

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 114

Week: April 04-10, 2010

Presentation: April 14, 2010

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Prelude

State of Democracy in Hungary

At the eve of 2010 parliamentary elections in Hungary, surveys show the Hungarians disappointment with the state of democracy in their country. Hungarians were among the earliest and most enthusiast to endorse the shift from communism to free market economy and democracy. Twenty years down the line today their perceptions of both the free market economy and democracy the way they experienced it are dismal.¹

Among the Central and East European countries they are the most dissatisfied nation with democratic institutions and practice. Similarly in a comparative perspective they have the most disappointing image of free market economy today for which they were very enthusiastic two decades ago. They feel they are worse off today than they were under communism. Does it mean that they are rejecting democracy and free market economy?

Hungarians still highly admire the basic principles of democracy. They believe it is very imperative to have multiparty elections, free speech, religious freedom, and civilian control of military in the country. But they do not find such values in their system. These show they have the spirit to support democracy but it is the functioning of democratic institutions in their county that they disapprove. What have been the major problems for Hungarian democracy?

The survey findings bring attention to two significant issues. Ethnic and religious relations within Hungary may be one of the problems that the nation is facing. A high majority of Hungarians (69%) have an unfavorable view of Roma one of a key ethnic minority. Similarly a sizable number of Hungarians (33 percent & 29 percent) have an unfavorable view of Romanians and Jews respectively.² This reflects a problem that is quite common in African or Asian democracies. Can Hungarians put together as a nation is a big ask for a democracy which is just about two decades old?

The same survey also discovers that Hungary is no exception in the region facing problems of corruption. Over seven in ten states corruption as the nation's most malicious problem. I personally feel that corruption might be the real cause of mal functioning of democracy in Hungary. Can we expect Hungary to be a more transparent democracy five years down the line? What should be the preferences of newly elected government so that people's trust in the political system of the country can be restored?

¹ <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1554/hungary-economic-discontent-democracy-communism>

² <http://pewglobal.org/reports/display.php?ReportID=267>

Summary of Polls

NORTHEAST ASIA

Over Half of Japanese Disappointed with Government

People in Japan continue to grow dissatisfied with the government led by prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, according to a poll by Nikkei. 57 per cent of respondents disapprove of Hatoyama's cabinet, up eight points since February.

April 08, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Britons Despondent About Economy as Election Nears

Many adults in Britain believe the country has not rebounded from the global financial crisis, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

April 06, 2010

British Tories Start Campaign with 11-Point Lead

Britain's Conservative Party holds a comfortable lead over Labour as the electoral campaign begins, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the May ballot, down one point since early April.

April 10, 2010

Sarkozy's Popularity Slides Further in France

Just over a third of people in France are still satisfied with Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by LH2. 35 per cent of respondents have a positive opinion of the president, down four points since February.

April 09, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Green Behaviors Common in U.S., but Not Increasing

Americans are today no more environmentally friendly in their actions than they were at the turn of the century. While more than three in four recycle, have reduced household energy use, and buy environmentally friendly products, these numbers have barely budged since 2000.

April 9, 2010

Democratic Party Image Drops to Record Low

Americans' favorable rating of the Democratic Party dropped to 41% in a late March USA Today/Gallup poll, the lowest point in the 18-year history of this measure. Favorable impressions of the Republican Party are now at 42%, thus closing the gap between the two parties' images that has prevailed for the past four years.

April 8, 2010

Voters Rate Economy as Top Issue for 2010

Fifty-seven percent of registered voters say the economy will be extremely important to their vote for Congress this year, making it the top issue in the 2010 elections. Healthcare, unemployment, and the federal budget deficit rank behind the economy in importance, with the environment the least important of the seven issues tested in the March 26-28 USA Today/Gallup poll.

April 8, 2010

Voters Issue Strong Rebuke of Incumbents in Congress

A record-low percentage of U.S. voters -- 28% -- say most members of Congress deserve to be re-elected. The previous low was 29% in October 1992.

April 7, 2010

Parties Even in Congressional Midterm Preferences

Gallup Daily tracking for the week ending April 4 finds the two major parties tied at 46% in the congressional voting preferences of registered voters nationally. In the two weeks since Congress passed healthcare reform on March 21, Democrats have tied or trailed the Republicans, after having at least a slight advantage in the weeks prior.

April 7, 2010

U.S. Birth Rate Decline Linked to Recession

Birth rates in the United States began to decline in 2008 after rising to their highest level in two decades, and the decrease appears to be linked to the recession, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of state fertility and economic data.

April 6, 2010

Most Support Stronger Regulations on Big Banks, Taxing Them To Pay Back Bailouts

Legislative proposals to regulate financial institutions and limit their size have the support of a majority of likely voters, including 55% who favor a tax on large banks to cover any government losses from bailouts.

April 08, 2010

Americans' Confidence in Banks Remains at Historical Low

As the Senate considers financial reform legislation, a new Gallup poll shows that Americans' confidence in banks has not returned on Main Street as it has on Wall Street. The percentage of Americans saying they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in U.S. banks is now 20% -- not much different from the 18% of a year ago or the 22% of last summer. Four in 10 Americans currently say they have "very little" confidence in U.S. financial institutions.

April 6, 2010

Americans Prioritize Energy Over Environment for First Time

Americans are more likely to say the U.S. should prioritize development of energy supplies than to say it should prioritize protecting the environment, the first time more have favored energy production over environmental protection in this question's 10-year history.

April 6, 2010

U.S. Job Creation Improves in the West in March

Gallup's Job Creation Index -- based on 16,778 U.S. employees' self-reports of hiring and firing activity at their workplaces -- shows that employees' perceptions of current job market conditions nationwide were essentially unchanged in March. Twenty-six percent report that their companies are hiring, while 24% say their companies are letting people go.

April 2, 2010

Half of Americans Back High-Speed Railways

Many adults in the United States are in favour of a proposal to create ten regional high-speed rail corridors in the country, according to a poll by Angus Reid Global Monitor. 49 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 26 per cent oppose it.

April 08, 2010

Canadians Content with Governor General Jean

Many adults in Canada are satisfied with the performance of their governor general, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 57 per cent of respondents approve of the way Michaëlle Jean has handled her duties, while 26 per cent disapprove.

April 05, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Majority in Mexico Share Neighborhoods With Gangs

Nearly three years after Mexico launched its war against the drug cartels, Gallup data show drug traffickers and gangs remain entrenched in many neighborhoods -- particularly in Mexico's northern and central regions. More than half of Mexicans surveyed in August 2009 said gangs are present in their vicinity and 43% said drug trafficking takes place there.

April 9, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Hungary Dissatisfied with Democracy, but Not its Ideals

With parliamentary elections approaching, Hungarians are in a funk. Nearly unanimously, they say the economy is in bad shape, and a stunning 72% say most Hungarians are actually worse off now economically than they were under communism. But Hungary's malaise is not all about economics -- most are frustrated with politics too. Overwhelmingly, Hungarians are dissatisfied with the way democracy is working and discontent with political elites, with about three-in-four saying political corruption is a major problem.

April 7, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Over Half of Japanese Disappointed with Government

April 08, 2010

People in Japan continue to grow dissatisfied with the government led by prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, according to a poll by Nikkei. 57 per cent of respondents disapprove of Hatoyama's cabinet, up eight points since February.

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

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

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

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

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

On Mar. 29, Hatoyama vowed to continue collaborating "honestly" with authorities investigating the funding scandal involving Ozawa, declaring, "I would like to continue to assume my responsibility for explaining the case whenever necessary."

Polling Data

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

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Approve	36%	43%	45%
Disapprove	57%	49%	47%

Source: Nikkei

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 954 Japanese adults, conducted from Mar. 26 to Mar. 28, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

WEST EUROPE

Britons Despondent About Economy as Election Nears

April 06, 2010

Many adults in Britain believe the country has not rebounded from the global financial crisis, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

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.

On Mar. 31, current chancellor of the exchequer Alistair Darling said the economy's performance has been affected by a crisis in European markets, adding, "60 per cent of our trade is with Europe, and Europe as a whole has seen fairly flat growth. If you take Germany, for example, where we do export to, its GDP in the fourth quarter was flat; Italy and Spain, markets of ours, they have difficulties, as you know. Ireland is a big market of ours."

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

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

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Very Good / Good	13%	12%	14%
Poor / Very Poor	83%	85%	83%
Not sure	4%	3%	2%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,006 British adults, conducted on Mar. 30 and Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

British Tories Start Campaign with 11-Point Lead

April 10, 2010

Britain's Conservative Party holds a comfortable lead over Labour as the electoral campaign begins, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the May ballot, down one point since early April.

Labour is in second place with 26 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 22 per cent. 15 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties.

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

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

On Apr. 7, Clegg said that a vote cast for the Conservatives or Labour is a "vote for corrupt politics," adding, "How we govern this country is not my choice, not Gordon Brown's, and not David Cameron's. It is the choice of the 45 million people entitled to vote in this election."

The election to the House of Commons will take place on May 6.

Comprehensive Coverage of the General Election 2010

Polling Data

In the General Election that will take place on 6 May, which one of the following parties are you most likely to support in your constituency?

	Apr. 7	Apr. 1	Mar. 31	Mar. 16
Conservative	37%	38%	37%	39%

Labour	26%	27%	28%	26%
Liberal Democrats	22%	20%	22%	21%
Other	15%	15%	13%	15%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,193 British adults, conducted on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Sarkozy's Popularity Slides Further in France

April 09, 2010

Just over a third of people in France are still satisfied with Nicolas Sarkozy, according to a poll by LH2. 35 per cent of respondents have a positive opinion of the president, down four points since February.

The popularity of French prime minister François Fillon is also down three points to 47 per cent.

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. 29, during a visit to the United States, Sarkozy asked for the country's collaboration in drawing new rules for the global financial system, declaring, "The world economic regulations cannot go on as they are. We can't accept a capitalist system without rules anymore." Sarkozy added that the lack of rules "will be the death of capitalism."

Polling Data

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of Nicolas Sarkozy's performance as president?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Positive	35%	39%	42%
Negative	61%	56%	55%

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of François Fillon's performance as prime minister?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Positive	47%	50%	55%
Negative	47%	45%	40%

Source: LH2

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 996 French adults, conducted on Mar. 26 and Mar. 27, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Green Behaviors Common in U.S., but Not Increasing

Nearly all recycle, making it the most common environmentally friendly action

April 9, 2010

Americans are today no more environmentally friendly in their actions than they were at the turn of the century. While more than three in four recycle, have reduced household energy use, and buy environmentally friendly products, these numbers have barely budged since 2000.

Environmental Actions in the U.S.

Which of these, if any, have you, yourself, done in the past year?

