

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

GLOBAL OPINION REPORT NO. 133

August 22-28, 2010

September 01, 2010

M. Zubair

Introductory Note	02
Summary of Polls	02
MIDDLE EAST	
• Iraqis More Approving of Own Leadership Than of U.S.	06
WEST & CENTRAL ASIA	
• Trust In Military Fades Amid Coup Debates, Anti-Terror Weakness	07
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	
• Witchcraft Believers in Sub-Saharan Africa Rate Lives Worse (Multi-country survey)09	
WEST EUROPE	
• Most Britons Endorse the Creation of Social Mobility Tsar Position	12
• Britons Support Use of Speed Cameras	13
NORTH AMERICA	
• Animosity Over Potential Mosque Near Ground Zero Increases in United States	13
• Public Remains Conflicted Over Islam	14
• Americans Oppose Renewing U.S. Combat Operations in Iraq	20
• Islamic Center Tops Media Agenda	24
• GOP Maintains Edge in Midterm Voting Preferences	25
• Record Surge in Positive Ratings of Auto Industry	28
• Americans' Views of Public Schools Still Far Worse Than Parents'	32
• U.S. Parents Want Teachers Paid on Quality, Student Outcomes	36
• Economic Confidence Remains Low Throughout the United States	39
• Obama's Middle East Problem	40
• Americans Continue to Rate Real Estate Industry Negatively	43
• Five Years After Hurricane Katrina	45
• Muslims Give Obama Highest Job Approval; Mormons, Lowest	48
• Adult Smoking Ranges From 13% to 31% Across U.S. States	50
• Airline Industry Image Grounded in Negative Territory	53
• Americans Praise Flight Attendants for Their Courtesy and Respect	56
• Confidence Takes a Dip as Canadians Remain Anxious About Economy	57
• Canadians See More Benefits from NAFTA than Americans	58
• Two-in-Five Canadians Would Scrap Long Gun Registry	59
LATIN AMERICA	
• Brazil's Lula Keeps Solid Ratings	60
• Almost Two Thirds of Peruvians Dismiss Garcia	61
• Argentineans Expect Néstor Kirchner Comeback	62
MULTI-COUNTRY SURVYES	
• Majorities of Americans and Britons Believe the War in Iraq Was a Mistake	62

- Canadians Hold Better View of Obama’s Performance than Britons 64
- Canada, U.S. and Britain Reject Smoking Ban 65

CYBERWORLD

- Older Adults and Social Media 66
- Blogs Debate New York Mosque 68

Introductory Note

This week report consists of 32 surveys. Four of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 28 are national surveys from various countries.

Commentary: *Trust in military fades amid coup debates, anti-terror weakness*

Today’s Zaman: A recently conducted opinion poll has shown that the **General Staff** is suffering from a significant loss of confidence in the eyes of the public, which observers believe is directly linked to the military’s unappreciated aspiration to intervene in politics rather than focus on its fight against terror.



The General Staff ranked third last among all other state institutions, according to the poll conducted by the *Ankara-based MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center* between Aug. 5 and 11. The General Staff was preceded by the police force, the Presidency, Parliament, the Prime Ministry and the government. Pollsters said the General Staff recorded the lowest in the surveys of the past three years.

“The decline in public confidence in the General Staff has two main reasons: the military’s attempts to intervene in politics and the coup plots it is said to have prepared to this end, and its failure in the fight against terror,” stated Mehmet Metiner, a *Star* daily columnist. For the columnist, the General Staff loses more prestige in the eyes of the public the more it strives to become an actor in politics.

The General Staff is often associated with the military in **Turkey**. In other words, people usually think of the military itself when the case is related to the General Staff.

“The attempts by the military to stage coups d’état against democratically elected governments, and the right it sees itself as having to take necessary action to unseat the governments [it considers dangerous to its existence] has significantly changed people’s perception of the military. Such factors have created social unease,” Metiner noted.

The *Turkish military*, which played a role in the establishment of the Turkish Republic, has long seen itself as the protector of the regime and the secular order in the country. It has ousted four

governments thus far, and is believed to be engaged in plans to “get rid of” the **Justice and Development Party (AK Party)**, which it considers a threat to “secular Turkey.”

Civilian prosecutors have exposed many plans, believed to have been drafted by members of the military, to overthrow the AK Party government. The General Staff, however, denies their authenticity. It argues that the plans were fabricated by “enemies of the military” to discredit the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK). However, separate examinations by the *Istanbul Council of Forensic Medicine* (ATK), the İstanbul Police Crime Laboratory and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) vouched for the authenticity of the plots.

According to *Metiner*, the General Staff’s attempts to influence the judiciary over the course of the *Ergenekon* case has also led to a decline in people’s confidence in the General Staff. Ergenekon is a clandestine criminal organization accused of working to overthrow the government. Dozens of its suspected members, including those from the military, academia and the business world, are currently in jail on coup charges.

On various occasions, Chief of General Staff Gen. İlker Başbuğ defied the law and stood by military members on trial. Observers believe the self-positioning of the general against the law is a covert message for the judiciary to stop future indictments of military officers on coup charges.

“There is also the impact of the military’s failure to achieve success in its fight against the Kurdistan Workers’ Party [PKK] terror in the recent decline in public confidence in the General Staff. People have started to question why the war against the PKK has not ended in 26 years. The General Staff is, however, silent on many issues,” Metiner added.

The terrorist PKK was set up in 1984 as a result of **Turkey’s** long-standing Kurdish question. The organization has sought to establish an autonomous Kurdish state in eastern Turkey since then. More than 40,000 civilians and security forces have been killed in clashes thus far. The General Staff is frequently the target of harsh criticism due to its inability to end the PKK terror.

Gülay Gökürk, a columnist for the Bugün daily, agreed with Metiner on the point of a loss of public confidence in the General Staff because of the **Turkish** military’s failure to end PKK terror. She also said the General Staff’s refusal to communicate with the public on military failures in counter-terrorism efforts has shaken people’s trust in the General Staff.

According to the columnist, the General Staff made a critical mistake by not responding to the public’s questions on allegations that the military failed to act against PKK terrorists at the Hantepe outpost last month despite intelligence provided by Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

“There is still no military explanation on the Heron allegations. ... The damn silence persists. And as the silence persists, suspicions in the hearts of millions of people leave a place for disappointment and frustration,” Gökürk wrote in her column last week.

Turkey was shaken by claims that surfaced in early August suggesting that the military failed to act against terrorists in Hantepe despite intelligence provided by Herons to 30 security units during every second of a terrorist attack on an outpost in the area in mid-July. The attack resulted in the deaths of seven soldiers. According to the claims, security units, including the General Staff, watched the attack live through intelligence provided by the Herons but did not send any additional firepower to the scene of the assault to save the wounded soldiers.

Although nearly one month has passed since these claims were first voiced, the General Staff has not issued a single statement on the matter.

SOURCE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-219711-trust-in-military-fades-amid-coup-debates-anti-terror-weakness.html>

TURKEY:

TURKEY:

Population: 76,805,524 (July 2010 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Turkish 70-75%, Kurdish 18%, other minorities 7-12% (2008 est.)

GDP per Capita: \$11,400 (2009 est.)

◆ Modern Turkey was founded in 1923 from the Anatolian remnants of the defeated Ottoman Empire by national hero Mustafa KEMAL, who was later honored with the title Ataturk or "Father of the Turks." Under his authoritarian leadership, the country adopted wide-ranging social, legal, and political reforms. After a period of one-party rule, an experiment with multi-party politics led to the 1950 election victory of the opposition Democratic Party and the peaceful transfer of power. Since then, Turkish political parties have multiplied, but democracy has been fractured by periods of instability and intermittent military coups (1960, 1971, 1980), which in each case eventually resulted in a return of political power to civilians. In 1997, the military again helped engineer the ouster - popularly dubbed a "post-modern coup" - of the then Islamic-oriented government. Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus in 1974 to prevent a Greek takeover of the island and has since acted as patron state to the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," which only Turkey recognizes. A separatist insurgency begun in 1984 by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) - now known as the People's Congress of Kurdistan or Kongra-Gel (KGK) - has dominated the Turkish military's attention and claimed more than 30,000 lives. After the capture of the group's leader in 1999, the insurgents largely withdrew from Turkey mainly to northern Iraq. In 2004, KGK announced an end to its ceasefire and attacks attributed to the KGK increased. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952 it became a member of NATO; it holds a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council during 2009-10. In 1964, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community. Over the past decade, it has undertaken many reforms to strengthen its democracy and economy; it began accession membership talks with the European Union in 2005.

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



Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqis More Approving of Own Leadership Than of U.S.

Iraqis approved more of their own country's leadership than U.S. leadership in early 2010 -- the reverse of their sentiment in 2008. Iraqis' relative confidence in their own leadership at the time of Gallup's most recent survey, which was conducted shortly before the elections in March, could be taken as a positive sign as the U.S. diminishes its military presence in the country and Iraqis take more control.

August 26, 2010

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Trust In Military Fades Amid Coup Debates, Anti-Terror Weakness

A recently conducted opinion poll has shown that the General Staff is suffering from a significant loss of confidence in the eyes of the public, which observers believe is directly linked to the military's unappreciated aspiration to intervene in politics rather than focus on its fight against terror.

August 22, 2010

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Witchcraft Believers in Sub-Saharan Africa Rate Lives Worse (Multi-country survey)

Belief in witchcraft is widespread throughout sub-Saharan Africa, according to recent Gallup surveys, and potentially affects how those who believe see their lives. Studies in 18 countries show belief varies, but on average, 55% of residents personally believe in witchcraft.

August 25, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Most Britons Endorse the Creation of Social Mobility Tsar Position

People in Britain are satisfied with the Coalition Government's decision to create a social mobility tsar position, but the politician who has been appointed to this job is a contentious choice, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 25, 2010

Britons Support Use of Speed Cameras

Many adults in Britain believe relying on speed cameras to detect traffic violations is a good idea, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents support the use of these devices.

August 22, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Animosity Over Potential Mosque Near Ground Zero Increases in United States

The controversy over a plan to build a mosque and a 13-story community center in lower Manhattan, a few blocks from Ground Zero, shows no signs of slowing down, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 26, 2010

Public Remains Conflicted Over Islam

The public continues to express conflicted views of Islam. Favorable opinions of Islam have declined since 2005, but there has been virtually no change over the past year in the proportion of Americans saying that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence. As was the case a year ago, slightly more people say the Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than other religions (42%) than say that it does (35%).

August 24, 2010

Americans Oppose Renewing U.S. Combat Operations in Iraq

Americans are about twice as likely to oppose as they are to favor renewing U.S. combat operations in Iraq if Iraqi forces are unable to maintain security there. These views are shared by Democrats and independents, but a slight majority of Republicans disagree.

