

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

GLOBAL OPINION REPORT NO. 116

Week: April 18-24, 2010

Presentation: April 28, 2010

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Prelude

This week report consists of 24 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 22 are national surveys. These national surveys are from;

Middle East (2)
Southeast Asia (1)
East Europe (2)
West Europe (3)
North America (12)
Latin America (2)

Can Liberal Democrats Win Election in U.K?

Parliamentary elections are going to be held in U.K next month. Labour Party has been in power since 1997. Electoral history of U.K shows that only two parties i.e. Labour Party and Conservatives dominated the 20th century. Liberal party, a third British political party remained very unsuccessful and it merged with Social Democratic Party to form Liberal Democrats in 1988. Last week polls surprisingly show that Lib-Dems is now leading the pre-election polls.

Conservatives after ruling for several lost their appeal in the last decade of 20th century. Labour got majority in 1997, 2001 and 2005 election with Tony Blair as Prime Minister. Iraq war proved to be detrimental for both President Bush and PM Tony Blair along with deteriorating economies. These resulted in shift in voting preferences for Americans and Democratic candidate won the election with the slogan of 'change'.

Do people in Britain also want change? They have seen Conservatives and Labour parties are they now going to give a try to Lib-Dems? Pre-elections poll showed for several months that Conservatives were leading the election campaign. But the polls conducted after the first debate on April 15, public support for Lib-Dems have increased. Now they are either matching the conservatives¹ or they have got lead over conservatives² which was leading prior to the debate and governing Labour turns to be the third political party in the minds of people.

Can Lib-Dems maintain this lead? Are the voters in U.K also tired of Labour Party and want a total change by bringing a new party to 10-Downing Street? Was the merger of Liberal Party with Social Democratic Party was the right decision to form Liberal Democrats?

¹ http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/35391/liberal_democrats_tie_conservatives_in_britain

² http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/35403/liberal_democrats_slightly_ahead_in_britain

Summary Of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Reject Land Exchange as Part of Deal

Residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with some land exchange as part of a final solution to the current impasse with Israel, according to a poll by An-Najah National University. 66.7 per cent of respondents reject this notion.

April 21, 2010

Israelis Reject Construction Freeze in Jerusalem

A large proportion of adults in Israel would reject a prospective demand by U.S. president Barack Obama, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 70 per cent of respondents think Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu should not freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time.

April 17, 2010

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Aquino Extends Lead in the Philippines

Liberal Party (PLP) presidential nominee Benigno Aquino III remains the frontrunner in the Philippines, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for Aquino in next month's election.

April 22, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Russians Flatly Reject Negotiating with Terrorists

Many adults in Russia are opposed to any kind of negotiation with terrorists, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 75 per cent of respondents believe that terrorism can only be eradicated by defeating the terrorists.

April 21, 2010

Communists Gain Momentum in Czech Republic

The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) has increased its standing in the Czech Republic as a legislative ballot nears, according to a poll by Median. 16.8 per cent of respondents would vote for the Communists, up four points since February.

Apr 19, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Liberal Democrats Slightly Ahead in Britain

The Liberal Democrats have become the most popular political party in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 33 per cent of respondents would support the Lib-Dems in next month's General Election.

April 22, 2010

Liberal Democrats Tie Conservatives in Britain

The Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats are tied as Britons ponder their choices in next month's General Election, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 32 per cent of respondents would support the Tories, while 32 per cent would back the Lib-Dems.

April 20, 2010

Spaniards Reject Government's Abortion Law

People in Spain are not satisfied with their government's new pregnancy termination regulations, according to a poll by NC Report published in La Razón. 54.2 per cent of respondents oppose the Abortion Law.

Apr 18, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Bush Still Gets More Blame for Economy Than Obama

More than a year into Barack Obama's presidency, Americans are more likely to say George W. Bush is responsible for today's economic problems than they are to say Obama is responsible. Gallup shows a significant uptick since last July in the percentage of Americans blaming Obama at least a moderate amount (from 32% to 50%), but little decrease (from 80% to 75%) in the percentage blaming Bush.

April 21, 2010

On 40th Earth Day, Image of Green Movement Still Positive

Nineteen percent of Americans say they are an active participant in the environmental movement, while 42% are sympathetic, but not active. The combined active/sympathetic group has declined some since Gallup first measured this in 2000, but, at 61%, it remains high. Currently, 28% are neutral and 10% are unsympathetic.

April 22, 2010

At 40, Environmental Movement Endures, With Less Consensus

A survey at the eve of Earth Day shows that the Environmental Movement have though survived through the 40 years long period but there has been decline in public enthusiasm for this concern.

April 22, 2010

Party Affiliation Gap in U.S. Narrowest Since 2005

The advantage in public support the Democratic Party built up during the latter part of the Bush administration and the early part of the Obama administration has all but disappeared. During the first quarter of 2010, 46% of Americans identified as Democrats or leaned Democratic, while 45% identified as or leaned Republican.

April 23, 2010

One in Five Americans Fear Job Loss in Next 12 Months

Even as Gallup's underemployment measure shows that more people are getting full-time jobs, 21% of American workers think it is "very" or "fairly" likely that they will lose their jobs or be laid off during the next 12 months. That is nearly twice the 12% pre-recession level of 2007 and about the same as the 19% recorded in late 1982, during another deep recession.

April 23, 2010

Half of Americans Support Afghanistan Mission

Half of adults in the United States are in favour of the country's current military engagement in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents support the mission involving American soldiers, down three points since February.

April 23, 2010

Americans Endorse Racial Profiling at Airports

Many adults in the United States support security personnel relying on a passenger's racial or religious characteristics to determine whether this passenger requires a more thorough review, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents agree with this notion, while 39 per cent disagree.

Apr 19, 2010

Only Two-in-Five Canadians Back Afghan Mission

Public support for the military mission in Afghanistan has dropped in Canada, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents support the operation involving Canadian soldiers, down eight points since February.

April 24, 2010

Canadian Majority Would Legalize Marijuana

Many adults in Canada believe marijuana should be legalized, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with this idea.

Apr 18, 2010

Teens, Cell Phones and Texting

Cell-phone texting has become the preferred channel of basic communication between teens and their friends, with cell calling a close second. Some 75% of 12-17 year-olds now own cell phones, up from 45% in 2004. Those phones have become indispensable tools in teen communication patterns. Fully 72% of all teens -- or 88% of teen cell phone users -- are text-messagers. That is a sharp rise from the 51% of teens who were texters in 2006. More than half of teens (54%) are daily texters.

April 20, 2010

Americans Remain Down About Their Financial Situations

Americans' evaluations of their current financial situations remain low, and the 41% who describe their personal financial situations as excellent or good is the lowest Gallup has measured in the past decade.

April 22, 2010

Canadian Majority Would Legalize Marijuana

Many adults in Canada believe marijuana should be legalized, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with this idea.

April 18, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Haitians Want Foreigners in Charge of Reconstruction

People in Haiti hold little confidence in their government to oversee rebuilding efforts, according to a poll by Oxfam International. 39.3 per cent of respondents want foreign governments to play the leadership role in the reconstruction process.

Apr 20, 2010

Rousseff Gains, Almost Ties Serra in Brazil

Brazil's presidential election will require a run-off, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 32.7 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) in the ballot, while 32.4 per cent would support Dilma Rousseff of the ruling Workers' Party (PT).

April 24, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Wage Inequality Rampant in Four Western Nations

People in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States are keenly aware of wage inequality in their respective countries, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. About two-thirds respondents in the four nations think women and men are not paid the same salary when working the same job.

April 21, 2010

Global Views of United States Improve While Other Countries Decline

Global views of the United States have improved markedly over the last year while views of many countries have become more negative, according to the latest BBC World Service poll across 28 countries. For the first time since the BBC started tracking in 2005, views of the United States' influence in the world are now more positive than negative on average.

April 18, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Reject Land Exchange as Part of Deal

April 21, 2010

Residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with some land exchange as part of a final solution to the current impasse with Israel, according to a poll by An-Najah National University. 66.7 per cent of respondents reject this notion.

In addition, 77.4 per cent of respondents reject making Jerusalem the capital for both an eventual Palestinian state and Israel.

The former British mandate of Palestine was instituted at the end of World War I, to oversee a territory in the Middle East that formerly belonged to the Ottoman Empire. After the end of World War II and the Nazi holocaust, the Zionist movement succeeded in establishing an internationally recognized homeland. In November 1947, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the formation of a Jewish state.

In 1948, the British government withdrew from the mandate and the state of Israel was created in roughly 15,000 square kilometres of the mandate's land, with the remaining areas split under the control of Egypt and Transjordan. Since then, the region has seen constant disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians, represented for decades by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Wars broke out in the region in the second half of the 20th Century, involving Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

Around 750,000 Palestinians fled or were forced to leave their territory during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. The "right of return"—under which Palestinians aim to re-occupy their homes in Israel—has always been a questionable point in peace negotiations. Hundreds of thousands of refugees from the war and their descendants still live in shantytown camps run by the United

Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), next to Gaza cities and towns.

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. About 300,000 Israelis currently live in more than 100 Jewish settlements in the West Bank, along with about 2.5 million Palestinians.

Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas is currently heading the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank, endorsed by Israel and most of the Western international community. Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas has become the de-facto leader in the Gaza Strip.

The administration headed by U.S. president Barack Obama has urged the Israeli government to cease all settlement activity in order to break a deadlock in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Earlier this year, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu allowed for the construction of some 900 new settlements in occupied territory, citing the need to understand the "natural growth" of the Israeli population living in the area.

Last month, during the Arab League summit in Libya, Abbas discussed the current state of affairs, saying, "We cannot resume indirect negotiations as long as Israel maintains its settlement policy and the status quo. (...) There won't be any agreement that does not guarantee an end to the occupation, starting with Jerusalem, because there is no sense in having a Palestinian state that does not have Jerusalem as its capital."

Polling Data

Do you accept the creation of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with some land exchange as a final solution for the Palestinian problem?

Yes	28.3%
No	66.7%
No opinion / Not sure	5.0%

Do you support or reject making Jerusalem a capital for two states: Palestine and Israel?

I support	20.8%
I reject	77.4%
No opinion / Not sure	1.8%

Source: An-Najah National University

Methodology: Interviews with 1,861 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, conducted from Apr. 8 to Apr. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

Israelis Reject Construction Freeze in Jerusalem

April 17, 2010

A large proportion of adults in Israel would reject a prospective demand by U.S. president Barack Obama, according to a poll by Maagar Mochot. 70 per cent of respondents think Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu should not freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time.

In addition, 83 per cent of respondents reject the imposition of a plan which would divide Jerusalem and leave Israel without control of the Jordan Valley.

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

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

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.

In March, Israel announced it would build 1,600 homes in the Ramat Shlomo area of eastern Jerusalem. The decision was criticized by U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, who declared: "We objected to this announcement because we are committed to Israel and its security, which we believe depends on a comprehensive peace."

On Apr. 15, Rodham Clinton once again criticized Israel, saying, "Prime Minister Netanyahu has embraced the vision of the two-state solution. But easing up on access and movement in the West Bank, in response to credible Palestinian security performance, is not sufficient to prove to the Palestinians that this embrace is sincere. We encourage Israel to continue building momentum toward a comprehensive peace by demonstrating respect for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians, stopping settlement activity and addressing the humanitarian needs in Gaza."

Polling Data

In your opinion, should Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agree to the demand of President Obama, according to which Israel should freeze construction in Jerusalem for an unlimited period of time?

Yes	19%
No	70%

Don't know / Other replies	11%
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According to various reports, President Obama will try to impose an arrangement on the sides according to which, among other things, Israel does not control the Jordan Valley and Jerusalem is divided. Do you want President Obama to impose his plan on the parties?

Yes	8%
No	83%
Don't know / Other replies	9%

Source: Maagar Mochot

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 511 Israeli adults, conducted on Apr. 11 and Apr. 12, 2010. Margin of error is 4.5 per cent.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Aquino Extends Lead in the Philippines

April 22, 2010

Liberal Party (PLP) presidential nominee Benigno Aquino III remains the frontrunner in the Philippines, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations. 37 per cent of respondents would vote for Aquino in next month's election.

Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (PNP) is second with 28 per cent, followed by former president Joseph Estrada of the Force of the Filipino Masses (PMP) with 19 per cent. Support is lower for the remaining contenders, including former secretary of National Defence Gilberto Teodoro, senator Richard Gordon, and religious and political leader Eddie Villanueva.

Mar Roxas—Aquino's running mate—is leading the vice-presidential race with 42 per cent, followed by senator Loren Legarda with 25 per cent, and Makati city mayor Jejomar Binay with 21 per cent. Support is considerably lower for other candidates, such as current secretary of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Bayani Fernando, actor Eduardo Manzano, and former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Perfecto Yasay.

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

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

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

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

Yesterday, Senate president Juan Ponce Enrile rejected the notion of Estrada dropping out to avoid defeat, adding, "I may be over optimistic, but based on what I witnessed I could see the people who welcome us that Estrada is the people’s overwhelming choice."

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

Polling Data

Among the names found in this list, who will you probably vote for as President of the Philippines, if elections were held today?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Benigno Aquino III	37%	36%	42%
Manuel Villar	28%	34%	35%
Joseph Estrada	19%	15%	13%
Gilberto Teodoro	6%	6%	4%
Richard Gordon	3%	2%	2%
Eddie Villanueva	2%	3%	2%
Jamby Madrigal	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%
John Carlos de los Reyes	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Nicanor Perlas	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Vetellano Acosta	--	0.4%	0.3%
Undecided / Other	5%	4%	2%

Among the names found in this list, who will you probably vote for as Vice-President of the Philippines, if elections were held today?

	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Mar Roxas	42%	45%	49%
Loren Legarda	25%	28%	28%
Jejomar Binay	21%	17%	16%
Bayani Fernando	3%	3%	2%
Eduardo Manzano	3%	2%	2%
Perfecto Yasay	1%	0.4%	0.4%
Jose Sonza	0.3%	1%	0.3%
Dominador Chipeco	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%
Undecided / Other	5%	3%	2%

Source: Social Weather Stations / Business World

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,100 Filipino adults, conducted on Mar. 19 to Mar. 22, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Russians Flatly Reject Negotiating with Terrorists

April 21, 2010

Many adults in Russia are opposed to any kind of negotiation with terrorists, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 75 per cent of respondents believe that terrorism can only be eradicated by defeating the terrorists.

