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Prelude

This week report consists of 23 national surveys.

Christmas Day Attack and the Fate of Nigeria

On Christmas day a Nigerian made a failed attempt to blow Detroit bound airliner. This has been widely condemned across the world including Nigeria as well. Overwhelming majority of Nigerians condemned Umar Faruk Abdulmatlab and feel that this will have a negative impact on the image of Nigeria in the world.¹ President Obama could not speak with his Nigerian counterpart as he has been out of country for now about two months due to medical reasons. Moreover the relations of Nigeria were already not very good with the United States for the last few years. Coupled with the fact that Nigerian is the second Muslim country after Palestinian territories where there is a high support for suicide attack.² Eventually United States blacklisted Nigeria.

This would ultimately have consequences for Nigerian image abroad. The above fact raises several questions in mind. The nature of terrorism these days is transnational just as the issue of climate change or financial crisis. Often states are not backing the terrorists which seem to be the case of Nigeria as well. But the states or nations have to pay for the acts that have been committed by a single person or a group of persons. Blacklisting Nigeria means all the Nigerians will now be looked at suspiciously.

Keeping in view the fact that U.S. blacklisted Nigeria for genuine apprehensions but should it be considered as a good approach to deal with such issues? Off course it's a very complex and sensitive issue. But Nigerians are after all humans like Americans. They are also very sensitive, and all of them are not like Umar Faruk. Do we not need to restore the confidence in each others nations to deal with the issue of terrorism?

¹ <http://www.noi-polls.net/Poll-Results/jan-2010-snap-poll-failed-bombing-attempt-absence-of-the-president.html>.

² <http://pewglobal.org/reports/display.php?ReportID=264>

Summary of Polls

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japanese Cabinet Enters Negative Territory

The administration led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama has fallen out of grace with the public, according to a poll by *Kyodo News*. 46 per cent of respondents disapprove of Hatoyama's appointed cabinet, up 12 points since February.

March 02, 2010

WEST AFRICA

Nigerians Condemn Detroit Attack Attempt and Are Also Concerned About Their President

Nigerians categorically condemned Umar Faruq for his alleged attempt to blow plane at Detroit. They also show high level of concern for the absence of President from the country for such a long period and perceive this will have dire consequences for the administration in the country.

January 2010

EAST EUROPE

Putin, Medvedev Still Very Popular in Russia

Four-in-five Russians are satisfied with the way their prime minister is handling his duties, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. 80 per cent of respondents approve of Vladimir Putin's performance.

March 06, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Britons Choose Diplomacy in Falklands Dispute

Many adults in Britain believe their government should engage in diplomatic negotiations with Argentina to seek a solution to the recent dispute over oil exploration in the Falkland Islands, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 65 per cent of respondents favour this course of action.

March 07, 2010

Britons Remain Gloomy About Economy

Few adults in Britain hold positive views on their domestic economy, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only 12 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as good or very good, down two points since January.

March 05, 2010

Poor Ratings Continue for French Leaders

Public support for French president Nicolas Sarkozy remains low, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 40 per cent of respondents have confidence in Sarkozy to face the country's problems, down one point since January.

March 05, 2010

French Dissatisfaction with Sarkozy Keeps Growing

Just under two thirds of people in France are disappointed with the leadership of Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. 63 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with the president's performance, up two points since January.

March 03, 2010

Most Greeks Endorse Government Fiscal Measures

Most people in Greece trust that recent emergency measures implemented by the government will lead the country out of a fiscal crisis, according to a poll by MARC

published by *Ethnos*. 51.3 per cent of respondents share this point of view, but 43 per cent disagree.

March 02, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Retains More Trust Than Congress on Healthcare

Americans remain more confident in the healthcare reform recommendations of President Obama (49%) than in the recommendations of the Democratic (37%) or Republican (32%) leaders in Congress. But these confidence levels are lower than those measured in June, suggesting that the ongoing healthcare reform debate has taken a toll on the credibility of the politicians involved.

March 5, 2010

Age Groups Differ on Obama More Than on Bush, Clinton

Barack Obama's job approval rating averages 66% among young adults during his presidency, 15 percentage points higher than for senior citizens and at least nine points higher than for any other age group. During their presidencies, George W. Bush's and Bill Clinton's approval ratings showed much less variation by age.

March 4, 2010

The New News Landscape: Rise of the Internet

The overwhelming majority of Americans (92%) use multiple platforms to get news on a typical day, including national TV, local TV, the internet, local newspapers, radio and national newspapers. Some 46% of Americans say they get news from four to six media platforms on a typical day. Just 7% get their news from a single media platform on a typical day.

March 1, 2010

Underemployment 19.8% in February, on Par With January

Gallup Daily tracking finds that 19.8% of the U.S. workforce was underemployed in February, on par with January's 19.9% reading.

March 3, 2010

Almost Half in U.S. Would Expand Nuclear Power

People in the United States appear to favour a proposal to build more nuclear power plants, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 34 per cent are opposed.

March 04, 2010

Three-in-Four Americans Disapprove of Congress

More Americans are expressing dissatisfaction with their legislative branch, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 73 per cent of respondents disapprove of the performance of Congress, up eight points since January.

March 03, 2010

Most Americans Troubled by Economic Downturn

A large proportion of people in the United States are frustrated by their country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

March 02, 2010

President Obama Gains a Point in U.S.

Public support for Barack Obama is stable in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance, up one point since January.

March 01, 2010

Half of Canadians Think Economy is Good

For the first time this year, a majority of Canadians are satisfied with the country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in Canada today as good or very good, up four points since January.

February 28, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Resilient Chile Well-Poised to Recover After Quake

When Gallup surveyed Chileans in July-September 2009, majorities expressed confidence in the country's national government (58%) and military (54%) -- more confidence than the median for Latin America and the Caribbean and far more confidence than residents in Haiti.

March 5, 2010

Half of Mexicans Content with President Calderón

Public support for Felipe Calderón remains stable in Mexico, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 53.4 per cent of respondents agree with the way the president is governing, up one point since January.

March 07, 2010

Lula Keeps Extraordinary Rating in Brazil

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva heads to the final months of his tenure with impressive numbers, according to a poll by Datafolha published in Folha de Sao Paulo. 73 per cent of respondents rate Lula's performance as good or very good.

March 06, 2010

Lula's Anointed Candidate Gains in Brazil

The chief of staff of Brazil's government and presidential candidate for the ruling Worker's Party (PT) has gained momentum but remains in second place, according to a poll by Ibope. 25 per cent of respondents would vote for Dilma Rousseff in this year's election, up eight points since November.

March 04, 2010

Columbians Not Happy With The Political Parties

Poll results reveal that although Colombia's political parties are viewed as very important to democracy, but they receive the worst rating among the country's public institutions and authorities. Respondents identified a lack of engagement with citizens, lack of transparency, corruption and the lack of ideology as some of the major problems currently faced by political parties.

March 04, 2010

Haitians Express High Resolve, Community-Mindedness

Despite the oft-reported challenges facing Haiti's recovery process, Gallup polling in the country before the earthquake suggests its people have much to offer toward building a new future. More than 8 in 10 Haitians (81%) surveyed in December 2008 said they have a particular talent of some kind -- easily the highest proportion among 12 Central American and Caribbean populations of which the question was asked.

March 1, 2010

NORTHEAST

Japanese Cabinet Enters Negative Territory

March 02, 2010

The administration led by Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has fallen out of grace with the public, according to a poll by *Kyodo News*. 46 per cent of respondents disapprove of Hatoyama's appointed cabinet, up 12 points since February.

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

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

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

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

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

On Feb. 22, Hatoyama acknowledged that his government has been affected by the scandals, saying, "We cannot deny that the political situation at the national level has affected the outcome. The problems involving politics and money have had consequences."

Polling Data

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

	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Approve	37%	48%
Disapprove	46%	34%

Source: Kyodo News

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 2,161 Japanese adults, conducted on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

West Africa

Nigerians Condemn Detroit Attack Attempt and Are Also Concerned About Their President

Nigerians categorically condemn Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's alleged actions.

Nigerians woke up on Christmas day, 2009 to the shocking news that a Nigerian born man had attempted to blow up a Detroit bound Northwest Airline flight 253. While reacting with surprise that a fellow Nigerian could attempt such an atrocity, the majority of Nigerians also roundly condemned the act. Our survey shows that over nine in ten Nigerians (91%) disapprove of Abdulmutallab's actions with just one percent (1%) expressing support. However, eight percent of respondents were either undecided or refused to provide an opinion on the issue.

Attack will damage Nigeria's Image abroad....

The consequences of the failed terror attack are already reverberating around the world and impacting on the lives of Nigerians home and abroad. The recent blacklisting of Nigeria by the United States government is one example of the negative effect of the botched terror attack. Our snap poll indicates that the majority (62%) of Nigerians feel that Abdulmutallab's actions will damage the image of the country, while 16% and 12% are more worried about restrictions in the issuance of visas to Nigerians and worsening foreign relations respectively.

Where is Mr. President?

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has now been absent from the country on the grounds of ill health for over 50 days. While the initial public response of goodwill towards the ill President still obtains, there have been increasing demands for decisive resolution to the perceived leadership vacuum created by his absence. This was verified by our snap poll which found that as many as 74% of respondents feel that Mr. President's absence will have various dire effects on Nigeria. Out of this group of respondents, 29% of feel that the economy will suffer the most, while 26% believe that Mr. President's absence will cripple public administration, as well as affect national security, implementation of Niger Delta amnesty deal and achievement of the 7 point agenda

Survey Methods.

Respondents for the snap poll were randomly selected from a database of phone-owning Nigerians aged 15 and above, compiled by NOI Polls. 725 people took part in the telephone interviews from the 4th - 8th of January, 2010. For a sample of this size, we can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.6 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.

EAST EUROPE

Putin, Medvedev Still Very Popular in Russia

March 06, 2010

Four-in-five Russians are satisfied with the way their prime minister is handling his duties, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. 80 per cent of respondents approve of Vladimir Putin's performance.

In addition, 77 per cent of respondents approve of Russian president Dmitry Medvedev's performance.

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

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

Yesterday, Putin expressed dismay at the results of the Russian Federation's team at the recent Winter Olympics, declaring, "I already hear some say that it's not the most important thing to be among the leaders, the most important thing is to make a good showing. I must tell you it's not so. You go into the games not just to sweat, but to win. (...) I have got an impression that the more money we spend, the more modest the results are."

Russian athletes won 15 medals at the Winter Olympics, finishing in sixth place among all participating nations.

Polling Data

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

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Approve	77%	75%	78%
Disapprove	21%	23%	19%

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

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Approve	80%	78%	83%
Disapprove	19%	21%	15%

Source: Yury Levada Analytical Center

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

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Britons Choose Diplomacy in Falklands Dispute

March 07, 2010

Many adults in Britain believe their government should engage in diplomatic negotiations with Argentina to seek a solution to the recent dispute over oil exploration in the Falkland Islands, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 65 per cent of respondents favour this course of action.

Conversely, 20 per cent of respondents believe the British government should use any means necessary, including military force, to continue with the planned oil exploration, while four per cent would abandon all plans for oil exploration in the Falkland Islands.

On Apr. 2, 1982, Argentine forces landed on the Falklands—or Malvinas—in an effort to launch a territorial claim. The invasion was ordered by Leopoldo Galtieri, the fourth officer to oversee Argentina during a military dictatorship that had begun in 1976.

