

# BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 108

February 21-27, 2010

Presentation: March 03, 2010

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## MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

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## Prelude

This week report consists of 29 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys from the Arab world & North Africa while the rest of 27 are national surveys.

### **Americans Continued Support & Sympathies for Israelis**

U.S. has been playing a major role in Middle East Since times Israel was not established. American people had been having very positive view of Israel and felt more sympathetic towards Israel in conflict with Palestine. A recent survey of Gallup USA shows that more than six in ten (63%) Americans say they feel sympathetic towards Israel in the conflict. This is a new high support since first Gulf war in 1991 when Iraqi missile hit Israel. Keeping in view such large number of sympathizers for Israel in US, can one expect of justice for Palestinians or even peace between Israel & Palestinians?

When there are sympathies for one party in a conflict, you can not expect justice from the arbitrator. The way U.S. has supported Israel on all the occasions historically can be comprehended keeping in view a vast supportive public ground in U.S. Israel is among the most favored nations for Americans and Palestinians are the least on the same count. How did American generate such perceptions? It probably be by the rocket attacks of Palestinians across border or possibly be stone missiles thrown at Israel soldiers. These rockets of course result in injuries for several Israelis and might be the source for acquiring sympathies.

But on other hand thousands of Palestinians; women, children, old and young have also lost their lives, why their miseries could generate sympathies for them. Or why brutalities against innocent civilians could not generate dissatisfaction for Israel within Americans. Mostly people say American 'media' is responsible for this fact. Almost all media giants in U.S. in particular and in the rest of the world in general are owned by Jews. So they present the stories in a way to attract sympathies for themselves and dissatisfaction for Palestinians. But some might say that today there are thousands of internet websites that are providing objective information about this issue through reports, videos, images and interviews and Americans especially are among the top internet users in the world. So the effect of conventional media alone can not produce such high figures in favor of Israel as have been mentioned above.

What do you think are the factors shaping positive opinions of Israel among Americans? Why do Americans feel more sympathetic towards Israel? Why do Palestinians despite losing men, women, and children are not able to acquire the support of American publics?

## Summary of Polls

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Poor Ratings for Netanyahu Government in Israel

The administration headed by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been disappointing for many, according to a poll by *Maagar Mochot*. 20 per cent of respondents say Netanyahu's first year in office has been good or very good, while 33 per cent think it has been just average.

February 27, 2010

### WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

#### Fewer Afghans See Corruption Increasing in Their Country

Gallup surveys document some positive momentum in Afghans' views about the level of corruption in their country following the controversial presidential election in August last year. The number of Afghans saying corruption levels were higher than they were five years ago continued to decline, dropping below 50% for the first time in Gallup's September-October survey.

February 24, 2010

#### Turkey's AKP Holds Slim Advantage

Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) is the favourite political group in the country if only by a small margin, according to a poll by Sonar Arastirma. 29.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the AKP in the next legislative election, down 2.5 points since October.

February 22, 2010

### EAST ASIA

#### Villar Closer to Aquino in the Philippines

The next presidential election in the Philippines could be a tight contest after all, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for Benigno "Noy" Aquino III in the May ballot, down eight points since December.

February 22, 2010

### EAST EUROPE

#### Top Two Czech Parties Gain as Election Nears

The Czech Republic's main political parties have gained public backing, according to a poll by Median. 32 per cent of respondents would vote for the opposition Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) in the next legislative election, up 2.7 points since mid-December.

February 23, 2010

### WEST EUROPE

#### Most Britons Still Oppose Afghan Mission

A majority of people in Britain is against the military operation involving British soldiers in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents oppose the mission, down four points since November.

February 25, 2010

#### Swiss Want to Maintain Banking Secrecy Laws

Most people in Switzerland disagree with ending banking secrecy legislation, according to a poll by Isopublic published in *Le Matin*. 62 per cent of respondents oppose abolishing banking secrecy, while 35 per cent support this notion.

February 24, 2010

### Most Italians Have No Confidence in Berlusconi

The majority of people in Italy say their prime minister does not inspire trust, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 46 per cent of respondents have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi, while 52 per cent do not.

February 23, 2010

### Germans Reject Offering Financial Aid to Greece

A large proportion of people in Germany are against using government funds to help Greece's struggling economy, according to a poll by Emnid released by N24. 71 per cent of respondents oppose using German tax money to provide financial aid to Greece.

February 23, 2010

### Greeks Agree with Need for Austerity Measures

Most people in Greece admit that recent austerity measures tabled by the government are both fair and necessary to get the country out of a deep economic crisis, according to a poll by Alco published in *Proto Thema*. 65 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 24.9 per cent disagree.

February 22, 2010

## NORTH AMERICA

### Support for Israel in U.S. at 63%, Near Record High

For the first time since 1991, more than 6 in 10 Americans -- 63% -- say their sympathies in the Middle East situation lie more with the Israelis than with the Palestinians. Fifteen percent side more with the Palestinians, down slightly from recent years, while a combined 23% favor both sides, favor neither side, or have no opinion.

February 24, 2010

### Americans See U.S. Military as No. 1 Now, But Not in 20 Yrs

While 64% of Americans believe the U.S. is the No. 1 military power in the world today, many fewer (36%) believe that the U.S. will be No. 1 militarily in 20 years. At the same time, most Americans believe the U.S. will continue to have combat troops regularly involved in fighting around the world over the next two decades.

February 26, 2010

### Favorability Ratings of Labor Unions Fall Sharply

Favorable views of labor unions have plummeted since 2007, amid growing public skepticism about unions' purpose and power. Currently, 41% say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions while about as many (42%) express an unfavorable opinion. In January 2007, a clear majority (58%) had a favorable view of unions while just 31% had an unfavorable impression.

February 23, 2010

### Six in 10 Underemployed Not Hopeful About Finding Work

Gallup Daily tracking during January reveals that 61% of the underemployed are not hopeful they will find a job within the next four weeks, while 39% are hopeful.

February 23, 2010

### Spending Less Becoming New Norm for Many Americans

The recession and financial crisis have resulted in a significant change in the way many Americans feel about spending and saving. Six in 10 Americans (62%) now say they more enjoy saving than spending -- while 35% say the reverse. This reflects a shift that began in December 2008 and a marked change from the first half of the decade, when

Americans were about evenly split regarding whether they more enjoyed spending or saving.

February 25, 2010

#### Fewer Americans Support Health Care Reform Bill

Adults in the United States are less enthusiastic about the health care reform bill passed by the Senate in December, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only 28 per cent of respondents support the legislation, down eight points since January.

February 21, 2010

#### Half of Americans Reject Waterboarding

Most people in the United States are against the use of a procedure known as waterboarding on suspected terrorists, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 49 per cent of respondents disapprove of the U.S. military and intelligence agencies relying on this practice, while 39 per cent approve.

February 25, 2010

#### Americans Back Plan to Fine Airlines for Delays

Many adults in the United States are in favour of the federal government's decision to fine airlines for long tarmac delays, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents support the measure, while 24 per cent oppose it.

February 24, 2010

#### More Americans Support Afghanistan Mission

More adults in the United States are now in favour of the ongoing military operation in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 54 per cent of respondents support the mission involving American soldiers, up five points since December.

February 23, 2010

#### Canadians Divided on Afghanistan Mission

Adults in Canada hold differing views on the mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents support the military operation involving Canadian soldiers, while 49 per cent oppose it.

February 24, 2010

## LATIN AMERICA

#### Castañeda, Fujimori Lead Presidential Race in Peru

The mayor of Lima and the daughter of a jailed former president are currently the frontrunners in the race to become the next head of state of Peru, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 22 per cent of respondents would vote for Luis Castañeda Lossio of the National Solidarity Party (PSN) in next year's ballot, down one point since January.

February 26, 2010

#### Three-in-Four Brazilians Satisfied with Lula

Public support for Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is still high in the last year of his tenure, according to a poll by Ibope. 76 per cent of respondents approve of the president's performance, down seven points since November.

February 25, 2010

### Mexicans Evenly Split on Abortion

The legal status of abortion divides opinions in Mexico, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 48.8 per cent of respondents agree with allowing women to seek an abortion on a voluntary basis, whereas 45.3 per cent disagree.

February 20, 2010

### AUSTRALASIA

#### New Zealanders Reject GST Hike

Most people in New Zealand oppose a plan to increase the Goods and Services Tax (GST) while reducing income taxes at the same time, according to a poll by UMR Research. 56 per cent of respondents reject the idea, while 33 per cent support it.

February 26, 2010

#### Half in Australia Content with Rudd

Satisfaction with Australia's Kevin Rudd remains stable, according to a poll by Newspoll published in *The Australian*. 50 per cent of respondents are content with the prime minister's performance, unchanged since late January.

February 25, 2010

#### Australians Would Ban Shopping Mall Campaigning

Most people in Australia agree with a proposal to ban politicians from campaigning in shopping malls, according to a poll by Essential Research. 57 per cent of respondents support this initiative, while 28 per cent oppose it.

February 23, 2010

#### Australians Reject Abbott's Comments on Virginity

The majority of Australians condemn recent comments by opposition leader Tony Abbott suggesting that women should try to preserve their virginity until marriage, according to a poll by Essential Research. 70 per cent of respondents think Abbott should not be giving advice on moral issues related to sex and marriage.

February 21, 2010

### MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

#### Entrepreneurial Goals Common Among Young in Arab States

In Arab League countries, there appears to be no shortage of entrepreneurial aspirations among young people. Across 20 countries and the Somaliland region of Somalia, a median 27% of young Arabs who were not already business owners said they intended to start a business in the next 12 months. Intent to create a business ranged from a high of 45% in Sudan to a low of 9% in Jordan.

February 26, 2010

#### In Arab Countries, Emigration Appeals More to the Employed

Young Arabs who have a job are more likely than those who do not to express the desire to emigrate permanently. Across Arab League member countries surveyed, 31% of respondents who already work full time compared with 17% who are not in the workforce say they would like to leave their country permanently, if they had the opportunity.

February 23, 2010

## MIDDLE EAST

### Poor Ratings for Netanyahu Government in Israel

February 27, 2010

The administration headed by Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been disappointing for many, according to a poll by *Maagar Mochot*. 20 per cent of respondents say Netanyahu's first year in office has been good or very good, while 33 per cent think it has been just average.

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."

Last month, when asked whether Israel has lost support from the international community over a military operation in Gaza last year that left 1,400 Palestinian and 13 Israeli fatal victims, Netanyahu responded, "Of course there was damage done, because people see a distorted picture. (...) We've lost a numeric count at the [United Nations] UN. But the quality count? No. The serious countries, the decent countries, they know the truth. They know the score."

#### Polling Data

The government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu has been serving for a year. What grade would you give it for its performance?

Very Good / Good	20%
Average	33%
Bad / Very Bad	35%
Other replies	12%

*Source: Maagar Mochot*

*Methodology: Telephone interviews with 578 Israeli adults, conducted from Feb. 7 to Feb. 9, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.*

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## WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

### Fewer Afghans See Corruption Increasing in Their Country

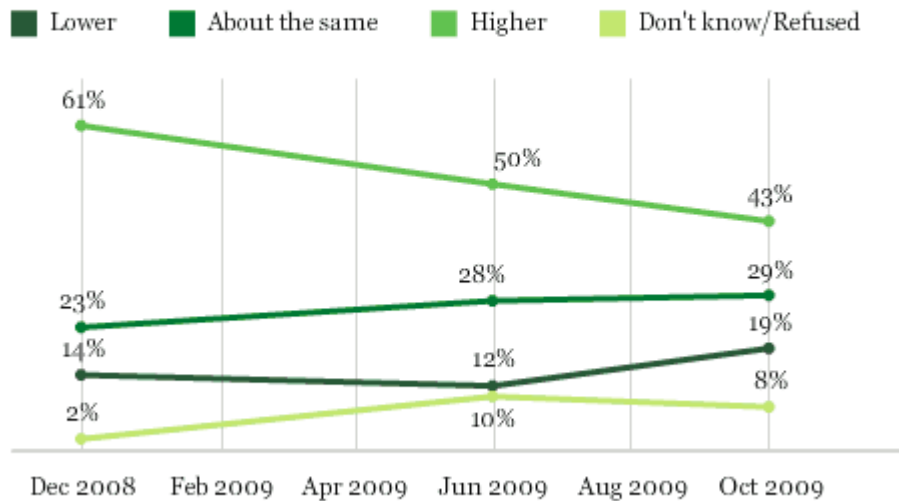
*Most still perceive corruption as widespread in government, business*

February 24, 2010

Gallup surveys document some positive momentum in Afghans' views about the level of corruption in their country following the controversial presidential election in August last year. The number of Afghans saying corruption levels were higher than they were five years ago continued to decline, dropping below 50% for the first time in Gallup's September-October survey.

