

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

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Prelude

This week's report consists of **18** surveys. **2** of these are multi-country surveys while the rest are national surveys.

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Americans or American Government Turning to Prayers?

The *National Prayer Day* which U.S. Congress designated in 1954, has generated a lot of debate whether religious practices should or should not be patronized by the state. The opponents view is that a secular state has nothing to do with prayers. But are the American citizens or the United States government *exclusively* secular? This has remained the topic of a light debate for years. The U.S. currency notes too depict faith in God as a republic through the statement written on it "In God we trust".

Polling data depicts that the American public seems to distinctly support the idea of National *Prayer Day*. A *Gallup USA* survey shows that just **5 %** of total Americans and **9 %** of those for whom 'religion is not important' oppose this day. About **six in ten** in the overall American public and **three fourth** of those for whom 'religion is important' support the idea.

This year's commemoration has involved some controversy as the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private group organizing thousands of events across the country, has made it a goal to promote and publicize *Christian prayer* specifically. Americans generally endorse the task force's goal, as **62%** say promoting Christian prayer should be a major goal of the events while **36%** disagree. Opinions on this matter diverge between religious and nonreligious Americans.

Meanwhile around **83%** Americans claim their faith in a God who answers prayers, while about **9%** say there is a God who does not answer prayers. Meanwhile just **5 %** believe that no God exists.

While Interpretation and practice of faith may differ widely, the American Population does overtly hold on to the notion of a higher being. This notion while deeply imbedded in traditional communal life has also surfaced at the state level and thus continues to be a defining characteristic of an otherwise '*secular*' nation.

Summary of Polls

NORTHEAST ASIA

Majority in Japan Disapproves of Government

Public confidence in the government headed by Yukio Hatoyama has eroded considerably in Japan, according to a poll by *Mainichi*. 51 per cent of respondents disapprove of the current cabinet, up 34 points since October 2009.

May 02, 2010

Three-in-Five Taiwanese Dissatisfied with Ma

Many adults in Taiwan remain critical of the way Ma Ying-jeou is handling his duties, according to a poll by Global Views. 61.4 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with their president's performance, down 4.6 points since March.

May 06, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Two-Thirds in Slovenia Dissatisfied with Government

More people in Slovenia are unhappy with their national administration, according to a poll by Ninamedia. 67.9 per cent of respondents say the work of the government has been unsuccessful, up seven points since February.

May 02, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Only a Third in France Approve of Sarkozy

Public dissatisfaction with Nicolas Sarkozy has grown this year in France, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Paris Match*. 67 per cent of respondents disapprove of their president's performance, up seven points since February.

May 05, 2010

Confidence in Berlusconi Below 50% in Italy

A majority of Italians hold little trust in their prime minister, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 54 per cent of respondents do not have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi.

May 06, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Americans No Less Worried About Healthcare Costs

Despite the passage of highly publicized healthcare legislation into law in March, Americans are no less concerned about paying the costs of a serious illness or accident, or normal healthcare costs, than they were last year. Sixty-one percent are worried about the former, and 48% are worried about the latter.

May 7, 2010

Few Americans Oppose National Day of Prayer

Most Americans either support or are not bothered by the annual National Day of Prayer, which President Obama proclaimed will be celebrated on May 6 this year. Those who say religion is important in their lives widely support the day, while the majority of those who say religion is not important say it doesn't matter to them, rather than opposing it outright.

May 5, 2010

U.S. Job Creation Best Since November 2008

Gallup's Job Creation Index finds current job market conditions nationwide to be the best they have been since November 2008.

May 6, 2010

United We Stand ... on Technology

While the U.S. public dissatisfaction with the state of the nation and federal government is very high, the satisfaction with news media, churches and religious institutions is in the low 30s or 20s, but the satisfaction with technology companies outranks all other institutions.

May 5, 2010

The New Demography of American Motherhood

The demography of motherhood in the United States has shifted strikingly in the past two decades. Compared with mothers of newborns in 1990, today's mothers of newborns are older and better educated. They are less likely to be white and less likely to be married.

May 6, 2010

"Socialism" Not So Negative, "Capitalism" Not So Positive

'Socialism' is a negative for most Americans, but certainly not all Americans. "Capitalism" is regarded positively by a majority of public, though it is a thin majority. Among certain segments of the public -- notably, young people and Democrats -- both "isms" are rated about equally. And while most Americans have a negative reaction to the word "militia," the term is viewed more positively by Republican men than most other groups.

May 4, 2010

U.S Catholics Show Mixed Views on Pope

Results of a new Zogby Interactive survey show mixed results among American Catholics' evaluations of Catholic Church leaders. Both Pope Benedict XVI and American Catholic Bishops receive largely negative ratings in their handling of the sexual abuse situation with the church. However, pluralities approve of the overall job performance of both the Pope and Bishops. In addition, a clear majority of American Catholics believe Pope Benedict XVI should continue to serve as Pope.

May 05, 2010

The Flu Season That Wasn't

Despite initial concerns about the rampant spread of H1N1 heading into the 2009-2010 cold and flu season, flu reports have been consistently lower throughout this flu season compared with the last according to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. April marks the sixth consecutive month in which fewer American adults in Gallup's tracking have reported having the flu the prior day compared with the corresponding months' estimates from one year ago.

May 6, 2010

Approval for Congress Steady in United States

Only one-in-four Americans are satisfied with the way the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are doing their jobs, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 24 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress.

May 03, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil's Lula Heads to Retirement with High Numbers

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva remains particularly popular in Brazil, according to a poll by Ibope. 76 per cent of respondents rate their president's performance as good or very good.

May 04, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Want Immigrants in Specific Regions

People in Australia believe their government should provide incentives for new migrants to settle in specific regions of the country which need and can cope with higher populations, according to a poll by Essential Research. 55 per cent of respondents agree with this view.

May 07, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Many See Drug Trafficking Widespread, Rising in Latin America

Gallup surveys suggest illicit drug trafficking is common in communities throughout much of Latin America, including in some of the most well-developed countries such as Chile and Costa Rica. At least half of residents in Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Venezuela, and Uruguay say illicit drug trafficking or drug sales are taking place in their neighborhoods.

May 7, 2010

Colombia Eclipses Mexico in Murders Close to Home

Despite frequent news of drug war-related deaths in Mexico, Gallup polls show the average Mexican is less likely than those in several other Latin American countries to say a close friend or relative was murdered in the past year. Five percent of Mexicans interviewed in August 2009 said someone close to them was murdered in the past 12 months -- about average for the region.

May 5, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Majority in Japan Disapproves of Government

May 02, 2010

Public confidence in the government headed by Yukio Hatoyama has eroded considerably in Japan, according to a poll by *Mainichi*. 51 per cent of respondents disapprove of the current cabinet, up 34 points since October 2009.

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

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

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

In December, Hatoyama was criticized after it was revealed that political donations registered under the names of several individuals actually came from his mother. The Japanese prime

minister has acknowledged receiving a monthly contribution of about \$164,000 U.S. from his mother, but vowed to pay back taxes and penalties amounting to about \$6.5 million U.S.

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

On Mar. 29, Hatoyama looked back on the first six months of his tenure, declaring, "It's been half a year since we took power. I think we still have problems as we are inexperienced. But we must not turn back the hands of the clock. I would like to set the hands forward for a great future, so I would like to ask the Japanese people to guide us with patience."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 2010	Oct. 2009
Approve	33%	72%
Disapprove	51%	17%

Source: Mainichi

Methodology: Interviews with 1,044 Japanese adults, conducted on Apr. 17 and Apr. 18, 2010.

No margin of error was provided.

Three-in-Five Taiwanese Dissatisfied with Ma

May 06, 2010

Many adults in Taiwan remain critical of the way Ma Ying-jeou is handling his duties, according to a poll by Global Views. 61.4 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with their president's performance, down 4.6 points since March.

In 1895, following a military defeat, China ceded Taiwan to Japan. At the end of World War II, the island was returned to Chinese control. In 1949, as Mao Zedong's communists were gaining prominence in mainland China, Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek established the Republic of China in Taiwan.

A series of democratic reforms implemented by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui in the early 1990s allowed Taiwan's residents to take part in free and fair elections. To this date, the People's Republic of China considers Taiwan a "renegade province" and reserves the right to bring it under control.

In March 2008, Ma won the presidential election with 58.45 per cent of the vote as a candidate for the Kuomintang Party (KMT). Frank Hsieh of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) finished second with 41.55 per cent.

The KMT advocates for maintaining the status quo with the Chinese central government, while the DPP has aggressively pursued independence from Beijing.

Last month, Ma discussed the current state of relations with China, saying, "This is a very meaningful job for Taiwan at a historic juncture. If we can contribute to peace and prosperity across the Taiwan Straits, the accomplishments would be historic. (...) Diplomatic isolation can be handled, and we handle it well, but with economic isolation we have to be very careful. If we lose the market share in a given country it will be very difficult to get it back."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Ma Ying-jeou's performance as president?