The British government, which was headed at the time by Conservative prime minister Margaret Thatcher, dispatched the armed forces to eject the Argentinean army. Argentina surrendered on Jun. 14, 1982. The defeat also marked the beginning of the end for the weakened military dictatorship. At least 655 Argentine troops and 255 British soldiers died in the conflict. The two countries restored diplomatic ties in 1990.

In 1985, a constitution allowed for a form of internal self-government in the Falklands. Foreign affairs and defence remain the responsibility of the British government. The Falkland Islands are currently home to close to 3,000 people.

Earlier this year, British company Desire Petroleum was scheduled to begin the process of oil exploration in the seabed 100 miles north of the Falklands. Argentina, which has never relinquished its claim over the islands, has decreed that all ships heading to or from the Falklands must apply for permits before entering Argentinean waters.

On Mar. 2, British Foreign Office minister Chris Bryant discussed the current state of affairs, saying, "We have made absolutely clear that we do not believe that there is any need for a negotiation or discussion because there is nothing to discuss in terms of the sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, which should be a self-determined issue and solely a self-determined issue."

Polling Data

As you may know, there has been tension lately in the Falkland Islands, a British overseas territory. A British company, Desire Petroleum, is about to begin the process of oil exploration in the seabed 100 miles north of the Falklands, which according to geologists may contain up to 60 billion barrels of oil. The Government of Argentina, which has never relinquished its claim over the islands, has decreed that all ships heading to or from the Falklands must apply for permits before entering Argentinean waters, including a £20 million rig which is scheduled to arrive within days.

Thinking about this, which one of these options should the UK Government take to deal with the issue of oil exploration in the Falkland Islands?

Engage in diplomatic negotiations with Argentina to seek a solution that would please both sides	65%
Use any means necessary, including military force, to continue with the planned oil exploration	20%
Abandon all plans for oil exploration in the Falkland Islands	4%
Not sure	11%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,006 British adults, conducted on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Britons Remain Gloomy About Economy

March 05, 2010

Few adults in Britain hold positive views on their domestic economy, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only 12 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as good or very good, down two points since January.

Since 2007, defaults on so-called subprime mortgages—credit given to high-risk borrowers—in the United States caused volatility in domestic and global financial markets and ultimately pushed the U.S. economy into a recession. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The crisis has affected the global financial and credit systems, and triggered layoffs in companies around the world.

Britain has been hit hard by the global financial crisis. In 2007, the British Northern Rock bank—a prominent mortgage lender—was forced to seek emergency funding from the government. Brown's administration has intervened to save bankrupt banks and boost the economy. In November 2008, Brown introduced a "shock-treatment" stimulus package to jump-start the country's economy through tax cuts, increased government spending and a greater role in government lending. The package was valued at \$31 billion U.S.

In January, the Office of National Statistics showed that the UK economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2009, ending six consecutive quarters of contraction.

Last month, British chancellor of the exchequer Alistair Darling defended the current government's policies, saying, "My judgement is that halving the deficit over a four-year period with the structural deficit coming down by two-thirds, is the right [course of action]."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in the United States today?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Oct. 2009
Very Good / Good	12%	14%	6%

Poor / Very Poor	85%	83%	90%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,006 British adults, conducted on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Poor Ratings Continue for French Leaders

March 05, 2010

Public support for French president Nicolas Sarkozy remains low, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 40 per cent of respondents have confidence in Sarkozy to face the country's problems, down one point since January.

In addition, 43 per cent of respondents have confidence in French prime minister François Fillon, up one point in a month.

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

On Mar. 2, Sarkozy met with Russian president Dmitry Medvedev in Paris and defended a recent decision to sell warships to Russia, "We want to turn the page of the Cold War. (...) Can we say to President Medvedev in the morning, 'Ah, I trust you, vote with us at the Security Council, work with us on the same resolution [against Iran's nuclear program],' then in the afternoon, tell him, 'No, no, excuse us, as we don't trust you and we don't work together—we won't send you the [warship] Mistral'?"

Polling Data

Do you have confidence in French president Nicolas Sarkozy to face the country's problems?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Confidence	40%	41%	40%
No confidence	56%	52%	55%

Do you have confidence in French prime minister François Fillon to face the country's problems?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Confidence	43%	42%	40%
No confidence	51%	50%	53%

Source: CSA / *Le Parisien*

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,009 French adults, conducted on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

French Dissatisfaction with Sarkozy Keeps Growing

March 03, 2010

Just under two thirds of people in France are disappointed with the leadership of Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. 63 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with the president's performance, up two points since January.

Satisfaction with François Fillon's performance as prime minister stands at 50 per cent, down three points.

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

After launching a "national consultation" on defining French identity, the government announced a new program to promote "French values" earlier this month. Among other things, Fillon said that immigrants will have to sign a declaration of values, and undergo lessons on gender equality, adding, "The emphasis will be put on the respect for the values of the republic, notably the principle of equality between men and women (...) and the level of knowledge of the French language."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Nicolas Sarkozy's performance as president?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Satisfied	36%	38%	37%
Dissatisfied	63%	61%	62%

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with François Fillon's performance as prime minister?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009
Satisfied	50%	53%	50%
Dissatisfied	48%	45%	47%

Source: Ifop / *Le Journal du Dimanche*

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,876 French adults, conducted from Feb. 11 to Feb. 19, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Most Greeks Endorse Government Fiscal Measures

March 02, 2010

Most people in Greece trust that recent emergency measures implemented by the government will lead the country out of a fiscal crisis, according to a poll by MARC published by *Ethnos*. 51.3 per cent of respondents share this point of view, but 43 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.

On Feb. 22, Papandreou referred to the government's announced measures, saying, "Even though there are austerity measures and they do hurt, the government has the support right now of about 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the population. What we're seeing here, and I haven't seen this except during the Olympic Games in 2004, is a real sense of unity by the Greek people of wanting to make a change."

Polling Data

Do you think the recent measures implemented by the government will lead the country out of the fiscal crisis?

Yes	51.3%
No	43.0%

Source: MARC / Ethnos

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Greek adults, conducted in February 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Retains More Trust Than Congress on Healthcare

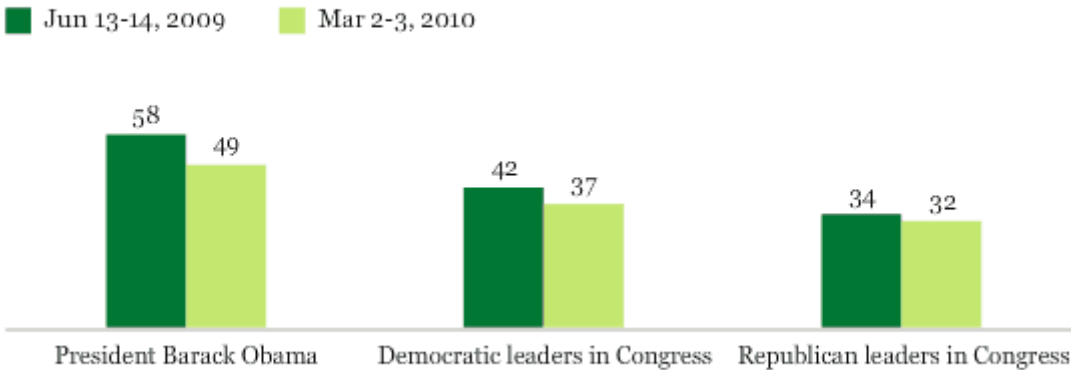
Confidence in Obama and Democrats down since June; trust highest in doctors and hospitals

March 5, 2010

Americans remain more confident in the healthcare reform recommendations of President Obama (49%) than in the recommendations of the Democratic (37%) or Republican (32%) leaders in Congress. But these confidence levels are lower than those measured in June, suggesting that the ongoing healthcare reform debate has taken a toll on the credibility of the politicians involved.

Confidence in Politicians to Recommend the Right Thing for Healthcare Reform

% Confident



GALLUP®

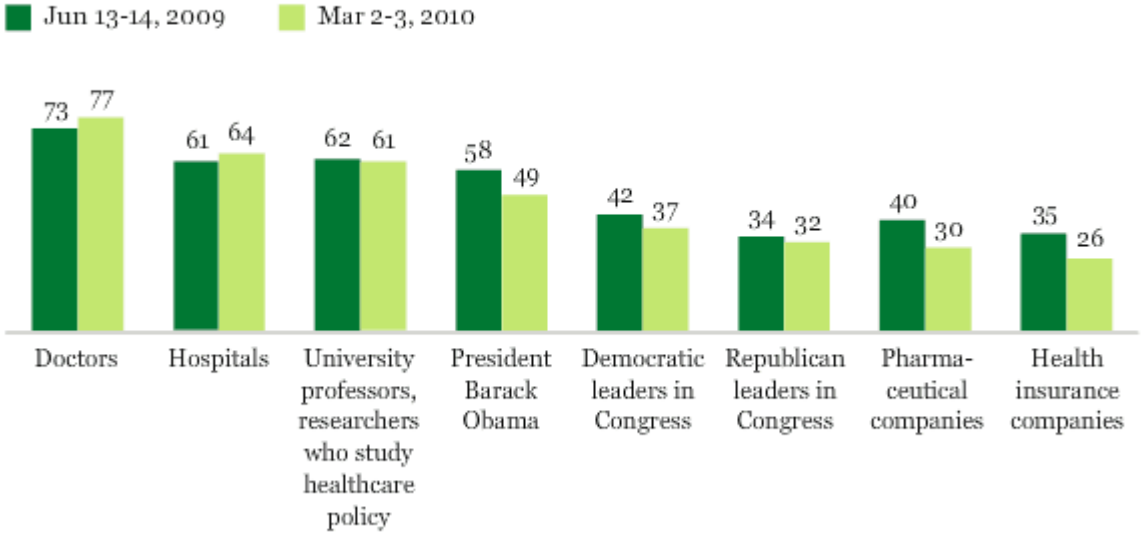
"In addition to Americans' loss of confidence in the healthcare recommendations of Obama and Democrats in Congress (and a marginal drop in their confidence in Republicans in Congress), Americans' confidence in pharmaceutical and health insurance companies also fell."

Gallup from March 2-3 asked Americans a question first asked last June -- whether they were confident or not confident in the healthcare recommendations of eight groups of potential influencers. The list of those measured includes not only Obama and the Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress, but also hospitals, doctors, pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, and university professors and researchers who study healthcare policy.

As was the case nine months ago, Americans express the most widespread confidence in doctors, hospitals, and university professors and researchers. Americans are least likely to have confidence in health insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies -- although these two institutions have only marginally lower confidence ratings than do Republicans in Congress.

Confidence in Each to Recommend the Right Thing for Healthcare Reform

% Confident



GALLUP®

In addition to Americans' loss of confidence in the healthcare recommendations of Obama and Democrats in Congress (and a marginal drop in their confidence in Republicans in Congress), Americans' confidence in pharmaceutical and health insurance companies also fell -- by 10 and 9 points, respectively.