% Yes, have

	2000	2003	2007	2010	Change since 2000
Voluntarily recycled newspapers, glass, aluminum, motor oil, or other items	90	89	89	90	0
Reduced your household's use of energy	83	80	85	85	2
Replaced standard light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent light bulbs				81	n/a
Bought product specifically because you thought it was better for the environment	73	72	70	76	3
Used reusable shopping bags at grocery stores instead of the standard plastic or paper bags				70	n/a

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 4-7, 2010; March 11-14, 2007; March 3-5, 2003; and April 3-9, 2000; some items asked of a half sample in some years

Americans in 2010 remain more likely to recycle newspapers, glass, aluminum, motor oil, or other items than to undertake any of the other environmentally friendly actions Gallup tests -- with 9 in 10 saying they do so. Gallup asked about replacing standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs and using reusable shopping bags for the first time this year, and it found Americans about as likely to take these actions as they are to take other steps, such as reducing household energy consumption and buying more environmentally friendly products.

The stability of these findings stands in juxtaposition to the political and media attention paid to global warming and climate change over the past decade, particularly since Al Gore's 2006 documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." Gallup also finds Americans no more worried about the threat posed by global warming than they were at the start of the decade and that very few Americans name the environment as the most important problem facing the country. In fact, Gallup recently found Americans' level of concern about many environmental problems at a 20-year low, and environmental quality ratings rebounding to where they were at the start of the decade.

Those who perceive a serious threat from global warming in their lifetimes are often not any more likely to take environmentally friendly steps than are those not perceiving a global warming threat. Only in the case of buying more environmentally friendly products or using reusable shopping bags is there a meaningful difference. There are also few noteworthy differences by age, income, or party identification.

Environmental Activism Also Steady

Americans are also no more likely now than in the past to engage in activist behavior to promote environmentally friendly actions by organizations, politicians, or companies. Far less than half report engaging in any such actions, and again, those numbers have hardly changed over the past decade.

Environmental Activism in the U.S.

Which of these, if any, have you, yourself, done in the past year?

% Yes, have

	2000	2003	2007	2010	Change since 2000
Contributed money to an environmental, conservation, or wildlife preservation group	40	42	43	36	-4
Voted for/worked for candidates because of their position on environmental issues	28	30	35	28	0
Been active in a group or organization that works to protect the environment	15	20	19	17	2
Contacted a public official about an environmental issue	18	15	17	17	-1
Contacted a business to complain about its products because they harm the environment	13	^	9	8	-5

Based on Gallup surveys conducted March 4-7, 2010; March 11-14, 2007; March 3-5, 2003; and April 3-9, 2000; some items asked of a half sample in some years

^ Not asked

Given that Americans name the environment as the least important of seven major issues to their vote for Congress, it is improbable that environmental activism will increase by any significant degree this election year. Such behavior is, however, more likely among those who view global warming as a serious threat in their lifetimes.

Implications

While most Americans continue to voluntarily take steps to help the environment, the likelihood that an individual will do so appears fairly fixed and largely unaffected by outside influences or even one's own demographics. Stated more simply, those who are willing to undertake such measures are probably already doing so, while others may never be willing to do so.

The entrenched nature of these findings suggests that those who seek to encourage even more environmentally friendly behaviors from the overall population have their work cut out for them, especially if the actions remain voluntary. It is possible that in these matters, only tangible incentives will inspire further action, such as the 5-cent bag tax recently levied in Washington, D.C., which cut plastic bag usage from 22.5 million to 3 million in its first month in effect. Still, policymakers should be mindful that with many Americans already voluntarily taking steps to help the environment and with the issue ranking very low on Americans' overall policy priority list, such initiatives could be a tough sell.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 4-7, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points. For results based on the half sample of 519 national adults in Form A and 495 national adults in Form B, the maximum margins of sampling error are ± 5 percentage points.

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

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

Democratic Party Image Drops to Record Low

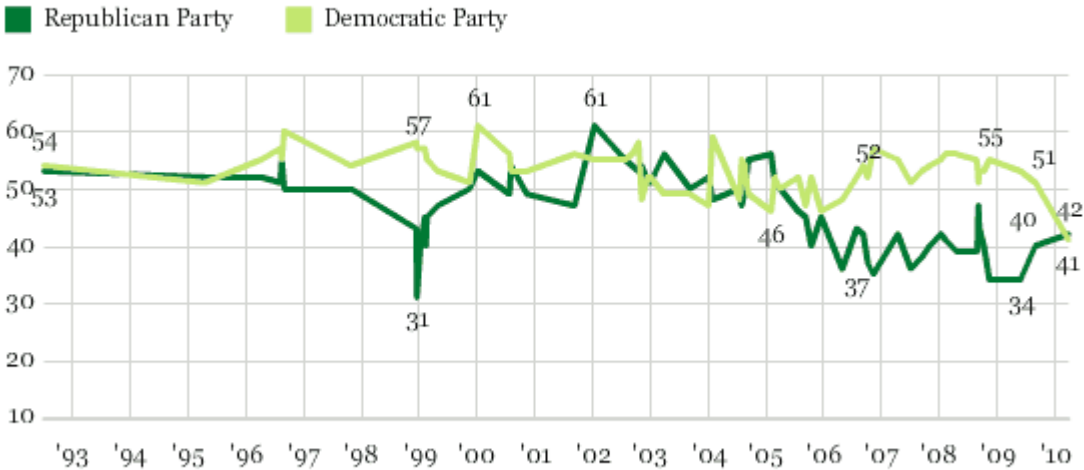
Favorable images of Democratic, Republican Parties now tied

April 8, 2010

Americans' favorable rating of the Democratic Party dropped to 41% in a late March *USA Today*/Gallup poll, the lowest point in the 18-year history of this measure. Favorable impressions of the Republican Party are now at 42%, thus closing the gap between the two parties' images that has prevailed for the past four years.

Party Images -- July 1992-March 2010

% Favorable opinion



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Gallup last measured party images in late August/early September of last year. At that point, the Democratic Party enjoyed an 11-point favorable image advantage over the Republican Party. Now, the favorable ratings of the two parties are essentially tied.

The images of the two major parties have particular significance in a midterm election year. For example, the favorable rating of the Democratic Party exceeded that of the Republican Party by 52% to 37% just prior to the 2006 midterm elections, in which the Democrats gained 31 House seats.

Americans' current 41% favorable rating of the Democratic Party is five points lower than the party's previous low, recorded twice in 2005.

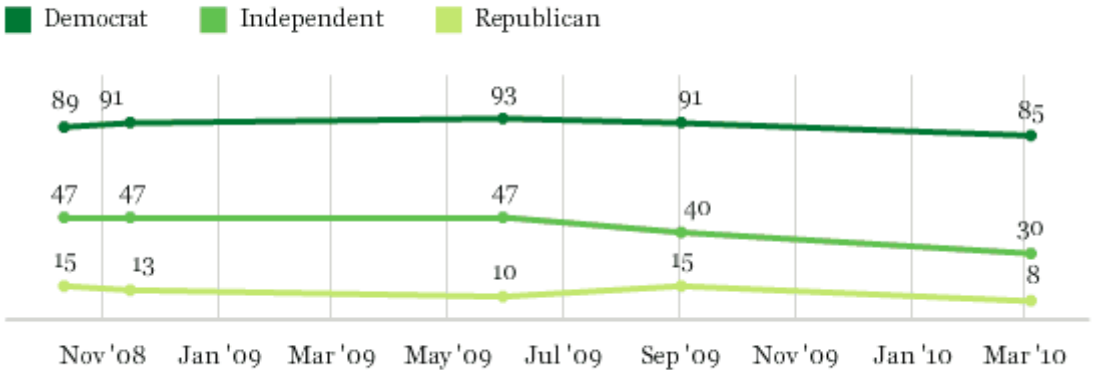
By contrast, the Republican Party's image reached its all-time low of 31% in December 1998 -- just after the House of Representatives voted to impeach President Bill Clinton. The Republicans' current rating is improved from a pair of 34% ratings Gallup measured in late 2008 and in May 2009.

Partisan Ratings

The Democratic Party's favorable image has dropped among all three partisan groups compared to August/early September 2009.

Recent Trend in Democratic Party Favorability -- by Party ID

% Favorable

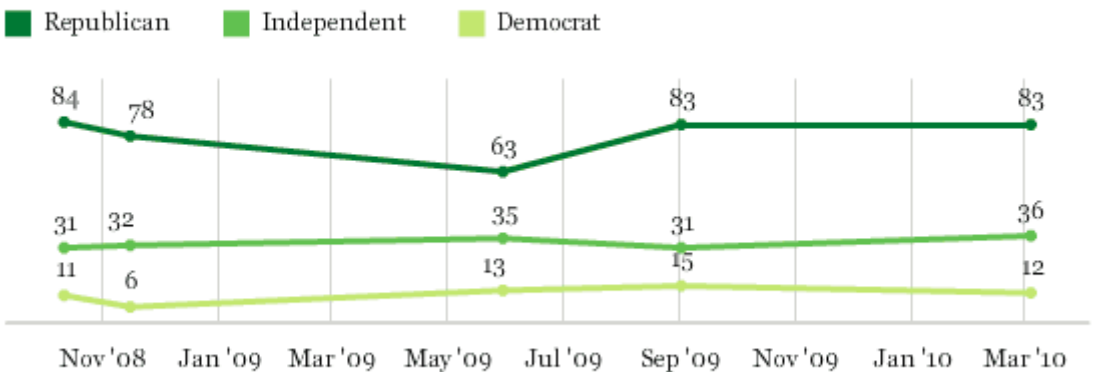


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There has been little change by party in the Republican Party's favorable image compared to the late summer 2009 measure, although the percentage of Republicans with a favorable image of their party remains significantly higher than it was in May 2009.

Recent Trend in Republican Party Favorability -- by Party ID

% Favorable



GALLUP®

Full trends on these favorable measures for both parties are included on page 2 of this report.

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 ±4 percentage points.

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

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

Voters Rate Economy as Top Issue for 2010

Majority of registered voters say it will be extremely important to their vote

April 8, 2010

Fifty-seven percent of registered voters say the economy will be extremely important to their vote for Congress this year, making it the top issue in the 2010 elections. Healthcare, unemployment, and the federal budget deficit rank behind the economy in importance, with the environment the least important of the seven issues tested in the March 26-28 *USA Today*/Gallup poll.

How important will each of the following issues be to your vote for Congress this year -- will it be -- extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important?

Based on registered voters

	% Extremely important	% Very important
The economy	57	36
Healthcare	49	35
Unemployment	46	41
The federal budget deficit	45	33
Terrorism	40	36
The situation in Afghanistan	32	38
The environment, including global warming	22	24

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

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The top issues voters say they will take into account when voting this year are similar to the ones Americans currently cite as the most important problems facing the country. But they are quite different from those in the last midterm elections, in 2006, when international matters like Iraq and terrorism topped domestic concerns in voters' minds. Today, as the United States continues its recovery from the economic downturn that developed in 2008-2009, the economy is the top issue for Democratic (58%), independent (57%), and Republican (54%) voters.