Chechen rebels have tried to secede from the Russian Federation since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Several terrorist incidents in Russia have been blamed on the loose group, including two airplane crashes, a suicide bombing in Moscow and the assassination of Chechnya's president Akhmad Kadyrov in May 2004.

In September 2004, militants took control of a middle school in Beslan, North Ossetia. The three-day siege left 344 civilians dead, including 172 children. Chechen separatist leader Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility for the attack. Basayev died in an explosion in July 2006.

On Mar. 29, at least 40 people died and 100 more were injured after two suicide bombers targeted the Lubyanka and Park Kultury metro stations in Moscow. Two days later, Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov claimed responsibility for the attacks.

On Apr. 1, Russian president Dmitry Medvedev vowed to defeat terrorism, saying, "We have twisted off the heads of the most odious bandits, but it looks like this is not enough. Perhaps the list of measures—and not only for our country, but in general—should be broadened to become not only more effective but also harsher and, if you wish, more brutal to prevent terrorist attacks."

Polling Data

Which of these two points of view is closer to your own?

	2010	2002
Terrorism can only be eradicated by defeating the terrorists	75%	70%
It is necessary to negotiate with terrorists and find solutions	16%	23%
Not sure	9%	7%

Source: Russian Public Opinion Research Center

Methodology: Interviews with 1,600 Russian adults, conducted on Apr. 3 and Apr. 4, 2010.

Margin of error is 3.4 per cent.

Communists Gain Momentum in Czech Republic

April 19, 2010

The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) has increased its standing in the Czech Republic as a legislative ballot nears, according to a poll by Median. 16.8 per cent of respondents would vote for the Communists, up four points since February.

The opposition Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) is in first place with 27.0 per cent, followed by the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) with 21.2 per cent. Support is lower for Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09), the Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL), the Green Party (SZ) and Public Affairs (VV).

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

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

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

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

In March, during a photo shoot for a magazine that targets a gay audience, Topolánek compared a gay minister, Gustav Slamečka, with caretaker prime minister Fischer, saying: "When things

really get tough, really tough, then I have the feeling that Slamecka, as a minister, gives way. And that Fischer is simply a Jew, not a gay, and he gives way earlier still. That's got nothing to do with his being gay, that's a matter of character; it's not linked to him being gay." Topolanek also said that the church "has got control of people by means of brainwashing."

On Apr. 12, following the public outcry over his comments, Topolanek tendered his resignation as leader and was replaced by Petr Necas. The former prime minister declared: "I will never be a stilted-style politician who would change his opinions in accordance with the recommendations of marketing advisers. I will not use empty sentences or express myself in a roundabout way and vaguely."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 1	Feb. 2	Dec. 17
Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD)	27.0%	32.0%	29.3%
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)	21.2%	27.8%	23.4%
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM)	16.8%	12.8%	15.9%
Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 (TOP 09)	7.5%	9.3%	9.9%
Christian and Democratic Union - Czech People's Party (KDU-CSL)	7.4%	7.4%	6.9%
Green Party (SZ)	4.8%	4.3%	4.0%
Public Affairs (VV)	4.3%	2.4%	2.3%

Source: Median

Methodology: Interviews with 1,085 Czech adults, conducted from Mar. 2 to Apr. 1, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

WEST EUROPE

Liberal Democrats Slightly Ahead in Britain

April 22, 2010

The Liberal Democrats have become the most popular political party in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 33 per cent of respondents would support the Lib-Dems in next month's General Election.

The opposition Conservative Party is second with 32 per cent, followed by the governing Labour Party with 23 per cent. 12 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. 15, the three main party leaders took part in the first of three televised debates that will take place during the campaign. Clegg was widely regarded as the winner of the contest, a fact that provoked the surge in support for his party. The second debate will take place tonight.

Yesterday, Brown said he would consider working with the Lib-Dems, adding, "If you want a referendum on new politics, you've got to consider voting Labour. We are the only party committed to a referendum on it. You won't get one with the Tories."

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. 20	Apr. 19	Apr. 13	Apr. 7
Liberal Democrats	33%	32%	22%	22%
Conservative	32%	32%	38%	37%
Labour	23%	24%	28%	26%
Other	12%	12%	13%	15%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,953 British adults, conducted on Apr. 19 and Apr. 20, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Liberal Democrats Tie Conservatives in Britain

April 20, 2010

The Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats are tied as Britons ponder their choices in next month's General Election, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 32 per cent of respondents would support the Tories, while 32 per cent would back the Lib-Dems.

The governing Labour Party is third with 24 per cent. 12 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties. Support for the Lib-Dems increased by 10 points in a week, while backing for the Tories fell by six points.

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. 15, the three main party leaders took part in the first of three televised debates that will take place during the campaign. Clegg was widely regarded as the winner of the contest, a fact that provoked the surge in support for his party.

Yesterday, Clegg discussed his party's recent success, saying, "I think this general election campaign is starting to come to life for the simple reason that a growing number of people are starting—it is only a start—starting to believe, starting to hope, that we can do something different this time. (...) That the old tired choices that they have been given by the old parties of the past no longer need to govern the way in which we run politics in the future."

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. 19	Apr. 13	Apr. 7	Apr. 1
Conservative	32%	38%	37%	38%
Liberal Democrats	32%	22%	22%	20%
Labour	24%	28%	26%	27%
Other	12%	13%	15%	15%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,004 British adults, conducted from Apr. 16 to Apr. 19, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Spaniards Reject Government's Abortion Law

April 18, 2010

People in Spain are not satisfied with their government's new pregnancy termination regulations, according to a poll by NC Report published in La Razón. 54.2 per cent of respondents oppose the Abortion Law.

Under the previous legislation—introduced in 1985—women in Spain could only terminate a pregnancy in cases of rape, fetal defects, or health risk to the mother.

In September 2009, the Spanish government—headed by José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of the Socialist Workers Party (PSOE)—proposed amending the law to allow any woman over the age of 16 to have an abortion on demand in the first 14 weeks of gestation, and in the first 22 weeks if the fetus has a serious or incurable disease. The new law—which will come into effect on Jul. 5—would also allow minors to seek an abortion without the authorization of their parents or guardians.

The current Spanish government has been criticized by the opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) for its decision to change the abortion law and legalize same-sex marriage.

Earlier this month, Zapatero defended his policies, saying, "The gay marriage law has actually made me feel extremely proud. I think people see it as something entirely normal in Spain, gay marriages. We were told that we were killing the family in Spain and yet the Spanish family is in rude health, and a lot more people are happy. We've managed to recognize the right of people who have been discriminated against and harassed for many years, because of their sexual orientation and I hope that is an unstoppable trend in advanced societies."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the government's Abortion Law?

Support	37.2%
Oppose	54.2%

Source: NC Report / La Razón

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Spanish adults, conducted on Mar. 31, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Bush Still Gets More Blame for Economy Than Obama

Of the three party groups, only Republicans say Obama bears more blame than Bush

April 21, 2010

More than a year into Barack Obama's presidency, Americans are more likely to say George W. Bush is responsible for today's economic problems than they are to say Obama is responsible. Gallup shows a significant uptick since last July in the percentage of Americans blaming Obama at least a moderate amount (from 32% to 50%), but little decrease (from 80% to 75%) in the percentage blaming Bush.

Blame for U.S. Economic Problems

Thinking about the economic problems currently facing the United States, how much do you blame -- [George W. Bush/Barack Obama] for these -- a great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or not at all?

	Great deal	Moderate amount	Not much/ Not at all	Total great deal/ moderate amount
March 26-28, 2010				
George W. Bush	42%	33%	24%	75%
Barack Obama	26%	24%	50%	50%
July 17-19, 2009				
George W. Bush	43%	37%	20%	80%
Barack Obama	14%	18%	67%	32%

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Proportionally, the gap in perceived culpability for current economic problems is even wider when one looks at the percentage blaming each president "a great deal" -- 26% for Obama and 42% for Bush.

"The 'blame' data suggest that these job ratings could be even lower were Obama more widely perceived as directly responsible for the economy's problems."

Obama has stated that he "inherited the most profound economic emergency since the Great Depression." And while some of his critics dispute the extent of the crisis, there is little debate that he arrived in Washington amid rising unemployment, struggling equity and housing markets, distressed banking and auto industries, and a rapid retreat in consumer spending. Americans in July 2009 clearly recognized that the nation's economic problems preceded Obama's term; at that time, close to half of Republicans (43%) -- in addition to most independents (63%) and nearly all Democrats (92%) -- believed Obama bore little or no responsibility for them.

Those figures have since declined, particularly among Republicans; nevertheless, political independents, as well as Democrats, continue to blame Bush much more than Obama for the current problems.

Blame for U.S. Economic Problems -- by Party ID

Thinking about the economic problems currently facing the United States, how much do you blame -- [Barack Obama/George W. Bush] for these -- a great deal, a moderate amount, not much, or not at all?

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
BARACK OBAMA			
Great deal	12%	24%	46%
Moderate amount	14%	26%	31%
Not much/Not at all	75%	49%	23%
GEORGE W. BUSH			
Great deal	70%	39%	15%
Moderate amount	20%	38%	42%
Not much/Not at all	10%	24%	43%

USA Today/Gallup, March 26-28, 2010

GALLUP*

Obama's current job approval rating -- recently bobbing just below 50%, and low by historical standards -- may partly reflect Americans' general economic discontent. Indeed, against the backdrop of broadly low economic confidence, Obama's approval rating on the economy is now 37%, with 61% disapproving. The "blame" data suggest that these job ratings could be even lower were Obama more widely perceived as directly responsible for the economy's problems.

Gallup's Presidential Job Approval Center shows that, of the presidents in office during economic recessions, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan all received lower overall job approval ratings at the official "troughs" of their recessions than Obama has yet received as president. Ford's approval rating was 37% in March 1975; Carter's was 33% in July 1980; and Reagan's was 43% in November 1982.

However, other presidents who served during recessions -- Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush -- all had ratings of 50% or better at the troughs of those recessions. In most cases, this was a reflection of timing (shortly after inauguration) or of other major events (such as the Persian Gulf War and 9/11) overshadowing the economy.

Bottom Line

Theoretically, Obama accumulates more responsibility for the nation's economy every day he's in office. That could bear down increasingly hard on his approval rating if unemployment continues to hold at or near 10% and consumer attitudes remain negative. However, the big upside is that

should the economy rebound on his watch -- and recent Gallup tracking has some signs of a "nascent" recovery -- Obama is poised to receive much of the credit.

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.

On 40th Earth Day, Image of Green Movement Still Positive

Attitudes not quite as positive as they were a decade ago

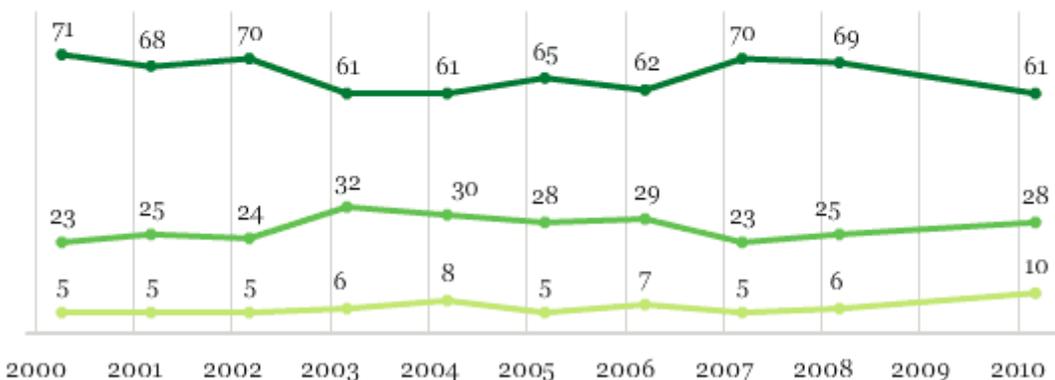
April 22, 2010

Nineteen percent of Americans say they are an active participant in the environmental movement, while 42% are sympathetic, but not active. The combined active/sympathetic group has declined some since Gallup first measured this in 2000, but, at 61%, it remains high. Currently, 28% are neutral and 10% are unsympathetic.

Orientation Toward Environmental Movement

Thinking about the environmental movement, do you think of yourself as -- an active participant in the environmental movement, sympathetic towards the movement, but not active, neutral, or unsympathetic towards the environmental movement?

■ % Active/sympathetic ■ % Neutral ■ % Unsympathetic

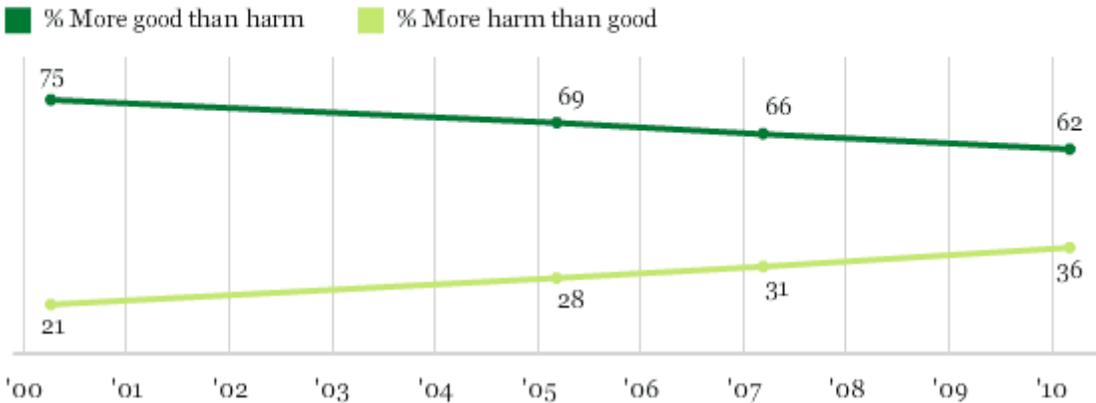


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Current U.S. attitudes about the impact of the environmental movement show a similar level of support for it. Sixty-two percent of Americans -- down from 75% in 2000 -- say the movement has definitely or probably done more good than harm. Just over a third of the public tends to believe the opposite -- that movement has done more harm than good.

