

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Global Opinion Report No. 123

Week: June 06-12, 2010

Presentation: June 16, 2010

M. Zubair

Summary of Article	02
Prelude	03
Summary of Polls	04
SOUTHEAST ASIA	
• Malaysian voters have mixed views on government KPIs – survey	07
SUB SAHARAN AFRICA	
• Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda	09
• Sub-Saharan Africans Bank on Family for Business Loans	09
EAST EUROPE	
• The Best Is Yet To Come: Russians About The Present And The Future	14
• Sevastopol Agreement: Who Benefited More: Russia Or Ukraine?	16
• Ukrainians Ponder Performance of New Government	19
WEST EUROPE	
• Few Britons Upbeat About Economic Standing	20
• Rutte Could Form Next Dutch Government	21
• Swedes Join Chorus of Anti-Euro Voices	21
• Popular Party Overtakes Socialists in Spain	22
• Greeks Blame Their Government, Not World, For Crisis	23
NORTH AMERICA	
• Party Lines Mark Debate Over Korea in U.S.	24
• Registered Voters Evenly Divided on Vote for Congress	24
• Fewer Americans Feeling Better About Their Financial Situation	26
• Doubts About Obama's Economic Policies Rose Over the Last Year	30
• For Majority of Voters, National Issues Paramount in 2010 Vote	36
• Americans Lack Consensus on Desirability of Divided Gov't.	38
• Hispanic Voters' Preferences Unchanged Post-Arizona Law	41
• The Typical Modern Mother: There Isn't One	43
LATIN AMERICA	
• Roughly 6.2 Million Mexicans Express Desire to Move to U.S.	46
• Three-in-Four Brazilians Content with Lula	48
• Santos Would Defeat Mockus in Colombia	49
AUSTRALASIA	
• Australia Ponders Limits of Private Life Reporting	49
CYBER WORLD	
• The Flotilla Furor Online	51
• Neighbors Online	57
• The Future of Cloud Computing	65

Summary of Article

The Virtual Sphere: Internet As The Public Sphere

Zizi Papacharissi

Temple University

New Media and Society

Vol 4 (1) 9-27, 2002

The author forwards a pessimist argument about the political potential of Internet and highlights the challenges that curtail the promise of Internet as a mean to revitalize public sphere. She says that the internet and its surrounding technologies hold the promise of reviving the public sphere; however, several aspects of these new technologies simultaneously curtail and augment that potential. First, the data storage and retrieval capabilities of internet-based technologies infuse political discussion with information otherwise unavailable.

At the same time, information access inequalities and new media literacy compromise the representativeness of the virtual sphere. Second, internet-based technologies enable discussion between people on far sides of the globe, but also frequently fragmentize political discourse.

Third, given the patterns of global capitalism, it is possible that internet based technologies will adapt themselves to the current political culture, rather than create a new one. The internet and related technologies have created a new public space for politically oriented conversation; whether this public space transcends to a public sphere is not up to the technology itself.

Prelude

This week report consists of 26 surveys. One of these is a multi-country survey of Sub Saharan Africa.

Southeast Asia-01
Sub Saharan Africa-02
East Europe-03
West Europe-05
North America-08
Latin America-03
Australasia-01
Cyber World-3

Commentary: Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda

June 07, 2010

(Angus Reid Global Monitor) - Yoweri Museveni will seek to extend his long tenure as **Uganda's** president next year, but the public is currently not as eager to back the incumbent head of state as in years past.

In a survey concluded in May 2010 by the *Daily Monitor* in **Uganda**, **43 %** of respondents said they would **cast a ballot for Museveni** in the election that is tentatively scheduled for February 2011. The main opposition leader in the African nation—*Kizza Besigye* of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)—is second with **35 %**.

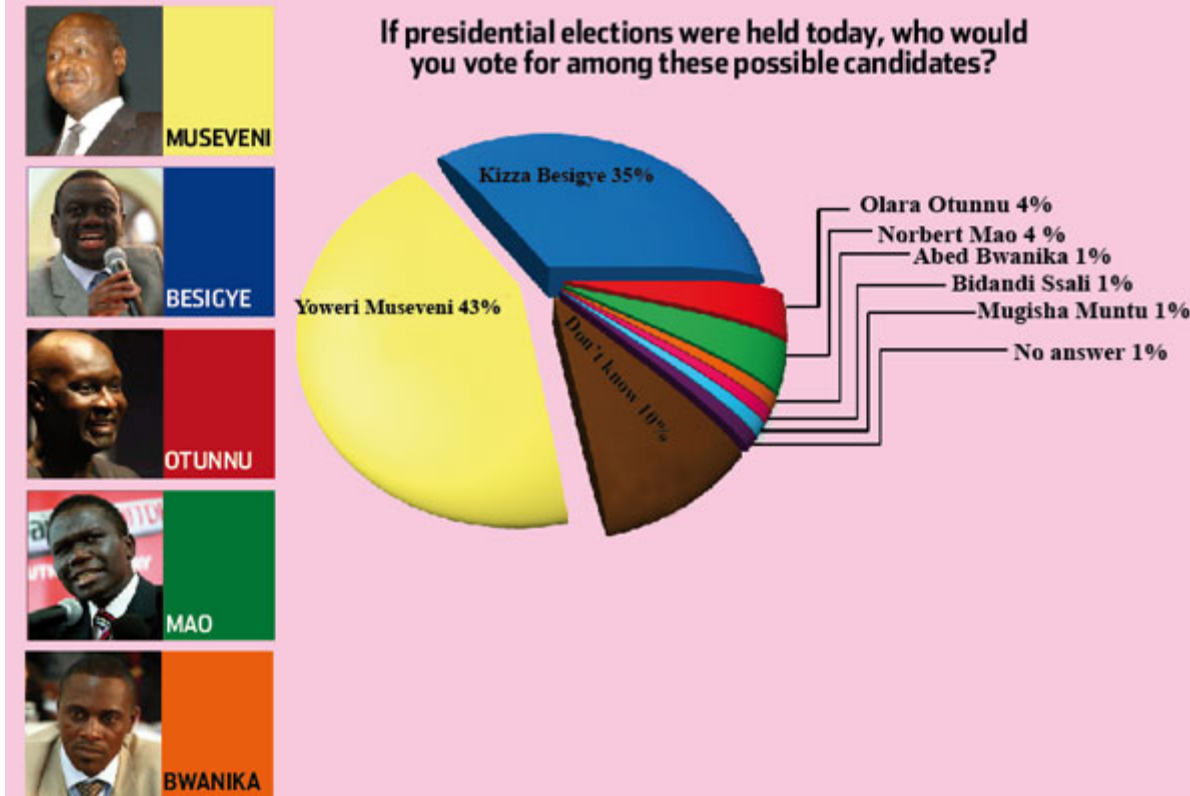
When he has had to face the electorate, Museveni has always secured a victory with a majority of the vote in the first round. The latest survey suggests that the opposition may have the potential to force a run-off.

Democratic processes in **Uganda** have usually been less than perfect. The 2006 election, where **Museveni defeated Besigye** with **59.2 %** of the vote, was criticized by the United Nations (UN) for lacking "an even playing field" and ended with the Supreme Court's admission that, although irregularities had indeed taken place in the ballot, they were not enough to dispute Museveni's victory.

While Museveni's arrival to the political scene—as the leader of the rebel National Resistance Army (NRA)—was originally greeted with hope by the international community, feelings towards Uganda have changed, particularly after several constitutional amendments effectively allowed Museveni to run for president at will.

Besigye has less than a year to pull together an opposition coalition to seek to dethrone a man who first took power when Ronald Reagan was still in the White House.

http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/museveni_faces_a_new_challenge_in_uganda/
<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/929098/-/item/1/-/5cnn6mz/-/index.html>



UGANDA:

UGANDA:

Population: 33,398,682

Ethnic Groups: Baganda 16.9%, Banyakole 9.5%, Basoga 8.4%, Bakiga 6.9%, Iteso 6.4%, Langi 6.1%, Acholi 4.7%, Bagisu 4.6%, Lugbara 4.2%, Bunyoro 2.7%, other 29.6% (2002 census)

GDP per Capita: \$1,300 (2009 est.)

► The colonial boundaries created by Britain to delimit Uganda grouped together a wide range of ethnic groups with different political systems and cultures. These differences prevented the establishment of a working political community after independence was achieved in 1962. The dictatorial regime of Idi AMIN (1971-79) was responsible for the deaths of some 300,000 opponents; guerrilla war and human rights abuses under Milton OBOTE (1980-85) claimed at least another 100,000 lives. The rule of Yoweri MUSEVENI since 1986 has brought relative stability and economic growth to Uganda. During the 1990s, the government promulgated non-party presidential and legislative elections. In January 2009, Uganda assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2009-10 term.

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ug.html>



<http://laurabell84.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/uganda-map.jpg>

SUMMARY OF POLLS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Malaysian voters have mixed views on government KPIs - survey

Peninsular Malaysia voters showed wide-ranging views on the government's key result areas but at the same time the Prime Minister's approval rating remained steady in positive territory in a recent opinion poll released by Merdeka Centre Malaysia.

June 08, 2010

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda

Yoweri Museveni will seek to extend his long tenure as Uganda's president next year, but the public is currently not as eager to back the incumbent head of state as in years past.

June 07, 2010

Sub-Saharan Africans Bank on Family for Business Loans

Sub-Saharan Africans would most likely turn to their families if they needed money to start a business, according to Gallup surveys of 18 countries in the region. Forty-two percent of respondents spontaneously named "family" as their primary source for funds, while banks (16%) and friends (15%) were a distant second. Despite the emphasis on microfinance in recent years in sub-Saharan Africa, 4% mentioned these institutions.

June 11, 2010

EAST EUROPE

The Best Is Yet To Come: Russians About The Present And The Future

Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning what Russians expect the next 12 months will be like, this shows that Russians are very optimistic about their future and believe that the worst is only past.

May 18, 2010

Sevastopol Agreement: Who Benefited More: Russia Or Ukraine?

Almost half of Russians (47%) believe that the agreement between Russian and Ukraine to extend the Black Sea fleet lease in Sevastopol is mutually beneficial for both countries. But those who have negative views of U.S, (41%) youth aged (18-24) (37%) and residents of Urals Federal District (49%) think that Ukraine benefits more from this agreement.

May 17, 2010

Ukrainians Ponder Performance of New Government

One-in-four Ukrainians believe the country's situation has improved under the new government, according to a poll by Research & Branding Group. 26 per cent of respondents think the socio-economic situation in Ukraine has become better, while 56 per cent say it has not changed substantially.

June 10, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Few Britons Upbeat About Economic Standing

Despite a change of government, people in Britain remain disappointed with the state of their domestic economy, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

June 11, 2010

Rutte Could Form Next Dutch Government

The Dutch legislative election, forced by a disagreement on the future of the Afghanistan mission, might bring a change at the helm for the first time in almost eight years

June 08, 2010

Swedes Join Chorus of Anti-Euro Voices

People in Sweden are turning their backs on the idea of joining the Eurozone, and with a legislative election due in September, politicians are steering clear of any discussions on whether the krona should be abandoned.

June 07, 2010

Popular Party Overtakes Socialists in Spain

A new poll suggests that Spain's opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) would defeat the governing Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the next general election. In addition, the PP has found strength in areas of the European country that have historically voted left, including five autonomous communities where it currently sits in opposition.

June 06, 2010

Greeks Blame Their Government, Not World, For Crisis

Greece has been a main focus of discussions related to the future of the European Union (EU). When Greeks are asked about the cause of the devastating crisis they are currently experiencing, they undoubtedly hold their own government responsible.

June 06, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Party Lines Mark Debate Over Korea in U.S.

The possibility of a new war in the Korean Peninsula is a concern for many Americans, but following the recent military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the public is not particularly supportive of a new "regime change" operation.

June 07, 2010

Registered Voters Evenly Divided on Vote for Congress

Gallup's latest update on the generic ballot shows registered voters evenly divided in their current voting intentions for Congress, with 46% saying they would vote for the Republican candidate in their district and 46% for the Democratic candidate.

June 8, 2010

Fewer Americans Feeling Better About Their Financial Situation

Exactly half of Americans in May said they were feeling better about their financial situation -- a key measure of financial wellbeing. That's fewer than said so in April, and the deterioration is holding so far in June.

June 11, 2010

Doubts About Obama's Economic Policies Rose Over the Last Year

The public increasingly sees Barack Obama's policies as having an impact on economic conditions and, for the first time, slightly more say the impact has been negative rather than positive.

June 8, 2010

For Majority of Voters, National Issues Paramount in 2010 Vote

By 55% to 39%, more registered voters say a candidate's stand on national issues -- rather than his or her ability to help people at the district level -- is what matters more to them in voting for Congress. The percentage naming issues as the more important factor is the highest recorded on this measure in the nearly two-decade-long Gallup trend, although similar to that seen at points in the last two midterm election years.

June 9, 2010

Americans Lack Consensus on Desirability of Divided Gov't.

A plurality of Americans, 39%, say it makes no difference whether Congress and the presidency are controlled by the same or different parties, while the remainder show nearly equal support for divided (30%) and unified (27%) party government.

June 10, 2010

Hispanic Voters' Preferences Unchanged Post-Arizona Law

Hispanic voters nationwide haven't shifted their congressional voting preferences since the signing of Arizona's new immigration law on April 23. Their preference for the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate, 61% to 32%, in April 23 to June 8 interviewing almost identically matches the 60% to 32% margin recorded between March 1 and April 22. White voters and black voters also haven't changed their voting intentions.

June 11, 2010

The Typical Modern Mother: There Isn't One

Today's mothers of newborns are more likely than their counterparts two decades earlier to be ages 35 and older, to have some college education, to be unmarried or to be nonwhite -- but not all at once.

June 11, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Roughly 6.2 Million Mexicans Express Desire to Move to U.S.

Amid an ongoing debate in the U.S. on immigration from Mexico, Gallup estimates 6.2 million Mexican adults say they would like to move permanently to the United States if given the chance. That's close to half of the 14 million Mexicans -- or 19% of the adult population -- who say they would like to resettle somewhere else; would-be migrants in Mexico choose Canada and Spain as their other top desired destinations.

June 7, 2010

Three-in-Four Brazilians Content with Lula

Public support for the Brazilian president remains impressive, according to a poll by Ibope. 75 per cent of respondents rate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's performance as good or very good.

June 09, 2010

Santos Would Defeat Mockus in Colombia

Juan Manuel Santos of the U Party (U), who came very close to winning the Colombian presidential election in the first round on May 30, holds a large lead over his rival as the South American country prepares for the run-off.

June 08, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Australia Ponders Limits of Private Life Reporting

The resignation of a Member of Parliament following reports that he had led a double life as a gay man has prompted a debate in Australia over the boundaries of reporting on the personal lives of politicians.

June 06, 2010

CYBER WORLD

The Flotilla Furor Online

The May 31 clash in which Israeli soldiers killed nine people on a Turkish ship carrying supplies to the Gaza Strip triggered a passionate blogosphere response focused largely on who was to blame.