August 26, 2010

Islamic Center Tops Media Agenda

A statement of support for religious freedom by President Barack Obama fueled an ideologically driven debate in the media over a proposed Islamic center in New York last week. A milestone in the Iraq war, continued economic travails and a mostly hung jury in a corruption case involving a colorful former governor also vied for attention.

August 24, 2010

GOP Maintains Edge in Midterm Voting Preferences

Gallup tracking of 2010 midterm congressional election voting preferences shows 47% of registered voters saying they would vote for the Republican candidate and 44% for the Democratic candidate if the election were held today. Though down slightly from last week's seven-percentage-point Republican lead, the GOP has held an advantage each of the past four weeks, the first time either party has done so this year.

August 24, 2010

Record Surge in Positive Ratings of Auto Industry

Americans' opinions of the automobile industry brightened considerably after reaching an all-time low last year, and now tilt more positive than negative for the first time in three

years. The 15-point increase in the percentage rating the auto industry positively ties the largest one-year improvement in Gallup's 10-year history of measuring public opinion on major U.S. business industries.

August 23, 2010

Americans' Views of Public Schools Still Far Worse Than Parents'

Americans continue to believe their local schools are performing well, but that the nation's schools are performing poorly. More than three-quarters of public school parents (77%) give their child's school an "A" or "B," while 18% of all Americans grade the nation's public schools that well.

August 25, 2010

U.S. Parents Want Teachers Paid on Quality, Student Outcomes

The large majority of parents with children in the public K-12 school system would like to see teacher pay revolve around teacher performance, not the standard scale of pay. Seventy-two percent of public school parents say teachers' salaries should be tied to the quality of their work. Additionally, 75% say teachers' salaries should be somewhat or very closely tied to their own students' academic achievement.

August 25, 2010

Economic Confidence Remains Low Throughout the United States

Most Americans remain worried about the current state of their country's economy and are becoming more pessimistic about the future, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 25, 2010

Obama's Middle East Problem

President Barak Hussein Obama's meetings with Middle Eastern leaders next week will be his most extensive engagement yet with an issue that has been a weak spot in his largely positive international image.

August 27, 2010

Americans Continue to Rate Real Estate Industry Negatively

Americans rate the real estate industry much more negatively than positively, the third year in a row Gallup has found a net-negative evaluation of this industry.

August 27, 2010

Five Years After Hurricane Katrina

Five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, a majority of Americans (57%) say that the nation is no better prepared for hurricanes and other natural disasters than it was in 2005. However, the public does see progress in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf region: 69% say there has been a lot or some progress made rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf, up from 56% in 2006.

August 26, 2010

Muslims Give Obama Highest Job Approval; Mormons, Lowest

Muslim Americans continue to give President Barack Obama the highest job approval rating of any major religious group in the U.S., while Mormons give the president the lowest ratings.

August 27, 2010

Adult Smoking Ranges From 13% to 31% Across U.S. States

Roughly one in five adult Americans smokes, according to Gallup-Healthways Well Being Index data from 2009. At the state level, the percentage of adult smokers ranges from 13% in Utah to 31% in Kentucky and West Virginia.

August 26, 2010

Airline Industry Image Grounded in Negative Territory

Americans' general displeasure with the airline industry continues for a fourth straight year, with 41% viewing it negatively and 30% viewing it positively.

August 26, 2010

Americans Praise Flight Attendants for Their Courtesy and Respect

In the wake of the highly publicized incident involving Steven Slater, American flyers express a high level of satisfaction with the way flight attendants perform their duties, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 24, 2010

Confidence Takes a Dip as Canadians Remain Anxious About Economy

Although a majority of Canadians think the national economy is in good shape, people are still anxious about the future and confidence in federal politicians to make the right decisions is low, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 27, 2010

Canadians See More Benefits from NAFTA than Americans

Canadians offer a more positive review of their participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) than Americans do, a new two-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 26, 2010

Two-in-Five Canadians Would Scrap Long Gun Registry

As a decision on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry draws near, Canadians hold differing views on whether the so-called long gun registry should be scrapped, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 25, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil's Lula Keeps Solid Ratings

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva remains highly popular, according to a poll by Ibope. 78 per cent of respondents say Lula's performance has been good or very good, up three points since June.

August 23, 2010

Almost Two Thirds of Peruvians Dismiss Garcia

Most people in Peru continue to disapprove of President Alan García's performance, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 63 per cent of respondents express dissatisfaction with García's leadership, down two points since July.

August 23, 2010

Argentineans Expect Néstor Kirchner Comeback

Most people in Argentina think former president Néstor Kirchner—also the husband of current president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner—will run for office in the 2011 election, according to a poll by Poliarquía Consultores. 54 per cent of respondents expect Kirchner to be the ruling party's candidate.

August 23, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVYES

Majorities of Americans and Britons Believe the War in Iraq Was a Mistake

People in the United States and Britain regret the decision of their respective governments to engage militarily in Iraq in 2003, and are now more likely to brand the war as a failure rather than as a success, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 28, 2010

Canadians Hold Better View of Obama's Performance than Britons

Canadians hold a much more positive view of United States President Barack Obama than Britons, a new two-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 24, 2010

Canada, U.S. and Britain Reject Smoking Ban

Most people in the United States, Canada and Britain are against legislation that would completely ban smoking, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 61 per cent of Americans, 47 per cent of Canadians and 54 per cent of Britons share this point of view.

August 23, 2010

CYBERWORLD

Older Adults and Social Media

While social media use has grown dramatically across all age groups, older users have been especially enthusiastic over the past year about embracing new networking tools. Although email continues to be the primary way that older users maintain contact with friends, families and colleagues, many users now rely on social network platforms to help manage their daily communications -- sharing links, photos, videos, news and status updates with a growing network of contacts.

August 27, 2010

Blogs Debate New York Mosque

For the second week in a row, the debate over a planned mosque near the World Trade Center site raged in the blogosphere. But this time, a different set of voices dominated the conversation in support of Muslims right to build mosque as a legal right.

August 26, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqis More Approving of Own Leadership Than of U.S.

Political deadlock may have affected Iraqis' approval of their leadership since the survey

August 26, 2010

Iraqis approved more of their own country's leadership than U.S. leadership in early 2010 -- the reverse of their sentiment in 2008. Iraqis' relative confidence in their own leadership at the time of Gallup's most recent survey, which was conducted shortly before the elections in March, could be taken as a positive sign as the U.S. diminishes its military presence in the country and Iraqis take more control.

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance
of the leadership of . . . ?*

Percentage of Iraqis who approve

	Iraq	United States
2010	41%	30%
2008	28%	35%

Surveys conducted March 5-June 14, 2008, and Feb. 17-27, 2010

GALLUP®

Iraqis' increased approval of their own leadership did not come at the expense of U.S. leadership approval. Iraqis' confidence in their leadership rose 13 percentage points between 2008 and early 2010; approval of U.S. leadership fell 5 points.

Five months after the elections, political deadlock continues to stall the formation of a new government. This stalemate may have affected Iraqis' approval of their leadership since the February survey. If Iraq's leadership hopes to build confidence among its constituents, the creation of a stable government is necessary.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in Iraq, aged 15 and older, conducted March 5-June 14, 2008, and with approximately 1,000 adults in Iraq, aged 15 and older, conducted Feb. 17-27, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.7 percentage points in 2008 and ± 3.6 percentage points in 2010. 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.

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Trust In Military Fades Amid Coup Debates, Anti-Terror Weakness

August 22, 2010

A recently conducted opinion poll has shown that the General Staff is suffering from a significant loss of confidence in the eyes of the public, which observers believe is directly linked to the military's unappreciated aspiration to intervene in politics rather than focus on its fight against terror.

The General Staff ranked third last among all other state institutions, according to the poll conducted by the Ankara-based MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center between Aug. 5 and 11. The General Staff was preceded by the police force, the Presidency, Parliament, the Prime Ministry and the government. Pollsters said the General Staff recorded the lowest in the surveys of the past three years.

“The decline in public confidence in the General Staff has two main reasons: the military’s attempts to intervene in politics and the coup plots it is said to have prepared to this end, and its failure in the fight against terror,” stated Mehmet Metiner, a Star daily columnist. For the columnist, the General Staff loses more prestige in the eyes of the public the more it strives to become an actor in politics.

The General Staff is often associated with the military in Turkey. In other words, people usually think of the military itself when the case is related to the General Staff.

“The attempts by the military to stage coups d’état against democratically elected governments, and the right it sees itself as having to take necessary action to unseat the governments [it considers dangerous to its existence] has significantly changed people’s perception of the military. Such factors have created social unease,” Metiner noted.

The Turkish military, which played a role in the establishment of the Turkish Republic, has long seen itself as the protector of the regime and the secular order in the country. It has ousted four governments thus far, and is believed to be engaged in plans to “get rid of” the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), which it considers a threat to “secular Turkey.”

Civilian prosecutors have exposed many plans, believed to have been drafted by members of the military, to overthrow the AK Party government. The General Staff, however, denies their authenticity. It argues that the plans were fabricated by “enemies of the military” to discredit the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK). However, separate examinations by the İstanbul Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK), the İstanbul Police Crime Laboratory and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) vouched for the authenticity of the plots.

According to Metiner, the General Staff’s attempts to influence the judiciary over the course of the Ergenekon case has also led to a decline in people’s confidence in the General Staff. Ergenekon is a clandestine criminal organization accused of working to overthrow the government. Dozens of its suspected members, including those from the military, academia and the business world, are currently in jail on coup charges.

On various occasions, Chief of General Staff Gen. İlker Başbuğ defied the law and stood by military members on trial. Observers believe the self-positioning of the general against the law is a covert message for the judiciary to stop future indictments of military officers on coup charges.

“There is also the impact of the military’s failure to achieve success in its fight against the Kurdistan Workers’ Party [PKK] terror in the recent decline in public confidence in the General

Staff. People have started to question why the war against the PKK has not ended in 26 years. The General Staff is, however, silent on many issues,” Metiner added.

The terrorist PKK was set up in 1984 as a result of Turkey’s long-standing Kurdish question. The organization has sought to establish an autonomous Kurdish state in eastern Turkey since then. More than 40,000 civilians and security forces have been killed in clashes thus far. The General Staff is frequently the target of harsh criticism due to its inability to end the PKK terror.

Gülay Göktürk, a columnist for the Bugün daily, agreed with Metiner on the point of a loss of public confidence in the General Staff because of the Turkish military’s failure to end PKK terror. She also said the General Staff’s refusal to communicate with the public on military failures in counter-terrorism efforts has shaken people’s trust in the General Staff.

According to the columnist, the General Staff made a critical mistake by not responding to the public’s questions on allegations that the military failed to act against PKK terrorists at the Hantepe outpost last month despite intelligence provided by Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

“There is still no military explanation on the Heron allegations. ... The damn silence persists. And as the silence persists, suspicions in the hearts of millions of people leave a place for disappointment and frustration,” Göktürk wrote in her column last week.