*Do you think the level of corruption in this country is lower, about the same, or higher than it was 5 years ago?*

Among Afghans



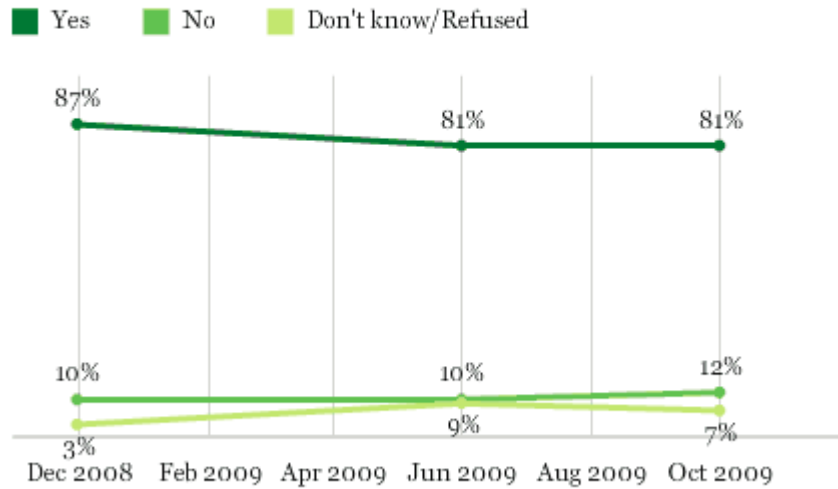
GALLUP®

Insecurity and fears of fraud before the election and allegations of irregularities afterward mired Afghanistan's second presidential election in controversy. Gallup's survey was conducted after the Aug. 20 election, but before Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed to a runoff against rival candidate Dr. Abdullah Abdullah that ultimately did not take place.

Although more Afghans perceived corruption levels as higher (43%) than lower (19%), the direction of the trend is an encouraging sign in a country where most continue to perceive corruption as widespread in government and business. Still, 81% of Afghans surveyed post-election said corruption was rampant in their government, unchanged from June. Slightly fewer than three in four (73%) said the same about corruption in the country's businesses -- also unchanged from the pre-election survey.

*Is corruption widespread throughout the government in Afghanistan, or not?*

Among Afghans

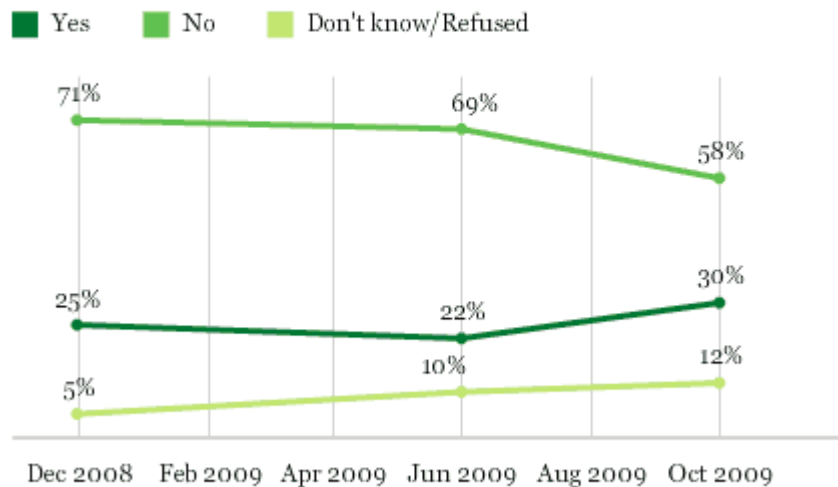


GALLUP®

A majority of Afghans (58%) continued to perceive their government's efforts to fight corruption as insufficient, but this percentage was down from previous surveys, perhaps because of the political spotlight thrown on corruption during the election. This decline may signal an opportunity for Karzai -- who only last month reiterated his commitment to make fighting corruption the key focus of his second term -- to improve his track record with the Afghan public and Western donors.

*Do you think the government of your country is doing enough to fight corruption, or not?*

Among Afghans



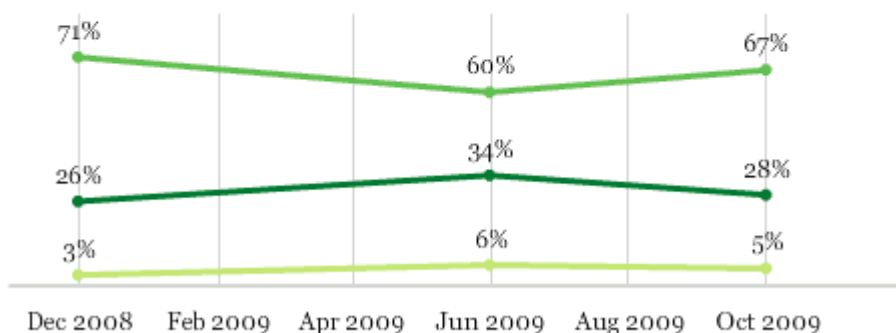
GALLUP®

The number of Afghans who said they personally faced a bribe situation in the last year was more in line with what Gallup observed in 2008 than before the election in 2009. Nearly 3 in 10 Afghans (28%) said they found themselves in a situation in which they had to give a bribe or a present to solve a problem -- down slightly from 34% in June 2009. These figures are much higher than in other countries in South Asia, where percentages who said they faced a bribe situation are typically less than 10%.

*Sometimes people have to give a bribe or a present in order to solve their problems. In the last 12 months, were you, personally, faced with this kind of situation, or not (regardless of whether you gave a bribe/present or not)?*

Among Afghans

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused



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### Bottom Line

At the 70-nation London summit on Afghanistan last month, Karzai continued to face pressure to make concrete plans to fight the corruption so endemic in his country. If Karzai keeps his commitment to fight corruption, he has the chance not only to bolster international confidence in his governance, but also to keep the positive momentum in Afghans' attitudes toward corruption.

### Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in December 2008, June 2009, and September-October 2009 in Afghanistan. For results based on the sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points. 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.

## Turkey's AKP Holds Slim Advantage

February 22, 2010

Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) is the favourite political group in the country if only by a small margin, according to a poll by Sonar Arastirma. 29.5 per cent of respondents would vote for the AKP in the next legislative election, down 2.5 points since October.

The Republican People's Party (CHP) is a close second with 29.1 per cent, followed by the National Action Party (MHP) with 20.4 per cent, the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) with 6.3 per cent, and the Felicity Party (SP) with 5.5 per cent. Support is lower for the Democratic Left Party (DSP), the Turkish Democratic Party (DP), and the Great Union Party (BBP).

Turkish voters renewed the Great National Assembly in July 2007. Final results gave the AKP 46.6 per cent of the vote and 341 seats in the legislature. Parties require at least 10 per cent of the vote to earn seats under the country's proportional representation system. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a member of the AKP, has served as prime minister since March 2003.

Earlier this month, Ilhan Cihaner, the top prosecutor in the eastern Anatolian province of Erzincan, was arrested by Turkish authorities after another prosecutor, Osman Sanal, accused him of having links to an organization that allegedly tried to stage a military coup against Erdogan's administration.

Cihaner's case appears to be connected to last year's announcement by the government that several military officers were trying to stage a coup. Dozens of retired and active members of the military are currently facing trial in relation to this accusation.

Last year, the Constitutional Court was close to dismantling the AKP for its alleged anti-secular activism. Cihaner's arrest has sparked a new row between the governing party and the courts. Abdurrahman Yalcinkaya, Turkey's prosecutor general, said in reaction to Cihaner's arrest that his team will investigate "whether the judiciary has come under political influence".

### Polling Data

What party would you support in the next parliamentary election?

	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Justice and Development Party (AKP)	29.5%	31.7%
Republican People's Party (CHP)	27.1%	28.2%
National Action Party (MHP)	20.4%	19.6%
Peace and Democracy Party (BDP)	6.3%	6.6% (*)

Felicity Party (SP)	5.5%	6.1%
Democratic Left Party (DSP)	4.1%	2.0%
Turkish Democratic Party (DP)	3.0%	1.9%
Great Union Party (BBP)	2.2%	2.2%

(\*) *The BDP replaced the Democratic Society Party (DTP)*

*Source: Sonar Arastirma*

*Methodology: Interviews with 3,000 Turk adults, conducted from Jan. 3 to Jan. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 2.0 per cent.*

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## **EAST ASIA**

### **Villar Closer to Aquino in the Philippines**

February 22, 2010

The next presidential election in the Philippines could be a tight contest after all, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III in the May ballot, down eight points since December.

Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (PNP) is a close second with 35 per cent, up 12 points. Former president Joseph Estrada is in third place with 12 per cent. Support is lower for former secretary of National Defence Gilberto Teodoro, religious and political leader Eddie Villanueva, and senator Richard Gordon.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over as president in January 2001, following Estrada's resignation. Arroyo won a six-year term in the June 2004 presidential election, garnering 39.99 per cent of all cast ballots. Noli De Castro—running as Arroyo's running mate, but not as part of a single ticket—received 49.79 per cent of all cast ballots in the vice-presidential election, defeating Loren Legarda.

In May 2007, voters in the Philippines renewed the House of Representatives and one-half of the Senate. Final results gave seven of the 12 upper house seats at stake to Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates, followed by the pro-government Team Unity (TU) with three, and two independents.

In 1986, Corazon Aquino—the widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino—took over as president when long-time dictator Ferdinand Marcos was forced to flee to Hawaii. Aquino accused Marcos of stealing a presidential election, and led a series of massive demonstrations that came to be known as "People Power" in order to topple the regime. Aquino ended her presidency on a high note and remained an extremely popular figure in the country, until her death in August 2009.

Aquino's death ignited a sudden interest in her son Aquino III becoming a presidential candidate. A grass-roots movement urged him to run and the senator officially launched his bid in September.

On Feb. 18, Villar addressed accusations by Aquino III's campaign saying that he is the secret candidate of the current administration, saying, "The Liberal Party has been coming up with these factories of lies against me almost on a daily basis. But I know the public is wise enough to realize that these are all black propaganda."

The presidential election is scheduled for May 10. Arroyo is ineligible for a consecutive term in office.

### **Polling Data**

Of the people in this list, for whom would you vote for as president of the Philippines if the elections of 2010 were held today and they were presidential candidates?

	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Benigno Aquino III	37%	45%	44%
Manuel Villar	35%	23%	19%
Joseph Estrada	12%	19%	11%
Gilberto Teodoro	5%	5%	2%
Eddie Villanueva	2%	1%	1%
Richard Gordon	1%	1%	n.a.
Other	8%	1%	1%

*Source: Pulse Asia*

*Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,800 Filipino adults, conducted from Jan. 22 to Jan. 26, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.*

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## **EAST EUROPE**

### **Top Two Czech Parties Gain as Election Nears**

February 23, 2010

The Czech Republic's main political parties have gained public backing, according to a poll by Median. 32 per cent of respondents would vote for the opposition Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) in the next legislative election, up 2.7 points since mid-December.

The ruling Civic Democratic Party (ODS) is in second place with 27.8 per cent, up 4.4 points. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) is third with 12.8 per cent, followed by Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09) with 9.3 per cent, the Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL) with 7.4 per cent, the Green Party (SZ) with 4.3 per cent, and Public Affairs (VV) with 2.4 per cent.

In June 2006, Czech voters renewed the Chamber of Representatives. Final results gave the ODS 35.58 per cent of all cast ballots, followed by the CSSD with 32.32 per cent. Czech parties require at least five per cent of the vote to earn seats under the country's proportional representation system. The final tallies gave the ODS, the KDU-CSL and the SZ 10 seats in the lower house, with the remaining 100 seats going to the CSSD and the KSCM.

The tie among rival factions led to a long political stalemate. In January 2007, Czech president Vaclav Klaus re-appointed ODS leader Mirek Topolánek as prime minister.

In March 2009, Topolánek's government finally lost one of many non-confidence motions tabled by the opposition since 2007. The last motion was in part incited by opposition to the government's handling of the economy. The leaders of the ODS, KDU-CSL, SZ and CSSD agreed to form an interim cabinet of non-partisan members. Klaus appointed Jan Fischer—a non-partisan, little known public servant who had been heading the Czech Statistical Office (CSU)—to serve as interim prime minister. Fischer took office in May.

Fischer was originally slated to serve until early October 2009, when a new legislative election was supposed to take place. The ballot was postponed due to a Constitutional Court decision, and was re-scheduled for May 28 and May 29, 2010.

In June 2009, former KDU-CSL member Miroslav Kalousek announced the creation of the conservative TOP 09 party. Current senator and former Czech foreign minister Karel Schwarzenberg is the party's leader.

On Feb. 17, a Czech court banned a political party for the first time ever. Judge Vojtech Simicek ordered the disbanding of the fringe Worker's Party, calling it "xenophobic", "anti-Semitic" and "homophobic," and adding, "This ruling needs to be understood as a preventive one, to maintain the constitutional and democratic order in the future."

The Worker's Party has no elected members in the Czech legislature. The party won 1.07 per cent of the vote in last year's elections to the European Parliament.

Czech interior minister Martin Pecina—who had asked the court to ban the Worker's Party, expressed satisfaction with the ruling—saying, "In a democratic society, the battle against extremism never ends."

## Polling Data

What party list would you vote for in the next parliamentary election?

	<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>Nov. 1</b>
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	32.0%	29.3%	29.6%
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	27.8%	23.4%	28.6%
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	12.8%	15.9%	12.6%
Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09)	9.3%	9.9%	12.2%
Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL)	7.4%	6.9%	5.7%
Green Party (SZ)	4.3%	4.0%	2.9%
Public Affairs (VV)	2.4%	2.3%	2.5%

*Source: Median*

*Methodology: Interviews with 781 Czech adults, conducted from Jan. 2 to Feb. 2, 2010. No margin of error was provided.*

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## WEST EUROPE

### Most Britons Still Oppose Afghan Mission

February 25, 2010

A majority of people in Britain is against the military operation involving British soldiers in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents oppose the mission, down four points since November.

In addition, 47 per cent of respondents think the British government has provided too little information about the war in Afghanistan.

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 1,639 soldiers—including 263 Britons—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).

On Jan. 28, while attending a summit on the war in Afghanistan, British prime minister Gordon Brown said that coalition forces are "turning the tide" against the Taliban, and addressed al-Qaeda members saying, "We will defeat you. Not just on the battlefield, but in the hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan—and in any and every country where you seek refuge."