June 10, 2010

Neighbors Online

Americans use a range of approaches to keep informed about what is happening in their communities and online activities have been added to the mix. Face-to-face encounters and phone calls remain the most frequent methods of interaction with neighbors. At the same time, internet tools are gaining ground in community-oriented communications.

June 9, 2010

The Future of Cloud Computing

A solid majority of technology experts and stakeholders participating in the fourth Future of the Internet survey expect that by 2020 most people will access software applications online and share and access information through the use of remote server networks, rather than depending primarily on tools and information housed on their individual, personal computers.

June 11, 2010

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Malaysian voters have mixed views on government KPIs - survey

June 08, 2010

Peninsular Malaysia voters showed wide-ranging views on the government's key result areas but at the same time the Prime Minister's approval rating remained steady in positive territory as found in the opinion poll released by Merdeka Center for Opinion Research today.

With respect to the National Key Result Areas (NKRA), the survey showed that a majority still find the efforts to fight corruption and crime to be lower than expected:

- 61% of respondents were dissatisfied with the performance in fighting corruption
- 57% of respondents were dissatisfied with efforts in reducing crime;

On the other hand, the survey found:

- 52% were satisfied with efforts to improve living standards of those in rural areas;
- 54% were satisfied with efforts to render assistance to those that need it;
- 56% were satisfied with efforts to improve public transportation; and
- 63% were satisfied with efforts to improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools.

Public remains split over national direction

When provided with a list of issues, 53% of the voters chose 'fighting corruption' as the most important issue that the government should pay attention to.

The survey found that Malaysians for the most part remained split over the direction of the country with 52% saying it was on the "right direction" while 34% said "wrong direction" while 14% were uncertain or could not tell.

With respect to issues, the survey found that public concern over the economy was highest at 22%. Worries over social problems stood at 14% while concerns on national unity issues was third-highest at 13%. Worries over political stability had eased to 10%, tied with concerns over crime and public safety.

Public sentiment on the economy remains mixed

47% of voters felt that current economic conditions as favorable, this is lower than the 52% recorded in April 2010. Of the four indicators used to track public sentiments on the economy, the survey found a marked decline among those satisfied with their personal income levels which dropped to 46% from 52% previously. It should be noted that none of the indicators – personal income, consumer prices, job opportunities and business opportunities stood above 50% at the time the survey was conducted.

Voter optimism in the economy remained unchanged with 53% saying that the economy will be better in one year's time. The figure among ethnic Chinese voters expressing optimism over the economy was 37% also unchanged since April 2010.

PM's approval rating remains strong

72% of Malaysians said that they were satisfied with Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's performance in this survey which is higher compared to 69% recorded in April 2010. Broken down into ethnic groups, the survey found 77% of the Malays, 58% of the Chinese and 80% of the Indians expressed satisfaction. Overall, the survey found that the number of people dissatisfied with his performance remaining about the same at 21% as compared to 22% in June 2009.

From the survey, we note that the high approval ratings may in part be reflected by reasons why a part of the electorate felt that the country was headed in the right direction, i.e. views that the Malaysian economy was still doing reasonably well, the nation's leaders were more dynamic and that general conditions in the country remained peaceful and conducive for development.

But confidence levels in the government's initiatives are limited, for example, only 50% were confident that initiatives such as the Government Transformation Program, 1Malaysia and New Economic Model will be able to achieve their goals. Exemplifying the sentiments of an increasingly cynical public, a majority, 58% agreed with the view that "the federal government was good in planning but weak in implementation".

The Peninsular Malaysia wide telephone survey of 1028 randomly selected Malaysian registered voters aged 21 and above was carried out between 6th and 16th May 2010. Respondents were selected using the random, stratified sampling method and structured along the national electorate profile and specifically proportional to gender, ethnicity, age groups and state of residence.

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

Museveni Faces a New Challenge in Uganda

June 07, 2010

Yoweri Museveni will seek to extend his long tenure as Uganda's president next year, but the public is currently not as eager to back the incumbent head of state as in years past.

In a survey concluded in May 2010, 43 per cent of respondents said they would cast a ballot for Museveni in the election that is tentatively scheduled for February 2011. The main opposition leader in the African nation—Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)—is second with 35 per cent.

When he has had to face the electorate, Museveni has always secured a victory with a majority of the vote in the first round. The latest survey suggests that the opposition may have the potential to force a run-off.

Democratic processes in Uganda have usually been less than perfect. The 2006 election, where Museveni defeated Besigye with 59.2 per cent of the vote, was criticized by the United Nations (UN) for lacking "an even playing field" and ended with the Supreme Court's admission that,

although irregularities had indeed taken place in the ballot, they were not enough to dispute Museveni's victory.

While Museveni's arrival to the political scene—as the leader of the rebel National Resistance Army (NRA)—was originally greeted with hope by the international community, feelings towards Uganda have changed, particularly after several constitutional amendments effectively allowed Museveni to run for president at will.

Besigye has less than a year to pull together an opposition coalition to seek to dethrone a man who first took power when Ronald Reagan was still in the White House.

Sub-Saharan Africans Bank on Family for Business Loans

Majority of sub-Saharan Africans would not consider formal lenders

June 11, 2010

Sub-Saharan Africans would most likely turn to their families if they needed money to start a business, according to Gallup surveys of 18 countries in the region. Forty-two percent of respondents spontaneously named "family" as their primary source for funds, while banks (16%) and friends (15%) were a distant second. Despite the emphasis on microfinance in recent years in sub-Saharan Africa, 4% mentioned these institutions.

Imagine you wanted to start a business and needed money to start the business. Where would you primarily go?

Open-ended

Asked of adults in 18 Sub-Saharan African countries

	%
Family	42
Banks	16
Friends	15
Community groups/Savings clubs	10
Other/Don't know/Refused	6
Microfinance institutions	4
Moneylenders	2
Church/Mosque	2
NGOs	2
Employer	1

2009

Data weighted to 2008 World Bank adult population estimates

GALLUP®

In a region where extended family is important, few have bank accounts, and microfinance options are limited, it is not that surprising that sub-Saharan Africans mentioned family as the primary lending source. Regardless of income, education, whether adults live in urban or rural areas, or even if they are planning to start a business in the next 12 months, family remains the most frequently mentioned source for business start-up money.

Roughly one in five respondents in the region have a bank account -- often a requirement for lending -- and these respondents are six times more likely than those without an account to mention banks as a primary source for loans. Half of current bank account holders named banks as a primary source and about one in four (24%) named family. Among those without a bank account, 8% mentioned banks and 46% named family as the primary source for lending.

Imagine you wanted to start a business and needed money to start a business. Where would you primarily go?

Percentage of adults who spontaneously mention this as a primary source

	Have a bank account	Do not have a bank account
Friends	7	17
Family	24	46
Community groups/Savings clubs	8	11
Banks	50	8
Moneylenders	1	3
Microfinance institutions	5	4
Church/Mosques	0	2
NGOs	0	2
Employer	0	1
Other, specify	0	1
Don't know/Refused	4	5

2009

Data weighted to 2008 World Bank adult population estimates

GALLUP®

It makes sense that certain demographic groups that are more likely to have bank accounts were also more likely to name banks as a primary source for loans. Respondents in urban areas were almost twice as likely as those in rural areas to mention banks, and those with higher incomes were more likely than those with lower incomes to mention banks. Those with at least some tertiary education were as likely to mention banks as they were family.

Majority Would Never Consider Formal Lending

When asked which lending sources they would ever consider for a business loan, most sub-Saharan Africans said they would consider family (81%) and friends (63%), while a minority would consider formal sources such as banks (38%) and microfinance institutions (34%). Fewer than one in five (18%) would ever consider moneylenders.

I'm going to read out various sources of where one can borrow money from for business purposes. For each of them, could you tell me if you would ever consider them?

Asked of adults in 18 Sub-Saharan African countries

	% Yes, would consider	% No, would not consider	% Don't know/Refused
Friends	63	36	1
Family	81	19	1
Community groups/Savings clubs	38	60	2
Banks	38	59	3
Moneylenders	18	78	4
Microfinance institutions/companies which help people obtain small loans for business, with interest	34	62	4
Church/Mosque	32	64	4

2009

Data weighted to 2008 World Bank adult population estimates

GALLUP®

Among more formal lenders, all demographic groups were least likely to consider moneylenders, who traditionally charge high interest rates. Community savings groups receive more support from rural respondents, while sub-Saharan Africans with higher incomes and higher education were more likely to consider banks. Microfinance institutions consistently receive a minority of support across all demographic groups, with the poorest and least educated slightly less likely to consider them.

Bottom Line

While microfinance has been touted as a key way to alleviate global poverty, the majority of sub-Saharan Africans surveyed said they wouldn't consider these institutions for loans. For impoverished sub-Saharan Africans, basic needs take top priority, and the idea of even a small loan can be more risk than a family is willing to consider.

Gallup data reflect this to a certain degree, but there is little difference between the poorest and richest groups, demonstrating that income isn't the only factor holding back the growth of microlending in sub-Saharan Africa. Improved government regulation and greater access to

banking and savings are likely to play an important role in the growth of the financial sector in this region.

Survey Methods

Results are based on 18,000 face-to-face interviews with adults, aged 15 in older, conducted in 2009. A minimum of 1,000 interviews were conducted in each of the following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Kinshasa, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. For results presented in this article, including demographic subgroups, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error is between ± 1 and ± 2 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Imagine you wanted to start a business and needed money to start the business.

Where would you primarily go?

Percentage spontaneously mentioning as primary source

	Family	Banks	Friends	Community groups/ Savings clubs
Urban	40	22	14	7
Rural	42	13	16	11
No formal education	53	5	18	9
1 to 8 years education	38	13	17	14
9 years through completed secondary	42	20	13	8
Some tertiary or tertiary complete	35	33	11	7
Poorest 20%	39	13	17	10
Second 20%	41	12	20	10
Middle 20%	44	15	17	9
Fourth 20%	44	17	15	9
Richest 20%	42	24	12	8

2009

Data weighted to 2008 World Bank adult population estimates

GALLUP®

I'm going to read out various sources where one can borrow money from for business purposes. For each of them, could you tell me if you would ever consider them?

Percentage yes, would consider

	Community groups/ Savings clubs	Banks	Moneylenders	Microfinance Institutions
Urban	30	42	15	32
Rural	42	36	19	35
No formal education	40	25	17	29
1 to 8 years education	43	34	18	35
9 years through completed secondary	35	42	18	36
Some tertiary or tertiary complete	30	57	16	38
Poorest 20%	33	33	18	30
Second 20%	39	32	18	34
Middle 20%	37	34	18	34
Fourth 20%	39	41	18	36
Richest 20%	35	50	16	37

2009

Data weighted to 2008 World Bank adult population estimates

GALLUP®

EAST EUROPE

The Best Is Yet To Come: Russians About The Present And The Future

May 18, 2010

Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning what Russians expect the next 12 months will be like, whether their lives will change next year, and whether we are currently going through a difficult time.

The confidence of Russians that the next year will be favorable for the Russian economy has been increased over the recent month from 44 to 46%. Those who are optimistic are basically the southerners (57%), residents of the Urals (54%) and Far East of Russia (55%). The share of those who expect the next year to be worse for the Russian economy has decreased from 28 to 26%. They are mainly residents of the Central Federal District of Russia (32%). The

forecast of those with good financial income differs from those with poor financial income: the former wait for the good times (63%); the latter expect the worst thing to happen (40%).

The number of Russians who think the worst is behind us keeps on growing (from 23 to 27%). The part of those respondents who believe that the worst is yet to happen has been decreased over the recent month (from 31 to 25%). However, most Russians think that the worst time is now (36%). Those who think the worst is behind us are respondents aged 18-24 (38%) and Russians with good financial income (44%). Those who expect the next year to be difficult are Russians aged 24 (25-27%) and those with poor financial income (38%).

More and more Russians are optimistic about the future. The share of those who think everything will be changed for the better has increased (from 32% in February to 35% in April); the share of those who forecast the situation to get worse has been decreased and reached its maximum over the entire period of measurement (8% - compared with 20% in April 2009). **As a result, the index rate kept growing through April and reached 61 points (58 in February this year).** The more positive the forecasts of Russians for their lives are, the higher the index is.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on April 10-11, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 140 sampling points in 42 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4 %.

In your opinion, the next 12 months will be rather good or rather bad for the Russian economy?

(close-ended question, one answer)

	March 2010	April 2010
<i>Good</i>	6	7
<i>Rather good</i>	38	39
<i>Rather bad</i>	23	21
<i>Bad</i>	5	5
<i>Hard to tell</i>	29	29

In your opinion, the next 12 months will be rather good or rather bad for the Russian economy?

(close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Financial self-assessment		
		Very good	Average	Bad, very bad
<i>Good</i>	7	15	7	5
<i>Rather good</i>	39	48	41	25
<i>Rather bad</i>	21	13	19	30
<i>Bad</i>	5	2	3	10
<i>Hard to tell</i>	29	22	30	30

In your opinion, the worst is now, behind us or yet to come? (close-ended question, one answer)														
	May 1991	May 1992	April 1994	May 1995	September 1996	January 1997	July 1998	May 2001	June 2008	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	September 2009
<i>Now</i>	23	23	22	22	22	23	28	26	21	28	28	26	31	28
<i>Behind us</i>	3	3	4	6	10	7	11	25	41	14	18	18	20	21
<i>Yet to come</i>	66	67	60	52	46	52	49	38	25	45	44	45	38	36
<i>Hard to tell</i>	9	7	15	20	21	18	11	11	13	13	10	11	11	15

In your opinion, will your /your family life change next year? (close-ended question, one answer)

	March 2009	April 2009	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	August 2009	September 2009	October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010
<i>Everything will change for the better</i>	27	27	28	31	31	25	33	37	36	38	32	33	35
<i>Everything will be the same</i>	41	43	44	44	43	62	44	42	43	40	45	44	46
<i>Everything will change for the worse</i>	20	20	16	16	15	11	12	11	12	11	11	9	8
<i>Hard to tell</i>	12	10	12	9	11	3	11	9	9	12	12	14	11
Index rate	53	53	55	56	56	56	58	60	60	61	58	60	61

Sevastopol Agreement: Who Benefited More: Russia Or Ukraine?

May 17, 2010

Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data concerning the view of Russians about who they think benefited from the agreement between Russia and Ukraine to extend the Black Sea fleet lease in Sevastopol, and whether Russians have changed their attitudes toward president of Russia Dmitry Medvedev after signing this agreement.

Almost half of Russians (47%) believe that the agreement is mutually beneficial for both countries. More than one-third of Russians (34%) think that Ukraine benefited more; only 8% name Russia instead.

Those who think that Ukraine will benefit from the treaty are mainly LDPR (50%), CPRF (42%) and Fair Russia (42%) parties supporters, respondents with negative position toward the United States (41%), youth aged 18-24 (37%), and residents of the Urals Federal District (49%).