Turkey was shaken by claims that surfaced in early August suggesting that the military failed to act against terrorists in Hantepe despite intelligence provided by Herons to 30 security units during every second of a terrorist attack on an outpost in the area in mid-July. The attack resulted in the deaths of seven soldiers. According to the claims, security units, including the General Staff, watched the attack live through intelligence provided by the Herons but did not send any additional firepower to the scene of the assault to save the wounded soldiers.

Although nearly one month has passed since these claims were first voiced, the General Staff has not issued a single statement on the matter.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Multi-Country survey)

Witchcraft Believers in Sub-Saharan Africa Rate Lives Worse

Belief widespread in many countries

August 25, 2010

Belief in witchcraft is widespread throughout sub-Saharan Africa, according to recent Gallup surveys, and potentially affects how those who believe see their lives. Studies in 18 countries show belief varies, but on average, 55% of residents personally believe in witchcraft.

Do you personally believe in witchcraft?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
Ivory Coast	95%	5%	0%
Senegal	80%	19%	2%
Ghana	77%	21%	2%
Mali	77%	23%	1%
Cameroon	76%	24%	0%
Congo (Kinshasa)	76%	24%	0%
Niger	75%	24%	0%
Malawi	72%	28%	0%
Chad	68%	31%	0%
Tanzania	64%	36%	0%
Zimbabwe	63%	37%	0%
Zambia	59%	41%	1%
AVERAGE	55%	43%	2%
South Africa	46%	54%	0%
Burundi	46%	55%	0%
Nigeria	45%	49%	5%
Kenya	26%	74%	0%
Rwanda	17%	83%	0%
Uganda	15%	85%	0%

Surveys conducted between April and December 2009

GALLUP®

Highlighting the potential implications these beliefs have, those in sub-Saharan Africa who believe in witchcraft rate their lives -- their evaluative wellbeing -- worse than those who don't. Gallup asks respondents to rate the status of their lives on a ladder scale, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, with steps numbered 0 to 10, with 10 being the best possible life. Those who believe in witchcraft rate their lives at a 4.3 on average, while those who do not believe or don't have an opinion rate their lives higher on the scale, at 4.8 on average.

Overall, those who are more likely to believe are more likely to be older and less educated. They are also more likely to have lower household incomes and say they are getting by or struggling to get by on this income. But after taking these factors into account, across all demographics, evaluative wellbeing is still lower among those who believe in witchcraft. Even among the most educated, who are the least likely to say they believe in witchcraft, those who believe rate their lives worse than those who don't.

Evaluative Wellbeing Lower for Sub-Saharan Africans Who Believe in Witchcraft

On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time, assuming that the higher the step the better you feel about your life, and the lower the step the worse you feel about it? Which step comes closest to the way you feel?

	Average life evaluation rating among believers	Average life evaluation rating among those who don't believe
No formal education	3.8	4.3
One to eight years of education	4.2	4.5
Nine or more years of education	4.6	5.1
Living comfortably on present income	5.0	5.5
Getting by	4.8	5.3
Finding it difficult	4.2	4.6
Finding it very difficult on present income	3.8	4.3
Ages 15 to 18	4.3	5.0
Ages 19 to 29	4.4	4.8
Ages 30 to 45	4.3	4.7
Ages 46 and older	4.1	4.7
Poorest 20%	3.7	4.0

Surveys conducted between April and December 2009

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Gallup surveys and others, such as the one the Pew Center conducted,* document that many in sub-Saharan Africa believe in witchcraft and "other elements of African traditions." This widespread belief presents numerous challenges for nongovernmental organizations and civil society working in sub-Saharan Africa. Their strategies to educate the public about HIV/AIDS, for example, must consider that many believe witchcraft causes the disease.

A UNICEF report recently focused on another newer challenge, the increasing number of children who are being accused of witchcraft and are abused or killed. The organization recommends "research to get a good understanding of the phenomenon and its causes." Gallup's findings also indicate there is more to learn about the cumulative effects of such beliefs on wellbeing.

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 based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of error ranged from a low of ± 3.5 percentage points in Ivory Coast and Niger to a high of ± 4.8 percentage points in Senegal. For results based on 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.

*Between December 2008 and April 2009 the Pew Center surveyed 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and found the median score for belief in witchcraft was 37%. These surveys differed in several respects from the Gallup World Poll, including the target population (Pew, ages 18 and older, and Gallup, ages 15 and older), question wording, and context and dates of the survey, although the two sets of surveys had 13 countries in common.

WEST EUROPE

Most Britons Endorse the Creation of Social Mobility Tsar Position

August 25, 2010

But respondents are evenly split on Labour's Alan Milburn taking the job.

People in Britain are satisfied with the Coalition Government's decision to create a social mobility tsar position, but the politician who has been appointed to this job is a contentious choice, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 2,001 British adults, 56 per cent of respondents support the creation of the social mobility tsar position, while 28 per cent are opposed.

The social mobility tsar will advise the Prime Minister on how to break down social barriers for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and help those who feel they cannot have access to top jobs due to race, religion, gender or disability.

A majority of respondents who voted for Labour (54%), the Conservatives (58%) and the Liberal Democrats (64%) in the May 2010 General Election endorse the new position.

Alan Milburn, a Labour politician who served as health secretary when Tony Blair was Prime Minister, will serve as the social mobility tsar. Respondents are evenly divided on his appointment, with 34 per cent agreeing with it, and 34 per cent voicing disagreement.

Three-in-ten Britons (31%) believe Milburn's appointment to the position of social mobility tsar in the Coalition Government amounts to a betrayal to the Labour Party and its voters—including 39 per cent of respondents who voted for Labour in the May 2010 General Election.

Britons Support Use of Speed Cameras

August 22, 2010

Many adults in Britain believe relying on speed cameras to detect traffic violations is a good idea, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 53 per cent of respondents support the use of these devices.

In May, 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.

Speed cameras have been used in the United Kingdom since 1992. The coalition government recently cut about \$59 million U.S. from its road safety budget. Local authorities may have to switch off some cameras, because they lack the funding to operate them.

Earlier this month, Gwent Police Chief Constable Mick Giannasi expressed dissatisfaction with the possibility that some speed cameras may be decommissioned, saying, "We recognize that we have to save money, we recognize that road safety has to play its part in this, but these cuts in particular are a threat to the future sustainability of the system. (...) If nothing is put in place, speeds will rise and casualties will grow."

Polling Data

As you may know, speed cameras have been used throughout the UK since 1992 to detect traffic violations. Overall, do you support or oppose the use of speed cameras in the UK?

Support	53%
Oppose	43%
Not sure	4%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,956 British adults, conducted from Jul. 28 to Aug. 1, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Animosity Over Potential Mosque Near Ground Zero Increases in United States

August 26, 2010

Democrats praise President Obama for openly voicing his views on the issue, while Republicans condemn his comments.

The controversy over a plan to build a mosque and a 13-story community center in lower Manhattan, a few blocks from Ground Zero, shows no signs of slowing down, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,020 American adults, 49 per cent of respondents (+7 since late July) believe having a mosque close to one of the sites of the 9/11 attacks is a provocation.

Conversely, only 28 per cent of respondents (unchanged since last month) see no problem with the mosque, and regard it as a sign of New York's tolerance and openness.

About two-in-five respondents aged 18-34 (38%) believe the planned mosque is a provocation. The sentiment is clearly stronger among Americans aged 35 to 54 (53%) and those over the age of 55 (54%). A majority of respondents in the Northeast (56%) and half in the South (49%) regard the mosque as a provocation—along with 72 per cent of Republicans and 52 per cent of Independents.

The President's Intervention

President Barack Obama weighed in on the mosque controversy earlier this month and declared: "As a citizen, and as president, I believe that Muslims have the same right to practice their religion as anyone else in this country. (...) That includes the right to build a place of worship and a community center on private property in lower Manhattan, in accordance with local laws and ordinances."

Across the country, a third of Americans (35%) agree with Obama's views, and think he was right to speak out. One-in-four respondents (26%) disagree with the president and believe he was wrong to speak out.

Analysis

There is an evident political divide on this particular issue, just a few weeks before the mid-term congressional election. Half of Democrats (50%) side with Obama and believe he did the right thing. Half of Republicans (49%) condemn his views and his decision to speak out.

About one-in-six Democrats (16%) agree with Obama's views but think he was wrong to speak out—along with 11 per cent of Republicans and 13 per cent of Independents.

Public Remains Conflicted Over Islam

August 24, 2010

Public Views of Islam...

	July 2005	Aug 2010
<i>Opinion of Islam...</i>	%	%
Favorable	41	30
Unfavorable	36	38
Don't know	<u>23</u>	<u>32</u>
	100	100

	Aug 2009	Aug 2010
<i>Compared with other religions, Islamic religion...</i>		
Is more likely than others to encourage violence	38	35
Does not encourage violence more than others	45	42
Neither/Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>24</u>
	100	100

And the Building of Mosques

	Aug 2010
<i>Agree more with...</i>	
Those who object to building Islamic center and mosque near World Trade Center	51
Those who think center and mosque should be allowed to be built	34
Don't know	<u>15</u>
	100
<i>Which comes closer to your view...</i>	
Muslims should have same rights as other groups to build houses of worship in local communities	62
Local communities should be able to prohibit construction of mosques if they do not want them	25
Don't know	<u>13</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The public continues to express conflicted views of Islam. Favorable opinions of Islam have declined since 2005, but there has been virtually no change over the past year in the proportion of Americans saying that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence. As was the case a year ago, slightly more people say the Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than other religions (42%) than say that it does (35%).

Amid controversy over the proposed construction of an Islamic cultural center and mosque near the former site of the World Trade Center, more Americans agree with those who object to the building of the center than with the supporters of the project (51% to 34%).

At the same time, 62% say that Muslims should have the same rights as other religious groups to build houses of worship in their local communities; just 25% say local communities should be able to block mosques in their area if they do not want them.

The new poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted Aug. 19-22 among 1,003 adults, finds that opinions about Islam are less favorable than in the summer of 2005.

