

# BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

## Global Opinion Report No. 113

Week: March 28- April 03, 2010

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## **Prelude**

This week report consists of 22 surveys. One of these is a multi-country survey regarding the views about NATO in Eastern Europe.

### **Is Ukrainian 'No' to NATO, Part of Russian Resurgence?**

Ukraine pursued a policy to be part of NATO for six years but the current government of Viktor Yanukovich decided to take a U-turn. Ukrainian parliament is going to pass a law that will restrict Ukraine from joining the military alliance. Ukrainian government decision seems to have popular support as well. A Pew Research Center survey shows that more than half of the Ukrainian respondents have an unfavorable opinion of NATO and they are opposed to Ukraine entry into NATO.<sup>1</sup> This opposition is highest in ethnically Russian areas of Ukraine. Somewhat similar are the views about NATO in Belarus, another neighbor of Ukraine and Russia.

The surveys show that Ukrainians have a very positive opinion of Russia. Ukrainian will be approving a suggestion to have further closer ties with Russia and will support the exclusion of visas and customs.<sup>2</sup> This shows that the immediate neighbors of Russia perceive Russian influence as positive except for Georgia. The opinions on Central Asian side are somewhat mixed. Keeping in view the fact of stabilizing Russian economy and military strength reflected in its foreign policy, Russian resurgence seems to be underway. Will Russia be able to extend its positive image beyond these immediate neighbors in East Europe? Are Russians still thinking of a Greater Russia including some parts of Soviet Union back to its territory? Public support for United Russia has been on the rise for the last few years but can it really be translated into political terms?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1542/ukrainie-president-blocks-nato-membership-russia-influence>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kiis.com.ua/?id=2&sp=1&lng=eng>

## Summary of Polls

### **MIDDLE EAST**

#### **Kadima Takes First Place Among Israeli Voters**

Israel's opposition Kadima party is ahead of the governing Likud, according to a poll by the Dahaf Institute published in *Yediot Ahronot*. A prospective tally of seats shows that Kadima would secure 32 seats in the Knesset, followed by Likud with 29.

March 30, 2010

### **CENTRAL ASIA**

#### **Turks Endorse Idea of Civilian Constitution**

Most people in Turkey think the country needs to enact a civilian constitution, according to a poll by Pollmark. 58 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 20 per cent oppose the notion.

March 30, 2010

### **SUBSAHARAN AFRICA**

#### **Race relations on the improve in South Africa**

Ipsos found that the majority of South Africans recently polled felt that relationships between the various race groups in South Africa are improving. This trend has continuously improved over the last few years and that the percentage of South Africans with a positive feeling far outweighs the prophets of gloom on this topic.

March 20, 2010

### **EAST EUROPE**

#### **Ukrainians Likely Support Move Away From NATO**

Ukrainians may support their new government's plans to prohibit the country from joining military alliances, which would effectively end its six-year pursuit of NATO membership. Residents in May 2009 were more than twice as likely to see NATO as a threat (40%) than as protection (17%). One in three said it was neither.

April 2, 2010

#### **Ukraine Says 'No' to NATO**

Pew found that half of Ukrainians (51%) opposed their country's admission to NATO, while only 28% favored such a step. Moreover, given the opposition to membership, it is not surprising that about half of Ukrainians (51%) gave NATO an unfavorable rating.

March 29, 2010

#### **Russians Don't Want Closer Ties with U.S.**

Few people in Russia want their country to seek improved relations with the United States, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. Only 14 per cent of respondents advocate for closer bi-lateral ties, down 10 points since March 2003.

April 01, 2010

### **WEST EUROPE**

#### **Germans Reject Monetary Aid to Greece**

Over two thirds of people in Germany oppose a plan to give monetary aid to Greece, according to a poll by Forsa released by *Stern*. 68 per cent of respondents reject the notion of Germany providing Greece with financial assistance.

April 03, 2010

### Tories No Longer Lead by Double-Digits in Britain

The opposition Conservative Party remains ahead of its rivals in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 37 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in this year's election to the House of Commons.

April 02, 2010

### **NORTH AMERICA**

#### Most Americans Worried About Economic Conditions

Many adults in the United States remain concerned about the country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 81 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

March 30, 2010

#### One-in-Four Americans Approve of U.S. Congress

More Americans are content with the work of their legislative branch this month, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 24 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress, up six points since February.

March 29, 2010

#### Obama Approval Steady at 48% in U.S.

Public support for Barack Obama did not go to any significant shifts in the United States this month, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance.

March 28, 2010

#### Chronic Conditions Linked to Cancer

Americans who report having been diagnosed with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes are roughly twice as likely to report a cancer diagnosis as those who have not been diagnosed with these conditions, according to Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data.

April 1, 2010

#### Blame Spread Around for Post-Healthcare Vandalism, Threats

Americans hold all sides of the healthcare reform battle responsible for the rash of threatening e-mails, phone calls, and vandalism that erupted last week after the healthcare bill passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. Roughly half (49%) say controversial political maneuvers by Democratic leaders to secure the votes they needed were a major reason. Nearly as many blame harsh criticism of the bill by both conservative media commentators and Republican leaders.

March 30, 2010

#### Americans Remain Concerned About Costs of Healthcare Bill

One week after the passage of historic new healthcare legislation, Americans remain worried about the bill's effect on costs -- both for the nation as a whole and for them personally. A majority of Americans say healthcare costs in the U.S. and the federal budget deficit will get worse as a result of the bill. Half of Americans believe that healthcare costs for themselves and their families will get worse.

March 30, 2010

#### Pope Benedict Favorable Rating Drops to 40% in U.S.

A new low of 40% of Americans view Pope Benedict XVI favorably amid new criticism about the Roman Catholic Church's handling of child sex abuse by priests. Now, nearly as many Americans have an unfavorable view of the pope as have a favorable view.

March 31, 2010

#### Republicans Move Ahead in 2010 Vote for Congress

Registered voters now say they prefer the Republican to the Democratic candidate in their district by 47% to 44% in the midterm congressional elections, the first time the GOP has led in 2010 election preferences since Gallup began weekly tracking of these in March.

April 1, 2010

#### Congress in a Wordle

When Pew asked Americans to provide a one word description of their impression of Congress, 86 percent of respondents said something negative while just 4 percent gave a positive word. The three most frequently offered terms were dysfunctional (21 people offered this), corrupt (20) and some version of selfish (19). Many of the words reflected perceptions that Congress has been unable or unwilling to enact legislation (inept, confusing, gridlock, etc.).

March 22, 2010

#### Most Canadians Support Quebec's Veil Ban

People in Canada agree with Quebec's proposal to instruct people to show their faces in order to receive government services, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 80 per cent of respondents approve of this legislation.

March 29, 2010

#### Canadians Oppose Afghan Combat Beyond 2011

People in Canada reject the possibility of extending the country's military commitment in Afghanistan beyond the current timetable, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 79 per cent of respondents oppose Canadian troops taking part in a combat mission after 2011.

April 03, 2010

#### Most Canadians Pleased with Economic Conditions

A majority of people in Canada believe the country's financial standing is satisfactory, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 54 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in Canada today as good or very good, up two points since February.

April 01, 2010

### **LATIN AMERICA**

#### Brazilians Just Enamoured with Lula

With a presidential election in the horizon for Brazil, the popularity of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva keeps growing, according to a poll by Datafolha published in *Folha de Sao Paulo*. 76 per cent of respondents say Lula's presidency has been good or very good, up four points since February.

April 03, 2010

#### Brazil's Rousseff is Becoming a Stronger Contender

The first round of the next presidential election in Brazil could be a tight contest, according to a poll by Ibope. 35 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB), while 30 per cent would support Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party (PT).