Democrats also assign a high degree of importance to healthcare and unemployment. For Republicans, terrorism and the federal budget deficit are the next-most-important issues after the economy. The deficit ranks as the second-most-important issue for independents.

Importance of Issues to Vote for Congress, by Political Party, Registered Voters

Percentage rating issue as extremely important

	% Democrats	% Independents	% Republicans
The economy	58	57	54
Healthcare	55	47	43
Unemployment	51	47	38
The federal budget deficit	37	52	47
Terrorism	37	38	47
The situation in Afghanistan	33	27	38
The environment, including global warming	34	18	16

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

GALLUP®

Healthcare Backlash?

Much of Congress' work this year has focused on healthcare, and Americans have been divided on the legislation both before and after it passed. But it is unclear how much of a voter backlash there may be against the Democratic Party this fall because of this issue. Republican and independent voters are much less likely than Democratic voters to say healthcare will be important to their vote for Congress. Moreover, among voters who say healthcare is extremely important to their vote, roughly equal percentages say they would vote for the Democratic (47%) and the Republican (48%) candidate in their district if the election were held today.

Democratic candidates may be more vulnerable on government spending, as both Republicans and independents rate the federal budget deficit as a more important issue than healthcare. And among those who say the deficit is extremely important to their vote, 56% would vote for the Republican candidate and 36% for the Democrat.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 968 registered voters, 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 ± 4 percentage points.

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

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

Voters Issue Strong Rebuke of Incumbents in Congress

Fewer than half (49%) would re-elect own member, 28% for most members

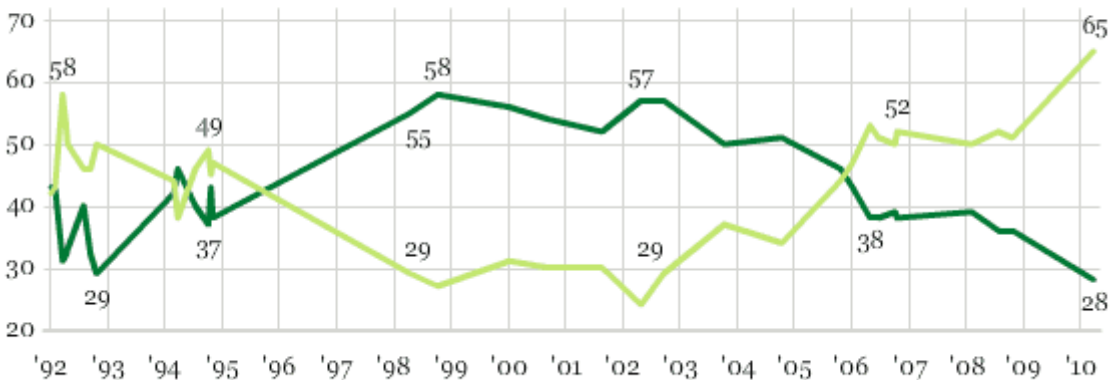
April 7, 2010

A record-low percentage of U.S. voters -- 28% -- say most members of Congress deserve to be re-elected. The previous low was 29% in October 1992.

Do Most Members of Congress Deserve Re-Election?

Based on registered voters

■ % Yes ■ % No



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"Notably, independents -- who could be swing voters in many districts -- are the least supportive of the three party groups when it comes to re-electing their own member."

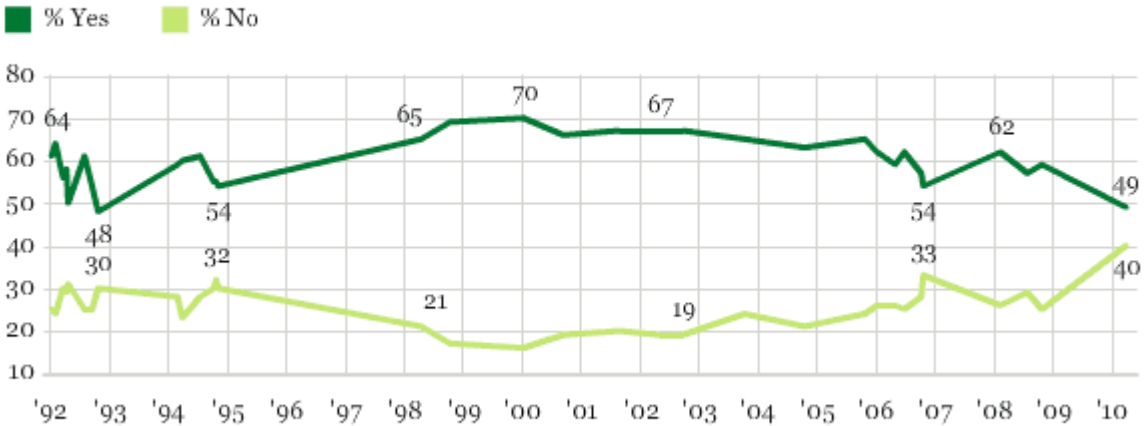
The trend for previous midterm elections reveals that the 28% re-elect figure puts the sitting majority party in a danger zone. In the two recent midterm elections in which the congressional balance of power changed (1994 and 2006), the percentage of voters saying most members deserved to be re-elected fell below 40%, as it does today. By contrast, in 1998 and 2002, when the existing Republican majority was maintained, 55% or better held this view.

Additionally, 65% of registered voters -- the highest in Gallup history, and by far the highest in any recent midterm year -- now say most members of Congress do *not* deserve re-election.

This strong rebuke of congressional incumbents comes from a March 26-28 *USA Today*/Gallup survey. The same poll finds 49% of voters, a near-record low, saying their *own* member of Congress deserves to be re-elected. This marks only the second time since Gallup began asking this question in 1992 that the figure has dipped below 50%, and the first on the doorstep of a midterm election.

Does the Member of Congress in Your Congressional District Deserve Re-Election?

Based on registered voters



GALLUP®

Again, the reverse finding -- the percentage specifically saying their own member does *not* deserve re-election -- is well above the levels seen in recent midterm years. This is in part because fewer voters today than in the past say they have no opinion on the question.

Although Democrats -- whose own party now holds a solid majority of House seats -- are much more likely than Republicans to say most members of Congress deserve re-election, not even half (46%) believe they do.

Do Most Members of Congress Deserve Re-Election? -- by Party ID

Based on registered voters

	Republican	Independent	Democrat
	%	%	%
Yes	13	25	46
No	83	72	41
No opinion	4	4	12

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

GALLUP®

By comparison, Democrats are only a bit more positive than Republicans about whether their own member deserves re-election. This may reflect the heightened probability that the representatives from Republicans' and Democrats' congressional districts are from the respondents' own party, rather than from the opposing party. Notably, independents -- who could be swing voters in many districts -- are the least supportive of the three party groups when it comes to re-electing their own member.

Does the Member of Congress in Your Congressional District Deserve Re-Election? -- by Party ID

Based on registered voters

	Republican	Independent	Democrat
	%	%	%
Yes	48	43	58
No	42	46	31
No opinion	10	11	11

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

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Bottom Line

Voters' anti-incumbent mood is like nothing Gallup has seen in the past four midterm election cycles. While that could have a negative impact on incumbents from both parties, the greater exposure of the Democrats by virtue of their majority status means greater risk for their candidates. Additionally, both parties have seen their majority control of Congress wiped out in midterm elections with less anti-incumbent fervor than is seen today. Simply put, the party in power seems to take the brunt of voters' wrath in these situations. Gallup's latest generic ballot readings on the vote for Congress, in which support for Democratic candidates is precariously low for that party, point to a similar conclusion.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 968 registered voters, aged 18 and older, conducted March 26-28, 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.

8. Please tell me whether you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be re-elected, or not. How about -- [ROTATED]?

A. The U.S. representative in your congressional district

	Yes, does	No, does not	No opinion
	%	%	%
2010 Mar 26-28	49	40	10
2008 Oct 23-26	59	25	16
2008 Jul 25-27	57	29	14
2008 Feb 8-10	62	26	12
2006 Oct 20-22	54	33	14
2006 Oct 6-8	57	28	14
2006 Jun 23-25	62	25	13
2006 Apr 28-30	59	26	14
2006 Jan 6-8	62	26	12
2005 Oct 21-23	65	24	11
2004 Oct 14-16	63	21	16
2003 Oct 10-12	65	24	11
2002 Sep 20-22	67	19	14
2002 Apr 29-May 1	67	19	14
2001 Aug 24-26	67	20	13
2000 Sep 11-13	66	19	15
2000 Jan 7-10	70	16	14
1998 Oct 9-12	69	17	14
1998 Apr 17-19	65	21	14
1994 Nov 2-6	54	30	16
1994 Oct 22-25	55	32	13
1994 Oct 7-9	55	30	15
1994 Jul 15-17	61	28	11
1994 Mar 25-27	60	23	17
1994 Feb 26-28	59	28	13
1992 Oct 23-25	48	30	22
1992 Sep 11-15	54	25	21
1992 Jul 31-Aug 2	61	25	14
1992 Apr 20-22	50	31	19
1992 Apr 9-12	58	29	13
1992 Mar 20-22	56	30	14
1992 Jan 31-Feb 2	64	24	12
1992 Jan 3-9	61	25	14

Based on registered voters

8. Please tell me whether you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be re-elected, or not. How about -- [ROTATED]?

B. Most members of Congress

	Yes, do	No, do not	No opinion
	%	%	%
2010 Mar 26-28	28	65	7
2008 Oct 23-26	36	51	13
2008 Jul 25-27	36	52	12
2008 Feb 8-10	39	50	11
2006 Oct 20-22	38	52	10
2006 Oct 6-8	39	50	11
2006 Jun 23-25	38	51	11
2006 Apr 28-30	38	53	10
2006 Jan 6-8	43	47	10
2005 Oct 21-23	46	44	10
2004 Oct 14-16	51	34	15
2003 Oct 10-12	50	37	13
2002 Sep 20-22	57	29	14
2002 Apr 29-May 1	57	24	19
2001 Aug 24-26	52	30	18
2000 Sep 11-13	54	30	16
2000 Jan 7-10	56	31	13
1998 Oct 9-12	58	27	15
1998 Apr 17-19	55	29	16
1994 Nov 2-6	38	47	15
1994 Oct 22-25	43	45	12
1994 Oct 7-9	37	49	14
1994 Jul 15-17	40	46	14
1994 Mar 25-27	46	38	16
1994 Feb 26-28	42	44	14
1992 Oct 23-25	29	50	21
1992 Sep 11-15	32	46	22
1992 Jul 31-Aug 2	40	46	14
1992 Apr 20-22	33	50	17
1992 Apr 9-12	32	53	15
1992 Mar 20-22	31	58	11
1992 Jan 31-Feb 2	43	43	14
1992 Jan 3-9	43	42	15

Based on registered voters

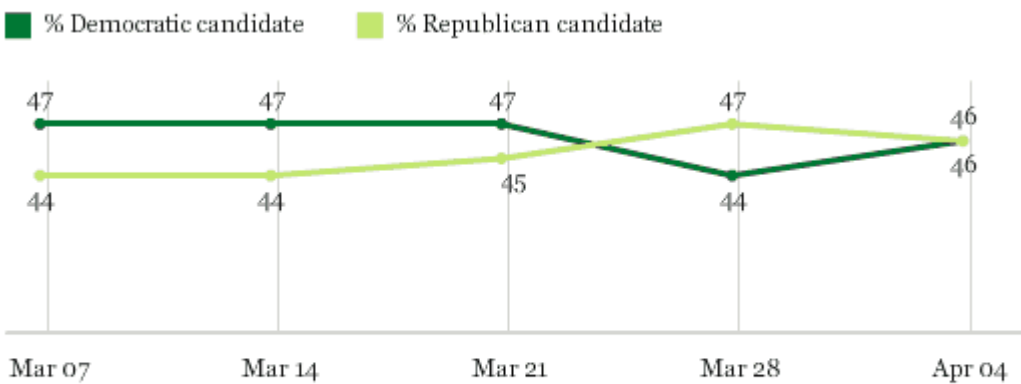
Parties Even in Congressional Midterm Preferences

Rise in voter enthusiasm after passage of healthcare has since steadied

April 7, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking for the week ending April 4 finds the two major parties tied at 46% in the congressional voting preferences of registered voters nationally. In the two weeks since Congress passed healthcare reform on March 21, Democrats have tied or trailed the Republicans, after having at least a slight advantage in the weeks prior.

