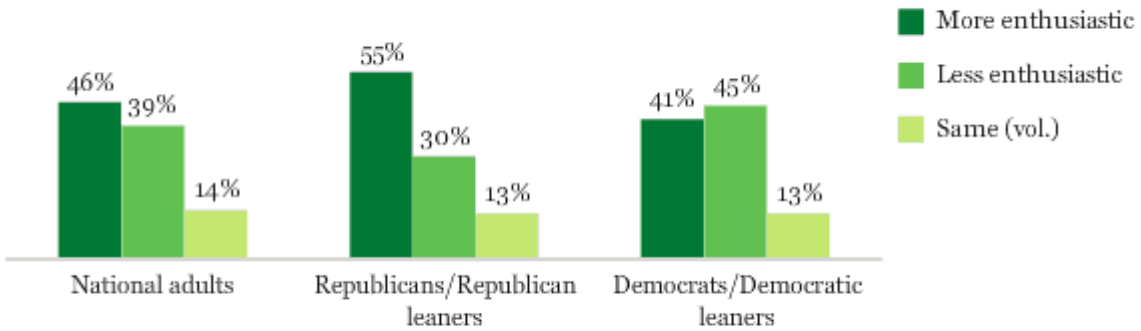


GALLUP®

While voter enthusiasm today is fairly high, overall, more than half of Republicans (including independents who lean Republican) say they are "more enthusiastic" about voting, compared with 41% of Democrats/Democratic leaners.

Enthusiasm About Voting in 2010

Compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?



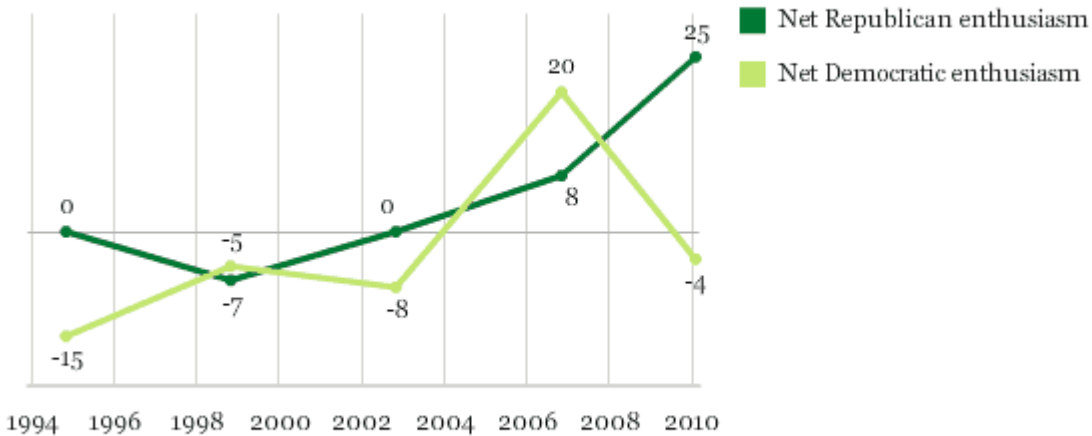
Feb. 1-3, 2010
(vol.) = Volunteered response

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The resulting levels of "net enthusiasm" are +25 for Republicans (55% more enthusiastic minus 30% less enthusiastic) and -4 for Democrats. This is a reversal from 2006, when Democrats were more enthusiastic than Republicans, and represents the widest enthusiasm gap seen for any midterm election since 1994. Differences in net enthusiasm between the parties usually indicate a stronger performance at the polls for the party with the advantage.

Voter Enthusiasm -- Today vs. October/November in 1994-2006 Midterm Elections

Nets based on percentage more enthusiastic about voting minus percentage less enthusiastic



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Bottom Line

As of now, Republicans are positioned to do well in the November congressional elections. Not only are registered voters evenly split in their preferences for Republican and Democratic candidates -- an indication that Republicans would lead Democrats among likely voters if the elections were held today -- but Republican voters are far more enthusiastic about voting this year than are Democrats.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,025 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 1-3, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Midterm Election Challenges for Both Parties

Obama's Ratings Are Flat, Wall Street's Are Abysmal

February 12, 2010

Nine months ahead of the midterm elections, voters have conflicted attitudes about both political parties. Opinions of the Republican Party have improved significantly, and for the first time in years the GOP's favorable ratings nearly equal the Democratic Party's. Voting intentions for the fall elections also remain closely divided. However, the Democratic Party is still better regarded in many respects than is the GOP and far more people continue to blame the Republicans than the Democrats for the current state of the economy. And despite frustrations with his stewardship of the economy, bottom-line opinions of Barack Obama have not changed in the past few months.

Difficult Political Terrain for Both Parties				
	Nov <u>2006</u>	June <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
2010 Midterm*	%	%	%	%
Vote Democrat	48	52	47	45
Vote Republican	40	37	42	42
Other/Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
	Jan <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
Favorable rating	%	%	%	%
Democratic Party	62	59	49	48
Republican Party	40	40	40	46
	Oct <u>1994</u>	Jun <u>2002</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
Want to see your incumbent reelected?*	%	%	%	%
Yes	49	58	59	49
No	29	23	28	31
Not running/Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100	100
	Oct <u>2009</u>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>
Obama job approval	%	%	%	%
Approve	52	51	49	49
Disapprove	36	36	42	39
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
* Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

The wild card in voter opinion at this point is the level of anti-incumbent sentiment, which is as extensive as it has been in 16 years of Pew Research Center surveys. About three-in-ten voters (31%) say they do not want to see their own representative reelected, which is well above the average percentage expressing this view in 29 previous surveys (23%). The only recent midterm campaigns when anti-incumbent sentiment equaled its current levels were in 2006 and 1994 -- which culminated in elections that changed the balance of power on Capitol Hill.

The climate of opinion today, however, is different than it was prior to those historic campaigns in two important ways. First, through most of the 2006 campaign the opposition party was viewed more favorably than the incumbent party. In 1994, both parties were favorably rated by substantial majorities of the public; currently, neither is.

Second, opinions about Barack Obama are not nearly as negative as were views of George W. Bush in 2006 and are somewhat better than opinions of Bill Clinton were for much of 1994. Currently, slightly more voters say they think of their vote as a vote for Obama (24%) than as a vote against him (20%). Throughout most of 2006, roughly twice as many said they were voting

"against" Bush as "for" him. And in three surveys during the fall of 1994, slightly higher percentages said they thought of their vote as against Clinton rather than for him.

	Democratic Party		Republican Party		<i>Dem-Rep diff in % favorable</i>
	<i>Fav %</i>	<i>Un-fav %</i>	<i>Fav %</i>	<i>Un-fav %</i>	
Feb 2010	48	44	46	46	+2
Aug 2009	49	40	40	50	+9
Apr 2009	59	34	40	51	+19
Jan 2009	62	32	40	55	+22
Previous elections					
Oct 2008	57	33	40	50	+17
Oct 2006	53	36	41	50	+12
Jun 2004	54	36	51	40	+3
Dec 2002	54	37	59	33	-5
Sep 2000	60	35	53	40	+7
Oct 1998	56	38	52	42	+4
Jul 1994	62	34	63	33	-1

Q25a-b. 1998 and 2000 figures based on registered voters.

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 3-9 among 1,383 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds continuing public dissatisfaction with the economy and disapproval of major policies to address it. Yet President Obama's overall job approval ratings have remained steady in recent months. Currently, 49% approve and 39% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president, which is largely unchanged from surveys since October.

However, there is growing impatience with Obama's handling of the economy, which most Americans continue to regard as the most important problem facing the nation. Currently, as many say Obama's economic policies have made economic conditions worse (27%) as say those policies have made things better (24%). In most surveys last year, modestly higher percentages thought Obama's policies had made conditions better rather than worse. Notably, a substantial proportion of Americans (45%) continue to say Obama's policies have not had an effect so far or that it is too soon to tell -- and that figure has not come down since October.

In the new survey, just 38% of Americans say they approve of Obama's \$800 billion economic stimulus plan that Congress approved a year ago; 49% disapprove of the plan. In October, opinion about the stimulus was evenly divided and last June a clear majority (55%) approved of the plan.

Half of the public (50%) says Obama could be doing more to improve the economy, up from just 30% last March. Yet even more people expressed this view about George W. Bush throughout

most of his first term. And in 1992, fully 76% said that Bush's father, George H.W. Bush, could be doing more to improve economic conditions.

Current Views of Party Strengths: Issues and Image			
	Dem Party	Rep Party	Dem adv.
Can do better job on issue of...	%	%	
Education	48	29	+19
Health care	45	32	+13
Energy problems	44	32	+12
The economy	41	38	+3
The budget deficit	36	42	-6
Terrorist defenses	29	46	-17
Which party...			
Is more concerned about needs of people like me	51	31	+20
Can bring about the changes the country needs	46	34	+12
Selects better candidates for office	42	35	+7
Can better manage the federal government	40	40	0
Is more influenced by lobbyists & special interests	32	40	-8
Q64 & Q65. Figures read across.			

While Americans have grown more critical of Obama with regard to the economy, more still blame the Republican Party (39%) than the Democratic Party (27%) for current economic conditions.

Nonetheless, the Democratic advantage for dealing with the economy has all but disappeared. About four-in-ten (41%) say the Democratic Party could do a better job in dealing with the economy, while about as many (38%) say the GOP could do better. In August, Democrats held a 10-point lead as the party better able to deal with the economy (42% to 32%).