The treaty was called mutually beneficial by supporters of Fair Russia party (50%), non-parliamentary parties (57%), and respondents aged above 60 (51%), Russians with low level of education (52%), those with good financial income (53%), rural area residents (52%), and inhabitants of North-Western Federal District of Russia (58%).

The signing of the Sevastopol treaty with Ukraine has changed the attitude of 20% of Russians towards President of Russian Dmitry Medvedev for the better. The share of those whose attitude has worsened is 7%. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) have not changed their attitude toward D. Medvedev. The supporters of Fair Russia (26%) and non-parliamentary parties (23%), as well as respondents aged above 45 (23%) report their attitude toward Russian president has improved. The signing of the agreement with Ukraine has also changed the attitudes of high-educated respondents (25%), metropolitan residents (24%), residents of the cities with population more than 500 thousand people (27%), as well as those residing in North-Western (25%) and Urals (32%) Federal Districts for the better.

Only adherents of LDPR (17%) and CPRF (11%) parties, respondents aged 35-44 (11%), and residents of the Southern Federal District (12%) report their attitudes have worsened.

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on May 1-2, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 140 sampling points in 42 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4 %.

Russia has recently agreed with Ukraine to prolong the term of the Russian Black Sea Fleet deployment in Sevastopol by 25 years. Ukraine will receive a substantial discount on Russian gas in return. In your opinion, who benefited more from this treaty? (close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	CPRF supporters	LDPR supporters	Fair Russia supporters	United Russia supporters	Non-parliamentary parties` supporters (Pravoe Delo, Patriots of Russia, Yabloko)
<i>Russia</i>	8	5	7	8	9	7
<i>Ukraine</i>	34	42	50	42	33	30
<i>Both parties won; mutually beneficial agreement</i>	47	45	37	47	50	57
<i>Both parties lost</i>	2	2	3	1	2	3

<i>Hard to tell</i>	8	6	2	1	7	3
---------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Russia has recently agreed with Ukraine to prolong the term of the Russian Black Sea Fleet deployment in Sevastopol by 25 years. Ukraine will receive a substantial discount on Russian gas in return. In your opinion, who benefited more from this treaty? (close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Age				
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60 and above
<i>Russia</i>	8	10	9	8	7	6
<i>Ukraine</i>	34	37	35	34	34	32
<i>Both parties won; mutually beneficial agreement</i>	47	41	47	46	48	51
<i>Both parties lost</i>	2	3	1	4	2	2
<i>Hard to tell</i>	8	10	8	8	8	8

Have you changed your attitude toward Russian president Dmitry Medvedev after signing the agreement prolonging the Black Sea Fleet`s stay? If yes, then how? (close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	CPRF supporters	LDPR supporters	Fair Russia supporters	United Russia supporters	Non-parliamentary parties` supporters (Pravoe Delo, Patriots of Russia, Yabloko)
<i>Yes ,changed for the better</i>	20	20	8	26	21	23
<i>Yes, worsened</i>	7	11	17	10	3	3
<i>No, nothing has changed</i>	67	62	65	57	70	73
<i>Hard to tell</i>	6	7	9	7	6	0

Have you changed your attitude toward Russian President Dmitry Medvedev after signing the agreement prolonging the Black Sea Fleet`s stay? If yes, then how? (close-ended question, one answer)

	Total respondents	Age				
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60 and above
<i>Yes ,changed for the better</i>	20	13	17	18	23	23
<i>Yes,</i>	7	5	4	11	7	7

<i>worsened</i>						
<i>No, nothing has changed</i>	67	73	72	65	65	63
<i>Hard to tell</i>	6	8	7	6	5	6

Ukrainians Ponder Performance of New Government

June 10, 2010

One-in-four Ukrainians believe the country's situation has improved under the new government, according to a poll by Research & Branding Group. 26 per cent of respondents think the socio-economic situation in Ukraine has become better, while 56 per cent say it has not changed substantially.

In February, Viktor Yanukovich—a former prime minister and member of the Party of Regions (PR)—won the presidential run-off with 48.95 per cent of the vote, defeating Yulia Tymoshenko. In March, a new government was sworn in with Mykola Azarov as prime minister. The new ruling coalition features the Party of Regions, the Communists and the Lytvyn bloc, and is supported by 235 lawmakers. Azarov had briefly served as prime minister in December 2004 and January 2005.

From January 2005 to February 2010, Viktor Yushchenko served as president. His tenure featured three different prime ministers: Yanukovich, Tymoshenko and Yuri Yekhanurov. Yushchenko and Tymoshenko had several public disagreements—including one over a conflict between Russia and Georgia—and frequently accused each other of political posturing.

Earlier this month, Ukrainian deputy environment minister Bogdan Presner was sacked after prosecutors caught him accepting a \$200,000 U.S. bribe in exchange for his assistance in the appointment of a regional official. Azarov said that his government would grant "no leniency" to corrupt officials.

Polling Data

After 100 days of the new government, do you think the socio-economic situation in the country became better, did not change substantially or became worse?

Became better	26%
Did not change substantially	56%
Became worse	14%
Not sure	5%

Source: Research & Branding Group

Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,076 Ukrainian adults, conducted from May 20 to Jun. 1, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

WEST EUROPE

Few Britons Upbeat About Economic Standing

June 11, 2010

Despite a change of government, people in Britain remain disappointed with the state of their domestic economy, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents rate the economic conditions in the United Kingdom as poor or very poor.

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

Britain has been hit hard by the global financial crisis. In 2007, the British Northern Rock bank—a prominent mortgage lender—was forced to seek emergency funding from the government.

Britain's deficit reached 11.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the year through March and is one of the highest in the G-20.

On May 6, British voters participated in a General Election. The Conservative Party finished in first place with 36.1 per cent of the vote and 305 seats, followed by the Labour Party with 29 per cent and 258 seats, and the Liberal Democrats with 23 per cent and 57 seats. Conservative leader David Cameron took over as prime minister in a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats, ending 13 years of Labour rule.

On Jun. 7, Cameron discussed the government's plan to cut the deficit, saying, "The decisions we make will affect every single person in our country. And the effects of those decisions will stay with us for years, perhaps decades to come. It is precisely because these decisions are so momentous. Because they will have such enormous implications."

Polling Data

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

	May 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010
Very Good / Good	13%	14%	13%	12%
Poor / Very Poor	83%	81%	83%	85%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	3%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,006 British adults, conducted from May 28 to Jun. 1, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Rutte Could Form Next Dutch Government

June 08, 2010

The Dutch legislative election, forced by a disagreement on the future of the Afghanistan mission, might bring a change at the helm for the first time in almost eight years

The most recent survey suggests that the centre-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) will take control of 36 seats in the 150-member Second Chamber, followed by the Labour Party (PvdA) with 29 seats. The Christian-Democratic Appeal (CDA)—which was the main component of all Dutch governments since July 2002—would finish third with 24 seats, followed by the far-right Party for Freedom (PvdV) with 18 seats.

At the start of the campaign, it seemed as if the PvdA would be the biggest party in the country, after Amsterdam Mayor Job Cohen took over as leader from Wouter Bos. However, Cohen stumbled on the televised debates, and facilitated the resurgence of VVD leader Mark Rutte, who appears to have successfully connected with the population with talk of spending cuts.

Rutte served in two recent cabinets, handling the education and employment portfolios. He has clearly positioned himself as the main player in the race for form the next government. The VVD leader may opt for a coalition with the PvdA and the Democrats 66 (D66), who after a particularly disappointing 2006 election, stand to win 11 seats tomorrow.

For the PvdV, the results will be a disappointment. For several weeks, the party was ahead of all of its rivals. A protest vote against the political class may have propelled the party led by Geert Wilders to unimaginable heights, but a large proportion of voters eventually gravitated towards other options as the election drew near.

Swedes Join Chorus of Anti-Euro Voices

June 07, 2010

People in Sweden are turning their backs on the idea of joining the eurozone, and with a legislative election due in September, politicians are steering clear of any discussions on whether the krona should be abandoned.

A survey concluded on the first day of June finds that three-in-five Swedes (61%) are opposed to their country's adoption of the euro as the national currency. The findings show a 17-point increase in the anti-euro camp since May 2009. In fact, as recently as December 2009, it seemed like a new referendum on the euro would be tightly contested.

Sweden is one of three European Union (EU) members—along with Britain and Denmark—that did not adopt the euro in January 2002. In September 2003, 56 per cent of Swedish voters rejected the euro in a nationwide referendum.

Neither of the two competing factions in Sweden is eager to jump into the pro-euro bandwagon, particularly after the recent Greek crisis. Swedish Prime Minister and Moderate Rally Party (M) leader Fredrik Reinfeldt was particularly critical of the European Commission's plan to review the budgets of all member states.

A recent survey in Poland also showed skepticism about the euro, but nowhere near the level of outright rejection that is manifest in Britain.

Popular Party Overtakes Socialists in Spain

June 06, 2010

A new poll suggests that Spain's opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) would defeat the governing Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the next general election. In addition, the PP has found strength in areas of the European country that have historically voted left, including five autonomous communities where it currently sits in opposition.

Spain's left-leaning government is in deep trouble over the sorry state of the economy, with the PSOE's popularity and that of its leader, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, at a low point. The survey shows that the PP would secure 45.6 per cent of the vote in the next legislative election, a 10-point lead over the PSOE. At this point, PSOE appears to have lost the support of one-in-six of the voters it had in the 2008 election, a drop that would certainly amount to a defeat in a political system dominated by two main parties.



At the local level, the PP stands to win absolute majorities in many of Spain's 17 autonomous communities, including the PSOE strongholds of Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha. The numbers show that the PSOE would require a big surge in support not only at the national level, but also to retain control of the local legislatures.

Spain's unemployment rate, at almost 20 per cent, is the highest in the European Union (EU) after Latvia's. The country was greatly affected by the financial meltdown triggered by the collapse of the American housing market, and suffered its own real-estate-bubble burst at the end of 2008.

PP leader Mariano Rajoy and his party have been proactive in reaching out to new voters while the PSOE's strength vanishes. Their strategy has paid off. The Spanish economy is in shambles, and Zapatero has been at the helm during the unravelling disaster. Moreover, the sitting government is implementing unpopular shock measures to stop the bleeding, which has only led to more public condemnation.

Unless a miraculous rebound happens, Rajoy—who had been written off after losing two consecutive elections to Zapatero—will become President of the Government in 2012.

Greeks Blame Their Government, Not World, For Crisis

June 06, 2010

Greece has been a main focus of discussions related to the future of the European Union (EU). When Greeks are asked about the cause of the devastating crisis they are currently experiencing, they undoubtedly hold their own government responsible.

In May 2010, a large majority of people believe that the crisis is the result of policies within the country (64%). As expected, the government gets poor numbers on the way it has dealt with the situation, with three-in-four Greeks (76%) saying they are dissatisfied with its actions. This is hardly surprising, considering the fact that Eurostat, the EU statistics agency, described the country's budget numbers as "unreliable" just a few weeks ago.

In March, half of people expected the austerity plan to work and get the country moving again. The mood has become sour since. Two thirds of respondents believe Greece is on the wrong track (65%) and 73 per cent foresee the economy getting "a lot" or "a little" worse in the next few months.

The debt crisis broke only two months after Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) leader Georges Papandreou led his party to victory in a legislative election. PASOK won 43.92 per cent of the vote and secured 160 seats in the Greek Parliament, ending the tenure of the conservative New Democracy (ND), which had been in power since 2004.

Papandreou now heads a government that has been severely criticized at the continental level, and has evidently become very unpopular domestically. The loan agreement with the other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—along with a series of spending cuts and tax increases—have not made people believe that the situation will improve. The expected privatization push, which will include stakes in the post office and rail operators, has already led to work stoppages by public transport staff and journalists.

Despite all of these problems, a snap election is not in the cards. Following the retirement of former prime minister Kostas Karamanlis, the ND selected Antonis Samaras—who served a culture minister under Karamanlis—as its new leader. PASOK still maintains a 10-seat majority in the legislature, and the country will probably not tolerate heading into a new ballot less than a year after the previous one.

NORTH AMERICA

Party Lines Mark Debate Over Korea in U.S.

June 07, 2010

The possibility of a new war in the Korean Peninsula is a concern for many Americans, but following the recent military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the public is not particularly supportive of a new "regime change" operation.

Overall, 59 per cent of respondents think it is "very likely" or "moderately likely" that a war will break out between South Korea and North Korea in the next year. There is little fluctuation among Democrats, Republicans and Independents on this particular indicator.

U.S. President Barack Obama has made it clear that South Korea can count on the full support of the U.S. during this trying time. However, two possible scenarios for American collaboration get very different reviews from respondents.

The U.S. has about 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea, and almost half of Americans (47%) would approve of a plan that would see these soldiers providing assistance to South Korea if a war breaks out. Republicans (58%) and Independents (56%) are more likely to back this notion than Democrats (40%).

Support for the U.S. Government authorizing a military invasion of North Korea with the aim of removing the North Korean government stands at 35 per cent. While almost half of Republicans would agree to this scenario (48%), considerably fewer Independents (37%) and Democrats (30%) would be on board.

On a list of 19 different countries, only two—North Korea and Iran—are seen enemies of the United States by at least half of respondents. Pakistan, which was subjected to a stern warning last month by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, is an enemy for 39 per cent of Americans.

At this point, Americans would support assistance to South Korea in the event of a war, but are clearly not in favour of an invasion to remove the communist regime.

Registered Voters Evenly Divided on Vote for Congress

Republican advantage on enthusiasm grows

June 8, 2010

Gallup's latest update on the generic ballot shows registered voters evenly divided in their current voting intentions for Congress, with 46% saying they would vote for the Republican candidate in their district and 46% for the Democratic candidate.

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district -- [ROTATED: the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate]?

Based on registered voters



Gallup Daily tracking

Note: Percentages include those who lean toward one candidate

GALLUP®

These results, based on interviews conducted June 1-6, show Republicans down three percentage points and Democrats up three points compared with the prior week, though these changes still fall within the poll's margin of sampling error. Voter preferences have been closely divided for much of the time since Gallup began tracking these in March.

Regardless, the political environment still looks favorable to the Republican Party just inside of five months before Election Day.

First, because Republicans typically turn out at greater rates than Democrats on Election Day, a tie on the generic ballot among all registered voters would generally translate to a Republican advantage among likely voters. Gallup will begin assessing voting likelihood in the fall.

Second, Republicans continue to hold the upper hand in voting enthusiasm, with 46% saying they are very enthusiastic about voting, compared with 24% of Democrats. That 22-point gap is the largest Gallup has measured for Republicans over Democrats in any week this election year to date.

Percentage Very Enthusiastic About Voting in 2010 Midterm Elections, by Political Party

Based on registered voters



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Third, Republicans maintain a significant advantage over Democrats among independent voters - 45% to 35% in the past week, which is in line with what Gallup has measured most of this year.