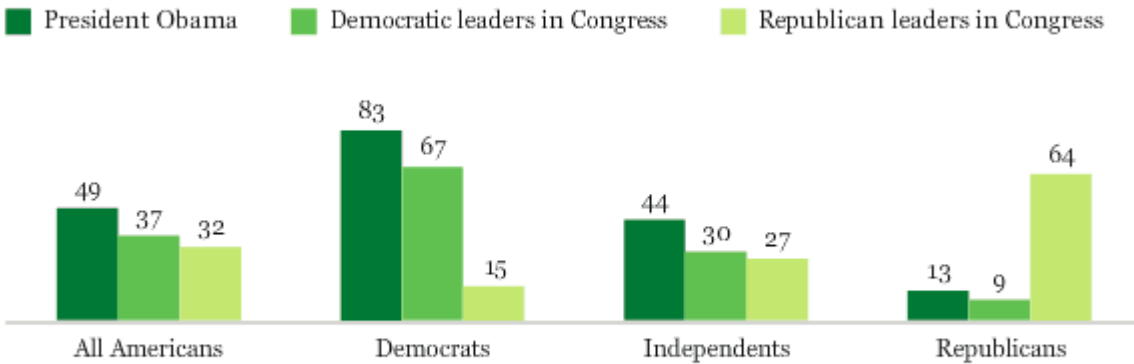
Not every group has lost ground, however. Americans' trust in doctors and hospitals has increased slightly since June, while their trust in "university professors and researchers who study healthcare policy" has stayed roughly the same.

Partisan Differences

It is no surprise to find that confidence in the political entities tested -- Obama, Democratic leaders, and Republican leaders -- is highly partisan. Of the three, rank-and-file Democrats are most likely to be confident in Obama and congressional Democrats. Republicans are most likely to be confident in congressional Republicans.

Confidence in Politicians to Recommend the Right Thing for Healthcare Reform, by Party

% Confident



Gallup, March 2-3, 2010

GALLUP®

Obama elicits higher confidence (83%) than Democrats in Congress (67%) do from rank-and-file Democrats as well as from independents (44% vs. 30%), helping explain why Obama's overall confidence ratings are higher than the Democrats'. Republicans in Congress get a 64% confidence rating from Republicans. Independents are less positive about either party's leaders in Congress than they are about Obama.

Politics don't appear to make much of a difference in Americans' ratings of doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and health insurance companies. All have roughly similar confidence ratings across the three partisan groups.

Confidence in Each to Recommend the Right Thing for Healthcare Reform, by Party

Next, we have a question about healthcare policy in the United States. As I read some names and groups, please say whether you are confident or not confident in each to recommend the right thing for reforming the U.S. healthcare system. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

% Confident

	All Americans	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
	%	%	%	%
Doctors	77	78	74	79
Hospitals	64	62	63	65
University professors and researchers who study healthcare policy	61	76	61	43
President Barack Obama	49	83	44	13
The Democratic leaders in Congress	37	67	30	9
The Republican leaders in Congress	32	15	27	64
Pharmaceutical companies	30	29	27	33
Health insurance companies	26	25	25	28

Gallup, March 2-3, 2010

GALLUP®

In contrast, university professors and researchers receive sharply more negative ratings from Republicans (43%) than from independents (61%) or in particular Democrats (76%).

Implications

As the debate over healthcare reform legislation enters what could be its final month, the American public's confidence in several of the political players who have been at the heart of the fray has eroded. President Obama's confidence ratings have slipped to the point where about half of Americans have confidence in what he recommends, and half do not. (This confidence rating is roughly on par with Obama's overall job approval rating at this point.) Confidence ratings for Democratic congressional leaders and, to a lesser degree, Republican leaders, have also dropped, leaving Obama with the highest credibility of these three political groups.

Americans remain highly confident in the healthcare reform recommendations of doctors, hospitals, and healthcare researchers -- and these confidence levels have stayed the same or increased slightly since June. Both doctors and hospitals, of course, have major financial stakes in the outcome of any healthcare reform legislation that is passed. This doesn't seem to affect Americans' trust in them. On the other hand, two other entities with financial interests in the reform process -- healthcare insurers and pharmaceutical companies -- have quite low credibility with the public. It may be that the latter two organizations have been more overt in their lobbying

and/or that Americans' typical dealings with these organizations have more negative overtones than their dealings with doctors and hospitals.

All in all, it appears that Obama remains the most influential political entity in terms of healthcare reform, albeit it at a time when neither he nor congressional leaders of either party can claim more than a 50% credibility level on this topic. At the same time, if the country's doctors or hospital administrators were to take a more public role in the debate, it appears that Americans would be quite willing to listen to their views.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 992 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 2-3, 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 ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

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.

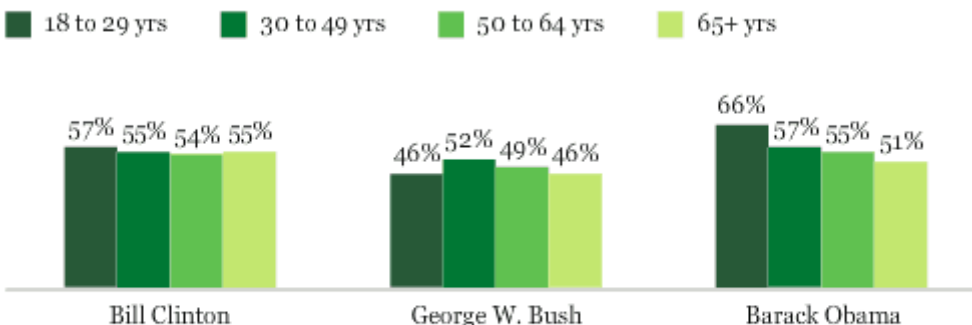
Age Groups Differ on Obama More Than on Bush, Clinton

Young adults much more likely than senior citizens to approve of Obama

March 4, 2010

Barack Obama's job approval rating averages 66% among young adults during his presidency, 15 percentage points higher than for senior citizens and at least nine points higher than for any other age group. During their presidencies, George W. Bush's and Bill Clinton's approval ratings showed much less variation by age.

Presidential Job Approval by Age, Most Recent Presidents



Data for Clinton and Bush for entire presidencies; Data for Obama through February 2010

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These data are based on the Gallup averages for the entire Clinton and Bush presidencies and for Obama's presidency through February 2010. Clinton averaged 55% approval as president and Bush 49% among all U.S. adults; Obama averages 57% thus far.

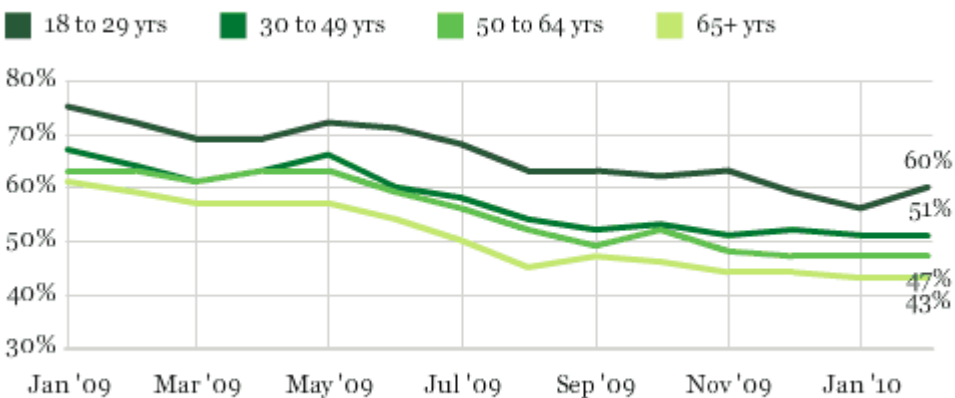
Clinton's average approval ratings by age group were remarkably consistent, varying by only as much as three percentage points between groups. Clinton's highest rating (57%) came from 18- to 29-year-olds and his lowest (54%) from 50- to 64-year-olds.

Bush's approval ratings showed slightly more variation, but only as much as a six-point spread between age groups. Bush averaged 52% approval among 30- to 49-year-olds and 46% among both young adults and senior citizens.

The greater age variation in Obama's ratings results largely from his high approval ratings from young adults; his ratings among older age groups fall within a fairly narrow six-point range (51% to 57%).

Obama's approval ratings among young adults have consistently exceeded those among older Americans throughout his presidency. Even as his overall approval rating has declined to the 50% range in recent months, his support among young adults remains relatively strong, averaging 60% last month. By comparison, an average of 43% of senior citizens approved of the job Obama was doing in February.

Barack Obama Presidential Job Approval, by Age, Monthly Averages



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Obama's strong appeal to young adults was evident even prior to his becoming president. Young adults were one of his strongest constituencies in the 2008 general presidential election against John McCain and in Obama's Democratic presidential nomination campaign against Hillary Clinton.

Bottom Line

While some patterns of support for presidents (such as by political party) are predictable, others are less so. That appears to be the case with support for President Obama by age group. Obama

maintains a unique appeal to younger Americans while attracting considerably less support among senior citizens. The variation in Obama's job approval ratings by age stands in contrast to the rather limited variation in approval ratings by age for his two immediate predecessors.

The New News Landscape: Rise of the Internet

Understanding the Participatory News Consumer

March 1, 2010

In the digital era, news has become omnipresent. Americans access it in multiple formats on multiple platforms on myriad devices. The days of loyalty to a particular news organization on a particular piece of technology in a particular form are gone. The overwhelming majority of Americans (92%) use multiple platforms to get news on a typical day, including national TV, local TV, the internet, local newspapers, radio and national newspapers. Some 46% of Americans say they get news from four to six media platforms on a typical day. Just 7% get their news from a single media platform on a typical day.

The internet is at the center of the story of how people's relationship to news is changing. Six in ten Americans (59%) get news from a combination of online and offline sources on a typical day, and the internet is now the third most popular news platform, behind local television news and national television news.

The process Americans use to get news is based on foraging and opportunism. They seem to access news when the spirit moves them or they have a chance to check up on headlines. At the same time, gathering the news is not entirely an open-ended exploration for consumers, even online where there are limitless possibilities for exploring news. While online, most people say they use between two and five online news sources and 65% say they do not have a single favorite website for news. Some 21% say they routinely rely on just one site for their news and information.

In this new multi-platform media environment, people's relationship to news is becoming portable, personalized and participatory. These new metrics stand out:

- **Portable:** 33% of cell phone owners now access news on their cell phones.
- **Personalized:** 28% of internet users have customized their home page to include news from sources and on topics that particularly interest them.
- **Participatory:** 37% of internet users have contributed to the creation of news, commented about it, or disseminated it via postings on social media sites like Facebook or Twitter.

To a great extent, people's experience of news, especially on the internet, is becoming a shared social experience as people swap links in emails, post news stories on their social networking site feeds, highlight news stories in their Tweets and haggle over the meaning of events in discussion threads. For instance, more than 8 in 10 online news consumers get or share links in emails.

The rise of the internet as a news platform has been an integral part of these changes. This report discusses two significant technological trends that have influenced news consumption behavior: First, the advent of social media like social networking sites and blogs has helped the news become a social experience in fresh ways for consumers. People use their social networks and social networking technology to filter, assess and react to news. Second, the ascent of mobile connectivity via smart phones has turned news gathering and news awareness into an anytime, anywhere affair for a segment of avid news watchers.

These are some of the key findings to come out of a new survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project and the Project for Excellence in Journalism aimed at understanding the new news landscape. Below are some of the other key findings:

The internet has surpassed newspapers and radio in popularity as a news platform on a typical day and now ranks just behind TV.

More than half of American adults (56%) say they follow the news "all or most of the time," and another quarter (25%) follow the news at least "some of the time." Asked specifically about their news habits on "a typical day," the results are striking -- 99% of American adults say that on a typical day, they get news from at least one of these media platforms: a local or national print newspaper, a local or national television news broadcast, radio or the internet.