Republicans, Older People, Less Educated Are Less Favorable toward Islam

	Favorable	Unfavorable	DK
	%	%	
Total	30	38	32=100
18-29	35	33	32=100
30-49	34	35	31=100
50-64	27	40	32=100
65+	20	49	31=100
Coll grad+	47	28	25=100
Some coll	29	37	34=100
HS or less	20	45	35=100
Republican	21	54	25=100
Democrat	41	27	32=100
Independent	28	40	32=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

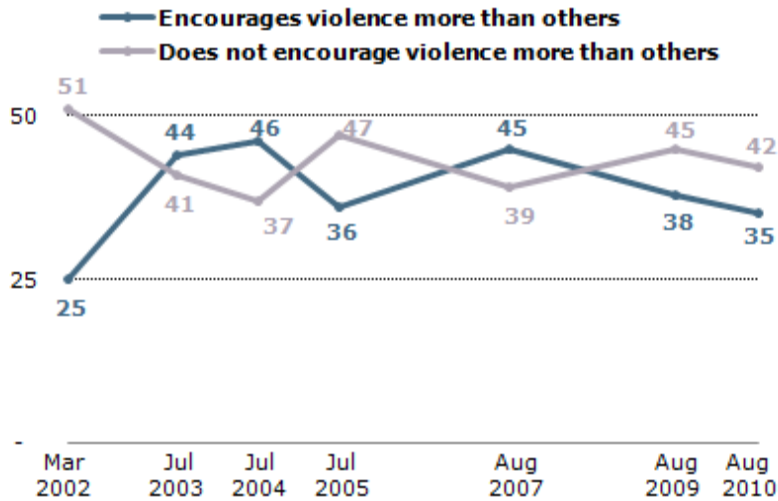
Currently, 30% say they have a favorable opinion of Islam while slightly more (38%) have an unfavorable view; nearly a third (32%) offer no opinion. In 2005, slightly more expressed a favorable opinion of Islam than an unfavorable opinion (by 41% to 36%).

As in the past, there are substantial partisan, educational and age differences in opinions about Islam. By more than two-to-one (54% to 21%), Republicans express an unfavorable opinion of Islam; the balance of opinion among independents is negative (40% unfavorable vs. 28% favorable). Among Democrats, favorable opinions of Islam outnumber unfavorable ones by 41% to 27%.

While those who are younger than age 50 have mixed views of Islam, the balance of opinion is more negative among those older than age 50 (44% unfavorable vs. 24% favorable). By a margin of 47% to 28%, college graduates express favorable opinions of Islam; pluralities of those with less education express unfavorable views.

Views of Islam and Violence

Little Change in Views about Whether Islam Encourages Violence More than Other Religions



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.

Opinions about whether Islam is more likely than other religions to promote violence have fluctuated since 2002. In March of that year, 51% said that Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions do, while only about half as many (25%) said that it does. Since then, opinions have been more closely divided. The current measure is comparable to 2009 and 2005, when pluralities said Islam was no more likely than other religions to encourage violence.

There are similar patterns in opinions about whether Islam encourages violence as in overall views of Islam. However, there is no political or demographic group in which a majority says that Islam encourages violence more than other religions. By a modest 47%-to-38% margin, more Republicans say Islam is more likely to encourage violence. Independents are evenly divided (38% say it does encourage violence more, 38% say it does not). Democrats, by about two-to-one (50% to 24%), say Islam is not more likely than other religions to encourage violence.

Opposition to New York Mosque

More Agree With Those Who Object to Mosque Near World Trade Center

Agree more with:

	Those who object %	Those who say it should be allowed %	DK
Total	51	34	15=100
18-29	36	50	14=100
30-49	49	36	16=100
50-64	61	28	11=100
65+	63	21	16=100
Coll grad+	48	41	12=100
Some coll	50	34	16=100
HS or less	54	30	16=100
Republican	74	17	8=100
Democrat	39	47	14=100
Independent	50	37	13=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

If anything, there are even starker partisan and age differences over the proposed construction of an Islamic center and mosque a few blocks from the site of the former World Trade Center.

By more than four-to-one (74% to 17%), Republicans say they agree more with those who object to the building of this center; half of independents (50%) agree more with the center's opponents while 37% agree more with those who say it should be allowed. By contrast, more Democrats agree with the center's supporters than its opponents (by 47% to 39%).

Those ages 65 and older, as well as those 50 to 64, agree more with the opponents of cultural center and mosque by wide margins. Those younger than age 30 agree more with those who say it should be built, by 50% to 36%.

While there is opposition to building the Islamic cultural center and mosque in New York City, most Americans (62%) say Muslims should have the same rights as other religious groups when

it comes to building houses of worship in local

Majority Supports Muslims Having Same Right to Build Houses of Worship

	Local communities should be able to prohibit mosques	Muslims should have same rights as other groups to build	DK
	%	%	
Total	25	62	13=100
18-29	29	64	6=100
30-49	21	68	12=100
50-64	25	59	16=100
65+	33	48	19=100
Coll grad+	19	74	7=100
Some coll	28	62	10=100
HS or less	28	54	18=100
Republican	42	47	11=100
Democrat	15	74	12=100
Independent	25	65	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

communities _____;

25% say that local communities should be able to prohibit the construction of mosques in their area if they do not want them.

Large majorities of Democrats (74%) and independents (65%) say that Muslims should have the same rights as other religious groups to build houses of worship.

Republicans are closely divided: 47% say Muslims should have the same rights as other religious groups while nearly as many (42%) say local communities should be able to prohibit the construction of mosques if they do not want them.

Majorities of all age groups -- except for those ages 65 and older -- think that Muslims should have the same rights as other religious groups to build houses of worship. Fewer than half (48%) of those ages 65 and older express this view, while 33% say local communities should be able to block the construction of mosques.

Most Know Little about Muslim Religion

As in previous Pew Research surveys, most Americans say they know little about the Muslim religion. Currently, 55% say they do not know very much (30%) or know nothing at all (25%) about the Muslim religion and its practices; 35% say they know some about the religion while just 9% say they know a great deal. These numbers are largely unchanged from 2007.

How Much Do You Know about Muslim Religion?

	Nov 2001	March 2002	July 2003	July 2005	Aug 2007	Aug 2010
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	6	5	4	5	7	9
Some	32	29	27	28	34	35
Not very much	37	37	39	36	33	30
Nothing at all	24	28	29	30	25	25
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	*
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Similarly, there has been little change in the percentage of Americans who say they know someone who is Muslim. In the new survey, 41% say they are acquainted with someone who is Muslim; comparable percentages said they knew someone who is Muslim last year and in 2007.

College graduates are far more likely than those with less education to say they know at least something about the Muslim religion. A majority of college graduates (63%) say they know some or a great deal about the religion, compared with 48% of those with some college experience and just 31% with a high school education or less.

Most college graduates (62%) say they know someone who is Muslim; that compares with 44% of those with some college experience and 26% of those with a high school education or less. As in the past, people younger than 50 (49%) are far more likely to be acquainted with a Muslim than are those 50 and older (31%).

Americans Oppose Renewing U.S. Combat Operations in Iraq

More Americans see U.S. as less safe, and Middle East as less stable, as a result of war

August 26, 2010

Americans are about twice as likely to oppose as they are to favor renewing U.S. combat operations in Iraq if Iraqi forces are unable to maintain security there. These views are shared by Democrats and independents, but a slight majority of Republicans disagree.

Next, as you may know, on August 31 U.S. troops will officially transfer control of all combat operations in Iraq to the Iraqi military. If Iraqi forces are unable to maintain security, would you favor or oppose U.S. troops once again taking a role in combat operations in Iraq?

	% Favor	% Oppose
All Americans	33	63
Democrats	17	79
Independents	32	63
Republicans	53	45

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 21-22, 2010

GALLUP[®]

These results are based on an Aug. 21-22 *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted in advance of the official transfer of combat operations in Iraq from the U.S. military to Iraqi forces. The last remaining U.S. combat forces actually left Iraq last week. The United States plans to keep a smaller force in the country through the end of 2011.

A Gallup poll conducted earlier this month found Americans pessimistic that Iraqi forces would be able to limit insurgent attacks and maintain order in the country. That poll also found a majority of Americans in favor of sticking to the timetable for complete withdrawal from Iraq regardless of the situation there at the time.

Taken together, the results of the two recent polls on Iraq suggest Americans have little appetite for a continuing major U.S. presence in Iraq even though they believe Iraqis will not be able to handle the situation themselves.

These views exist even though Americans do not believe the war has met two of its stated objectives: making the U.S. safer from terrorism and stabilizing the political situation in the Middle East. On both counts, more Americans believe the situation is now worse rather than better, although substantial minorities believe there has been no change in either situation. Even Republicans, who tend to be most supportive of the war, are dubious the U.S. has achieved these goals.

As a result of the Iraq war, do you think -- [ROTATED: the U.S. is safer from terrorism, there has been no change, (or) the U.S. is less safe from terrorism]?

	Safer	No change	Less safe
All Americans	25%	40%	32%
Democrats	18%	42%	38%
Independents	21%	40%	35%
Republicans	40%	36%	22%

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 21-22, 2010

GALLUP®

As a result of the Iraq war, do you think -- [ROTATED: the political situation in the Middle East is more stable, there has been no change, (or) the political situation in the Middle East is less stable]?

	More stable	No change	Less stable
All Americans	23%	33%	39%
Democrats	18%	28%	49%
Independents	20%	38%	36%
Republicans	34%	31%	33%

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 21-22, 2010

GALLUP®

Americans do, however, acknowledge that Iraqis are better off because of the war -- 52% say this, while 20% believe they are worse off and 21% say there has been no change.

As a result of the Iraq war, do you think -- [ROTATED: the Iraqi people are better off, there has been no change for the Iraqi people, (or) the Iraqi people are worse off]?

	Better off	No change	Worse off
All Americans	52%	21%	20%
Democrats	41%	23%	31%
Independents	49%	23%	19%
Republicans	71%	14%	9%

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 21-22, 2010

GALLUP®

The poll finds 60% of Americans saying the situation in Iraq was not worth going to war over, while 34% believe it was. In recent years, Gallup has also found a consistent majority of Americans saying the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq.

Bottom Line

Americans are eager to end their more than seven-year involvement in Iraq, even if that could leave Iraqis in charge of a situation they are not equipped to handle, and even if that means the United States has not met some of its stated objectives for going to war. Americans have been negatively disposed to the war for more than five years, and that has changed little even as they have become more optimistic about U.S. progress in the war since the surge of U.S. troops in 2007-2008.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 21-22, 2010, with a random sample of 1,003 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.