Bottom Line

Any additional positive momentum Republicans appeared to be gaining in last week's Gallup generic ballot update dissipated quickly, and the race has this week reverted to an even split among all registered voters. Even so, the fundamentals of the 2010 political environment continue to point to a solid Republican showing in the midterm elections this year.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking June 1-6, 2010, with a random sample of 1,378 registered voters, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell phone only status, cell phone mostly status and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

Fewer Americans Feeling Better About Their Financial Situation

Decline threatens Americans' financial wellbeing and U.S. economy in the months ahead

June 11, 2010

Exactly half of Americans in May said they were feeling better about their financial situation -- a key measure of financial wellbeing. That's fewer than said so in April, and the deterioration is holding so far in June.

Percentage Feeling Better About Their Financial Situation These Days

June 2009-May 2010



Several Key Financial Wellbeing Measures Unchanged

Several other key measures of individual financial wellbeing remain essentially the same in May and early June as in April:

- The percentage of Americans having more than enough money to do what they want to do stood at 34% in May, matching April, and remains at that level in early June.
- Seventy-seven percent of Americans in May and 76% during the first week of June say they have enough money to buy the things they need -- similar to the 78% who said so in April.
- The percentage of Americans saying they worried that they spent too much money yesterday is at 21% in May and the first week of June, which is essentially the same as the 20% who said the same in April.
- Gallup's Standard of Living Index remains at 34 in May and early June -- unchanged from the 33% of April. The percentage of Americans saying their standard of living is "getting better" also remains at 47% in May and early June, matching April.

Improvements in Americans' Financial Wellbeing Waning

Gallup's continuous tracking of attitudinal economic data suggests Americans' financial wellbeing was improving in April as was economic confidence and the jobs situation. In particular, consumers were feeling that their financial situations -- their personal balance sheets - - were getting better in response to their past efforts to reduce their debt and spending. The benefits of such an improved consumer psychology were evident a month later, with many upper-income consumers increasing their discretionary spending significantly on things such as restaurants, entertainment, and travel -- even as government reports showed that overall retail spending had declined.

In May, however, the stock market had its worst month in 40 years as the European financial crisis worsened and conditions in the Gulf of Mexico continued to deteriorate. Not surprisingly, Americans became less comfortable with their financial situation, and contrary to the Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment, Gallup data showed that economic confidence worsened in late May and early June.

It may be that fewer consumers feel their financial situation is getting better because of a loss of wealth associated with the decline in the stock market. Some consumers could even be worried about the financial crisis in Europe. Regardless, it appears that Americans' financial wellbeing is waning somewhat this summer, which is not good news for the U.S. economy.

Percentage Having More Than Enough Money to Do What They Want

June 2009-May 2010



GALLUP®

Percentage Having Enough Money to Buy What They Need

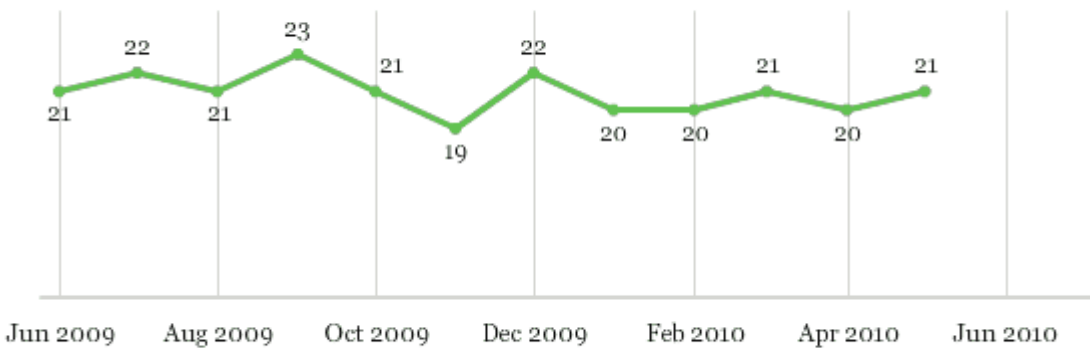
June 2009-May 2010



GALLUP®

Percentage Worried They Spent Too Much Money "Yesterday"

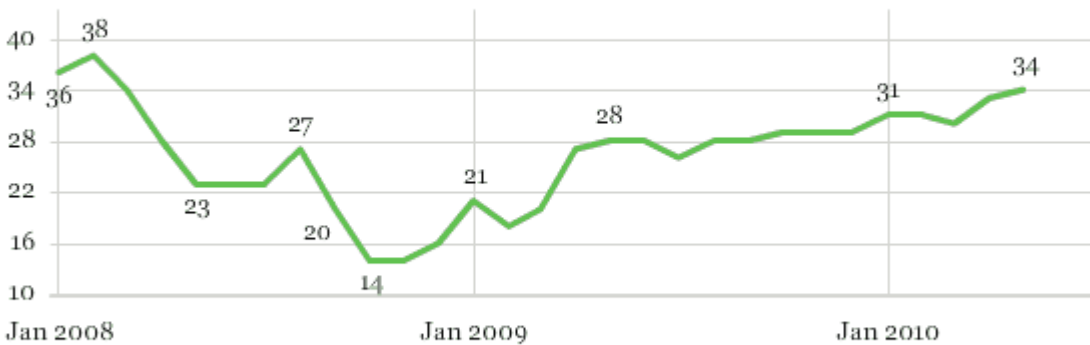
June 2009-May 2010



GALLUP®

Gallup's Standard of Living Index

January 2008-May 2010



GALLUP®

Complete trend data are always available to view and export in the following charts:

Survey Methods

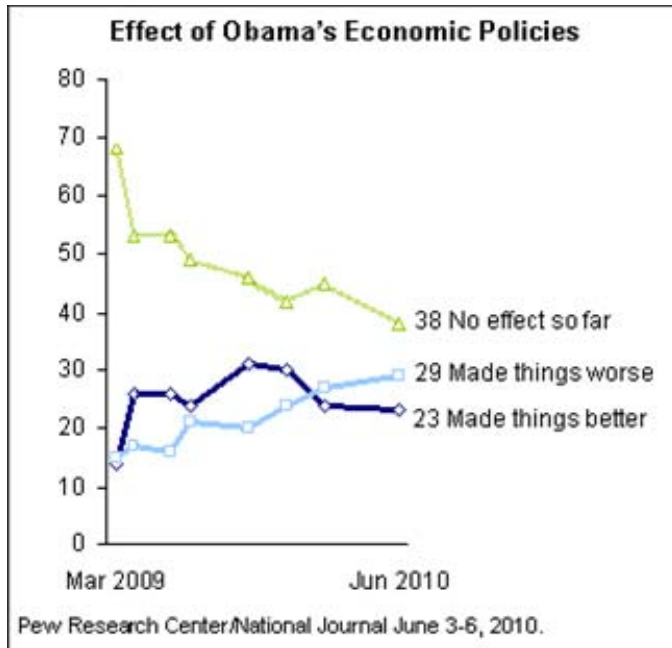
For Gallup Daily tracking, Gallup interviews approximately 1,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. The Gallup consumer spending results are based on random half-samples of approximately 500 national adults, aged 18 and older, each day. Results for the week ending June 6, 2010, are based on telephone interviews with more than 700 adults. For these results, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points. Results for the various breakouts reported here are based on interviews with more than 1,000 respondents, with a maximum margin of error of ± 3 percentage points. Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Doubts About Obama's Economic Policies Rose Over the Last Year

Congressional Connection Poll

June 8, 2010

The public increasingly sees Barack Obama's policies as having an impact on economic conditions and, for the first time, slightly more say the impact has been negative rather than positive.



About three-in-ten (29%) say Obama's economic policies since taking office have made economic conditions worse; 23% say his policies have made conditions better. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they have had no effect so far or volunteer that it is too soon to tell, according to the latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM. The survey was conducted June 3-6 among 1,002 adults.

Opinions about the impact of Obama's economic policies have changed little since February. But the proportion saying that Obama's economic policies have made economic conditions worse has nearly doubled -- from 16% to 29% -- since June 2009. Over this period, the percentage saying his policies have improved conditions has changed little, while the number saying Obama's policies have had no effect or that it is too soon to tell has fallen from 53% to 38%.

As More See Obama's Policies Having an Effect, Negative Views Rise

Obama economic policies have made conditions...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
June 2010	%	%	%	%
Better	23	6	47	19
Worse	29	58	11	26
No effect/too soon	38	31	34	47
Don't know	9	5	9	8
	100	100	100	100
June 2009				
Better	26	10	40	28
Worse	16	35	3	16
No effect/too soon	53	53	54	54
Don't know	4	1	3	3
	100	100	100	100
<i>09-10 change in "worse"</i>	+13	+23	+8	+10

Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010.
 "No effect so far" answers combined with those who volunteer "too soon to tell."
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

A majority of Republicans (58%) now say that Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse; a year ago, just 35% of Republicans expressed that view while a majority (53%) said they had no effect or that it was too soon to tell.

On balance, many more Democrats continue to say Obama's policies have made economic conditions better (47%) than worse (11%). Over the past year, however, there has been an eight-point increase in the percentage saying Obama's policies have had a negative effect. There has been a comparable rise in the percentage saying his policies have improved conditions (seven points).

For many independents, the jury is still out on the effect of Obama's economic policies. Nearly half (47%) say his policies have had no effect so far or say that it is too soon to tell, which is down only modestly from a year ago (54%). Since June 2009, there has been a 10-point increase in the proportion of independents who say Obama's policies have made economic conditions worse, and a nine-point decline in the percentage saying his policies have made the economy better.

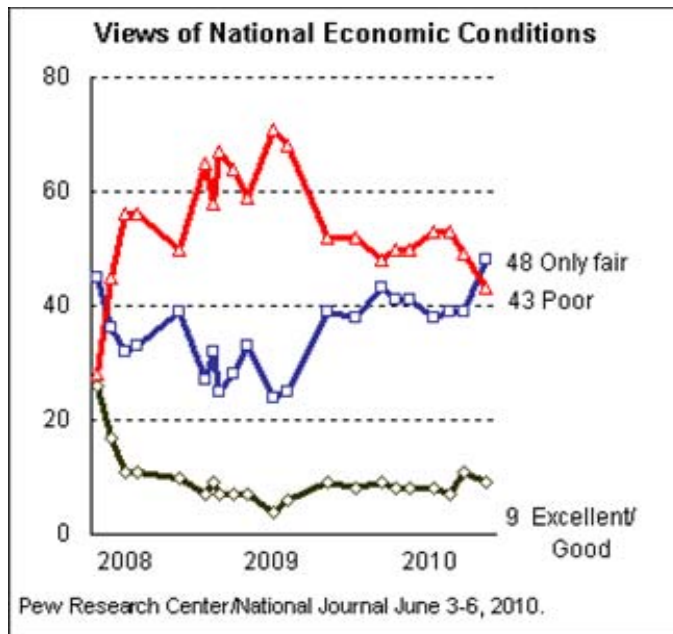
Many Say Recovery is a Long Way Off

What Recovery?		
	March	June
<i>Economy...</i>	%	%
Is now recovering	13	13
Will recover soon	37	35
Will take a long time to recover	48	50
Don't know	2	2
	100	100

Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The public has become a bit less gloomy over the current state of the nation's economy, but continues to see recovery as a long way off. And while politicians focus increasing attention on the growing budget deficit, far more Americans point to the job situation, rather than the deficit, as their biggest economic worry.

Half of Americans (50%) say it will be a long time before the economy recovers, while 35% say the economy is not yet recovering but will soon recover, and just 13% say the economy is now recovering. These numbers are virtually unchanged from March.



The public's views of current economic conditions also remain negative. Just 9% say conditions are excellent or good, which is little changed from measures over the past two years. However, among those viewing the economy negatively -- as only fair or poor -- the proportion rating it poor has declined over the past few months while the percentage saying it is only fair has risen.

The latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM, finds that opinions about the current state of the economy, as well as about expectations for a recovery, continue to be deeply divided along partisan lines. As was the case in March, most

Republicans (58%) and independents (53%) see an economic recovery as a long way off. Democrats are more optimistic, but the percentage saying the economy will recover soon has not increased significantly since March (42% then, 43% today).

Compared with March, fewer Republicans, Democrats and independents rate national economic conditions as poor. Nonetheless, the percentages rating the economy as excellent or good -- across all three groups -- have not risen since then.

The survey finds that personal financial evaluations have changed very little in recent months. Currently, 38% rate their personal financial situation as excellent or good, while 38% say their finances are only fair and 20% rate their finances as poor.

Economic Worries: Jobs Still Trump Deficit

A plurality of Americans (41%) cite the job situation as the economic issue that worries them most; 23% cite the federal budget deficit; 16% say rising prices and 13% say problems in the financial and housing markets.

The public's economic concerns are little changed from March, when 45% said that the job situation was their top economic worry and 23% the budget deficit.

<i>Economic issue that worries you most...</i>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Deficit</u>	<u>Prices</u>	<u>Markets</u>	<u>Other None/DK</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	41	23	16	13	6=100	1002
Republican	35	34	15	14	2=100	284
Democrat	47	13	18	15	8=100	300
Independent	40	28	13	13	6=100	328
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75,000 or more	39	30	10	16	6=100	261
\$30,000-74,999	32	30	18	16	5=100	306
Less than \$30,000	51	13	22	9	6=100	257

Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans continue to be evenly divided as to whether jobs (35%) or the federal budget deficit (34%) is most worrisome. But among Democrats and independents, substantially more cite the jobs situation than the budget deficit.

Division, Uncertainty About Financial Regulation Bill	
<i>Financial reform legislation...</i>	<u>June</u> %
Favor	39
Oppose	33
Don't know	<u>28</u>
	100
<i>Stricter gov't regulation of financial companies...</i>	<u>March</u> %
Good idea	61
Bad idea	31
Don't know	<u>8</u>
	100
Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.	

Mixed Views of Financial Regulation Legislation

For more than a year, the public has supported the idea of stricter government regulations on major financial companies and institutions.

But there is less agreement -- and more uncertainty -- over the major legislation dealing with financial regulation currently making its way through Congress.

Slightly more Americans say they favor (39%) than say they oppose (33%) the financial reform legislation being discussed in Congress, while 28% do not give an opinion.

In March, fully 61% said it was good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business; just 31% said it was a bad idea while 8% offered no opinion.

Partisan Differences on Financial Regulation Measure				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favor	39	28	51	41
Oppose	33	49	18	36
Don't know	<u>28</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100
Pew Research Center/National Journal June 3-6, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

According to the latest Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, sponsored by SHRM, Democrats generally support the financial reform legislation (51% favor,

18% oppose) while Republicans oppose it (28% favor, 49% oppose). Opinion among independents is divided; 41% of independents favor the legislation while 36% oppose it.