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Jan. 2010
Satisfied	26.6%	23.8%	23.2%
Dissatisfied	61.4%	66.0%	66.3%

Source: Global Views

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,001 Taiwanese adults, conducted from Apr. 14 to Apr. 16, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Two-Thirds in Slovenia Dissatisfied with Government

May 02, 2010

More people in Slovenia are unhappy with their national administration, according to a poll by Ninamedia. 67.9 per cent of respondents say the work of the government has been unsuccessful, up seven points since February.

In September 2008, Slovenian voters renewed the State Chamber. Final results gave the Social Democracy (SD) party 30.45 per cent of the vote and 29 seats, followed by the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) with 29.26 per cent and 28 seats.

In November, Slovenian president Danilo Tuerk named SD leader Borut Pahor as prime minister-designate. The State Chamber approved the nomination in a 59-24 vote. Pahor took over as prime minister, presiding over a coalition encompassing the SD, For Real (Zares), the Democratic Party of Retired People of Slovenia (DeSUS), and the Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS).

On Apr. 17, more than 250,000—about 12 per cent of the country's population—took part in a one-day campaign to remove garbage from public areas. Pahor declared: "If every one of us takes care of his own environment, nobody will have to do it for us and we will reach our goal: have a clean environment."

Polling Data

How do you assess the work of the government?

Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
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Successful	26.7%	32.5%	44.9%
Unsuccessful	67.9%	60.9%	25.5%
Not sure	5.5%	6.5%	29.6%

Source: Ninamedia

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 700 Slovenian adults, conducted from Mar. 16 to Mar. 18, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

WEST EUROPE

Only a Third in France Approve of Sarkozy

May 05, 2010

Public dissatisfaction with Nicolas Sarkozy has grown this year in France, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Paris Match*. 67 per cent of respondents disapprove of their president's performance, up seven points since February.

The approval rating for French prime minister François Fillon stands at 52 per cent, down two points in a month.

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

On Mar. 29, during a visit to the United States, Sarkozy outlined his views on the global financial crisis, saying, "World economic regulation can no longer stand still. (...) A few hundred irresponsible hotheads did mad things on the stock market, with derivatives, with other people's money. Do you think we can defend capitalism (...) when there is so much injustice? I don't think so because it is impossible to defend."

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Nicolas Sarkozy's performance as president?

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
Approve	33%	36%	40%
Disapprove	67%	64%	60%

Do you approve or disapprove of François Fillon's performance as prime minister?

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
Approve	52%	54%	54%

Disapprove	47%	46%	45%
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Source: Ifop / Paris Match

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,007 French adults, conducted on Apr. 1 and Apr. 2, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

Confidence in Berlusconi Below 50% in Italy

May 06, 2010

A majority of Italians hold little trust in their prime minister, according to a poll by IPR Marketing published in *La Repubblica*. 54 per cent of respondents do not have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi.

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

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

In March 2009, the National Alliance (AN)—a political party with fascist roots—was officially dissolved and merged with Berlusconi's PdL. The AN has been a steady supporter of the prime minister and was instrumental in Berlusconi's latest electoral victory. AN leader Gianfranco Fini is the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

On Apr. 22, during a PdL congress, Fini accused Berlusconi of providing too much influence to the NL, declaring, "I don't like the house that I helped to create." The statement led to a public shouting match between the two politicians.

On Apr. 23, LN leader Umberto Bossi predicted "a vertical collapse of the government and probably the end of the alliance between the PDL and the Northern League."

Polling Data

Do you have confidence in Silvio Berlusconi?

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
Yes	44%	44%	46%
No	54%	54%	52%

Source: IPR Marketing / La Repubblica

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,000 Italian adults, conducted from Apr. 15 to Apr. 17, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

NORTH AMERICA

Americans No Less Worried About Healthcare Costs

Similarly, no drop in Americans' worries about several other financial issues

May 7, 2010

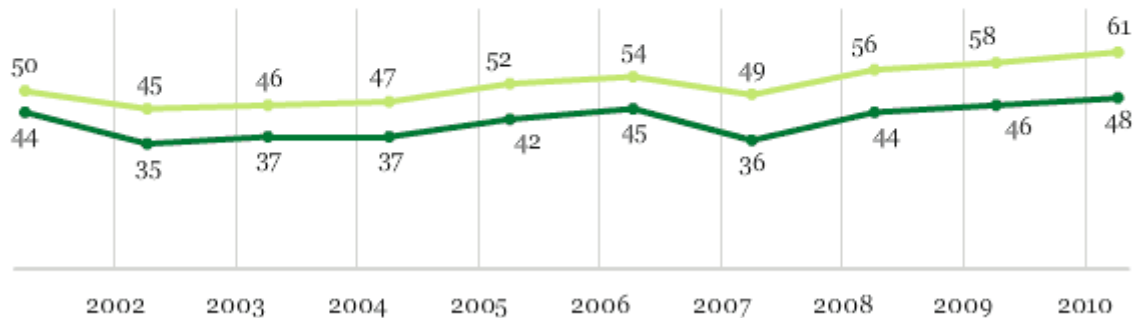
Despite the passage of highly publicized healthcare legislation into law in March, Americans are no less concerned about paying the costs of a serious illness or accident, or normal healthcare costs, than they were last year. Sixty-one percent are worried about the former, and 48% are worried about the latter.

How concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters, based on your current financial situation -- are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

% Very/Moderately worried

■ Not being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare

■ Not being able to pay medical costs in the event of a serious illness or accident



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Most of the actual impact of the comprehensive healthcare legislation will not be felt for months or years, with few specific short-term changes in the nation's healthcare system. Gallup research conducted after the bill's passage showed that the majority of Americans were not expecting the law to improve their personal healthcare cost situations, even in the long term. Still, the high visibility of the new law -- and the fact that a substantial minority of Americans favored its passage -- might have been expected to tilt Americans' worries or concerns about healthcare-related financial matters in at least a marginally more positive direction. But Gallup finds no such shift to date.

The healthcare issues constitute two of eight financial matters Gallup asked about in its annual Economy and Finance survey. Americans are most concerned about having enough money for retirement, followed by concern about unexpected medical costs, maintaining one's standard of living, and paying normal medical costs.

Please tell me how concerned you are right now about each of the following financial matters, based on your current financial situation -- are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

	%	%
	Worried	Not worried
Not having enough money for retirement	66	32
Not being able to pay medical costs of a serious illness/accident	61	37
Not being able to maintain the standard of living you enjoy	54	45
Not being able to pay medical costs for normal healthcare	48	48
Not having enough to pay your normal monthly bills	44	54
Not being able to pay your rent, mortgage, or other housing costs	38	56
Not having enough money to pay for your children's college	36	25
Not being able to make the minimum payments on your credit cards	24	58

April 8-11, 2010

GALLUP®

Americans became relatively more confident in the U.S. economy at about this time last year, but neither Gallup's April 2009 survey nor the current April 2010 survey reflects any evidence of a concomitant decrease in worry about these eight financial matters.

From a longer-term perspective, Americans' concerns about the financial issues tested by Gallup each year since 2001 rose during the middle of the last decade, and have remained high since that time. Concern over retirement, at the top of list of concerns today, has gone from 52% worry in 2004 to 66% now; concern over not being able to maintain one's standard of living has risen from 35% in 2002 to 54% today.

How concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters, based on your current financial situation -- are you very worried, moderately worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

% Very/Moderately worried

■ Not being able to maintain the standard of living you enjoy

■ Not having enough money for retirement



GALLUP®

Bottom Line

One of the major objectives of the new healthcare bill was to address healthcare costs in the U.S., as reflected in the bill's official name, "Affordable Healthcare for America Act." Proponents of the bill certainly may have expected that over time, Americans would become less worried about healthcare costs as a result of the legislation. In the short term, that has not happened.

More generally, the lack of improvement on any of the eight financial concerns tested in this research comes despite positive signs on the economic front. Gallup's economic tracking data find that American workers see more hiring at their places of employment, and that overall underemployment across the country has fallen.

Economic confidence is also higher now than it was in the depths of the recession in late 2008 and early 2009. Nonetheless, there has been only a modest increase in Gallup's measure of consumer spending -- which may reflect the finding that Americans remain as concerned about a number of personal financial issues as they have been over the last several years.

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.

Few Americans Oppose National Day of Prayer

Majority of 57% in favor; nearly 4 in 10 say it does not matter to them

May 5, 2010

Most Americans either support or are not bothered by the annual National Day of Prayer, which President Obama proclaimed will be celebrated on May 6 this year. Those who say religion is important in their lives widely support the day, while the majority of those who say religion is *not* important say it doesn't matter to them, rather than opposing it outright.

As you may know, in 1952 Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, which will be held May 6th this year. Do you favor or oppose having a National Day of Prayer, or doesn't it matter to you either way?

	Favor	Oppose	Doesn't matter	No opinion
All Americans	57%	5%	38%	1%
Religion important	74%	2%	24%	*
Religion not important	24%	9%	66%	1%

* Less than 0.5%

Asked of "Form C" half sample

USA Today/Gallup poll, May 1-2, 2010

GALLUP®

This year's commemoration has involved some controversy as the National Day of Prayer Task Force, a private group organizing thousands of events across the country, has made it a goal to promote and publicize Christian prayer specifically.