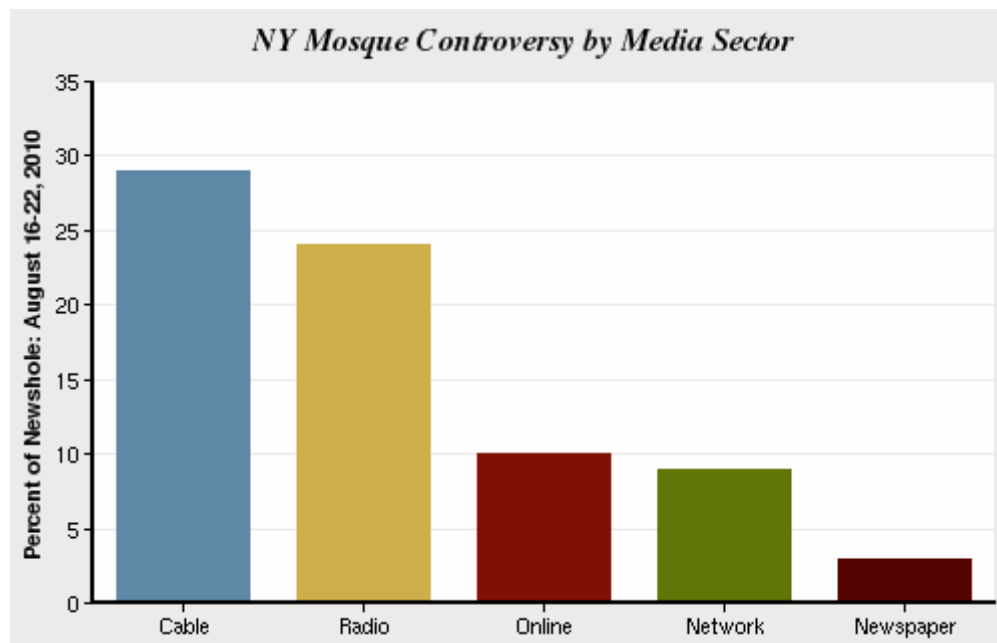
The questions reported here were asked of a random half-sample of respondents for two nights on the Gallup Daily tracking survey.

Islamic Center Tops Media Agenda

August 24, 2010

A statement of support for religious freedom by President Barack Obama fueled an ideologically driven debate in the media over a proposed Islamic center in New York last week. A milestone in the Iraq war, continued economic travails and a mostly hung jury in a corruption case involving a colorful former governor also vied for attention.

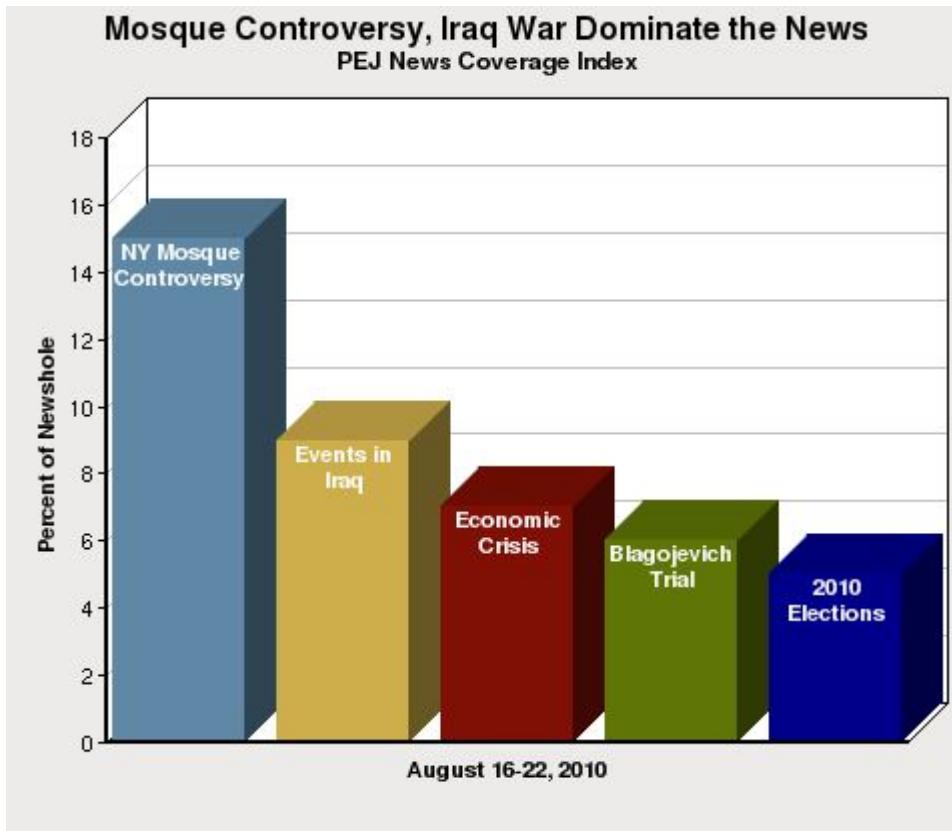
The debate over the proposed Islamic center a few blocks from where the World Trade Center once stood was the biggest story for the week of Aug. 16-22, accounting for 15% of the newshole studied by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. That was a sharp increase for a story that had simmered mainly on the blogosphere in recent weeks. Much of the boost could be attributed to a comment at a White House dinner by the president.



The withdrawal of the last combat brigade from Iraq made the war the No. 2 story last week, with 9% of the newshole, according to the PEJ News Coverage Index, which tracks coverage across media sectors each week.

The economy -- which has dominated news coverage since it plunged in late 2008 -- generated headlines again last week when a report showed a spike in people seeking unemployment insurance, raising more doubts about the durability of the recovery. This followed reports of continuing weakness in the housing sector. Taken together, the economy overall was the third-biggest story of the week, with 7% of the newshole.

The split decision in the case of impeached Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich was the No. 4 story, filling 6% of the newshole studied. After listening to weeks of testimony, federal jurors convicted Blagojevich of a single count of lying to federal agents while declaring themselves unable to agree on 23 other counts. Blagojevich, whose time out of office and pending trial has included a stint on a reality TV series, declared victory and promised to appeal the one conviction. Prosecutors said they will try him again on the charges that stymied the jury.



Heading into the traditional Labor Day commencement of the campaign season, the 2010 midterm elections were the fifth most covered subject of the week, filling 5% of the newshole studied. That was down from 15% the week before, but represents a sizeable showing and reflects strong media interest in elections this fall that could alter the balance of power in Washington.

GOP Maintains Edge in Midterm Voting Preferences

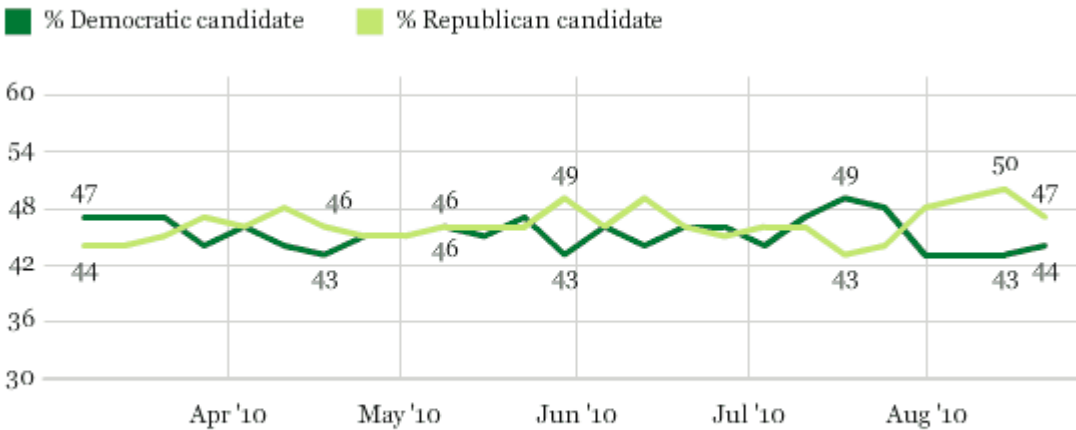
Holds 47% to 44% advantage in latest update

August 24, 2010

Gallup tracking of 2010 midterm congressional election voting preferences shows 47% of registered voters saying they would vote for the Republican candidate and 44% for the Democratic candidate if the election were held today. Though down slightly from last week's seven-percentage-point Republican lead, the GOP has held an advantage each of the past four weeks, the first time either party has done so this year.

Candidate Preferences in 2010 Congressional Elections

Based on registered voters



Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

The consistent Republican advantages are also notable from a historical perspective. In Gallup's 60-year history of asking the generic ballot question, it is rare for the Republicans to be ahead among all registered voters. In fact, last week's seven-point lead is the largest Gallup has measured for the Republican Party at any point in a midterm election year.

Even in two of the strongest Republican years -- 1994 and 2002 -- Democrats led or were tied in the final pre-election poll among registered voters. Republicans, however, led in those polls once turnout was factored in using Gallup's likely voter model, which correctly forecasted that more voters would cast ballots for Republican than Democratic candidates. (Gallup will begin to provide likely voter estimates for the 2010 vote in October.)

Republicans usually make gains in their share of the vote after the likely voter model is applied, and generally hold an advantage in actual voter turnout in midterm elections, so a Republican advantage among all registered voters is an ominous sign for the Democrats' prospects.

There are signs voter turnout in 2010 is not likely to go against historical patterns, with 46% of Republicans and 23% of Democrats saying they are "very enthusiastic" about voting this year. Republicans have led in reported enthusiasm throughout the year, and the current figures are tied for the largest enthusiasm gap by party this year.

Republicans' relatively stronger showing on the generic ballot throughout August is due in part to Republican gains in party affiliation and a slightly higher level of support for Republican candidates among independent voters, as detailed in last week's update.

In addition, though party loyalty in terms of voting is high on both sides, in August there are signs of slight but notable changes. So far this month, 96% of Republican registered voters say

they would vote for the Republican candidate, exceeding Republicans' party loyalty for any prior month. At the same time, the percentage of Democratic registered voters preferring the Democratic candidate -- 91% -- matches the monthly low for either party to date.

Party Loyalty in the 2010 Midterm Elections

Based on registered voters

	% of Republicans voting for the Republican candidate	% of Democrats voting for the Democratic candidate
August	96	91
July	93	93
June	94	92
May	93	92
April	94	91
March	94	92

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Gallup's generic ballot for Congress, which has been an accurate predictor of the national vote for the U.S. House in past midterm elections, continues to suggest 2010 will be a good year for the Republicans. The consistent Republican advantages among all registered voters in recent weeks are unusual from a historical perspective. Though a swing in the Democratic Party's favor cannot be ruled out, voting patterns observed in the generic ballot in a given midterm election year generally hold throughout that year.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking survey Aug. 16-22, 2010, with a random sample of 1,577 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 registered voters, 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.

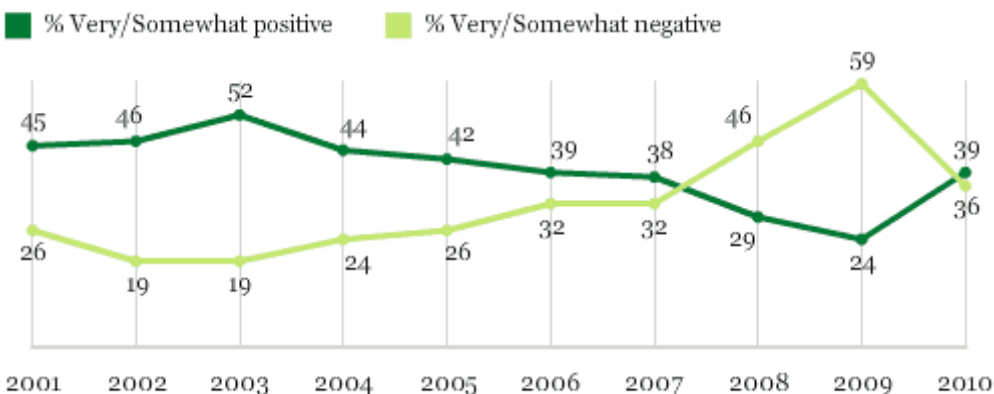
Record Surge in Positive Ratings of Auto Industry

Computer industry rated most positively; oil and gas industry least positively

August 23, 2010

Americans' opinions of the automobile industry brightened considerably after reaching an all-time low last year, and now tilt more positive than negative for the first time in three years. The 15-point increase in the percentage rating the auto industry positively ties the largest one-year improvement in Gallup's 10-year history of measuring public opinion on major U.S. business industries.