April 01, 2010

## MIDDLE EAST

### Kadima Takes First Place Among Israeli Voters

March 30, 2010

Israel's opposition Kadima party is ahead of the governing Likud, according to a poll by the Dahaf Institute published in *Yediot Ahronot*. A prospective tally of seats shows that Kadima would secure 32 seats in the Knesset, followed by Likud with 29.

Israel Our Home (Yisrael Beiteinu) is in third place with 13 mandates, followed by the International Organization of Torah-observant Sephardic Jews (Shas) with 10, and Labour with eight. Support is lower for United Torah Judaism (Yahadut Hatorah), Vitality-Together (Meretz-Yachad), National Union (HaIhud HaLeumi), and Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi). The Arab parties would secure 11 seats.

In February 2009, Israeli voters renewed the Knesset. The Likud party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, secured 27 seats in the legislature. The far-right Israel Our Home, the Labour party, 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."

During the six-day war in 1967, Israel gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Saudi Arabia has proposed the Arab Peace Initiative (API) to reconcile Israel and the Palestinians. The plan states that Israel will retreat from all territories occupied in 1967, and a Palestinian state would be established.

Earlier this month, Israel announced it would build 1,600 homes in the Ramat Shlomo area of eastern Jerusalem. The decision was criticized by United States state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and vice-president Joe Biden, who was just arriving in Israel.

On Mar. 23, Netanyahu discussed the settlement issue with U.S. president Barack Obama in Washington. The two parties failed to reach a consensus and declined to draft a joint statement about the meeting. There were also no official pictures of the two heads of government together.

Upon his return to Israel, Netanyahu encountered a series of newspaper articles calling his visit to Washington a "humiliation" and an "ambush" by Obama. A Mar. 25 editorial in *Haaretz* read: "The prime minister leaves America disgraced, isolated, and altogether weaker. Instead of setting the diplomatic agenda, Netanyahu surrendered control over it. Instead of leaving the Palestinian issue aside and focusing on Iran, as he would like, Netanyahu now finds himself fighting for the legitimacy of Israeli control over East Jerusalem."

#### Polling Data

Prospective results of a Knesset election  
(Results presented in seats)

Kadima (Forward)	32
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Likud (Consolidation)	29
Israel Our Home (Yisrael Beiteinu)	13
International Organization of Torah-observant Sephardic Jews (Shas)	10
Labour	8
United Torah Judaism (Yahadut Hatorah)	6
Vitality-Together (Meretz-Yachad)	6
National Union (HaIhud HaLeumi)	3
Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi)	2
Arab parties	11

*Source: Dahaf Institute / Yediot Ahronot*

*Methodology: Interviews with 500 Israeli adults, conducted on Mar. 19, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.*

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## **CENTRAL ASIA**

### **Turks Endorse Idea of Civilian Constitution**

March 30, 2010

Most people in Turkey think the country needs to enact a civilian constitution, according to a poll by Pollmark. 58 per cent of respondents share this opinion, while 20 per cent oppose the notion.

Turkish voters renewed the Great National Assembly in July 2007. Final results gave the Justice and Development Party (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.

Turkey's current constitution was ratified in November 1982, and has been criticized for providing too much power to the Turkish Armed Forces through the National Security Council, an advisory body tasked with developing the "national security policy of the state."

Erdogan is expected to table a constitutional reform bill, which would call for changes in the appointment of judges—making it harder for the judiciary to ban political parties—and force members of the military to face civilian courts.

The prime minister has defended his proposals saying that the changes are needed for the country to come closer to European Union (EU) membership.

Last month, Mevlut Cavusoglu, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), called for Turkey to abandon its military constitution, declaring, "Above all things, Turkey needs a new and civilian constitution. This should be realized. We support Turkey's efforts which aim at improving civil authority."

## Polling Data

Do you think Turkey needs a civilian constitution?

Yes	58%
No	20%
Not sure	22%

Source: Pollmark

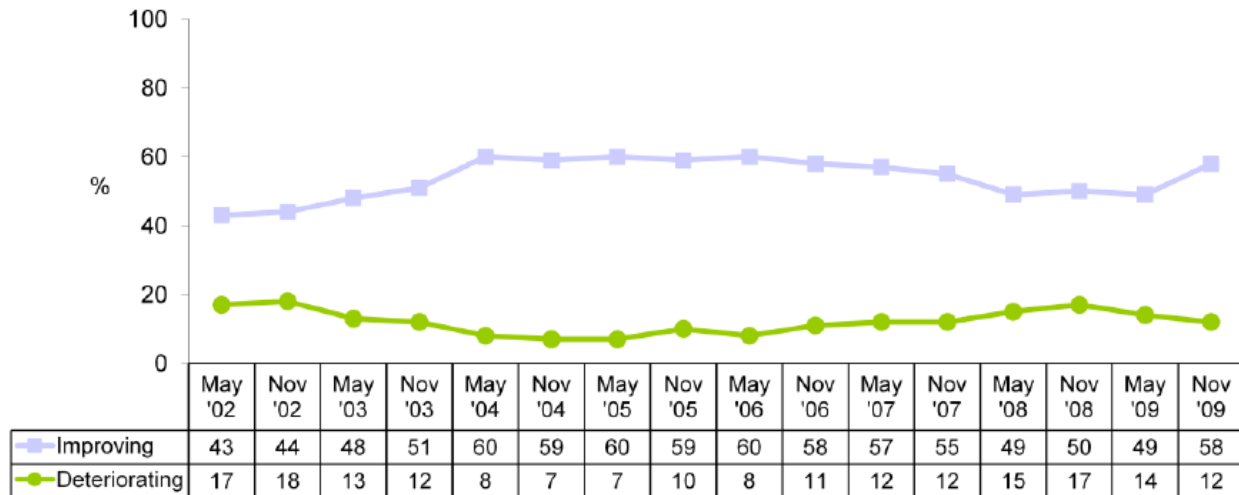
Methodology: Interviews with 5,039 Turkish adults, conducted in March 2010. No margin of error was provided.

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### Race relations on the improve in South Africa

“The majority of South Africans recently polled felt that relationships between the various race groups in South Africa are improving”, said Anneke Greyling, a political analyst at Ipsos Markinor. This trend is further evidence that highly racial statements by individuals like Julius Malema is not at all representative of the prevailing opinion in South Africa. “It is very comforting to see that the trend has continuously improved over the last few years and that the percentage of South Africans with a positive feeling far outweighs the prophets of gloom on this topic.”

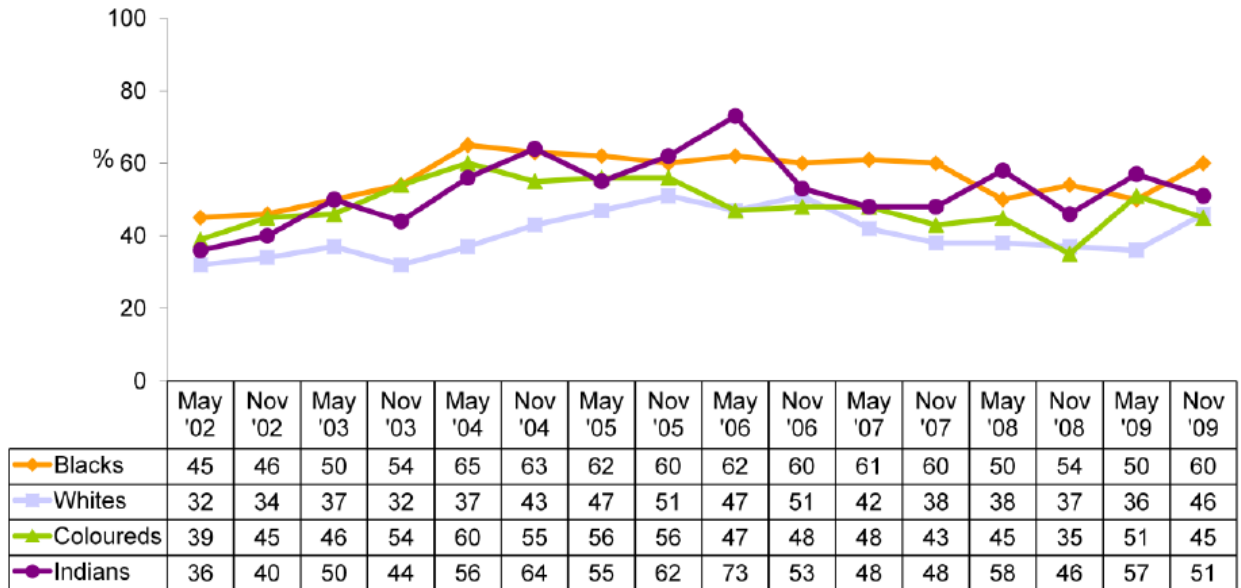
**Race relations in South Africa**  
**Would you say that the relationship between the various population groups is improving?**