Perceived Impact of the Environmental Movement

All things considered, do you think the environmental movement in this nation has done more good than harm, or more harm than good? Would you say it has done -- definitely more good than harm, probably more good than harm, probably more harm than good, or definitely more harm than good?



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On both questions, Americans who are most supportive of the environmental movement or its impact are the young (aged 18 to 34), those with college degrees, Democrats and self-described liberals. While men and women are equally likely to believe the movement has done more good than harm, women are more likely to personally associate themselves with it.

Positive Views Toward Environmental Movement

March 4-7, 2010

	Active in/Sympathetic with movement	Movement done more good than harm
	%	%
National adults	61	62
Men	54	61
Women	68	63
18 to 34 years	72	72
35 to 54 years	59	62
55 and older	57	55
College graduate	70	71
Some college	62	61
No college	51	54
Republican	51	49
Independent	59	62
Democrat	73	75
Conservative	44	44
Moderate	72	73
Liberal	79	78

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In recent years Gallup's annual environment survey has documented increased political polarization over environmental issues, particularly regarding global warming. In line with Republicans' and conservatives' increasing skepticism about the seriousness of global warming, these groups are now significantly less likely than Democrats, moderates, and liberals to be sympathetic toward the movement or to say it is doing more good than harm.

Gallup Scholar for the Environment, Dr. Riley Dunlap, provides an in-depth review of these trends on Gallup.com in a special guest commentary on this 40th observation of Earth Day.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 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 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.

At 40, Environmental Movement Endures, With Less Consensus

April 22, 2010

April 22 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day, an event widely considered to be the birth of the modern environmental movement. Few social movements survive 40 years, so in this sense alone, environmentalism might be considered successful. On the other hand, the movement has had limited success in policy arenas in recent years, leading to allegations of the "death of environmentalism." [1] In addition, this year's Gallup Environment poll finds historically low levels of public worry about environmental problems (particularly global warming) and support for environmental protection. Are we witnessing the end of environmentalism as a significant social movement and, in the eyes of many, a major progressive force in the United States?

Orientation Toward the Environmental Movement

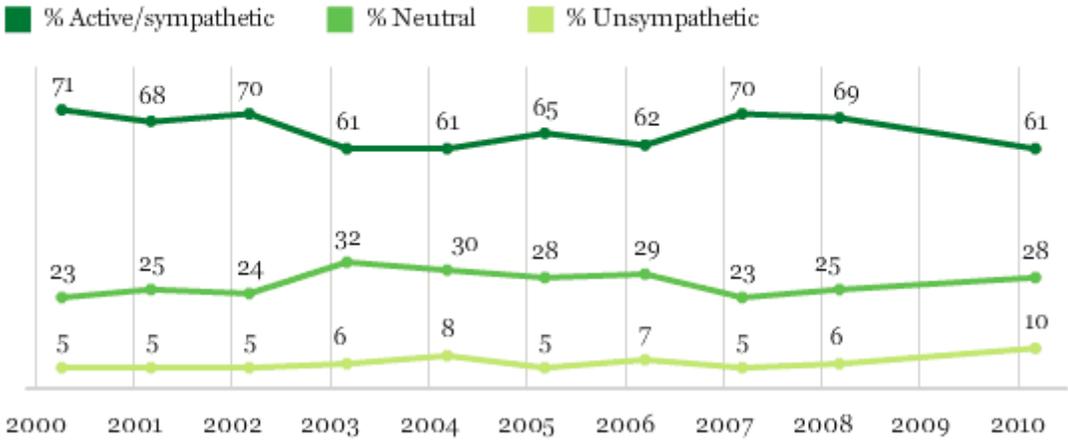
In 2000, Gallup began asking about perceptions of and involvement in the environmental movement. Although conducted a decade after public support for environmental protection peaked in the early 1990s (in conjunction with the widely celebrated 20th anniversary of Earth Day), [2] the 2000 poll found large majorities of Americans holding positive views toward the movement. [3] However, there has been a downturn in these views over the last 10 years, and they have hit new lows in this year's poll.

When Americans are asked to indicate their stance vis-à-vis the environmental movement -- on a spectrum from active participant to unsympathetic -- this year, 19% report being an "active participant," 42% being "sympathetic towards the movement, but not active," 28% being "neutral" and 10% being "unsympathetic."

Since 2000, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of Americans claiming to be active participants in the movement, from 16% to 19%, but a noticeable decline of 13 percentage points in those claiming to be sympathetic to the movement. The result is a 10-point drop (from 71% to 61%) in the overall percentage of Americans holding a positive orientation toward the environmental movement over the past decade. This decline is mirrored in the 10-point overall increase in those claiming to be neutral or unsympathetic toward the movement (from 28% to 38%). These results suggest that while it still enjoys majority support, the environmental movement is less consensual than it was a decade ago, with about 6 in 10 Americans now being active in or sympathetic toward it.

Orientation Toward Environmental Movement

Thinking about the environmental movement, do you think of yourself as -- an active participant in the environmental movement, sympathetic towards the movement, but not active, neutral, or unsympathetic towards the environmental movement?

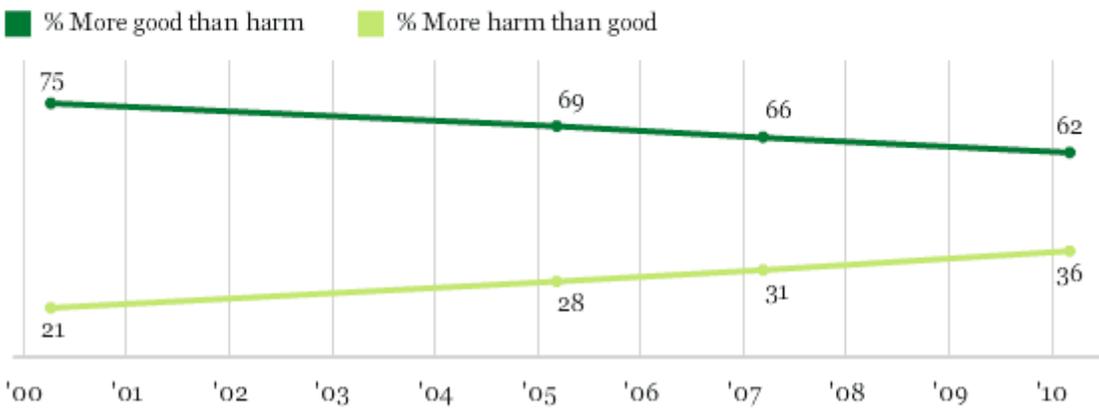


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A second item asks respondents whether they think the environmental movement has done more good than harm, or vice versa, and a similar but slightly stronger pattern emerges. This year, 22% respond that the movement has "definitely done more good than harm" and 40% that it has "probably done more good than harm," for a total of 62% holding a positive view. This reflects a decline of 13 points since 2000. Conversely, there has been a 15-point rise since 2000 in the overall percentage saying the environmental movement has done more harm than good.

Perceived Impact of the Environmental Movement

All things considered, do you think the environmental movement in this nation has done more good than harm, or more harm than good? Would you say it has done -- definitely more good than harm, probably more good than harm, probably more harm than good, or definitely more harm than good?



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No doubt many factors, particularly the state of the economy, have contributed to the overall lower levels of public concern about environmental problems as well as the less positive views of the environmental movement in this year's survey. The growing political polarization over environmental issues is likely another key factor.[4] This has been most apparent in the case of global warming,[5] but political polarization is not confined to this issue. In fact, it shows up in evaluations of the environmental movement.

Among self-identified Democrats there was a moderate increase (from 14% to 24%) between 2000 and 2010 in the percentage claiming active membership in the environmental movement, but a 13-point decline (from 63% to 50%) in the percentage saying they were sympathetic to the movement. The result is a slight three-point decline in positive orientation toward the movement among Democrats over the past decade.

In contrast, while the percentage of Republicans claiming active membership remained stable (going from 14% to 15%), the percentage holding a sympathetic view of the movement dropped 14 percentage points, from 50% in 2000 to 36% this year. The overall result is a 13-point decline in positive orientation toward the movement among Republicans over the decade. Particularly notable is the doubling of Republicans who say they are unsympathetic to the movement, from 8% to 18%.

Independents also show a noticeable decline in positive orientation toward environmentalism, from 70% in 2000 to 59% this year, all due to a drop in the sympathetic category. The result is that their current orientation toward the movement is closer to Republicans' orientation than to Democrats'.

Orientation Toward Environmental Movement, by Party ID

2010 vs. 2000

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
2010			
An active participant	24%	19%	15%
Sympathetic, but not active	50%	40%	36%
Neutral	22%	31%	30%
Unsympathetic	3%	10%	18%
2000			
An active participant	14%	19%	14%
Sympathetic, but not active	63%	51%	50%
Neutral	20%	22%	27%
Unsympathetic	2%	4%	8%

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The trend in partisan perceptions of the impact of the environmental movement reveals a similar pattern. There has been a modest (5-point) decline since 2000 in the percentage of Democrats who believe the environmental movement has definitely or probably done more good than harm (from 80% to 75%), but among Republicans the decline is 21 points (from 70% to 49%). The 10-point difference between partisans' positive evaluations of the movement in 2000 more than doubled to 26 points this year. The 13-point decline among independents, from 75% to 62%, puts them about midway between the partisans, as they were in 2000, when the differences between Republicans and Democrats were substantially smaller.

Perceived Impact of Environmental Movement, by Party ID

2010 vs. 2000

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
2010			
Definitely more good than harm	32%	21%	13%
Probably more good than harm	43%	41%	36%
Probably more harm than good	16%	24%	27%
Definitely more harm than good	7%	11%	22%
2000			
Definitely more good than harm	37%	35%	27%
Probably more good than harm	43%	40%	43%
Probably more harm than good	8%	11%	18%
Definitely more harm than good	8%	10%	10%

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These results indicate that the decline in positive views of the environmental movement among Americans over the past decade is disproportionately the result of substantial declines among Republicans, which dwarf those among Democrats. A similar pattern, not shown here, occurs for political ideology, with support for the environmental movement declining more noticeably among conservatives than liberals over the last 10 years.

This process of political polarization over environmental issues and the movement more broadly seems unlikely to abate in the near future, given current political conflict over issues such as climate change -- especially policy proposals for reducing carbon emissions.

Personal Environmental Behaviors and Activism

Interestingly, even as this year's Environment poll reveals a noticeable rise in negative views of the environmental movement, it also documents considerable stability in personal environmental behaviors and activism.

Respondents' self-reported engagement in eight types of "pro-environmental" behavior show a striking degree of stability over the past decade. The percentages of Americans who report engaging in the most popular and easiest-to-perform behaviors either stayed the same (recycling) or experienced negligible increases (reducing household energy and making "green" purchases).

For the five items tapping various forms of activism, small declines occurred for contributing money to a group (hardly surprising, given current economic conditions) and contacting a business to complain about harmful products (the least common of all the behaviors). Being active in an environmental group or organization, voting for candidates because of their environmental positions, and contacting public officials about an environmental issue remained virtually unchanged from 2000 to 2010.

Environmental Actions with Gallup Trends from 2000

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

	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
Bought some product specifically because you thought it was better for the environment than competing products	73	72	70	76	+3
Contributed money to an environmental, conservation or wildlife preservation group	40	42	43	36	-4
Voted for or worked for candidates because of their position on environmental issues	28	30	35	28	0
Contacted a public official about an environmental issue	18	15	17	17	-1
Been active in a group or organization that works to protect the environment	15	20	19	17	+2
Contacted a business to complain about its products or policies because they harm the environment	13	n/a	9	8	-5

n/a = not asked

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Implications

In sum, even as the American public has developed a somewhat less positive view of the environmental movement over the past decade, it continues to embrace many pro-environmental behaviors. This suggests that some of the goals of environmentalism, such as promoting

recycling, have become widely accepted (even if the degree of recycling remains much lower than its potential) and noncontroversial among Americans. Further, the (often large) minorities of Americans who engage in various forms of environmental activism -- such as being active in an environmental group or taking the issue into account when they vote -- remain stable, despite the declining popularity of the environmental movement among the public at large.

The overall message seems to be that even though the environmental movement is the subject of more conflict than ever, individual behaviors in support of it endure. While environmentalism thus seems far from dead, activists are surely hoping that 2010 marks a temporary low point in public support for its goals. Without such support, the movement will continue to decline in effectiveness.

Riley E. Dunlap is Gallup Scholar for the Environment and Regents Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 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 519 national adults in the Form A half-sample and 495 national adults in the Form B half-sample, 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.

[1] Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, *Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility*. New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2007.

[2] Riley E. Dunlap, "An Enduring Concern: Light Stays Green for Environmental Protection," *Public Perspective* 13 (September/October, 2002), pp. 10-14.

[3] Riley E. Dunlap, "Americans Have Positive Image of the Environmental Movement," *Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 415 (April, 2000), pp. 19-25.

[4] In 1970 environmental protection was widely touted as a consensual, apolitical issue. While most surveys did find a moderate but statistically significant tendency for political liberals to express more "pro-environment" views than did their conservative counterparts, the results for party identification were typically weaker. Democrats were generally found to hold somewhat more pro-environmental views than did Republicans, but the differences were often not statistically significant. The pattern began to change in the mid-1990s, as partisan differences

became more noticeable -- particularly among political elites such as members of Congress but also among the general public (with Republicans expressing significantly less pro-environmental views than their Democratic counterparts in national surveys). For a review of relevant studies and trend data through the late 1990s see Riley E. Dunlap, Chenyang Xiao and Aaron M. McCright, "Politics and Environment in America: Partisan and Ideological Cleavages in Public Support for Environmentalism," *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 10 (Winter, 2000), pp. 23-48.