The same pattern is evident on several other issues -- the Democrats have lost ground to the Republicans. Nonetheless, Democrats continue to lead by wide margins on education (by 19 points), health care (13 points) and energy problems (12 points). The Republican Party holds a modest advantage on reducing the budget deficit (six points) as well as a substantial -- and growing -- advantage in dealing with the terrorist threat at home (17 points). Just six months ago, the Republican Party's lead in dealing with terrorism was six points.

Similarly, the Democrats' advantage on several specific image traits has narrowed since 2009. But the Democrats continue to get better ratings than the Republicans on a number of key dimensions, including concern for the average person, the ability to bring about change, selecting

better candidates for office and being less influenced by lobbyists and special interests. However, the GOP has drawn even with the Democrats as the party seen as better able to manage the federal government.

Over the past year, most of the GOP's image gains have come from Republicans themselves and independents. Democrats for the most part remain loyal to their party and continue to overwhelmingly approve of Obama's performance in office. Moreover, a majority of Democrats give their party high marks for standing up for traditional Democratic positions. Fully 63% of Democrats say their party has done an excellent or good job in standing up for the party's traditional positions, such as protecting the interests of minorities and helping the poor and needy. That represents little change from last April, at about the 100-day point in Obama's presidency.

Few Want Congress to Give Up on Health Bills

Most Americans (52%) say the Democratic Party has done a poor job in offering solutions to the country's problems; 40% say the Democrats have done a good job in proposing solutions. But the Republican Party gets even lower marks in this regard: 60% say the GOP has done a poor job offering solutions for national problems while only about half as many (29%) say the GOP has done well.

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Favor current bills	38	14	65	33
Oppose current bills	50	79	24	54
Keep working on a bill	23	34	15	24
Pass nothing	26	44	9	28
Don't know	1	1	0	2
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q76 & 77. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There are signs of public frustration as well with the lack of progress on health care legislation. More Americans continue to generally oppose (50%) than generally favor (38%) the health care bills being discussed in Congress. Yet only about a quarter of the public (26%) prefers that Congress pass nothing and leave the current system as it is. A majority (61%) either favors the current health care bills or would prefer that Congress keep working on a health care bill.

Opposition to increasing the size and influence of government and concern about the federal budget deficit have been key factors in opposition to the health care bills. Those concerns also are evident in other findings in the survey: As has been the case for the past year, more people say they would rather have a smaller government with fewer services (50%) than a bigger government with more services (40%).

Most Prefer Smaller Government With Fewer Services				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
Would you rather have...	%	%	%	%
Bigger gov't/More services	40	24	59	35
Smaller gov't/Fewer services	50	73	28	56
Depends/Don't know	10	2	13	10
	100	100	100	100
Gov't exerting more control over the economy is a...				
Good idea	46	29	62	45
Bad idea	42	61	27	45
Don't know	11	11	11	10
	100	100	100	100
What should the priority be today?				
Spending to help economy recover	47	34	57	51
Reducing the budget deficit	47	63	38	42
Don't know	6	4	5	7
	100	100	100	100

Q35F1, Q36F1 Q38F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Moreover, the public is now evenly divided over whether it is a good idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years. Fewer than half (46%) say this is a good idea, while 42% say it is not. Last March, by a wider margin (54% to 37%), Americans said it was a good idea for the government to exert more control over the economy. Opinion also is split over whether the higher priority for the government should be more spending to help the economy recover (47%) or reducing the budget deficit (47%).

While the public is wary of too much government, it makes an exception when it comes to stricter regulation of major financial companies. A clear majority (59%) says it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business; just 33% say this is a bad idea. Support for tougher regulation of financial firms is as high as it was last April (60% good idea).

There are other indications of a public backlash against large financial institutions. Just 25% say they have a favorable opinion of major U.S. banks and financial institutions while 68% have an unfavorable view. Negative views of large financial institutions are evident across political lines: 72% of Democrats, 68% of independents and 67% of Republicans have an unfavorable impression of such institutions.

Big Banks Are the Focus of Public's Anger				
	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Banking</u>	<u>Partisan</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>bonuses</u>	<u>bailout</u>	<u>gridlock</u>	<u>deficit</u>
	%	%	%	%
Makes you angry	62	48	39	37
Bothers you*	24	38	36	48
Doesn't bother you	12	12	21	13
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

* Bothers you but doesn't make you angry.
 Q66. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Notably, there is considerably more public anger about banks and financial institutions paying large bonuses to their executives than there is over the government bailout of banks, partisan gridlock in Washington or the growing budget deficit.

Fully 62% say they are angry over the large bonuses, while 48% say they are angry over the government bailing out financial institutions that made poor financial decisions. By comparison, fewer than half say they are angry over gridlock between Republicans and Democrats in Washington (39%) and the growing budget deficit (37%).

Other important findings include:

- Most Americans (61%) continue to favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Support for allowing gays to serve in the military has fluctuated very little since 2005.
- Favorable ratings of the Supreme Court slipped from 64% in April 2009 to 58% currently. The survey also finds broad opposition to the Court's recent decision allowing corporations to spend on behalf of candidates in elections; 68% disapprove of the decision while just 17% approve.
- The Tea Party movement gets a mixed review from the general public. A third (33%) say they have a favorable opinion of the Tea Party movement while 25% have an unfavorable opinion; a relatively large minority (42%) have never heard of the group or offer no opinion.
- The public cites economic problems as the most important ones facing the nation -- 31% name unemployment, and 24% the economy generally. Healthcare and the budget deficit are named next most often (13% and 11% respectively).

Americans OK with Openly Gay Soldiers

February 13, 2010

A proposal to repeal the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy is supported by two-thirds of Americans, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 66 per cent of respondents agree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.

In 1993, the U.S. government implemented the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy in the armed forces. Under these guidelines, commanders are forbidden from asking a service member about his or her sexual orientation, and troops are required to keep their sexual orientation a secret.

In an editorial published in 2007 in the *New York Times*, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff John Shalikashvili voiced his support for a new policy, writing, "I now believe that if gay men and lesbians served openly in the United States military, they would not undermine the efficacy of the armed forces. Our military has been stretched thin by our deployments in the Middle East, and we must welcome the service of any American who is willing and able to do the job."

On Jan. 27, during his State of the Union address, U.S. president Barack Obama declared: "This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. It's the right thing to do."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military?

Agree	66%
Disagree	25%
Not sure	9%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 American adults, conducted on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Six in 10 Say Obama Has Spent Too Little Time on Economy

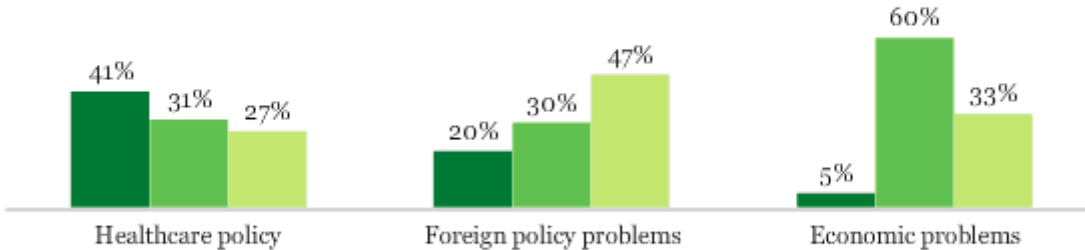
Democrats most satisfied, Republicans most critical of Obama's time allocation

February 10, 2010

Six in 10 Americans (60%) believe that President Barack Obama has not devoted enough time to economic problems, 33% say he has spent the right amount of time on the issue, and another 5% say he has spent too much time. A majority of Americans are also dissatisfied with Obama's time allocation on healthcare and foreign policy, but views are mixed on whether he has spent too much or too little time on each.

Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, not enough time, or the right amount of time dealing with ... ?

■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ Right amount



Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

"These results suggest that Americans clearly want Obama to spend more time on the economy."

Of the three issues tested in the Feb. 1-3 Gallup poll, Americans are most likely to say Obama has spent the right amount of time on foreign policy problems, followed by economic problems and then healthcare policy. Still, the majority of Americans who are dissatisfied with Obama's time allocation in each of the three areas have decidedly different views of whether he has spent too much or too little time on each.

- Americans clearly believe that Obama has not spent enough time dealing with **economic problems**; 60% hold this view, while 5% say he has spent too much time on the economy.
- A plurality of 41% of Americans say Obama has spent too much time on **healthcare policy**, while 31% say he has not spent enough time.
- The reverse pattern prevails in regard to **foreign policy problems**, with slightly more Americans saying he has not spent enough time on foreign policy (30%) than say he has spent too much (20%).

It is significant that less than half of Americans believe the president is spending the right amount of time on any of these three policy areas, and it may reflect the general lack of satisfaction with the way things are going in the country, as well as continuing and deep concerns over the economy, and divided opinions on the healthcare reform effort. Additionally, Obama's approval ratings on handling these three issues reflect a sharply divided public, with well less than half approving of his handling of the economy and healthcare.

Looking ahead, these results suggest that Americans clearly want Obama to spend more time on the economy. Beyond that, the directions for Obama from the American people are less clear.