Only local and national TV news, the latter if you combine cable and network, are more popular platforms than the internet for news. And most Americans use a combination of both online and offline sources. On a typical day:

- 78% of Americans say they get news from a local TV station.
- 73% say they get news from a national network such as CBS or cable TV station such as CNN or Fox News.
- 61% say they get some kind of news online.
- 54% say they listen to a radio news program at home or in the car.
- 50% say they read news in a local newspaper.
- 17% say they read news in a national newspaper such as the *New York Times* or *USA Today*.

Americans today routinely get their news from multiple sources and a mix of platforms. Nine in ten American adults (92%) get news from multiple platforms on a typical day, with half of those using four to six platforms daily. Fully 59% get news from a combination of online and offline sources on a typical day. Just over a third (38%) rely solely on offline sources, and 2% rely exclusively on the internet for their daily news.

The average online consumer regularly turns to only a few websites.

Most news consumers utilize multiple platforms for news, but online their range of specific outlets is limited. The majority of online news consumers (57%) say they routinely rely on just two to five websites for their news. Only 11% say they get their news from more than five websites and 21% regularly rely on just one site.

Moreover, many do not have strong loyalty to particular online sources. When asked whether they have a favorite online news source, the majority of online news users (65%) say they do not. Among those who do, the most popular sites are those of major news organizations such as such as CNN and Fox.

Internet users use the Web for a range of news, but local is not near the top of the list.

The most popular online news subjects are the weather (followed by 81% of internet news users), national events (73%), health and medicine (66%), business and the economy (64%), international events (62%), and science and technology (60%).

Asked what subjects they would like to receive more coverage, 44% said scientific news and discoveries, 41% said religion and spirituality, 39% said health and medicine, 39% said their state government, and 38% said their neighborhood or local community.

News consumption is a socially-engaging and socially-driven activity, especially online. The public is clearly part of the news process now. Participation by consumers comes more through sharing than through contributing news themselves.

Getting news is often an important social act. Some 72% of American news consumers say they follow the news because they enjoy talking with others about what is happening in the world and 69% say keeping up with the news is a social or civic obligation. And 50% of American news consumers say they rely to some degree on people around them to tell them the news they need to know. Online, the social experience is widespread:

- 75% of online news consumers say they get news forwarded through email or posts on social networking sites and 52% say they share links to news with others via those means.
- 51% of social networking site (e.g. Facebook) users who are also online news consumers say that on a typical day they get news items from people they follow. Another 23% of this cohort follow news organizations or individual journalists on social networking sites.

Some 37% of internet users have contributed to the creation of news, commentary about it, or dissemination of news via social media. They have done at least one of the following: commenting on a news story (25%); posting a link on a social networking site (17%); tagging content (11%), creating their own original news material or opinion piece (9%), or Tweeting about news (3%).

News is pocket-sized.

Some 80% of American adults have cell phones today, and 37% of them go online from their phones. The impact of this new mobile technology on news gathering is unmistakable. One quarter (26%) of all Americans say they get some form of news via cell phone today -- that amounts to 33% of cell phone owners. These wireless news consumers get the following types of news on their phones:

What kinds of news mobile users access on their cells

33% of mobile users get news on their handhelds. Below are the different kinds of news they access on their handheld devices.

	% of mobile users who get this kind of news on a mobile device
Weather	26
News and current events	25
An application for news content	18
Sports scores and stories	16
Traffic info	13
Financial info	12
News via emails and texts	11

Source: PRC-Internet & American Life Project and PRC-Project for Excellence in Journalism Online News Survey - December 28, 2009-January 19, 2010. N=1891. Margin of error is +/- 2.5 percentage points.



Wireless news consumers have fitted this "on-the-go" access to news into their already voracious news-gathering habits. They use multiple news media platforms on a typical day, forage widely on news topics and browse the web for a host of subjects.

News is personalized: The "Daily Me" takes shape.

Some 28% of internet users have customized their home page to include news from their favorite source or topics and 40% of internet users say an important feature of a news website to them is the ability to customize the news they get from the site. Moreover, 36% of internet users say an important part of a news website to them is the ability to manipulate content themselves such as graphics, maps and quizzes.

News is easier to follow now, but overwhelming. And most topics get plenty of coverage, in Americans' eyes.

Americans send mixed messages in the survey about how they feel in a world where news is updated constantly and they can access news all the time. We asked respondents about how the volume of news might play into this: "Compared with five years ago, do you think it is easier or

harder to keep up with news and information today?" Some 55% say it is easier, only 18% say it is harder. One quarter of adults (25%) say there is no difference between now and five years ago.

Yet even as they say it is easier to keep up with the news, Americans still feel overwhelmed. Fully 70% agreed with that statement: "The amount of news and information available from different sources today is overwhelming." Some 25% "completely agreed" with that statement and 45% "mostly agreed."

Good news, bad news about media performance.

When it comes to the quality of coverage itself, respondents give correspondingly mixed signals. Just under two-thirds (63%) agree with the statement that "major news organizations do a good job covering all of the important news stories and subjects that matter to me." Yet 72% also back the idea that "most news sources today are biased in their coverage." Some of the explanation for this dichotomy seems to be rooted in the views of partisans. Liberals and Democrats are more likely to say the big news organizations do a good job on subjects that matter to them, while conservatives and Republicans are the ones most likely to see coverage as biased.

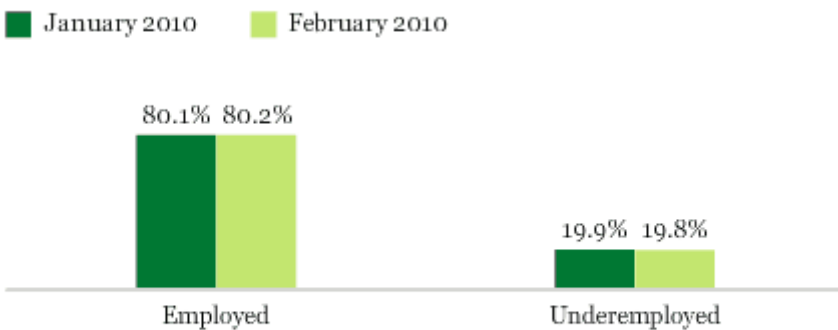
Underemployment 19.8% in February, on Par With January

A majority of the underemployed are not hopeful about finding work

March 3, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking finds that 19.8% of the U.S. workforce was underemployed in February, on par with January's 19.9% reading.

Employment and Underemployment, 2010



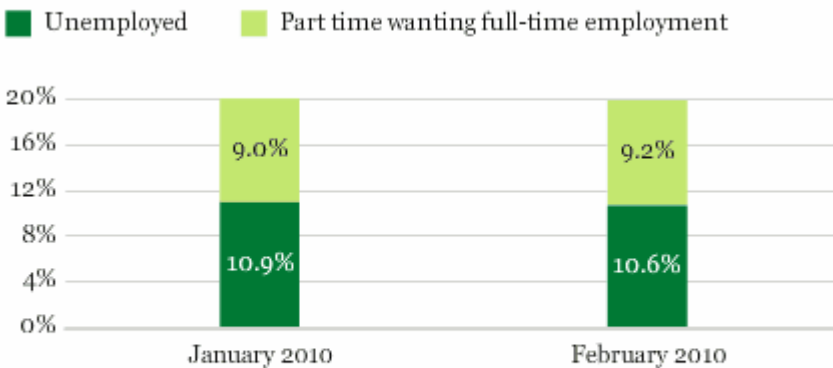
Gallup Daily tracking

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"Hope for finding a job remained flat in February: 40% of the underemployed were hopeful that they would find a job in the next four weeks, compared to 39% in January."

These results are based on February interviews with more than 19,000 adults in the U.S. workforce, aged 18 and older. Gallup classifies respondents as "employed" if they are employed full time or are employed part time but do not want to work full time. Gallup classifies respondents as "underemployed" if they are employed part time but want to work full time or are unemployed. Unemployed respondents are not employed, looking for work, and available for work. February's 19.8% underemployed estimate includes 10.6% who are unemployed and 9.2% who are working part time but wanting full-time employment (neither estimate is seasonally adjusted, and both are based on adults 18 and older). Both figures are similar to January's estimates.

Underemployment, 2010



Gallup Daily tracking

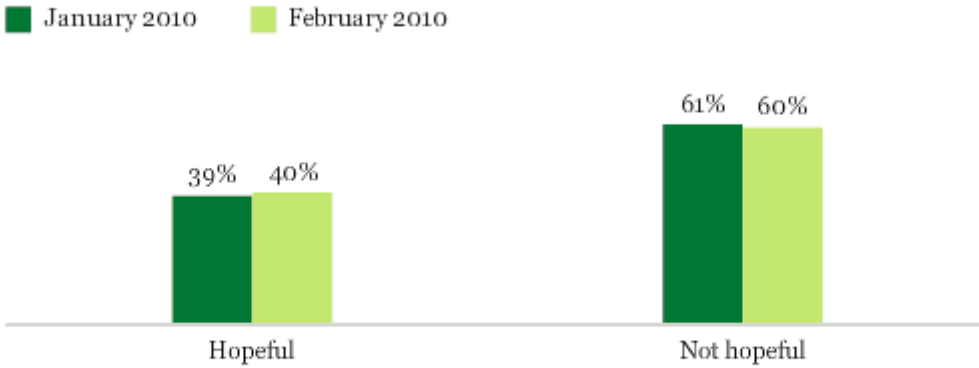


Although Gallup's data trend closely with figures put out by the U.S. government's Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are important methodological differences between how Gallup calculates and how the government calculates its estimates. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the U.S. workforce aged 16 and older. Gallup data are not seasonally adjusted and are based on respondents aged 18 and older.

No Burst of Hope, or Loss of Hope

Hope for finding a job remained flat in February: 40% of the underemployed were hopeful that they would find a job in the next four weeks, compared to 39% in January. Gallup asks the unemployed whether 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 whether they think they will have a job in the next four weeks that requires them to work 30 hours or more per week. Hope among both the unemployed (47%) and part-timers wanting to work full time (32%) remained unchanged from January to February.

Hope Among Underemployed for Finding a Job in the Next Four Weeks, 2010



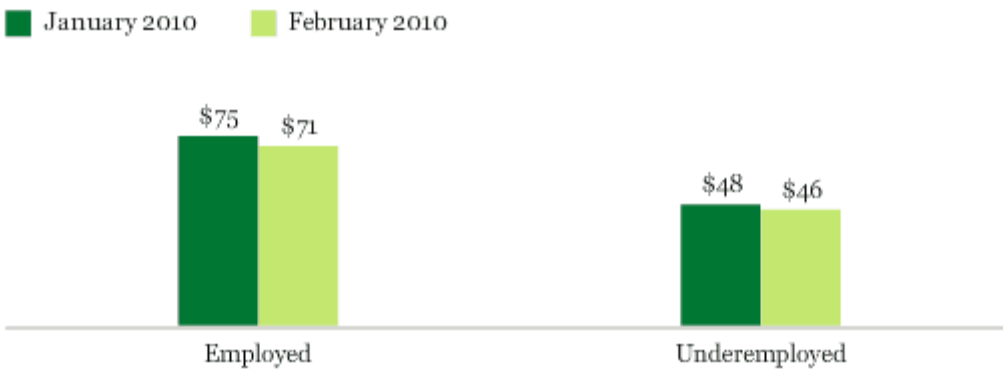
Gallup Daily tracking

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Spending

Underemployed respondents reported spending 35% less than fully employed respondents in February, almost identical to the 36% gap found in January. Employed respondents reported average daily spending of \$71 in February, compared to \$75 in January. Underemployed respondents' February average daily reported spending was \$46, compared to \$48 in January.