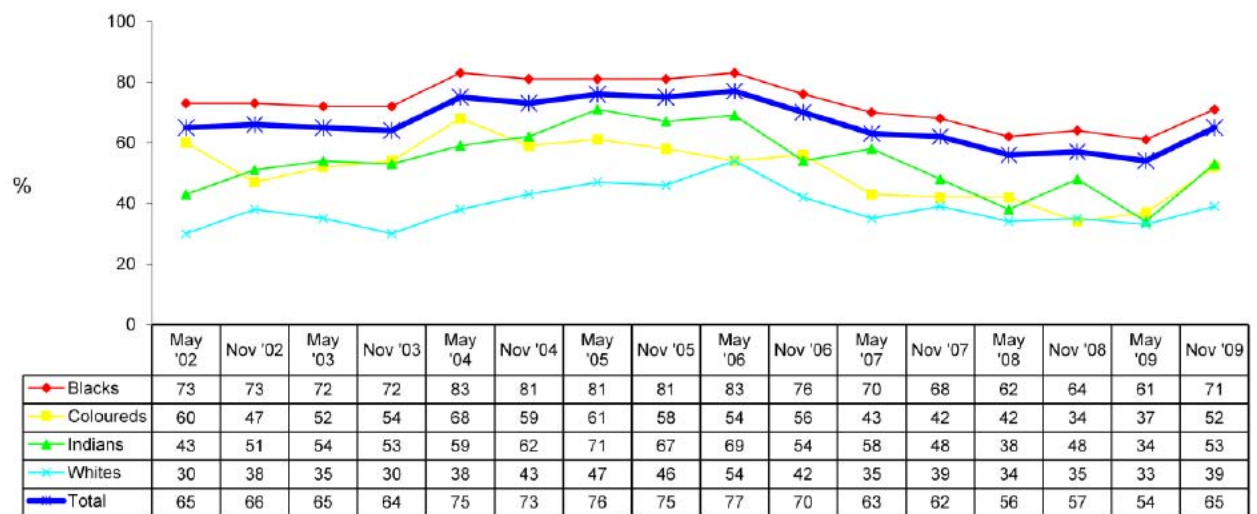
The survey also revealed that government is getting increasingly more credit for their efforts towards nation-building – which bodes well for a positive spirit in the country during the imminent FIFA Soccer World Cup . “In the period immediately following on the 2004 election we recorded very high approval ratings for the government in respect of their nation-building efforts. This trend turned downward in May 2008 and coincided with a feeling of general despair

with government displayed by South Africans during the final days of the Mbeki period. The latest reading points towards a general growing positive feeling towards government and how they manage nation-building.”, said Greyling.

**Race relations in South Africa**  
**Would you say that the relationship between the various population groups is improving?**



**Government performance: Promoting Nation Building**  
 - "Very well and fairly well" -



This Ipsos Markinor survey is conducted every 6 months and the aim is to track shifts in public opinion across a wide range of issues. The sample size is 3,300 South Africans, 18 years and

older and is a mirror image of the composition of the South African population of voting age. Fieldwork for the study discussed here was conducted during November 2009. (is conducted in April and November of each year.)

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## **EAST EUROPE**

### **Ukrainians Likely Support Move Away From NATO**

*Residents more likely to view NATO as a threat than protection*

April 2, 2010

Ukrainians may support their new government's plans to prohibit the country from joining military alliances, which would effectively end its six-year pursuit of NATO membership. Residents in May 2009 were more than twice as likely to see NATO as a threat (40%) than as protection (17%). One in three said it was neither.

*Do you associate NATO with the protection of your country, with a threat to your country, or do you see it as neither protection, nor threat?*

Among Ukrainian adults

	<b>Protection</b>	<b>Threat</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
May 2008	15%	43%	30%	12%
May 2009	17%	40%	33%	11%

## **GALLUP'**

Gallup's poll in Ukraine took place nearly a year before the election of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich this February that ultimately led to this sea change in policy. However, Ukrainians' views of NATO did not change much between the May 2009 survey and one in May 2008, which suggests their views are unlikely to be vastly different now.

Like others in former Soviet countries, Ukrainians' views of NATO are largely explained by their country's relations and cultural ties to Russia, which opposes NATO expansion. Ukrainians most closely align with their neighbors in Belarus and Russia -- the two other countries at the Slavic core of the former Soviet Union -- who were most likely to associate NATO with a threat.

*Do you associate NATO with the protection of your country, with a threat to your country, or do you see it as neither protection, nor threat?*

	<b>Protection</b>	<b>Threat</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
Georgia	56%	10%	18%	15%
Azerbaijan	38%	9%	20%	34%
Turkmenistan	36%	7%	25%	32%
Uzbekistan	31%	9%	19%	41%
Moldova	30%	14%	34%	22%
Kyrgyzstan	25%	19%	31%	26%
Kazakhstan	25%	26%	24%	25%
Armenia	22%	20%	32%	26%
Tajikistan	18%	14%	26%	42%
Ukraine	17%	40%	33%	11%
Russia	8%	53%	29%	10%
Belarus	7%	41%	33%	19%

Surveys conducted April-August 2009

GALLUP®

Within Ukraine and other countries such as Belarus, the closer residents are geographically and culturally to Russia, the more cautious they are of NATO. In the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine that border Russia, residents are more likely than those elsewhere to perceive NATO as a threat. A September 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project found a similar pattern in Ukrainians' views toward NATO membership: People in the East and South were more likely to oppose joining NATO.

**Bottom Line**

Yanukovich's bid to end the pursuit of military alliances such as NATO may represent an abrupt departure from his predecessor Viktor Yushchenko's pro-Western policies, but Gallup surveys suggest it may be more in line with what Ukrainians may have wanted for some time. Even if the law is passed, NATO will not completely be out of the picture in Ukraine. With this U-turn from pro-NATO policies, however, it is possible that more Ukrainians' opinions about NATO will shift to the "threat" category.

**Survey Methods**

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with between 1,500 adults and 4,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted April-August 2009 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan and Russia. Results in Turkmenistan are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults in July-August 2009.