Americans generally endorse the task force's goal, as 62% say promoting Christian prayer should be a major goal of the events while 36% disagree. Opinions on this matter diverge between religious and nonreligious Americans.

Should Promoting Christian Prayer Be a Major Goal of National Day of Prayer?

As you may know, in 1952 Congress designated a National Day of Prayer, which will be held on May 6th this year. A private task force organizing national prayer day events says a major goal should be to publicize and promote Christian prayer. Do you think this should or should not be one of the major goals of the National Day of Prayer?

	Yes, should be a major goal	No, should not be
All Americans	62%	36%
Religion important	74%	23%
Religion not important	34%	64%

Asked of "Form D" half sample

USA Today/Gallup poll, May 1-2, 2010

GALLUP®

These results are based on a May 1-2 *USA Today*/Gallup poll. They are generally consistent with the religious and Christian orientation of Americans.

The poll finds Americans in widespread agreement that prayers are heard and responded to -- 83% say there is a God who answers prayers, while 9% believe there is a God who does not answer prayers and 5% believe no God exists.

Americans' support for a National Day of Prayer may also stem from their belief that prayer can be effective for people regardless of what they believe in or how often they engage in the activity.

Specifically, a combined 75% reject the notion that prayer is effective only if done regularly. While those who say religion is important to them are somewhat more likely to believe that only regular prayer is effective, the vast majority of this group still believes this is not the case.

Which comes closest to your view about prayer -- [ROTATED: praying is effective only if a person prays regularly, praying can be effective for those who do not pray regularly, (or) how often someone prays has no impact on how effective prayer is]?

	Effective only if done regularly	Can be effective if not regular	How often one prays has no impact on its effectiveness
All Americans	19%	14%	61%
Religion important	24%	15%	55%
Religion not important	10%	13%	72%

USA Today/Gallup poll, May 1-2, 2010

GALLUP®

Additionally, 80% of Americans disagree with the idea that prayer works only for those who hold certain religious beliefs. This view is shared about equally by those who say religion is important and those who say it is not important in their lives, but is somewhat at odds with Americans' endorsing the promotion of Christian prayer as a major goal of National Day of Prayer events.

Which comes closer to your view about prayer -- [ROTATED: prayer only is effective for people who hold certain religious beliefs, (or) prayer can be effective no matter what a person believes in]?

	Only effective for those who hold certain beliefs	Can be effective no matter what a person believes
All Americans	15%	80%
Religion important	15%	81%
Religion not important	14%	78%

USA Today/Gallup poll, May 1-2, 2010

GALLUP®

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,049 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted May 1-2, 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 497 national adults in the random "Form C" half sample and the 552 national adults in the random "Form D" half sample, the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 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.

U.S. Job Creation Best Since November 2008

Job market conditions improved in all regions but the West, which was unchanged

May 6, 2010

Gallup's Job Creation Index finds current job market conditions nationwide to be the best they have been since November 2008.

Job Creation Index Nationwide, Monthly Averages, January 2008-April 2010

Percentage of companies hiring new people minus percentage letting people go



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

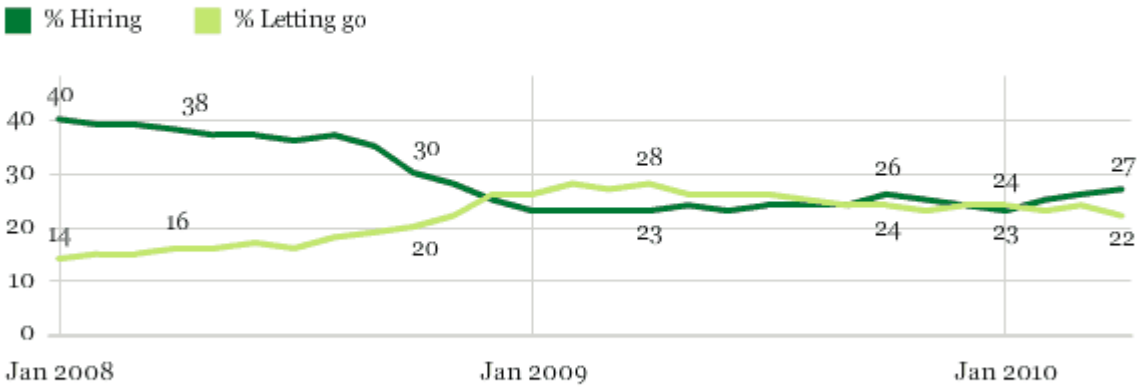
Nationally, the Job Creation Index for April -- based on 16,171 U.S. employees' self-reports of hiring and firing activity at their workplaces -- shows that employees' perceptions improved to +5 -- up 3 points from March, and 10 points better than a year ago. Despite its improvement in 2010, the Job Creation Index remains 17 points below its April 2008 level, meaning that job market conditions have a long way to go before they return to where they were early in the recession.

Hiring and Firing Have Both Improved

Twenty-seven percent of U.S. workers report that their companies are hiring, representing a steady, 4-point increase since January, and a similar increase over April 2009. However, hiring remains 11 points below where it was in April 2008. Twenty-two percent say their companies are letting people go -- down 2 points from January and 6 points from April of last year -- but 6 points higher than April 2008's 16%.

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

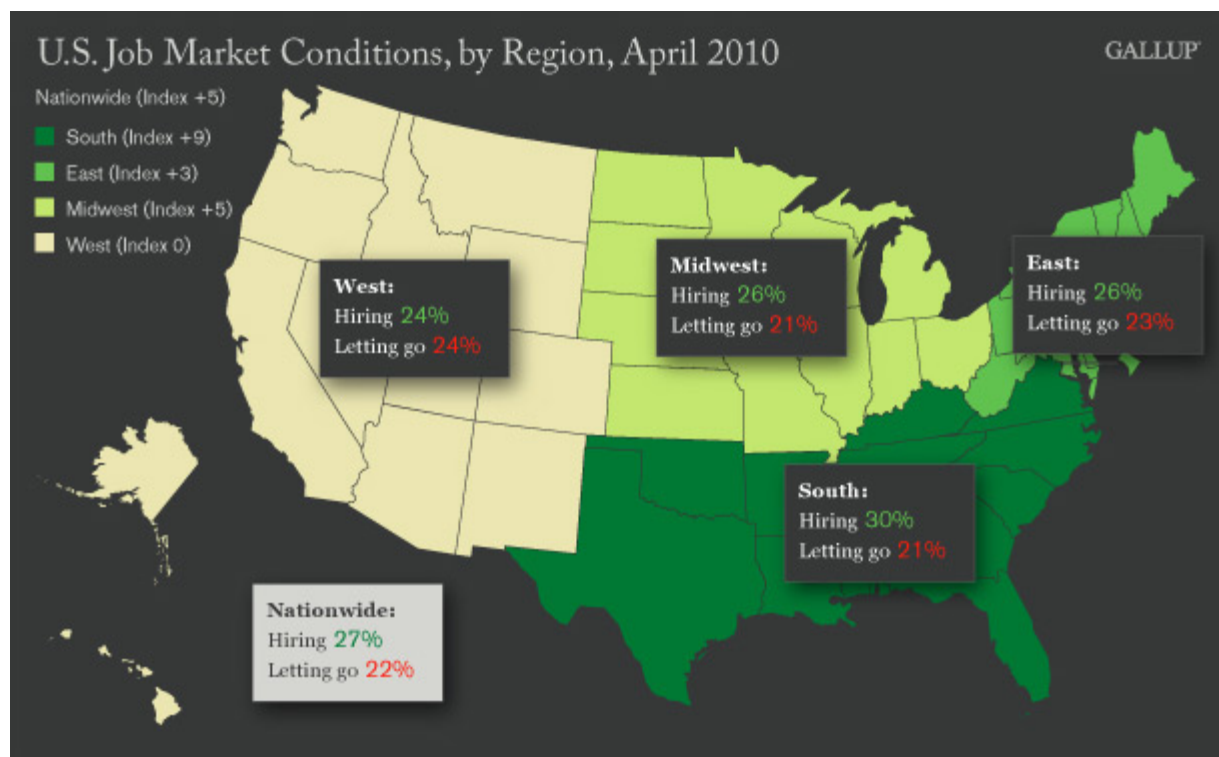
Based on what you know or have seen, would you say that, in general, your company or employer is --
 1) hiring new people and expanding the size of its workforce, 2) not changing the size of its workforce, or
 3) letting people go and reducing the size of its workforce?



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Job market conditions are improving in all regions with the exception of the West, which appears to be consolidating recent gains.



South: Remains the Best Job Market

Job conditions in the South remain the best of any region, with hiring reaching 30% and firing declining to 21% -- this 9-point difference is better than the 1 point of a year ago, but far below the 26-point difference in April 2008. Continued high oil prices benefit this region's job situation, although the recent oil-spill debacle may be detrimental in the months ahead.