Ratings of Automobile Industry, 2001-2010



GALLUP®

Despite the improvement, the image of the auto industry has merely recovered from the losses of the past two years, and is much less favorable than it was in 2001-2005, when positive ratings significantly outnumbered negative ones.

The automobile industry's image suffered as the three major U.S. automakers struggled during the economic downturn, with all three asking the federal government for assistance in November 2008. The federal government eventually bailed out two of the Big Three automakers in 2009, General Motors and Chrysler, to prevent them from going under. U.S. automakers have had a stronger year in 2010, and GM is now planning to sell back much of its publicly held stock to private investors.

The automobile industry now ranks in the middle of the list of 25 business industries and sectors rated Aug. 5-8 in Gallup's annual Work and Education Poll. The computer and restaurant industries are rated most positively, while the oil and gas industry receives the worst ratings.

In addition to the computer and restaurant industries, farming and agriculture, grocery, and the Internet get at least 50% positive ratings. Healthcare, banking, and the federal government join the oil and gas industry with majority negative ratings.

For each of the following business sectors in the United States, please say whether your overall view of it is very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

Industry	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	Net positive (pct. pts.)
Computer	60	26	11	49
Restaurant	57	31	11	46
Farming and agriculture	53	24	18	35
Grocery	53	25	22	31
Internet	50	24	22	28
Travel	43	35	20	23
Retail	44	33	22	22
Accounting	35	41	16	19
Publishing	37	40	20	17
Telephone	41	30	29	12
Television and radio	43	22	35	8
Sports	38	28	30	8
Automobile	39	23	36	3
Movie	35	27	35	0
Advertising and public relations	33	27	36	-3
Education	39	17	43	-4
Electric and gas utilities	37	22	41	-4
Airline	30	25	41	-11
The legal field	27	28	41	-14
Pharmaceutical	32	17	48	-16
Real estate	26	24	48	-22
Healthcare	29	17	54	-25
Banking	26	20	54	-28
The federal government	26	14	58	-32
Oil and gas	20	16	63	-43

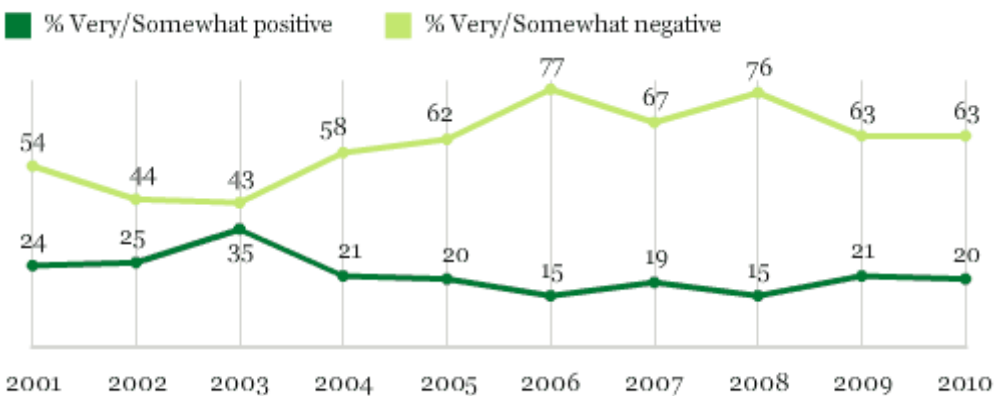
Aug. 5-8, 2010

GALLUP®

Either the computer or the restaurant industry has been the most positively rated industry each year Gallup has conducted the poll (though in 2005 both industries tied for the top spot with grocery, and farming and agriculture). Oil and gas has been the least positively rated industry each year except 2002, when the legal field held that unwelcome distinction.

The oil and gas industry has been the subject of negative news coverage this year as a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Still, the industry's image is unchanged, perhaps because its ratings were so negative to begin with. The oil and gas industry's image has been worse, including in 2006 and 2008, when gas prices were high.

Ratings of Oil and Gas Industry, 2001-2010



GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Americans' opinions of major U.S. industries and sectors have varied over the years in reaction to news events affecting a particular sector. For example, the accounting industry's image took a big hit in 2002 after several corporate accounting scandals, including Enron, came to light. Views of industries linked to energy production declined as gas prices rose in 2006, and the real estate industry's ratings tanked as the subprime mortgage crisis intensified.

Automobile and banking were the two industries most adversely affected by the recent recession, and Gallup documented significant decreases in the percentage of Americans viewing each positively. Positive views of the banking industry remain depressed, but the auto industry has regained much of the luster it lost over the past two years after an encouraging performance in the first half of 2010.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 5-8, 2010, with a random sample of 508 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 ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone-only). 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' Views of Public Schools Still Far Worse Than Parents'

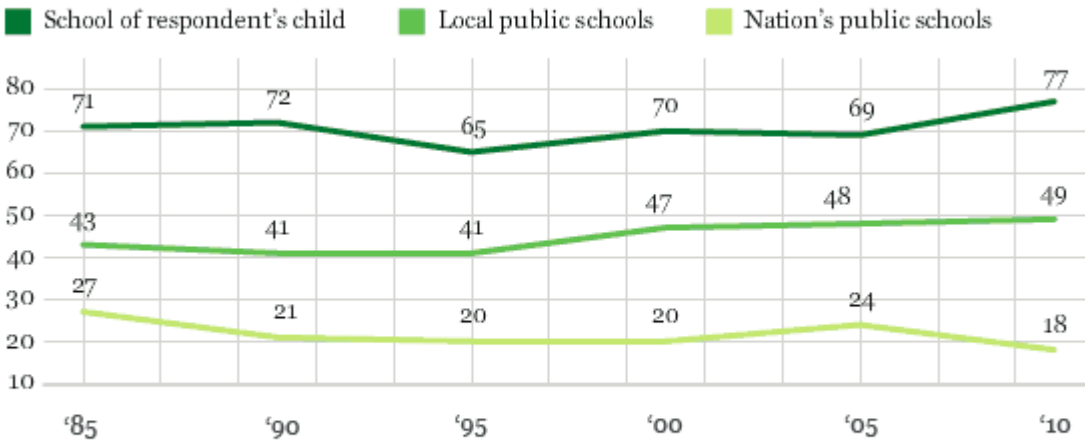
Parents rate own child's school far better than Americans rate U.S. public schools

August 25, 2010

Americans continue to believe their local schools are performing well, but that the nation's schools are performing poorly. More than three-quarters of public school parents (77%) give their child's school an "A" or "B," while 18% of all Americans grade the nation's public schools that well.

The Public's Views on American Schools

Percentage of respondents who gave a grade of A or B



Note: The data reported here represent selected surveys conducted every five years from 1985-2010 and are not exhaustive of the complete PDK/Gallup trend

GALLUP

Each year, Gallup and Phi Delta Kappa, a professional association for educators, ask parents of school-aged children who attend public schools to grade the quality of their own child's school. They also ask a broader sample of Americans to grade their local public schools more generally, as well as the nation's public schools. U.S. parents give the highest grades to their own child's school, while Americans rate their local schools better than they rate public schools in the nation as a whole. With parents again this year giving their own child's school high marks and Americans again giving the nation's public schools low marks, a large gap continues to exist between parents' perceptions of local schools and public perceptions of the national public education system.

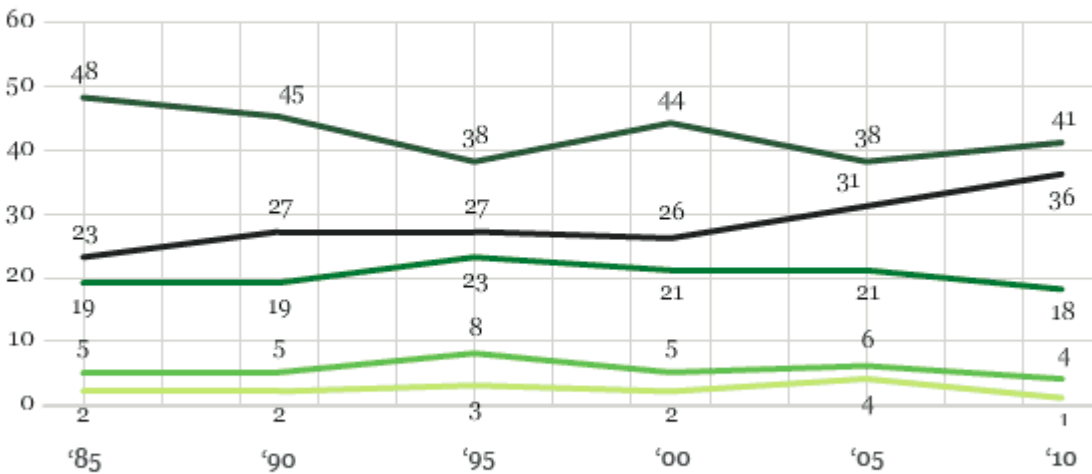
Grading Our Children's Schools

One-third of this year's survey respondents identified themselves as parents of school-aged children who attend public schools. These parents were asked a series of questions about the quality of their oldest child's education. Providing encouraging news for public schools, more than three-quarters of parents (77%) give their own child's school an "A" or a "B," up from 71% in 1985.

Using the A, B, C, D, and FAIL scale, what grade would you give the school your oldest child attends?