Partisan Differences

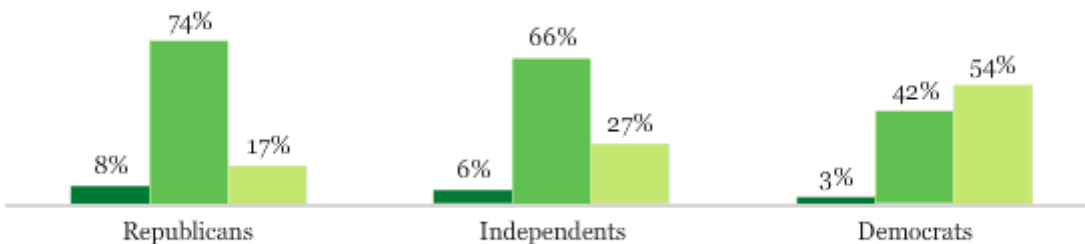
Republicans, independents, and Democrats differ sharply in their views of how Obama has been allocating his time on the three policy issues. In general, as would be expected, Democrats are much more likely than either Republicans or independents to say Obama is spending the right amount of time on each of the three issues.

Economic Problems

Strong majorities of Republicans and independents believe that President Obama has not spent enough time dealing with economic problems. This finding is not surprising, given that more than 7 out of 10 Americans at this point volunteer that economic issues are the most important problems facing the nation, and that economic confidence remains quite low.

Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, not enough time, or the right amount of time dealing with economic problems?

■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ Right amount



Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

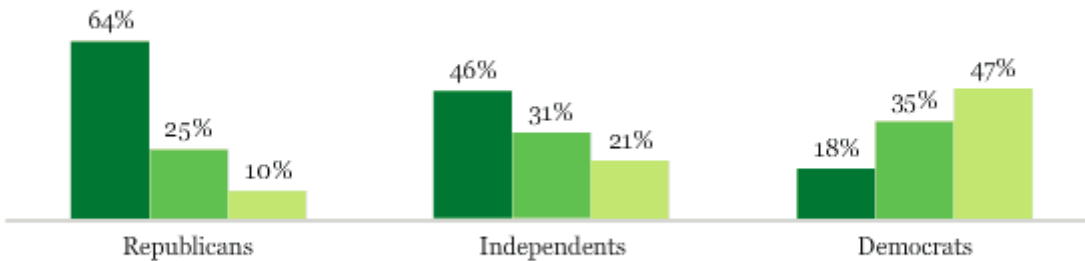
Democrats are more pleased with Obama, with a little over half saying he has spent about the right amount of time on the economy. But almost all of the rest of Democrats (42%) agree with the majorities of Republicans and independents that Obama has not spent enough time on economic issues.

Healthcare Policy

Republicans have the most lopsided views on Obama and healthcare policy, with almost two-thirds saying he has spent too much time on the issue. These findings from rank-and-file Republicans reflect the oft-expressed sentiment from GOP leadership that Obama's (and congressional Democratic leaders') major push on healthcare reform over the last six months has been too much, too quick.

Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, not enough time, or the right amount of time dealing with healthcare policy?

■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ Right amount



Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

Independents' views on Obama and healthcare tilt in the same direction as Republicans', but are more mixed overall.

Democrats also have mixed feelings on Obama's time allocation on healthcare policy, but in a different direction. Less than half (47%) of Democrats perceive that Obama has spent the right amount of time on healthcare.

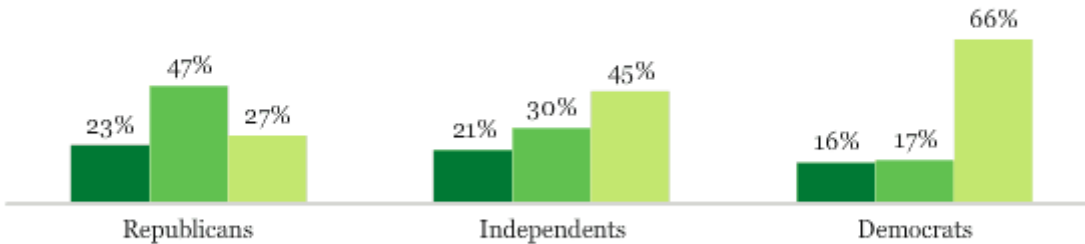
Most of the remaining Democrats (those who disagree with Obama's time allocation on healthcare) say he has not spent enough time on the issue. This likely reflects the frustration on the part of some Democrats that after all of the effort, healthcare reform has been stalled short of the passage of a new bill. It may also reflect Democratic sentiment that the healthcare reform effort is not far-reaching enough in terms of issues like extending healthcare to all citizens or possibly excluding a government-funded "public option" from the plan.

Foreign Policy Problems

Democrats seem to be mostly satisfied with the time Obama has spent on foreign policy problems; two-thirds say he has spent enough time, with the rest split between perceptions that he has spent too much and that he has not spent enough time on foreign policy.

Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, not enough time, or the right amount of time dealing with foreign policy problems?

■ Too much ■ Not enough ■ Right amount



Feb. 1-3, 2010

GALLUP®

On the other hand, the plurality of Republicans say Obama has not spent enough time on foreign policy, with the rest -- about half -- splitting their views between "right amount" and "too much." The data echo findings over the years showing that Republicans tend to be more worried than the other two partisan groups about terrorism and national security.

Independents have views somewhere in between those of Democrats and Republicans, with the plurality saying Obama's time allocation on foreign policy has been about right, and the rest tilting toward the view that he has not spent enough time on this issue.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,025 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 1-3, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Americans Split on Legalizing Euthanasia

February 11, 2010

There is no clear consensus on whether euthanasia should be legalized in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 42 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 36 per cent are opposed.

Since August 2009, the proportion of supporters of legal euthanasia has dropped by three points, while the proportion of opponents has increased by four points.

Earlier this month, Idaho legislators discussed Senate Bill 1270, which seeks to provide doctors, nurses and health care practitioners with the right to refuse to provide services that conflict with their religious or moral principles. Republican state senator Russell Fulcher discussed the rationale for the bill, saying, "It would, if passed, grant health care professionals out of an end-of-life procedure without having to worry about getting fired."

The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Albania and Thailand allow for some form of euthanasia, as well as the states of Oregon and Washington in the United States.

Polling Data

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose legalizing euthanasia in the U.S.?

	Feb. 2010	Aug. 2009
Support	42%	45%
Oppose	36%	32%
Not sure	22%	23%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion
Methodology: Online interviews with 1,001 American adults, conducted on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazilians Decidedly Oppose Abortion

February 12, 2010

About three quarters of people in Brazil are against abortion, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 73.5 per cent of respondents share this view, while 22.7 per cent are in favour of this practice.

Brazil's penal code has typified abortion as a crime since 1940. The procedure is only permitted when a pregnancy is the result of a rape, or when the woman's life is endangered. Approximately 80 per cent of Brazilians are baptized Roman Catholics.

Some policies of Brazilian president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva—a member of the left-leaning Worker's Party (PT)—have focused on sexual health and birth control. In June 2007, Brazilian health minister Jose Gomes Temporao announced the government's plan to distribute free morning-after pills—which can be administered within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse to prevent a pregnancy—to poor women.

On Jan. 30, the government deleted a clause from a proposed amendment to the country's Human Rights Code, which stated that abortion is a basic human right for women. Brazilian human rights minister Paulo Vannucchi apologized for including the controversial clause in the reforms, saying, "I acknowledge this was my mistake. The defence of abortion in the text is based on the right of women to make autonomous decisions about their own bodies. It is a

proposal coming from the feminist movement, but it does not reflect Lula's opinions [on abortion]."

Polling Data

People in Brazil hold differing views on some controversial issues. As I go through this list, tell me if you're in favour or against each one. - Abortion.

	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2001
In favour	22.7%	17.7%
Against	73.5%	78.9%
Not sure	3.8%	3.4%

Source: *Instituto Sensus*
Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Venezuelans Say Country is on Wrong Track

February 10, 2010

Most people in Venezuela have a negative perception of the country's state of affairs, according to a poll by Hinterlaces. 61 per cent of respondents say the Venezuela is heading on the wrong direction.

Hugo Chávez—a left-leaning leader—has been in office since February 1999. In July 2000, he was elected to a six-year term with 59.5 per cent of all cast ballots. In August 2004, Chávez won a referendum on his tenure with 59 per cent of the vote. The special election was called after opposition organizations in Venezuela gathered 2.5 million signatures to force a recall ballot. In December 2006, Chávez earned a new six-year term with 62.89 per cent of the vote.

On Feb. 2, Chávez said he expects to celebrate another 11 years in office.

Some university students have been recently protesting the closing of television channel RCTV, which was openly critic of the government. On Feb. 3, RCTV spokesman Elías Bitar commented on the government's decision to pressure cable and satellite companies into dropping the channel, saying, "They said we haven't respected the rules they created especially for us. (...) This is an attack against freedom of speech, not just against us, but against the people."

Polling Data

Do you think things in Venezuela are on the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right direction	37%
Wrong direction	61%

Source: Hinterlaces
Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,200 Venezuelan adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 28, 2010. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Venezuelans Would Shun Pro-Chávez Candidates

February 08, 2010

People in Venezuela are not keen on having a legislature controlled by politicians akin to current president Hugo Chávez, according to a poll by Hinterlaces. 51 per cent of respondents would like the National Assembly to have a balance of political forces, while 25 per cent would prefer a pro-government majority.

When asked about who they would support in the next legislative election, 34 per cent of respondents would back independent candidates, 28 per cent would support pro-Chávez candidates, and 26 per cent would back representatives of the opposition.