Candidate Preference in 2010 Congressional Elections, Among Registered Voters



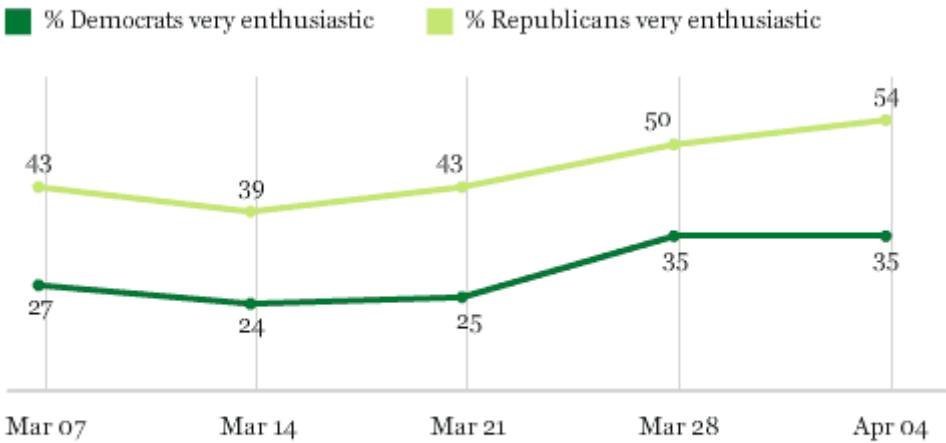
Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking; date indicates last day of interviewing for each week.

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Given Republicans' typical voter turnout advantage in midterm elections, even Republican parity with the Democrats in the candidate preferences of registered voters could translate into significant Republican gains on Election Day.

While it is too early to predict voter turnout by party this November, Republicans continue to show much greater enthusiasm than Democrats about voting in the 2010 elections.

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



Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking; date indicates last day of interviewing for each week.

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Enthusiasm rose among both parties after passage of healthcare reform on March 21, but has since leveled off among Democrats. The four percentage-point increase last week among Republicans (from 50% to 54%) is not statistically significant, but would be meaningful if it is maintained in this week's tracking.

Bottom Line

Gallup tracking from March through early April has consistently found voters closely divided in their congressional voting preferences. On average, the race for control of the House has been slightly tighter in the two weeks after passage of healthcare than it was earlier in March, when the Democrats led by a slight margin. However, the Republican gains seen in the first week after the vote ebbed slightly this past week, suggesting that any momentum the party received may have since stalled.

The details aside, the very close nature of the midterm contest to date suggests that voter turnout could be decisive, and affords no rest for either party.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,344 registered voters, aged 18 and older, conducted March 29-April 4, 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 ± 3 percentage points.

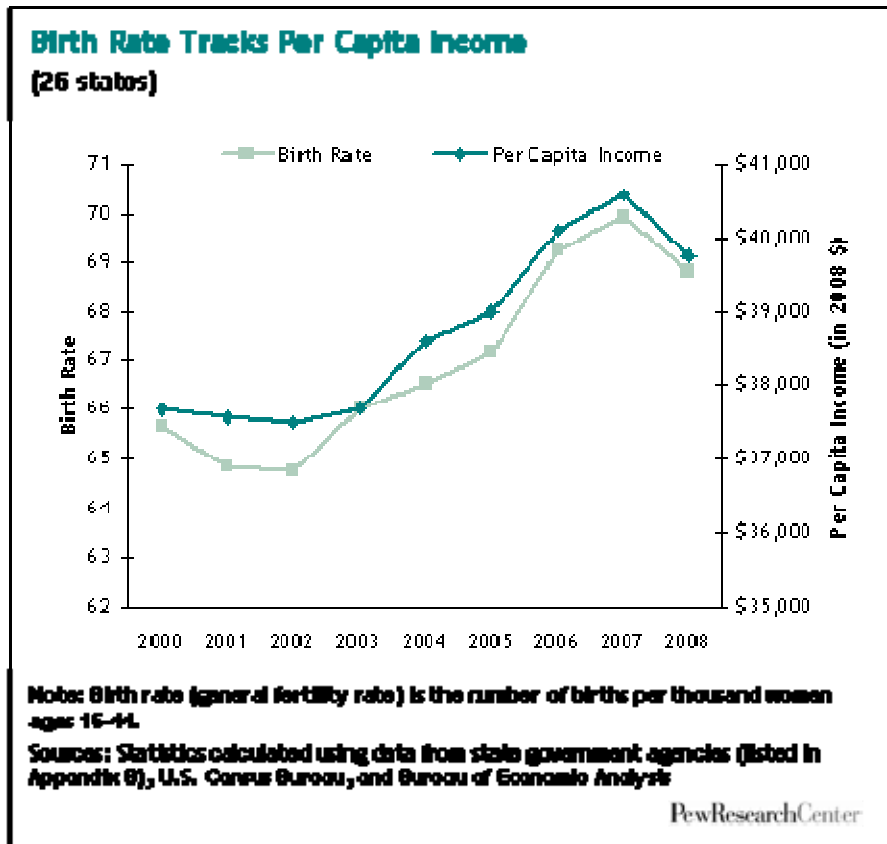
Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones.

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.

U.S. Birth Rate Decline Linked to Recession

April 6, 2010

Birth rates in the United States began to decline in 2008 after rising to their highest level in two decades, and the decrease appears to be linked to the recession, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of state fertility and economic data.



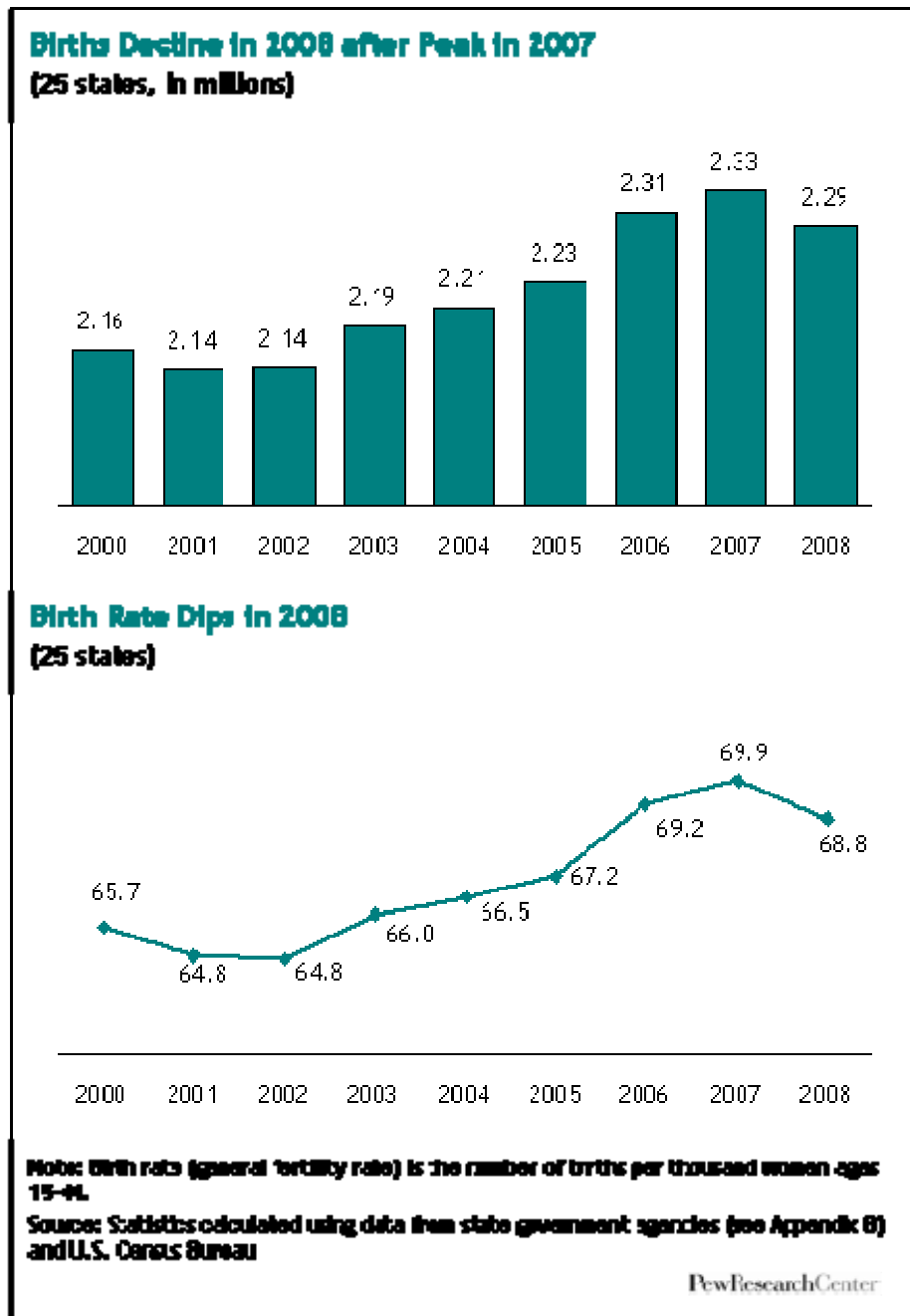
This analysis is based on data from the 25 states for which final 2008 birth numbers are available. State-level indicators were used because the magnitude and timing of the recent economic decline varies from state to state, thus allowing a more nuanced analysis of links with fertility than is possible at the national level.