Public school parents

■ % A ■ % B ■ % C ■ % D ■ % Fail



Note: The data reported here represent selected surveys conducted every five years from 1985-2010 and are not exhaustive of the complete PDK/Gallup trend

GALLUP®

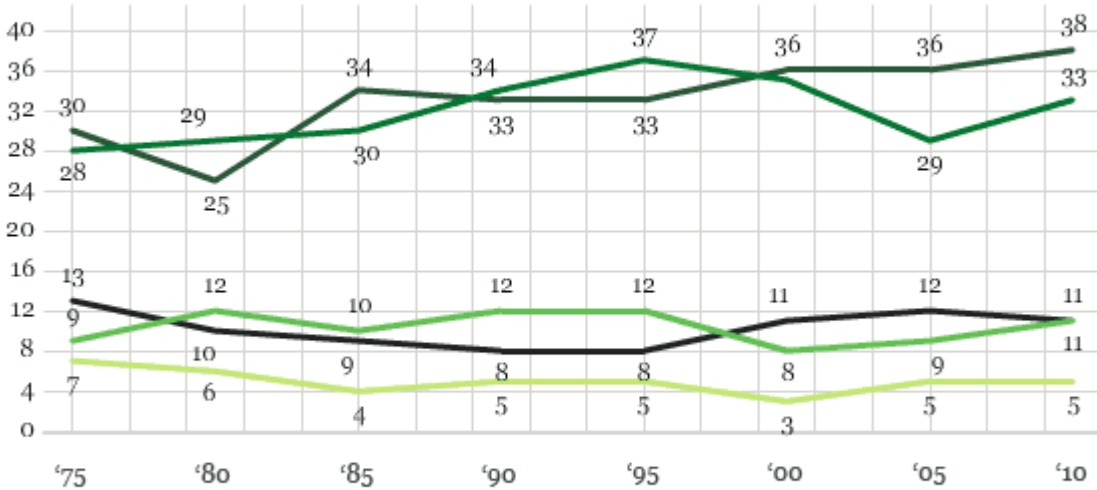
Grading Local Schools

Among all respondents, regardless of whether they are parents of a school-aged child who attends a public school, most consider schools in their local communities to be average or above, with 33% giving a grade of C, 38% a B, and 11% an A. Taking both "A" and "B" grades into consideration, this view of local schools has improved a little over the decades, with a dip in 1980 and a high point in 2010.

What grade would you give the public schools here -- A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

National totals

■ % A ■ % B ■ % C ■ % D ■ % Fail



Note: The data reported here represent selected surveys conducted every five years from 1975-2010 and are not exhaustive of the complete PDK/Gallup trend

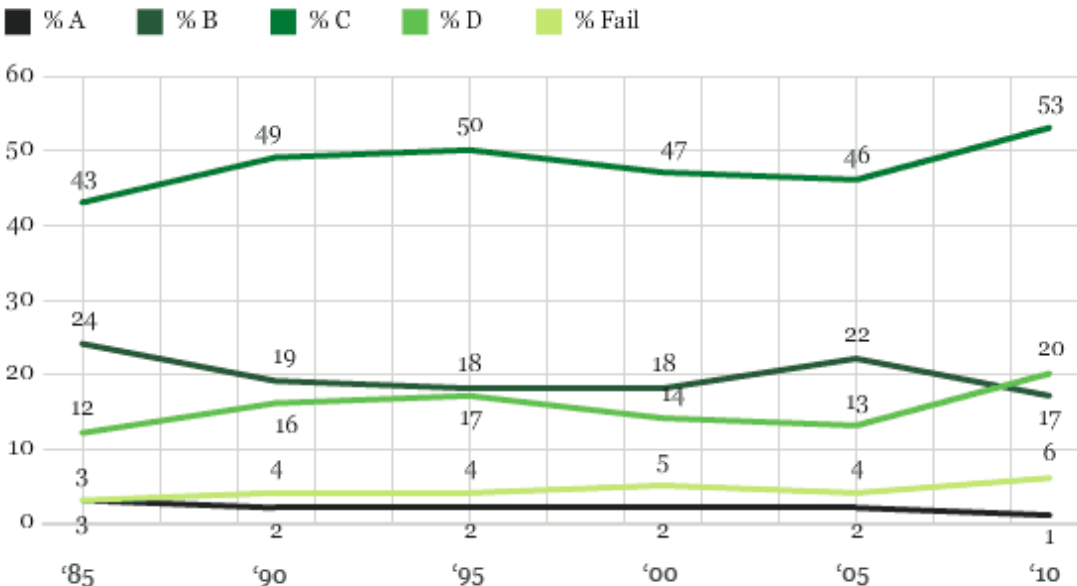
GALLUP®

Grading the Public Education System

Americans have graded America's public education system a C or below for the 25 years PDK/Gallup has been asking about it. Furthermore, Gallup trends show Americans' views of public education souring since 1985. Twenty-five years ago, 58% of respondents gave public education a grade of C or lower, compared with 79% now.

How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally -- A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

National totals



Note: The data reported here represent selected surveys conducted every five years from 1985-2010 and are not exhaustive of the complete PDK/Gallup trend

GALLUP®

Improving America's Schools

There is room for improvement in all schools, and additional questions in the PDK/Gallup poll provide insight into how to make this happen. First, Americans generally believe that the quality of educational outcomes relates to the amount of money devoted to public education. Sixty-seven percent of respondents say the amount of money spent on a public school student's education affects the quality of his or her education "a great deal" or "quite a lot." Second, when Americans were specifically asked an open-ended question about what schools could do to earn an "A," "improve the quality of teaching" was the most frequent response, given by 34% of respondents. National efforts from the public and private sector to increase teacher quality appear to be in line with the public's view of what is needed to make schools better.

Survey Methods

Results for this PDK/Gallup poll are based on a panel study involving telephone interviews with 1,008 adults nationally, aged 18 and older, conducted June 4-28, 2010. Gallup Panel members are recruited through random sampling methods. The sample included an oversample of Panel members who reported having a child aged 5 to 18 in the household.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.5 percentage points.

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

U.S. Parents Want Teachers Paid on Quality, Student Outcomes

Nearly 8 in 10 public school parents have trust and confidence in public school teachers

August 25, 2010

The large majority of parents with children in the public K-12 school system would like to see teacher pay revolve around teacher performance, not the standard scale of pay. Seventy-two percent of public school parents say teachers' salaries should be tied to the quality of their work. Additionally, 75% say teachers' salaries should be somewhat or very closely tied to their own students' academic achievement.

Views on Teacher Compensation

	Public school parents	National adults
Should each teacher be paid on the basis of the quality of his/her work, or should all teachers be paid on a standard-scale basis?		
On the basis of work quality	72%	71%
On standard-scale basis	28%	27%
How closely should a teacher's salary be tied to his/her students' academic achievement?		
Very/Somewhat closely tied	75%	73%
Not very closely tied/Not at all tied	25%	27%

June 4-28, 2010

Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll

GALLUP®

On the flip side, 28% of public school parents want teachers compensated based on a "standard scale," which was not defined in the question wording, but typically would involve a teacher's experience and education level. Similarly, 25% say pay should be not at all or not very closely tied to student academic achievement. The views of all national adults align closely with those of public school parents.

These findings are based the annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup survey on the nation's schools, conducted June 4-28. PDK is a professional association for educators.

Nearly 8 in 10 public school parents say they have trust and confidence in the men and women who teach in the public school system. This is similar to the 77% of public school parents who have a high level of confidence in their child's school, giving the school's performance a grade of "A" or "B."

Do you have trust and confidence in the men and women who are teaching children in the public schools?

	Public school parents	National adults
Yes	78%	71%
No	21%	27%

June 4-28, 2010
Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll

GALLUP®

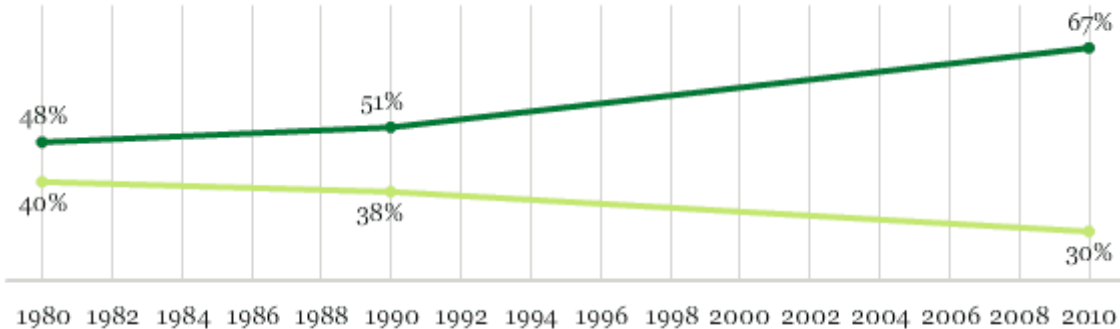
Although a slightly smaller percentage of all American adults, compared with parents, have trust and confidence in the nation's public school teachers (71% vs. 78%, respectively), it is still a strong majority. At the same time, 79% of national adults give the nation's public schools a grade of "C" or lower.

Even though thousands of teachers have been laid off over the past two years, and schools across the country continue to face intense budget problems, more Americans, 67%, now say they would like to have a child of theirs take up teaching in the public school system as a career than did so when Gallup and PDK asked the question in 1990 (51%) and 1980 (48%).

Would you like to have a child of yours take up teaching in the public schools as a career?

Among national adults

■ Yes ■ No



Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

The Gallup/PDK findings reveal that the large majority of public school parents in America support the idea of a teacher compensation system based on performance rather than on a "standard scale." The majority of parents also think teachers' salaries should be at least somewhat closely tied to student achievement. But in many school districts, pay is not currently determined on the basis of teacher quality or student outcomes; rather, it is determined largely by a standard scale system, typically based on seniority. The Obama administration last year launched a federal grant program, "Race to the Top," one requirement of which is for competing states to link student achievement to teachers.

Despite the disconnect between parents' ideas for how teachers should be compensated and the current teacher compensation framework in the nation's public schools, most parents do have trust and confidence in public school teachers. This positivity comes during a tough time for the nation's public schools and can be a source of pride for teachers and public education leaders.

Survey Methods

Results for this *PDK/Gallup Poll* are based on a panel study involving telephone interviews with 1,008 adults nationally, aged 18 and older, conducted June 4-28, 2010. Gallup Panel members are recruited through random sampling methods. The sample included an oversample of Panel members who reported having a child aged 5 to 18 in the household.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.5 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.

Economic Confidence Remains Low Throughout the United States

August 25, 2010

More people think the economy will decline further compared to last month; many still worry about the safety of investments and savings.

Most Americans remain worried about the current state of their country's economy and are becoming more pessimistic about the future, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,011 American adults, 85 per cent of respondents say economic conditions are "bad" or "very bad" at the moment, unchanged since the July Economic Panorama.

A majority of respondents in the United States (58%) also describe their personal financial situation as "poor" or "very poor".

While just under a fifth of Americans (18%) express optimistically that the economy will recover in the next six months, the proportion of respondents thinking the opposite—that it will continue to decline—has increased by five points to 31 per cent.

Most people think the recession will not end until next year (20%) or after 2011 (45%).

Concerns, Inflation and Debt

Almost half of the American population remains worried about the safety of their personal investments (47%) and savings (44%). Fear of unemployment is also high at 46 per cent, along with fear of being unable to meet mortgage or rent payments (41%). Fewer—yet still a significant proportion of Americans—report concerns over their employer running into serious financial trouble (29%).