Chávez—a left-leaning leader—has been in office since February 1999. In July 2000, he was elected to a six-year term with 59.5 per cent of all cast ballots. In August 2004, Chávez won a referendum on his tenure with 59 per cent of the vote. The special election was called after opposition organizations in Venezuela gathered 2.5 million signatures to force a recall ballot. In December 2006, Chávez earned a new six-year term with 62.89 per cent of the vote.

On Feb. 2, Chávez said he expects to celebrate another 11 years in office, saying, "I'm 55 years old, with 11 years as president now. I promise I'll take care of myself a little better and, if you like, in 11 years I'll be 66—God willing—with 22 years as president."

The next legislative election is scheduled to take place on Sept. 26.

Polling Data

If the legislative election took place this Sunday, who would you vote for?

Independent candidates	34%
Pro-Chávez candidates	28%
Opposition candidates	26%
Not sure / Other	12%

Which of these outcomes would you prefer in the election to the National Assembly?

A balance of political forces	51%
A pro-Chávez majority	25%
An opposition majority	17%
Not sure / Other	7%

Source: Hinterlaces

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,200 Venezuelan adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 28, 2010. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Lula's Favoured Candidate Gains in Brazil

February 08, 2010

Dilma Rousseff, the Brazilian presidential candidate favoured by incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has gained momentum at the start of the year, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 27.8 per cent of respondents would vote for Rousseff of the ruling Worker's Party (PT), up 6.1 points since November.

Sao Paulo governor Jose Serra of the conservative Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) remains in first place with 33.2 per cent. Support is lower for Ciro Gomes of the Socialist People's Party (PSB), and Marina Silva of the Green Party (PV).

Lula—a member of the PT—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Serra. In October 2006, he earned a new four-year term, defeating PSDB candidate Geraldo Alckmin with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the second round.

Lula has publicly endorsed Rousseff as his preferred successor. The PT is expected to officially nominate its candidate at a party convention this month.

On Feb. 1, Rousseff admitted she would accept the candidacy if nominated, saying, "I would like very much to be nominated to succeed Lula da Silva."

Lula is ineligible for a third term in office. The first round of Brazil's next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Polling Data

Which of these candidates would you vote for in the next presidential election?

	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009	Sept. 2009
Jose Serra (PSDB)	33.2%	31.8%	39.5%
Dilma Rousseff (PT)	27.8%	21.7%	19.0%
Ciro Gomes (PSB)	11.9%	17.5%	n.a.
Marina Silva (PV)	6.8%	5.9%	4.8%
None / Blank ballot	10.5%	11.1%	14.4%
Not sure / Undecided	9.9%	12.1%	12.8%
Heloisa Helena (PSOL)	n.a.	n.a.	9.7%

Source: Instituto Sensus

Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29, 2010.

Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Chileans Expect Good Piñera Administration

February 09, 2010

Most people in Chile expect the government of president-elect Sebastián Piñera to be good, according to a poll by *La Tercera*. 62 per cent of respondents share high expectations regarding the new president, while 24 per cent think his performance will be just average.

Michelle Bachelet—a former defence minister—was elected in a January 2006 run-off as the candidate for the centre-left Agreement of Parties for Democracy (CPD) with 53.49 per cent of all cast ballots. She officially took over as president in March 2006.

In January, Chileans voted in the second round of the presidential election. Opposition candidate Piñera of the centre-right Coalition for Change (CC) defeated former president Eduardo Frei of the governing CPD with 51.61 per cent of the vote.

The CPD had administered the Chilean government since the return of democracy after the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in March 1990. Bachelet was ineligible for a consecutive term in office. Piñera will be sworn in on Mar. 11.

On Feb. 1, Piñera offered details about a telephone conversation with U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. president Barack Obama, saying, "Both of them spoke about their willingness to strengthen ties with Chile in matters of democracy and human rights, as well as free trade and freedom."

Polling Data

How do you expect Sebastián Piñera's government to be?

Very good / Good	62%
Average	24%
Very bad / Bad	8%
Not sure	6%

Source: La Tercera

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 500 Chilean adults, conducted in January 2010.

Margin of error is 4.4 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Americans, Britons Question Iraq War Deadline

February 09, 2010

Many people in the United States and Britain are skeptical about the scheduled timetable for the end of the Iraq War, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 31 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 21 per cent of respondents in Britain—are very or moderately confident that all U.S. forces will withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

The coalition effort against Saddam Hussein’s regime was launched in March 2003, when George W. Bush and Tony Blair headed the American and British governments respectively. At least 4,696 coalition soldiers—including 4,379 Americans and 179 Britons—have died during the military operation, and more than 31,600 troops have been wounded in action.

In December 2005, Iraqi voters renewed their National Assembly. In May 2006, Shiite United Iraqi Alliance member Nouri al-Maliki officially took over as prime minister.

In November 2008, Iraq’s National Assembly ratified the Status of Forces Agreement with the United States. The document established that coalition combat forces would be completely out of Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011.

In February 2009, U.S. president Barack Obama announced his intention to end the combat mission in Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010.

On Jan. 27, during his State of the Union address, Obama discussed the war in Iraq, saying, "As we take the fight to al-Qaeda, we are responsibly leaving Iraq to its people. But make no mistake: this war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home. (...) We will support the Iraqi government as they hold elections, and continue to partner with the Iraqi people to promote regional peace and prosperity."

Polling Data

A security agreement signed between the United States and Iraq calls for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011. Thinking about this, how confident are you that this timetable will be met?

	BRI	USA
Very confident	3%	6%
Moderately confident	18%	25%
Not too confident	45%	39%
Not confident at all	26%	20%
Not sure	8%	9%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,010 British adults and 1,001 American adults, conducted on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, 2010. Margins of error range from 2.2 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

Global Perceptions of U.S. Leadership Improve in 2009

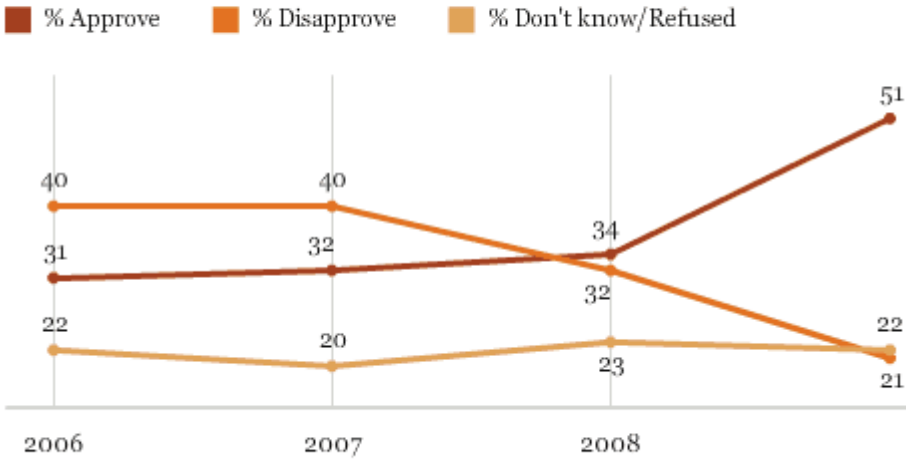
A world median of 51% approves of the leadership of the U.S.

February 10, 2010

Perceptions of U.S. leadership worldwide improved significantly from 2008 to 2009. The U.S.-Global Leadership Project, a partnership between the Meridian International Center and Gallup, finds that a median of 51% of the world approves of the job performance of the current leadership of the U.S., up from a median of 34% in 2008.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Global medians



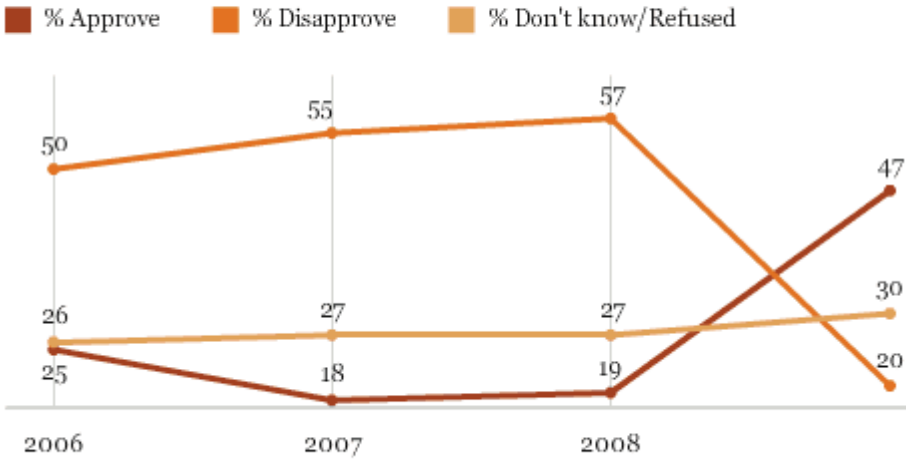
GALLUP®

Gallup has asked residents worldwide to rate the leadership of the U.S. since 2005, which enables a comparison of how perceptions of U.S. leadership have changed from the Bush administration to the Obama administration. The global median approval of U.S. leadership remained relatively steady from 2005 to 2008. In 2009, a bare median majority approves of the job performance of U.S. leadership (51%) -- a first since Gallup began asking the question worldwide in 2005.