In 22 of these 25 states, the birth rate -- the share of women of childbearing age who gave birth -- declined or leveled off in 2008, compared with the previous year. In 20 of the 25 states, the number of births declined or leveled off from the previous year.

The analysis suggests that the falloff in fertility coincides with deteriorating economic conditions. There is a strong association between the magnitude of fertility change in 2008 across states and key economic indicators including changes in per capita income, housing prices and share of the working-age population that is employed across states.

The nation's birth rate grew each year from 2003 to 2007, and has declined since then. As will be shown later in this report, the number of births also peaked in 2007 to a record level, dipped nearly 2% in 2008 and continued to decline in 2009, according to National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) data. This analysis focuses on birth rate changes in 2008, the year after the national recession began. Research shows that past recessions are linked to fertility declines but that other factors also play a role.

State Birth Data Show Link with Economy



This analysis capitalizes on state-level differences in the magnitude and change over time of fertility and economic indicators to examine links between the two. It relies mainly on data from the 25 states that have finalized their own 2008 fertility figures.¹ These states include slightly more than half the nation's 2008 population of women of childbearing age (54%) and annual births (54%). Their total births and combined birth rate followed national trends earlier in the decade. In 2008, according to final data supplied by these states, they had a combined total of 2.29 million births, compared with 2.33 million in 2007. Their combined birth rate was 68.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15-44 in 2008, compared with 69.9 in 2007, a decline of 1.6%.

One test of the association between economic and fertility indicators is to examine whether states that experienced larger economic changes also experienced similar changes in fertility. By this measure, there is evidence of a link between fertility and some key economic indicators.

Strong associations were found between the magnitude of state-level birth rate change from 2007 to 2008 and the magnitude the previous year of per capita income change and housing price change. Strong associations also were found between the magnitude of state-level birth rate change from 2007 to 2008, and the previous year's change in gross domestic product by state, as well as in first claims for unemployment benefits. Analysis also found a strong association between the magnitude of birth rate change from 2007-2008 and a state's housing foreclosure rate in 2007.² No correlation was found with change in state-level employment or unemployment rates.

Among the 25 states, Arizona's birth rate declined more than 4% in 2008 compared with the previous year, the largest change of the 25. Its decline in per capita income in 2007 ranked second among those 25 states and its housing price change ranked sixth. Florida, which had the fourth-largest decline in birth rates among the 25 states in 2008, had a 0.5% decline in per capita income the previous year and a 2% foreclosure rate, both of which ranked worst among this group of states.

At the other end of the scale, North Dakota was one of only five of the 25 states that had a gain in its fertility rate in 2008; its growth in per capita income growth was the largest among these states, and its 2007 foreclosure rate was the second lowest among the 25 states.

-
1. In the past, provisional and final numbers for the nation have not differed markedly. However, provisional and final numbers for individual states do, which is why this analysis is based on the sample of state-supplied final figures rather than the full universe of state provisional data available from the NCHS. As an example, the 2006 NCHS provisional total of births in New Hampshire was 14,534, but final NCHS figures show there were 14,378 births that year. The provisional total indicated that births in New Hampshire increased in 2006 but the final total indicated that they did not.
 2. In the group of 25 states, there were significant correlations between the 2007-2008 percent change in general fertility rate and five other variables: 2006-2007 percent change in per capita income (.56); 2006-2007 percent change in first unemployment claims (-.51); 2006-2007 percent change in gross domestic product (.49); 2006-2007 percent change in housing prices as expressed by the Housing Price Index (.41); and 2007 foreclosure rate (-.54).
-

Most Support Stronger Regulations on Big Banks, Taxing Them To Pay Back Bailouts

63% Say Government Not Responsible for Insuring Big Banks Don't Fail

April 08, 2010

Legislative proposals to regulate financial institutions and limit their size have the support of a majority of likely voters, including 55% who favor a tax on large banks to cover any government losses from bailouts.

Those are among the findings of a Zogby Interactive survey of 3,351 likely voters conducted from April 1-3, 2010. The survey has a margin of error of +/-1.7%.

The survey also found that 63% do not agree that the federal government has a responsibility to insure that big banks do not fail and only 33% said they had confidence in the Federal Reserve to enforce regulations on the nation's financial institutions.

The survey listed statements about possible actions a financial regulation bill might include..

In agreement that:	All voters	Democrats	Republican	Independents
Congress should pass stronger regulations on financial institutions.	65%	94%	34%	61%
A separate Consumer Financial Protection Agency is needed.	58%	80%	35%	55%
Banks should not be allowed to be so big that their collapse threatens the rest of the financial sector.	70%	88%	44%	75%
Legislation should include cracking down on pay packages that encourage excessive risks.	63%	84%	39%	59%
Reform should include a new tax on the largest financial institutions to recoup any bailout losses.	55%	80%	26%	55%

Voters trusted Democrats more than Republicans to take the correct actions on regulating financial institutions, but 33% trusted neither party.

*Which party do you trust more to take the correct actions on regulating the nation's financial institutions?**

	All Voters	Independents
Democrats	36%	25%
Republicans	28%	25%
Neither	33%	49%
Both	1%	1%
Not sure	2%	1%

*Note, percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Pollster John Zogby: "Unlike healthcare reform, a clear majority of voters favor strong financial regulations. The big tell here is the high percentage of independents in favor of reforms. These same voters never warmed to the Democrats' healthcare plan, and that allowed Republicans in Congress to be unified in opposition. The same approach on financial reform might lose them the votes of some independents, which the GOP can't afford if they hope to win a Congressional majority in November."

Americans' Confidence in Banks Remains at Historical Low

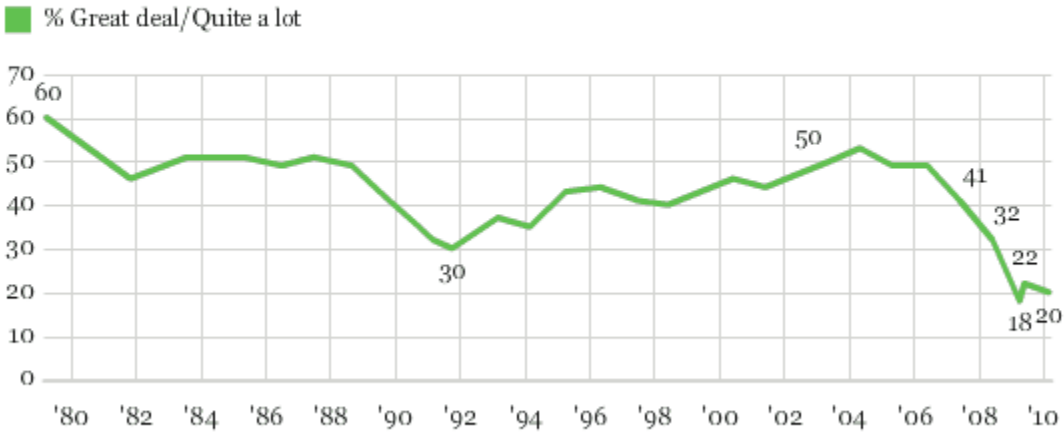
However, 58% continue to express confidence in their primary bank

April 6, 2010

As the Senate considers financial reform legislation, a new Gallup poll shows that Americans' confidence in banks has not returned on Main Street as it has on Wall Street. The percentage of Americans saying they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in U.S. banks is now 20% -- not much different from the 18% of a year ago or the 22% of last summer. Four in 10 Americans currently say they have "very little" confidence in U.S. financial institutions.

Confidence in Banks, 1979-2010 Trend

Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in banks -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?



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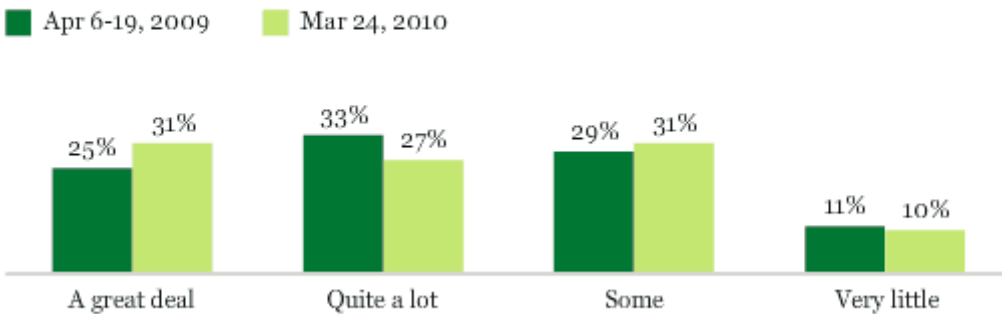
Gallup has measured banking confidence in various surveys dating to the late 1970s. Since the 2008-2009 financial crisis, Americans' confidence has reached new lows, falling below the readings near 30% during the 1990-91 recession that reflected the fallout associated with the savings and loan debacle of the late 1980s.

Most Still Have Confidence in Their Main Bank

While most Americans profess comparatively little confidence in the banking industry, the majority continue to express confidence in their main or primary bank, where they do most of their banking business. As was the case last April, 58% say they have a great deal (31%) or quite a lot (27%) of confidence in their main bank. Only about 1 in 10 Americans express "very little" confidence in their primary bank.

Americans' Confidence in Their Main Bank

Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in your PRIMARY or MAIN bank -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?



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Commentary

It should not be surprising that Americans have more confidence in their main or local bank than in the overall banking industry. Such a finding is consistent with what Gallup has found in local vs. national ratings of other areas such as education, healthcare, and crime.

Nor should it be alarming that confidence in banking has not surged back to its previous levels over the past year. Normally, confidence is built or lost slowly, over an extended period. It is likely to take many years before Americans' confidence in the banking industry returns to anything close to its 2006 level of about 50%.

Over the next several months, as Congress debates financial reform and the midterm congressional elections heat up, there will be potential political benefits to be gained by disparaging banks and bankers. Regardless of whether such derision may be deserved, it would be good for all involved to keep in mind that Americans' confidence in banks remains fragile.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,006 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 24, 2010, as part of the Gallup Poll 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 ± 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.

Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

Americans Prioritize Energy Over Environment for First Time

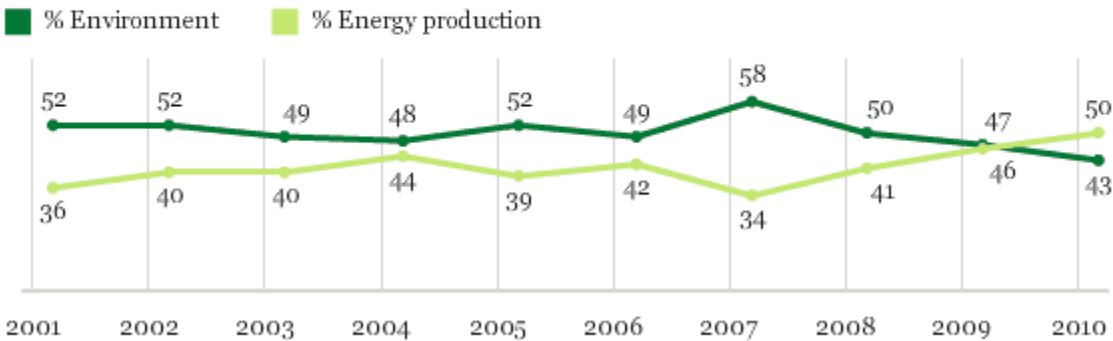
Data represent a continuing shift in opinion toward energy production

April 6, 2010

Americans are more likely to say the U.S. should prioritize development of energy supplies than to say it should prioritize protecting the environment, the first time more have favored energy production over environmental protection in this question's 10-year history.