For Majority of Voters, National Issues Paramount in 2010 Vote

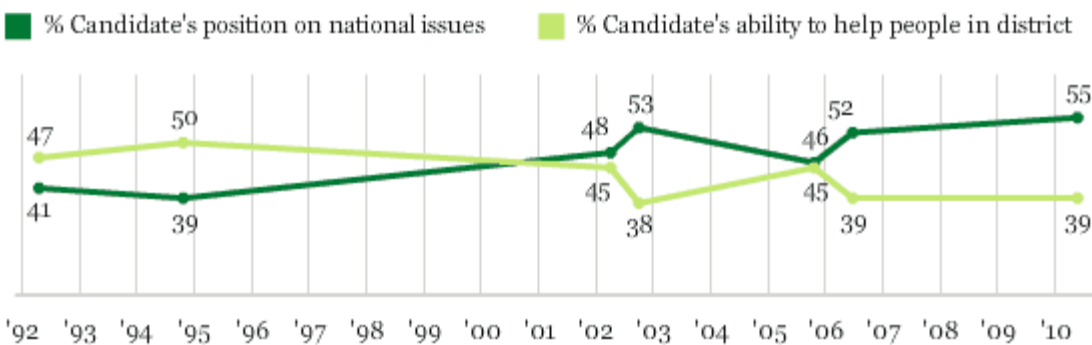
Republicans especially likely to consider national issues more important in vote for Congress

June 9, 2010

By 55% to 39%, more registered voters say a candidate's stand on national issues -- rather than his or her ability to help people at the district level -- is what matters more to them in voting for Congress. The percentage naming issues as the more important factor is the highest recorded on this measure in the nearly two-decade-long Gallup trend, although similar to that seen at points in the last two midterm election years.

Primary Factor in Vote for Congress

When you vote for a candidate for the House of Representatives, which is more important to you -- [his or her ability to do things that help people in your congressional district (or) that you agree with his or her positions on major national issues]?



Based on registered voters

GALLUP®

Politics Are More Local for Democrats Than for Republicans

Republicans are considerably more likely than Democrats to emphasize national issues in their assessments of candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives. Whereas a solid majority of Republican registered voters, 63%, say a candidate's positions on national issues are paramount to them, Democratic voters are evenly split at 46% in their emphasis on issues vs. district performance.

Notably, the majority of political independents share Republicans' greater concern for national issues.

Primary Factor in Vote for Congress -- by Party ID

Based on registered voters

	Republican	Independent	Democrat
	%	%	%
Ability to do things to help people in district	33	37	46
Agree with positions on major national issues	63	57	46
Both (volunteered)	3	6	6
No opinion	1	1	2

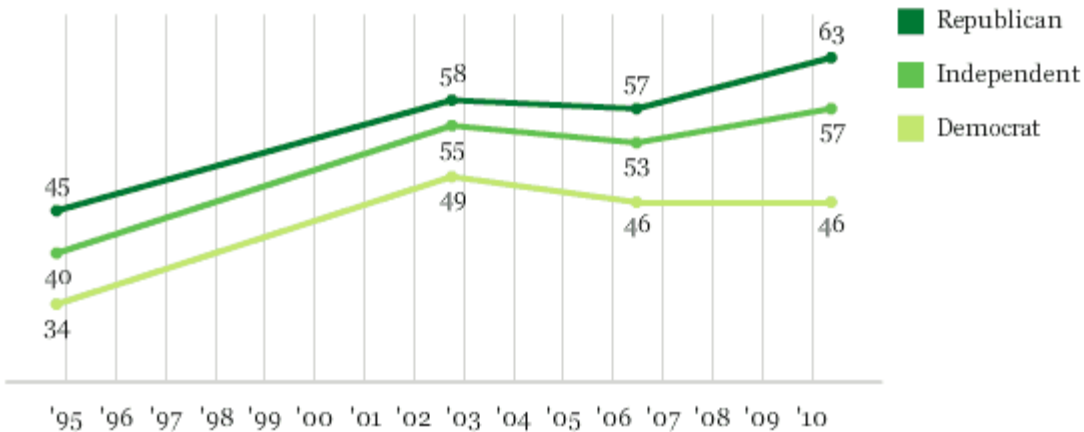
USA Today/Gallup, May 24-25, 2010

GALLUP®

Gallup trends document an increase in the percentage citing national issues among all three party groups since 1994, but the increase has been particularly steep among Republicans and independents.

Percentage Prioritizing National Issues as Voting Factor -- by Party ID

Selected trend; based on registered voters



GALLUP®

Additionally, even along ideological lines, the right side of the political spectrum puts more emphasis on national issues in voting for Congress than does the left. According to the May 24-25, 2010, *USA Today/Gallup* survey, the percentage of conservatives citing issues is 10 points higher than that of liberals, 61% vs. 51%.

Bottom Line

The maxim that "all politics is local" -- most famously advanced by the late House Speaker Tip O'Neill -- may have once been an accurate characterization of the relationship that congressional candidates had with their constituents. In that vein, as recently as 1994, significantly more

registered voters said that delivering for their district was more important to the way they viewed congressional candidates than were national issue stances. However, since 1994 -- perhaps because of the nationalization of that election with the Republicans' Contract With America -- Americans' voting priorities have flipped.

In a year when voters rank the federal budget deficit as high as terrorism as a top concern, the implications are clear. Twenty years ago, candidates for Congress might have ingratiated themselves with voters by bulleting all of the federal spending projects they either had delivered to the district, or would support if elected. Today, such messages may be more likely to spark constituents' concerns about the effect the spending involved could have on the national debt.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 24-25, 2010, with a random sample of 1,049 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of 946 registered voters, 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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell-phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

Americans Lack Consensus on Desirability of Divided Gov't.

Preferences usually depend on current power arrangement in Washington

June 10, 2010

A plurality of Americans, 39%, say it makes no difference whether Congress and the presidency are controlled by the same or different parties, while the remainder show nearly equal support for divided (30%) and unified (27%) party government.

Preference for Divided or Unified Government

Do you think it is better for the country -- [ROTATED: to have a president who comes from the same political party that controls Congress, does it make no difference either way, or do you think it is better to have a president from one political party and Congress controlled by another]?

	Same party	Makes no difference	Different parties	No opinion
2010 May 24-25	27%	39%	30%	4%

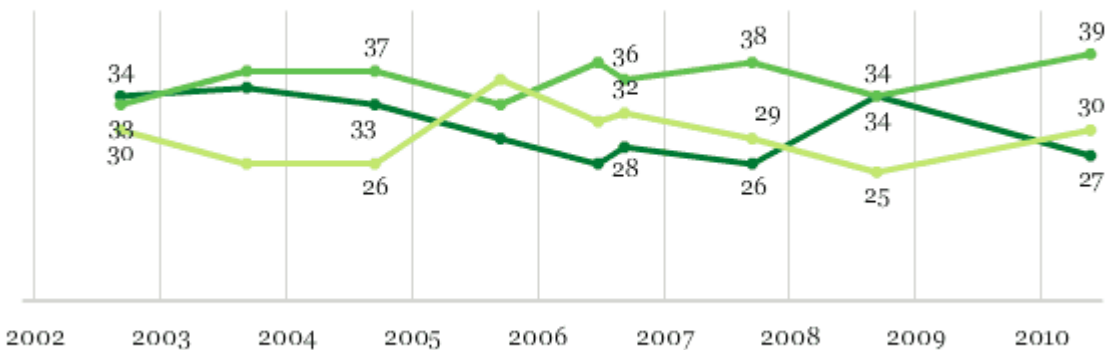
USA Today/Gallup, May 24-25, 2010

GALLUP®

The lack of consensus on divided versus unified party government has been the norm in the eight years Gallup has asked this question, with "no difference" usually the plurality response. Americans' relative preferences for divided or one-party government have shifted during this time, reflecting the popularity of the president, and current party control of Congress and the presidency at the time of the survey.

Trend in Preference for Divided or Unified Party Government

■ % Same party ■ % Makes no difference ■ % Different parties



GALLUP®

Thus, it appears Americans' attitudes toward divided or one-party government are not fixed but vary to some degree in response to the prevailing political environment.

A look at Americans' preferences by party affiliation makes this clearer. Currently, with a Democratic president and Democratic control of Congress, Americans who identify politically as Democrats show a decided preference for same-party control of the presidency and Congress (41%) over divided control (13%). However, Democrats are about as likely to say it makes no difference as to say it is better to have one-party control.

In contrast, Republicans clearly prefer divided control over unified government, 44% to 20%. And though independents are most likely to say it makes no difference whether the executive and

legislative branches are controlled by the same or different parties, more independents prefer divided party control than unified control.

The current preferences by party are essentially the reverse of what was seen in June 2006, when Republicans had control of both houses of Congress and the presidency, and George W. Bush's popularity was sagging.

Preference for Divided or Unified Government, by Political Party Affiliation

	Same party	Makes no difference	Different parties
May 24-25, 2010			
Democrats	41%	42%	13%
Independents	21%	42%	34%
Republicans	20%	32%	44%
June 23-25, 2006			
Democrats	25%	29%	38%
Independents	16%	46%	36%
Republicans	41%	41%	15%

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Americans have not shown a consistent preference for divided or unified party government in recent years -- typically, the greatest percentage say it makes no difference to the country. This lack of consistency is in part because partisans' preferences appear to be largely contingent on whether divided or unified government would help their party gain the greatest amount of political power they could reasonably expect it to gain in the next election.

Republicans may attempt to promote divided government to encourage votes for Republican candidates in this fall's midterm elections and to serve as a check on President Obama and the Democratically controlled Congress. However, it is not clear from the Gallup data that Americans necessarily view divided government as desirable or unified party control as undesirable.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 24-25, 2010, with a random sample of 1,049 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

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). Each sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell-phone-only respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, education, region, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in continental U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

Hispanic Voters' Preferences Unchanged Post-Arizona Law

Two-to-one preference for Democrat is nearly identical to intentions before passage

June 11, 2010

Hispanic voters nationwide haven't shifted their congressional voting preferences since the signing of Arizona's new immigration law on April 23. Their preference for the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate, 61% to 32%, in April 23 to June 8 interviewing almost identically matches the 60% to 32% margin recorded between March 1 and April 22. White voters and black voters also haven't changed their voting intentions.

Congressional Generic Ballot, by Race/Ethnicity, Before and After Passage of Arizona Immigration Law

	Hispanics		Non-Hispanic whites		Non-Hispanic blacks	
	Pre-AZ law March 1- April 22	Post-AZ law April 23- June 8	Pre-AZ law March 1- April 22	Post-AZ law April 23- June 8	Pre-AZ law March 1- April 22	Post-AZ law April 23- June 8
Republican candidate	32%	32%	53%	53%	8%	9%
Democratic candidate	60%	61%	38%	38%	86%	85%
Won't vote/ Don't know/ Refused	8%	7%	8%	8%	5%	6%
Sample size	548	459	9,522	8,315	770	660

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

The Arizona immigration statute generated substantial news coverage during the time when it first became law, including critical commentary from President Obama himself. Some news coverage focused on the possible political implications of the law for the Hispanic vote this fall. Because the Arizona legislature that passed the law was Republican-controlled and because Democrats have been among the most vocal critics of the law, some observers hypothesized that Democrats could gain and Republicans could lose among Hispanic voters as a result.

But that does not appear to be the case -- at least to this point in time.

That said, President Obama's job approval rating is down among Hispanics this year. This drop appears to have begun prior to the April 23 signing of the new Arizona law. It should be noted that the drop in Obama's approval rating between January and May of this year was primarily among Hispanics who chose to be interviewed in Spanish, while the current sample of registered-voter Hispanics includes significantly fewer of this group.

Enthusiasm

Hispanics are slightly less likely to say they are "very enthusiastic" about voting this year, compared with whites or blacks. Enthusiasm among Hispanics ticked up very slightly between the two periods, while enthusiasm dwindled slightly among whites and blacks. These changes are not substantial enough to suggest major changes in the political climate, although they deserve monitoring between now and the election on Nov. 2.

Enthusiasm About Voting, by Race/Ethnicity, Before and After Passage of Arizona Immigration Law

	Hispanics		Non-Hispanic whites		Non-Hispanic blacks	
	Pre-AZ law Mar 1- Apr 22	Post-AZ law Apr 23- Jun 8	Pre-AZ law Mar 1- Apr 22	Post-AZ law Apr 23- Jun 8	Pre-AZ law Mar 1- Apr 22	Post-AZ law Apr 23- Jun 8
Very enthusiastic	26%	29%	35%	31%	37%	34%
Somewhat enthusiastic	33%	34%	25%	25%	30%	27%
Not very enthusiastic	36%	32%	38%	42%	30%	36%
Sample size	548	459	9,522	8,315	770	660

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking March 1-June 8, 2010, with a random sample of Hispanic registered voters, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of 548 Hispanic registered voters interviewed March 1-April 22, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

For results based on the total sample of 459 Hispanic registered voters interviewed April 23-June 8, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each daily sample includes a minimum quota of 150 cell phone respondents and 850 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents for gender within region. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, cell-phone-only status, cell-phone-mostly status, and phone lines. Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2009 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

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.

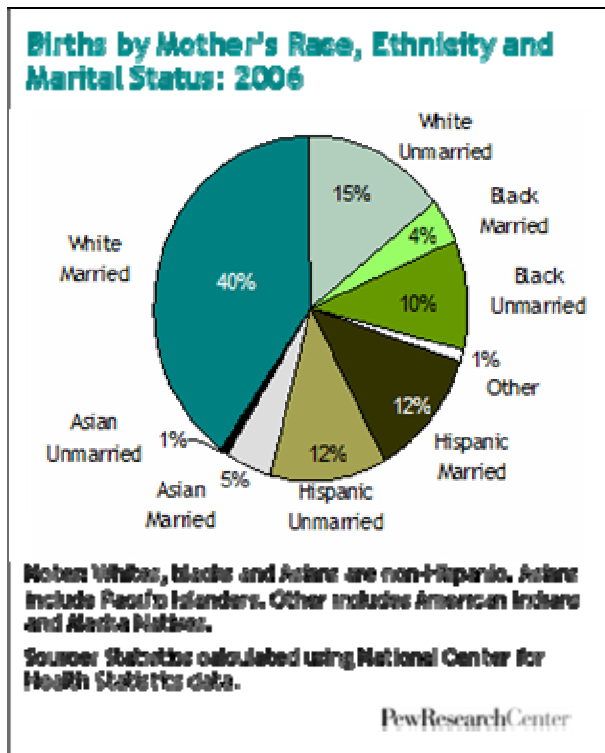
The Typical Modern Mother: There Isn't One

June 11, 2010

Today's mothers of newborns are more likely than their counterparts two decades earlier to be ages 35 and older, to have some college education, to be unmarried or to be nonwhite -- but not all at once.

A recent Pew Research Center report on changes in the demographic characteristics of mothers of newborns found that from 1990 to 2008 the proportion of new mothers ages 35 or older rose to 14% from 9%; that the nonwhite share rose to 47% from 35%; and that the unmarried share rose to 41% from 28%. Thanks in part to rising educational attainment, more than half of mothers of newborns (54% in 2006) have at least some college education, compared with 41% in 1990.