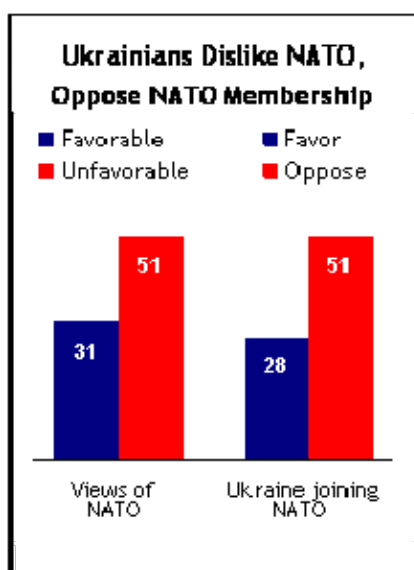
For results based on each total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from  $\pm 1.8$  percentage points in Russia to  $\pm 3.7$  percentage points in Turkmenistan. Samples in Russia and Ukraine are nationally representative, with urban oversample.

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.

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## Ukraine Says 'No' to NATO

March 29, 2010



Ukraine's new governing coalition recently announced its intention to pass a law against joining military alliances, which will fulfill Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's campaign promise to prevent Ukraine from becoming a member in NATO. The new president's opponents in parliament argue that this new strategy may result in pushing Ukraine back into the Russian "sphere of influence" and out of the European fold.

However, Yanukovich's move to ban Ukraine from joining NATO is not without a base of public support. A September 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, found that half of Ukrainians (51%) opposed their country's admission to NATO, while only 28% favored such a step. Moreover, given the opposition to membership, it is not surprising that about half of Ukrainians (51%) gave NATO an unfavorable rating.

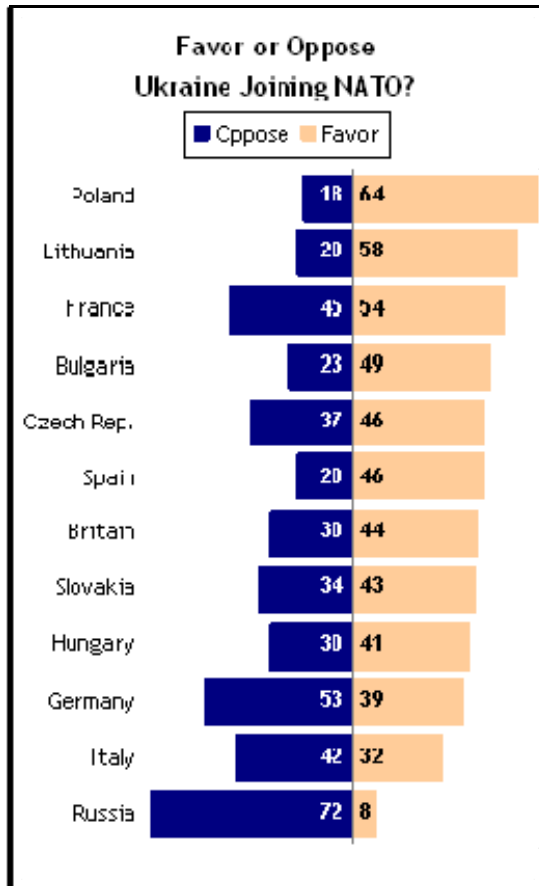
<b>Views in Ukraine: Join NATO?</b>			
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	28	51	21
<b>Region</b>			
Central	33	51	16
West	59	15	26
East	11	72	17
South	11	60	29
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Ukrainian	33	46	21
Russian	6	74	19

Views of membership in NATO vary by ethnicity and region. Ethnic Russians (74%) were far more likely to oppose admission to NATO than ethnic Ukrainians (46%). In terms of regional groupings, respondents living in the East (72%) and South (60%) -- where the percentage of Russians tends to be higher than elsewhere in the country -- were more likely to oppose joining NATO than were those living in the Central region (51%). And in the West a majority (59%) favored their country becoming part of NATO.

Outside of Ukraine, many European publics supported the country's entry into NATO. Majorities in Poland (64%), Lithuania (58%), France (54%) and nearly half in Bulgaria (49%), Czech Republic (46%), and Spain (46%) favored Ukraine joining NATO. However, Germans and Italians disagreed -- 53% in Germany and 42% of Italians opposed Ukraine's membership in the military alliance.

The strongest opposition emanated from Russia, where more than seven-in-ten (72%) opposed Ukraine's admission into NATO.

## Closer Ties for Ukraine and Russia?



Just one day after the governing coalition's declaration of opposition to NATO membership, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signaled his support by announcing a visit to Ukraine in May. Indeed, a closer relationship with Russia is likely to be well received by many Ukrainians. The Pew Research survey found that nearly half (46%) of Ukrainians said that Russia is a good influence on their country, and nearly six-in-ten Ukrainians (58%) cited Russia as their country's most dependable ally.

More recent polling in January 2010 by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) found Ukrainians expressing an overwhelmingly positive view of Russia -- more than nine-in-ten (93%) said they had a good attitude towards Russia. When asked about what they would like to see for their country's relationship with Russia, two-thirds (66%) believed that the countries "should be independent, but friendly states -- with open borders, no visas and customs." Another 22% of Ukrainians believed that the countries "should unite into one state." Few Ukrainians (8%) wanted relations to be "the same as with other countries -- with closed borders, visas and customs."

However, Ukrainians still express some reservations when it comes to closer ties with Russia -- especially on the issue of energy dependence. In the fall 2009 Pew Research study, more than

seven-in-ten (73%) Ukrainians said they are worried about being too reliant on Russia for their energy needs, up from 63% in 2007.

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## **Russians Don't Want Closer Ties with U.S.**

April 01, 2010

Few people in Russia want their country to seek improved relations with the United States, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. Only 14 per cent of respondents advocate for closer bi-lateral ties, down 10 points since March 2003.

Conversely, 40 per cent of Russians think their country should maintain the same level of relations with the U.S. that it currently has, and 36 per cent would prefer to see Russia distance itself from that country.

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

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

On Mar. 26, U.S. president Barack Obama and Medvedev sealed a commitment to reduce their nuclear arsenals by a third and halve the number of missiles and bombers.

Obama said the parties will sign the so-called START nuclear arms reduction treaty on Apr. 8, stating, "Since taking office, one of my highest national security priorities has been addressing the threat posed to the American people by nuclear weapons. (...) With this agreement, the United States and Russia—the two largest nuclear powers in the world—also send a clear signal that we intend to lead. By upholding our own commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, we strengthen our global efforts to stop the spread of these weapons, and to ensure that other nations meet their own responsibilities."

## **Polling Data**

Thinking about foreign policy, what should Russia do in the next few years with regards to the United States?

	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Mar. 2003</b>
Build closer ties	14%	24%

Keep things as they are	40%	29%
Seek a greater distance	36%	38%
Hard to answer	11%	10%

*Source: Yury Levada Analytical Center*

*Methodology: Interviews to 1,600 Russian adults, conducted from Feb. 26 to Mar. 2, 2010.*

*Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.*

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## **WEST EUROPE**

### **Germans Reject Monetary Aid to Greece**

April 03, 2010

Over two thirds of people in Germany oppose a plan to give monetary aid to Greece, according to a poll by Forsa released by *Stern*. 68 per cent of respondents reject the notion of Germany providing Greece with financial assistance.

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).

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.

On Mar. 25, Germany and France agreed to set up a contingency plan for Greece in case the country fails to secure lending to meet its obligations. The stand-by fund would include money from the EU and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Germany has the right to veto the use of such funds by Greece.

The following day, Merkel spoke about the deal, saying, "I am very pleased with the compromise reached yesterday. I believe Europe has proven its ability to act on an important issue."

### **Polling Data**

Do you support or oppose Germany providing financial assistance to Greece?

Support 28%

Oppose 68%

Not sure 4%

*Source: Forsa / Stern*

*Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,003 German adults, conducted on Mar. 24 and Mar. 25, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## **Tories No Longer Lead by Double-Digits in Britain**

April 02, 2010

The opposition Conservative Party remains ahead of its rivals in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 37 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in this year's election to the House of Commons.