Average Daily Reported Spending Among Employed and Underemployed, 2010



Gallup Daily tracking

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Bottom Line

Despite indications that the U.S. economy may be recovering, underemployment remains high. Gallup estimates that nearly 30 million Americans continue to work less than their desired capacity, and the majority of these remain unhopeful that they will find work in the next four weeks. The underemployed also continue to spend significantly less than their employed counterparts, potentially costing the economy hundreds of millions of dollars each month.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 19,173 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 1-28, 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 ± 1 percentage point.

For results based on the sample of 3,799 adults who are underemployed, the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 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.

Almost Half in U.S. Would Expand Nuclear Power

March 04, 2010

People in the United States appear to favour a proposal to build more nuclear power plants, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 34 per cent are opposed.

More than 100 nuclear reactors currently supply close to 20 per cent of the electricity used in the U.S. However, no new nuclear power plants have been built in the country since 1979.

On Feb. 16, U.S. president Barack Obama announced \$8.3 billion U.S. in loan guarantees to help build new nuclear power plants, adding, "On an issue that affects our economy, our security, and the future of our planet, we can't continue to be mired in the same old stale debates between left and right, between environmentalists and entrepreneurs. Our competitors are racing to create jobs and command growing energy industries. And nuclear energy is no exception."

Polling Data

Would you support or oppose building more nuclear power stations in the United States?

Support	48%
Oppose	34%
Not sure	18%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,008 American adults, conducted from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Three-in-Four Americans Disapprove of Congress

March 03, 2010

More Americans are expressing dissatisfaction with their legislative branch, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 73 per cent of respondents disapprove of the performance of Congress, up eight points since January.

American voters renewed the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate in November 2006. In January 2007, the Democratic Party took control of the lower house for the first time since 1994, with 233 lawmakers. Democratic California congresswoman Nancy Pelosi became the first female speaker of the House.

A new congressional election took place in November 2008. The Democrats received 53.04 per cent of the vote and secured 257 seats in the lower house, while the Republicans got 44.16 per cent of the vote and won 178 seats.

In November 2009, lawmakers in the lower house of Congress approved a reform 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 differences between the two bills are expected to be reconciled by both houses this year.

On Feb. 25, Pelosi discussed the effect of health care reform, saying, "This bill is not only about the health security of America. It's about jobs. In its life it will create 4 million jobs—400,000 jobs almost immediately; jobs, again, in the health care industry, but in the entrepreneurial world as well."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	18%	24%	25%	27%
Disapprove	73%	65%	64%	62%
Not sure	9%	11%	10%	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,008 American adults, conducted on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Most Americans Troubled by Economic Downturn

March 02, 2010

A large proportion of people in the United States are frustrated by their country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

Since May 2009, the proportion of respondents who rate the U.S. economy as good or very good has increased by seven points.

Since 2007, defaults on so-called subprime mortgages—credit given to high-risk borrowers—in the U.S. caused volatility in domestic and global financial markets and ultimately pushed the U.S. economy into a recession. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The crisis has affected the global financial and credit systems, and triggered layoffs in companies around the world.

In 2008, the federal government—then under the leadership of U.S. president George W. Bush—took control of mortgage lenders Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Other financial institutions—including Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, American International Group (AIG), IndyMac Bancorp and Washington Mutual—have been sold, placed under bankruptcy protection, or received emergency loans from the Federal Reserve.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent from July to September 2009—the first quarterly gain after four consecutive declines. The country’s unemployment rate stands at 9.7 per cent.

On Feb. 25, U.S. president Barack Obama said his proposed health care reform is closely tied to economic recovery, declaring, "It is absolutely critical to begin now moving on what is one of the biggest drags on the economy. We all know this is urgent. (...) The problem is not getting better. It’s getting worse."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in the United States today?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Aug. 2009	May. 2009
Very Good / Good	15%	12%	9%	8%
Poor / Very Poor	83%	85%	89%	90%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	2%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,008 American adults, conducted on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

President Obama Gains a Point in U.S.

March 01, 2010

Public support for Barack Obama is stable in the United States, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents approve of their president’s performance, up one point since January.

In American elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2008, Democratic nominee Obama secured a majority of electoral votes, defeating Republican contender John McCain. In January 2009, Obama became the first African American president in U.S. history.

On Feb. 24, Obama discussed the economy, saying, "We need an economy where we borrow less and produce more. We need an economy where we generate more jobs here at home and send more products overseas. We need to invest and nurture the industries of the future, and we need to train our workers to compete for those jobs. (...) As I said in the State of the Union, I do not accept second place for the United States of America."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	48%	47%	50%	51%
Disapprove	45%	44%	44%	42%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,008 American adults, conducted on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Half of Canadians Think Economy is Good

February 28, 2010

For the first time this year, a majority of Canadians are satisfied with the country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 52 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in Canada today as good or very good, up four points since January.

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in October 2008. The Conservative party—led by Stephen Harper—received 37.6 per cent of the vote, and secured 143 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper assembled a minority administration. The Tories also earned a minority mandate after the 2006 election, ending more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party.

Since 2007, defaults on so-called subprime mortgages—credit given to high-risk borrowers—in the United States caused volatility in domestic and global financial markets and ultimately pushed the U.S. economy into a recession. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. The crisis has affected the global financial and credit systems.

In January 2009, Canadian finance minister Jim Flaherty presented the federal budget, which predicts a \$70 billion U.S. budget deficit over the next five years, and includes a \$33 billion U.S. economic stimulus package, as well as tax relief aimed at the lower and middle class.

Canada's unemployment rate stood at 8.3 per cent in January 2010.

The federal government is expected to table its new budget on Mar. 4. Earlier this month, Flaherty introduced new guidelines for mortgages, declaring, "There's no compelling evidence of a housing bubble, but we're taking proactive, prudent, measured and cautious steps today to help prevent a housing bubble."

Polling Data

How would you rate the economic conditions in Canada today?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Very Good / Good	52%	48%	49%	47%
Poor / Very Poor	45%	45%	47%	49%
Not sure	3%	7%	4%	4%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,013 Canadian adults, conducted on Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Resilient Chile Well-Posed to Recover After Quake

Chileans more confident in government, military than Haitians

March 5, 2010

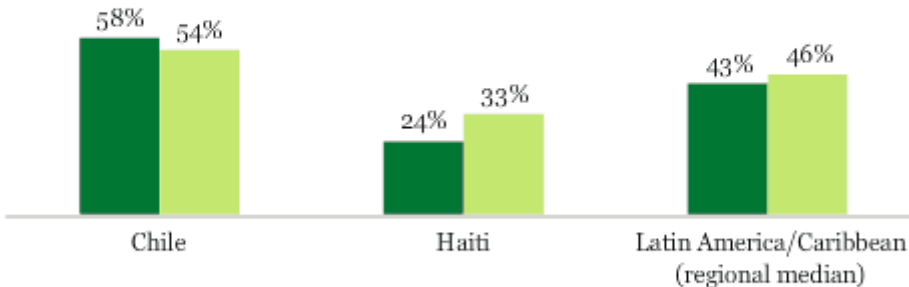
Within weeks of each other, large scale earthquakes hit arguably the most and least developed nations in Latin America and the Caribbean -- Chile and Haiti. In the aftermath of Saturday's destructive 8.8 magnitude earthquake, Chile's relative stability, economic strength, and experience with natural disasters bode well for recovery efforts there -- a sharp contrast to the chronic instability that plagues Haiti. When Gallup surveyed Chileans in July-September 2009, majorities expressed confidence in the country's national government (58%) and military (54%) - - more confidence than the median for Latin America and the Caribbean and far more confidence than residents in Haiti.

In (country), do you have confidence in each of the following, or not?

How about the national government? How about the military?

% Confident

■ National government ■ Military



Data collected in Chile July 3-Sept. 8, 2009; Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008

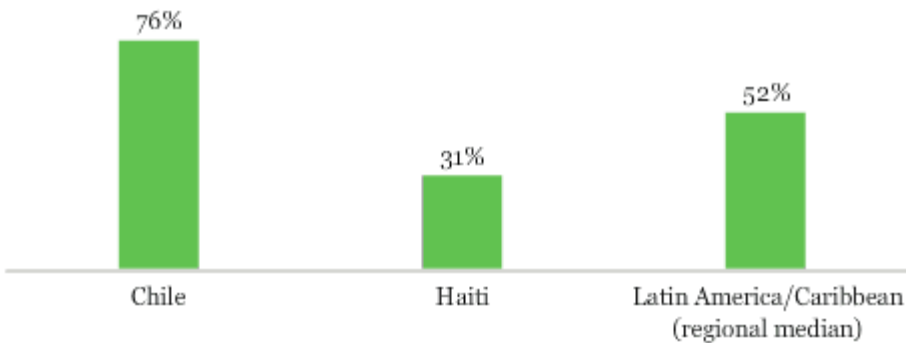
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Emergency response contingencies are well-established in Chile, where natural disasters are common. Amid rescue and recovery efforts, Chile's outgoing president called on the military to assist with aid distribution and to support local police forces in restoring order to affected regions where looting and violence is occurring.

Though the Chilean earthquake struck less populated areas than did the Haitian quake, part of the difference in terms of destruction and loss of life is attributable to Chile's relative prosperity -- the richest country in the region in terms of GDP per capita (PPP) -- and solid infrastructure. For example, 76% of Chileans said they are satisfied with the roads and highways where they live -- the highest proportion among 24 Latin American and Caribbean populations surveyed.

In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the roads and highways?

% Satisfied



Data collected in Chile July 3-Sept. 8, 2009; Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008

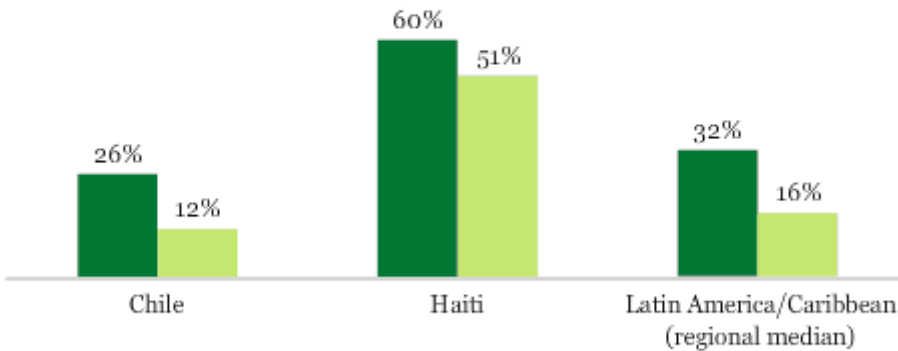
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However, comparisons with Haiti should not obscure that Chile's extreme income inequality makes some residents more vulnerable than others to natural disasters. The earthquake has left many Chileans without adequate shelter, which 12% already struggled to afford prior to the quake. Food shortages are also a troubling issue. Prior to the quake, slightly more than one in four Chileans (26%) said they had trouble buying food for their families at some point in the last year, slightly below the regional median of 32%.

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to . . . ?