It may be tempting to blend these four rising traits into a description of a "typical mother," but there is no such thing. Among total U.S. births in a year, less than 1% are to unmarried, nonwhite women who are ages 35 and older and have at least some college education, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of 2006 statistics.



The proportion rises to only 1% if you count mothers of newborns who are 35+, unmarried and with any education beyond high school and about 1.5% for mothers who are 35+, unmarried and nonwhite. Removing the 35+ age restriction so as to include all women who unmarried, nonwhite and have any education beyond high school still yields only 5% of births in 2006. It is only when just two of these major characteristics are combined -- for example race or ethnicity and marital status, as shown in the accompanying pie chart -- that double-digit shares are achieved.

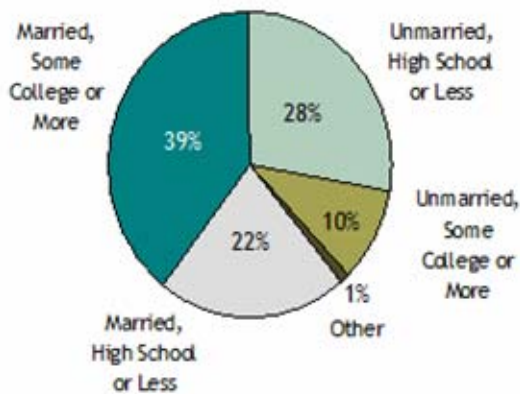
Combinations of Characteristics

Demographic characteristics generally travel in packs -- that is, certain characteristics often are found in the same people who have other specific characteristics. One reason that so few mothers embody all four of the rising demographic trends of mothers is that those four do not tend to hang together. For example, although mothers of newborns in all age groups are more likely to be unmarried now than in 1990, the rise of this trend is larger for mothers under age 35 than for mothers ages 35 and older.

According to the recent "New Demography of Motherhood" report, 44% of mothers of newborns who were under age 35 were unmarried in 2008, a 51% increase from 1990. Among mothers of newborns who were ages 35 and older, 19% were unmarried in 2008, an increase of 30% from 1990.

Thus, the single older mother, though somewhat more prevalent than two decades ago, is a relative rarity. In 2006, only 2% of babies were born to unmarried women ages 35 and older.

Births by Mother's Education and Marital Status: 2006



Note: Other includes cases where education data are missing.

Source: Statistics calculated using National Center for Health Statistics data.

PewResearchCenter

Or, to consider marital status again, the likelihood of being unmarried is much higher for less-educated mothers than for mothers with some college education. Among women with any education beyond high school, only a small share of mothers of newborns (20% in 2006) is unmarried. Among high school graduates or those without a high school education, only 43% of the mothers of newborns are married.

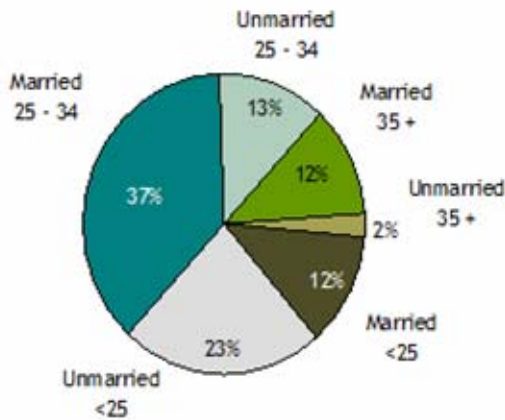
These numbers demonstrate that the rising trends of unmarried motherhood and college-educated motherhood primarily apply to different subgroups of women. Only 10% of mothers of newborns in 2006 were unmarried and had some education beyond high school.

If there is no typical mother who embodies all four rising demographic traits, is there a typical mother based on any pair of traits from the fields of age, marital status, race or ethnicity and education? Here, in some cases, the answer is yes.

For example, using combinations of marital status and race or ethnicity, the largest group—accounting for 40% of births in 2006—is white, married women. As the previous pie chart shows, no other group accounts for even half that share.

Looking at mothers based on marital status and educational attainment, the largest group is married women with at least some college education, who accounted for 39% of births in 2006. The next largest group, unmarried women with a high school education or less, made up 28% of mothers of newborns. Married women with a high school education or less made up 22% of mothers of newborns, and unmarried women with at least some college education accounted for 10%.

Births by Mother's Age and Marital Status: 2006



Source: Statistics calculated using National Center for Health Statistics data.

PewResearchCenter

An analysis that used three age categories combined with marital status finds that the group with the highest share of births was married women ages 25-34, who were 37% of mothers of newborns in 2006. Unmarried women in the youngest age category (under 25) accounted for 23% of births. At the low end, only 2% of births were to unmarried women ages 35 and older -- the so-called "Murphy Browns," named for the TV character who became a single mother in 1992.

For other pairs of characteristics, no one group rises above about a third of all mothers. Looking at combinations of race or ethnicity and education, the largest group is white women with at least some college education, who accounted for 34% of births in 2006. Looking at educational attainment combined with three age categories, women ages 25-34 with at least some college education accounted for 30% of births. Using race or ethnicity and three age categories, the largest group is white women ages 25-34, who accounted for 29% of births in 2006. See this table for the complete set of numbers.

LATIN AMERICA

Roughly 6.2 Million Mexicans Express Desire to Move to U.S.

Nearly three times as many Chinese and Indians say the same

June 7, 2010

Amid an ongoing debate in the U.S. on immigration from Mexico, Gallup estimates 6.2 million Mexican adults say they would like to move permanently to the United States if given the chance. That's close to half of the 14 million Mexicans -- or 19% of the adult population -- who say they would like to resettle somewhere else; would-be migrants in Mexico choose Canada and Spain as their other top desired destinations.

Top Desired Destinations for Potential Migrants From Mexico

Ideally, if you had the opportunity, would you like to move permanently to another country, or would you prefer to continue living in this country?

To which country would you like to move?*

Top desired destinations	Percentage who would like to move to this country*	Projected number who would like to move**
United States	44%	6.2 million
Canada	14%	1.9 million
Spain	9%	1.2 million

*Asked only of those who say they would like to permanently move

**Based on 2008 World Bank adult population figures for Mexico

GALLUP®

The findings are from Gallup surveys that previously estimated that roughly 700 million adults worldwide would like to move permanently to another country if they had the opportunity. Asked which country they would like to relocate to, more than 165 million adults worldwide name the United States.

Keeping in mind that Gallup's numbers reflect desire rather than actual migration rates, Mexico's roughly 6.2 million would-be migrants to the U.S. are significantly less than the estimated 22.9 million adults who would come from China, 17.1 million from India, and 16.6 million from Nigeria. Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Brazil would also send more migrants than Mexico.

Desired Destination: United States

Top 10 countries ranked by highest projected population of potential migrants who say they would like to move to the United States

	Projected population* of potential migrants to U.S.
China	22.9 million
India	17.1 million
Nigeria	16.6 million
Ethiopia	9.2 million
Bangladesh	7.8 million
Brazil	7.7 million
Mexico	6.2 million
Philippines	5.8 million
Vietnam	5.0 million
Japan	3.3 million

*Numbers based on 2008 World Bank population figures

GALLUP®

If all of the adults worldwide who tell Gallup they would like to move to another country actually did so, the United States could see a net population gain of 60%. Several other developed countries, such as Singapore, however, could be even more overwhelmed with migrants because of their smaller relative current population. Mexico, on the other hand, could potentially see net population losses as high as 15%.

While Gallup's migration findings reflect people's aspirations rather than their intentions, they reveal the desires of potential migrants around the world -- an important consideration for leaders seeking to proactively manage migration and migrant policy in their countries.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with 347,713 adults across multiple administrations of surveys in 148 countries between 2007 and 2009. Results among adults who would like to move to another country are based on a total sample of 75,125. For most countries, aggregated sample sizes (across three years of surveys) range between 1,000 and 3,000 interviews. For results based on 2,999 Mexican adults surveyed between 2007 and 2009, one can say with 95% confidence that the country-level margin of sampling error, accounting for weighting and sample design, is ± 2.2 percentage points. The margin of error for 545 Mexican adults who say they would like to move to another country is ± 5 percentage points. Results are projected to the total population of each country, aged 15 and older, using 2008 World Bank population estimates.

Results for data on Potential Net Migration Index scores based on aggregated telephone and face-to-face interviews with 259,542 adults, aged 15 and older, in 135 countries from 2007 to 2009. Index values have been rounded to the nearest integer value ending in a 0 or 5.

Three-in-Four Brazilians Content with Lula

June 09, 2010

Public support for the Brazilian president remains impressive, according to a poll by Ibope. 75 per cent of respondents rate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva'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.

On Apr. 20, a blowout at an oil well owned by BP Plc and located southeast of the Louisiana coast in the Gulf of Mexico caused a major oil spill which is now considered the largest in U.S. history. All attempts aimed at containing the oil spill have failed.

On May 31, Lula suggested that the international media has a double standard when it covers environmental disasters, saying, "Large countries, who knew everything, do not know to stop the oil spill. (...) It amuses me how the press deals with this issue. Imagine if it had been [state oil company] Petrobras. Imagine if in Guanabara Bay, the scandal that the developed world would have done against us."

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

Polling Data

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

	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010
Good / Very Good	75%	76%	75%
Fair	20%	18%	19%
Bad / Very Bad	5%	5%	5%

Source: Ibope

Methodology: Interviews with 2,002 Brazilian adults, conducted from May 31 to Jun. 3, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Santos Would Defeat Mockus in Colombia

June 08, 2010

Juan Manuel Santos of the U Party (U), who came very close to winning the Colombian presidential election in the first round on May 30, holds a large lead over his rival as the South American country prepares for the run-off.

The former defence minister holds the support of 61.6 per cent of decided voters, while Green Party (PV) candidate and former Bogota mayor Antanas Mockus is a distant second with 29.8 per cent.

While surveys conducted before the first round suggested a close race, Santos finished in first place with 46.6 per cent of all cast ballots, while Mockus was a distant second with 21.5 per cent. Mockus has publicly acknowledged that it will be difficult to defeat Santos in the run-off, scheduled for Jun. 20.

Santos has said he intends to seek a better relationship with other neighbouring nations, including Venezuela and Ecuador. This will be a complicated task. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez has been one of the fiercest critics of outgoing Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, and Santos recently expressed "pride" in having attacked a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) camp almost two kilometres into the border with Ecuador in March 2008, a situation that led to a diplomatic dispute.

AUSTRALASIA

Australia Ponders Limits of Private Life Reporting

June 06, 2010

The resignation of a Member of Parliament following reports that he had led a double life as a gay man has prompted a debate in Australia over the boundaries of reporting on the personal lives of politicians.

Over a third of Australians (38%) surveyed in May 2010 think it is not appropriate, under any circumstances, for the media to reveal details of a politician's private life. However, 42 per cent of respondents believe such reports would be appropriate in some cases.

A vast majority of Australians who agree with revealing personal details of politicians' lives in some or all circumstances say this would be suitable when the information affects the public's interest or where the politician has acted in contradiction with his or her public views. In contrast, few people (20%) think media should reveal personal information just because someone's choices are "unusual" or "not considered mainstream."

Q. There have been some recent situations where a politician has resigned from their position or their party after some aspects of their sexual behaviour were made public by the media. Is it appropriate for the media to reveal details of a political figure's private life?

Yes, in all circumstances	12%
Yes, in some circumstances	42%
No, not at all	38%
Don't know	8%

On May 20, David Campbell, a governing Australian Labor Party (ALP) representative in New South Wales and also the Transport Minister, stepped down after Channel Seven aired footage of him entering a gay sauna at a Sydney sex club. Campbell said in a news conference he was "embarrassed" and admitted his life as a homosexual had been kept hidden from his wife and two adult children for over two decades.

Channel Seven Director Peter Meakin justified airing Campbell's footage first by saying that he had used his official MP vehicle to go to the club. However, when confronted with the fact that the use of the car was not illegal in this case, Meakin stepped up his justification to air the story saying that the public should know that Campbell, a former police minister and a champion of "family values", had been visiting "brothels and sex clubs," in which case "he is potentially compromised." The debate goes on.

Until 1984, sex between consenting adult men in private was punishable by up to 14 years in jail in New South Wales. A May 2009 survey showed that a majority of respondents support allowing same-sex couples to marry in Australia.

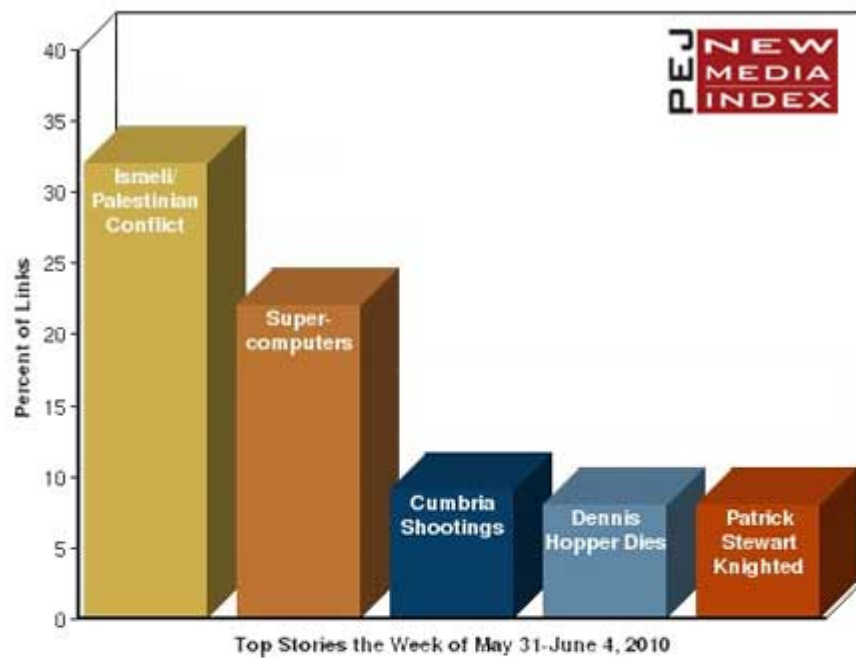
CYBER WORLD

The Flotilla Furor Online

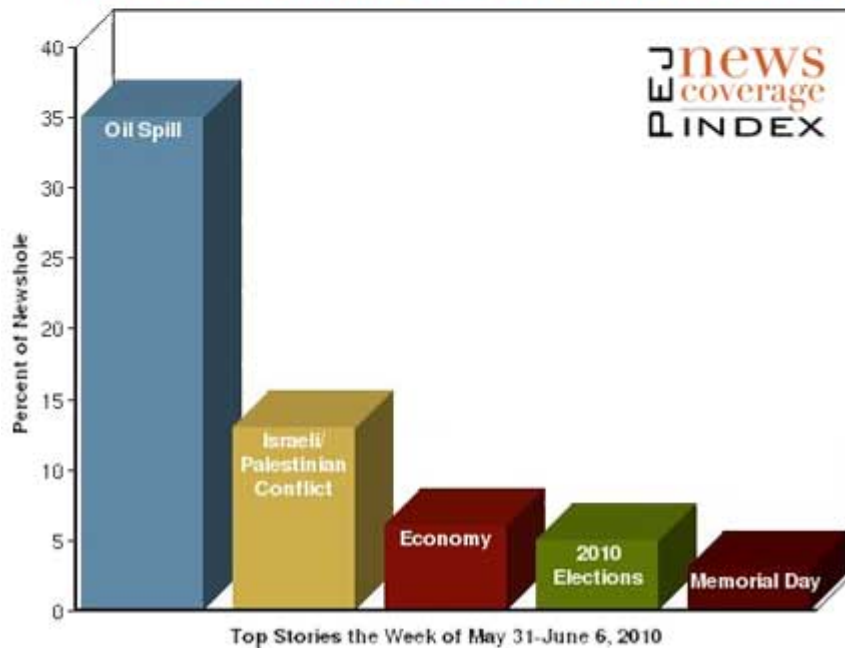
June 10, 2010

The May 31 clash in which Israeli soldiers killed nine people on a Turkish ship carrying supplies to the Gaza Strip triggered a passionate blogosphere response focused largely on who was to blame.