[5] For evidence of growing ideological polarization in views of global warming see Jeffrey M. Jones, "Conservatives' Doubts About Global Warming Grow," March 11, 2010 at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/126563/Conservatives-Doubts-Global-Warming-Grow.aspx> and for evidence of growing partisan polarization see Riley E. Dunlap, "Climate-Change Views: Republic-Democratic Gaps Expand," May 29, 2008 at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/107569/ClimateChange-Views-RepublicanDemocratic-Gaps-Expand.aspx>. Also see Riley E. Dunlap and Aaron M. McCright, "A Widening Gap: Republican and Democratic Views on Climate Change," *Environment* 50 (September/October, 2008), pp. 26-35.

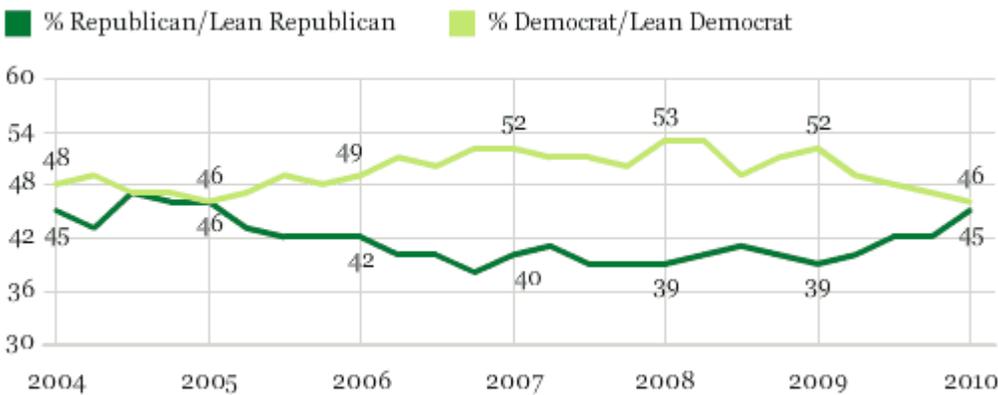
Party Affiliation Gap in U.S. Narrowest Since 2005

Democratic advantage shrinks as more independents lean to the Republican Party

April 23, 2010

The advantage in public support the Democratic Party built up during the latter part of the Bush administration and the early part of the Obama administration has all but disappeared. During the first quarter of 2010, 46% of Americans identified as Democrats or leaned Democratic, while 45% identified as or leaned Republican.

Party Identification and Leaning, Quarterly Averages, 2004 to 2010



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The latest results, based on aggregated data from Gallup polls conducted from January to March of this year, show the closest party division since the first quarter of 2005, when the parties were tied at 46%. Democrats enjoyed double-digit advantages in party support in 11 of 12 quarters from the second quarter of 2006 to the first quarter of 2009.

By the end of last year, the Democratic advantage had shrunk to five points (47% to 42%), and it narrowed further in the most recent quarter.

The six-point rise in Republican support since the first quarter of 2009 is due entirely to a growing proportion of independents who lean to the Republican Party, rather than an increase in the percentage of Americans who identify as Republicans outright. (Gallup measures party identification by first asking Americans whether they identify as Republicans, Democrats, or independents. Those who are independent or express no party preference are then asked whether they lean more toward the Democratic or the Republican Party.)

In fact, the 28% of Americans who initially identify as Republicans today is identical to the figure Gallup measured in early 2009, when the Democrats still had a double-digit advantage in support. Since then, there has been a three-point reduction in the proportion of Democratic identifiers, and a three-point decline in the percentage of Democratic-leaning independents.

Party Identification and Leaning, by Quarter, 2009-2010

	% Repub- lican identifier	% Republican- leaning independent	% Independent, no leaning	% Democratic- leaning independent	% Demo- cratic identifier
Q1 2010	28	17	8	14	32
Q4 2009	27	15	8	14	33
Q3 2009	27	15	8	13	35
Q2 2009	28	12	10	15	34
Q1 2009	28	11	8	17	35
Change, Q1 2009 to Q1 2010	0	6	0	-3	-3

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As the table shows, Democrats maintain an edge in initial party identification over Republicans, 32% to 28%. That advantage has also shrunk over the last year, from a 35% to 28% Democratic edge in the first quarter of 2009.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 4,095 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted from January to March 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 ± 2 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a

landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only).

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

One in Five Americans Fear Job Loss in Next 12 Months

If laid off, 44% could go barely a month before experiencing significant financial hardship

April 23, 2010

Even as Gallup's underemployment measure shows that more people are getting full-time jobs, 21% of American workers think it is "very" or "fairly" likely that they will lose their jobs or be laid off during the next 12 months. That is nearly twice the 12% pre-recession level of 2007 and about the same as the 19% recorded in late 1982, during another deep recession.

Thinking about the next twelve months, how likely do you think it is that you will lose your job or be laid off -- is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

■ % Very/Fairly likely



Asked of adults who work full-time or part-time

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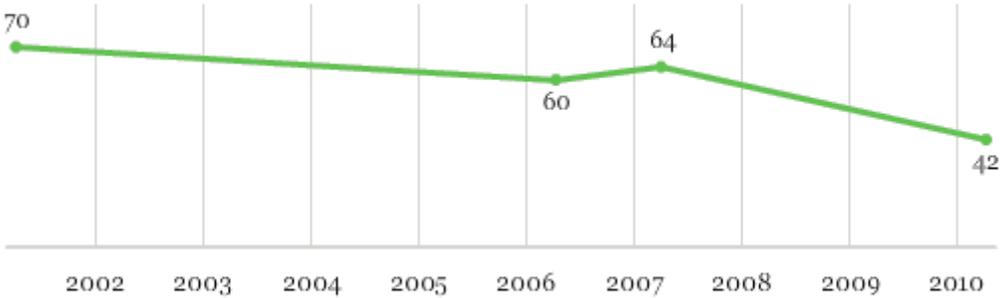
Further reflecting today's lack of job security, 38% of Americans employed full- or part-time say they are "not at all likely" to lose their jobs over the next year -- down 19 points from April 2007, and by far the lowest level of self-professed job security Gallup has measured since 1975.

Many Could Not Replace Their Current Jobs

American workers are not optimistic about replacing their current jobs if they are laid off: 42% say they would be "very" (16%) or "somewhat" (26%) likely to find another job "just as good as the one [they] have now." This is down from 64% in April 2007 and 70% in April 2001.

If you were to lose your job, how likely is it that you would find a job just as good as the one you have now -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

■ % Very/Somewhat likely



Asked of adults who work full-time or part-time

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Many Would Encounter Financial Hardship

Forty-four percent of employees say they could go up to a month after losing their job before experiencing significant financial hardship, and another 27% say they could last up to four months. This financial fragility is not much different than it was in April 2003 and February 2001, when 41% and 46%, respectively, said they could last up to a month.

Paycheck dependency is more prevalent in the South as well as among those who have a high school education or less and those who make less than \$30,000 a year.

If you were to lose your job, how long could you go without a job before experiencing significant financial hardship -- up to one week, up to one month, up to four months, up to one year, (or) more than one year?

Asked of adults who work full-time or part-time

	% Up to one week	% Up to one month	% Up to four months	% Up to one year	% More than one year
ALL AMERICAN WORKERS	14	30	27	15	13
REGION					
East	9	28	26	16	19
Midwest	18	25	28	18	10
South	18	33	27	13	10
West	9	35	26	16	13
EDUCATION					
High school or less	24	38	17	9	10
College/Postgrad	10	27	31	18	13
ANNUAL INCOME					
Less than \$30,000	40	41	10	6	3
\$30,000 to \$74,999	14	33	29	16	8
\$75,000+	1	19	35	22	22

April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

Commentary

Today, Americans are feeling particularly vulnerable if they lose their job. Many don't think they can replace their current job with one just as good. Also, nearly half can't go more than a month without a paycheck before encountering significant financial hardship.

This is the case even as Gallup's Job Creation Index shows that the percentage of companies laying people off has recently declined. Evidently, the downturn in layoffs has not been good enough to make many Americans feel secure in their present jobs. Regaining personal job security is likely to take time and significant new hiring activity.

Job fears raise the question of whether the modest uptick in spending seen in March and early April is sustainable. The actual "return of the consumer" may require not only that Americans

see fewer layoffs, but that they also begin to feel secure again about their jobs and even their ability to get a similar new job if they are let go.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted April 8-11, 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.

Half of Americans Support Afghanistan Mission

April 23, 2010

Half of adults in the United States are in favour of the country's current military engagement in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents support the mission involving American soldiers, down three points since February.

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 1,720 soldiers—including 1,037 Americans—have died in the war on terrorism, either in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Earlier this month, U.S. president Barack Obama outlined his views on the conflict, saying, "I would dispute the notion that it is not getting better [in Afghanistan]. I do think that what we have seen is a blunting of the momentum of the Taliban, which had been building up in the year prior to me taking office."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 2010	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Support	51%	54%	49%
Oppose	39%	38%	42%

Not sure	10%	7%	10%
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Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,002 American adults, conducted on Apr. 14 and Apr. 15, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Americans Endorse Racial Profiling at Airports

April 19, 2010

Many adults in the United States support security personnel relying on a passenger's racial or religious characteristics to determine whether this passenger requires a more thorough review, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents agree with this notion, while 39 per cent disagree.

Al-Qaeda operatives hijacked and crashed four airplanes in the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people. In July 2004, the federal commission that investigated the events of 9/11 concluded that "none of the measures adopted by the U.S. government from 1998 to 2001 disturbed or even delayed the progress of the al-Qaeda plot" and pointed out government failures of "imagination, policy, capabilities, and management."

On Dec. 25, Nigerian national Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to detonate explosives hidden in his underwear during a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. Abdulmutallab has been charged with attempting to blow up an aircraft, placing a destructive device on an aircraft, attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and attempted murder of 289 people.

On Apr. 2, the Department of Homeland Security introduced new intelligence-based airline security measures, which are meant to replace the mandatory rigorous pre-flight screening of travelers from 14 countries. The U.S. government had first implemented those guidelines after the Abdulmutallab incident.

U.S. homeland security secretary Janet Napolitano discussed the new regulations, saying, "Of course, after the events of December 25, I think it reminded everyone that aviation remains a target of al-Qaeda and how important it is going to be for us to work in a variety of ways to keep improving aviation security."

Polling Data

Overall, do you support or oppose security personnel relying on a passenger's racial or religious characteristics to determine whether this passenger requires a more thorough review?

Support	51%
Oppose	39%
Not sure	10%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,005 American adults, conducted on Apr. 6 and Apr. 7, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Only Two-in-Five Canadians Back Afghan Mission

April 24, 2010

Public support for the military mission in Afghanistan has dropped in Canada, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 39 per cent of respondents support the operation involving Canadian soldiers, down eight points since February.

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 1,720 soldiers—including 142 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).

In November 2009, Canadian intelligence officer and diplomat Richard Colvin testified to a parliamentary committee about a series of memos he wrote between May 2006 and October 2007 warning that Afghan detainees captured by Canadians and turned over to Afghan authorities were being tortured in Afghani prisons. Colvin testified that those memos were ignored until newspaper reports brought the matter into the public eye. Canadian government ministers have dismissed Colvin's claims as "not credible" and "entirely suspect."

In March 2010, Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper discussed the situation, saying, "Truth of the matter is, of course, that Canadian diplomats, Canadian military personnel have at all times respected Canada's international obligations." Harper has appointed retired Supreme Court justice Frank Iacobucci to review "all relevant documents" pertaining to the Afghan detainee controversy.

On Apr. 19, Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan William Crosbie discussed the future, saying, "The reality in this country is that the crimes have been committed by so many people from many different sides [to the point] where it's difficult to separate the bad guys from the good guys. Canada has long supported the concept of transitional justice. That is to say, those who have committed atrocities—not just those who are insurgents—but those who may be part of the political process now should, in one way or another, account for their actions."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 2010	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Support	39%	47%	42%
Oppose	56%	49%	53%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,007 Canadian adults, conducted on Apr. 8 and Apr. 9, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Teens, Cell Phones and Texting

Text Messaging Becomes Centerpiece Communication

April 20, 2010

The mobile phone has become the favored communication hub for the majority of American teens.¹

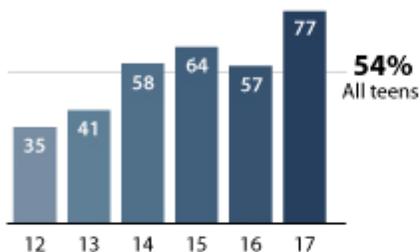
Cell-phone texting has become the preferred channel of basic communication between teens and their friends, with cell calling a close second. Some 75% of 12-17 year-olds now own cell phones, up from 45% in 2004. Those phones have become indispensable tools in teen communication patterns. Fully 72% of all teens² -- or 88% of teen cell phone users -- are text-messagers. That is a sharp rise from the 51% of teens who were texters in 2006. More than half of teens (54%) are daily texters.

Among all teens, their frequency of use of texting has now overtaken the frequency of every other common form of interaction with their friends (see chart below).

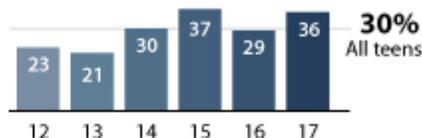
Most teens text friends daily

The % of teens who contact their friends daily by different methods, by age

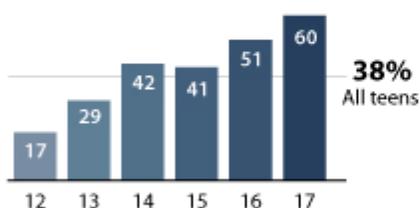
Text messaging



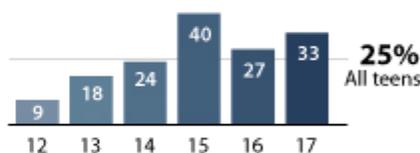
Talk on a landline phone



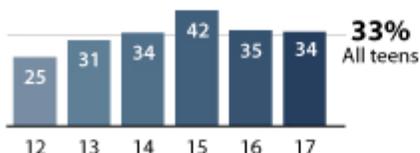
Call on cell phone



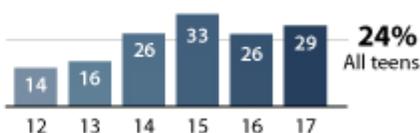
Social network site



Talk face-to-face



Instant messaging



Email



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project surveys. "All teens" refers to all teens ages 12-17.