Higher Priority for Energy Production or Environmental Protection

With which one of these statements about the environment and energy production do you most agree -- [ROTATED: protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies -- such as oil, gas and coal -- which the United States produces (or) development of U.S. energy supplies -- such as oil, gas and coal -- should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent]?



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The March 4-7 Gallup poll was conducted a few weeks before President Obama came out in favor of oil exploration off some sections of the U.S. coast, and shortly after he advocated the expanded use of nuclear power in the United States.

The current data represent a continuing shift in opinion toward energy production. Since 2007, when Americans' preferences for environmental protection were the greatest (58% to 34%), Americans' opinions have shown significant movement each year in the direction of prioritizing energy production. This change has been evident among nearly every major demographic subgroup, although self-identified liberals have remained relatively steadfast in saying the environment should be a higher priority.

At the same time, Americans continue to advocate greater energy conservation by consumers (52%) over greater production of oil, gas, and coal supplies (36%) as a means of solving the nation's energy problems. Americans have always come out in favor of greater consumer conservation, though this year marks the highest percentage favoring production (by a percentage point) in the last 10 years.

Better Solution to Energy Problems: More Production or More Conservation

Which of the following approaches to solving the nation's energy problems do you think the U.S. should follow right now -- [ROTATED: emphasize production of more oil, gas and coal supplies (or) emphasize more conservation by consumers of existing energy supplies]?

■ % More production ■ % More conservation



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The movement toward pro-production attitudes comes at a time when Americans' concerns about the U.S. energy situation have subsided. Thirty-three percent of Americans describe the energy situation in the United States as "very serious," down from 42% last year and the lowest since 2005. Additionally, 45% expect the U.S. to face a critical energy shortage in the next five years, down sharply from 62% in 2008, when gas prices were soaring, and the lowest Gallup has measured in the last 10 years. (See the tables on Page 2 for the full trends on these questions.)

One possible explanation for the greater public priority on energy production at a time of diminished concern about energy is that Americans typically become somewhat less likely to say they favor environmental protection during down economic times. In the same March 4-7 poll, Gallup also found a new high in the percentage of Americans favoring economic growth over environmental protection.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,014 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted March 4-7, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

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

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

How serious would you say the energy situation is in the United States -- very serious, fairly serious, or not at all serious?

	% Very serious	% Fairly serious	% Not at all serious	% No opinion
2010 Mar 4-7	33	54	11	1
2009 Mar 5-8	42	51	5	1
2008 Mar 6-9	46	49	5	1
2007 Mar 11-14	37	55	7	1
2006 Mar 13-16	41	51	7	1
2005 Mar 7-10	31	56	10	3
2004 Mar 8-11	29	57	12	2
2003 Mar 3-5	28	59	11	2
2002 Mar 4-7	22	63	12	3
2001 Jun 28-Jul 1	47	43	8	2
2001 May 7-9	58	36	4	2
2001 Mar 5-7	31	59	9	1
1991 Feb 7-10	40	44	14	2
1990 Sep 27-30	32	46	19	3
1990 Sep 10-11	28	48	21	3
1990 Aug 9-12	28	45	23	4
1979 Aug 3-6	47	35	16	3
1979 Jun 1-4	37	36	24	3
1979 Apr 27-May 4	44	36	16	4
1979 Feb 23-26	43	42	13	2
1978 Mar 31-Apr 3	41	39	15	5
1977 Nov 18-21	40	42	14	4
1977 Sep 30-Oct 3	40	40	16	4
1977 Aug 5-8	38	43	13	6
1977 Jun 3-6	40	42	13	5
1977 Apr 29-May 2	44	40	11	5
1977 Apr 1-4	41	39	16	4

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Do you think that the United States is or is not likely to face a critical energy shortage during the next five years?

	% Yes, is likely	% No, is not likely	% Already facing one (vol.)	% No opinion
2010 Mar 4-7	45	51	*	3
2008 Mar 6-9	62	34	1	2
2007 Mar 11-14	53	44	*	3
2006 Mar 13-16	56	39	1	4
2005 Mar 7-10	52	45	*	3
2004 Mar 8-11	49	47	1	3
2003 Mar 3-5	56	40	1	3
2002 Mar 4-7	48	49	1	2
2001 Mar 5-7	60	36	1	3
1978 Nov 10-13	45	41	4	10

* Less than 0.5%

(vol.) = Volunteered response

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U.S. Job Creation Improves in the West in March

Job market conditions remain best in South, less positive in East and Midwest

April 2, 2010

Gallup's Job Creation Index -- based on 16,778 U.S. employees' self-reports of hiring and firing activity at their workplaces -- shows that employees' perceptions of current job market conditions nationwide were essentially unchanged in March. Twenty-six percent report that their companies are hiring, while 24% say their companies are letting people go.

Hiring and Firing Nationwide, Monthly Averages, January 2008-March 2010

Based on what you know or have seen, would you say that, in general, your company or employer is --
1) hiring new people and expanding the size of its workforce, 2) not changing the size of its workforce, or
3) letting people go and reducing the size of its workforce?

■ % Hiring ■ % Firing



Gallup Daily tracking

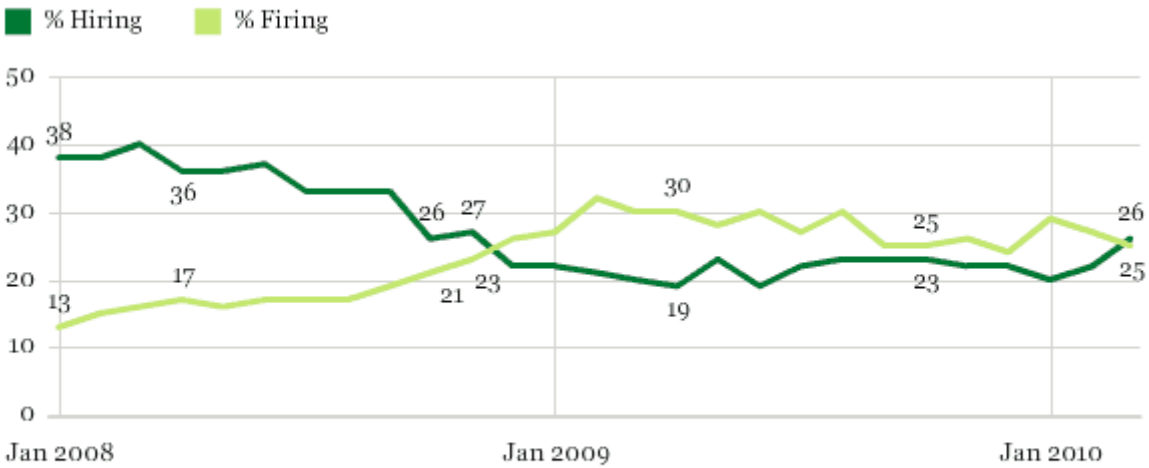
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This two percentage-point difference is the same as it was in February and is consistent with the Labor Department report that the U.S. unemployment rate remained at 9.7% in March. While conditions are much improved in the West and remain good in the South, they are less positive in the East and Midwest.

West: Shows Sharp Improvement

Hiring increased sharply in the West, to 26% during March, hitting its highest level since November 2008 -- and up from 22% in February. At the same time, firing declined to 25% -- down from 27% in February and 29% in January. Manufacturing and exports are helping, as is what appears to be a modest improvement in housing conditions in some areas.

Hiring and Firing in the West, Monthly Averages, January 2008-February 2010



Gallup Daily tracking

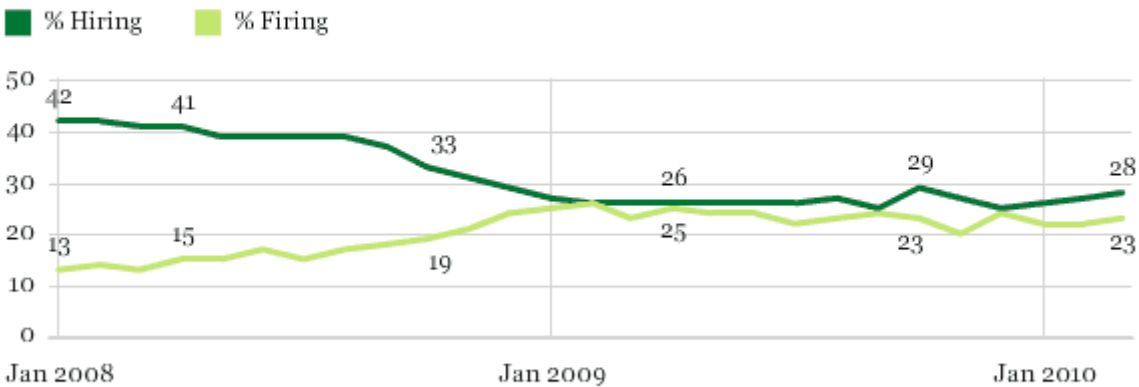
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South: Remains the Best Job Market

Job market conditions in the South remain the best of any region, with hiring at 28% and firing at 23% -- essentially the same as February's five-point gap. The continuation of high oil prices -- increasing even further in recent days -- benefits this region's job situation.

Hiring and Firing in the South, Monthly Averages, January 2008-March 2010

Based on what you know or have seen, would you say that, in general, your company or employer is --
 1) hiring new people and expanding the size of its workforce, 2) not changing the size of its workforce, or
 3) letting people go and reducing the size of its workforce?