An International Incident Leads the Blogs...



...While the Oil Spill Leads the Mainstream Press



For the week of May 31-June 4, nearly a third (32%) of the news links on blogs were about this latest outbreak of Middle East violence, according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

In a debate that reflected the passions surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a majority of bloggers expressed outrage over Israel's actions, saying it had improperly attacked a peaceful aid ship in international waters. A vocal minority, however, defended Israel, declaring that the country acted in legitimate self-defense.

Indeed, three out of the five most-viewed news videos on YouTube last week were scenes of the violence aboard the ship, Mavi Marmara, provided by the Israeli Defense Forces in an effort to defend their actions.

That story also generated significant attention in the mainstream press last week, although not to the extent that it did on blogs. It was the second-largest story of the week filling 13% of the media newshole, behind only news about the oil spill along the Gulf coast.

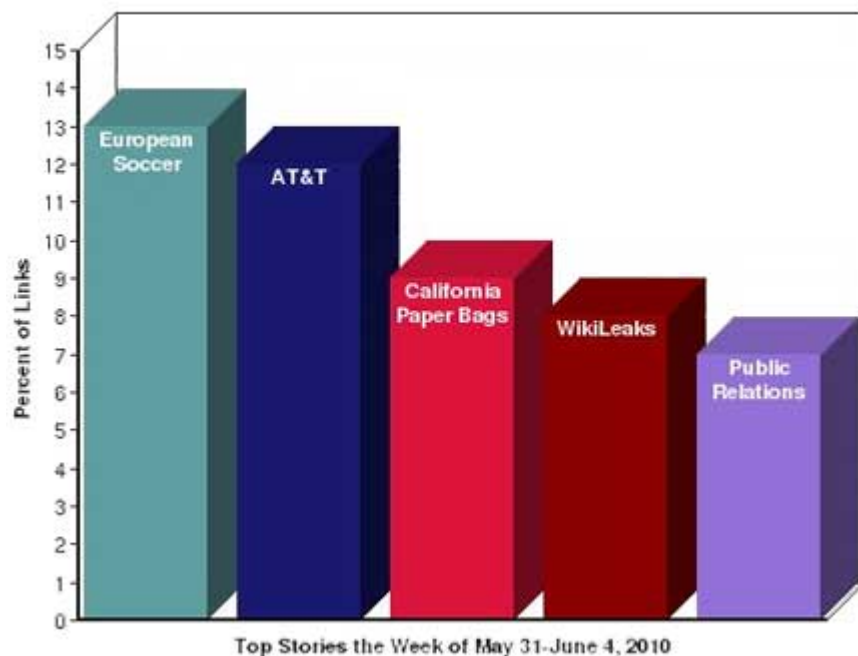
The second-largest story on blogs last week, at 22%, was an interactive graphic on BBC's website highlighting the world's 500 fastest supercomputers. The webpage included illustrations of the list produced by a project called TOP500. Many tech-focused bloggers shared their observations gleaned from the graphic such as which operating systems were most common.

The No. 3 subject, at 9%, was the shooting rampage by a self-employed taxi driver in Cumbria, England, which killed 12 people and injured 25.

The next two stories (tied at 8%) both involved famous actors. One was the passing of Dennis Hopper, best known for his role in the landmark 1969 counter culture film "Easy Rider." The other was the knighting of Sir Patrick Stewart at Buckingham Palace where he paid tribute to an English teacher who first encouraged him to perform. Stewart's most prominent role may have been as Captain Picard in the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Although technology-related subjects frequently dominate the top stories on Twitter, last week was different. With the World Cup looming, the No. 1 topic was European soccer, at 13% of the week's links. (That marked only the seventh time in 2010 that a non-tech topic finished first.)

Twitter Leads with Sports



Two separate BBC stories accounted for the soccer coverage. One was a report that a wealthy group of investors known as the Red Knights had temporarily deferred plans to bid on the powerhouse team Manchester United. The other was an announcement that Rafael Benitez was leaving as manager of Liverpool by mutual consent.

Two stories about AT&T made up the second-largest subject at 12%. One was a *Wired* report about a customer who was met with a legal threat after emailing the company's CEO. The other was a CNET story about AT&T's new set of data pricing plans for mobile devices such as iPhones and iPads.

A bill passed by the California assembly to charge customers for using store-issued paper bags at grocery stores was third at 9%. A story about the creation of the whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, which exposes government and corporate secrets, was fourth at 8%. And fifth, at 7%, was a report by Britain's *The Independent* about companies and public relations professionals who use new forms of communication to reach mass audiences.

The Flotilla Furor

In the hours following the May 31 Israeli interdiction of the Gaza-bound ships that ended in violence, a number of bloggers used their sites to chronicle breaking news as it became available.

The blog Liberty Pundits, for example, updated several times during the day. "Israel stops a pro-Palestinian flotilla on its way to support Gaza, with who knows what on board," reported the blog. Later, the blog added notes such as, "Turks trying to storm the Israel consulate in Turkey," and "Israel reporting ten dead."*

Some of the early online commentary focused on how specific media outlets covered the event.

"Fox News adopts Israel's 'Blame the Victims' Position," objected American Everyman featuring a screenshot of Fox News' home page.

"The New York Times makes no mention of the Israeli soldiers being attacked by the flotilla participants. Despicable," added Liberty Pundits.

Even as details remained sketchy, bloggers expressed strong opinions as to who was at fault in the incident. Many blamed Israel.

"Israel uses excessive force, again, killing humanitarian activists on a flotilla to Gaza carrying 10,000 tons of aid," relayed Semblance of Truth.

"I am sick and tired of the excuses coming from Israel concerning their reasons for constantly choking off food, water and other resources from the Gaza strip," added Carrie Cann. "But this just takes the cake."

"Israel illegally boarding NATO-inspected aid ships in international waters and then shooting unarmed people, who it claims were wielding knives and clubs, is perhaps the perfect analogy for Israel's continued occupation of Palestine," argued Faridon Abida at the Black Iris.

A vocal minority, however, passionately defended Israel.

"These people [on the flotilla] knew they were going to be boarded. I almost wonder if they carried any aid at all, since they knew carrying any would be a waste of time," wrote scrubone. "Had they complied with orders, they might still be able to claim a peaceful protest, and their claims that they didn't fire on the soldiers might have some weight."

In an attempt to defend themselves from some of the mounting international criticism, the Israeli Defense Forces released video footage of the incident that they said proves Israeli soldiers were attacked once they tried to board the ship.

The videos, which were immensely popular on YouTube and other places online, became the focus of much of the subsequent debate on the blogs.

"The video shows how Israeli soldiers lowered themselves with ropes from helicopters onto the ships," described Dolores M. Bernal at News Junkie Post. "If you ask me, the Israeli soldiers had it coming since they were clearly invading the ship on international waters. Aid organizers claim that they were simply defending themselves from the Israeli soldiers as they boarded the ship."

"This is not a case of testimony vs. Israel's account -- Israel has video and pictures," wrote Daled Amos as he criticized the BBC's coverage of the event. "In fact, only Israel is forced to videotape their operations, because of the inevitable criticisms and accusations. And only Israel finds that visual proof is considered 'doubtful'."

Supercomputers

The BBC's interactive graphic representing the list of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers drew a lot of interest from technology-focused bloggers.

"This may be one of the coolest infographics we've ever seen," shared Ernie Smith at shortformblog.

Some explained how these supercomputers were relevant to the average person.

"Now most of use are never going to see a super computer, or get to use one, just like most of use are never going to get to drive a Formula One car," posted Wayne Borean at Through the Looking Glass. "But like with cars, the technology used in super computers will trickle down to the business and consumer markets at some point-In fact it already has."

Others noted tidbits of information gleaned from the graphic, such as where the computers were located or what operating systems are used.

"Which country has the most powerful supercomputers?" asked Stan Schroeder at Mashable. "If you trust the annual top 500 list ... it's the U.S., followed by China, Germany, United Kingdom and France. The list is voluntary and thus doesn't include classified supercomputers owned by governments, which means that the real list can be quite different, depending on your favorite conspiracy theory."

"It is not surprising that Linux is generally preferred in supercomputers but the percentage (91%) is surprising," observed Ricky Laishram at Techie Buzz.

"Hmmm ... Apple's Macs didn't even make the list," added Tony Baldwin of Baldwinsoftware.

YouTube

Two very different international stories garnered enormous attention on YouTube last week.

The most popular news clip (viewed more than 2.5 million times) as well as the No. 5 clip were about an Indonesian toddler who is said to be addicted to nicotine. The ITN News report claims the 2-year-old child smokes 40 cigarettes a day and has become a tourist attraction. His father, who introduced the boy to smoking, asserts that he is in good health.

The confrontation on the aid ship bound for Gaza was the subject of the three of the top five most-viewed videos last week. Combined, the three videos were viewed almost 4 million times as YouTube became an integral part of the public relations battle that ensued about the incident.

Neighbors Online

June 9, 2010

Americans use a range of approaches to keep informed about what is happening in their communities and online activities have been added to the mix. Face-to-face encounters and phone calls remain the most frequent methods of interaction with neighbors. At the same time, internet tools are gaining ground in community-oriented communications.

In a poll conducted at the end of last year, we asked about online connections to communities and neighbors and found that in the 12 months preceding our survey:

- 22% of all adults (representing 28% of internet users) signed up to receive alerts about local issues (such as traffic, school events, weather warnings or crime alerts) via email or text messaging.
- 20% of all adults (27% of internet users) used digital tools to talk to their neighbors and keep informed about community issues.

Overall, physical personal encounters remain the primary way people stay informed about community issues. In the 12 months preceding our survey:

- 46% of Americans talked face-to-face with neighbors about community issues.
- 21% discussed community issues over the telephone.
- 11% read a blog dealing with community issues.
- 9% exchanged emails with neighbors about community issues and 5% say they belong to a community email listserv.
- 4% communicated with neighbors by text messaging on cell phones.
- 4% joined a social network site group connected to community issues.
- 2% followed neighbors using Twitter.

These findings come from a national telephone survey conducted Nov. 30 to Dec. 27, 2009 among 2,258 Americans (including 565 reached on a cell phone). The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points. For results based internet users (n=1,676) the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

Who knows who in neighborhoods and how neighbors interact

We asked our survey respondents whether or not they knew the names of the neighbors who live close to them and found that 19% said that they knew the names of all of their neighbors, and 24% said that they knew most of them. The remaining three-fifths of Americans know either some (29%) or none (28%) of their neighbors by name. These figures are unchanged from the last time we asked this question in July 2008. As we have consistently found in previous research, internet use is not correlated with a reduced likelihood of knowing the names of others in one's neighborhood. Indeed, daily internet users are just as likely as less frequent internet users -- and more likely than non-users -- to know some or all of their neighbors by name.

Americans use a range of tools to interact with their neighbors and keep up with community events -- from face-to-face discussions to local blogs and listservs. These specific approaches are discussed in more detail below.

Face-to-face

When Americans need to find out what is happening in their community, they frequently meet with their neighbors for a face-to-face talk. Nearly half of all the adults we surveyed (46%) had talked face-to-face with their neighbors about community issues in the preceding twelve months, making it the most common activity we measured in this study.

Those who know their neighbors are more likely to have face-to-face talks around community issues

	Know all or most of neighbors	Talk face-to-face with neighbors about community issues
All adults	42%	46%
Gender		
Male	40	47
Female	44	46
Race/Ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	49	50
Black, non-Hispanic	28	43
Hispanic (English- and Spanish-speaking)	23	29
Age		
18-29	27	31
30-49	42	48
50-64	50	58
65+	52	45
Educational Attainment		
Less than high school	27	29
High school graduate	40	40
Some college	41	47
College+	54	63
Annual Household Income		
Less than \$30,000	31	35
\$30,000-\$49,999	42	46
\$50,000-\$74,999	43	58
\$75,000 or more	56	61

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, November 30-December 27, 2009 Tracking Survey. N=2,258 adults 18 and older. Please see the Methodology section for margin of error calculations.

Having face-to-face interactions with neighbors about community developments is tightly linked with factors such as age, socio-economic status and race. Latinos, those 18-29 year olds, those without a high school diploma and those with a household income of less than \$30,000 per year are among the groups that are least likely to speak to neighbors in person about community issues. These groups are also relatively unlikely to know most or all of their neighbors by name; there is a strong correlation between knowing one's neighbors and having face-to-face interactions to discuss community issues.

Parents (52%) are more likely than non-parents (43%) to meet with neighbors face-to-face to discuss community issues, and there are no differences on this question based on geographic location -- urban, suburban and rural adults are equally likely to have these face-to-face discussions. Additionally, internet users are no less likely than non-users to discuss community issues with their neighbors (indeed, 50% of internet users have done so, compared with 35% of non-users).

Telephone

Talking on the phone about community issues is roughly half as common as talking face-to-face; one in five adults (21%) did this in the last year. By and large, speaking with neighbors about community issues on the phone is common with the same groups that engage in these conversations face-to-face:

- Those ages 50 and older: One quarter (26%) of 50-64 year olds and 29% of those ages 65 and older talked on the phone with neighbors about community issues in the previous year, significantly higher than the percentage of 18-29 year olds (12%) or 30-49 year olds (19%) who did so.
- College graduates: 28% of those with a college degree did this, significantly higher than all other education levels.
- Non-Hispanics: 23% of whites and 22% of African-Americans had a phone conversation about community issues, compared with 14% of Latinos.

Urban, rural and suburban residents are equally likely to discuss community issues over the telephone, although (in contrast to face-to-face interactions) parents and non-parents are equally likely to speak over the phone about these issues.