Midwest: Second Best

Hiring in the Midwest increased to 26% and firing fell to 21%, improving the hiring-firing gap to 5 points in April. Improvements in the manufacturing sector have produced a growing job market in the Midwest, with the gap improving 5 points since January and 10 points since April 2009.

East: Improving

With 26% of employers hiring and 23% firing, April job conditions in the East are slightly worse than those in the Midwest. Improvements on Wall Street and in the financial sector overall have likely contributed to better job market conditions -- with the hiring-firing difference up by 10 points from April 2009, but still trailing that of April 2008 by 17 points.

West: Leveling Off

Hiring and firing leveled off in the West during April, at 24% each. This follows sharp improvements in February and March that leave the hiring-firing difference 11 points better than in April 2009. Manufacturing and exports are helping, as is a modest improvement in housing conditions in some markets.

Commentary

Gallup's Job Creation Index suggests that layoffs were down across the U.S. in April, consistent with Wednesday's Challenger report. The Index also shows a modest improvement in hiring, consistent with Wednesday's ADP report. Further, April's improvement in the Index tends to amplify the positive picture provided by the April improvement in Gallup's underemployment measure.

While much of today's job creation may be seasonal -- and therefore not reflected in the government's April unemployment report to be released Friday -- any improvement in job market conditions benefits not only those getting jobs but also the nascent economic recovery. On the other hand, hiring continues to trail far behind where it was two years ago at the outset of the recession, reflecting the huge challenge involved in getting people back to work.

Regardless, Gallup's underemployment and job creation data suggest that new jobs are being created -- something everyone looking for a job in today's tough job market should keep in mind.

Review and export the complete daily trends on these measures: Economic Indexes; Consumer Spending; Economic Outlook; Economic Conditions; Job Market; U.S. Workforce

Survey Methods

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

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

Interviews are conducted with respondents on 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.

United We Stand ... on Technology

May 5, 2010

You may take some whacks at Goldman Sachs but don't lay a hand on my PCs or Macs! That at least is the message one might take from a perusal of Americans' judgments about who and what are having positive or negative effects on the way things are going in the country today.

A March Pew Research Center survey found public satisfaction with the state of the nation continuing to decline while anger and frustration with the federal government mounts. Nor are the feds the sole target of public distrust. Numerous other institutions share in its opprobrium. On the scale of positive judgments by American adults, banks and other financial institutions, large corporations, labor unions -- even the news media and entertainment industry -- all score in the 20s or low 30s.

<i>Effect on way things are going in the country ...</i>	<u>Positive</u> %	<u>Negative</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %
Banks & financial inst.	22	69	10=100
Congress	24	65	12=100
Federal government	25	65	9=100
Large corporations	25	64	12=100
National news media	31	57	12=100
Federal agencies & depts.	31	54	16=100
Entertainment industry	33	51	16=100
Labor unions	32	49	18=100
Obama administration	45	45	10=100
Colleges & universities	61	26	13=100
Churches & religious orgs.	63	22	15=100
Small businesses	71	19	10=100
Technology companies	68	18	14=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18a-n. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

That institutions of higher education, churches and other religious organizations and that perennial favorite "small business" earn higher ratings is perhaps unsurprising. More striking is that at the top of the popularity list -- essentially tied with small business for first place in making a positive difference while outranking even religious institutions -- are technology companies.

Nor is that positive rating primarily the result of the enthusiasm of young and relatively young adults, the first adopters and overwhelming users of new technology. While fully 80% of those under age 30 express positive views of the tech sector, the fans of technology firms are well distributed across the age spectrum including about two-thirds (66%) of those in the 50-64 age bracket and more than half (52%) of those ages 65 and older. Even among the elderly, non-positive evaluations of tech companies are about as likely to be a non-response (19%) as a negative rating (23%).

Among demographic groups men are more likely than women to have warm feelings about the technology industry (73% vs. 63%) . Male enthusiasm extends across the age range with fully 68% of men ages 50 and above saying that tech companies have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country. Education also plays some role in this evaluation: 75% of college grads and 70% of those with some college experience take a positive view compared with about six in ten of those with lesser education attainment. Greater affluence also appears to stimulate more favorable views -- 82% of those with annual incomes of \$100,000 or more give a thumbs-up to tech companies compared with numbers in the 60% range for lesser income categories. Among regions, only in the South do somewhat fewer (63%) see tech firms exerting a positive influence.

Unlike in the case of government and many other institutions, views of technology companies are virtually invariant across political party lines, ideological leanings or voter status. But, as in the case of some other institutions tested, some carryover of contentment is apparent. Among those who say they are "angry" with the federal government only 59% say that technology companies have a positive influence compared with 70% of those "frustrated" and 73% of the "content" with government group. And while nearly eight in ten (78%) of those who are satisfied with the current direction of the nation also cast a favorable eye on the tech sector, only 64% of the nationally dissatisfied share that view. Of course one cannot conclude from this that loving your laptop makes you love the state of the nation.

The New Demography of American Motherhood

May 6, 2010

This report examines the changing demographic characteristics of U.S. mothers by comparing women who gave birth in 2008 with those who gave birth in 1990. It is based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Census Bureau. It also presents results of a nationwide Pew Research Center survey that asked a range of questions about parenthood.

Among the key findings of this report:

- **Age:** Mothers of newborns are older now than their counterparts were two decades ago. In 1990, teens had a higher share of all births (13%) than did women ages 35 and older (9%). In 2008, the reverse was true -- 10% of births were to teens, compared with 14% to women ages 35 and older. Each race and ethnic group had a higher share of mothers of newborns in 2008 who are ages 35 and older, and a lower share who are teens, than in 1990.
- **Marital Status:** A record four-in-ten births (41%) were to unmarried women in 2008, including most births to women in their early 20s. In 1990, 28% of births were to unmarried women. The unmarried-mother share of births has increased most sharply for whites and Hispanics, although the highest share is for black women.
- **Race and Ethnicity:** White women made up 53% of mothers of newborns in 2008, down from 65% in 1990. The share of births to Hispanic women has grown dramatically, to one-in-four.

- **Education:** Most mothers of newborns (54%) had at least some college education in 2006, an increase from 41% in 1990. Among mothers of newborns who were ages 35 and older, 71% had at least some college education.
- **Explaining the Trends:** All the trends cited above reflect a complex mix of demographic and behavioral factors. For example, the higher share of college-educated mothers stems both from their rising birth rates and from women's increasing educational attainment. The rise in births to unmarried women reflects both their rising birth rates and the shrinking share of adults who are married.
- **Attitudes about Parenthood:** When asked why they decided to have their first (or only) child, the overwhelming majority of parents (87%) answer, "The joy of having children." But nearly half (47%) also say, "There wasn't a reason; it just happened."

Overview

The demography of motherhood in the United States has shifted strikingly in the past two decades. Compared with mothers of newborns in 1990, today's mothers of newborns are older and better educated. They are less likely to be white and less likely to be married.

Recasting Motherhood, 1990 to 2008 [% of births by characteristics of mother]			
	1990	2008	Percentage Point Change
Mother's Age			
< 20	13	10	-3
20-34	78	75	-3
35+	9	14	+5
Mother's Race			
White	65	53	-12
Black	16	15	-1
Hispanic	14	24	+10
Asian	3	6	+3
Mother's Marital Status			
Married	72	59	-13
Unmarried	28	41	+13

Note: 2008 data are preliminary. Percentages may not total to 100% due to missing data or rounding.

Source: Statistics calculated using National Center for Health Statistics data (see Methodology)

PewResearchCenter

In 1990, there were more births to teenagers than to women ages 35 and older. By 2008, that had reversed -- 14% of births were to older women and 10% were to teens. Births to women ages 35 and older grew 64% between 1990 and 2008, increasing in all major race and ethnic groups.

Another notable change during this period was the rise in births to unmarried women. In 2008, a record 41% of births in the United States were to unmarried women, up from 28% in 1990. The share of births that are non-marital is highest for black women (72%), followed by Hispanics

(53%), whites (29%) and Asians (17%), but the increase over the past two decades has been greatest for whites -- the share rose 69%.

Just over half of births (53%) in 2008 were to white women, and a quarter (24%) were to Hispanic women. More than half of the mothers of newborns (54% in 2006) had at least some college education. One-in-four (24% in 2004) was foreign born.

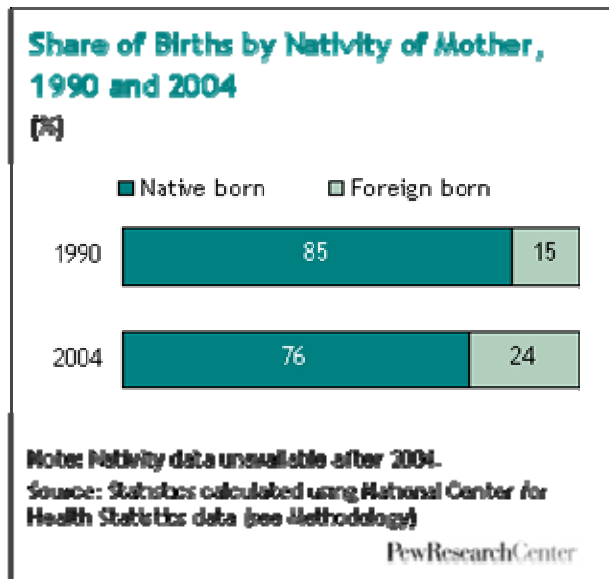
The shift in characteristics of motherhood over the past two decades is linked to a complex mixture of demographic and behavioral changes. This analysis examines and explains these trends using data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the U.S. Census Bureau. A separate section (found in the [complete report](#)), based on a Pew Research Center survey, explores the reasons people say they became parents and examines public attitudes about key trends shaping today's birth patterns.