Significant improvements in sentiment toward U.S. leadership are evident in all four major global regions, with the largest year-over-year increase in approval measured in Europe. Median approval of U.S. leadership increased by 28 percentage points between 2008 and 2009 in this region. A median of 47% approves and a median of 20% disapproves -- the first time disapproval has dropped below 50% in Europe since Gallup first asked the question.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Europe medians

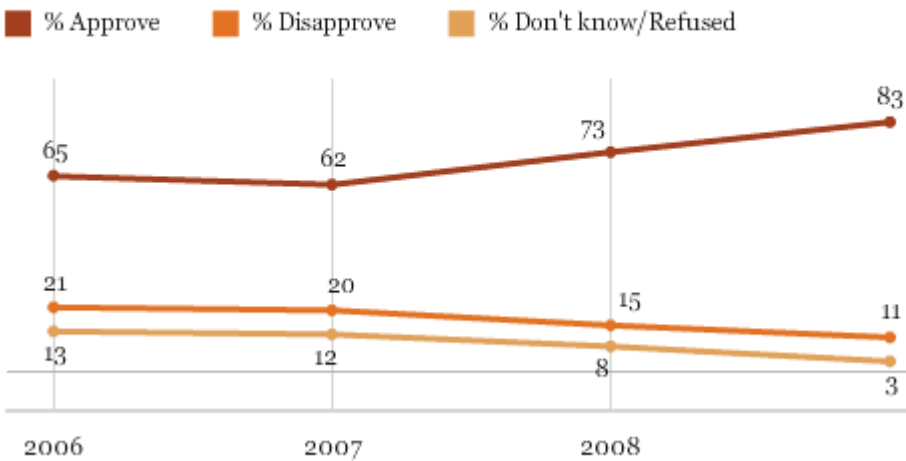


GALLUP®

Historically, approval of U.S. leadership has been highest in Africa. However, there is great variability in the region on this issue with approval highest in sub-Saharan Africa and tending to be lower in North African countries. This trend continues in 2009, with a median approval of 83%, which is well above the median approval in other regions. Approval of U.S. leadership ranges from ratings that are higher than 90% in Ivory Coast (94%), Kenya (93%), and Uganda (91%) to lows of 38% in Morocco and 37% in Egypt and Tunisia.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Africa medians

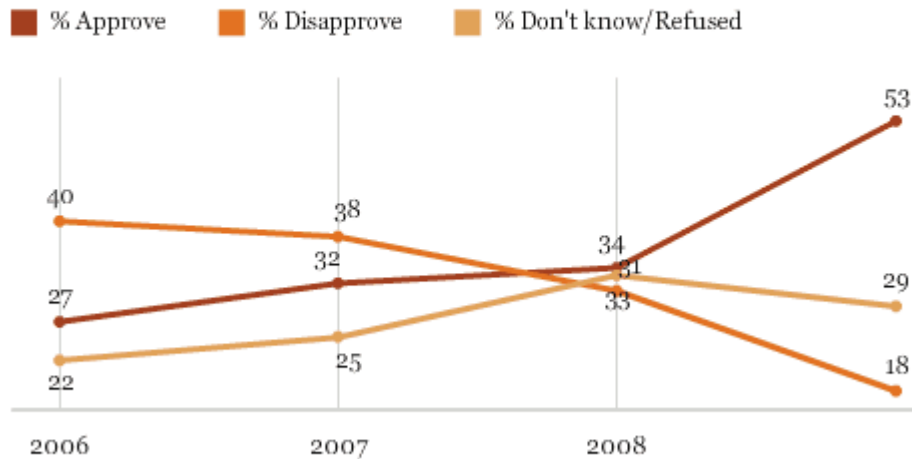


GALLUP®

A regional median of 53% in the Americas approves of the job performance of U.S. leadership and a median of 18% disapproves. Approval of U.S. leadership varies from a low of 40% in Bolivia and 42% in Argentina, Ecuador, and Nicaragua to a high of 68% in El Salvador.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Americas medians



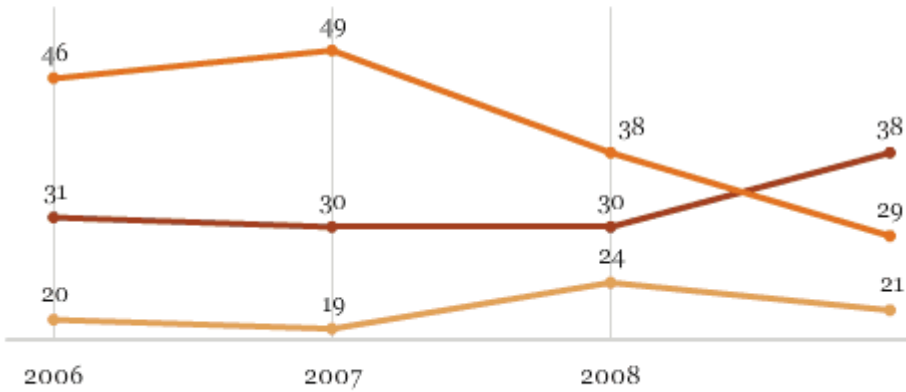
GALLUP®

Perceptions of U.S. leadership are more divided in Asia than in any other region. In 2009, a median of more than one-third (38%) say they approve, while 29% disapproved. Pakistanis express the lowest approval of U.S. leadership, at 9%, followed by 14% approval in Iraq, 15% in Syria, and 17% in Vietnam. Approval was highest in Singapore (68%), Japan (66%), Cambodia (64%), Turkmenistan (61%), and Israel (61%).

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Asia medians

■ % Approve ■ % Disapprove ■ % Don'tknow/Refused



GALLUP®

Among the Group of Twenty (G-20) members, approval of U.S. leadership changed significantly in 16 of 17 countries where Gallup collected data before and after the Obama administration took office early last year. In 15 of these countries, approval ratings increased substantially, with increases of 39 points or more in Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. Although sentiment improved significantly in Turkey and Saudi Arabia from 2008 to 2009, majorities in these two countries still disapprove of the job performance of U.S. leadership.

Perceptions of U.S. leadership vary widely within the G-20 member countries. For instance, one in five Russians approve, compared with 87% of South Africans.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

G-20 members (2009 data)

Country	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/ Refused	Approval difference from 2008
South Africa	87%	10%	2%	4
Japan	66%	18%	15%	36
United Kingdom	64%	12%	25%	41
Canada	63%	27%	10%	41
South Korea	58%	21%	21%	17
Germany	57%	30%	13%	36
United States	55%	42%	3%	26
Mexico	53%	24%	24%	29
France	52%	14%	34%	39
Italy	49%	6%	45%	30
Brazil	48%	23%	29%	25
Argentina	42%	26%	32%	31
Indonesia	35%	23%	41%	-11
India	26%	13%	61%	-5
Saudi Arabia	26%	63%	11%	13
Australia*	25%	63%	12%	-
Turkey	22%	61%	16%	6
Russia	20%	34%	47%	6
China**	-	-	-	-
European Union***	-	-	-	-

Due to rounding, not all rows will add to 100%.

*Data last collected in 2008.

**Item not asked in China.

***Data not collected in all EU countries in 2009.

- Data for this item not collected in 2008.

GALLUP®

To see all countries worldwide for which 2009 U.S. approval data are available, see the updated map and table on the [World Citizens' Views on U.S. Leadership, Pre- and Post-Obama page](#).

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in 121 countries throughout 2005-2006, 95 countries throughout

2007, 113 countries throughout 2008, and 102 countries throughout 2009. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 2.2 percentage points in Russia to a high of ± 5.8 percentage points in Ghana in 2005-2006; a low of ± 3.0 percentage points in Belarus, Japan, and Malaysia to a high of ± 5.4 percentage points in Ghana in 2007; a low of ± 2.5 percentage points in Russia to a high of ± 5.8 percentage points in Zambia in 2008; a low of ± 2.8 percentage points in Russia to a high of ± 5.7 percentage points in Slovenia in 2009. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

With some exceptions, all samples are probability based and nationally representative of the resident population aged 15 and older. Exceptions include areas where the safety of interviewing staff is threatened, scarcely populated islands in some countries, and areas that interviewers can reach only by foot, animal, or small boat.

Sample Notes

Algeria: The sparsely populated deep South was excluded. Excluded areas represent less than 10% of the population.

Azerbaijan: Nagorno-Karabakh and territories not included for safety of interviewers. These areas represent less than 10% of the total population.

Bahrain: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fourth of the adult population is excluded.

Canada: Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut were excluded from the sample.

Georgia: South Ossetia and Abkhazia were not included for the safety of the interviewers. The excluded area represents approximately 7% of the population.

India: Excluded population living in Northeast states and remote islands. The excluded areas represent less than 10% of the population.

Kuwait: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fifth of the adult population is excluded.

Moldova: Transnistria (Prednestrovie) was excluded for safety of interviewers. The excluded area represents approximately 13% of the population.

Niger: The Northern part of the country (Agadez region) was excluded because of insecurities. The excluded area represents approximately 5% of the population.

Pakistan: FATA and AJK were excluded. The excluded areas represent approximately 5% of the population.

Palestinian Territories: The sample includes East Jerusalem.

Qatar: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that more than half of the adult population is excluded.

Saudi Arabia: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that approximately one-fifth of the adult population is excluded.

Sri Lanka: Excluded areas under conflict in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. The excluded area represents approximately 10% of the population.

Uganda: The Northern region was excluded because of the presence of LRA rebels. The excluded area represents approximately 10% of the population.

United Arab Emirates: Non-Arab expatriates were excluded. It's estimated that more than half of the adult population is excluded.