Fully two-thirds of teen texters say they are more likely to use their cell phones to text their friends than talk to them to them by cell phone.

One in three teens sends more than 100 text messages a day, or 3000 texts a month.

Daily text messaging by teens to friends has increased rapidly since early 2008. Some 38% of teens were daily texters in February 2008, and that has risen to 54% of teens who use text daily in September 2009. Of the 75% of teens who own cell phones, 87% use text messaging at least occasionally. Among those teen texters:

- Half of teens send 50 or more text messages a day, or 1,500 texts a month, and one in three send more than 100 texts a day, or more than 3,000 texts a month.
- 15% of teens who are texters send more than 200 texts a day, or more than 6,000 texts a month.
- Boys typically send and receive 30 texts a day; girls typically send and receive 80 messages per day.
- Teen texters ages 12-13 typically send and receive 20 texts a day.
- 14-17 year-old texters typically send and receive 60 text messages a day.
- Older girls who text are the most active, with 14-17 year-old girls typically sending 100 or more messages a day or more than 3,000 texts a month.
- However, while many teens are avid texters, a substantial minority are not. One-fifth of teen texters (22%) send and receive just one to 10 texts a day or 30 to 300 texts a month.

Calling is still a central function of the cell phone for teens, and for many teens voice is the primary mode of conversing with parents.

Among cell-owning teens, using the phone for calling is a critically important function, especially when it comes to connecting with their parents. But teens make and receive far fewer phone calls than text messages on their cell phones.

Teens typically make or receive five calls a day. White teens typically make or receive four calls a day, or around 120 calls a month, while black teens exchange seven calls a day or about 210 calls a month and Hispanic teens typically make and receive five calls a day or about 150 calls a month.

Girls more fully embrace most aspects of cell phone-based communication.

As we see with other communicative technologies and applications, girls are more likely than boys to use both text messaging and voice calling and are likely to do each more frequently.

- Girls typically send and receive 80 texts a day; boys send and receive 30.
- 86% of girls text message friends several times a day; 64% of boys do the same.
- 59% of girls call friends on their cell phone every day; 42% of boys call friends daily on their cell phone daily.

Girls are also more likely than boys to text for social reasons, to text privately and to text about school work.

- 59% of girls text several times a day to "just say hello and chat"; 42% of boys do so.
- 84% of girls have long text exchanges on personal matters; 67% of boys have similar exchanges.
- 76% of girls text about school work, while 64% of boys text about school.

For parents, teens' attachment to their phones is an area of conflict and regulation.

Parents exert some measure of control over their child's mobile phone -- limiting its uses, checking its contents and using it to monitor the whereabouts of their offspring. In fact, the latter is one of the primary reasons many parents acquire a cell phone for their child. However, with a few notable exceptions, these activities by parents do not seem to impact patterns of cell phone use by teens.

- 64% of parents look at the contents of their child's cell phone and 62% of parents have taken away their child's phone as punishment.
- 46% of parents limit the number of minutes their children may talk and 52% limit the times of day they may use the phone.
- 48% of parents use the phone to monitor their child's location.³
- Parents of 12-13 year-old girls are more likely to report most monitoring behavior.
- Limiting a child's text messaging does relate to lower levels of various texting behaviors among teens. These teens are less likely to report regretting a text they sent, or to report sending sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images by text (also known as "sexting").
- Teens whose parents limit their texting are also less likely to report being passengers in cars where the driver texted behind the wheel or used the phone in a dangerous manner while driving.

Most schools treat the phone as a disruptive force that must be managed and often excluded from the school and the classroom.

Even though most schools treat cell phones as something to be contained and regulated, teens are nevertheless still texting frequently in class.

- 12% of all students say they can have their phone at school at any time.
- 62% of all students say they can have their phone in school, just not in class.
- 24% of teens attend schools that ban all cell phones from school grounds.
- Still, 65% of cell-owning teens at schools that completely ban phones bring their phones to school every day.
- 58% of cell-owning teens at schools that ban phones have sent a text message during class.
- 43% of all teens who take their phones to school say they text in class at least once a day or more.
- 64% of teens with cell phones have texted in class; 25% have made or received a call during class time.

Cell phones help bridge the digital divide by providing internet access to less privileged teens. Still, for some teens, using the internet from their mobile phone is "too expensive."

Teens from low-income households, particularly African-Americans, are much more likely than other teens to go online using a cell phone. This is a pattern that mirrors Pew Internet Project findings about adults and their cell phones.

- 21% of teens who do not otherwise go online say they access the internet on their cell phone.
- 41% of teens from households earning less than \$30,000 annually say they go online with their cell phone. Only 70% of teens in this income category have a computer in the home, compared with 92% of families from households that earn more.
- 44% of black teens and 35% of Hispanic teens use their cell phones to go online, compared with 21% of white teens.

Cell phones are seen as a mixed blessing. Parents and teens say phones make their lives safer and more convenient. Yet both also cite new tensions connected to cell phone use.

Parents and their teenage children say they appreciate the mobile phone's enhancement of safety and its ability to keep teens connected to family and friends. For many teens, the phone gives them a new measure of freedom. However, some teens chafe at the electronic tether to their parents that the phone represents. And a notable number of teens and their parents express conflicting emotions about the constant connectivity the phone brings to their lives; on the one hand, it can be a boon, but on the other hand, it can result in irritating interruptions.

- 98% of parents of cell-owning teens say a major reason their child has the phone is that they can be in touch no matter where the teen is.
- 94% of parents and 93% of teens ages 12-17 with cell phones agreed with the statement: "I feel safer because I can always use my cell phone to get help." Girls and mothers especially appreciate the safety aspects of cell ownership.
- 94% of cell users ages 12-17 agree that cell phones give them more freedom because they can reach their parents no matter where they are.
- 84% of 12-17 year-old cell owners agree that they like the fact that their phone makes it easy to change plans quickly, compared with 75% of their parents who agree with that sentiment.
- 48% of cell-owning teens get irritated when a call or a text message interrupts what they are doing, compared with 38% of the cell-owning parents.
- 69% of cell-owning teens say their phone helps them entertain themselves when they are bored.
- 54% of text-using teens have received spam or other unwanted texts.
- 26% have been bullied or harassed through text messages and phone calls.

Cell phones are not just about calling or texting -- with expanding functionality, phones have become multimedia recording devices and pocket-sized internet connected computers. Among teen cell phone owners:

Teens who have multi-purpose phones are avid users of those extra features. The most popular are taking and sharing pictures and playing music:

- 83% use their phones to take pictures.
- 64% share pictures with others.
- 60% play music on their phones.

- 46% play games on their phones.
- 32% exchange videos on their phones.
- 31% exchange instant messages on their phones.
- 27% go online for general purposes on their phones.
- 23% access social network sites on their phones.
- 21% use email on their phones.
- 11% purchase things via their phones.

The majority of teens are on family plans where someone else foots the bill.

There are a variety of payment plans for cell phones, as well as bundling plans for how phone minutes and texts are packaged, and a variety of strategies families use to pay for cell phones. Teens' use of cell phones is strongly associated with the type of plan they have and who pays the phone bills.

- 69% of teen cell phone users have a phone that is part of a contract covering all of their family's cell phones.
- 18% of teen cell phone users are part of a prepaid or pay-as-you-go plan.
- 10% of teen cell phone users have their own individual contract.

When one combines type of plan with voice minutes, the most common combination is a family plan with limited voice minutes -- one in three teen cell phone users (34%) are on this type of plan. One in four teen cell phone users (25%) are on a family plan with unlimited minutes.

Over half of all teen cell phone users are on family plans that someone else (almost always a parent) pays for entirely -- this figure jumps to two-thirds among teens living in households with incomes of \$50,000 or more. At the same time, low income teens are much less likely to be on family plans. Among teens living in households with incomes below \$30,000, only 31% are on a family plan that someone else pays for. In this group, 15% have prepaid plans that someone else pays for, and 12% have prepaid plans that they pay for entirely themselves. Black teens living in low income households are the most likely to have prepaid plans that they pay for themselves.

Unlimited plans are tied to increases in use of the phone, while teens on "metered" plans are much more circumspect in their use of the phone.

Fully three-quarters of teen cell phone users (75%) have unlimited texting. Just 13% of teen cell phone users pay per message. Those with unlimited voice and texting plans are more likely to call others daily or more often for almost every reason we queried -- to call and check in with someone, to coordinate meeting, to talk about school work or have long personal conversations. Teens with unlimited texting typically send and receive 70 texts per day, compared with 10 texts a day for teens on limited plans and five texts a day for teens who pay per message.

4% of teens say they have sent a sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude image of themselves to someone via text message.

A relatively small number of teens have sent and received sexually suggestive images by text:

- 15% of teens say they have received a sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude image of someone they know by text.
- Older teens are more likely to receive "sexts" than younger teens.
- The teens who pay their own phone bills are more likely to send "sexts": 17% of teens who pay for all of the costs associated with their cell phones send sexually suggestive images via text; just 3% of teens who do not pay for or only pay for a portion of the cost of the cell phone send these images.

Further details about "sexting" via cell phones may be found in our recent *Teens and Sexting Report*.

One in three (34%) texting teens ages 16-17 say they have texted while driving. That translates into 26% of all American teens ages 16-17.

- Half (52%) of cell-owning teens ages 16-17 say they have talked on a cell phone while driving. That translates into 43% of all American teens ages 16-17.
- 48% of all teens ages 12-17 say they have been in a car when the driver was texting.
- 40% say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put themselves or others in danger.

More details about cell phone use among teens and distracted driving maybe found in our earlier report *Teens and Distracted Driving*.

Read the full report at pewinternet.org.

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1. Unless otherwise noted, all data in this report refers to cell phone-owning teens.
 - 2 This 72% of teens who text figure is slightly different than previous "teens who text" numbers that we have released. The difference lies in the question wording. For this question, we asked about teens texting friends, but we did not specify the platform (computer, cell phone) on which the texting was taking place. Our other teen texting number (66%) reflects teens who text on their own cell phone, and does not constrain who the teen may be texting with. Please see K9c and K20a in our questionnaire for exact question wording.
 - 3 This question is worded in such a way that it may refer to both parents calling a child and asking his or her location, as well as using a GPS-based service to establish the phone's location.
-

Americans Remain Down About Their Financial Situations

Slightly more likely to say their finances are getting better

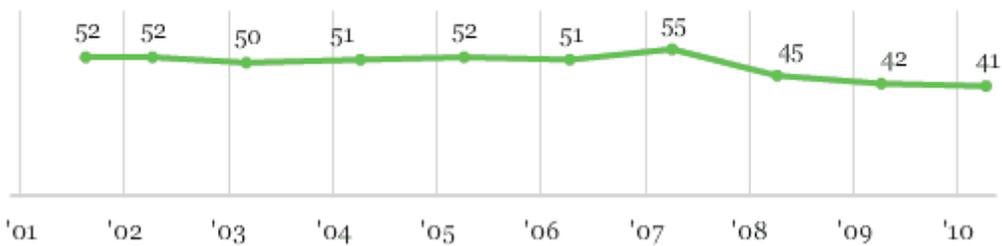
April 22, 2010

Americans' evaluations of their current financial situations remain low, and the 41% who describe their personal financial situations as excellent or good is the lowest Gallup has measured in the past decade.

How would you rate your financial situation today -- as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Selected trend

■ % Excellent/Good



GALLUP®

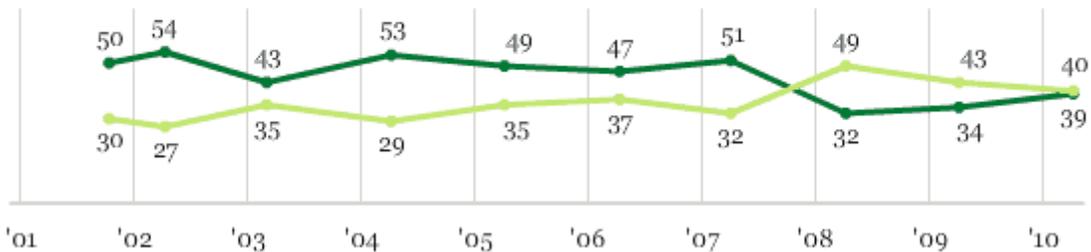
Gallup first asked Americans to rate their financial situations on the excellent/good/only fair/poor scale in August 2001, and has asked the question at least annually since then. From 2001 to 2007, a majority of Americans evaluated their finances positively, but in each of the last three years, less than 50% have.

The April 6-9 poll also asked Americans whether their financial situations are getting better or getting worse. Roughly the same percentage now believes their finances are improving (39%) as declining (40%). That is a slightly more positive assessment than Gallup has found in the past two years, when Americans were more pessimistic than optimistic. Prior to 2008, Americans were typically more likely to say their finances were getting better than to say they were getting worse.

Right now, do you think that your financial situation as a whole is getting better or getting worse?

Selected trend

■ % Getting better ■ % Getting worse



GALLUP®

Predictably, higher-income Americans are much more upbeat about their current finances, with 65% rating these as excellent or good, compared with 41% of those in middle-income households and 21% of those in lower-income households.

Middle- and upper-income Americans are equally positive about the direction in which their finances are headed, while lower-income Americans are more pessimistic.

Ratings of Personal Finances, by Household Income Level

	Less than \$30,000	\$30,000 to <\$75,000	\$75,000 or more
Excellent/Good	21%	41%	65%
Poor	37%	13%	6%
Getting better	30%	45%	44%
Getting worse	48%	33%	38%

Gallup, April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

While there is a relationship between income and political party affiliation, with higher-income Americans more likely to identify as Republicans and lower-income Americans more likely to affiliate with the Democratic Party, personal finance ratings by party do not parallel the ratings by household income.

Republicans and Democrats rate their current finances similarly; independents are less positive.

More surprising is that Democrats are much more optimistic about the current course of their finances, with 50% saying they are getting better, compared with just 34% of Republicans and 35% of independents.