Email

Just over one in 10 email users (13%, representing 9% of all adults) exchanged email with their neighbors about community issues in the 12 months preceding our survey.

Neighbor-to-neighbor communications via email are popular with many of the same groups that use face-to-face and telephone interactions:

- College graduates: 21% of online college graduates exchanged email with neighbors about community issues. Among email users who have not graduated college, just 9% have done this.

- Those ages 30 and older: Among email users just 8% of 18-29 year olds exchange emails with neighbors about community issues, compared with 15% of those ages 30-49, 14% of those ages 50-64 and 19% of those ages 65 and older.
- Parents: 17% of email-using parents and 11% of non-parents have exchanged email with neighbors about issues in their community.

Compared with telephone and in-person communication, racial differences are somewhat less pronounced when it comes to using email to communicate about neighborhood issues. Among email users, 15% of whites and 9% of both African Americans and Hispanics shared email with neighbors about community issues in the preceding year, differences that are not statistically significant. Similarly, there are no significant differences on this question based on geographic location.

Community blogs

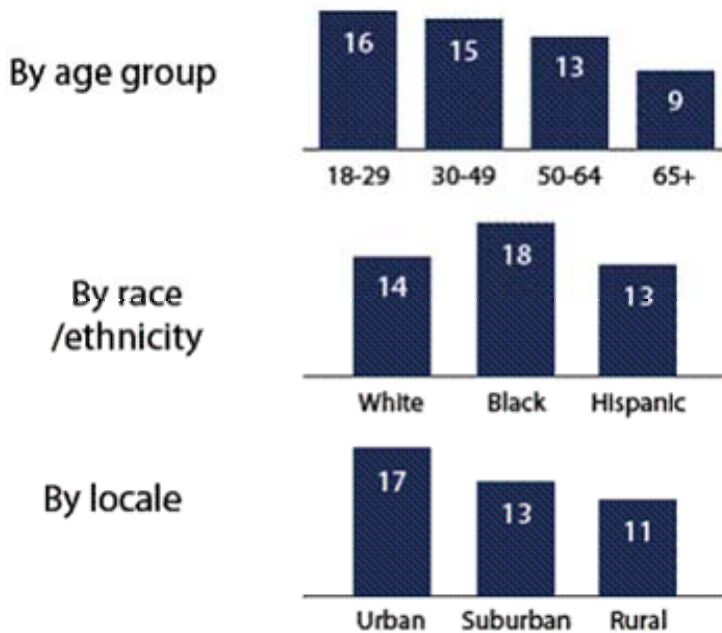
Fourteen percent (14%) of internet users -- or 11% of all American adults -- read a blog dealing with community issues in the 12 months preceding our survey, making community blogs as common as email communications as a way to keep up with neighborhood events. In contrast to face-to-face, telephone and email interactions, neighborhood blogs are relatively popular with young adults: 16% of online 18-29 year olds read a blog dealing with community issues, similar to the rate for those ages 30-64 (15%) and significantly higher than internet users 65 and older (9% of whom have done so).

In addition to asking about sharing emails with neighbors, we also asked a separate question about membership in neighborhood listservs and online discussion groups. Membership in these groups is discussed later in this report.

Community blogs are particularly popular among residents of urban areas, as 17% of wired urbanites read a blog dealing with community issues. This is significantly higher than the 11% online rural residents who read such blogs. Online whites (14%), blacks (18%) and Hispanics (13%) are equally likely to read community blogs, and there is relatively little variation on this question based on income and education.

Young, urban dwellers are most likely to read community blogs

The proportion of internet users within each group who read a blog dealing with community issues in the preceding 12 months



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, November 30-December 27, 2009 Tracking Survey. N=2,258 adults 18 and older, including 1,676 internet users. Please see the Methodology section for margin of error calculations.



Text Messaging

Nearly 70% of cell phone owners use their mobile devices to send text messages, yet texting is not currently a major tool for neighbor-to-neighbor interactions. Just 6% of these cell texters -- or 4% of all American adults -- exchanged text messages with neighbors about community issues and events in the 12 months prior to our survey.

Among cell texters there are few major demographic differences on the use of text messaging for community purposes. Interestingly, 10% of African Americans who use text messaging have texted with others in their neighborhood about community issues. This is among the highest rates of any demographic group, although it is not measurably different from the 6% of white texters who do so.

Rural residents are slightly less likely than those in urban and suburban areas to use the text messaging function on their mobile devices. However, among those who use text messaging,

rural residents are just as likely to text their neighbors as are their urban and suburban counterparts.

Social Networking

Nearly one-in-ten social network users (8%) joined an online group focused on community issues in the preceding 12 months -- that works out to 5% of all internet users and 4% of all American adults. Social network users ages 18-29 (9%) and 30-49 (10%) are equally likely to join such groups, while those ages 50 and older (5%) are relatively unlikely to do so. Other than age, there is little variation within the social networking cohort when it comes to using these services to keep up with community events.

Twitter

Among adults who use Twitter or other status update services, 14% use these sites to follow their neighbors -- that works out to 3% of all internet users and 2% of all American adults. There are few demographic differences when it comes to following neighbors on status update services, although for many subgroups the sample size is too small to make detailed comparisons.

Local Listservs and Email Lists

In addition to asking about communications practices, we also asked internet users whether they belong to a group email list, listserv or online discussion forum for their neighborhood. Seven percent (7%) of online adults -- or 5% of all American adults -- said that they do belong to such a list or forum, a figure that is largely unchanged from the 5% of internet users who responded affirmatively when we last asked this question in July 2008.

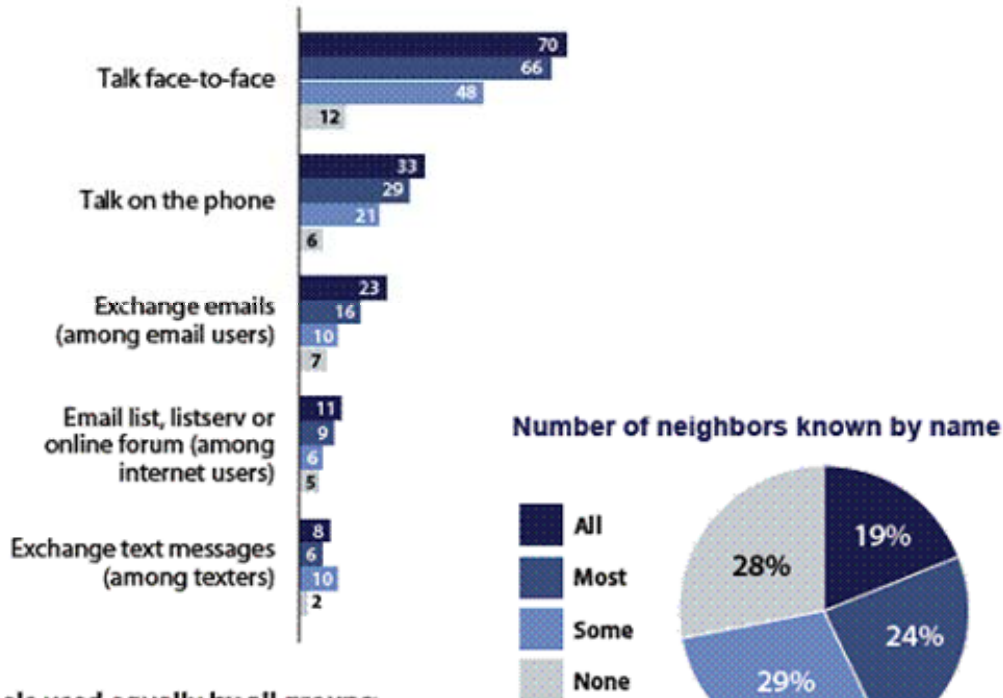
Online groups and email lists are especially popular with college graduates and high income-earners. Among internet users, 13% of college graduates belong to this type of online forum (compared with 6% of those with some college experience and 3% of those with a high school degree or less). Similarly, 15% of internet users with an annual household income of \$75,000 or more belong to an email list or discussion forum, compared with just 2% of those with a household income of \$50,000 or less.

Unlike the other ways of keeping up with community events we have discussed thus far, women are more likely than men to belong to online neighborhood groups -- 9% of online women are part of such a group, compared with 5% of men. There is also some variation around race and ethnicity: Among internet users, whites (8%) are more likely than Latinos (3%) to belong to such groups (8% of online African Americans belong to a community forum or email list).

Participation in these groups is also more prominent in urban and suburban areas than in rural parts of the country. Among internet users, 10% of urban residents, 7% of suburbanites and just 2% of rural dwellers belong to a neighborhood list.

The tools you use to keep up with community issues vary based on who you know

Tools used mostly by those who know their neighbors:



Tools used equally by all groups:



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, November 30-December 27, 2009 Tracking Survey. N=2,258 adults 18 and older, including 1,676 internet users. Please see the Methodology section for margin of error calculations.



When it comes to learning about what's happening in a community, the tools people use are associated with the people they know

Interestingly, the tools people use to keep up with community issues are related to whether or not they are on a first-name basis with their neighbors. As people know fewer of their neighbors by name, they become much less likely to discuss community issues face-to-face.

Among those who know all of their neighbors by name, 70% have discussed community issues with neighbors in person, compared with just 12% of those who do not know any of their

neighbors. When it comes to using the phone, 33% of those who know all of their neighbors by name called someone in the past year to discuss local events, versus 6% of those who don't know the names any of their neighbors. The numbers for email are 23% vs. 7%.

On the other hand, individuals who do not know their neighbors by name are just as likely to keep up with community events by reading community blogs (15% of internet users who know none of their immediate neighbors by name read community blogs, identical to the 14% of those who know all of their neighbors who do so) or by joining a community-focused group on an online social network.

It is also notable that relatively large number of young adults and minority Americans use tools such as community blogs, social networking sites and text messaging to keep up with neighborhood events -- especially since these groups are generally less likely than whites and older adults to talk about community issues via the telephone or face-to-face interactions.

The Future of Cloud Computing

June 11, 2010

A solid majority of technology experts and stakeholders participating in the fourth Future of the Internet survey expect that by 2020 most people will access software applications online and share and access information through the use of remote server networks, rather than depending primarily on tools and information housed on their individual, personal computers. They say that cloud computing will become more dominant than the desktop in the next decade. In other words, most users will perform most computing and communicating activities through connections to servers operated by outside firms.

Among the most popular cloud services now are social networking sites (the 500 million people using Facebook are being social in the cloud), webmail services like Hotmail and Yahoo mail, microblogging and blogging services such as Twitter and WordPress, video-sharing sites like YouTube, picture-sharing sites such as Flickr, document and applications sites like Google Docs, social-bookmarking sites like Delicious, business sites like eBay, and ranking, rating and commenting sites such as Yelp and TripAdvisor.

This does not mean, however, that most of these experts think the desktop computer will disappear soon. The majority sees a hybrid life in the next decade, as some computing functions move towards the cloud and others remain based on personal computers.

The highly engaged, diverse set of respondents to an online, opt-in survey included 895 technology stakeholders and critics. The study was fielded by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project and Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center. Some 71% agreed with the statement:

"By 2020, most people won't do their work with software running on a general-purpose PC. Instead, they will work in Internet-based applications such as Google Docs, and in applications run from smartphones. Aspiring application developers will develop for smartphone vendors and

companies that provide Internet-based applications, because most innovative work will be done in that domain, instead of designing applications that run on a PC operating system."

Some 27% agreed with the opposite statement, which posited:

"By 2020, most people will still do their work with software running on a general-purpose PC. Internet-based applications like Google Docs and applications run from smartphones will have some functionality, but the most innovative and important applications will run on (and spring from) a PC operating system. Aspiring application designers will write mostly for PCs."

Most of those surveyed noted that cloud computing will continue to expand and come to dominate information transactions because it offers many advantages, allowing users to have easy, instant, and individualized access to tools and information they need wherever they are, locatable from any networked device. Some experts noted that people in technology-rich environments will have access to sophisticated-yet-affordable local networks that allow them to "have the cloud in their homes."

Most of the experts noted that people want to be able to use many different devices to access data and applications, and - in addition to the many mentions of smartphones driving the move to the cloud - some referred to a future featuring many more different types of networked appliances. A few mentioned the "internet of things" - or a world in which everyday objects have their own IP addresses and can be tied together in the same way that people are now tied together by the internet. So, for instance, if you misplace your TV remote, you can find it because it is tagged and locatable through the internet.

Some experts in this survey said that for many individuals the switch to mostly cloud-based work has already occurred, especially through the use of browsers and social networking applications. They point out that many people today are primarily using smartphones, laptops, and desktop computers to network with remote servers and carry out tasks such as working in Google Docs, following web-based RSS (really simple syndication) feeds, uploading photos to Flickr and videos to YouTube, doing remote banking, buying, selling and rating items at Amazon.com, visiting with friends on Facebook, updating their Twitter accounts and blogging on WordPress.

Many of the people who agreed with the statement that cloud computing will expand as the internet evolves said the desktop will not die out but it will be used in new, improved ways in tandem with remote computing. Some survey participants said they expect that a more sophisticated desktop-cloud hybrid will be people's primary interface with information. They predicted the desktop and individual, private networks will be able to provide most of the same conveniences as the cloud but with better functionality, overall efficiency, and speed. Some noted that general-purpose in-home PC servers can do much of the work locally via a connection to the cloud to tap into resources for computing-intensive tasks.

Among the defenses for a continuing domination of the desktop, many said that small, portable devices have limited appeal as a user interface and they are less than ideal for doing work. They also expressed concern about the security of information stored in the "cloud" (on other institutions' servers), the willingness of cloud operators to handle personal information in a

trustworthy way, and other problems related to control over data when it is stored in the cloud, rather than on personally-controlled devices.

Some respondents observed that putting all or most of faith in remotely accessible tools and data puts a lot of trust in the humans and devices controlling the clouds and exercising gatekeeping functions over access to that data. They expressed concerns that cloud dominance by a small number of large firms may constrict the internet's openness and its capacity to inspire innovation - that people are giving up some degree of choice and control in exchange for streamlined simplicity.

A number of people said cloud computing presents difficult security problems and further exposes private information to governments, corporations, thieves, opportunists, and human and machine error.

Survey participants noted that there are also quality of service and compatibility hurdles that must be crossed successfully before cloud computing gains more adopters. Among the other limiting factors the expert respondents mentioned were: the lack of broadband spectrum to handle the load if everyone is using the cloud; the variability of cost and access in different parts of the world and the difficulties that lie ahead before they can reach the ideal of affordable access anywhere, anytime; and complex legal issues, including cross-border intellectual property and privacy conflicts.

Among the other observations made by those taking the survey were: large businesses are far less likely to put most of their work "in the cloud" anytime soon because of control and security issues; most people are not able to discern the difference between accessing data and applications on their desktop and in the cloud; low-income people in least-developed areas of the world are most likely to use the cloud, accessing it through connection by phone.