% Yes

- Buy food that you or your family needed
- Provide adequate shelter or housing for you and your family



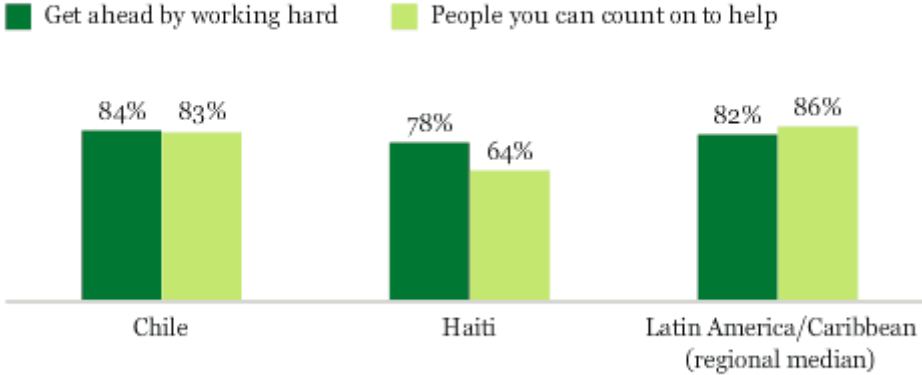
Data collected in Chile July 3-Sept. 8, 2009; Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008

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Chile shares two advantages for recovery with almost all other Latin American and Caribbean populations -- belief in the value of hard work and close relationships with friends and extended family members. More than 8 in 10 Chileans (84%) said it is possible to get ahead in the country by working hard. A similar proportion (83%) said they have friends or relatives they can count on to help them if they are in trouble.

Can people in this country get ahead by working hard, or not? If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?

% Yes



Data collected in Chile July 3-Sept. 8, 2009; Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008

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Survey Methods

Results from Chile are based on face-to-face interviews with 1000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted July 3- Sept. 8, 2009. Results from Haiti are based on face-to-face interviews with 500 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted Dec. 8-13, 2008. For results based on this total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.6 percentage points in Chile and ± 4.7 percentage points in Haiti.

Regional medians for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean include results from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All surveys were conducted between June 2006 and September 2009.

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Half of Mexicans Content with President Calderón

March 07, 2010

Public support for Felipe Calderón remains stable in Mexico, according to a poll by Consulta Mitofsky. 53.4 per cent of respondents agree with the way the president is governing, up one point since January.

Mexican voters chose their new president in July 2006. Official results placed Calderón of the conservative National Action Party (PAN) as the winner with 36.68 per cent of all cast ballots. Calderón—a former energy secretary—took over as Mexico's head of state in December. During his campaign, he vowed to combat illicit drug trafficking and drug-related crime, as well as to boost Mexico's economy.

Mexico held a mid-term legislative election in July 2009. The opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) received 36.68 per cent of the vote, compared to 27.98 per cent for the PAN. The number of PAN lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies was decimated from 206 to 146. The PRI now controls 241 seats in the 500-member lower house, plus 17 seats from its ally, the Green Environmentalist Party (PVEM).

On Mar. 4, Calderón discussed his views on health care, saying, "Because of its importance for Mexico and Mexicans, health is something that cannot and should not have party biases or electoral calendars. It requires placing our agreements over our differences and is a task that calls for unity and work from everyone."

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with the way Felipe Calderón is governing?

	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010	Oct. 2009
Agree	53.4%	52.4%	58.2%
Disagree	44.2%	45.7%	40.1%

Source: Consulta Mitofsky

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 1,000 Mexican adults, conducted from Feb. 18 to Feb. 22, 2010. Margin of error is 3.5 per cent.

Lula Keeps Extraordinary Rating in Brazil

March 06, 2010

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva heads to the final months of his tenure with impressive numbers, according to a poll by Datafolha published in Folha de Sao Paulo. 73 per cent of respondents rate Lula's performance as good or very good.

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.

Yesterday, Lula discussed his views on how to deal with Iran's nuclear program, declaring, "It is not wise to push Iran into a corner. It is wise to establish negotiations."

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

Polling Data

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

	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009	Aug. 2009
Good / Very Good	73%	72%	67%
Average	20%	21%	25%
Bad / Very Bad	5%	6%	8%

Source: Datafolha / Folha de Sao Paulo

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 2,624 Brazilian adults, conducted on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 2 per cent.

Lula's Anointed Candidate Gains in Brazil

March 04, 2010

The chief of staff of Brazil's government and presidential candidate for the ruling Worker's Party (PT) has gained momentum but remains in second place, according to a poll by Ibope. 25 per cent of respondents would vote for Dilma Rousseff in this year's election, up eight points since November.

Sao Paulo governor Jose Serra of the conservative Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) continues to lead with 36 per cent. Support is lower for Ciro Gomes of the Socialist People's Party (PSB), and Marina Silva of the Green Party (PV).

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

Lula has publicly endorsed Rousseff as his preferred successor. On Feb. 20, the PT officially selected Rousseff as the party's presidential candidate. Accepting her nomination, the economist declared: "I humbly receive this mission that you are giving to me. (...) There will be no going backwards, no adventures. But we could advance much more and much more quickly."

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

Polling Data

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

	Feb. 2010	Nov. 2009	Sept. 2009
Jose Serra (PSDB)	36%	38%	35%
Dilma Rousseff (PT)	25%	17%	15%
Ciro Gomes (PSB)	11%	13%	17%
Marina Silva (PV)	8%	6%	8%
None / Blank ballot	11%	13%	14%
Not sure / Undecided	9%	12%	10%

Source: Ibope

Methodology: Interviews with 2,002 Brazilian adults, conducted from Feb. 6 to Feb. 9, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Columbians Not Happy With The Political Parties

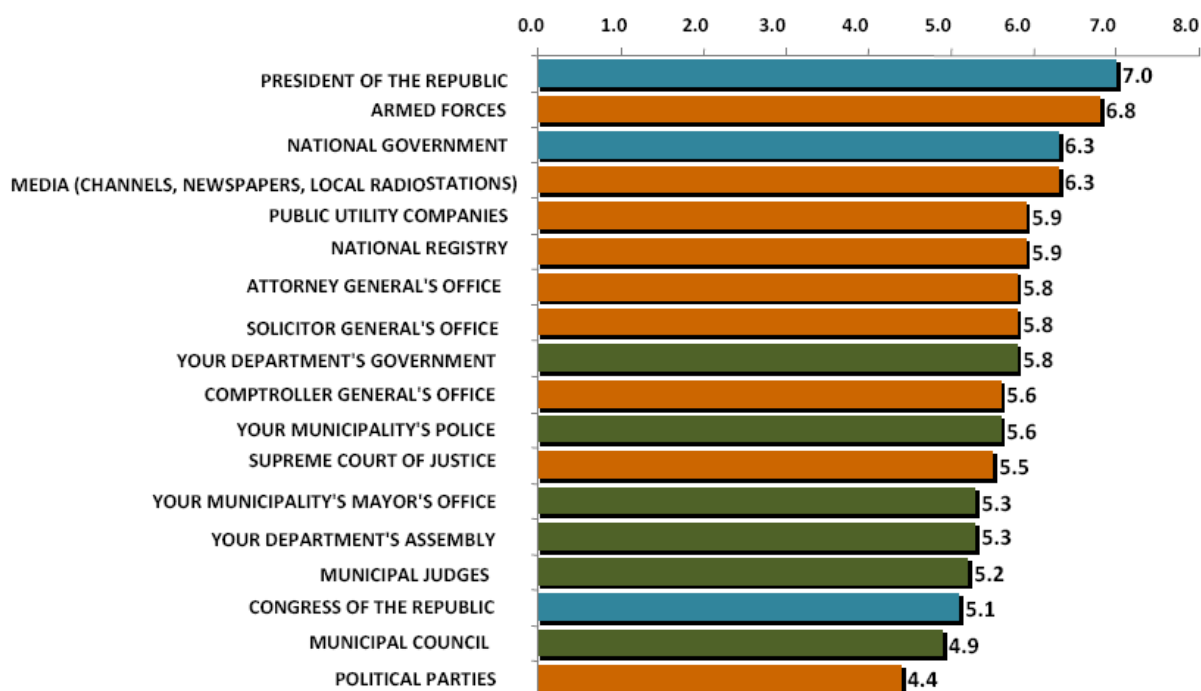
The International Republican Institute (IRI) has worked in Colombia to strengthen political parties and democratic processes since January 2006. IRI's current program has four principal components: fostering issue-based and representative political parties; building the capacities of key constituent groups, such as Afro-Colombians, to influence politics and governance; strengthening the national congress's ability to more effectively represent constituents, and; promoting good governance at municipal and district levels.

Problems and Solutions of Political Parties

Poll results reveal that although Colombia's political parties are viewed as very important to democracy, they receive the worst rating among the country's public institutions and authorities. Respondents identified a lack of engagement with citizens, lack of transparency, corruption and the lack of ideology as some of the major problems currently faced by political parties.

- First, when asked about how important political parties are to democracy, 63 percent of those polled stated they believed they were very important and important. On the other hand, 33 percent of respondents considered parties to be not important for democracy. The degree of importance increased for the residents of small municipalities.

I WILL NAME A SERIES OF MUNICIPAL, DEPARTMENTAL AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OR AUTHORITIES. I WANT YOU TO EVALUATE THEM ON A SCALE OF ONE TO 10, WHERE ONE MEANS THAT THE RATING YOU GIVE IS VERY BAD AND 10 MEANS THAT IT IS VERY GOOD.



- When respondents were asked about the three biggest problems political parties currently face, Colombians answered in order of importance as seen in the chart below:

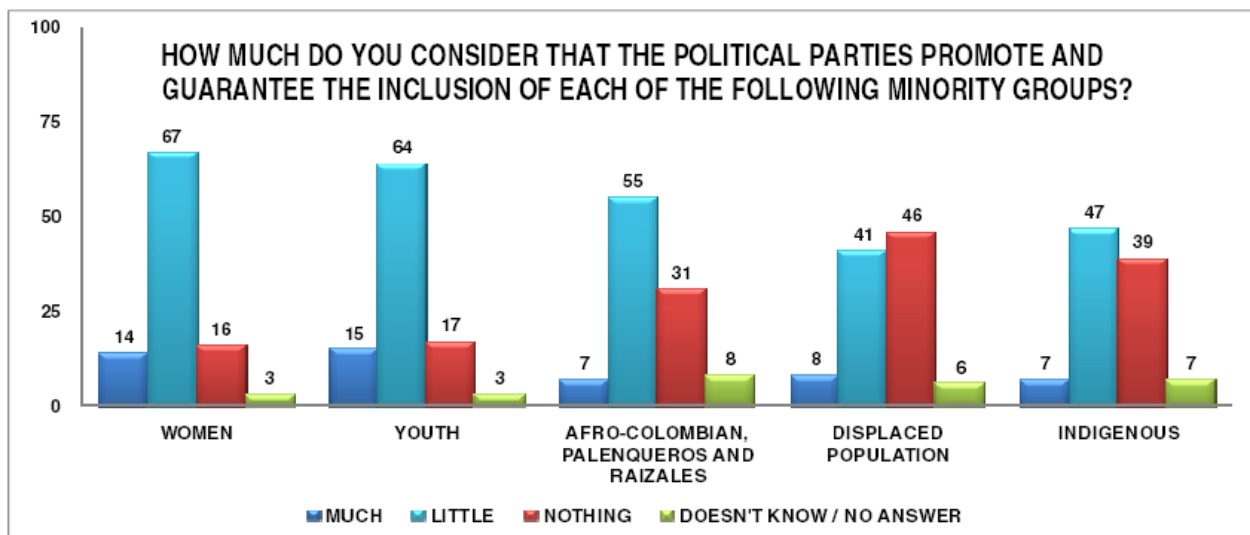
LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	PROBLEMS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES
First	Lack of interest / They do not pay attention to the priorities of the population
	Lack of communication with the community
Second	They do not generate opportunities for citizen participation
	Lack of transparency / Corruption
	Promote a political system based on patronage
	They do not propose solutions to the country's problems
Third	Lack clear ideology
	They promise and do not fulfill
	They are not inclusive

- Given the three sets of issues raised by Colombians, the survey results suggest that enhancing the credibility of political parties as vehicles for democratic representation, must include the following three solutions: encouraging greater membership, combating corruption and fulfilling their promises.