Ratings of Personal Finances, by Political Party

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Excellent/Good	44%	35%	48%
Poor	15%	24%	14%
Getting better	50%	35%	34%
Getting worse	29%	44%	45%

Gallup, April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

This suggests that there is a political component to how Americans rate their finances, with Democrats now more likely to be optimistic given that their party is in control of the White House. Democrats were also more optimistic last year (37% getting better and 38% getting worse, compared with 29% and 52%, respectively, among Republicans), though not to the same extent as this year. Republicans were more optimistic than Democrats about their finances in each year of the Bush administration.

Bottom Line

Americans became more pessimistic about their finances as the economy began to sour in 2008. Their ratings of their current financial situations have never been worse than they are today, and though their financial outlook is slightly better than it was in 2008 and 2009, it remains below the historical norm. The recovery in this latter measure is partly the result of an improved financial outlook among Democrats.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,020 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted April 8-11, 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.

Canadian Majority Would Legalize Marijuana

April 18, 2010

Many adults in Canada believe marijuana should be legalized, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents agree with this idea.

Less than seven per cent of respondents want other drugs—such as ecstasy, powder cocaine, heroin, crack cocaine and crystal meth—to be legalized.

In July 2002, Canada became the first nation in the world to regulate the consumption of cannabis for medical reasons. In the 2004 federal election, the Marijuana party—which seeks the outright legalization of the substance—received 0.3 per cent of the popular vote.

In November 2004, the Canadian federal government—headed at the time by Liberal prime minister Paul Martin—re-introduced a controversial bill that sought "alternate penalty frameworks" for the possession of small amounts of marijuana. The bill, which would have allowed any person caught with 15 grams of the drug or less to face fines instead of criminal charges, was never put to a vote in the House of Commons.

On Mar. 16, Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper appeared on YouTube and answered several questions previously submitted by Canadians. On the topic of marijuana legalization, Harper declared: "I understand that people defend the use of drugs, but that said (...) I think I've been very fortunate to live a drug-free life, and I don't meet many people who've led a drug-free life who regret it. Met a lot of people who haven't, who've regretted it. So this is something that we want to encourage obviously for our children, for everybody's children."

Polling Data

Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs? - "Strongly support" and "Moderately support" listed

	Apr. 2010	May 2008
Marijuana	53%	53%
Ecstasy	6%	9%
Crack cocaine	5%	8%
Powder cocaine	5%	9%
Heroin	5%	8%
Methamphetamine or "crystal meth"	4%	7%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,010 Canadian adults, conducted on Apr. 8 and Apr. 9, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Haitians Want Foreigners in Charge of Reconstruction

April 20, 2010

People in Haiti hold little confidence in their government to oversee rebuilding efforts, according to a poll by Oxfam International. 39.3 per cent of respondents want foreign governments to play the leadership role in the reconstruction process.

On Jan. 12, Haiti was hit by a seven-point magnitude earthquake. The death toll has been calculated at over 230,000, while about 3 million people have been left injured or homeless.

On Mar. 31, a donor conference pledged \$9.9 billion U.S. in assistance for the reconstruction of Haiti, including \$5.3 billion U.S. to be allocated over the next two years.

Earlier this month, the Haitian legislature approved a proposal to establish a commission which will allow foreign donors to take part in the reconstruction's decision-making process. The commission includes former U.S. president Bill Clinton and current Haitian prime minister Jean Max Bellerive.

Haitian president René Preval discussed the proposal, saying, "Are we losing our sovereignty by creating this commission? I think the answer is 'No'."

Polling Data

Who should play the leadership role in the reconstruction process?

Foreign governments	39.3%
Haitian government, local authorities and civil society	24.7%
International non-governmental organizations	8.6%
Haitian government alone	6.6%
Not sure	20.8%

Source: Oxfam International

Methodology: Interviews with 1,793 Haitian adults in the communes of Port-au-Prince, Pétion-Ville, Delmas, Carrefour and Léogane, conducted from Mar. 9 to Mar. 12, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Rousseff Gains, Almost Ties Serra in Brazil

April 24, 2010

Brazil's presidential election will require a run-off, according to a poll by Instituto Sensus. 32.7 per cent of respondents would vote for Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB) in the ballot, while 32.4 per cent would support Dilma Rousseff of the ruling Workers' Party (PT).

Ciro Gomes of the Socialist People’s Party (PSB) is third with 10.1 per cent, followed by Marina Silva of the Green Party (PV) with 8.1 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. In February, the PT officially selected Rousseff as the party’s presidential candidate.

In March, Rousseff stepped down as Lula’s chief of staff and Serra resigned as governor of the state of Sao Paulo in order to launch their presidential bids.

Earlier this month, Serra criticized the current government, claiming that Brazil "can do much more." Lula referred to Serra’s statement, saying, "Of course I agree with him. Brazil can do much more. It is a pity that the Social Democrats did not believe in this slogan when they were in power."

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?

	Apr. 2010	Jan. 2010	Nov. 2009
Jose Serra (PSDB)	32.7%	33.2%	31.8%
Dilma Rousseff (PT)	32.4%	27.8%	21.7%
Ciro Gomes (PSB)	10.1%	11.9%	17.5%
Marina Silva (PV)	8.1%	6.8%	5.9%
None / Blank ballot	7.7%	10.5%	11.1%
Not sure / Undecided	9.0%	9.9%	12.1%

Source: Instituto Sensus

Methodology: Interviews with 2,000 Brazilian adults, conducted from Apr. 5 to Apr. 9, 2010.

Margin of error is 3 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Wage Inequality Rampant in Four Western Nations

April 21, 2010

People in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States are keenly aware of wage inequality in their respective countries, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. About two-thirds

respondents in the four nations think women and men are not paid the same salary when working the same job.

Earlier this month, Britain's Parliament passed the Equality Act 2010, which contemplates the implementation of gender pay transparency regulations for the private and voluntary sectors in 2013.

In Australia, federal sex discrimination commissioner Elizabeth Broderick recently announced her intention to increase the number of women in top positions in the country's private sector, adding, "Women are in heated agreement about this already. (...) Now we need strong male leadership and men inserting their voices where female voices aren't heard. This is about men being prepared to take a public role."

Polling Data

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think women and men in [Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia,] are paid the same salary when working the same job?

	CAN	USA	BRI	AUS
Yes, they are	19%	17%	20%	21%
No, they are not	71%	69%	65%	65%
Not sure	10%	15%	15%	14%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 Canadian adults, 1,005 American adults, 2,001 British adults and 1,009 Australian adults, conducted from Mar. 25 to Apr. 6, 2010. Margins of error range from 2.2 to 3.1 per cent.

Global Views of United States Improve While Other Countries Decline

April 18, 2010

Global views of the United States have improved markedly over the last year while views of many countries have become more negative, according to the latest BBC World Service poll across 28 countries. For the first time since the BBC started tracking in 2005, views of the United States' influence in the world are now more positive than negative on average.

The survey, conducted by GlobeScan/PIPA among more than 29,000 adults, asked respondents to say whether they considered the influence of different countries in the world to be mostly positive or mostly negative. It found that the United States is viewed positively on balance in 20 of 28 countries, with an average of 46 per cent now saying it has a mostly positive influence in the world, while 34 per cent say it has a negative influence.

Compared to a year earlier, negative ratings of the United States have dropped a striking nine points on average across the countries surveyed both years, while positive ratings are up a more modest four points. Ratings of the influence of many other countries, meanwhile, have declined over the past year. On average, positive ratings of the United Kingdom and Japan are down three

points, Canada down six points, and the European Union down four points. Ratings of the United Kingdom's influence in the world declined significantly in 11 countries and rose in only three.

Germany is the most favourably viewed nation (an average of 59% positive), followed by Japan (53%), the United Kingdom (52%), Canada (51%), and France (49%). The European Union is viewed positively by 53 per cent. In contrast, Iran is the least favourably viewed nation (15%), followed by Pakistan (16%), North Korea (17%), Israel (19%), and Russia (30%).

While it is not among the most favourably viewed nations, the improvement in the ratings of the United States means it has now overtaken China in terms of positive perceptions. Fifteen countries view China favourably on balance, with an average of 41 per cent feeling it has a mostly positive influence in the world and 38 per cent feeling its influence is mostly negative.

Iran attracts mostly negative views in all countries polled except Mexico and Pakistan--on average, 56 per cent rate it negatively. Views of Iran in China and Russia have deteriorated--positive views have dropped 11 points among the Chinese people (30%) while negative views of Iran have jumped up 13 points among Russians (to 45%).

The BBC World Service Poll has been tracking opinions about country influence in the world since 2005. The latest results are based on 29,977 in-home or telephone interviews conducted across a total of 28 countries by the international polling firm GlobeScan, together with the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. GlobeScan coordinated fieldwork between 30 November 2009 and 16 February 2010.

GlobeScan Chairman Doug Miller comments: "People around the world today view the United States more positively than at any time since the second Iraq war. While still well below that of countries like Germany and the UK, the global standing of the US is clearly on the rise again."

Steven Kull, director of PIPA, comments, "While China's image is stuck in neutral, America has motored past it in the global soft-power competition.

"After a year, it appears the 'Obama effect' is real. Its influence on people's views worldwide, though, is to soften the negative aspects of the United States' image, while positive aspects are not yet coming into strong focus."

Participating Countries

Detailed Findings

While positive views of the United States increased in most countries polled, the most significant increases were in Germany (up from 18% in 2009 to 39% this year), in Russia (up from 7% to 25%), in Portugal (up from 43% to 57%) and in Chile (up from 42% to 55%) with negative perceptions also falling significantly.

The only countries where perceptions of the United States became more negative overall were Turkey (where the proportion with positive perceptions of the United States fell from 21 per cent to 13 per cent and negative perceptions increased from 63 to 70 per cent), and in India (where positive perceptions dipped from 43 per cent to 39 per cent and negative views increased from 20 to 28 per cent).

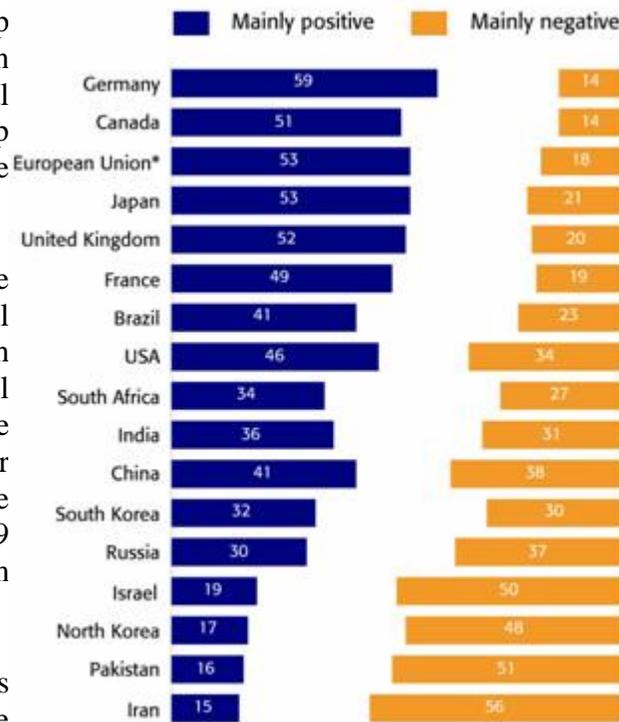
The only two countries to have majorities with negative views of the United States are Turkey (70%) and Pakistan (52%). Russia is also quite negative (50%).

Last year's poll found that views of both Russia and China had deteriorated. Looking at the views of the countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, they appear to have stabilized somewhat this year. Views of Russia in particular are more muted, with a decline both in the proportion of those rating it positively (from 31 to 29%) and those rating it negatively (42 to 37%). China's positive ratings remain at 40 per cent, while its negative ratings have fallen a little, to 38 per cent.

European countries continue to have quite negative views of China, including Italy (72% negative), Germany (71%), France (64%), Spain and Portugal (both 54%) as do South Koreans (61%) and Americans (51%). In Africa, views are quite positive with majorities viewing it positively in Kenya and Nigeria (both 73%) and in Ghana (63%).

Views of the European Union remain mostly positive in almost all countries polled (53% overall). But there is a difference of views toward the European Union among the European nations surveyed, with Germany (76%) and France (74%) the most positive about its influence, Italy (64%) and Spain (62%) a little less favourable and the United Kingdom (54%) much less upbeat about it. Turkey--which is also highly negative about most other countries--also rates the European Union unfavourably (with only 29% positive).

Views of Different Countries' Influence
Average of 27 Countries, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends," "Neither/neutral," and "DK/NA."
Asked of half of sample
Note: Each aggregated rating excludes the target country's rating of itself.
*Average of 28 countries

In total 29,977 citizens in 28 countries, were interviewed face-to-face or by telephone between 30 November 2009 and 16 February 2010. Nations were rated by half samples in all countries polled. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. In ten of the 28 countries, the sample was limited to major urban areas. The margin of error per country ranges from +/-2.1 to 6.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Global Views of: the United States, China, Japan, North Korea, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, France, South Africa, Israel, Canada, the European Union, Russia, Iran, Brazil, Germany, South Korea

The United States

Views of the USA are now positive in most countries around the world for the first time since tracking began. Nineteen countries give US influence positive ratings, while six lean negative and two are divided. In the 27 country average, 46 per cent view US influence positively and 34 per cent view it negatively. This represents a substantial improvement over 2009. Among countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, positive views have increased four points and negative views have decreased nine points. In 2009, 12 countries had negative views, with six expressing positive views and two divided.

Movements have been especially marked in Europe. While a majority of Spaniards (56%) had a negative view, this has dropped 23 points so that views now lean positive (40% positive, 33% negative). Similarly while France had a majority negative view last year (53%) this has dropped 14 points; now the French lean positive (45% to 39%). The United Kingdom has gone from leaning negative (41% positive, 45% negative) to leaning positive (48% to 35%).

Other allies have shifted as well. In Canada, formerly a negative majority, views now lean favorable as positive attitudes have risen by six points (now 44%, up from 38%) and negative attitudes have fallen by 17 points (now 38%, down from 55%). Japan, which was divided in 2009, now leans positive as favorable views have grown by six points (now 34%, up from 28%) and unfavorable views have declined by 11 points (now 18%, down from 29%).