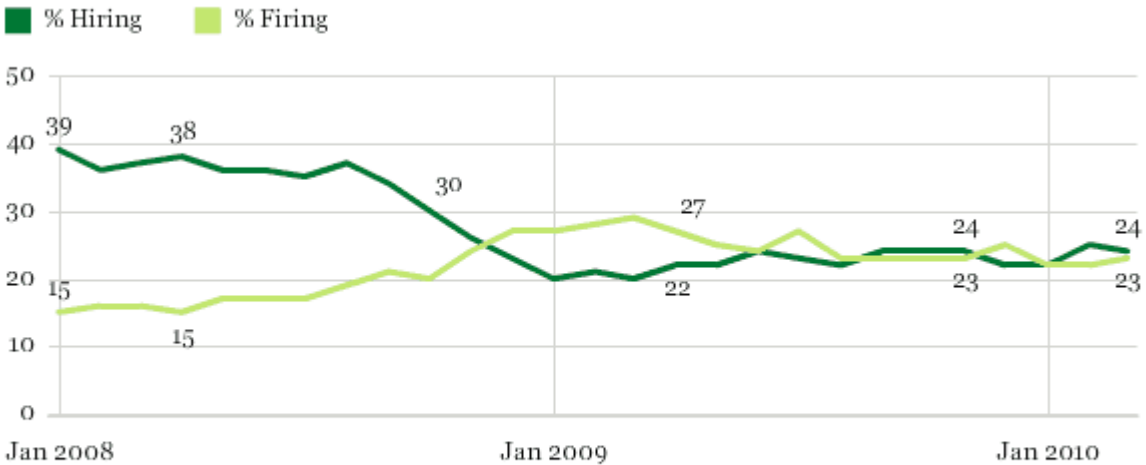
Gallup Daily tracking

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Midwest: Slight Deterioration

Hiring in the Midwest declined one point (24%) and firing increased one point (23%), reducing the hiring-firing gap to one point in March from three points in February. Improvements in the manufacturing sector have produced a relatively stable job market in the Midwest so far in 2010.

Hiring and Firing in the Midwest, Monthly Averages, January 2008-March 2010



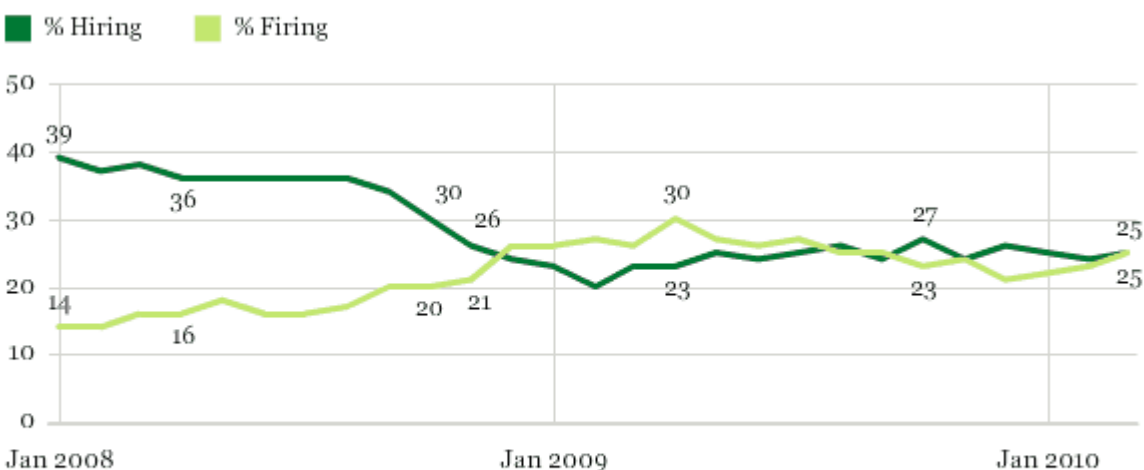
Gallup Daily tracking

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East: Slightly Worse Than Midwest

With 25% of employers hiring and an identical percentage firing, the East has the worst job market conditions of any region, and slightly worse than those of February. While Wall Street has surged and many hedge fund managers report record earnings, job market conditions in the East have actually declined during recent months.

Hiring and Firing in the East, Monthly Averages, January 2008-March 2010



Gallup Daily tracking

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Commentary

In addition to the steady overall unemployment rate, the Labor Department reported Friday that 162,000 new jobs were created in March. Gallup's Job Creation Index suggests that the improvement in the March jobs picture probably centered in the West. It likely also reflects the continued jobs strength in the South and the fact that firing no longer exceeds hiring in any region of the country.

At the same time, Gallup's jobs data suggest that any current improvement in jobs may be somewhat illusory. Gallup analysis shows that many of the new jobs being created are not only temporary and part-time but also are being taken by many people who would like full-time work, leaving the overall underemployment rate higher in March than earlier this year.

During the next several months, the jobs data will continue to be distorted by the largest peacetime mobilization of workers in history as the government continues to hire temporary census takers. At the same time, many companies may add part-time help instead of full-time workers, hedging against both economic and political uncertainties. In order to pierce this cloud of distortion, it will be important to monitor the underemployment rate -- which together with the Job Creation Index are the best indicators of current real U.S. job conditions.

Survey Methods

For Gallup Daily tracking, Gallup interviews approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup consumer spending results are based on random half-samples of approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup Job Creation Index results are based on a random sample of approximately 500 current full- and part-time employees each day.

Regional results for March are based on Gallup Daily tracking interviews totaling more than 3,000 in each region. For each total regional sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 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.

Half of Americans Back High-Speed Railways

April 08, 2010

Many adults in the United States are in favour of a proposal to create ten regional high-speed rail corridors in the country, according to a poll by Angus Reid Global Monitor. 49 per cent of respondents support this idea, while 26 per cent oppose it.

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

In January, Obama discussed his proposal to establish the ten regional high-speed rail corridors, saying, "We're going to put more Americans to work rebuilding our infrastructure, and building our infrastructure of the future. I mean, it's important to repave our roads; it's important to repair our bridges so that they're safe. But we want to start looking deep into the 21st century and we want to say to ourselves, there is no reason why other countries can build high-speed rail lines and we can't."

Polling Data

As you may know, President Obama has presented a proposal to create ten regional high-speed rail corridors. Overall, do you support or oppose this proposal?

Support	49%
Oppose	26%
Not sure	25%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Mar. 31 and Apr. 1, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Canadians Content with Governor General Jean

April 05, 2010

Many adults in Canada are satisfied with the performance of their governor general, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 57 per cent of respondents approve of the way Michaëlle Jean has handled her duties, while 26 per cent disapprove.

In addition, 43 per cent of respondents support extending Jean's term for two years, while 40 per cent are opposed.

In 1982, the United Kingdom transferred final legal powers over Canada. The country adopted a new constitution, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's head of state, represented by the governor general.

In August 2005, Canadian prime minister Paul Martin announced that Jean's appointment as governor general had been "graciously approved" by Queen Elizabeth II. The governor general is largely ceremonial in Canada, but retains the power to dissolve Parliament, dismiss a prime minister, or refuse royal assent to legislation.

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.

In November 2008, the federal government presented its financial update, which included a controversial measure to scrap the existing public financing system for political parties. In December, then Liberal Party leader Stéphane Dion announced that a deal to assemble a coalition government with the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the support of the Bloc Québécois had been reached. Harper then asked Jean to prorogue Parliament until late January 2009, thereby avoiding the opposition's confidence motion to be put to a vote. The governor general agreed to the prime minister's request.

Last month, Jean congratulated the Canadian athletes who took part in the Vancouver Winter Paralympic Games, stating, "I applaud the contributions made by every single person involved in these Games. You committed heart and soul to ensuring the athletes were able to perform at their best, and that spectators on-site and watching from around the world were able to appreciate this new page of sports history."

Polling Data

Michaëlle Jean has served as Canada's Governor General since September 2005. Do you approve or disapprove of Jean's performance as Governor General?

Approve	57%
Disapprove	26%
Not sure	17%

The term of Governor General Michaëlle Jean will expire this year. Do you support or oppose extending her term for an additional two years?

Support	43%
Oppose	40%
Not sure	17%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 Canadian adults, conducted on Mar. 22 and Mar. 23, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Majority in Mexico Share Neighborhoods With Gangs

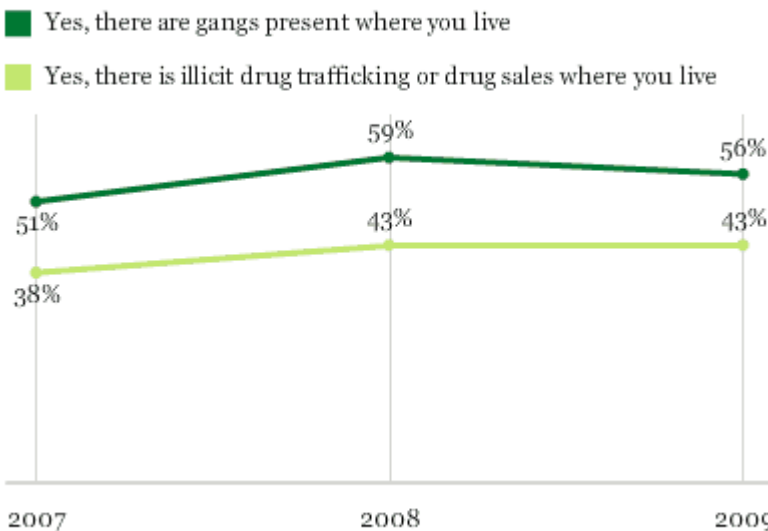
One in three say illegal drug sales are increasing

April 9, 2010

Nearly three years after Mexico launched its war against the drug cartels, Gallup data show drug traffickers and gangs remain entrenched in many neighborhoods -- particularly in Mexico's northern and central regions. More than half of Mexicans surveyed in August 2009 said gangs are present in their vicinity and 43% said drug trafficking takes place there.

Drugs and Gangs in Mexico

Asked of Mexico residents



GALLUP®

Both figures remain slightly higher than what Gallup measured in the early months of Mexican President Felipe Calderon's declared war on drug traffickers in 2007, but were essentially unchanged from 2008. More than 18,000 Mexicans have reportedly been killed in drug- and gang-related violence since Calderon began the crack down on the drug cartels in late 2006 and deployed tens of thousands of troops.

Gallup found residents in Mexico's northern U.S. border states, as well as those in the central region, were more likely than those in the southern region to say drugs and gangs were present where they live. While the numbers remained relatively flat in the central region, and decreased in the South, the numbers in the North may reflect the increase in gang- and drug-related violence there. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of residents in the North who said gangs were present in their neighborhoods increased from 49% to 63%.

Mexicans living in the northern and central regions are more likely to report gangs and drug trafficking in their neighborhoods.

	Yes, there are gangs present where you live	Yes, there is illicit drug trafficking or drug sales where you live
Mexico	56%	43%
North	63%	47%
Central	59%	45%
South	39%	30%

August 2009

GALLUP®

Last year, Gallup asked Mexicans for the first time about whether they think illegal drug sales were increasing in their cities or areas. One in three (33%) agreed that the sale of illegal drugs in their communities is increasing, while nearly as many (31%) disagreed.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with this statement: The sale of illegal drugs is increasing in the city or area where you live.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know/Refused	(Does not apply/Illegal drugs are not sold in the city or area where I live)
Mexico	33%	31%	29%	7%
North	40%	34%	24%	2%
Central	33%	26%	36%	4%
South	20%	41%	16%	23%

August 2009

GALLUP®

Residents in the northern and central regions again were more likely than those in the southern region to agree, but like the rest of the population, they were more divided.