- Given the low rating of political organizations and most relevant issues at the local level, the survey results suggest that political parties should focus primarily on issues of employment, poverty, corruption and public housing with the aim of improving their public images. Secondly, according to respondents, the parties should focus on issues of mobility, roads and transportation infrastructure, recreational spaces, public safety, economic development and other such public works.

Minority Groups and Political Parties

One of the major problems identified with Colombia’s political parties is the lack of engagement with citizens. As evidenced by the following chart, respondents clearly believe that parties have failed to promote and guarantee the inclusion of women, youth, minorities and internally displaced persons, which combined comprise a very large sector of the population.



- 67 percent of respondents believe that the parties do little to include women in their decisions. Regarding youth, Afro-Colombian groups, palenqueros*, raizales*, (*other Afro-descendent populations) and indigenous people, the figures rise to 64 percent, 55 percent and 47 percent respectively. In addition, 45 percent of Colombians believe that parties do nothing to promote the inclusion of displaced populations. The inclusion of minority groups is a issue that clearly needs attention from political parties.
- Additionally, 66 percent of respondents agreed that there is racial discrimination in political parties.

Corruption

Similar to citizen engagement, Colombians continue to view corruption and a lack of transparency as problems that lower the legitimacy of political parties as vehicles of democratic representation. A clear majority of Colombians view parties as influenced by corruption and believe that specific measures should be taken to improve the institutional transparency of parties.

- Seven percent of Colombians received a gift from politicians in exchange for their vote. Of that, 34 percent received money, 19 percent received food, 17 percent received jobs and another 13 percent received construction materials.
- Twenty-two percent of Colombians stated that politicians have promised them something in exchange for their vote. Of this 22 percent, 55.9 percent were promised jobs, 15.8 percent were promised housing/lots, and 12.6 percent were promised scholarships for their son or daughter to attend college or the university.
- When those polled were asked about how much they agreed or disagreed with the question Have political parties been influenced by corruption? Colombians responded affirmatively with an average of 7.3 on a scale of one to 10.
- To counter corruption in political parties, 51 percent of respondents believed that sanctions should be leveled on political parties who perpetrate acts of corruption, 45 percent say political parties should be required to declare and publish their finances, and 38.5 percent believe that a culture of rule of law and transparency should be promoted among the country's youth.

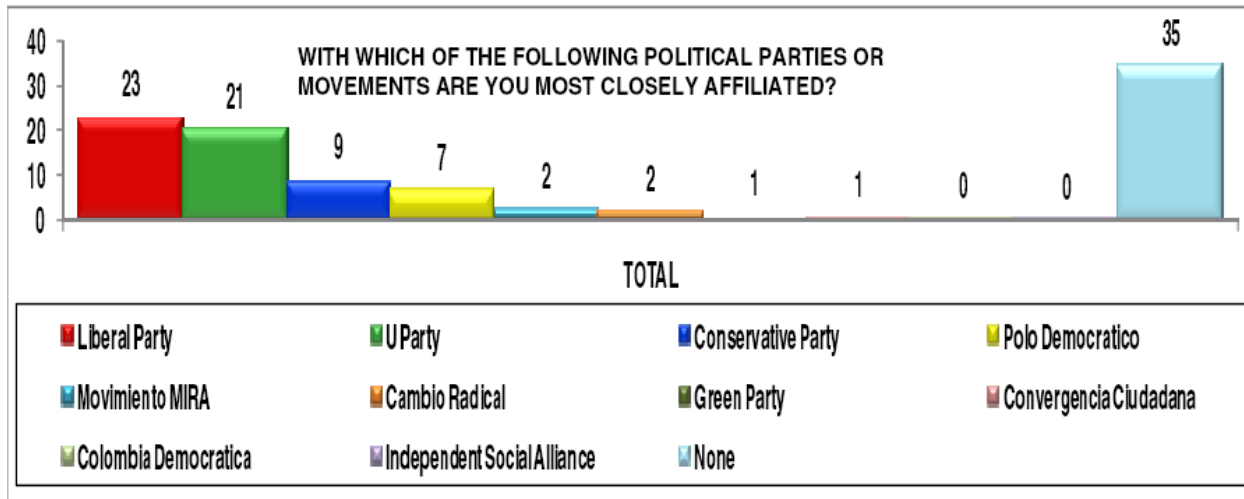
Relation between Issues and Political Parties

When asked to associate various positive and negative attributes with political parties, Colombians were able to easily identify a political party or parties that in his/her opinion most associated with each particular attribute. At the same time, Colombians were able to identify parties, with which no specific issues could be associated. The results demonstrate a clear need for a deepening and broadening of platform development among all of Colombia's political parties.

- When making an association between issues and various Colombian political parties, the respondents believe that the political organizations with a greater differentiation from others are the Liberal Party, the U Party, the Polo Democratico and Movimiento MIRA. Colombians recognize a separate and differentiated work of these parties from others in the country.
- On the other hand, Colombians do not easily recognize clear identities of the Conservative Party, Convergencia Ciudadana, Colombia Democrática, Independent Social Alliance, Green Party and Radical Change.
- Respondents associated the Liberal Party with the following attributes: represents people like you, fights against poverty, keeps promises and worries about economic growth and employment.
- Respondents associate the U Party with the following attributes: enforces the law, has concern about security and promotes justice and peace.
- According to respondents, they associate the Alternative Democratic Pole party with the attribute of promoting human rights. Regarding the Movimiento MIRA, Colombians believe the party is most associated with the attribute of favoring the inclusion of minority groups.
- According to respondents, they relate the Conservative Party, Convergencia Ciudadana, Colombia Radical with the following attributes: links with illegal armed groups and corruption.
- To some degree, respondents relate the Green Party and the Independent Social Alliance with links to illegal armed groups and corruption. However, the levels of differentiation of these parties are low, when compared with others. Respondents listed no other attributes for these parties.

Political Participation

Despite the fact that Colombians are able to associate attributes/issues to specific parties and despite the fact that a majority of them believe parties to be important to Colombian democracy, a large percentage of Colombians choose to not associate with any political party, choosing instead to vote by an overwhelming margin in favor of candidates regardless of political affiliation.



- The political map of Colombians shows that 35 percent do not belong to any political party, 23.1 percent sympathize with the Liberal Party, 20.5 percent comprise the U Party, nine percent sympathize with the Conservative Party, 6.5 percent consider themselves part of the Polo Democratico and the remainder associate themselves with other political parties.
- When asked about reasons for not voting in 2006, 31.2 percent of respondents did not vote for reasons of apathy (not interested in politics, do not believe in politicians).
- When asked about reasons for voting in 2010, 32.6 percent of respondents agreed that the most important motivation to vote in the 2010 elections is that they want a change.
- When asked about the party affiliation of candidates, 73 percent of respondents believe that people vote for candidates regardless of political party.
- Sixty percent of respondents believe that internal primaries are important to strengthening political parties.

Other

- Seventy-three percent of respondents consider corruption as the most important political issue currently on the national agenda; however, 63 percent believe it is the economic crisis, and 48.4 percent believe the most important problem is that of human rights.

Haitians Express High Resolve, Community-Mindedness

Its people may be key assets in Haiti's recovery

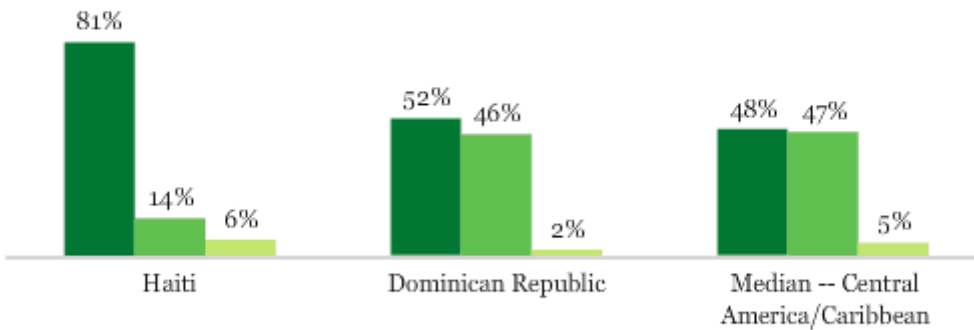
March 1, 2010

Despite the oft-reported challenges facing Haiti's recovery process, Gallup polling in the country before the earthquake suggests its people have much to offer toward building a new future. More than 8 in 10 Haitians (81%) surveyed in December 2008 said they have a particular talent of

some kind -- easily the highest proportion among 12 Central American and Caribbean populations of which the question was asked.

Do you have a talent of any kind, or something you can do better than most people you know, or not?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused



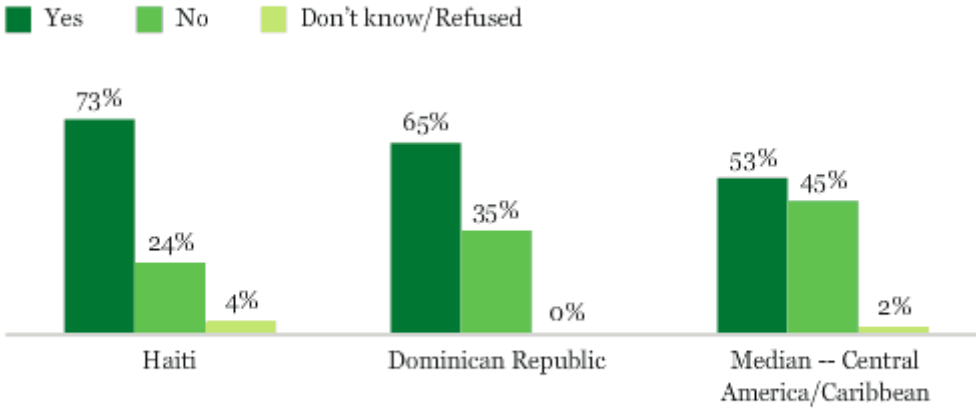
Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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Almost two months after Haiti's catastrophic earthquake, one of the most challenging questions facing Haitian leaders and the international community alike is how to move forward in a way that places Haitians themselves at the center of the rebuilding effort. Activating a government-run civic service corps that could work with Haitian and international organizations to implement local rebuilding projects is one proposed idea. In a recent *Los Angeles Times* editorial, experts Robert Muggah and Robert Maguire argued that such a corps would tap the potential of Haitian youth and help "stimulate recovery from the bottom up."

Gallup's 2008 poll results offer reasons to expect many Haitians would embrace opportunities to improve the quality of their own lives. Almost three in four (73%) Haitians said they have some plan or idea in mind to improve their standard of living. Again, this figure is among the highest in the area, far outdistancing the regional median of 53%.

Do you currently have a plan, idea, or invention in mind to improve your standard of living?