### **Polling Data**

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving UK soldiers in Afghanistan?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Nov. 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Support	38%	36%	35%
Oppose	52%	56%	59%
Not sure	10%	8%	6%

Thinking about the Government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

Too much	9%
The right amount	29%
Too little	47%
Not sure	15%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 2,002 British adults, conducted on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.*

### **Swiss Want to Maintain Banking Secrecy Laws**

February 24, 2010

Most people in Switzerland disagree with ending banking secrecy legislation, according to a poll by Isopublic published in *Le Matin*. 62 per cent of respondents oppose abolishing banking secrecy, while 35 per cent support this notion.

Due to their reputation for stability, confidentiality and political neutrality, Swiss banking institutions have been key figures in the country's economy for decades.

Swiss banks are the world's largest wealth manager. Last year, Switzerland's USB bank came under the spotlight as it was forced to pay \$780 million U.S. in fines and provide client information to authorities in the United States who were investigating a tax evasion case.

On Feb. 18, Swiss finance minister Hans-Rudolf Merz rejected increasing calls by European Union (EU) officials for Swiss banking to be more transparent, saying, "We have to resist against such foreign demands. We have to be firm."

### **Polling Data**

Should banking secrecy be abolished in Switzerland?

Yes	35%
No	62%
Not sure	3%

*Source: Isopublic / Le Matin*

*Methodology: Interviews with 602 Swiss adults, conducted from Feb. 11 to Feb. 13, 2010.*

*Margin of error is 4 per cent.*

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### **Most Italians Have No Confidence in Berlusconi**

February 23, 2010

The majority of people in Italy say their prime minister does not inspire trust, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 46 per cent of respondents have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi, while 52 per cent do not.

Italian voters renewed the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in April 2008. Final results gave Berlusconi's right-wing coalition—encompassing the Italian People of Freedom Party (PdL), the Northern League (LN), and the Movement for Autonomy (MPA)—344 seats in the lower house, and 174 seats in the upper house. The victory put an end to the government of the centre-left Union (Unione), headed by Romano Prodi.

Berlusconi was sworn in as the country's new head of government in May 2008. He had previously served as prime minister from May 1994 to January 1995, and from June 2001 to May 2006.

Last month, Berlusconi came up with a 10-step plan to defeat the Italian mafia, including the creation of an agency based in Reggio Calabria to manage confiscated assets. The Italian prime minister commented on this point, saying, "You have to go after their assets. If the Mafia buys them back, we will confiscate them again. The Mafia is a terrible pathology for our country."

### **Polling Data**

Do you have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Nov. 2009</b>
Yes	46%	48%	45%
No	52%	50%	51%

*Source: IPR Marketing / La Repubblica*

*Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,000 Italian adults, conducted on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, 2010. No margin of error was provided.*

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## **Germans Reject Offering Financial Aid to Greece**

February 23, 2010

A large proportion of people in Germany are against using government funds to help Greece's struggling economy, according to a poll by Emnid released by N24. 71 per cent of respondents oppose using German tax money to provide financial aid to Greece.

Greece is currently facing a massive load of foreign debt—four times the rate allowed for European Union (EU) members—and is under pressure to deal with the problem. On Jan. 13, Greek prime minister Georges Papandreou vowed to introduce fiscal reforms to handle the deficit. The measures will include wage cuts to state employees and tax increases.

The German government—which heads the most solid economy in the EU—has expressed reservations about bailing out Greece, citing fears that other countries might follow suit in asking for help from the more successful members of the continental group.

Germany's government is made of chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Party (CDU), its associate Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), and the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP).

On Feb. 17, CSU leader and Bavarian prime minister Horst Seehofer advised against providing monetary aid to Greece, saying, "We are the stable currency party. That's why we're helping Greece politically; but not a single euro must go there."

### **Polling Data**

Do you support or oppose providing German tax funds to provide financial assistance to Greece?

Support 25%

Oppose 71%

Not sure 4%

*Source: Emnid / N24*

*Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 German adults, conducted on Feb. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 2.5 per cent.*

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## **Greeks Agree with Need for Austerity Measures**

February 22, 2010

Most people in Greece admit that recent austerity measures tabled by the government are both fair and necessary to get the country out of a deep economic crisis, according to a poll by Alco

published in *Proto Thema*. 65 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 24.9 per cent disagree.

Greece held a legislative election in October 2009. Final results gave the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) 43.92 per cent of the vote and 160 seats in parliament. The conservative New Democracy (ND)—which had been in power since 2004—garnered 33.48 per cent of all cast ballots and secured 91 seats in the legislature. The Communist Party of Greece (KKE), the People's Orthodox Alarm (LAOS), and the Coalition of the Radical Left (SYR) also won parliamentary seats.

PASOK's Georges Papandreou—whose father and grandfather served as prime ministers—was sworn in as Greece's new head of government. Outgoing prime minister Kostas Karamanlis accepted defeat, and tendered his resignation as leader of the ND. Former culture minister Antonis Samaras won an internal leadership ballot and became the new party leader in November.

Greece is currently facing a massive load of foreign debt, and is under pressure from the European Union (EU) to deal with the problem. On Jan. 13, Papandreou vowed to introduce fiscal reforms to handle the deficit. The measures will include wage cuts to state employees and tax increases.

Prime minister Papandreou recently called for an investigation into whether U.S.-based investment banking and securities firm Goldman Sachs helped previous Greek governments manipulate budget data, saying, "The principle is that we have to shine light everywhere it's needed."

On Feb. 17, German chancellor Angela Merkel commented on this possibility, declaring, "It would be a disgrace if it turned out to be true that banks that already pushed us to the edge of the abyss were also party to falsifying Greek statistics."

## **Polling Data**

Do you think the recent austerity measures announced by the government were fair and necessary?

Yes 65.0%

No 24.9%

*Source: Alco / Proto Thema*

*Methodology: Interviews with 1,042 Greek adults, conducted from Feb. 10 to Feb. 12, 2010.*

*Margin of error is 3.2 per cent.*

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## NORTH AMERICA

### Support for Israel in U.S. at 63%, Near Record High

*Near-record-low 30% optimistic about Arab-Israeli peace*

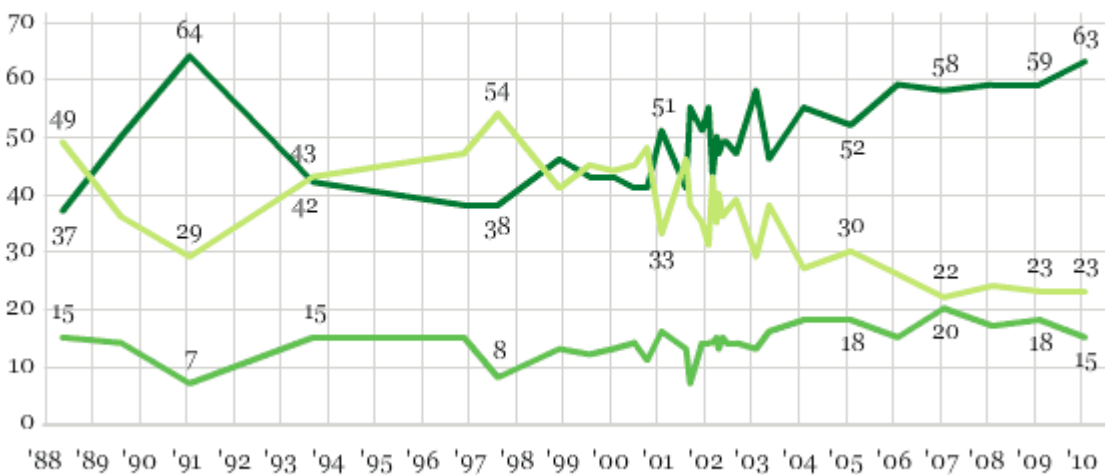
February 24, 2010

For the first time since 1991, more than 6 in 10 Americans -- 63% -- say their sympathies in the Middle East situation lie more with the Israelis than with the Palestinians. Fifteen percent side more with the Palestinians, down slightly from recent years, while a combined 23% favor both sides, favor neither side, or have no opinion.

#### *Middle East Sympathies, Full Trend*

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

■ % Israelis    ■ % Palestinians    ■ % Both/Neither/No opinion



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The 63% sympathizing with Israel today is statistically unchanged from the 58% to 59% seen from 2006 to 2009; however, it is considerably higher than most of the previous readings on this Gallup measure since 1993. The trend includes two 38% readings in 1996 and 1997.

Only in January 1991 -- shortly after Israel was hit by Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf War -- did U.S. support for Israel register as high as it does today.

"Americans' attitudes about the prospects for peace are little changed from last year, but are among the more pessimistic Gallup has found since initiating the question in 1997."

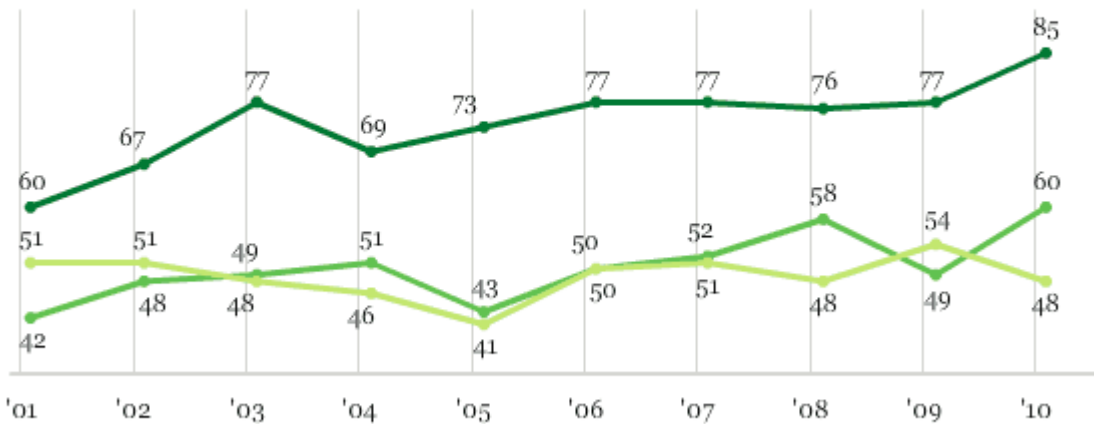
Over the last five years, support for Israel has increased slightly among Republicans (rising from about 77% for each of the past several years to 85% today) and independents, but has stayed roughly the same among Democrats. Since 2001, however, there has been a more dramatic shift

in partisan attitudes: a 25-point increase in sympathy for Israel among Republicans and an 18-point increase among independents. Even on this longer-term basis, support for Israel among Democrats has been relatively flat.

*Sympathy for Israelis vs. Palestinians in Mideast Situation, by Party ID*

% Sympathize more with Israelis

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



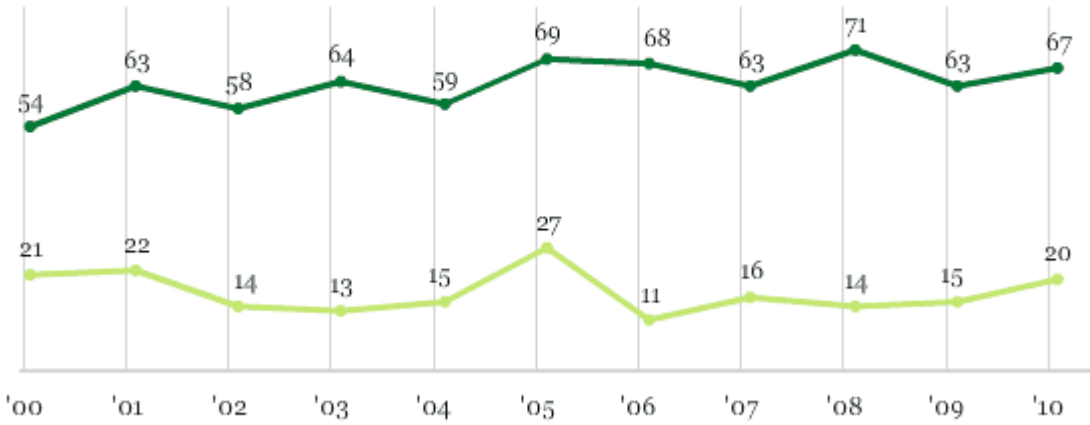
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The latest findings come from Gallup's annual World Affairs survey, updated Feb. 1-3, 2010. In the same poll, Americans were asked to give their opinions of 20 countries, including Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Israel's 67% favorable rating ranks among the highest and the Palestinian Authority's 20% among the lowest. However, current favorability toward Israel is similar to where it has been for the last several years, and favorability toward the Palestinians is on the high end of the range since 2000.

### *Favorable Views Toward Israel and the Palestinian Authority*

% Very/Mostly favorable

■ Israel    ■ Palestinian Authority



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### **Outlook for Peace**

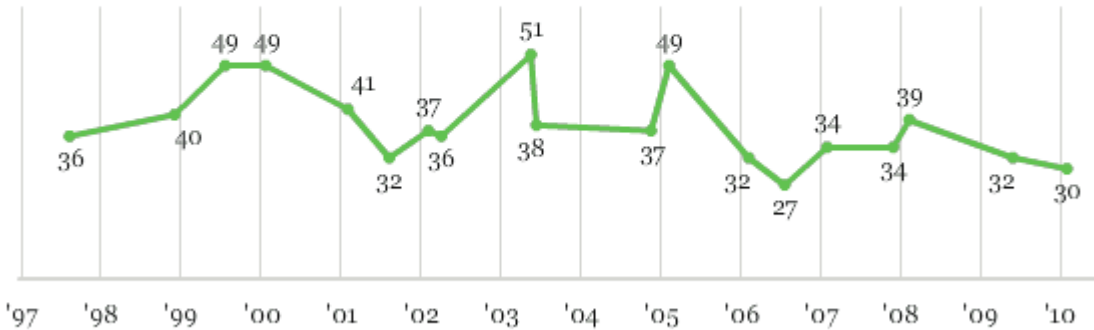
Additionally, the poll asked Americans about the chances that peace will eventually come to the Middle East. Currently, 30% think "there will come a time" when "Israel and the Arab nations will be able to settle their differences and live in peace"; 67% are doubtful.