In Chile, which was divided in 2009, a majority (55%) now holds positive views on US influence, up 13 points. Egypt, which leaned negative last year (40% to 48%), now leans positive (45% to 29%). Only two countries have a majority with a negative view. Turkey has 70 per cent with an unfavorable view--up seven points from last year. Pakistan has 52 per cent with a negative perspective and just 9 per cent with a positive one. Four countries continue to have a negative view: Russia (50%), Mexico (49%), Germany (47%), and China (44%). However, negative views have dropped in Russia (15 points), Germany (18 points), China (14 points), and Mexico (5 points). Besides Turkey, views also worsened in India. India still leans positive (39% to 28%), however negative views have increased by eight points and positive views have dropped by four. African countries and the Philippines, which have generally been very positive toward US influence, remain stable in these views. Large majorities are still favorable in Kenya (85%), the Philippines (82%), Ghana (72%), and Nigeria (64%).

China

Attitudes toward China remain divided on the whole. Publics in 12 countries are most commonly favorable on Chinese influence, while 12 are negative and three are divided. On average among 27 countries, 41 per cent hold positive views and 38 per cent hold negative views. Among countries surveyed both in 2009 and 2010, the average remained roughly the same.

While in 2009 views of China had declined considerably from the previous year, this year, overall, views are largely stable. The number of countries having mostly positive or mostly negative views of China's influence was also about equal (ten positive, nine negative, and one divided). For the long-term tracking countries, on average, there was no change in positive views over the last year, while negative views inched down two points.

However underlying this aggregate stability, there have been significant shifts in views of China within different countries.

Filipinos have made a sharp reversal in views of China. While in 2009 a majority (52%) took a negative view this has dropped 21 points. Now a majority (55%) has a positive view (up 16 points). While in 2009 Japan had a clear majority with a negative view (59%), this has dropped a remarkable 21 points, so that now just 38 per cent have a negative view. Positive views climbed from 8 to 18 per cent.

Europe continues to be the region that is the most negative toward China but negative views have softened in Portugal (now 54%, down from 62%), and France (64%, down from 70%). In addition, positive views have increased among Germans (now 20%, up from 11%), although a large majority (71%) remains negative. But in Italy and Spain already low positive views have decreased by seven points so that just 14 per cent in Italy and 22 per cent in Spain view China's influence as favorable.

Negative views continue to predominate, but have nonetheless softened in Canada (now 41%, down from 58%), Turkey (now 47%, down from 64%). The minority holding negative views in Indonesia has declined to 29 from 37 per cent (43% positive). While Australians leaned positive in 2009 (47% to 37%) they now lean negative (36% positive, 43% negative). Similarly Indians went from leaning positive (30% to 24%) with many not answering, to leaning negative (30% to 38%) with more people answering. South Koreans are among the most negative toward China (61%) negative. This is up 11 points from when they were last polled in 2008. In Ghana and Central America views are still mostly positive, but less so. In Ghana, positive views have dropped 12 points (now 63%, down from 75%). In Central America positive views slipped from 62 to 57 per cent, with negative views climbing ten points. The USA remains barely negative in its views toward China, with a slight unfavorable majority (51%), which is roughly unchanged from 2009 (52%).

Japan

Japan continues to have very positive ratings globally. Twenty-five of the countries give Japan's influence a positive rating, while only one country, China, leans negative and one is divided. On average, 53 per cent view Japanese influence positively and 21 per cent negatively.

Looking at the average of the 22 tracking countries, positive views are down three points but negative views remain virtually unchanged. Last year, out of 20 countries 16 gave Japan a positive rating, two were negative, and two were divided.

China is the only country with a balance of negative views about Japan and these views have even worsened. Positive views there have fallen 11 points (29%, down from 40%), while almost half the public remain negative (now 47%, down from 50%).

However under this generally stable and positive view there have been substantial changes. Four countries have shown marked improvements in their views of Japan. In Germany, views have moved from divided to positive, with a 12-point increase in positive views (now 50%, up from 38%) and no significant change in negative views. In Turkey, views have changed from negative to divided, with a 12-point decline in negative views (35% down from 47%). And in South Korea--which was last polled in 2008--views have warmed, shifting from negative to positive with a 27-point rise in positive views (now 64%, up from 37% in 2008) and a 23-point fall in negative views (now 29%, down from 52%). Russia's positive views have risen from 49 to 58 per cent.

Positive views are virtually unchanged while negative views have fallen eight points in the USA (now 11%, down from 19%); seven points in the Philippines (10%, down from 17%).

Favorable views have cooled but still lean positive in Spain where positive views have fallen 19 points (now 42%, down from 61%) and negative views have risen ten points (now 29%, up from 19%). In both Italy and India, positive views are down 11 points and negative views up eight and nine points, respectively. Positive views are down nine points in Central America (now 54%, down from 63%) and negative views up eight points (now 27%, up from 19%).

In two other countries, positive views have fallen but negative views are virtually unchanged. Positive views have dropped 14 points in Ghana (now 53%, down from 67%), and 11 points in Canada (now 59%, down from 70%).

North Korea

Attitudes toward North Korea remain widely negative. Publics in 23 countries are negative about North Korea's influence, while in two countries views are positive and in three they are divided. On average among 28 countries, 48 per cent see North Korea's influence as mainly negative while 17 per cent think it mainly positive.

In the previous year, 14 countries had negative views, just one had a positive view and six were divided. Positive views have dropped three points on average since last year; negative views are virtually stable.

Of greatest note is that views in China--a major patron of North Korea--have moved in a sharply negative direction. While last year Chinese views were divided, positive views have plunged 18 points (from 42 to 24%), so that the Chinese clearly lean to the negative (positive 24%, negative 40%). Chinese approval of North Korea is now the lowest recorded over the last four years.

Another country important to North Korea--Russia--has also shifted in a negative direction. Similar to China, while in 2009 views were divided, negative views have risen 15 points (35%, up from 20%). Now Russians lean to a negative view (19% positive, 35% negative).

Two other countries have also cooled toward North Korea. In Egypt, negative views have risen eight points (now 36%, up from 28%). In Ghana, positive views have fallen 18 points (now 25%, down from 43%) and negative views have risen eight points (32%, up from 24%), moving a public once favorably disposed into leaning negative.

Publics in two countries have shifted in a positive direction toward North Korea. In Indonesia the public has gone from negative to divided, with negative views falling eight points (from 36% to 28%). And in Nigeria attitudes have gone from divided to positive, with negative views dropping six points (29%, down from 35%).

Of the 23 countries with a preponderance of negative views, the ones with the largest majorities are South Korea and Japan (both 90%), followed by Germany (86%), France (73%), the USA (70%), and Australia (65%). Just two countries are on balance positive toward North Korea: Azerbaijan (25% positive, 19% negative) and Nigeria (35% positive, 29% negative). Three publics are divided: Indonesia, Chile and Central America.

United Kingdom

Views of the United Kingdom are positive in most countries around the world, a view that has dimmed only slightly since last year. Of 27 countries polled, 24 give the United Kingdom's influence positive ratings, while three lean negative. On average, 52 per cent view the UK positively and 20 per cent view it negatively.

Among countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, positive views have decreased three points and negative views remain unchanged.

The most dramatic changes have occurred in China and Russia, though in opposite directions. In China positive views have plunged a striking 16 points, though a bare majority (51%) continues to have a positive view of the United Kingdom (negative 21%). In Russia positive views have climbed 12 points--also to a 51 per cent positive (negative 14%).

Views have gone from warm to warmer in two countries. Among Nigerians, positive views have risen nine points (72%, up from 63%). Among the French, positive views have risen eight points (67%, up from 59%). Views lean positive and remain virtually unchanged in six countries: Ghana, Italy, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, and India.

Views have gone from warm to less warm in numerous countries. Among Canadians, positive views have dropped 12 points (now 62%, down from 74%). In Spain, positive views have fallen ten points (now 53%, down from 63%). In Portugal, positive views have fallen seven points (now 50%, down from 57%). In Egypt, positive views fell eight points (now 50%, down from 58%). Among Kenyans, positive views have fallen eight points (now 79%, down from 87%). In the Philippines, positive views have fallen nine points (now 58%, down from 67%). Among Australians, positive views fell seven points (now 62%, down from 69%). In all these countries, though, negative views have not increased; more now say "it depends" or decline to answer.

Though negative views have increased in Germany and Central America, attitudes still lean positive. In Germany, negative views have risen nine points (now 27%, up from 18%) but a majority (53%) is still positive (down from 59%). Though views lean positive in Central America, negative views rose nine points (now 30%, up from 21%).

Three countries had negative views of the United Kingdom. A majority of Turks remain negative, though this majority has declined (now 53%, down from 59%), with positive views also lower (18%, down from 24%) and more taking no position. Views in Mexico were virtually unchanged but still lean negative. Pakistan also leans negative on the United Kingdom's influence (38% negative, 9% positive) with many taking no position.

Pakistan

Views of Pakistan remain quite negative and, overall, largely unchanged from last year. Twenty-three countries give Pakistan's influence a negative rating, two countries lean positive and two are divided. In 2009, only one of 23 countries leaned positive and two countries were divided. In the 27-country average, 51 per cent view Pakistani influence negatively and 16 per cent view it positively.

Among countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, positive views are down two points and negative views are down four points.

Views have worsened in India and Russia. In India, negative views have risen 14 points (from 49% to 63%). Among Russians, negative views are up nine points (from 37% to 46%).

In two countries, views have improved significantly. Kenyans moved from an unfavorable view to being divided, with a nine-point increase in positive views (now 39%, up from 30%), and an 11-point decrease in negative views (now 37%, down from 48%). Indonesians have shifted from being divided to leaning favorable, as positive views have risen six points (now 36%, up from 30%) and negative views have dropped slightly (now 26%, down from 29%).

Negative views are significantly lower in seven countries, though positive views have not gone up. These include Australians, (54%, down from 63%), Canadians, (49%, down from 63%), Americans (58%, down from 69%), Britons, (44%, down from 54%), Portuguese, (57%, down from 72%), Spain, (70%, down from 78%), and Filipinos (61%, down from 71%). In all these countries, neutral views and non-responses are up compared to last year.

A slight increase in negative views has moved Nigeria from divided in 2009 (32% positive, 35% negative) to leaning negative (32% positive, 40% negative) in 2010.

Among Egyptians, positive views have fallen 11 points (now 14%, down from 25%), but negative views dropped as well (now 36%, down from 41%). Those saying "It depends" have risen 16 points (now 30%, up from 14%).

India

Worldwide, views of India lean only modestly to the positive, barely edging out views of China. Among 27 countries polled, 15 are positive about India's influence in world affairs, ten are negative and two are divided. On average, among 27 countries, 36 per cent are positive and 31 per cent negative about India's influence. A high 33 per cent do not provide an answer or are neutral.

Among the tracking countries negative views have dropped by four points, but positive views have also dropped by two points, suggesting little net gain.

While views of India were fairly negative in Europe in 2009 there has been something of a warming trend. Among the French, positive views have grown by nine points (now 38%, up from 29%). Germans' favorable perceptions have increased by ten points (now 32%, up from 22%). Among Portuguese, negative attitudes have fallen by 11 points (now 35%, down from 46%). But in all three cases, views are still predominantly negative. Italians' unfavorable views have fallen by nine points (now 34%, down from 43%), shifting them from a divided view in 2009 to leaning positive in 2010.

There has been a distinct cooling with its counterpart, China. While in 2009 views were divided there, Chinese favorable views have fallen by 15 points, so that negative views (47%) now strongly outweigh positive ones (29%). China together with Pakistan (48% have negative views) have the most negative views of India, followed by Germany (46%).

However positive views are up in its other large neighbour, Indonesia (now 50%, from 38%). Filipinos have also warmed a bit with negative feelings decreasing by eight points (45%, down from 53%), but they still largely outweigh positive feelings (28%).

In the USA negative views are down by eight points (now 18%, from 26%) and a robust 55% say they have positive views of India. South Korea is the only country with a larger percentage (56%) saying that they see India having a positive influence.

Ghanaians views have had a sharp downturn with positive views decreasing by 24 points (now 33%, from 57%). Australians have also cooled with positive views dropping from 53 to 44 per cent. But in both cases positive views continue to prevail.

In Central America, unfavorable perceptions have increased by nine points (42%, up from 33%) and is the dominant position.

France

Views of France are positive in nearly all countries around the world, an attitude that has not changed significantly from last year. Of 27 countries polled, 25 gave French influence positive ratings, one (Turkey) had a majority with negative views and one leaned negative. In the 27-country average, 49 per cent view French influence positively and 19 per cent view it negatively.

Among countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, on average positive views have decreased four points; negative views have decreased two points.

Notable increases in positive views are found in Germany (now 66%, up from 55%), Russia (now 63%, up from 56%), and Indonesia (now 49%, up from 42%). Brazil, which was last polled in 2008, is now 24 points more favorable (now 69%, up from 45%).

Notable decreases in positive views of French influence are found among Canadians--positive views have fallen 16 points (now 51%, down from 67%), Spaniards (now 61%, down from 74%), Portuguese (now 62%, down from 69%), Ghanaians (now 46%, down from 57%), and Australians (now 47%, down from 56%). After years of steady increases Americans positive ratings of France have slipped ten points (now 42% down from 52%); just 28 per cent have a negative view, but this is the fourth highest of all countries polled.

The one country with a majority negative view--Turkey--has shown a decrease from 58 to 53 per cent in those saying France is having a negative influence. The only other country to lean negative was Pakistan, but only 23 per cent held this position with 12 per cent giving a positive rating and a remarkable two thirds not providing an answer.

Curiously, there was a substantial increase in the number of people not providing a response or giving a neutral response, thus lowering both positive and negative responses in four countries. Among Britons, both positive views (48%, down from 55%) and negative views (18%, down from 25%) have dropped seven points. Among Egyptians, positive views are down nine points (42%, down from 51%) and negative views down five points (13%, down from 18%). In China, positive views fell six points (38%, down from 44%) and negative views fell 21 points (24% down from 45%). In the Philippines, positive views have fallen nine points (45%, down from 54%) and negative views have dropped seven points (22%, down from 29%).