The governing Labour party is second with 28 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 22 per cent. 13 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties. Support for Labour increased by two points in two weeks, while backing for the Tories fell by the same margin.

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

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

Yesterday, Cameron discussed his views on the impending electoral campaign, saying, "This is going to be the first time in 23 years that the Conservative party goes into a general election with a seven to 10-point lead. We've come a long way. People are gagging for change. (...) But you have to remember that every election is a choice and if you don't frame that choice, then your opponents will only talk about you."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion. It is widely believed that the election will take place on May 6.

## **Polling Data**

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

	<b>Mar. 31</b>	<b>Mar. 16</b>	<b>Mar. 10</b>	<b>Feb. 17</b>
Conservative	37%	39%	39%	40%
Labour	28%	26%	26%	26%
Liberal Democrats	22%	21%	18%	18%
Other	13%	15%	17%	16%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 2,013 British adults, conducted on Mar. 30 and Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.*

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## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **Most Americans Worried About Economic Conditions**

March 30, 2010

Many adults in the United States remain concerned about the country's financial standing, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 81 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the U.S. as poor or very poor.

Since August 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.

In his Mar. 27 radio address, U.S. president Barack Obama discussed his plan to reform the federal student loan programs, saying, "With this legislation, we're putting that money to use

achieving a goal I set for America: by the end of this decade, we will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

**Polling Data**

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

	<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Aug. 2009</b>
Very Good / Good	16%	15%	12%	9%
Poor / Very Poor	81%	83%	85%	89%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%	1%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

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

**One-in-Four Americans Approve of U.S. Congress**

March 29, 2010

More Americans are content with the work of their legislative branch this month, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 24 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress, up six points since February.

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 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. On Mar. 21, the House voted 219-212 to pass the Senate version of the bill, which was signed into law by U.S. president Barack Obama on Mar. 23.

Pelosi expressed satisfaction with the signing of the bill, declaring, "Health insurance reform will stand alongside Social Security and Medicare in the annals of American history. But our fight is not over yet. In passing this legislation, the House took action to improve and strengthen the bill. I look forward to the Senate vote on these changes in the coming days and to finishing the work of reform for all Americans."

**Polling Data**

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

<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>
------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

Approve	24%	18%	24%	25%
Disapprove	66%	73%	65%	64%
Not sure	10%	9%	11%	10%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Mar. 23 and Mar. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## **Obama Approval Steady at 48% in U.S.**

March 28, 2010

Public support for Barack Obama did not go to any significant shifts in the United States this month, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 48 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance.

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.

One of Obama's main campaign pledges was to increase access to health care for all Americans. On Mar. 23, Obama signed the new health care legislation—which was approved by the House of Representatives in a 219-212 vote—into law.

Obama discussed the effect of the bill, saying, "This victory does not erase the many serious challenges we face as a nation. Those challenges have been allowed to linger for years, even decades, and we're not going to solve them all overnight. But as we tackle all these other challenges that we face, as we continue on this journey, we can take our next steps with new confidence."

### **Polling Data**

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

	<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>
Approve	48%	48%	47%	50%
Disapprove	45%	45%	44%	44%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%	6%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Mar. 23 and Mar. 24, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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## Chronic Conditions Linked to Cancer

*High blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes all indicate elevated likelihood of cancer*

April 1, 2010

Americans who report having been diagnosed with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes are roughly twice as likely to report a cancer diagnosis as those who have not been diagnosed with these conditions, according to Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data.

### *Relationship Between Cancer Diagnosis and Other Health Conditions*

2008-2009 results

<b>Health condition</b>	<b>% With cancer diagnosis</b>
Diagnosed with high blood pressure	11.8
Not diagnosed with high blood pressure	5.0
Diagnosed with high cholesterol	11.7
Not diagnosed with high cholesterol	5.3
Diagnosed with diabetes	12.7
Not diagnosed with diabetes	6.4
Has had a heart attack	18.1
Has not had a heart attack	6.5

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

GALLUP®

Americans who have experienced a heart attack are nearly three times more likely than those without a history of heart attack to have been diagnosed with cancer (18.1% to 6.5%).

While each of these chronic health conditions become more common with age, the inter-relationships noted previously exist within every age bracket (18-29, 30-44, 45-64, and 65+), and are thus preserved when controlling for age. Some of the conditions, however, are particularly pronounced when looking at specific age groups, most notably regarding heart attacks among respondents that are younger than 45.

*Relationship Between Cancer Diagnosis and Other Health Conditions Preval Across Age Groups*

2008-2009 results

	<b>Age: 18-29</b>	<b>Age: 30-44</b>	<b>Age 45-64</b>	<b>Age: 65+</b>
	% With cancer diagnosis	% With cancer diagnosis	% With cancer diagnosis	% With cancer diagnosis
Diagnosed with high blood pressure	3.8	4.3	9.0	19.1
Not diagnosed with high blood pressure	1.0	2.3	6.4	16.9
Diagnosed with high cholesterol	4.2	3.9	9.1	19.4
Not diagnosed with high cholesterol	1.1	2.4	6.4	17.0
Diagnosed with diabetes	6.5	6.1	9.8	18.9
Not diagnosed with diabetes	1.1	2.4	7.0	18.0
Has had a heart attack	17.1	1.2	13.2	22.3
Has not had a heart attack	1.2	2.5	7.1	17.5

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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**Implications**

These measured links between health conditions do not necessarily imply that one directly causes the other, but can instead simply reflect shared high-risk behaviors. For example, tobacco smoke is considered a major risk factor of heart attack *and* lung cancer, and it can thus serve as a vanguard of both conditions at the same time. Cholesterol, in contrast, may be an example of a substance that is not a carcinogen, but rather something that may enhance the effects of carcinogens, thus resulting in some of the positive relationships that have been measured.

Independent research in recent years has uncovered data that appear to link excess cholesterol to colon cancer and testicular cancer, while lower total cholesterol may reduce the risk of prostate cancer. Diabetes, too, has been clinically linked to some cancers, including liver, colon, and pancreatic cancer. However, researchers continue to investigate the directionality of the relationship. For example, as research has found that those with prolonged, long-standing

diabetes appear to be more likely to also have pancreatic cancer, others who develop diabetes after age 50 are much more likely to be *subsequently* diagnosed with it.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index does not determine the type of cancer that respondents have been diagnosed with. The resulting relationships between all cancer diagnoses cumulatively and other health conditions, however, remain inescapable and compelling.

## Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with more than 350,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each year, conducted between Jan. 2-Dec. 30, 2008, and Jan. 2-Dec. 29, 2009. For most results in this article, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum expected sampling error is no more than  $\pm 1.0$  percentage point.

### *Sample Sizes for Reported Health Conditions*

2008-2009 results

<b>Health condition</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Diagnosed with high blood pressure	265,140
Not diagnosed with high blood pressure	486,433
Diagnosed with high cholesterol	244,547
Not diagnosed with high cholesterol	505,346
Diagnosed with diabetes	90,657
Not diagnosed with diabetes	661,276
Has had a heart attack	42,109
Has not had a heart attack	710,023

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

### GALLUP®

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

The survey question asked respondents: "Have you ever been told by a physician or nurse that you have any of the following, or not? How about [in rotation]: cancer, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart attack, depression."

The diabetes incidence survey question that is asked does not differentiate between Type 1 (juvenile) and Type 2 (adult onset) diabetes.

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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## Blame Spread Around for Post-Healthcare Vandalism, Threats

*Republican anger over bill may stem from Democrats' vote-getting maneuvers*

March 30, 2010

Americans hold all sides of the healthcare reform battle responsible for the rash of threatening e-mails, phone calls, and vandalism that erupted last week after the healthcare bill passed in the U.S. House of Representatives. Roughly half (49%) say controversial political maneuvers by Democratic leaders to secure the votes they needed were a major reason. Nearly as many blame harsh criticism of the bill by both conservative media commentators and Republican leaders.