The recasting of American motherhood takes place against a backdrop of relative stability in the total number of births -- 4.3 million in 2008, compared with 4.2 million in 1990. The number had risen each year from 2003 to 2007 before declining by about 66,000; the decrease appears to be [linked to the economic downturn](#).

The nation's birth rate (births per 1,000 women of childbearing age) has declined 20% from 1990. Rates have declined for all major race and ethnic groups. The birth rate for married women is stable, but it has risen for unmarried women.

Demographic Changes

Population changes are a key factor influencing birth patterns in recent decades. There are fewer women in the prime childbearing years now than in 1990, as the youngest members of the giant Baby Boom generation have aged into their mid-40s. But changes in the race and ethnic makeup of young women -- chiefly, the growth of the Hispanic population, which has higher birth rates than other groups -- have helped keep birth numbers relatively level.



Another influence on births is the nation's growing number of immigrants, who tend to have higher birth rates than the native born (although those rates have declined in recent years). The share of births to foreign-born mothers, 15% of U.S. births in 1990, has grown at least 60% through 2004. Births to foreign-born women in 2004 accounted for the majority of Hispanic (61%) and Asian (83%) births.

According to Pew Research Center population projections, 82% of the nation's population growth through 2050 will be accounted for by immigrants who arrived in the U.S. after 2005 and their descendants, assuming current trends continue. Of the 142 million people added to the population from 2005 to 2050, according to the projections, 50 million will be the children or grandchildren of new immigrants.

Attitudes about Birth Trends

Americans are marrying later in life, or not at all, which has contributed to the growth in births outside marriage. Most Americans say they know at least one woman who had a baby while she was not married, and one man who fathered a child while he was not married, according to a Pew Research Center survey. Americans have softened slightly in their disapproval of unmarried parenthood, but most say it is bad for society.

The survey found that Americans are neutral or approving of two other trends that have an impact on birth patterns. One is the growing number of women ages 40 and older who have babies, a group whose relatively small birth rate has tripled since 1990. The other is the increasing number of women, often those over 30, who undergo fertility treatment in order to have a baby.

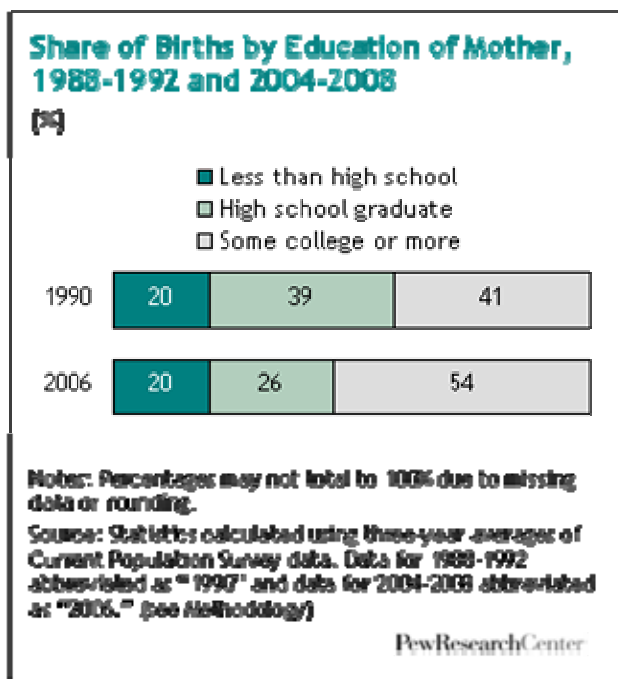
When Americans are asked what is the ideal number of children for a family, the most popular answer, according to the survey, is "two" -- as it has been since the 1970s. And, indeed, among women with children at the end of their reproductive years -- ages 40-44 in 2006 -- the largest

share (43%) had two. An additional 22% each had one or three children, 8% had four and 4% had five or more.

There are race and ethnic variations in family sizes. Nearly half of Hispanic women ages 40-44 with children (48%) have three or more, compared with 27% of Asian women.

The Pew Research Center survey also asked parents why they decided to have their first child, and for the overwhelming majority, the answer is, "the joy of having children." However, a half century after the Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of birth control pills, nearly half of parents say "there wasn't a reason; it just happened."

Older Mothers



The average age for U.S. mothers who had their first baby in 2008 was 25, a year older than the average first-time mother in 1990. Among all women who had a baby in 2008, the average age is 27, up from 26 in 1990. The prime child-bearing years remain 20-34 -- three-quarters of mothers of newborns are in this age range. Birth rates peak among women in their late 20s.

Since 1990, birth rates have risen for all women ages 30 and older. Although in some cases the number of births is small, the rate increases have been sharpest for women in the oldest age groups -- 47% for women ages 35-39 and 80% for women ages 40-44, for example.

This delay in age of motherhood is associated with delay in age of marriage and with growing educational attainment. The more education a woman has, the later she tends to marry and have children. Birth rates also have risen for the most educated women, those with at least some college education, while being relatively stable for women with less education. These dual factors have worked together to increase the education levels of mothers of newborns.

Fertility Higher Than in Other Developed Nations

Another measure of birth levels is the total fertility rate, or number of children the average woman is predicted to have, based on current age-specific birth rates. That rate for the United States, 2.10 in 2008¹, is about what it was in 1990. The number is about or slightly below the "replacement rate" -- that is, the level at which enough children are born to replace their parents in the population -- and has been for most years since the baby bust of the early 1970s.

Compared with Canada, and most nations in Europe and Asia, the U.S. has a higher total fertility rate. Rates such as 1.4 in Austria, Italy and Japan have produced concern about whether those nations will have enough people of working age in the future to support their elderly populations, and whether their total populations could decline in size.

Why are fertility rates somewhat higher in the United States than in other developed nations? Some researchers contend that fertility rates are low in some other developed countries-Italy and Japan, for example-in part because of lack of support for mothers who also hold paid employment. Those countries also have a lower share of births to unmarried women. The religiosity of the U.S. population also has been suggested as a factor, because it is associated with a desire for larger families.²

1. The rate before rounding, according to the Population Reference Bureau, is 2.098. According to preliminary 2008 birth data from the National Center for Health Statistics, the rate is 2.086. The replacement rate is 2.100.

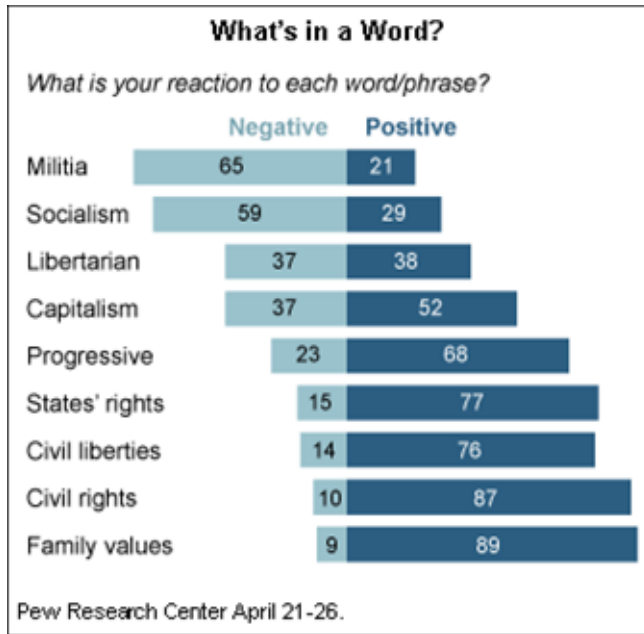
2. Preston, Samuel H. and Caroline Sten Hartnett. "The Future of American Fertility." National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 14498. 2008.

"Socialism" Not So Negative, "Capitalism" Not So Positive

A Political Rhetoric Test

May 4, 2010

'Socialism' is a negative for most Americans, but certainly not all Americans. "Capitalism" is regarded positively by a majority of public, though it is a thin majority. Among certain segments of the public -- notably, young people and Democrats -- both "isms" are rated about equally. And while most Americans have a negative reaction to the word "militia," the term is viewed more positively by Republican men than most other groups.



These are among the findings of a national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press that tests reactions to words and phrases frequently used in current political discourse. Overall, 29% say they have a positive reaction to the word "socialism," while 59% react negatively. The public's impressions of "capitalism," though far more positive, are somewhat mixed. Slightly more than half (52%) react positively to the word "capitalism," compared with 37% who say they have a negative reaction.