Americans' attitudes about the prospects for peace are little changed from last year, but are among the more pessimistic Gallup has found since initiating the question in 1997. The only time fewer Americans were optimistic about Arab-Israeli peace (27%) was in July 2006, during the Israeli-Hezbollah war in southern Lebanon. While public optimism has since remained low, it has shown longer-term variations, and has a history of rebounding -- particularly after U.S.-brokered peace talks in 1999, 2003, and 2005.

### Outlook for Peace Between Israel and Arab Nations

Do you think there will or will not come a time when Israel and the Arab nations will be able to settle their differences and live in peace?

■ % Yes, will come a time when they live in peace



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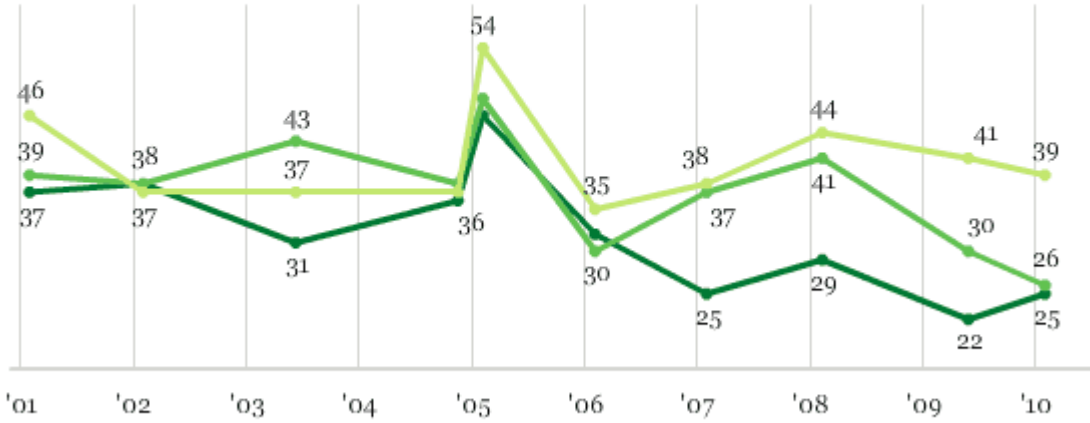
With 39% of Democrats saying peace will come about, this group is more optimistic than either Republicans (25%) or independents (26%) are about Arab-Israeli peace. This has been the general pattern for the past decade; however, the gap between Democrats and others has expanded in recent years.

Independents have become significantly less optimistic about the chances of peace since President Obama took office: the percentage believing peace will come about fell from 41% during the last year of the Bush administration (in February 2008) to 30% in May 2009, and stands at 26% today. Optimism among Republicans fell below 30% in 2007 and has since remained low. Democrats' views have been fairly steady since 2001, except for a brief spurt of optimism in 2005 -- seen among all three party groups (a major Israeli-Palestinian peace summit that resulted in a truce agreement was underway at the time of that survey).

### Outlook for Peace Between Israel and Arab Nations, by Party ID

% Yes, will come a time when they live in peace

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



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#### Bottom Line

In the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict, a striking 63% of Americans currently say their sympathies lie more with the Israelis, the highest level in nearly 20 years. Support for the Palestinians, at 15%, is about average for the same period. At the same time, Gallup finds Americans' fundamental views of Israel no more favorable than they have been for the past several years. Israel does continue to enjoy a substantial advantage over the Palestinian Authority in its general image, a fact that clearly colors the ways Americans view the conflict.

Americans are no more optimistic today than they were last year that peace can be reached between Israel and the Palestinians -- and they are, in fact, less optimistic than they were toward the end of the Bush administration. This is largely owing to a drop in optimism among independents.

#### Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 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  $\pm 4$  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 See U.S. Military as No. 1 Now, But Not in 20 Yrs

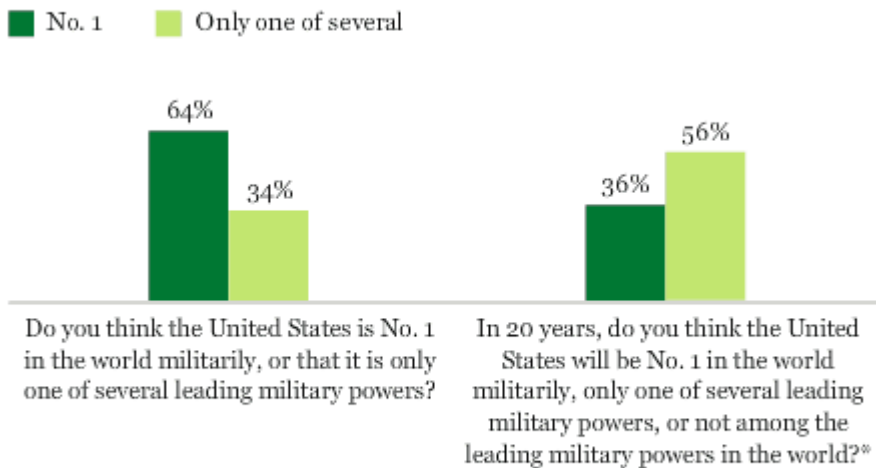
*Most also believe U.S. will routinely be involved in combat in next two decades*

February 26, 2010

While 64% of Americans believe the U.S. is the No. 1 military power in the world today, many fewer (36%) believe that the U.S. will be No. 1 militarily in 20 years. At the same time, most Americans believe the U.S. will continue to have combat troops regularly involved in fighting around the world over the next two decades.

### *Views of the U.S. Military Now and in 20 Years*

\* "Not among leading military powers" not shown



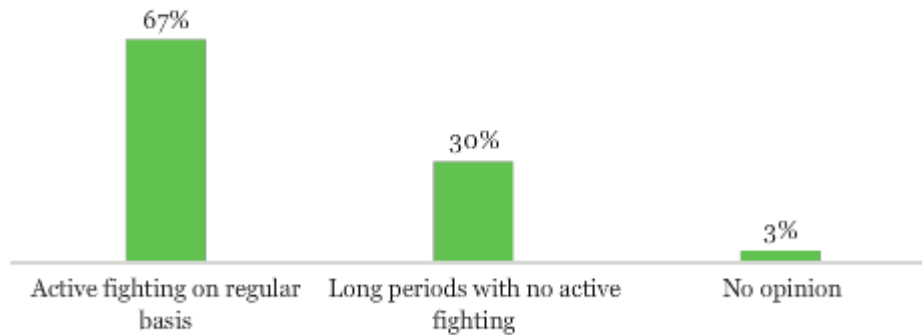
USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

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These results are based on a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted Jan. 8-10.

In addition to assessing Americans' views of the status of U.S. military strength in 20 years compared with today, the poll asked Americans about their expectations of U.S. military involvement in combat situations over the next two decades.

*Which do you think is more likely over the next 20 years -- [ROTATED: The U.S. will have combat troops actively fighting in various countries around the world on a regular basis, (or) there will be long periods of time in which the U.S. does not have combat troops actively fighting in other countries]?*



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

GALLUP

Given a choice between the two scenarios outlined in the question, more than two-thirds of Americans (67%) say they believe active military involvement of U.S. combat troops will be the norm over the next two decades. That's more than twice as many as believe there will be long periods of time in which the U.S. is not actively involved in combat (30%).

Unlike many attitudes relating to national defense today, there are minor partisan differences in views of the level of U.S. military involvement around the world in the coming decades. Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to believe the U.S. will be involved in regular military engagements. There are also few significant differences by age. The youngest group of Americans is similar to the oldest group of Americans in its views about the future role of the military.

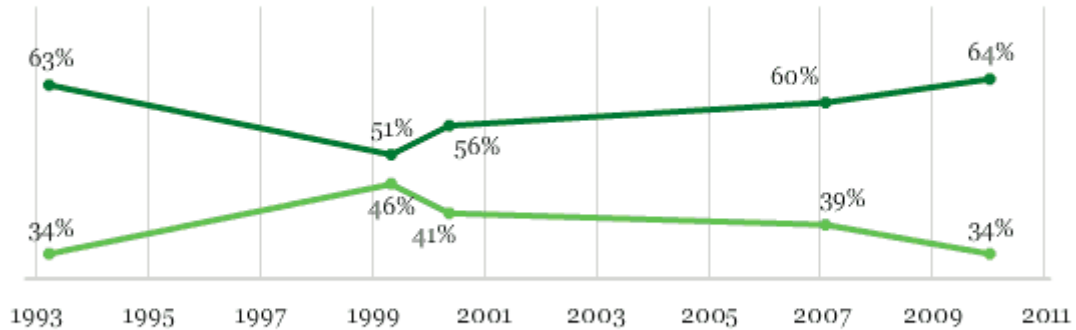
### **The U.S. as No. 1 Military Power Internationally**

Gallup has asked Americans about the U.S. military's "No. 1" status five times, beginning in March 1993, and with follow-ups in 1999, 2000, 2007, and January of this year. Thus, there is no record of how Americans felt on this issue immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, nor in the first several years of the Iraq war. (And, of course, there is no historical record of how Americans would have perceived the comparative status of U.S. military strength during World War II, the Cold War, during the substantial military buildup in the Reagan administration, or in the aftermath of the successful first Persian Gulf War in 1991.)

Still, based on the limited trend data available, the current 64% who say the U.S. is No. 1 militarily is -- by one percentage point -- the highest such reading across the five times the question has been asked.

*Do you think the United States is No. 1 in the world militarily, or that it is only one of several leading military powers?*

■ U.S. is No. 1   ■ U.S. is one of several   ■ No opinion



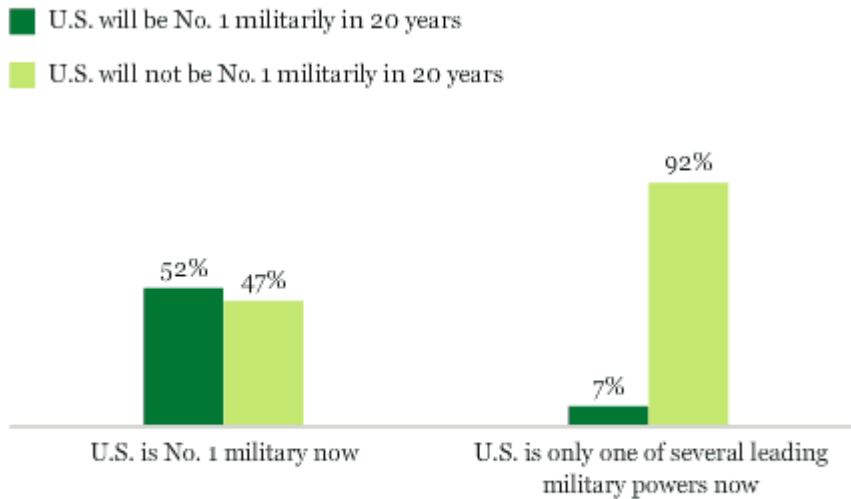
USA Today/Gallup, Jan 8-10, 2010

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The low point for Americans' views of their nation's military standing came in May of 1999, when 51% said the U.S. was No. 1. Three years ago, in February 2007, 60% said the U.S. was No. 1 militarily.

The current poll marks the first time Gallup has asked Americans to forecast the strength of the United States' military standing 20 years from now. The results show that many fewer Americans believe the U.S. will be No. 1 in two decades than believe it is today. Not surprisingly, most of those who do *not* believe the U.S. is No. 1 in the world one now also believe the U.S. will *not* be No. 1 in 20 years. About half of those who say the U.S. is No. 1 today believe the U.S. will continue to enjoy that status in 20 years.

### Views of the U.S. Military Now and in 20 Years



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

GALLUP

As was the case for views of U.S. military involvement in the decades ahead, there are few partisan differences in views of the U.S. military's "No. 1" status, either current or future.

#### Bottom Line

Given the nature of these findings, it might be tempting to hypothesize that Americans' pessimism about the nation's military superiority is connected to their beliefs that the U.S. will be engaged in continuous combat situations over that period.

This does not, however, appear to be the case. Analysis shows that Americans who think the U.S. will be regularly involved militarily are no less likely to say that the U.S. will be No. 1 militarily in 20 years than are those who believe the U.S. will not be regularly involved in combat.

#### Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,023 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 8-10, 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  $\pm 4$  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).