### *Perceived Responsibility for Post-Healthcare Vote Threats and Vandalism*

Do you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason these threats and acts of vandalism occurred?

	<b>Major reason</b>	<b>Minor reason</b>	<b>Not a reason</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Controversial political maneuvers by Democratic leaders to get the votes needed to pass the healthcare legislation	49	25	22
Harsh criticism of the healthcare bill from conservative commentators on radio and television	46	26	23
Harsh criticism of the healthcare bill from Republican leaders	43	29	23

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

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Overall, a majority of Americans surveyed in the March 26-28 *USA Today*/Gallup poll believe each factor was at least a minor explanation for these extreme public reactions to the bill's passage.

Republicans mainly blame the actions of Democratic leaders while, in equal measure, Democrats mainly blame the rhetoric of conservative commentators and Republican leaders. Political independents are somewhat more likely to attribute responsibility to Democratic leaders' actions than to Republican leaders' words.

*Perceived Responsibility for Post-Healthcare Vote Threats and Vandalism*

% Major reason for incidents, by party ID

	<b>National adults</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Democrat</b>
	%	%	%	%
Political maneuvers by Democratic leaders	49	65	50	32
Criticism of bill by conservative commentators	46	29	44	64
Criticism of bill by Republican leaders	43	29	40	60

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

**GALLUP®**

A striking Gallup finding in the immediate aftermath of the healthcare vote was that by 41% to 29%, Republicans were more likely to say they were "angry" about the outcome than Democrats were to say they were "enthusiastic."

One reason for Republicans' anger may be revealed in a new question asking whether Americans believe the methods Democratic leaders used to secure passage of the bill represented "an abuse of power" or "an appropriate use" of the majority party's power in Congress. Nearly 9 in 10 Republicans see it as abuse of power, whereas a smaller majority of Democrats (70%) call it an appropriate use of power. The majority of independents agree with most Republicans on this question.

*Reaction to Democratic Tactics*

Regardless of whether you favored or opposed the healthcare legislation Congress passed this past week, do you think the methods the Democratic leaders in Congress used to get enough votes to pass this legislation -- [were an abuse of power, (or) were an appropriate use of power by the party that controls the majority in Congress]?

	<b>National adults</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Democrats</b>
	%	%	%	%
Abuse of power	53	86	58	19
Appropriate use of power	40	11	36	70
No opinion	7	3	6	11

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

**GALLUP®**

**Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,033 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 26-28, 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  $\pm 4$  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.

*23. How closely are you following the news about threats or acts of vandalism directed against members of Congress because of their support or opposition to the healthcare bill -- very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?*

	<b>Very closely</b>	<b>Somewhat closely</b>	<b>Not too closely</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Mar 26-28, 2010	22	37	23	17	1

USA Today/Gallup

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## **Americans Remain Concerned About Costs of Healthcare Bill**

*Americans more positive about effects of the bill on the nation than on themselves personally*

March 30, 2010

One week after the passage of historic new healthcare legislation, Americans remain worried about the bill's effect on costs -- both for the nation as a whole and for them personally. A majority of Americans say healthcare costs in the U.S. and the federal budget deficit will get worse as a result of the bill. Half of Americans believe that healthcare costs for themselves and their families will get worse.

*Will each of the following get better, not change, or get worse than if no healthcare bill passed?*

	<b>Get better</b> %	<b>Not change</b> %	<b>Get worse</b> %
Healthcare coverage in the U.S.	44	13	40
The overall health of Americans	40	24	35
The U.S. economy	35	17	46
The overall quality of healthcare in the U.S.	34	20	44
The overall costs of healthcare in the U.S.	29	14	55
The federal budget deficit	23	14	61
The healthcare coverage you and your family receive	24	40	34
The quality of healthcare you and your family receive	21	42	35
The costs you and your family for healthcare	21	27	50
You and your family's overall health	20	58	19

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

**GALLUP®**

The March 26-28 *USA Today*/Gallup poll measured Americans' views on four different ways in which the new bill could affect them personally, and six ways in which it could affect the nation as a whole. Americans gave the most negative responses to the cost dimensions tested in both sequences.

These data underscore the results of previous Gallup research on healthcare reform legislation; costs have been the most frequently cited response when opponents have been asked to explain their opposition in their own words.

The public does not view all aspects of the bill negatively. Americans are slightly more positive than negative about the bill's impact on healthcare coverage in the U.S. and on the overall health of Americans in the U.S.

Americans break even in terms of whether the bill will make their and their families' overall health better or worse (although the majority say it will have no impact either way). Americans are more negative than positive when asked about the impact of the bill on their healthcare coverage and quality of healthcare received.

In response to two broad questions about the impact of the bill, Americans clearly see more benefits from the bill for the country as a whole than for themselves personally. Even so, less than half of Americans say the benefit will be positive for the nation or themselves.

*Taking everything into account, do you think in the long run the new healthcare bill will make the following better, not make much difference, or make it worse than it is now?*

	<b>Better</b>	<b>Not much difference</b>	<b>Worse</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
The U.S. healthcare system	42	11	45
Your own healthcare situation	22	35	40

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

## GALLUP®

Americans' views on the impact of the new healthcare legislation are quite similar to those measured last November. (See page 2 for full trend data on all questions discussed in this analysis.)

### **Implications**

These data underscore a key challenge faced by proponents of the new healthcare bill: persuading Americans that the bill will not substantially raise the costs of healthcare for the nation as a whole, or for them personally.

Additionally, supporters face the fact that a majority of Americans believe the recently passed healthcare bill will either make no difference or make things worse for both the U.S. healthcare system in general and their personal healthcare situations.

Americans do appear at least somewhat amenable to the argument that the bill will create a more positive situation for healthcare coverage in the U.S. This confirms previous findings showing that Americans are most likely to say new legislation would benefit low-income families and those who currently have no insurance.

### **Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,033 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 26-28, 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  $\pm 4$  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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## Pope Benedict Favorable Rating Drops to 40% in U.S.

*Sharp drop evident among both Catholics and non-Catholics*

March 31, 2010

A new low of 40% of Americans view Pope Benedict XVI favorably amid new criticism about the Roman Catholic Church's handling of child sex abuse by priests. Now, nearly as many Americans have an unfavorable view of the pope as have a favorable view.

*Favorable Ratings of Pope Benedict XVI*

■ % Favorable    ■ % Unfavorable

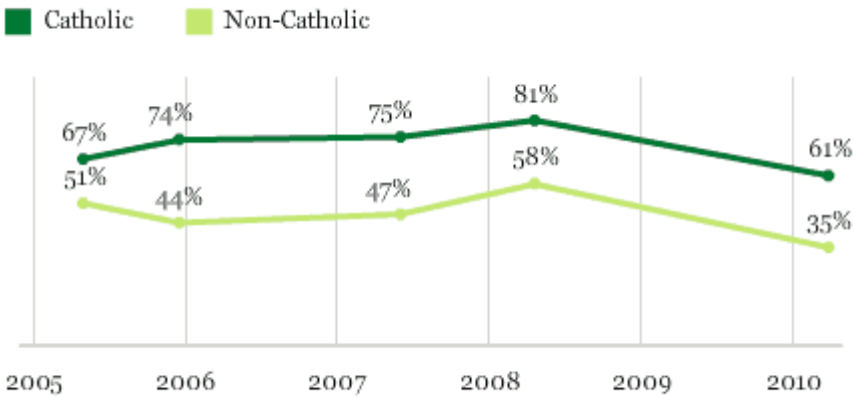


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The current results represent a major shift from two years ago, when the pope's favorable rating jumped to 63% as he was concluding a well-received visit to the United States that included personal meetings between the pope and victims of sex abuse by U.S. priests. The latest allegations of lax handling of abusive priests mostly concern past abuse cases in Europe, but they implicate the pope, who had a central role in the Catholic Church's handling of sex abuse cases prior to his becoming pope.