A large majority of Republicans (77%) react negatively to "socialism," while 62% have a positive reaction to "capitalism." Democrats' impressions are more divided: In fact, about as many Democrats react positively to "socialism" (44%) as to "capitalism" (47%).

Reaction to "capitalism" is lukewarm among many demographic groups. Fewer than half of young people, women, people with lower incomes and those with less education react positively to "capitalism."

The survey, conducted April 21-26 among 1,546 adults, measured reactions to nine political words and phrases. The most positive reactions are to "family values" (89% positive) and "civil rights" (87%). About three-quarters see "states' rights" (77%) and "civil liberties" (76%) positively, while 68% have a positive reaction to the word "progressive."

Reactions to the word "libertarian" are evenly divided -- 38% positive, 37% negative. On balance, Republicans view "libertarian" negatively, Democrats are divided, while independents have a positive impression of the term. "Militia" elicits the most negative reaction of the nine terms tested: Just 21% have a positive reaction compared with 65% who have a negative response.

Partisan Divide over "Socialism"

What's in a Word?					
Reactions to...	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	%	
Socialism					
Positive	29	15	44	26	-29
Negative	59	77	43	64	
Progressive					
Positive	68	56	81	64	-25
Negative	23	34	12	26	
Libertarian					
Positive	38	31	39	44	-8
Negative	37	44	37	32	
Civil liberties					
Positive	76	72	80	75	-8
Negative	14	16	11	17	
Civil rights					
Positive	87	84	91	86	-7
Negative	10	10	8	11	
Family values					
Positive	89	94	83	91	+11
Negative	9	4	15	8	
Militia					
Positive	21	27	15	20	+12
Negative	65	59	70	66	
States' rights					
Positive	77	85	71	78	+14
Negative	15	9	21	16	
Capitalism					
Positive	52	62	47	52	+15
Negative	37	29	43	39	
N	1546	413	499	554	
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q39a-JF1.					

The most striking partisan differences come in reactions to the word "socialism." Just 15% of Republicans react positively to "socialism" while 77% react negatively. By more than two-to-one (64% to 26%), independents also have a negative impression of "socialism." However, Democrats are evenly divided -- 44% have a positive reaction to "socialism" while 43% react negatively.

"Capitalism" elicits a less partisan reaction. About six-in-ten Republicans (62%) react positively to "capitalism," compared with 29% who have a negative reaction. About half of independents (52%) have a positive impression while 39% react negatively. Among Democrats, 47% react positively to "capitalism" while nearly as many (43%) react negatively.

There is a substantial partisan divide in views of the word "progressive." However, majorities of Democrats (81%), independents (64%) and Republicans (56%) have a positive reaction to "progressive."

More than four-in-ten independents (44%) react positively to the word "libertarian," while 32% have a negative reaction. Democrats are nearly evenly divided (39% positive, 37% negative). However, Republicans on balance have a negative impression of this term (44% negative, 31% positive).

Majorities of Democrats (70%), independents (66%) and Republicans (59%) react negatively to the word "militia." Nearly twice as many Republicans (27%) as Democrats (15%) have a positive view of this term.

Young People Lukewarm Toward "Capitalism"

Reactions to "Socialism" and "Capitalism"					
	Socialism		Capitalism		N
	Pos- itive %	Neg- ative %	Pos- itive %	Neg- ative %	
Total	29	59	52	37	1546
Men	25	65	59	34	740
Women	33	54	47	40	806
White, non-Hispanic	24	65	53	37	1172
Black, non-Hispanic	53	35	50	40	171
18-29	43	49	43	48	218
30-49	33	56	55	37	433
50-64	23	63	54	35	505
65+	14	73	56	29	373
College grad+	23	64	68	24	586
Some college	25	67	49	43	395
HS or less	35	53	44	42	562
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	19	71	66	25	440
\$30-74,999	24	64	47	47	496
Less than \$30,000	44	46	47	40	423
Cons Rep	12	84	67	26	302
Mod/Lib Rep	21	65	51	37	100
Independent	26	64	52	39	554
Cons/Mod Dem	44	45	48	40	303
Liberal Dem	44	40	44	49	178
<i>Obama job</i>					
Approve	42	44	50	39	720
Disapprove	15	79	59	34	676
Among whites					
College grad+	19	68	71	21	459
Some college	19	72	49	44	307
HS or less	30	60	42	45	404
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	15	75	69	22	355
\$30-74,999	22	68	49	46	382
Less than \$30,000	36	53	43	44	296

Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q39a & Q39g.
 Figures read across.

Young people are more positive about "socialism" -- and more negative about "capitalism" -- than are older Americans. Among those younger than age 30, identical percentages react positively to "socialism" and "capitalism" (43% each), while about half react negatively to each. Among older age groups, majorities view "socialism" negatively and "capitalism" positively.

People ages 65 and older have a particularly negative reaction to "socialism" -- 73% have a negative impression of the term compared with just 14% who are positive. But those 65 and

older are no more likely than those ages 30 to 64 to have a positive reaction to "capitalism" (56% vs. 55%).

More than twice as many blacks as whites react positively to "socialism" (53% vs. 24%). Yet there are no racial differences in views of "capitalism" -- 50% of African Americans and 53% of whites have a positive reaction.

Those with a high school education or less are evenly divided over "capitalism" (44% positive vs. 42% negative). Among those with some college experience, 49% react positively to "capitalism" as do 68% of college graduates. Those with a high school education or less are more likely to express a positive view of "socialism" than do those with more education.

People with family incomes of \$75,000 or more are the only income group in which a clear majority (66%) reacts positively to the word "capitalism." Views of "socialism" also are much more negative among those in this income category (71% negative) and among those with incomes of \$30,000 to \$75,000 (64% negative) than among those with incomes of less than \$30,000 (46% negative).

Conservative Republicans stand out for their overwhelmingly negative reactions to "socialism" (84% negative) and highly positive reactions to "capitalism" (67% positive). No more than about half in other political groups, including moderate and liberal Republicans (51%), have a positive impression of "capitalism."

Perhaps surprisingly, opinions about the terms "socialism" and "capitalism" are not correlated with each other. Most of those who have a positive reaction to "socialism" also have a positive reaction to "capitalism"; in fact, views of "capitalism" are about the same among those who react positively to "socialism" as they are among those who react negatively (52% and 56%, respectively, view "capitalism" positively). Conversely, views of "socialism" are just as negative among those who have a positive reaction to "capitalism" (64% negative) as those who react negatively (61% negative).

There are some differences in the relationship between these terms by demographic groups, although the association is not particularly strong among any group. For instance, among college graduates, 71% of those with a positive reaction to "capitalism" have a negative reaction to "socialism." By contrast, among college graduates who have a negative view of "capitalism" a smaller proportion have a negative view of "socialism" (51%).

Reactions to "Militia"			
	<u>Pos- itive</u> %	<u>Neg- ative</u> %	<u>N</u>
Total	21	65	1546
Men	28	60	740
Women	14	69	806
White, non-Hispanic	21	66	1172
Black, non-Hispanic	17	62	171
18-29	25	65	218
30-49	17	70	433
50-64	20	67	505
65+	24	51	373
College grad+	18	71	586
Some college	20	68	395
HS or less	22	58	562
Among men			
Republican	36	53	198
Democrat	19	74	195
Independent	28	59	305
Among women			
Republican	18	65	215
Democrat	12	68	304
Independent	10	76	249
Pew Research Center April 21-26 Q39c. Figures read across.			

Gender Differences in Views of "Militia"

While the word "militia" is viewed negatively, there are gender and partisan differences in reactions to this term. Overall, twice as many men (28%) as women (14%) say they have a positive reaction to the word "militia." In addition, more Republicans (27%) than independents (20%) or Democrats (15%) have positive impressions.

Republican men have a more positive impression of "militia" (36% positive) than do Democratic men (19%). Moreover, GOP men have a more positive reaction than do Republican women (18% positive).

A sizeable gender gap is also seen in independents' reactions to "militia." Among independents, 28% of men have a positive reaction to "militia," compared with just 10% of women. The gender differences are more modest among Democrats (19% positive among men vs. 12% among women).

U.S Catholics Show Mixed Views on Pope

Two-Thirds believe Benedict XVI should remain Pontiff, yet majority negative about addressing of sexual abuse issues

Results of a new Zogby Interactive survey show mixed results among American Catholics' evaluations of Catholic Church leaders. Both Pope Benedict XVI and American Catholic Bishops receive largely negative ratings in their handling of the sexual abuse situation with the church. However, pluralities approve of the overall job performance of both the Pope and Bishops. In addition, a clear majority of American Catholics believe Pope Benedict XVI should continue to serve as Pope.

Do you approve or disapprove of the overall job that (a)Pope Benedict XVI (b) the American Catholic Bishops are doing?