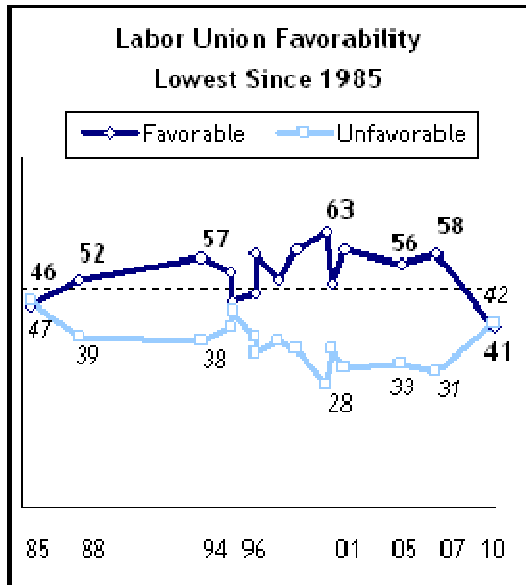
In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

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## Favorability Ratings of Labor Unions Fall Sharply

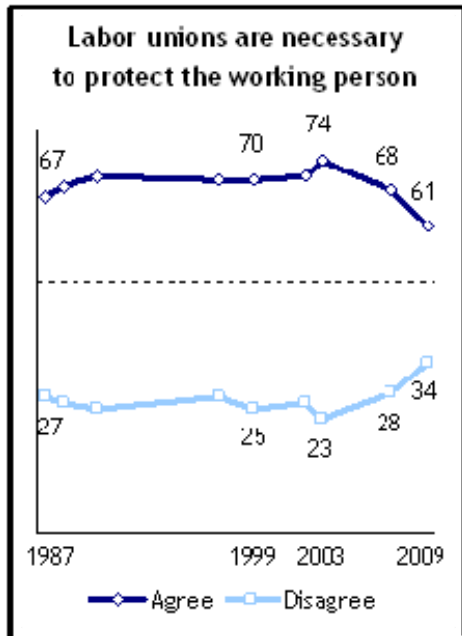
February 23, 2010

Favorable views of labor unions have plummeted since 2007, amid growing public skepticism about unions' purpose and power. Currently, 41% say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions while about as many (42%) express an unfavorable opinion. In January 2007, a clear majority (58%) had a favorable view of unions while just 31% had an unfavorable impression.



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 that favorable opinions of unions have fallen across demographic and partisan groups. Still, far more Democrats have favorable views of unions (56%) than do independents (38%) or Republicans (29%).

Last year, a Pew Research survey found a decline in the proportion of the public saying labor unions are necessary to protect working people, while more expressed concern about the power of unions. In April 2009, 61% agreed with the statement "labor unions are necessary to protect the working person," down from 68% in 2007 and 74% in 2003. In the same survey, six-in-ten (61%) agreed that "labor unions have too much power," up from 52% in 1999.



The findings about eroding public support for unions are consistent with other recent surveys. In August 2009, Gallup found that fewer than half of Americans (48%) approve of labor unions, an all-time low for a question that has been asked since 1936. In August 2008, 59% said they approved of labor unions.

### **Declines in Labor Favorability Among Most Groups**

In recent years, positive attitudes about labor unions have declined significantly across most demographic groups. The largest change has come among those 65 and older. Currently 29% of this group says they have a favorable opinion of unions, down 31 points from 60% in 2007. Notably, those younger than 30 are the only age group in which a majority (53%) expresses a favorable view of unions; even so, far more young people (66%) expressed a positive opinion two years ago.

### Favorable Views of Labor Unions Decline

	Jan 2007		Feb 2010		Change <i>in fav</i>	Feb N
	Fav %	Unfav %	Fav %	Unfav %		
Total	58	31	41	42	-17	1383
Men	57	34	40	49	-17	625
Women	59	29	43	36	-16	758
White	54	36	37	46	-17	1063
Black	75	19	59	26	-16	142
18-29	66	24	53	33	-13	184
30-49	57	32	36	45	-21	374
50-64	50	38	45	42	-5	418
65+	60	28	29	51	-31	393
College grad +	55	30	37	47	-18	495
Some college	61	30	42	40	-19	402
HS or less	58	28	44	40	-14	480
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75,000+	54	42	35	54	-19	392
\$30-\$74,999	57	33	47	40	10	454
Under \$30,000	65	22	43	36	-22	344
Republican	47	45	29	58	-18	391
Democrat	70	19	56	26	-14	438
Independent	54	34	38	46	-16	472
<i>Union Household</i>						
Yes	77	19	74	22	-3	172
No	54	33	36	45	-18	1197

Q25e. Whites and blacks do not include Hispanics.

Though ratings by whites and blacks are both down, a greater percentage of African Americans continues to have a favorable impression of unions – just as they did in 2007. Currently, 59% of blacks say they have a positive view of unions, down from 75% three years ago. Just more than a third of whites (37%) express a favorable opinion, down from 54% in 2007.

Labor union favorability among Republicans has dropped from 47% to 29%, while unfavorable opinions have risen from 45% to 58%. Independents show a similar shift (54% favorable in 2007 to 38% now). Democrats remain the most positive about unions – but in smaller numbers: 56% say they have a favorable opinion today, down from 70% in 2007; unfavorable opinions have increased from 19% to 26%.

One group that has shown virtually no change is union households. Today, 74% of those in union households say they have a favorable view of labor unions; 22% have an unfavorable view. Three years ago, 77% had a favorable view, while 19% had an unfavorable opinion.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 12.3 percent of wage and salary workers in the United States belonged to unions in 2009. That was comparable to 2008 (12.4%), but down from 20.1% in 1983, the first year when comparable data are available. BLS says that more public sector workers now belong to unions than private sector workers.

## Fewer See Labor Unions as Necessary

	----- Agree -----					99-09 Change
	1999	2002	2003	2007	2009	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	70	71	74	68	61	-9
Republican	53	59	62	53	44	-9
Democrat	80	82	83	80	80	0
Independent	73	70	76	67	53	-20

Pew Research's April 2009 survey of the public's political and social values – see [“Independents Take Center Stage in Obama Era,”](#) May 21, 2009 – found declines in the proportions of independents and Republicans saying labor unions are necessary to protect working people.

Just 53% of independents agreed that labor unions are necessary to protect working people, down from 67% in 2007 and 73% a decade earlier. Fewer than half of Republicans (44%) agreed with that statement in 2009, down nine points from 2007 (and 1999). Democrats, meanwhile, showed little change over the 10-year period, with at least 80% consistently saying that unions were needed to protect working people each time the question was asked.

In 2009, 82% of African Americans said unions were necessary to protect working people, little changed from 83% a decade earlier. By contrast, the proportion of whites agreeing with this statement fell to 54% in 2009 from 67% in 1999. Labor unions lost support among white men, in particular. Just 47% of white men agreed that labor unions were necessary to protect working people, down from 67% in 2003. Over that same period, the percentage of white women who saw unions as necessary declined by 11 points (from 72% to 61%).

That survey also found an increasing proportion saying labor unions are too powerful. Last year, 61% agreed that unions have too much power, while 33% disagreed. In 1999, the last time this question was asked, the divide was narrower: 52% agreed that unions had too much power; 40% disagreed.

Again, most of the change of opinion came among independents and Republicans. Among independents, 66% said unions had too much power, up from 53% in 1999. Three-quarters of Republicans (75%) last year said that unions had too much power, up from 65% 10 years earlier. By comparison, 46% of Democrats concurred, which was little changed from 1999 (42%).

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## Six in 10 Underemployed Not Hopeful About Finding Work

*Americans aged 50 to 65 are the least hopeful about finding a job in "the next four weeks"*

February 23, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking during January reveals that 61% of the underemployed are not hopeful they will find a job within the next four weeks, while 39% are hopeful.

*Hope Among Underemployed for Finding a Job in the Next Four Weeks*



Gallup Daily tracking, Jan. 2-31, 2010

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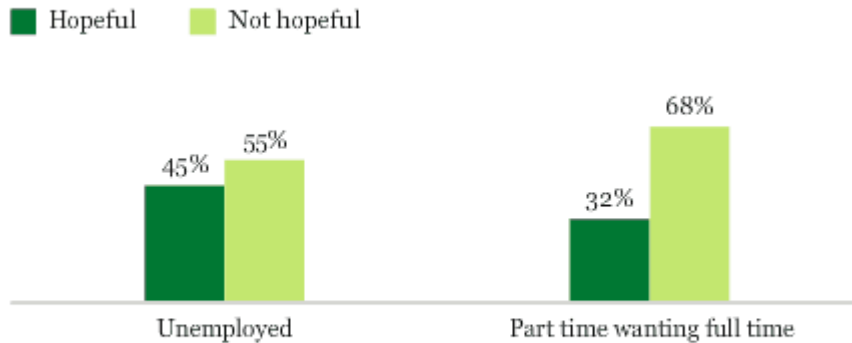
These results are based on interviews with more than 4,000 underemployed U.S. adults, aged 18 and older, during January 2010. Gallup classifies respondents as underemployed if they are either unemployed or work part time but want to work full time. Gallup asks those who are unemployed if they think they will have a job in the next four weeks, and asks those who are employed part time but want to work full time if they think they will have a job in the next four weeks that requires them to work 30 hours or more per week. Respondents who believe they will find work are "hopeful" while those who do not believe they will find work are "not hopeful."

"Nearly two-thirds of those with a college degree or postgraduate education are not hopeful."

A majority of both groups are not hopeful about finding the work they seek, though those currently employed part time are more pessimistic than those who are unemployed. Slightly less than half of the unemployed (45%) believe they will find work within the next four weeks, while only a third of part-timers who want to work full-time (32%) believe they will find full-time employment.

### Hope for Finding a Job in the Next Four Weeks

Unemployed versus those employed part time who want to work full time



Gallup Daily tracking, Jan. 2-31, 2010

GALLUP

There are several possibilities that might explain the differences in hope between part-timers and the unemployed. By definition, those who are unemployed are searching for jobs, while part-timers may have given up searching for a full-time position, instead having settled for part-time work, even though they indicate that they would like to work full time. Additionally, part-timers' commitments to their current jobs may restrict their ability to search for a better job. Also, part-timers who work for an employer that is reducing hours or laying people off may have little hope for increased hours in the future. Gallup Daily tracking asks employed respondents whether their employers are hiring new people and expanding the size of their workforces, not changing the size of their workforces, or letting people go and reducing the size of their workforces. Part-timers who report their employers are letting people go are less likely to be hopeful (28%) than are those who say their employers are not changing their workforce size (33%) or are hiring (42%).

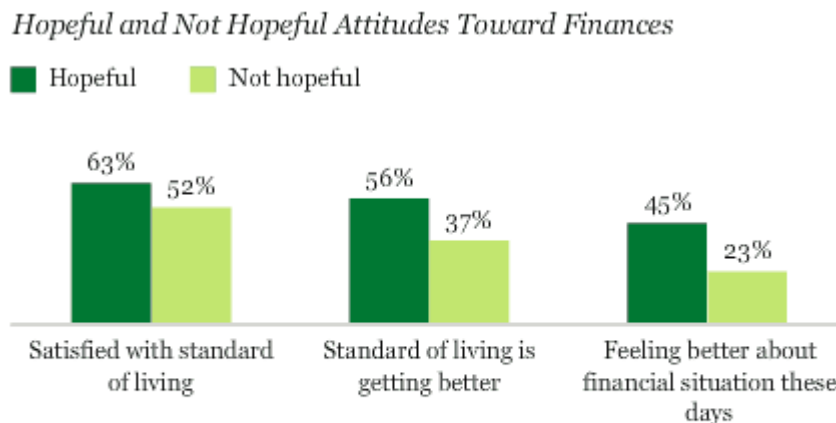
### Older Underemployed Are the Least Hopeful

Nearly three-quarters of underemployed Americans aged 50 to 65 (71%) are not hopeful about finding a job within four weeks, making them the demographic group with the lowest likelihood of being hopeful. Still, majorities of all demographic groups of the underemployed are not hopeful about finding the work they seek. On a relative basis, blacks and those aged 18 to 29 are the most likely to be hopeful, at 46%. Men (42%) are slightly more likely than women (37%) to report being hopeful. Hispanics (43%) are more likely than Non-Hispanic whites (37%) to be hopeful.

Nearly two-thirds of those with a college degree or postgraduate education are not hopeful, making them the educational group that is least likely to be hopeful.

### The Financial Cost of Lack of Hope

The underemployed who are hopeful are more likely than the not hopeful to be satisfied with their standard of living (63% vs. 52%, respectively) and to report that their standard of living is getting better (56% vs. 37%), and are almost twice as likely to say they are feeling better about their financial situation these days (45% vs. 23%).



Gallup Daily tracking, Jan. 2-31, 2010

GALLUP

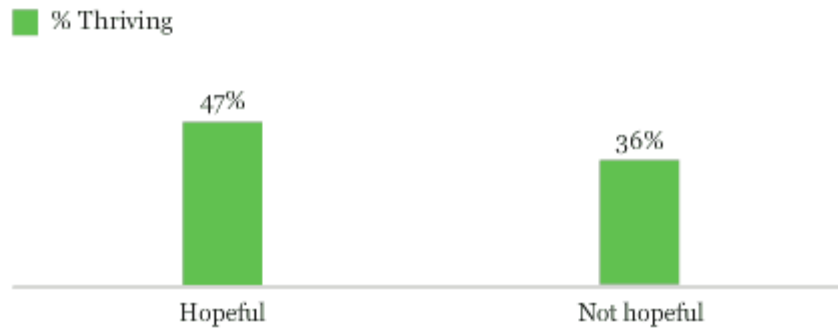
Further, those who are hopeful are less likely than the not hopeful to report that they worried about spending too much money yesterday (19% vs. 33%, respectively). Those who are hopeful are also slightly more likely to say they would be able to make a major purchase "right now" if necessary, although only a minority of both groups report being able to make a purchase (30% vs. 23%).

Despite the greater economic optimism among those who are hopeful that they will find employment, those who are hopeful and those who are not hopeful are about equally likely to report that they did not have enough money during the past 12 months to pay for food (37% vs. 35%), shelter (20% vs. 19%), or healthcare (35% vs. 37%), highlighting the daily economic struggles that both groups face.