Global Poll Finds Decline in Positive Views of Canada

11 February 2010

Public views of Canada's influence have worsened during the last year, particularly in the USA, Britain, and China, according to a new worldwide BBC World Service poll across 18 countries.

The poll of more than 20,000 people, which was conducted by GlobeScan/PIPA, reveals that as Vancouver prepares to host the 2010 Winter Olympics, ratings of Canada's influence in the world by some of Canada's major trading partners have declined sharply for the first time since tracking began in 2005.

Several countries saw sharp falls in positive ratings of Canada—in the USA the proportion rating Canadian influence as positive fell from 82 per cent to 67 per cent, in the UK from 74 per cent to 62 per cent, in Australia from 77 per cent to 72 per cent, and in China from 75 per cent to 54 per cent. Overall, comparing views in 15 of the countries that were surveyed last year, the proportion rating Canadian influence in the world as mainly positive has fallen on average from 57 per cent to 53 per cent.

The numbers giving Canada a negative rating remained broadly steady compared to last year, but those saying that Canada's influence was neither negative nor positive overall increased.

Canadians themselves are also less positive about their country's influence than in 2009, with 75 per cent now rating Canada's influence in the world as positive, compared to 86 per cent last year.

France, the Philippines, and South Korea emerged as the nations most positive about Canadian influence, while Pakistan, Turkey, India, and Mexico were among the most negative.

Until this year, perceptions of Canadian influence had been on the rise in many countries. Results last year showed a year-on-year improvement in positive ratings for Canada in China, the Philippines, the UK, and the USA—but in all these cases positive ratings have now fallen back, sometimes sharply.

Views of Canada improved in a few countries in the survey—in Germany the proportion feeling it had a positive influence in the world rose from 64 per cent in 2009 to 73 per cent this year, while in Russia positive views rose from 36 per cent to 44 per cent.

Despite the fall, Canada is expected to remain among the most positively viewed countries when results on the way other major nations are perceived are released by the BBC in April. In last year's poll conducted in 22 countries, only Germany was felt to have a more positive influence in the world than Canada.

The results are drawn from a survey of 20,176 adult citizens across 18 countries, conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan, together with the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. GlobeScan coordinated fieldwork between 30 November 2009 and 26 January 2010.

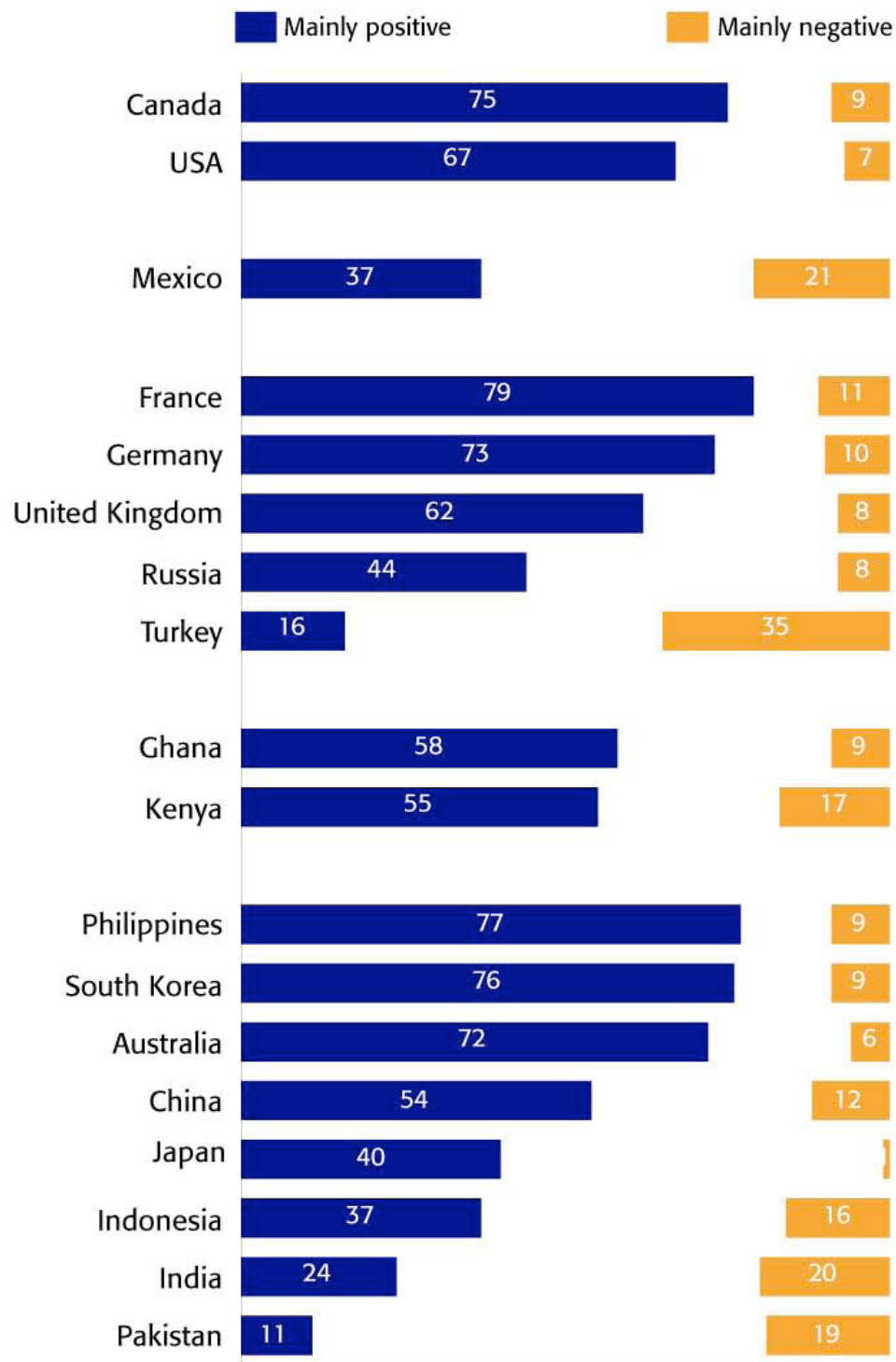
GlobeScan Chairman Doug Miller commented: “This is the first time in our five years of tracking we've seen a worsening of Canada's image around the world. Negative media coverage of Canada's environmental policies may be partly to blame.

“With the Vancouver Winter Olympics about to begin, followed in June by the G8/G20 Summit in Canada, it will be interesting to see how Canada's reputation will end the year.”

Note: In China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used. Please see the Methodology for further details.

Views of Canada's Influence

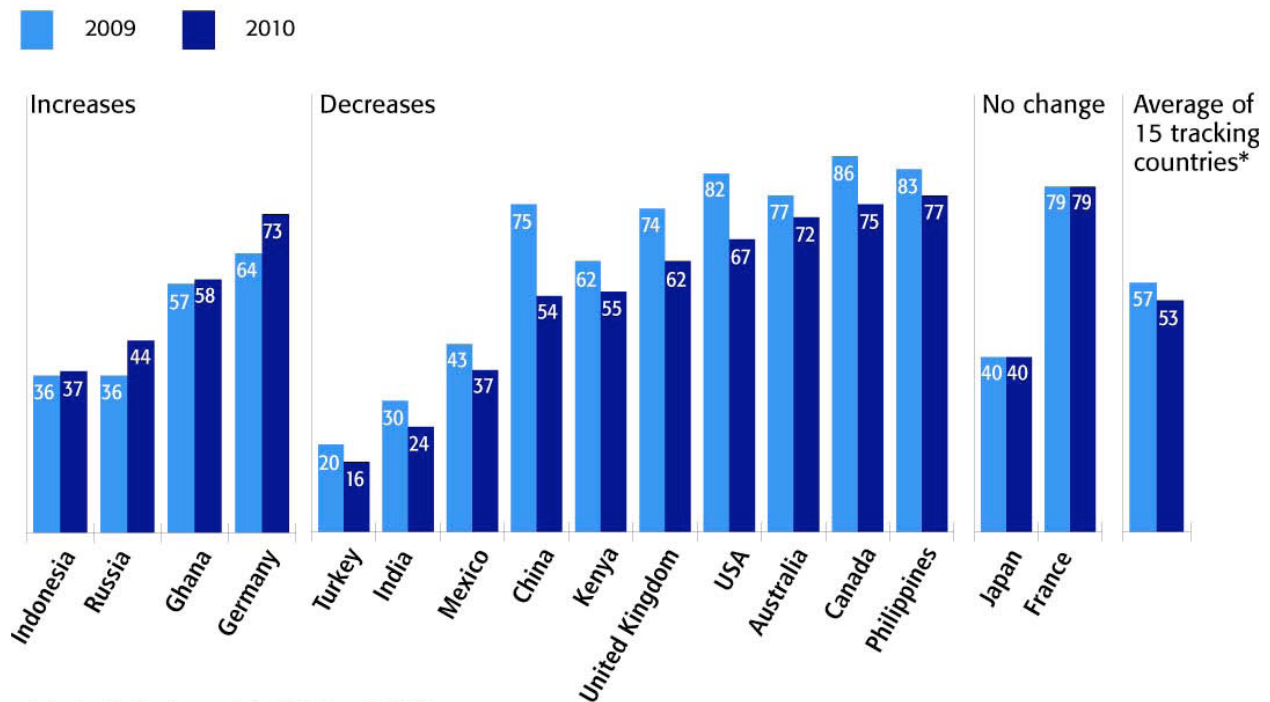
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends," "Neither/neutral," and "DK/NA."
 Asked of half of sample

Views of Canada's Influence

"Mainly Positive," by Country, Trends: 2009–2010



Asked of half of sample in 2009 and 2010

*Canada's rating of itself is not included.