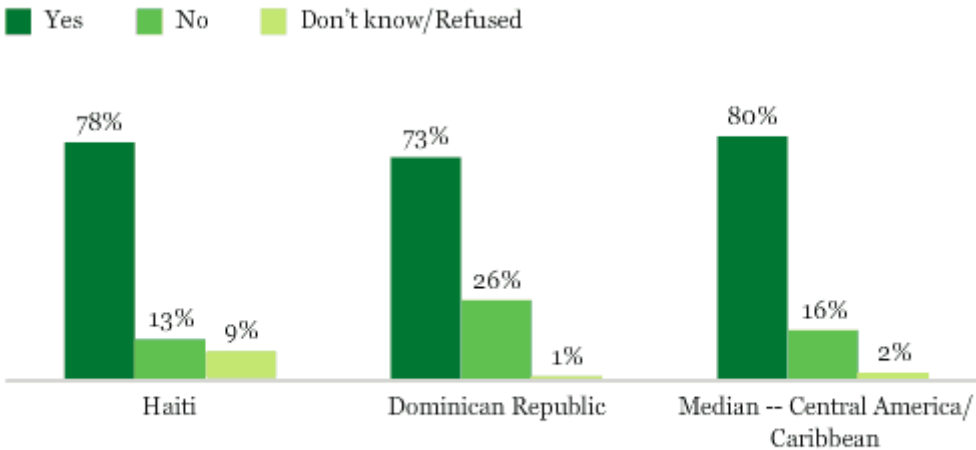


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What's more, despite the chronic poverty and lack of economic opportunity in the country, Haitians believe in the value of hard work. More than three in four (78%) said people in the country can get ahead by working hard; that figure is close to the median of 80% among populations in Central America and the Caribbean.

Can people in this country get ahead by working hard, or not?



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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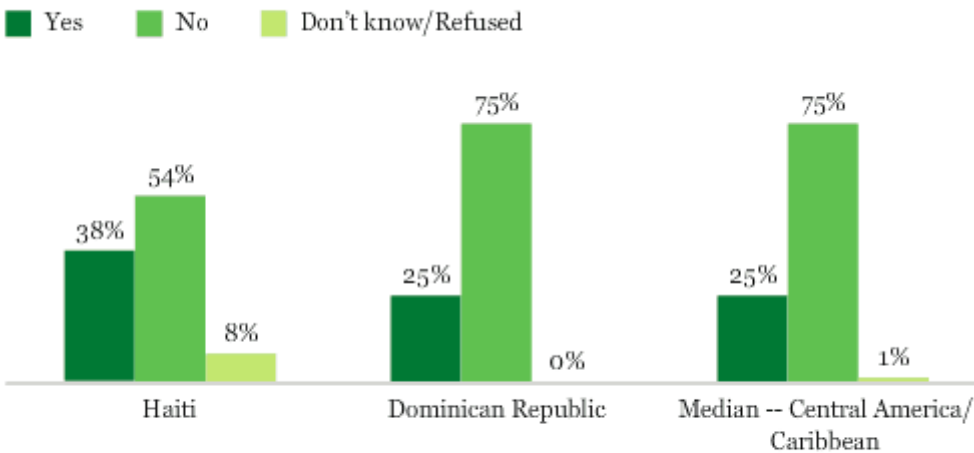
Community-Mindedness

Mobilizing the talent and creativity of individual Haitians also depends on their capacity to engage in collective action -- that is, their readiness to spontaneously organize in support of

projects that benefit all the participants. The 2008 survey also offers reasons for optimism about Haitians' community orientation and charitable spirit.

Forty percent of Haitians said at the time of the survey in 2008 that they had donated money to an organization in the past month, significantly higher than the 25% of Dominicans who said the same and somewhat higher than the median proportion of 33% among 12 populations surveyed in Central American and the Caribbean. Similarly, 38% of Haitians said they had volunteered their time to an organization in the past month, compared with 25% of Dominicans and a median of 25% among populations in the region.

Have you volunteered your time to an organization in the past month?



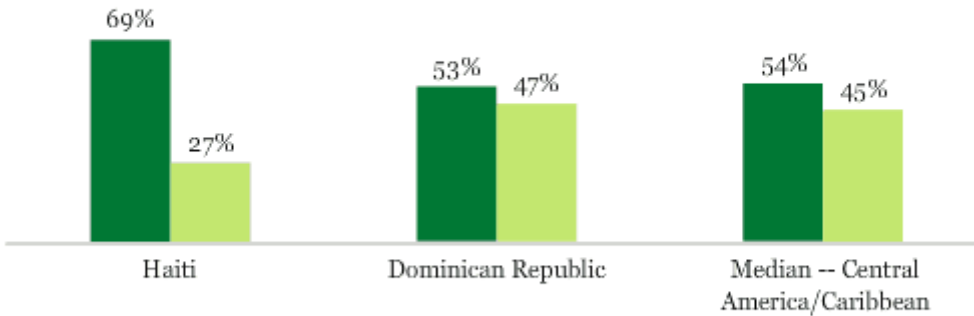
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Haitians' high rate of reported religious participation may also help strengthen community ties. About 7 in 10 Haitians (69%) said in the 2008 survey that they had attended a place of worship or religious service in the past seven days. By comparison, 53% of Dominicans said the same, similar to the regional median figure of 54%. Relatively high levels of religious participation suggest Haiti's faith communities could be important platforms for mobilizing Haitians in rebuilding efforts -- particularly if relief initiatives can be used to unite rather than divide Haiti's Christian leaders and leaders of the country's syncretic Vodou faith.

Have you attended a place of worship or religious service within the last seven days?

■ Yes ■ No



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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Bottom Line

Haitians have been no strangers to tragedy and hardship throughout their history. Gallup's survey results offer clues about their resilience in the widespread belief in their own talents and resourcefulness and in the community-mindedness implied by their relatively high rate of reported participation in volunteer activities and religious organizations. The international attention Haiti is receiving offers an opportunity to tap those assets in the immediate rebuilding process and to establish institutional supports that help more Haitians contribute to the country's growth and development.

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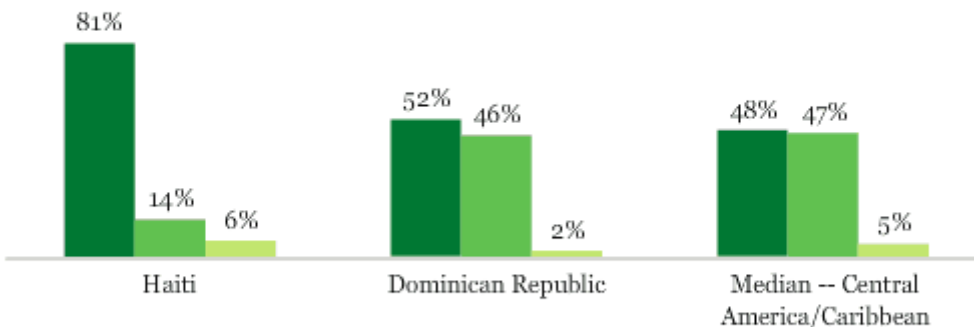
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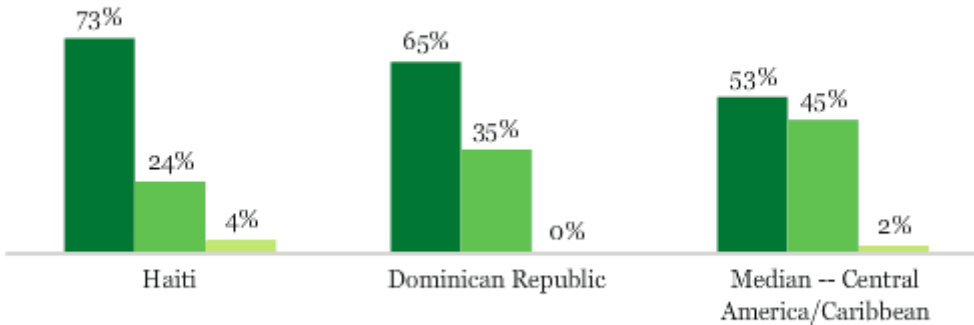
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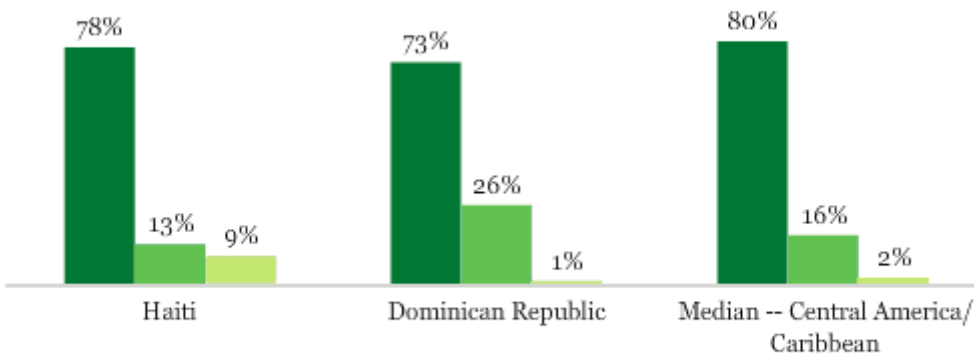
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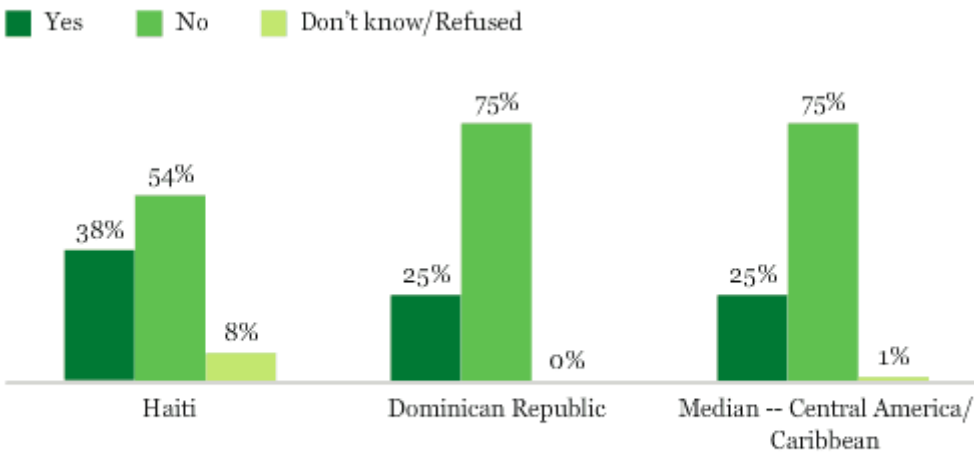
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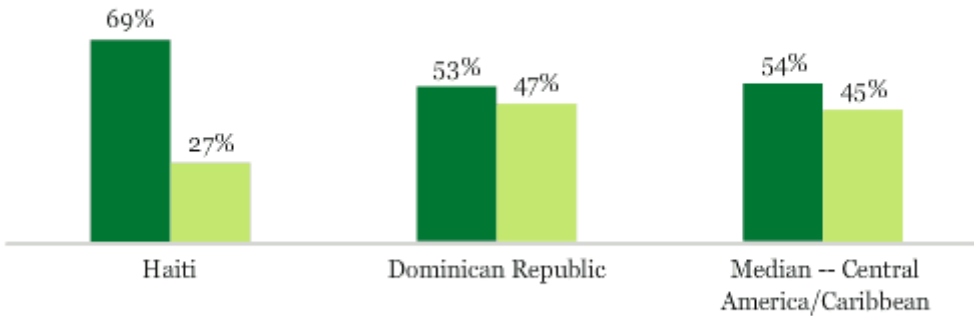
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