Bottom Line

Roughly three years into Mexico's drug war, Gallup finds no reduction in the number of Mexicans who say they share their neighborhoods with gangs and drug traffickers. The flatness in the overall numbers, however, may mask regional differences -- including the sharp increases in the northern regions -- that suggest the war on drug traffickers is having mixed results and that the situation in the North is perhaps proving much harder to contain.

Survey Methods

Results are based face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in August 2009 in Mexico. 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. 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.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

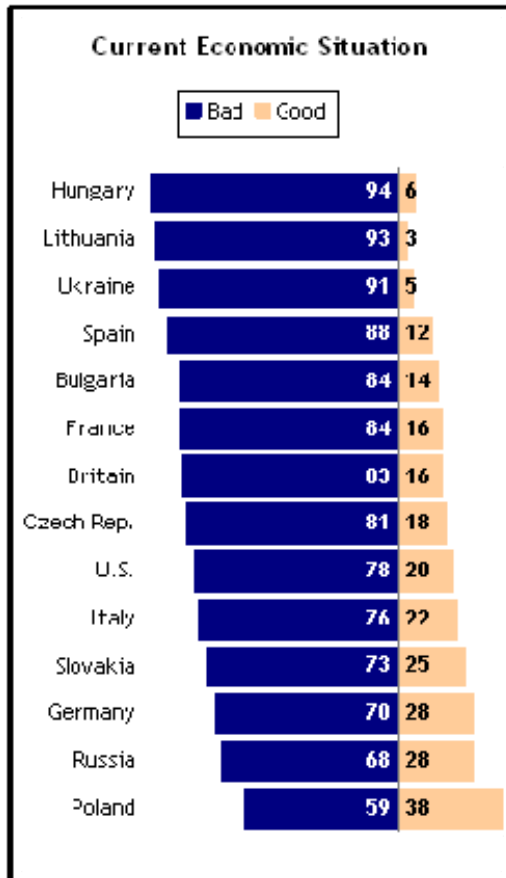
Hungary Dissatisfied with Democracy, but Not its Ideals

April 7, 2010

With parliamentary elections approaching, Hungarians are in a funk. Nearly unanimously, they say the economy is in bad shape, and a stunning 72% say most Hungarians are actually worse off now economically than they were under communism. But Hungary's malaise is not all about economics -- most are frustrated with politics too. Overwhelmingly, Hungarians are dissatisfied with the way democracy is working and discontent with political elites, with about three-in-four saying political corruption is a major problem. A fall 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project highlights the degree to which, even in a region where disillusionment is common, Hungarians stand out.

All of this bodes well for the electoral prospects of Fidesz, the right-of-center opposition party, which is expected to soundly defeat the incumbent social democrats in the upcoming elections.¹ However, these findings do not mean Hungarians are rejecting democratic values. In fact, as the survey illustrates, they are more likely than other former Eastern bloc publics to say it is very important to live in a country with democratic rights and institutions. But few believe Hungary currently has these democratic freedoms.

Widespread Economic Discontent

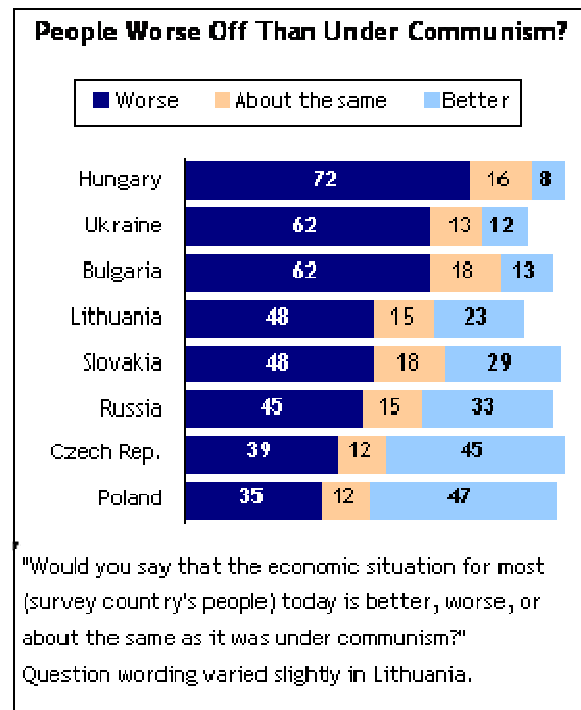


Prior to the revolutions of 1989, Hungary was an economic pioneer among Eastern bloc countries, practicing "goulash communism," which mixed aspects of the free market with a planned economy. As a result, Hungarians enjoyed somewhat better living standards than their Iron Curtain neighbors. Two decades later, however, Hungarians give their economy dismal ratings, and they are generally less enthusiastic about the free market than others in the region.

The global economic crisis had a powerful effect across much of Central and Eastern Europe, and it hit especially hard in Hungary, which was forced to seek a financial bailout from the IMF, World Bank and European Union. The fall 2009 survey revealed the extent of Hungarian economic gloom: 94% described the country's economy as bad, nosing out Lithuania (93%) and Ukraine (91%) for the most negative assessment among the countries included in the poll.

When asked to evaluate their nation's switch to capitalism, Hungarians are divided -- 46% said they approve of the move from a state-controlled economy to a market economy, while 42% disapproved. In 1991, when the Times Mirror Center (the forerunner of the Pew Research Center) asked this same question, 80% had approved of the change. In another sign that support for the free market is relatively weak in Hungary, only 31% in the 2009 poll agreed with the statement "Most people are better off in a free market economy, even though some people are

rich and some are poor," a lower percentage than in any other former Eastern bloc country surveyed.

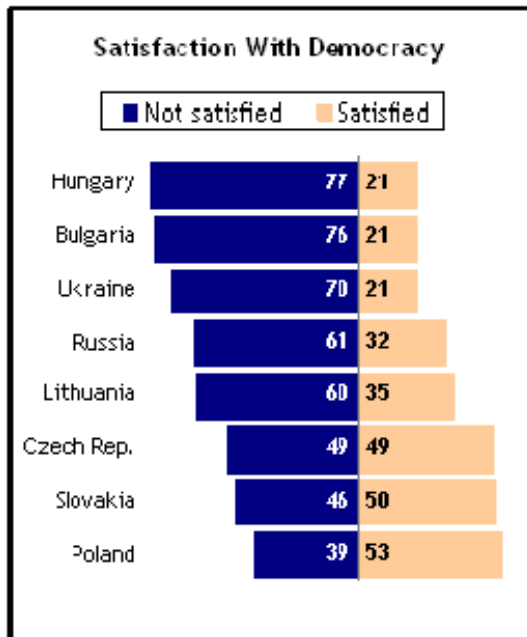


Remarkably, 72% said most people in Hungary are actually worse off today economically than they were under communism, while only 8% said most people are better off and 16% said things are about the same. Again, Hungary stands apart from the other post-communist societies surveyed -- in no other country did so many believe that economic life is worse now than during the communist era.

As in much of the region, many Hungarians had hoped that accession to the European Union would result in major economic benefits and improved living standards. However, most have been disappointed. Roughly seven-in-ten (71%) say their country's economy has been weakened by the economic integration of Europe. Bulgaria (63%) is the only other post-communist EU member in which a majority held this view.

Disillusionment With Politics Too

But Hungarians are not only disappointed with the economic transition their country has experienced -- they are also disappointed with the transition to democratic politics. The 1991 Times Mirror poll found that 74% of Hungarians approved of the change from a one-party system to a multiparty system; by 2009 a slim 56%-majority expressed this view.



In the 2009 poll, more than three-in-four (77%) said they were dissatisfied with the way democracy is working in Hungary, the highest percentage on the survey. In the other former Eastern bloc nations, there were notable generation gaps on this question, with people under age 40 -- essentially, the "post-communist" generation -- more likely to be satisfied than older respondents. Not so, however, in Hungary, where old and young alike tended to give the current state of democracy a grim assessment.

As in much of Central and Eastern Europe, Hungarians are clearly disenchanted with political elites. Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) said politicians have benefited a great deal or a fair amount from the changes since 1989, but only 17% believed ordinary people have benefited. And concerns about corruption are common -- 76% said corrupt political leaders are a very big problem in Hungary.

However, when reviewing these gloomy findings about the state of democracy in Hungary, it is worth remembering that they do not mean Hungarians are abandoning democratic values. To the contrary, Hungarians continue to want democratic rights and institutions -- in fact, they place a higher premium on these things than their post-communist neighbors. When asked to rate the importance of six key features of democracy, Hungarians stand out for their strong embrace of democratic values.

How Important Are Democratic Institutions and Freedoms?							
	<i>% Very important</i>						
	<u>Fair judiciary</u>	<u>Multiparty elections</u>	<u>Free media</u>	<u>Free religion</u>	<u>Free speech</u>	<u>Civilian control of military</u>	MEDIAN
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
Hungary	79	70	59	66	65	36	66
Bulgaria	81	61	61	58	58	27	60
Czech Rep.	78	57	66	46	47	36	52
Poland	64	51	52	62	50	29	52
Ukraine	67	53	49	51	43	30	50
Lithuania	59	39	50	47	38	20	43
Slovakia	57	43	42	47	39	21	43
Russia	69	41	37	47	37	27	39

Among the eight Central and Eastern European publics surveyed, Hungarians are the most likely to say it is very important to live in a country with honest multiparty elections, freedom of religion, free speech, and civilian control of the military (tied with Czech Republic). Meanwhile, only Bulgarians are more likely to say it is very important to live in a country with a fair judiciary; and the Czech Republic and Bulgaria are the only countries more likely to rate a free media as very important. Overall, across the six values tested, a median of 66% in Hungary rated these features of democracy as very important. By this measure, Bulgaria is next, with a median of 60%, followed by the Czech Republic (52%), Poland (52%) and Ukraine (50%). Lithuania (43%) and Slovakia (43%) rate somewhat lower, while Russians (39%) are less likely than others to consider these elements of democracy very important.

A Democracy Gap			
<i>Democratic values...</i>			
	<u>Are very important</u>	<u>Describe our country very well</u>	<u>Diff.</u>
MEDIAN	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
Hungary	66	17	-49
Bulgaria	60	15	-45
Ukraine	50	12	-38
Poland	52	21	-31
Czech Rep.	52	22	-30
Lithuania	43	14	-29
Slovakia	43	18	-25
Russia	39	18	-21

The challenge for Hungary is that, while most Hungarians want democratic values and institutions, few think they have them. For instance, 70% think it is very important to live in a country with honest multiparty elections, but only 17% believe this describes Hungary very well. Taking the median percentage saying these values are very important in each country and comparing it with the median percentage saying these values describe their country very well gives us an overall "democracy gap" for each country. The gap is large throughout Eastern Europe, but is widest in Hungary -- evidence that Hungarians, who once pioneered the transition

away from communism, are not turning their backs on democracy. Instead, they are frustrated by the fact that democracy has yet to fully flourish in their country.

1. The first round of parliamentary elections will be held on April 11 and the second round on April 25.