### **The Impact of Hope on Wellbeing**

Individuals who are hopeful about finding work soon are more likely be "thriving" (47%) than are those who are not hopeful (36%). Gallup's definition of "thriving" is based on questions built on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, which asks respondents to evaluate their present and future lives on a ladder scale, with steps numbered from 0 to 10. As a point of reference, 53% of the U.S. population in general was classified as thriving during the same period.

### *Underemployed Wellbeing*



Gallup Daily tracking, Jan. 2-31, 2010

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### **Where the Hopeful Live**

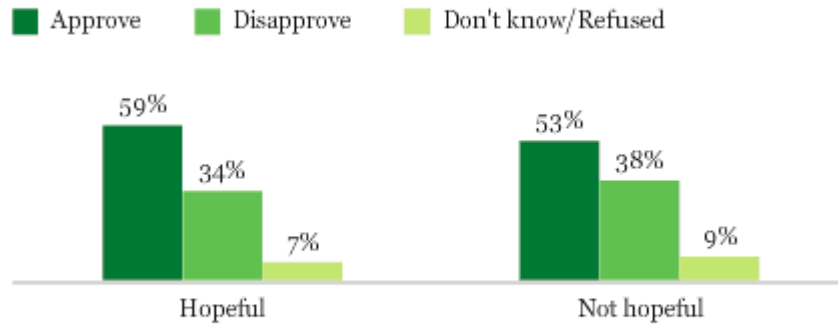
Underemployed Americans in the South (42%) and East (40%) are slightly more hopeful they will find a job than are those in the West (38%) and Midwest (36%). This finding parallels Gallup's Job Creation Index, which during January found that job conditions were most favorable in the South and the East.

Within local communities, those who are hopeful are more likely to report that their communities are getting better as places to live (63% vs. 48%).

### **The Politics of the Hopeful**

Among the underemployed, those who are hopeful are slightly more likely than the not hopeful to report approving of how President Barack Obama is handling his job (59% vs. 53%). As a point of reference, 49% of the overall U.S. population approved of Obama during the same time frame. Among the hopeful, 20% identify themselves as Republicans, 35% as Democrats, and 34% as independents. Twenty-three percent of the not hopeful identify as Republicans, 34% as Democrats, and 35% as independents.

*Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?*



Gallup Daily tracking, Jan. 2-31, 2010

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### **Bottom Line**

As unemployment remains high, 61% of underemployed Americans are not hopeful that they will find a job in the next month. Hopeful and not hopeful job seekers differ on several key indicators, such as demographics, finances, and wellbeing. It is possible that individuals who are hopeful about employment are optimistic in general and therefore answer most questions favorably, regardless of external circumstances. However, it is more plausible that hope, or lack thereof, is being driven by current economic conditions. The lack of hope has profound implications, not only for underemployed Americans, but also for the future of the U.S. economy. Gallup will continue to track daily both the employment status of the U.S. workforce and the hope of finding a job among those seeking work, providing a barometer for true recovery as the official recession comes to an end.

### **Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with 4,085 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 2-31, 2010, as part of Gallup Daily tracking. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 2$  percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line 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.

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## Spending Less Becoming New Norm for Many Americans

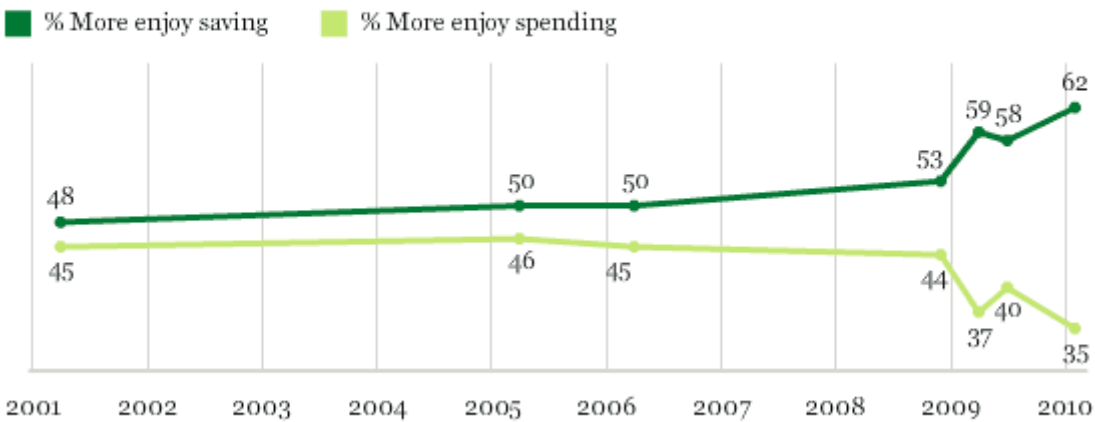
*An increasing percentage of Americans say they more enjoy saving than spending*

February 25, 2010

The recession and financial crisis have resulted in a significant change in the way many Americans feel about spending and saving. Six in 10 Americans (62%) now say they more enjoy saving than spending -- while 35% say the reverse. This reflects a shift that began in December 2008 and a marked change from the first half of the decade, when Americans were about evenly split regarding whether they more enjoyed spending or saving.

### *Preferences for Saving vs. Spending, April 2001-February 2010*

Thinking about money for a moment, are you the type of person who -- [ROTATED: more enjoys spending money (or who) more enjoys saving money]?



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"More than half of the nation's consumers across socioeconomic groups say they are continuing to spend less."

Men and women are about equally likely to say they more enjoy saving rather than spending, and preferences are also essentially the same across income levels and regions. However, those who are not married (39%) are more likely than those who are married (31%) to say they more enjoy spending. Americans aged 18 to 29 (43%) are likewise more likely than those 50 and older (29%) to enjoy spending, as are liberals (45%), compared to moderates (35%) and conservatives (32%).

*Consumer Spending and Saving Preferences, February 2010*

	<b>More enjoy spending</b>	<b>More enjoy saving</b>
Men	34%	62%
Women	35%	62%
18 to 29	43%	56%
30 to 49	38%	59%
50+	29%	66%
East	32%	64%
Midwest	36%	60%
South	37%	60%
West	33%	64%
Conservatives	32%	64%
Moderates	35%	63%
Liberals	45%	51%
Less than \$30,000	36%	62%
\$30,000 to <\$75,000	35%	62%
\$75,000+	37%	61%
Married	31%	65%
Not married	39%	57%

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**Spending Less Is the New Normal for Many Americans**

Nearly six in 10 Americans (57%) now say they are spending less money in recent months than they used to, up from 50% last July and 53% last April. Thirty-eight percent of all Americans say this reduced spending will be their new, normal spending pattern while 19% say their cutbacks are temporary.

*Trend: Percentage Who Are Spending Less Than They Used to, and Whether This Is a New Normal or Temporary*

Among all Americans

	<b>2009 Apr 20-21</b>	<b>2009 Jul 10-12</b>	<b>2010 Feb 1-3</b>
	%	%	%
Spending less money	53	50	57
-- Will become new, normal pattern	32	32	38
-- Temporary change in spending patterns	21	18	19

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Women are more likely than men to say they are cutting back and that this is a new-normal spending pattern, and middle-aged Americans are more likely than those aged 18 to 29 to say they are spending less.

*Percentage Spending Less and Whether This Is a New Normal or Temporary,  
by Demographic Group, February 2010*

Among all Americans

	<b>Spending less</b>	<b>New normal</b>	<b>Temporary</b>
Men	55%	33%	21%
Women	59%	42%	17%
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18 to 29	52%	27%	25%
30 to 49	63%	41%	21%
50+	55%	40%	15%
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East	57%	35%	22%
Midwest	51%	39%	13%
South	57%	35%	22%
West	61%	43%	18%
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Conservatives	58%	41%	16%
Moderates	58%	37%	21%
Liberals	54%	34%	20%
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Less than \$30,000	57%	39%	18%
\$30,000 to <\$75,000	60%	41%	18%
\$75,000+	55%	36%	19%
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Married	57%	38%	19%
Not married	57%	38%	19%

Note: "Temporary" and "New normal" percentages may not add to "Spending less" percentages because of rounding

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**Changing Consumer Psychology**

Essential to the "go forward" economic outlook is whether consumer spending will return to pre-recession levels or reflect a "new normal" spending pattern. The significant shift to saving in American preferences, as opposed to spending, suggests an important change in consumer psychology. Most likely, this change in consumer preferences results from the severity of the recession, the financial crisis, many Americans' severe loss of wealth in their homes and investments, and the significant change in the availability of credit throughout the economy.

At the same time, many consumers also say their spending behavior has changed. More than half of the nation's consumers across socioeconomic groups say they are continuing to spend less,

despite the claims of many economic observers that things are getting better and recovery is underway. Two-thirds of consumers who are spending less -- and 38% of all Americans -- say their current reduced level of spending is their new, normal spending pattern. And significant percentages of Americans across all major demographic groups say this is their new normal.

Further, Gallup's continuous tracking of consumer spending behavior in early 2010 shows that consumers are actually doing as they say by spending at a new-normal level -- consistent with their 2009 spending, and much lower than their spending at the beginning of the recession in 2008.

Today's new-normal consumer psychology and spending patterns have broad implications for the U.S. economy. On the positive side, this suggests that many consumers have decided to return to the basics, live within their means, de-leverage, and fortify their personal balance sheets. All of this is good for their personal financial health, and reflects a financial strategy that every American should consider adopting.

While the new normal means the economy will have a financially firmer consumer base to build on going forward, it also suggests American business will need to make some significant adjustments. That is, businesses will have to join their consumer counterparts in adopting a new normal -- not only in terms of spending, borrowing, investing, and fortifying their balance sheets, but also in terms of product design, strategic positioning, and customer/employee engagement, as well as organic and acquisition growth.

In sum, Gallup's consumer data suggest it is time for American businesses to adapt to today's new-normal spending patterns. At the same time, they might hope for a pleasant surprise as Americans who say their current spending cutbacks are "a temporary change" gain confidence and decide it is time to increase their spending again.

[Learn more](#) about Gallup's economic measures.

## **Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 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  $\pm 4$  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.

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## Fewer Americans Support Health Care Reform Bill

February 21, 2010

Adults in the United States are less enthusiastic about the health care reform bill passed by the Senate in December, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only 28 per cent of respondents support the legislation, down eight points since January.

Health care in the U.S. is based on a system of benefits provided by employers, as well as the Medicare and Medicaid programs which allocate health insurance for the elderly, disabled and poor. Around 47 million Americans are uninsured.

In American presidential elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Barack Obama secured a majority of electoral votes, defeating Republican candidate John McCain. Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history when he took over from George W. Bush—who served two four-year terms—in January 2009.

One of Obama's main campaign pledges was to increase access to health care for all Americans.

In November 2009, lawmakers in the lower house of Congress approved a bill—known as the Affordable Health Care for America Act—in a 220-215 vote. In December, the Senate passed its own version of the bill in a 60-39 vote.

The House bill seeks to create a government-run health insurance plan—also known as the public option—that would allow people who are uninsured to obtain coverage. The Senate bill does not contemplate a public option. The differences between the two bills are expected to be reconciled by both houses this year.

On Feb. 18, Obama vowed to pass a health care reform bill, adding, "[The] health care system is broken for everybody—for small businesses and large businesses; for families who are seeing their premiums go up 25 per cent, 30 per cent, 35 per cent; for the millions who don't have health insurance at all; and for future generations who are going to have to carry the bill if we don't get control of health care costs like Medicare and Medicaid."

### Polling Data

As you may know, the Senate passed a health care bill in December. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010 (**)</b>	<b>Nov. 2009 (*)</b>
Support	28%	36%	41%
Oppose	46%	39%	39%

Not sure 25% 25% 20%

(\* ) *As you may know, the House of Representatives passed a health care bill last week. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?*

(\*\* ) *As you may know, the Senate passed a health care bill last month. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?*

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 American adults, conducted on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## **Half of Americans Reject Waterboarding**

February 25, 2010

Most people in the United States are against the use of a procedure known as waterboarding on suspected terrorists, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 49 per cent of respondents disapprove of the U.S. military and intelligence agencies relying on this practice, while 39 per cent approve.

In May 2005, a 308-page report by Amnesty International criticized the U.S. government for its handling of prisoners in several detention centres, including one at Guantanamo Bay where about 400 "enemy combatants"—most of them from Afghanistan—were being held. In January 2009, U.S. president Barack Obama ordered the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility by January 2010. To this day, the detention centre remains in operation.

In November 2005, the *Washington Post* reported on the existence of secret U.S. prisons for purported terrorism suspects located in Eastern Europe. Then U.S. president George W. Bush declared, "Anything we do to (protect the American people), any activity we conduct, is within the law. We do not torture."

In September 2006, the U.S. Congress authorized the Military Commissions Act of 2006. The legislation prevents the United States from resorting to torture in order to get information from terrorist suspects, allows these suspects to be held indefinitely without being charged with a crime, and forbids them from challenging their confinement in U.S. courts.

The 1949 Geneva Convention defines prisoners of war as members of rival armed forces captured during a conflict. Since the start of the war on terrorism in October 2001, there have been contradictory arguments after captured members of al-Qaeda and the Taliban were defined as "unlawful combatants" who were not subject to the Geneva Convention.

In the procedure known as waterboarding, a prisoner is immobilized and interrogators pour water over the face into breathing passages, to generate the sensation of drowning.