	Pope Benedict XVI	American Catholic Bishops
Strongly Approve	24%	8%
Somewhat Approve	32%	37%
Total Approve	56%	45%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%	26%
Strongly Disapprove	15%	17%
Total Disapprove	32%	44%
Not sure	12%	11%

Fifty-six percent of American Catholics approve of the overall job that Pope Benedict XVI is doing, with 32% disapproving. Approval of U.S. Bishops is somewhat lower, with 45% approving of their overall job, and 44% disapproving.

Overall, how would you rate (a) Pope Benedict XVI (b) the American Catholic Bishops' efforts to address the sexual abuse situation within the Catholic Church?

	Pope Benedict XVI	American Catholic Bishops
Excellent	15%	8%
Good	23%	12%
Positive	38%	20%
Fair	26%	29%
Poor	30%	43%
Negative	56%	72%
Not sure	6%	8%

When asked specifically about how Pope Benedict XVI has dealt with the sexual abuse situation within the Catholic Church, a plurality of American Catholics give negative ratings to both the Pope and American Catholic Bishops. Only 15% believe that Pope Benedict XVI has done an "excellent" job addressing the sexual abuse situation within the Church, with 23% believing he has done a good job, 26% believing he has done a fair job and 30% believing he has done a poor job.

Ratings for American Bishops are lower, with 8% rating the Bishops' efforts to address the sexual abuse situation within the Church as excellent, 12% rating their efforts as good, 29% rating their efforts as fair and 43% rating their efforts as poor.

Some have called for Pope Benedict XVI to resign as a result of the sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Others believe he should not resign. Do you believe Pope Benedict XVI should resign, or do you believe he should continue as Pope?

	Overall
Pope Benedict XVI should continue as Pope	64%
Pope Benedict XVI should resign	16%
Don't know/not sure	20%

Finally, though a plurality give Pope Benedict XVI a "poor" rating on addressing sexual abuse within the Church, a clear majority of American Catholics believe Pope Benedict XVI should remain Pope. Only 16% believe the Pope should resign as a result of sexual abuse within the Church, while 64% believe he should continue as Pope, and 20% are unsure.

Additional results from this survey will be formally released by John Zogby in a speech to the National Catholic Reporter on May 6, 2010. This interactive survey, conducted by Zogby International Apr. 30 through May 3, 2010, has a sample size of 705 Catholics nationwide. A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, age, race, gender and education to more accurately reflect the Catholic population. The margin of error is +/- 3.8 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

The Flu Season That Wasn't

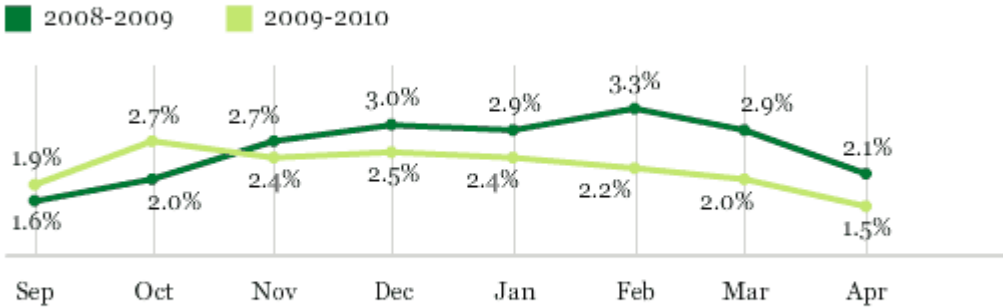
Self-reported flu cases have steadily declined since peaking in October

May 6, 2010

Despite initial concerns about the rampant spread of H1N1 heading into the 2009-2010 cold and flu season, flu reports have been consistently lower throughout this flu season compared with the last according to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. April marks the sixth consecutive month in which fewer American adults in Gallup's tracking have reported having the flu the prior day compared with the corresponding months' estimates from one year ago.

Were you sick with the flu yesterday?

Average percentage of American adults reporting being sick with the flu on any given day



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

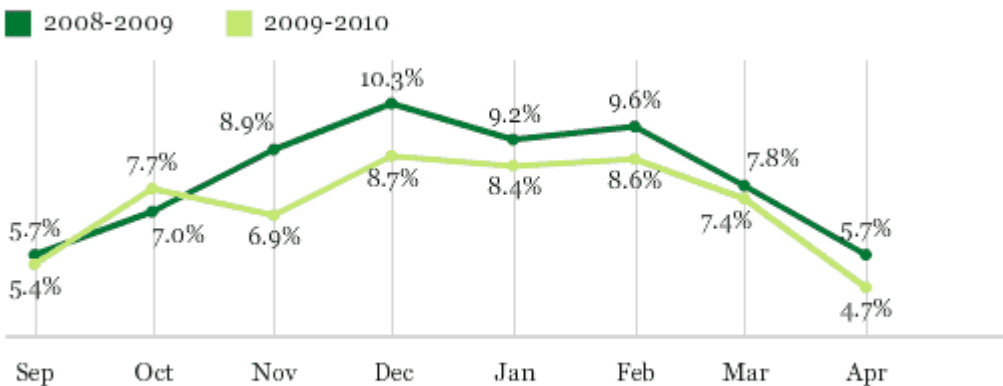
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By asking 1,000 Americans each day whether they had the flu "yesterday," the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data provide a clear picture of the prevalence of flu throughout the course of the season and compared with last season.

The reported daily prevalence of colds also continues to track lower than one year ago, with a daily average of 4.7% of American adults self-reporting having a cold in April, down from 5.7% in April 2009.

Were you sick with a cold yesterday?

Average percentage of American adults reporting being sick with a cold any given day



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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The measurement of colds vs. the flu in a survey research environment is complex because of the overlapping symptoms of the two disease conditions and many Americans' misunderstanding of what symptoms constitute "the flu" versus "a cold." Still, the opportunity for year-over-year comparisons with the 2008-2009 cold and flu season data serving as a pre-H1N1 control group

provides useful insight into the self-reported prevalence of each. In general, the percentage of Americans who report having a cold yesterday is roughly three times the percentage that report having the flu.

Decline in Flu Cases Since 2008-2009 Season Greatest for Low Income, Hispanics

Self-reported daily flu incidence was down across every major demographic group this season compared with last season. Hispanics, young adults, and those in low-income households were among the most likely to experience the flu this season, similar to the 2008-2009 season. Whites, adults from high-income households, and seniors have consistently maintained lower levels of flu incidence over time.

Changes in Average Daily Flu Incidence: 2008-2009 vs. 2009-2010 Seasons

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Change
GENDER:			
Female	2.7	2.3	-0.4
Male	2.4	2.0	-0.4
AGE:			
18-29	3.4	2.8	-0.6
30-44	2.9	2.6	-0.3
45-64	2.3	2.1	-0.2
65+	1.7	1.5	-0.2
RACE/ETHNICITY:			
Hispanic	7.5	6.7	-0.8
Asian	3.6	3.2	-0.4
Other	3.3	2.5	-0.8
Black	2.0	1.8	-0.2
White	1.8	1.5	-0.3
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
<\$24,000	4.2	3.6	-0.6
\$24,000-<\$48,000	2.2	2.1	-0.1
\$48,000-<\$90,000	1.7	1.5	-0.2
\$90,000+	1.6	1.4	-0.2

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

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Bottom Line

Many factors have likely played a role in reduced incidences of flu and cold this season, including the rollout of large-scale H1N1 vaccinations nationwide. An elevated awareness and

sensitivity to contracting the flu may have simultaneously increased those seeking out vaccinations for regular seasonal influenza. Schools and community public health officials have also undertaken significant efforts to encourage conscientious hygiene practices such as hand washing and coughing into shirt sleeves rather than into hands, as well as preemptive measures such as providing disinfectant wipes at grocery stores and disseminating face masks at clinics and doctors' offices.

The ominous predictions of H1N1's spread that public health officials made last summer have ultimately not come to pass according to Gallup and Healthways' continuous tracking of self-reported daily flu incidence. These results provide good evidence of the impact that public health policy and preventative health education can have on subsequent public health outcomes.

Survey Methods

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index surveys a random sample of at least 1,000 adults each day, or roughly 30,000 adults a month, on a wide range of topics related to health and wellbeing. For monthly results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 0.6 percentage point.

One of the questions asked each day is, "Were you sick with any of the following yesterday?" The question specifies four illnesses: the flu, a cold, a headache, and allergies. Respondents are not asked to indicate whether they had received a clinical diagnosis of H1N1 or other types of influenza via a healthcare professional.

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

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.

Approval for Congress Steady in United States

May 03, 2010

Only one-in-four Americans are satisfied with the way the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are doing their jobs, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 24 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Congress.

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

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

On Apr. 22, Pelosi welcomed a presidential directive that provides visitation rights for same-sex couples in hospitals, declaring, "This is a critical step in ending discrimination against LGBT families and ensuring that, in the event of a hospital stay, all Americans have the right to see their loved ones."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan. 2010
Approve	24%	24%	18%	24%
Disapprove	63%	66%	73%	65%
Not sure	13%	10%	9%	11%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,004 American adults, conducted on Apr. 20 and Apr. 21, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil's Lula Heads to Retirement with High Numbers

May 04, 2010

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva remains particularly popular in Brazil, according to a poll by Ibope. 76 per cent of respondents rate their president's performance as good or very good.