Pope Benedict's image has deteriorated about equally among Catholics and non-Catholics from its 2008 high -- by 20 and 23 points, respectively. Catholics continue to view him much more favorably than non-Catholics.

*Favorable Ratings of Pope Benedict XVI, by Religion*

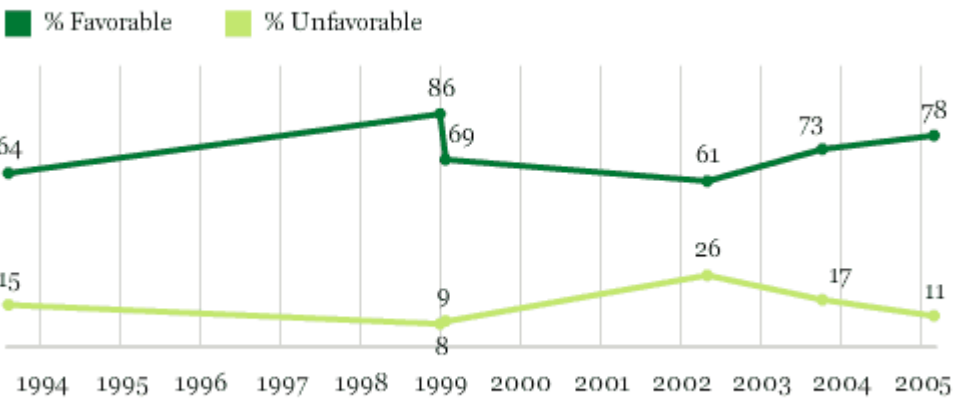


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Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, also saw his U.S. favorable ratings drop in 2002 as the Catholic Church responded to similar criticism for its handling of priest sex abuse allegations, mostly from the United States -- but only as low as 61% favorable and 26% unfavorable (compared to the current pope's 40% favorable and 35% unfavorable). As the scandal faded, Pope John Paul II's ratings improved, and Gallup's final measurement on him showed a 78% favorable and 11% unfavorable rating.

In general, Americans viewed Pope John Paul II more favorably than they view Pope Benedict XVI. That is partly because Pope John Paul II was a more familiar figure to Americans, with an average of 14% not having an opinion of him, compared with an average of 30% not having an opinion of Pope Benedict XVI.

*Favorable Ratings of Pope John Paul II*



GALLUP®

**Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,033 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 26-28, 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  $\pm 4$  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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## Republicans Move Ahead in 2010 Vote for Congress

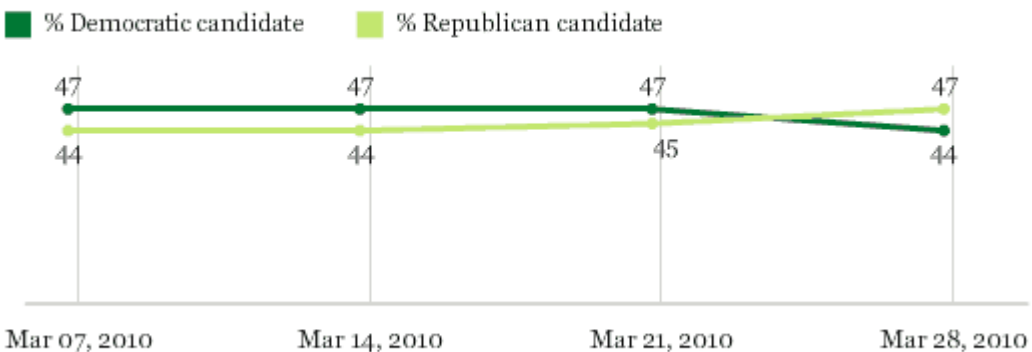
*Hold 47% to 44% advantage in registered voters' preferences*

April 1, 2010

Registered voters now say they prefer the Republican to the Democratic candidate in their district by 47% to 44% in the midterm congressional elections, the first time the GOP has led in 2010 election preferences since Gallup began weekly tracking of these in March.

### *Candidate Preference in 2010 Congressional Elections, Among Registered Voters*

2010 Gallup Daily tracking trend



GALLUP®

The March 22-28 results were obtained after the U.S. House's passage of landmark healthcare reform legislation on March 21. The shift toward Republicans raises the possibility that the healthcare bill had a slightly negative impact on the Democrats' political fortunes in the short run.

A separate *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted March 26-28 showed a similar result, with Republicans ahead by 46% to 45%.

These results suggest the Republicans would have a strong showing if the midterm elections were held today. Since Republicans usually vote at higher rates than Democrats, the Republicans' edge in voter preferences would likely exceed what the registered voter results indicate.

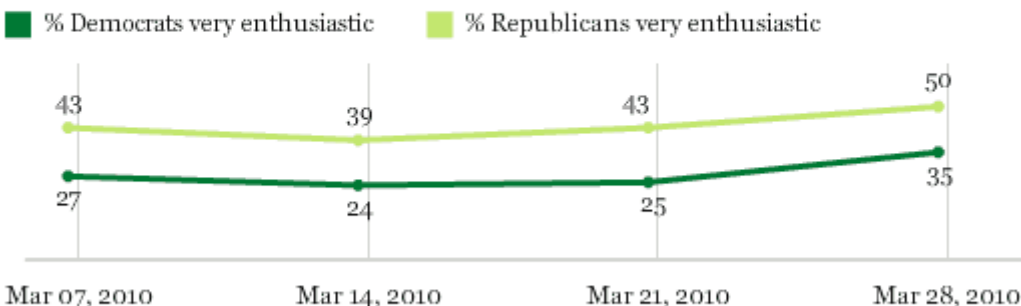
A Republican advantage among all registered voters in midterm elections has been rare in Gallup's 60-year history of tracking congressional voting preferences, happening only a few times each in the 1950, 1994, and 2002 election cycles -- all years in which Republicans had strong Election Day showings.

### Voters More Enthusiastic

Supporters of both parties are more energized about voting than they were before the healthcare bill passed. Fifty percent of Republicans and 35% of Democrats say they are very enthusiastic about voting this fall, up from the prior week's 43% and 25%, respectively.

*Percentage of Registered Voters "Very Enthusiastic" About Voting in This Year's Congressional Elections, by Party Affiliation*

2010 Gallup Daily tracking trend



GALLUP®

Among all registered voters, the increase in the percentage very enthusiastic about voting was eight percentage points from last week, 32% to 40%.

The *USA Today*/Gallup poll also shows a spike in voter enthusiasm in response to a different question, as now 62% of voters say they are "more enthusiastic about voting than usual," up from 47% in early February. That is higher than Gallup has measured at any point in any of the past four midterm elections. The previous high of 49% was measured during the 2006 campaign.

Supporters of both parties show similar gains on this enthusiasm measure, with a 14-point increase among Republicans (including Republican-leaning independents) and a 16-point increase among Democrats (including Democratic-leaning independents). As a result, Republicans remain more likely to say they are more enthusiastic about voting this year, by 69% to 57%.

Over the past four midterm elections, the party with the net advantage in enthusiasm has typically been the one to gain congressional seats in the election.

### Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,623 U.S. registered voters, aged 18 and older, conducted March 22-28, 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  $\pm 3$  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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## Congress in a Wordle

*Dysfunctional, Corrupt, Selfish...*

March 22, 2010

Late on Sunday, March 22, the House of Representatives voted to approve a far-reaching overhaul of the nation's health care system. President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill into law promptly, as well as fixes to the legislation also passed by the House if those changes are approved by the Senate.

<b>One-Word Impressions of Congress</b>	
Most frequently volunteered words*	
#	
21	Dysfunctional
20	Corrupt
19	Self-serving/Self-centered/Selfish
16	Inept
15	Confused/Confusing/Confusion
15	Incompetent
15	Ineffective
15	Lazy
14	Bad
14	Suck(s)
13	Poor
11	Crook(s)/Crooked
11	Disappointed/Disappointing
11	Gridlock/Deadlock
10	Idiots/Idiotic
10	Slow
9	Mess/Messed up/Messy
8	Lousy
8	Terrible
N=749	
Q3F1. *Figures show the actual number of respondents who offered each word; these numbers are <b>not percentages</b> .	

Shortly before the House vote, the Pew Research Center asked Americans to provide the one word that best describes their current impressions of Congress. The results were overwhelmingly negative. Of those offering a response, 86% said something negative while just 4% gave a positive one-word description. The three most frequently offered terms were dysfunctional (21 people offered this), corrupt (20) and some version of selfish (19). Many of the words reflected perceptions that Congress has been unable or unwilling to enact legislation (inept, confusing, gridlock, etc.).

Please note that the figures shown in the chart represent the actual number -- *not the percentage* - of people offering each word. With such a wide range of terms volunteered, no single word was offered by more than 3% of the 749 people asked the question.

To illustrate the public's impressions of Congress, responses were entered into Wordle, a website that generates "word clouds" from text provided by the user. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. Therefore, the word shown with the largest lettering is "dysfunctional," while a word rarely cited, "liberal" is much smaller.



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### Most Canadians Support Quebec's Veil Ban

March 29, 2010

People in Canada agree with Quebec's proposal to instruct people to show their faces in order to receive government services, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 80 per cent of respondents approve of this legislation.

Earlier this month, the Quebec government introduced Bill 94. Under this new legislation, Muslim women who wear a niqab would not be able to consult a doctor in a hospital or attend classes in a university unless they remove their face veil.

Quebec immigration minister Yolande James discussed the bill, saying, "To work in the Quebec public service or to receive the services of the Quebec state, your face has to be uncovered."

Opposition Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois questioned the legislation, saying, "It doesn't solve the question of reasonable accommodation for religious reasons."

### **Polling Data**

As you may know, Quebec has introduced legislation which requires people to show their faces in order to receive government services, for reasons of identification, security and communication. Under this new legislation, Muslim women who wear a niqab would not be able to consult a doctor in a hospital or attend classes in a university unless they remove their face veil. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you approve or disapprove of this law?

Approve	80%
Disapprove	16%
Not sure	4%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 Canadian adults, conducted on Mar. 25 and Mar. 26, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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### **Canadians Oppose Afghan Combat Beyond 2011**

April 03, 2010

People in Canada reject the possibility of extending the country's military commitment in Afghanistan beyond the current timetable, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 79 per cent of respondents oppose Canadian troops taking part in a combat mission after 2011.

Conversely, 64 per cent of respondents would welcome Canadian troops taking part in activities related to development and governance work, and 54 per cent support Canadian troops training the Afghan military.

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 1,687 soldiers—including 141 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.

On Mar. 29, U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton discussed a possible extension of Canada's military mission, declaring, "We would obviously like to see some form of support continue, because the Canadian Forces have a great reputation, they work really well with our American troops and the other members of our coalition."

Following Rodham Clinton's remarks, Canadian foreign minister Lawrence Cannon declared: "There will be no military mission post-2011."

### **Polling Data**

As you may know, Canada's commitment to the military mission in Afghanistan is set to expire in 2011. The U.S. government would like to see Canadian troops involved in Afghanistan after 2011. Do you support or oppose Canadian troops taking part in each one of these activities after 2011?

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
A combat mission	16%	79%	5%
A training role for the Afghan military	54%	39%	7%
Activities related to development and governance work	64%	29%	7%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 British adults, conducted on Mar. 30 and Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

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### **Most Canadians Pleased with Economic Conditions**

April 01, 2010

A majority of people in Canada believe the country's financial standing is satisfactory, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 54 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in Canada today as good or very good, up two points since February.

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.

Canada’s unemployment rate stood at 8.2 per cent in February 2010.

On Mar. 4, Canadian finance minister Jim Flaherty presented the federal budget, which predicts a \$52.7 billion U.S. deficit over the current fiscal year, and predicts a surplus in 2015.

Flaherty explained the rationale for the spending plan, saying, "Some are proposing big, expensive new government programs. These experiments would jeopardize our recovery and our long-term growth. Others say reducing the deficit is not a priority. Our government is taking a more responsible approach."

### **Polling Data**

How would you rate the economic conditions in Canada today?

	<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Jan. 2010</b>	<b>Oct. 2009</b>
Very Good / Good	54%	52%	48%	49%
Poor / Very Poor	41%	45%	45%	47%
Not sure	5%	3%	7%	4%

*Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion*

*Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 Canadian adults, conducted on Mar. 25 and Mar. 26, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.*

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **Brazilians Just Enamored with Lula**

April 03, 2010

With a presidential election in the horizon for Brazil, the popularity of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva keeps growing, according to a poll by Datafolha published in *Folha de Sao Paulo*. 76 per cent of respondents say Lula’s presidency has been good or very good, up four points since February.

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.

Several media reports have suggested that Lula is likely to take on a position related to global relations, probably at a multi-national institution, once he leaves office.

On Mar. 17, Lula said his government wants to speak to representatives of the Palestinian organization Hamas in order to help stalled peace talks in the Middle East, declaring, "Brazil is prepared to talk to everybody. All the parties involved must be listened to."

The first round of Brazil's next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3. Lula is constitutionally barred from seeking a third consecutive term in office.

### **Polling Data**

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

	<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Dec. 2009</b>
Good / Very Good	76%	73%	72%
Average	20%	20%	21%
Bad / Very Bad	4%	5%	6%

*Source: Datafolha / Folha de Sao Paulo*

*Methodology: Telephone interviews with 4,158 Brazilian adults, conducted on Mar. 25 and Mar. 26, 2010. Margin of error is 2 per cent.*

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### **Brazil's Rousseff is Becoming a Stronger Contender**

April 01, 2010

The first round of the next presidential election in Brazil could be a tight contest, according to a poll by Ibope. 35 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB), while 30 per cent would support Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party (PT).

Since February, support for Serra has dropped by one point while Rousseff has gained five points. Ciro Gomes of the Socialist People's Party (PSB) is in third place with 11 per cent, followed by Marina Silva of the Green Party (PV) with six per cent.

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.

Rousseff seeks to become the third South American woman to win a presidential contest, after Chile's Michelle Bachelet in 2006 and Argentina's Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in 2007.

On Mar. 10, Lula said that Rousseff "will defeat *machismo*" in Brazil, adding, "Why did I endorse a woman and not a man? Because I think that we have already conquered that prejudice against women and, if it is still there, it is a minority."

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?

	<b>Mar. 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<b>Nov. 2009</b>
Jose Serra (PSDB)	35%	36%	38%
Dilma Rousseff (PT)	30%	25%	17%
Ciro Gomes (PSB)	11%	11%	13%
Marina Silva (PV)	6%	8%	6%
None / Blank ballot	10%	11%	13%
Not sure / Undecided	8%	9%	12%

*Source: Ibope*

*Methodology: Interviews with 2,002 Brazilian adults, conducted from Mar. 6 to Mar. 10, 2010.*

*Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.*

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