Earlier this month, former U.S. vice-president Dick Cheney discussed his views on waterboarding, saying, "I think you ought to have all of those [interrogation] capabilities on the table. Now, President Obama has taken them off the table. He announced when he came in last year that they would never use anything other than the U.S. Army manual, which doesn't include

those techniques. I think that's a mistake. (...) I was a big supporter of waterboarding. I was a big supporter of the enhanced interrogation techniques."

### **Polling Data**

In a procedure known as "waterboarding", a prisoner is immobilized and interrogators pour water over the face into breathing passages, to generate the sensation of drowning. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military and intelligence agencies relying on this procedure when they interrogate suspected terrorists?

Approve	39%
Disapprove	49%
Not sure	12%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 American adults, conducted from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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### **Americans Back Plan to Fine Airlines for Delays**

February 24, 2010

Many adults in the United States are in favour of the federal government's decision to fine airlines for long tarmac delays, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents support the measure, while 24 per cent oppose it.

In December 2009, the Department of Transportation announced the new guidelines, which are expected to come into force on Apr. 29. An airline will be fined \$27,500 per passenger for any tarmac delay of three hours or longer. For a plane carrying 100 passengers, a single violation could result in a \$2.75 million fine.

Last month, U.S. transportation secretary Ray LaHood discussed the new rules, saying, "We're sick and tired of people having to sit on planes without any explanation, without any food, without any water and not have the ability to get off the plane if they want to. (...) We know the airlines don't like this rule, but that's irrelevant, because our job is safety, number one, and looking out for passengers."

### **Polling Data**

The federal government announced in December that it would fine airlines \$27,500 per passenger for long tarmac delays. Do you support or oppose this measure?

Support	58%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	18%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 American adults, conducted from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## More Americans Support Afghanistan Mission

February 23, 2010

More adults in the United States are now in favour of the ongoing military operation in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 54 per cent of respondents support the mission involving American soldiers, up five points since December.

In addition, 52 per cent of respondents think the federal government has provided too little information about the war in Afghanistan.

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 1,639 soldiers—including 991 Americans—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).

Yesterday, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen discussed the current state of affairs, declaring, "I would remind everyone of an essential truth. War is bloody and uneven, it's messy and ugly and incredibly wasteful, but that doesn't mean that it isn't worth the cost. (...) If we've learned nothing else these past eight years, it is that failure makes itself plainly clear, but success takes longer to see."

### Polling Data

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Support	54%	49%	54%
Oppose	38%	42%	35%
Not sure	7%	10%	11%

Thinking about the federal government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

Too much	10%
The right amount	24%
Too little	52%
Not sure	14%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 American adults, conducted on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## Canadians Divided on Afghanistan Mission

February 24, 2010

Adults in Canada hold differing views on the mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents support the military operation involving Canadian soldiers, while 49 per cent oppose it.

In addition, 53 per cent of respondents think the federal government has provided too little information about the war in Afghanistan.

Since October 2009, the level of support for the mission has increased by 10 points.

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 1,639 soldiers—including 140 Canadians—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).

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in January 2006. The Conservative party—led by Stephen Harper—received 36.3 per cent of the vote, and secured 124 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper formed a minority administration after more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party.

In May 2006, the House of Commons extended Canada's mission in Afghanistan until February 2009. In March 2008, the House of Commons voted 198-77 to prolong the military deployment until the end of 2011. The Conservative and Liberal parties supported the motion, while the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Bloc Québécois opposed it. In September 2008, Harper assured that there would be no new extension of the mission.

Last month, Canadian foreign minister Lawrence Cannon discussed a controversial proposal tabled by Afghan president Hamid Karzai to offer jobs to "soft" Taliban fighters in exchange for their surrender, saying, "I want to be able to see how it works, how it reaches out, what are the parameters and that we don't know yet. I want to be able to analyse, evaluate it and talk to my cabinet colleagues about it and then make a determination as to whether or not we will participate financially in this fund."

### Polling Data

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Support	47%	42%	37%
Oppose	49%	53%	56%
Not sure	4%	5%	6%

Thinking about the federal government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

Too much	4%
The right amount	29%
Too little	53%
Not sure	14%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,007 Canadian adults, conducted on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **Castañeda, Fujimori Lead Presidential Race in Peru**

February 26, 2010

The mayor of Lima and the daughter of a jailed former president are currently the frontrunners in the race to become the next head of state of Peru, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 22 per cent of respondents would vote for Luis Castañeda Lossio of the National Solidarity Party (PSN) in next year's ballot, down one point since January.

Keiko Sofía Fujimori of Strength 2011 is a close second with 21 per cent, up three points. Ollanta Humala of the Peruvian Nationalist Party (PNP) is in third place with 13 per cent, followed by former president Alejandro Toledo with nine per cent. Support is lower for conservative candidate Lourdes Flores Nano, television personality and writer Jaime Bayly, and former prime minister Jorge del Castillo. 22 per cent of respondents remain undecided.

In June 2006, Alan García—a member of the American Revolutionary People's Alliance (APRA)—won Peru's presidential election in a run-off against Humala. In July, García officially took over as president. He had previously served as Peru's head of state from 1985 to 1990, when he oversaw a major economic crisis.

In April 2009, Alberto Fujimori was found guilty "beyond all reasonable doubt" of four charges laid against him—including misuse of public funds, kidnapping and murder—and sentenced to serve 25 years in prison. In September, Fujimori was handed a new six-year sentence, this time for corruption.

Vladimiro Montesinos, Fujimori's closest advisor and the head of Peru's National Intelligence Service (SIN) during his decade-long tenure, has been convicted in 13 different trials for crimes such as plotting against national security, arms dealing and embezzlement. He is currently serving a 20-year sentence in Peru and awaiting a verdict on other 50 or so processes against him.

On Feb. 24, Humala accused the current president of planning an electoral fraud for next year's election, declaring, "García said that he can prevent someone from becoming president. That's

an announcement of electoral fraud. Him, as president, is going to use his power (...) to prevent nationalism from reaching the top."

### **Polling Data**

If the 2011 presidential election were held tomorrow, who would you vote for?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>
Luis Castañeda Lossio	22%	23%	23%
Keiko Sofía Fujimori	21%	18%	20%
Ollanta Humala	13%	15%	11%
Alejandro Toledo	9%	9%	10%
Lourdes Flores Nano	6%	7%	8%
Jaime Bayly	5%	2%	n.a.
Jorge del Castillo	2%	2%	--
Other / Blank / Undecided	22%	24%	28%

*Source: Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado / El Comercio*

*Methodology: Interviews with 1,200 Peruvian adults, conducted on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10, 2010.*

*Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.*

### **Three-in-Four Brazilians Satisfied with Lula**

February 25, 2010

Public support for Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is still high in the last year of his tenure, according to a poll by Ibope. 76 per cent of respondents approve of the president's performance, down seven points since November.

Lula—a member of the Worker's Party (PT)—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB). 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 is ineligible for a third consecutive term in office.

In 2006, Lula's party was affected by a series of corruption scandals. The socialist-leaning president—also a former union leader—led a strong economy with conservative fiscal policies during his first mandate, and was praised for his poverty-reduction initiatives.

On Feb. 23, Lula called for the United Nations (UN) to acknowledge Argentina's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, declaring, "What is the explanation for the United Nations never having that decision? It is not possible that Argentina is not the owner while England is, despite being 14,000 km away. (...) Is it possible that Britain can do everything and while others can do nothing? We need to start pushing so that the UN re-opens this debate."

In 1982, Argentina took control of the British-held Falkland Islands—or Islas Malvinas—claiming sovereignty over the territory. A four-month military conflict ended with a victory for British forces.

The first round of Brazil's next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2010.

### **Polling Data**

How would you rate the performance of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as president?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Nov. 2009</b>	<b>Jun. 2009</b>
Good / Very Good	76%	83%	68%
Fair	19%	21%	24%
Bad / Very Bad	5%	6%	8%

*Source: Ibope*

*Methodology: Interviews with 2,002 Brazilian adults, conducted from Nov. 26 to Nov. 30, 2009.*

*Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.*

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### **Mexicans Evenly Split on Abortion**

February 20, 2010

The legal status of abortion divides opinions in Mexico, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 48.8 per cent of respondents agree with allowing women to seek an abortion on a voluntary basis, whereas 45.3 per cent disagree.

While 41.1 per cent of respondents think abortion should be considered a crime, 45.7 per cent of them say it should not.

In Mexico, abortion is permitted nationwide in cases of rape. Some states also allow the procedure to be performed in order to save the woman's life, and in cases of severe fetal deformities.

In 2007, the Mexico City legislature endorsed a proposal which allows women to interrupt a pregnancy in the first 12 weeks of gestation.

In 2008, Mexico's Supreme Court issued a ruling on abortion, which read: "To affirm that there is an absolute constitutional protection of life in gestation would lead to the violation of the fundamental rights of women." The ruling effectively averted the possibility of having a federal law on abortion.

On Feb. 15, opposition Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) leader Jesús Ortega urged lawmakers with the party everywhere in the country to oppose attempts to criminalize abortion, saying that they should "not support initiatives that violate the human rights of women."

### **Polling Data**

Do you agree or disagree with allowing women to have an abortion if they so desire?

Agree	48.8%
Disagree	45.3%
Not sure	5.9%

Do you think abortion should be considered a crime?

Yes	41.1%
No	45.7%
Not sure	13.2%

*Source: Consulta Mitofsky*

*Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,000 Mexican adults, conducted from Dec. 4 to Dec. 9, 2009. Margin of error is 3.5 per cent.*

## **AUSTRALASIA**

### **New Zealanders Reject GST Hike**

February 26, 2010

Most people in New Zealand oppose a plan to increase the Goods and Services Tax (GST) while reducing income taxes at the same time, according to a poll by UMR Research. 56 per cent of respondents reject the idea, while 33 per cent support it.

New Zealanders renewed the House of Representatives in November 2008. Final results gave the conservative National party 45.50 per cent of the vote and 59 seats in the 122-member legislature. The Labour party garnered 33.77 per cent of the vote and 43 mandates. The remaining seats went to other parties and independents.

Also in November 2008, National leader John Key formed a government with the support of ACT, United Future and the Maori Party. Helen Clark announced her resignation as Labour leader, and was supplanted by former trade and defence minister Phil Goff.

In April 2009, the Greens and National signed a memorandum of understanding, under which both parties established a "good faith working relationship" with no prerequisite policy commitments.

The GST was first introduced in October 1986 at 10 per cent, and was raised to 12.5 per cent in June 1989. The Key government is expected to increase the GST to 15 per cent in its May budget. Key has said that the raise would be compensated partly by cuts in income taxes.

On Feb. 23, Goff and all of Labour's lawmakers began a bus tour around New Zealand protesting the expected GST hike. Prime minister Key dismissed the negative campaign, saying, "If Phil Goff is going to reverse any decision to raise GST then he will be campaigning in 2011 on raising personal taxes right across the board, reducing superannuation and reducing benefits entitlements. Good luck to him if he wants to do that."

#### **Polling Data**

Do you support or oppose raising the GST to 15% if income taxes were lowered at the same time?

Support	33%
Oppose	56%
Not sure	11%

Source: UMR Research

Methodology: Interviews with 750 New Zealand adults, conducted from Feb. 4 to Feb. 9, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.6 per cent.

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## Half in Australia Content with Rudd

February 25, 2010

Satisfaction with Australia's Kevin Rudd remains stable, according to a poll by Newspoll published in *The Australian*. 50 per cent of respondents are content with the prime minister's performance, unchanged since late January.

Satisfaction with opposition leader Tony Abbott stands at 44 per cent, up three points. 55 per cent of respondents say Rudd would make the better prime minister among the two, while 27 per cent pick Abbott.

Australia held a federal election in November 2007. Final results gave the ALP 85 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives. ALP leader Rudd was officially sworn in as prime minister in December, bringing an end to the 11-year tenure of Liberal leader John Howard as head of Australia's government.

Howard failed to retain his seat in the Bennelong constituency and stepped down as Liberal leader. Since their electoral defeat in 2007, the Liberals have had three different leaders: former defence minister Brendan Nelson, former environment minister Malcolm Turnbull, and former health minister Abbott, who defeated Turnbull in an internal leadership ballot by just one vote in December 2009.

On Feb. 23, Rudd warned that Australia is under threat from Islamist extremists residing in the country, saying, "The threat of home-grown terrorism is now increasing. (...) Some of the threat we now face comes from the Australian-born, Australian-educated and Australian residents."

### Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Kevin Rudd is doing his job as prime minister?

	<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>Jan. 17</b>
Satisfied	50%	50%	52%
Dissatisfied	40%	38%	34%
Uncommitted	10%	12%	14%

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Tony Abbott is doing his job as leader of the opposition?

	<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>Jan. 17</b>
Satisfied	44%	41%	40%
Dissatisfied	37%	39%	35%
Uncommitted	19%	20%	25%

Who do you think would make the better prime minister?

	<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>Jan. 17</b>
Kevin Rudd (ALP)	55%	58%	57%
Tony Abbott (Lib.)	27%	26%	25%
Uncommitted	18%	16%	18%

*Source: Newspoll / The Australian*

*Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,151 Australian voters, conducted from Feb. 12 to Feb. 14, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.*

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## **Australians Would Ban Shopping Mall Campaigning**

February 23, 2010

Most people in Australia agree with a proposal to ban politicians from campaigning in shopping malls, according to a poll by Essential Research. 57 per cent of respondents support this initiative, while 28 per cent oppose it.