Lula—a member of the Worker's Party (PT)—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB). In October 2006, he earned a new four-year term, defeating PSDB candidate Geraldo Alckmin with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the second round. Lula is ineligible for a third consecutive term in office.

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

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

Last month, Lula dismissed rumours that he aspires to become the new secretary-general of the United Nations (UN), saying, "We have to make one thing clear. The UN cannot have a politician as its secretary-general. It has to be a bureaucrat from the diplomatic core."

Polling Data

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

	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
Good / Very Good	76%	75%	76%
Fair	18%	19%	19%
Bad / Very Bad	5%	5%	5%

Source: Ibope

Methodology: Interviews with 2,002 Brazilian adults, conducted from Apr. 13 to Apr. 16, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

AUSTRALASIA

Australians Want Immigrants in Specific Regions

May 07, 2010

People in Australia believe their government should provide incentives for new migrants to settle in specific regions of the country which need and can cope with higher populations, according to a poll by Essential Research. 55 per cent of respondents agree with this view.

Australia's population is currently estimated at just over 22 million. The overall level of immigration to Australia grew from just over 30,000 in 1992 and 1993, to more than 177,000 in 2006 and 2007.

Last month, the Australian government suspended the processing of all new applications from asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

Australian immigration minister Chris Evans explained the situation, saying, "The decision has been made in the light of the changing circumstances in both Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. We have taken a consistently hard-line approach to people smuggling and today's announcements will further strengthen the integrity of Australia's immigration system."

Polling Data

Thinking about immigration, should the Government provide incentives for new migrants to settle in specific regions of Australia which need and can cope with higher populations?

Should provide incentives to settle in specific regions	55%
Should not provide incentives to settle in specific regions	30%
Don't know	15%

Source: Essential Research

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,059 Australian adults, conducted from Apr. 12 to Apr. 18, 2010. No margin of error was provided.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

Many See Drug Trafficking Widespread, Rising in Latin America

Brazilians most likely to see growing problem

May 7, 2010

Gallup surveys suggest illicit drug trafficking is common in communities throughout much of Latin America, including in some of the most well-developed countries such as Chile and Costa Rica. At least half of residents in Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Venezuela, and Uruguay say illicit drug trafficking or drug sales are taking place in their neighborhoods.

Is there illicit drug trafficking or drug sales in the area where you live?

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused
Brazil	70%	21%	9%
Costa Rica	60%	29%	11%
Uruguay	56%	26%	18%
Argentina	55%	23%	22%
Panama	52%	37%	12%
Chile	51%	32%	17%
Venezuela	50%	31%	19%
Dominican Republic	46%	37%	17%
Mexico	43%	37%	21%
LATIN AMERICAN MEDIAN	43%	38%	17%
Ecuador	42%	43%	15%
Colombia	39%	46%	15%
Peru	32%	53%	15%
Guatemala	31%	39%	30%
Nicaragua	30%	56%	14%
Paraguay	27%	55%	18%
Honduras	23%	62%	15%
Bolivia	19%	51%	30%
El Salvador	15%	65%	20%

2009

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While Mexico's problems with drug trafficking often make the news, Gallup's surveys in the region in 2009 show the problem is as widespread, if not more so, in other Latin American countries. Forty-three percent of Mexicans say illicit drug trafficking is taking place in their

neighborhoods, which is average for the region, but adults in several countries are far more likely to say this is happening where they live.

Adults in Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Venezuela, and Uruguay since the early days of Mexico's drug war in 2007 have generally been more likely than Mexicans to say illicit drugs are being sold in their neighborhoods. Further, while the overall trend stayed flat in Mexico between 2008 and 2009, the numbers climbed in some of the region's other largest countries, including Argentina, Chile, and particularly Brazil, where the figure climbed to 70% in 2009. In Colombia, where anti-drug efforts have been ongoing for more than a decade, there was no change from 2008 to 2009.

Is there illicit drug trafficking or drug sales in the area where you live?

	2007	2008	2009
Mexico	38%	43%	43%
Brazil	52%	57%	70%
Argentina	49%	51%	55%
Chile	42%	44%	51%
Colombia	35%	40%	39%

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Many of the countries where majorities say illicit drug sales are taking place in their neighborhoods are drug transit countries, part of the pipelines to destinations in either North America or Europe. In each of these countries, the percentage who say drug sales are increasing is higher than the 33% median for the region. In addition to being more likely than residents of any other Latin American country to say illicit drug sales are taking place in their neighborhoods, Brazilians are the most likely to see the problem as increasing (74%). Mexicans, again, are about average for the region.

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

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know/ Refused	Does not apply
Brazil	74%	13%	13%	0%
Costa Rica	53%	28%	15%	3%
Panama	47%	31%	19%	4%
Uruguay	46%	24%	28%	2%
Argentina	46%	21%	31%	2%
Chile	42%	31%	25%	2%
Venezuela	39%	26%	28%	7%
Dominican Republic	37%	31%	28%	4%
Mexico	33%	31%	29%	7%
LATIN AMERICAN MEDIAN	33%	31%	28%	4%
Colombia	29%	44%	24%	4%
Ecuador	27%	35%	36%	2%
Guatemala	25%	30%	38%	7%
Nicaragua	23%	29%	23%	25%
Peru	21%	35%	24%	20%
Honduras	19%	34%	21%	26%
Paraguay	17%	49%	28%	7%
El Salvador	12%	30%	29%	29%

2009

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Bottom Line

The attention drawn by Mexico's drug violence should not overshadow the reality that illicit drug trafficking is common in much of Latin America. Gallup data point to the importance of emphasizing anti-drug strategies in diplomatic relations with all major trade partners in the region -- particularly Brazil, where residents have become more likely over the past two years to perceive that drug trafficking is on the rise. Such a holistic approach may be the only way to stem the northward flow of drugs through Mexico's war-torn regions over the long term.

Survey Methods

Results are based face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2009 in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can

say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 3.3 percentage points in Brazil to ± 3.9 percentage points in Peru. 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.

Colombia Eclipses Mexico in Murders Close to Home

Nearly 1 in 5 Colombians say friend, relative murdered in past 12 months

May 5, 2010

Despite frequent news of drug war-related deaths in Mexico, Gallup polls show the average Mexican is less likely than those in several other Latin American countries to say a close friend or relative was murdered in the past year. Five percent of Mexicans interviewed in August 2009 said someone close to them was murdered in the past 12 months -- about average for the region.

Within the last 12 months, have you had a relative or close friend murdered?

	Yes	No
Colombia	17%	83%
Dominican Republic	14%	85%
Brazil	11%	88%
Venezuela	10%	90%
Honduras	10%	90%
Panama	10%	90%
Guatemala	9%	91%
Costa Rica	7%	93%
Bolivia	7%	93%
LATIN AMERICA MEDIAN	7%	94%
Nicaragua	6%	94%
Mexico	5%	94%
El Salvador	5%	94%
Paraguay	4%	95%
Peru	4%	96%
Ecuador	4%	96%
Argentina	3%	97%
Chile	3%	96%
Uruguay	1%	99%

2009

GALLUP®

Drug- and gang-related deaths in Mexico's nearly four-year drug war surpassed 22,000 this year, but the country's homicide rate is lower than it was a decade ago. Mexico's homicide rate (11.6 per 100,000 in 2008) is still lower than those in other countries such as Colombia (38.8 per 100,000 in 2007), where residents are among the likeliest to say a friend or relative was murdered. Other Latin American countries with significant percentages claiming this -- the Dominican Republic (14%), Brazil (11%), Venezuela (10%), and Honduras (10%) -- tend to have relatively high homicide rates.

Gallup found Mexicans (5%) and Colombians (5%) are similar, however, regarding the number who report a friend or relative was kidnapped within the past 12 months. But Dominicans are more likely than Colombians or Mexicans -- or anyone else in the region -- to report this.

Within the last 12 months, have you had a relative or close friend kidnapped?

	Yes	No
Dominican Republic	8%	92%
Mexico	5%	95%
Colombia	5%	95%
Guatemala	4%	95%
Honduras	4%	95%
Bolivia	4%	96%
Venezuela	3%	97%
Brazil	3%	97%
El Salvador	3%	96%
Costa Rica	3%	97%
LATIN AMERICA MEDIAN	3%	97%
Nicaragua	2%	97%
Panama	2%	97%
Peru	2%	97%
Ecuador	2%	98%
Argentina	2%	98%
Chile	1%	99%
Paraguay	1%	99%
Uruguay	0%	99%

2009

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Colombia's murder rate -- as well as its kidnap rate -- has fallen dramatically under President Alvaro Uribe's democratic security policy, and security and rule of law have both improved. The 17% of Colombians who say a close friend or relative who was murdered, however, attest that security remains a problem for many residents, with newly formed criminal bands that stem from

former paramilitary groups spreading rapidly throughout some of the most important cities in Colombia.

Survey Methods

Results are based face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2009 in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 3.3 percentage points in Brazil to ± 3.9 percentage points in Peru. 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.