The centre-right

Old dogs and new tricks

In many prosperous democracies, a crisis-driven backlash against the political right failed to materialise. Why so?

Feb 11th 2010 | From *The Economist*

“THIS financial crisis”, said Daniel Cohn-Bendit in 2008, “is for capitalist neoliberals what Chernobyl was for the nuclear lobby.” As the recession began claiming the livelihoods of ordinary workers, other politicians of the left avoided the incendiary glee of the German MEP and former street fighter. Still, many shared his expectation of a popular backlash against their foes on the right.

It seemed plausible at the time. The conservative predicament was embodied a year and a half ago by John McCain, whose campaign floundered on the issue of the economy as the implosion of Lehman Brothers portended a banking crisis. And some obituaries for the centre-right had been written at least a year earlier. The subprime mortgage storm was brandished by America's Democrats as a repudiation of a deregulatory fad that began in the Reaganite 1980s.

Yet the crisis of the right has yet to come about. Last year's European Parliament elections were a triumph for conservatives. Britain's Tories crushed Labour; President Nicolas Sarkozy's UMP became the first ruling party in France to win a European election since 1979. In Italy, Spain, Portugal and Poland conservatives also prospered. A few months later Angela Merkel was re-elected as Germany's chancellor—this time with the pro-market Free Democrats instead of the Social Democrats as coalition partners. The right's ascendancy across the continent was crowned last November when the European Union's newly created presidency was given to Herman van Rompuy, a Belgian conservative. The latest gathering (see picture) of the European People's Party—an umbrella body which includes a dozen heads of government—was a buoyant affair.

Similar trends are visible in some other democracies. In 2008 New Zealand's National Party won power, ending almost a decade of Labour Party rule. The Conservatives in Canada were re-elected in the same year. And one of the sweetest victories for the European centre-right may be at hand. David Cameron, say the polls, will soon be Britain's first Conservative prime minister since 1997.

Why has the crisis of capitalism not become a political crisis for the centre-right? And why have conservatives in Europe had a better recession than their counterparts in America, which until recently seemed like the exception to the conservative mood in the rich democracies? True, the centre-right is not without hope there. The Republicans have enjoyed recent triumphs in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts. They can expect to make further gains in this year's mid-term elections. But they were ejected from the White House during the recession, and have fewer congressmen, senators and state governors than the Democrats. Even if their recent recovery proves to be enduring—which is, as yet, far from obvious—a puzzle remains as to why the European centre-right coped so much better during the economic crisis.



It is tempting to seek an answer in the impersonal workings of the political cycle. Voters blame recession on the incumbents, regardless of ideology. So, it can be argued, Mr Cameron may win because it is “his turn”, not because of a popular shift to the right. Equally, the loss of power endured in 2008 by America’s Republicans and a year earlier by the Australian Liberals (in power since 1996) may not be confounding exceptions to a broader conservative ascendancy. They may just be examples of democracy’s routine ebbs and flows.

But those cyclical explanations only go so far. The Gaullists have held the French presidency since 1995, yet still prosper at the polls. Bar a two-year interlude by Romano Prodi, a social democrat, the conservative Silvio Berlusconi has been Italy’s prime minister since 2001. Mrs Merkel has been chancellor of Germany since 2005. Were election results determined only by a pendulum, the centre-left in these countries would have swung back by now.

It may be more useful to look at public attitudes to capitalism. Polls suggest that the popular backlash against the economic system has been less sharp than the left expected. Last November a survey of 29,000 people across 27 countries (almost all democracies) by GlobeScan and the BBC World Service found that only 23% agreed that capitalism is “fatally flawed” and needs replacing. Some 51% believed it had problems that could be addressed through regulation and reform, and a further 11% were happy with the system as it is. Similarly, there was more support for an increased government role in redistributing wealth and regulating businesses than for outright state control of big industries.

A Rasmussen poll last April caused consternation when it said just 53% of Americans preferred capitalism to socialism. But it did not define either term. A poll a few months earlier by the same outfit found 70% backing a “free-market economy”, suggesting that Americans may distinguish between markets (honest, tangible enterprise) and capitalism (shady, chimeral high-finance). Other Rasmussen polls during the recession found that only 14% thought the government would do a better job of running car companies, and even fewer trusted it to run financial firms. Survey evidence from elsewhere tells the same story: the loss of trust in the market has not been entirely offset by enhanced trust in government.

This helps explain why the left has failed to sweep ahead in the recession, but not why the centre-right has advanced. One reason may be that non-economic issues dear to conservatives—like crime, immigration and national security—matter at least as much in recessionary times. Certainly, Mr Cameron’s narrative of British social decline has resonated with voters. For Mr Sarkozy, a firm line on crime and the secular ideals of the French republic have been keys to success. And in Australia a notionally leftist leader, Kevin Rudd, has played up his credentials as a social conservative.

But none of this quite explains what has happened in America. To find better answers, it may help to look past pendulums and polls and turn to the rarefied realm of political ideas. It surely matters that in European countries, where the centre-right has thrived, it can tap into traditions of conservatism that reject all-out liberalism in the economic sphere.

German Christian Democracy, for instance, mixes a commitment to the welfare state with quiet conservatism on social and cultural matters. That has been a winning formula for most of the Federal Republic's history. The French equivalent, Gaullism, differs from the creed of Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. It is more militaristic, and too secular to take its cue from Catholic social teaching. But at its core is the same paternalist belief in the state's duty to protect citizens from the turmoil of the market, and to play a strategic role in shaping the economic arena. It was clearly with relish, not reluctance, that Mr Sarkozy declared that "*laissez-faire* is finished" after Lehman Brothers collapsed.

This *dirigiste* culture is weaker on the British right. There is certainly little enthusiasm among Tories for an industrial policy that guides investment and protects national champions from foreign takeover. But for most of its history, the party has embraced the notion of the state as a provider of social protection. Victorian Tories such as Benjamin Disraeli led the way in civilising industrial Britain with public infrastructure and regulation of the workplace. The One Nation Conservatives of the mid-20th century did not tamper with the welfare state they inherited from the post-war Labour government.

There are echoes of genteel paternalism in Mr Cameron's pitch to voters, in his respect for the "little platoons" of independent charities, in his refusal to countenance spending cuts to the National Health Service. Margaret Thatcher's "dry" free-market conservatism looks more like an outlier in Tory history, a response to economic calamity rather than an expression of the party's deepest ideological convictions. "We are a Conservative Party", said George Osborne, the Tories' economic spokesman, last year, "not a libertarian party."

In America it is much harder to make this distinction. Centre-right paternalism is not completely unknown there: the Eisenhower presidency of the 1950s often mirrored the "Butskellite" consensus in favour of the welfare state that prevailed in Britain at the time. Even the younger George Bush expanded Medicare coverage (to ruinous cost) and increased federal involvement in education. But the American right has often been defined above all else by hostility to big government.

Perhaps this reflects the country's lack of a feudal history. Without an aristocracy, Americans never had the European fear of the market's power to disrupt old social orders. It is no coincidence that the centre-right in Australia, another settler society, shows a similar zeal for the market (even if, like the Republicans, it still wants subsidies for special-interest groups like farmers). This broadly pro-market climate makes it harder for conservatives in the New World to ride out the recession by playing the paternalist card.

Does Canada, a New World country where the centre-right holds power, disprove that rule? In fact, special circumstances prevail there. The (centre-left) Liberals were tainted by scandal, and were exhausted after 13 years in power, by the time of the 2006 election. Even then, only a minority Conservative government emerged. Stephen Harper, the prime minister, has to engage in political manoeuvres to achieve his goals. To pass legislation, he has to take careful account of three other parliamentary parties—all of which are, to varying degrees, left of centre.

In America some conservative thinkers conclude that the Republicans can rebuild a winning coalition only by adopting a more nuanced view of government. David Frum, a former White House speechwriter, toils away on the cause. Ross Douthat and Reihan Salam, two journalists, have called for a “grand new party” that is willing to use the state to help working-class voters cope with stagnating wages and other anxieties. But some of the party’s activists and front-line politicians are, if anything, getting more zealous for small government after the profligate Bush years.

In such a climate it would be hard for Republican politicians to bash bankers or support government intervention, even if they wanted to. Their counterparts in Europe can more easily steal crowd-pleasing rhetoric and policy from the left. The intellectual heritage of their parties ensures there will be no backlash from ideological purists comparable to Sarah Palin, the star of a recent gathering of the anti-government tea-party movement.

Quite the opposite. It was pressure from within her own party that persuaded Mrs Merkel to set up a vote-winning “Germany Fund” to help businesses cope with recession. Gaullists love Mr Sarkozy’s support of a Tobin tax on currency speculation. Some Tories may grumble about Mr Cameron’s accommodation with Labour’s “big state”—but they do so quietly. He has had the latitude to make promises to protect health spending and clamp down on bankers, while avoiding promises to reverse recent tax rises.

This emphasis on ideas may seem a rather lofty way of explaining the success of European conservatives during the recession, and the struggle of their allies in younger democracies to find a coherent and convincing voice. But more worldly accounts, which fail to take account of ideology and history, don’t quite add up.