Australia's Shopping Centre Council has requested that politicians be banned from staging campaign events in shopping malls, claiming that this causes unnecessary disruption to shoppers. Reportedly, the council has accused candidates of being "too lazy" to seek voters in their own homes and rely instead on visits to shopping malls to stage most of their activities.

Sydney's Campbelltown Mall has announced it will be a "political campaign-free shopping centre" ahead of the next legislative election. In late January, mall marketing manager Cassandra Fitzgerald said that the centre will not allow campaigning "whether the ban is enforced or not," adding, "At Campbelltown Mall shoppers come into the centre, go to their shopping destination, and leave in peace without being prodded, interrupted or harassed."

Australia must hold a federal ballot before April 2011.

### **Polling Data**

Politicians may be banned from campaigning in major shopping centres because the Shopping Centre Council claims that it causes too much disruption for shoppers. Do you agree or disagree with banning politicians from campaigning in shopping centres?

Agree      57%

Disagree    28%

Don't know 15%

*Source: Essential Research*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,078 Australian adults, conducted from Jan. 26 to Jan. 29, 2010. No margin of error was provided.*

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## **Australians Reject Abbott's Comments on Virginity**

February 21, 2010

The majority of Australians condemn recent comments by opposition leader Tony Abbott suggesting that women should try to preserve their virginity until marriage, according to a poll by Essential Research. 70 per cent of respondents think Abbott should not be giving advice on moral issues related to sex and marriage.

Australia held a federal election in November 2007. Final results gave the Australian Labor Party (ALP) 85 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives. ALP leader Kevin Rudd was officially sworn in as prime minister in December, bringing an end to the 11-year tenure of Liberal leader John Howard as head of Australia's government.

Howard failed to retain his seat in the Bennelong constituency and stepped down as Liberal leader. Since their electoral defeat in 2007, the Liberals have had three different leaders: former defence minister Brendan Nelson, former environment minister Malcolm Turnbull, and former health minister Abbott, who defeated Turnbull in an internal leadership ballot by just one vote in December 2009.

In late January, Abbott said that young women "shouldn't give themselves away lightly," adding that virginity is "the greatest gift" they can give to someone. Abbott has defended his comments as being directed towards his daughters, not Australian women in general.

Australian deputy prime minister Julia Gillard lambasted the Liberal leader, saying, "These comments will confirm the worst fears of Australian women about Tony Abbott. Australian women don't want to be told what to do by Tony Abbott. Australian women want to make their own choices and they don't want to be lectured to by Mr. Abbott."

### **Polling Data**

The Opposition Leader Tony Abbott recently said that he believes women should try to remain virgins until they are married. Do you think Tony Abbott should or should not be giving advice on moral issues like sex and marriage?

Should be	19%
Should not be	70%
Don't know	11%

*Source: Essential Research*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,078 Australian adults, conducted from Jan. 26 to Jan. 29, 2010. No margin of error was provided.*

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## MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

### Entrepreneurial Goals Common Among Young in Arab States

*Median of 27% across Arab League countries intend to start a business in the next year*

February 26, 2010

In Arab League countries, there appears to be no shortage of entrepreneurial aspirations among young people. Across 20 countries and the Somaliland region of Somalia, a median 27% of young Arabs who were not already business owners said they intended to start a business in the next 12 months. Intent to create a business ranged from a high of 45% in Sudan to a low of 9% in Jordan. The findings are based on "The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs," a report prepared in partnership between Gallup and Silatech.

*Are you planning to start your own business in the next 12 months, or not?*

Asked of those aged 15 to 29 who were not already business owners

Country	Percentage "yes"	Country	Percentage "yes"
Sudan	45%	Algeria	25%
Comoros	43%	Libya	25%
Somaliland region	37%	Syria	25%
Tunisia	34%	Lebanon	21%
Djibouti	33%	Egypt	20%
Kuwait	31%	United Arab Emirates	19%
Saudi Arabia	30%	Bahrain	17%
Yemen	30%	Morocco	15%
Qatar	29%	Palestinian Territories	15%
Iraq	27%	Jordan	9%
Mauritania	27%		

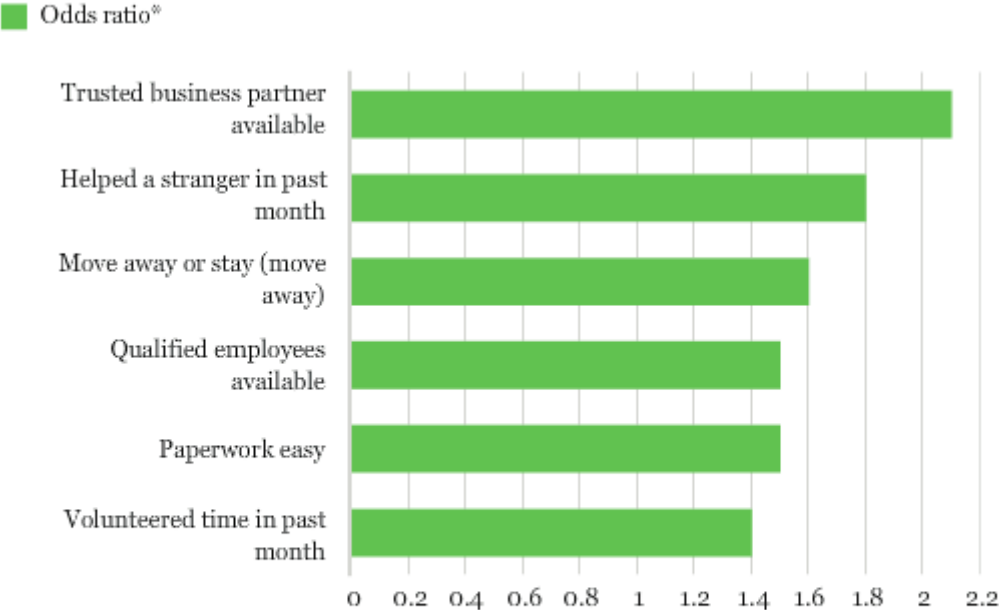
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Promoting job creation is important to many Arab countries that have burgeoning populations of young people but a growing shortage of employment opportunities. Gallup surveys asked residents aged 15 to 29 about the barriers and opportunities they see facing entrepreneurs -- as well as their intent to start their own businesses in the near future.

The intent to start a new business is highest in some of the poorest Arab League countries; in addition to Sudan, at least one-third of young people in Comoros, Somaliland, and Djibouti say they intend to start a business. However, it is not only those young Arabs who have limited options who aspire to entrepreneurship. In fact, region-wide, 32% of those who are already employed and do not own a business say they intend to start one vs. 20% of those who do not currently have a job.

The survey also explored the beliefs and perceptions that are most predictive of young Arabs' intent to start a business in the near future. The results highlight several factors that may influence respondents' perceptions of the risks involved in starting a new venture. The strongest predictor overall across the region is the belief that there is someone outside the respondent's own family circle with whom he or she can share the risk as a business partner.

*Factors Related to Young Arabs' Intent to Start a Business*



\*Describes how much having a given characteristic increases the likelihood that a respondent expresses the intention to start a business in comparison with not having that characteristic (holding all other measured variables constant).

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**Promoting Civil Society**

Sensitivity to risk among budding entrepreneurs may also be eased by their perceptions of social cohesion in their communities. The intent to start a business is more prevalent among young people who recently helped a stranger or volunteered their time to an organization than among those who did not. These results suggest a vibrant civil society may often help young people cultivate social trust and interpersonal ties that promote business success. In such cases, policy-makers may do well to consider strategies for helping young entrepreneurs enhance and extend the trust present in existing community networks.

**Cutting the Red Tape**

The ability to obtain a loan and the likelihood of finding qualified employees were among the top predictors of entrepreneurial intent among young people in several countries.

However, the easiest thing a government can do to support entrepreneurship may be to simplify the administrative hurdles to starting a new business. Young Arabs' perception that their government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business is a powerful predictor of their intent to do so. Working to streamline the process not only places less burden on young entrepreneurs, it also signals to them that the government is more interested in supporting their endeavors than in creating obstacles for them.

In general, the "Silatech Index" sounds a positive note in the desire of young Arabs to expand employment opportunities and build a future in which more residents can fully participate in the economic life of their communities. However, it also helps shed light on those areas in which young people are most likely to feel they need more support to fulfill that desire.

### **Survey Methods**

Results are based on more than 16,000 face-to-face interviews with Arab nationals, aged 15 to 29, conducted between February 2009 and October 2009. A minimum of 568 interviews were conducted in each of the following countries and areas: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia (Somaliland region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The margin of error for percentages reported in this article is  $\pm 3$  percentage points or lower. 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.

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### **In Arab Countries, Emigration Appeals More to the Employed**

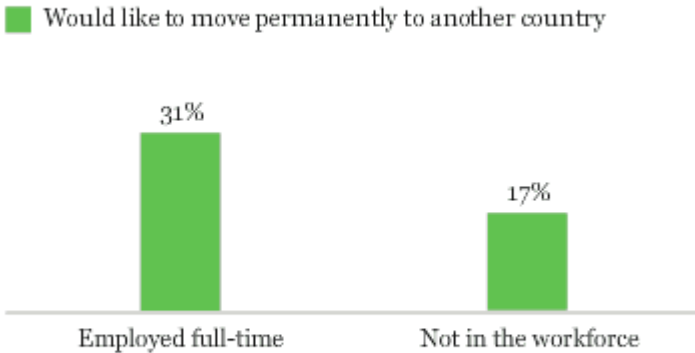
*U.S. is top destination for young Arabs with entrepreneurial aspirations*

February 23, 2010

Young Arabs who have a job are more likely than those who do not to express the desire to emigrate permanently. Across Arab League member countries surveyed, 31% of respondents who already work full time compared with 17% who are not in the workforce say they would like to leave their country permanently, if they had the opportunity. The findings are based on Gallup's latest report, "The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs," which explores young Arabs perceptions toward job creation and the business climate in their countries.

### Work Status and Desire to Emigrate

Among Arab respondents aged 15-29



Surveys conducted February-October 2009

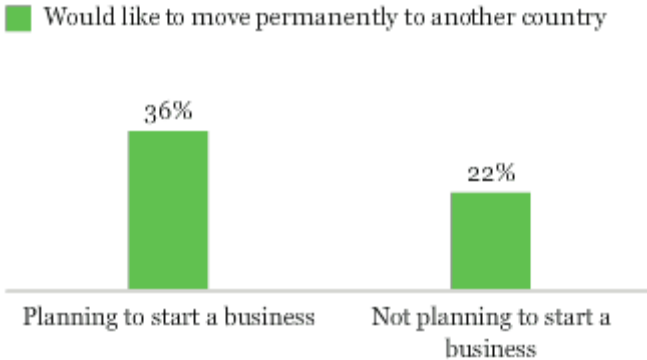
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The "Silatech Index" report, prepared in partnership between Gallup and Silatech, is the second in an ongoing series, providing new and important data that can shed light on potential levers of job creation and entrepreneurship across Arab countries. The findings reveal that respondents who say they have plans to launch a business in the next 12 months are more likely than those without entrepreneurial aspirations to express the desire to leave their country permanently. Further, respondents who have a high school degree plus four years of education (compared with those with an elementary education level) are also more likely to say they would like to emigrate. The findings suggest that a country's greatest assets, at least among countries surveyed, are its most mobile, underscoring the potential effects of brain drain in the region.

Based on certain demographic characteristics among Arab youth who would like to emigrate, three top desired destinations emerge. Among aspiring entrepreneurs, the United States would be their destination of choice. Among respondents who have a high school degree plus four years of education, their top country is the United Arab Emirates, while for those who have an elementary school education, France is their No.1 desired destination.

*Entrepreneurial Spirit and Desire to Emigrate*

Among Arab respondents aged 15-29

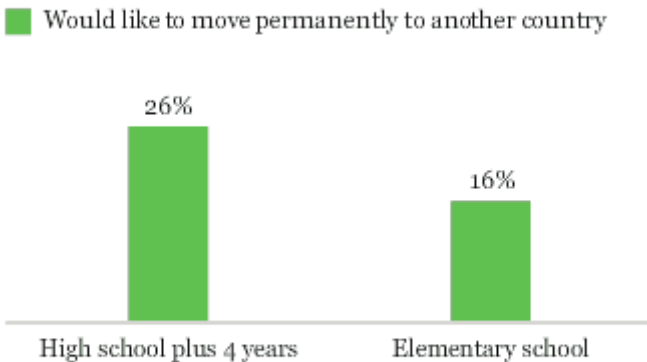


Surveys conducted February-October 2009

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*Education and Desire to Emigrate*

Among Arab respondents aged 15-29



Surveys conducted February-October 2009

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Some observers are quick to assume that unemployment, especially among young people, is what prompts them to leave their countries. However, the report findings suggest that while a dearth of jobs may be a factor in young people's desire to emigrate, others may be at play. A lack of opportunities (or at least the perception of it) or unfulfilled aspirations may also contribute to young people's desire to seek a better future away from their home countries.

Other key findings from the report underscore the importance of human development, good governance, security, community trust, and technology as levers of job creation and entrepreneurship in countries surveyed.

The "Silatech Index" report puts young people at the core of the job creation initiative. As such, it ensures that voices of young Arabs represent the bedrock of policies and interventions that will be implemented to confront the job creation challenge in the region.

### **Survey Methods**

Results are based on more than 16,000 face-to-face interviews with Arab nationals, aged 15 to 29, conducted between February 2009 and October 2009. A minimum of 568 interviews were conducted in each of the following countries and areas: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia (Somaliland region), Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The margin of error for percentages reported in this article is  $\pm 3$  percentage points or lower. 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.

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