South Africa

Views of South Africa have warmed somewhat from last year. Of the 28 countries polled in 2010, 11 countries give South African influence a positive rating, five countries lean negative, and 12 countries are divided. In the 28-country average, 34 per cent view South African influence positively and 27 per cent view it negatively.

Among countries polled in both 2009 and 2010, negative views are down five points on average, though positive views remain unchanged.

South Africa is especially popular among its neighbours with majorities saying that it is having a positive influence in Kenya (79%), Nigeria (59%), and Ghana (51%). Positive views in Ghana, though, are down nine points.

In no country does a majority have a negative view though views lean close to majority negative in the Philippines, Germany and Brazil.

Views have shifted from negative to positive in Canada and the United Kingdom. In Canada, negative views have fallen 14 points (28%, down from 42%). Among Britons negative views have fallen 22 points (25%, down from 47%), while positive views have risen six points (36%, up from 30%).

Ratings have shifted from divided to positive in France and Portugal, as well as Central America. In France, positive views have risen 14 points (52%, up from 38%), and negative views are down ten points (25%, down from 35%). In Portugal, negative views have fallen 15 points (19%, down from 34%) and positive views have improved (37%, up from 32%). Also, in Central America positive views have risen eight points (36%, up from 28%).

In Australia, views of South Africa have shifted from negative to being divided. Negative views have fallen 11 points (now 30%, down from 41%).

Views shifted toward the negative in three countries. In Egypt, ratings shifted from divided to negative as positive views fell 16 points (now 14%, down from 30%). In Russia, ratings shifted from positive to divided; though positive views rose a little, negative views rose ten points (now 23%, up from 13%). In Japan, positive views fell five points and negative views rose five points as well, leaving attitudes divided instead of leaning positive as they did last year.

Views warmed in Chile, where positive views rose nine points (now 45%, up from 36%), while negative views fell eight points (now 17%, down from 25%). Among Americans, negative views have fallen 13 points (now 27%, down from 40%). Among Germans, negative attitudes have softened; positive views have risen 16 points (now 31%, up from 15%) while negative views have fallen eight points (now 45%, down from 53%). In China negative views are down 14 points (now 19%, down from 33%).

Israel

Attitudes toward Israel are widely negative. Twenty-four countries give an unfavorable evaluation, while only two evaluate Israel positively, and two are divided. In the 28-country average, 50 per cent rate Israel's influence negatively and 19 per cent rate it positively.

Even so, the average of countries polled in both 2009 and 2010 became slightly less negative; unfavorable ratings have dropped by four points.

Views improved but remained negative in several countries. Unfavorable ratings have dropped in Australia by 20 points (now 47%, down from 67%), in Canada by 14 points (now 38%, down

from 52%), in China by 12 points (now 40%, down from 52%), in Japan by 11 points (now 52%, down from 63%), in Portugal by 22 points (now 46%, down from 68%), in Spain by 11 points (now 60%, down from 71%)

The USA has remained one of the two countries offering a positive rating overall, although this has dropped seven points (now 40%, down from 47%). It is joined by Kenya, where a drop in negative ratings by seven points (now 34%, from 41%) has caused it to lean slightly positive (39% positive). Russia continues to be quite divided (29% positive, 30% negative).

Majority-Muslim countries continue to have negative views about Israel's influence. All five of these countries surveyed have negative majorities: Egypt (92%), Turkey (77%), Indonesia (56%), Pakistan (53%), and Azerbaijan (51%).

Canada

Canada, while being the fourth most positively evaluated nation, has seen its favorable ratings decline overall. Among countries polled in 2009 and 2010, the average positive rating has dropped by six points.

Twenty-four countries say Canada has a positive influence in world affairs and three countries lean toward saying its influence is negative. In the 2010 average of 27 countries, 51 per cent are favorable and 14 per cent are unfavorable.

Favorable positions have weakened in some of Canada's closest friends including the USA by 15 points (now 67%, down from 82%), and the United Kingdom by 12 points (now 62%, down from 74%).

Drops in positive ratings were elsewhere as well. China had a remarkable 21-point drop in positive views (now 54%, down from 75%). And there were significant drops in Portugal by 12 points (now 59%, down from 71%), Nigeria by 12 points (now 43%, down from 55%), in Spain by ten points (now 54%, down from 64%), in Italy by nine points (now 65%, down from 74%), in Egypt by eight points (now 18%, down from 26%), and in the Philippines by eight points (now 75%, down from 83%).

Despite widespread erosion in positive views, only three countries lean toward a negative rating and none of them by a majority: Turkey (35% negative, 16% positive), Egypt (22% negative, 18% positive), and Pakistan (19% negative, 11% positive).

On the other hand attitudes toward Canada have improved in Germany, Russia, and Turkey. In each of the first two countries, positive ratings have increased substantially: in Germany by nine points (now 73%, up from 64%) and in Russia by eight points (now 44%, up from 36%). In Turkey, negative ratings have dropped by 14 points (now 35%, down from 49%).

The European Union

The European Union continues to receive positive evaluations from nearly every country polled; however, these views have receded in several countries. Among the 22 countries surveyed outside the European Union, 19 offer positive ratings, two offer negative ratings, and one is divided. All the European Union members are quite positive.

On average, in the 22 countries polled outside the European Union, 49 per cent call its influence positive and 19 per cent call it negative. On average among tracking countries, though, there has been a four point drop in positive views.

Outside the Union, favorable ratings have fallen in: Canada, by 16 points (now 57%, down from 73%); the USA, by 12 points (now 50%, down from 62%); India, by 13 points (now 23%, down from 36%); China, by 16 points (now 41%, down from 57%); the Philippines, by 11 points (now 54%, down from 65%); and Australia, by ten points (now 55%, down from 65%).

Views of the European Union have improved in Russia, Egypt, and Indonesia. Among Russians, positive views have increased by 19 points (now 50%, up from 31%), and by seven points among Indonesians (now 44%, from 37%). Egyptians' negative ratings have dropped by 15 points (now 20%, down from 35%).

Turkey, the only country that leaned negative on the European Union's influence in 2009, is joined in this view by Pakistan, which was polled for the first time in 2010. Turkey's views are 29 per cent positive, 45 per cent negative. Pakistan's views are 10 per cent positive, 30 per cent negative.

Within the Union, views have cooled in several of the six member countries polled. In Spain, positive views have decreased by 14 points (62%, down from 76%). Similarly, favorable ratings also have dropped in Italy (now 64% from 72%). In Germany where views are still very positive, negative views have nonetheless risen by seven points (12%, up from 5%). The United Kingdom bucks the trend, as negative views have fallen by six points (22%, down from 28%).

Russia

Though views on Russia's influence are still predominantly negative worldwide, these have softened in the past year, after having worsened between 2008 and 2009. In the 27-country average for the current survey, 37 per cent hold negative views and 30 per cent hold positive views. Seventeen countries give Russia's influence a negative rating, seven give it a positive rating, and three are divided.

Most dramatic, the publics in the United Kingdom and Canada have gone from being negative to being divided, as unfavorable views have decreased by 22 points in the United Kingdom (now 33%, down from 55%) and by 20 points in Canada (now 34%, down from 54%).

Negative attitudes have also moderated notably in the USA, Germany, and France, though these countries are still predominantly negative. Among Americans, negative views have dropped by 18 points bringing it below half (now 46%, down from 64%). Among Germans, negative views

have fallen by 16 points (now 54%, down from 70%), and among the French by 11 points (now 55%, down from 66%).

Other notable drops are found in Portugal, by 18 points (now 36%, down from 54%); Turkey, by 14 points (now 50%, down from 64%); Japan, by 16 points (now 22%, down from 38%); and Chile, by nine points (now 24%, down from 33%). Except Chile, all of these are also still predominantly negative.

Against the larger trend, several countries have grown more negative about Russia's influence. Favorable evaluations have decreased in China by 19 points (now 55%, down from 74%). In Africa, Kenya has swung from a positive position to a divided one as favorable ratings have dropped by 18 points (now 37%, down from 55%) and unfavorable ratings have risen by nine points (now 38%, up from 29%). Likewise, favorable ratings have dropped in Ghana by 18 points (now 32%, down from 50%). Also Nigeria has become predominantly unfavorable as positive views have decreased by six points (now 31%, down from 37%) and negative views have increased by six points (now 42%, up from 36%). Unfavorable evaluations in Mexico have increased by eight points (now 29%, from 21%).

Iran

Attitudes toward Iran are still the most negative of all countries included in the poll. Twenty-five out of 28 countries surveyed are most commonly negative about Iran's influence (Pakistan is positive and two are divided). In the 2010 28-country average, 56 per cent have an unfavorable opinion of Iranian influence and 15 per cent have a favorable opinion. Among tracking countries, the percentage saying Iranian influence is positive has slipped four points between 2009 and 2010.

Two countries have shifted from being divided to leaning negative. In Ghana, positive views have decreased by 23 points (now 13%, down from 36%) and negative views have increased by ten points (now 45%, up from 35%). In Nigeria, positive views have declined by eight points (now 28%, down from 36%) and negative views have grown by six points (now 42%, up from 36%). Indians' views have gone from slightly positive in 2009 (24% positive, 19% negative) to leaning negative in 2010 (19% positive and 33% negative).

Significant to current negotiations over sanctions in the United Nations' Security Council views of Iran in Russia and China have turned more negative. Among Russians, negative ratings have grown by 13 points (now 45%, up from 32%). Favorable views have slipped in China by 11 points (now 30%, down from 41%).

Favorable attitudes on Iranian influence have also slipped in its regional neighbour Egypt, by nine points (now 27%, down from 36%). Central Americans' unfavorable views have risen by nine points (now 58%, up from 49%).

In five countries negative views have moderated. Negative evaluations have decreased by 12 points in Canada (now 60%, down from 72%), by ten points in the USA (now 69%, down from

79%), by nine points in the United Kingdom (now 59%, down from 68%), by 12 points in Portugal (now 67%, down from 79%), and by eight points in the Philippines (now 64%, down from 72%).

Brazil

Brazil maintains its positive standing in the eyes of most publics around the world. Twenty-one countries have favorable views, three have negative views, and three are divided. On average in the 2010 poll of 27 countries, 41 per cent give positive ratings and 23 per cent give negative ratings. Among the 22 tracking countries from 2009, positive ratings dropped by three points (42%, down from 45%) but negative ratings remained steady (23%).

Brazil is quite popular with its neighbours. Majorities have positive views in Chile (77%), Mexico (59%), and Central America (55%). In Chile, favorable opinions have increased by 13 points (up from 64%). But among Mexicans, positive evaluations have fallen by 19 points (59%, down from 78%).

Views have shifted in a positive direction in a number of European countries. In the United Kingdom, negative perceptions have dropped by 15 points (now 20%, down from 35%). Britons now lean positively, after being divided previously. Germans' attitudes have gone from leaning negative to being divided, as positive views have risen by six points (now 36%, up from 30%). Positive attitudes have also increased in France by eight points (now 50%, up from 42%).

Views have shifted in a negative direction in Egypt and India. Egypt has changed from leaning positive to leaning negative, as favorable evaluations have dropped by 15 points (to 18%, down from 33%). Indians have moved from favorable to divided, as negative views have risen by eight points (to 23%, up from 15%).

Positive opinions of Brazil have also declined in each of the following countries: China by ten points (now 55%, down from 65%), Ghana by nine points (now 41%, down from 50%), Italy by nine points (now 40%, down from 49%), Canada by eight points (now 38%, down from 46%) and Nigeria by nine points (now 38%, down from 47%).

Germany

Opinion on Germany's influence remains the most positive of any country evaluated. Twenty-four countries give a positive rating and none have significant negative numbers--the highest being 33 per cent in Turkey.

On average in the current year, 59 per cent are positive and 14 per cent are negative. The average position remained virtually unchanged from year-to-year among trendline countries.

Positive views have strengthened in several countries, most significantly in Egypt and Chile. Among Egyptians, favorable opinion has grown by 11 points (now 50%, up from 39%) and negative opinion has dropped by 14 points. Chileans' positive views have risen by 12 points

(now 66%, up from 54%). Positive views have increased in Russia by eight points (now 61%, up from 53%). Negative views declined among Mexicans by eight points (17%, down from 25%).

However Indians and Turks are now divided on Germany's influence, after both leaned positive in 2009. In India, favorable evaluations have decreased by 11 points (22%, down from 33%) and negative evaluations have increased by eight points (19%, up from 11%). In Turkey, positive ratings have dropped by 14 points (30%, down from 44%).

Also unfavorable ratings have increased in Central America by eight points (28%, up from 20%). Pakistan leans slightly negative, as 18 per cent rate Germany's influence negatively and 13 per cent rate it positively.

South Korea

Opinion on South Korea, evaluated for the first time in 2010, is divided. Nine countries hold negative views, 12 hold positive views, and six are divided. In the 27-country average, 32 per cent are favorable and 30 per cent are unfavorable. A high average of 39 per cent does not provide an answer one way or the other.

Within the Asian-Pacific region, perceptions of South Korea's influence are mildly positive. Publics are favorable in China (57%), and the Philippines (50%), and lean that way in Indonesia (43%), Japan (36%), and Australia (35%). India and Pakistan are divided, but most do not provide an answer. Thailand is the main exception, as 58 per cent say South Korea has a negative influence.

European countries are predominantly negative about South Korea's influence in the world. Unfavorable views are found in a majority in Germany (53%), and substantial pluralities in Italy (46%), Spain (46%), and France (45%). With most not taking a position, views are divided in the United Kingdom and Portugal, but lean very slightly positive in Russia.

Most countries in the Americas lean favorably including the USA (46%), Chile (45%), Mexico (40%), Central America (39%), and Canada (37%). The exception is Brazil which leans negative (43%).

Africans included in the survey offer mixed views on South Korea. Ghanaians lean positive (41% favorable), Kenyans are divided, and Nigerians lean negative (37% unfavorable). This is an unusually negative view for Africans.

In the Middle East, views in Egypt (37%) and Turkey (30%) lean negative, while Azerbaijan is divided, though 63 per cent of Azeri do not have an opinion a way or another.