New Global Poll Shows Wide Enthusiasm for Online Dating

February 13, 2010

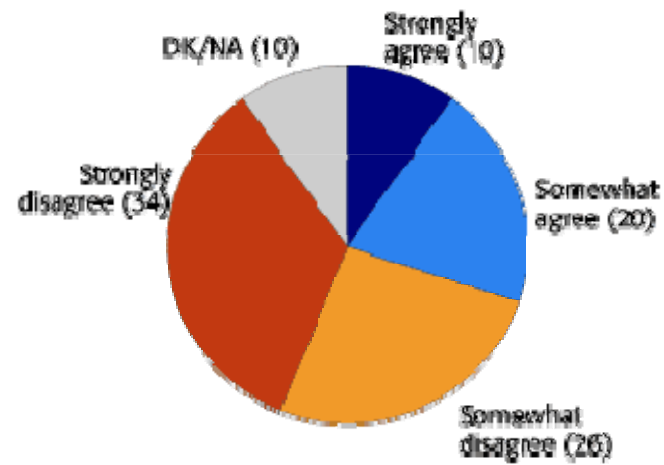
As Valentine’s Day approaches, a new BBC World Service global poll shows that almost one in three (30%) web users regard the Internet as a good place to find a boyfriend or girlfriend.

The poll, conducted by GlobeScan among 10,976 Internet users across 19 countries, reveals that India and Pakistan are among the countries with the greatest numbers of enthusiasts for Internet introductions. Fifty-nine per cent of Indians and 60 per cent of Pakistanis who use the Internet regard it as a good place to find a partner.

Other countries where high proportions of Internet users feel the same way include Ghana (47%) and the Philippines (42%). In contrast, fewer Americans (21%), South Koreans (16%), British (28%), and French (27%) think the idea of finding a partner online was a good one.

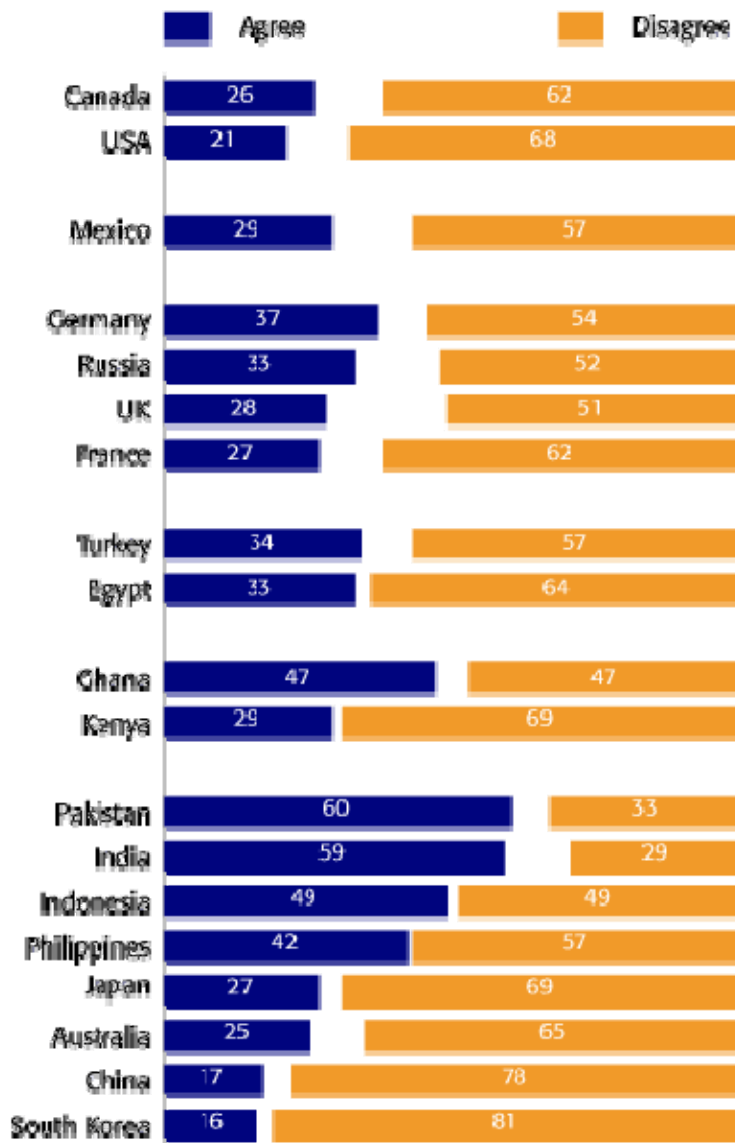
The Internet Is a Good Place to Find a Boyfriend/Girlfriend

Average of 19 Countries, 2010



The Internet Is a Good Place to Find a Boyfriend/Girlfriend

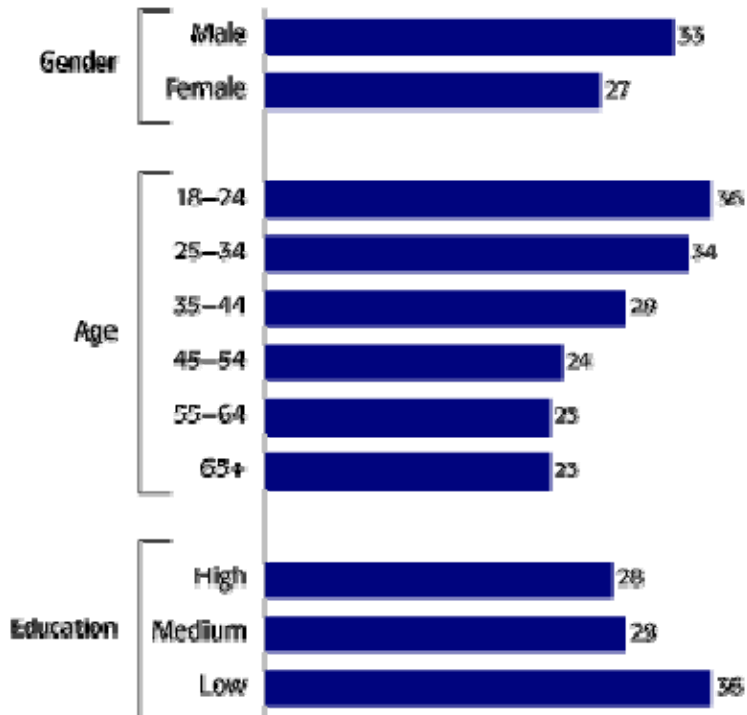
"Agree" vs "Disagree," by Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

The Internet Is a Good Place to Find a Boyfriend/Girlfriend

"Agree,"* Demographic Breakdowns,
Average of 19 Countries, 2010



*"Strongly agree" plus "Somewhat agree"

The Internet Is a Good Place to Find a Boyfriend/Girlfriend
Breakdown of Response, by Country, 2010

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/NA
Pakistan	18	42	18	15	7
India	32	27	20	9	12
Indonesia	14	36	27	23	1
Ghana	25	23	17	30	6
Philippines	9	33	32	25	1
Germany	17	20	34	20	9
Turkey	8	26	37	20	9
Egypt	11	23	23	41	3
Russia	12	21	27	25	15
Mexico	9	20	25	32	13
Kenya	12	17	22	47	2
UK	8	20	20	31	21
France	7	20	19	44	10
Japan	13	14	25	44	4
Canada	6	20	22	40	12
Australia	5	20	23	42	10
USA	5	16	20	47	12
China	1	16	39	38	5
South Korea	3	12	37	44	3

The poll also shows that, among Internet users, men are somewhat more enthusiastic about finding a partner online than women—33 per cent of men regard the Internet as a good place to find a boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to 27 per cent of women. Respondents aged 18–24 are the most enthusiastic (36%)—but even among those aged over 65, more than one in five (23%) regard the Internet as a good place to find a partner.

However, the results also suggest that those with a higher level of education are less likely to regard the Internet as a good place to find a partner—28 per cent of those with a university education felt it was, compared to 36 per cent of those who had not completed high school.

The results are drawn from a larger survey of public attitudes towards the Internet, to be released on 8 March.

The survey interviewed 10,976 adult citizens who had used the Internet in the previous six months across 19 countries, and was conducted for BBC World Service by the international

polling firm GlobeScan. GlobeScan coordinated fieldwork between 30 November 2009 and 26 January 2010.

GlobeScan Research Director Sam Mountford commented: “This shows what a major role the Internet now plays in the lives of millions of people around the world. For many, and particularly in the developing world, it’s not just somewhere to work, shop, or communicate with friends, but a credible way of finding a partner in life.”

This finding is part of a wider survey for **SuperPower** (bbc.com/superpower) a major BBC season of programmes starting on 8 March exploring the extraordinary power of the Internet.

SuperPower will be examining the impact of the Internet on all aspects of life including business, politics, democracy, and empowerment as well as relations between people in all parts of the world.

BBC World Service's daily programme, *Outlook*, is turning its attention to “Netrimony” and the role of the Internet as matchmaker. The team are on the hunt for global stories of love found online, and for first-hand experiences of those who have joined a growing international community of people turning to the web to find their perfect partner. If you have an interesting story to tell, or experience to share, then please e-mail the team at outlook@bbc.co.uk.

Notes to Editors

Face-to-face and telephone interviews were conducted between 30 November 2009 and 26 January 2010 with a total of 10,976 citizens in 19 countries: Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Polling was conducted for BBC Global News by GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. Please see the [Methodology](#) for further details.

In China, Egypt, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used. Please see the [Methodology](#) for further details.