Perceptions of inflation remain troubling as well. Two thirds of respondents expect gas prices (67%, +6) and grocery prices (also 67%) to go up; 37 per cent say new cars will cost more. While 22 per cent think the real estate market will recover, 31 per cent think home prices will continue to slide. For the most part, Americans expect the price of televisions to remain stable (41%).

Paying debt remains a priority, but extra cash would also go to paying daily expenses. If respondents suddenly got \$1,000 in extra money, they would allocate \$306 to pay down debt;

\$264 to cover daily expenses; \$215 for savings; \$80 to spend in personal items; \$76 towards making a big purchase; \$30 to invest in mutual funds; and \$29 to invest in individual stocks.

Political Leadership

President Barack Obama remains the most trusted leader to handle the economy (43% -3), followed by the Democratic Party (36%, -2), Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke (30%, +1), the Republican Party (31%, +1), and House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi (27%, -1).

The governing Democratic Party is preferred over the Republican Party to end the recession (35% to 29%), and to create jobs (39% to 31%). The Republicans are seen as the more capable party to rein in the national debt (34% to 28% for the Democrats), and to control inflation (33% to 30%).

The U.S. Economy Compared to Others

The proportion of Americans who think that their country's economy is in worse shape than the economies of other industrialized nations has increased since last month.

Many Americans think that their country's economy is doing worse than those of China (50%, +6), Canada (33%, +3), and Japan (34%, +2). About a quarter of respondents also think the U.S. compares poorly against Australia (26%, +3) and Germany (25%, +3). About a fifth of respondents (19%, +3) think the U.S. is in a worse situation than the United Kingdom.

Obama's Middle East Problem

August 27, 2010

President Barak Hussein Obama's meetings with Middle Eastern leaders next week will be his most extensive engagement yet with an issue that has been a weak spot in his largely positive international image.

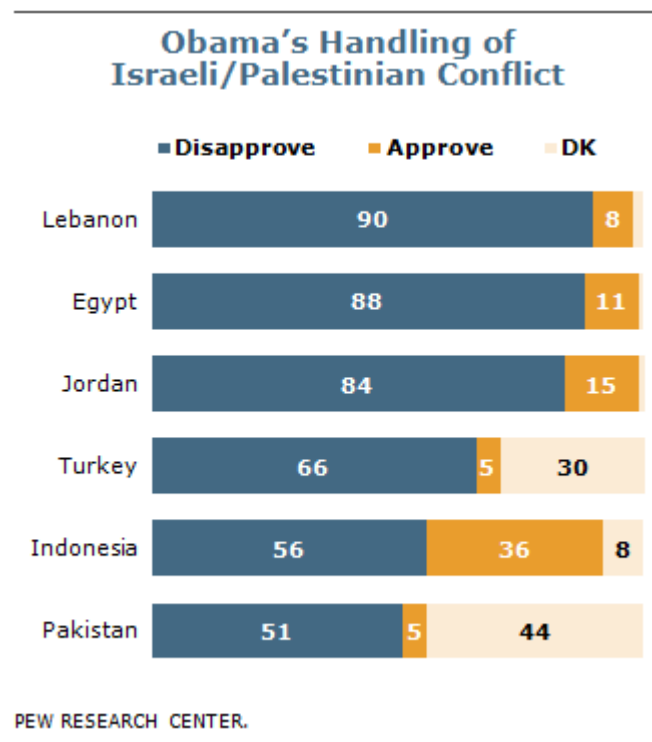
Obama Gets Lowest Ratings on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Rating Obama's performance on...	# Of countries where majorities or pluralities...	
	Approve	Disapprove
Overall int'l policies	16	5
Climate change	14	5
World economic crisis	14	5
Iran	10	10
Afghanistan	9	12
Iraq	9	11
Israel/Palest. conflict	7	12

PEW RESEARCH CENTER.

When the spring 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey, which was conducted in April and May, asked people in 22 countries around the world to rate Obama's performance on a variety of foreign policy issues, he received his lowest marks on dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict -- and his ratings on this issue were especially negative in the Arab nations of the Middle East.

The poll found that global publics largely take a positive view of Obama's leadership and his overall foreign policy. Majorities or pluralities in 16 of 22 nations say they generally approve of his international policies. The American president also receives largely positive ratings for dealing with two broad global challenges: climate change and the world economic crisis. However, reviews are mixed for Obama's handling of three specific trouble spots: Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq. And on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, assessments of Obama are on balance negative. Majorities or pluralities in 12 nations disapprove of how he has dealt with the conflict, while majorities or pluralities in just seven countries say they approve (in three nations a plurality offer no opinion).



Ratings for Obama's performance on this issue are decidedly poor in the six predominantly Muslim nations included in the survey, and they are particularly negative in the three Arab nations polled that border Israel -- more than eight-in-ten Lebanese (90%), Egyptians (88%) and Jordanians (84%) say they disapprove. On many questions, including questions about America's image, there are sharp divisions among Lebanon's major religious groups, but on this issue there is little disagreement -- 84% of Lebanese Sunnis, 87% of the country's Christians and a remarkable 100% of Shia respondents disapprove of the way Obama has handled the Middle East conflict.

About two-thirds in Turkey (66%) and half (51%) in Pakistan also hold this view. In both of these countries, only 5% approve of Obama's performance, while large numbers offer no opinion.

Even in Indonesia, where Obama's connection to the country -- he lived there for several years as a child -- typically boosts his ratings as well as America's overall image, 56% disapprove of how he has handled the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Previous polling has demonstrated that in Muslim majority nations expectations have been low for Obama on this issue since early in his presidency. In a [spring 2009 Pew Global Attitudes survey](#), more than 60% in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon said they did not believe Obama would be fair in dealing with the Israelis and Palestinians. Seven-in-ten held this view in the Palestinian territories, which was included in the 2009 poll. Indonesia was the exception to this pattern -- a 54% majority felt that Obama would be fair on this contentious issue.

The low expectations for Obama and his current low ratings on this issue reflect the fact that for some time the U.S. has been perceived as taking Israel's side in the conflict. For instance, a [2007 Pew Global Attitudes poll](#) found overwhelming majorities in Arab nations -- including about nine-in-ten Jordanians, Lebanese and Palestinians -- saying that U.S. policies in the Middle East favor Israel too much.

Certainly, in recent decades [American public opinion has leaned toward Israel](#). Pew Research Center polling dating back to the early 1990s has consistently shown that, when asked which side they sympathize with more in the Middle East conflict, Americans are much more likely to side with Israel than the Palestinians. Public support for Israel tends to be stronger in the U.S. than in other regions of the world, including Western Europe. The 2007 survey found that among several of America's key European allies -- such as France, Britain and Spain -- there was more sympathy for the Palestinians than for Israel.

Low Overall Ratings for Obama in Muslim Nations

In addition to assigning him negative marks on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Muslim publics also tend to give Obama unfavorable ratings on Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq. Moreover, beyond specific issues, respondents in majority Muslim nations tend to [express little confidence](#) in Obama's general foreign policy leadership. Only 43% of Lebanese, 33% of Egyptians, 26% of Jordanians and 23% of Turks say they have confidence that Obama will do the right thing in world affairs.

The country with the lowest overall opinion of Obama, however, is Pakistan -- only 8% of Pakistanis express confidence in him. On the other hand, despite Indonesians' disapproval of how Obama has managed specific issues, two-thirds (67%) trust his overall leadership in the international arena.

Obama's ratings have grown slightly more negative among Muslim publics since 2009, especially in Turkey, where confidence in his leadership slipped ten percentage points, as well as in Egypt, where it dropped nine points.

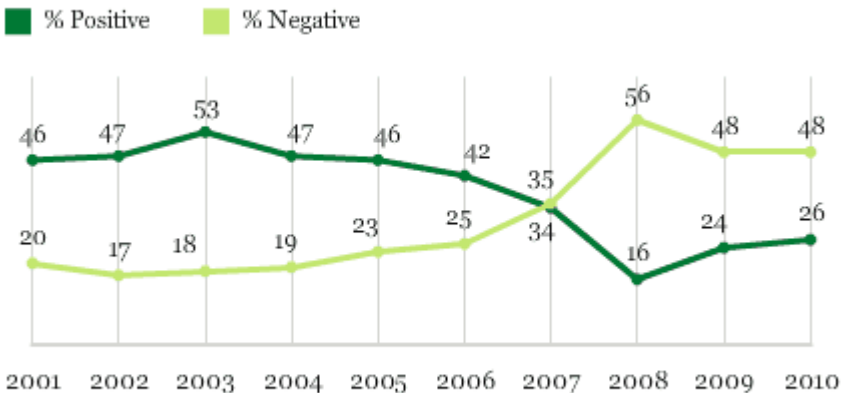
Americans Continue to Rate Real Estate Industry Negatively

Forty-eight percent rate it negatively, 26% positively

August 27, 2010

Americans rate the real estate industry much more negatively than positively, the third year in a row Gallup has found a net-negative evaluation of this industry.

Ratings of the Real Estate Industry, 2001-2010 Gallup Polls



GALLUP®

Real estate industry ratings began to decline sharply in 2007 before bottoming out in 2008. Nearly all of the 25 industries included in Gallup's annual ratings saw their images decline that year as the recession took hold, but the 18 percentage-point drop in real estate ratings was the largest. In fact, it is the largest one-year drop Gallup has measured for any industry in the 10-year history of this question. (See the table on page 2 of the article for full details.) That drop coincided with the subprime mortgage crisis that led to sharp increases in foreclosures and sharp decreases in home values.

The image of the real estate industry recovered somewhat last year, but is essentially flat in the latest update, based on an Aug. 5-8 Gallup poll. Home sales picked up a bit in late 2009 and early 2010, thanks to the government's first-time homebuyer tax-credit program. But since that program expired, sales have slowed considerably.

The real estate industry's ratings remain well below where they were from 2001-2006, when Americans viewed the industry on balance positively, during an era of continually rising housing prices.

On a relative basis, the real estate industry ranks near the bottom of the list of 25 industries Gallup routinely tests. In fact, this year only the oil and gas industry receives a lower percentage of positive ratings (20%). However, a total of four industries (oil and gas, the federal government, banking, and healthcare) receive a greater proportion of negative ratings than does real estate.

Bottom Line

Though Americans' views of the real estate industry have improved from their low point two years ago, they remain well below where they were when the housing market was booming. When Gallup has seen sharp one-year drops in the way Americans rate certain industries, they are usually in response to real-world events that affect the industry. In some cases, the industry's image has recovered within a year, as with the accounting industry in 2003 and the grocery industry last year. However, some industries (such as banking) have seen sustained lower ratings, suggesting a more fundamental alteration in the way Americans view them.

That appears to be the case with the real estate industry, and its ratings are likely to remain depressed as long as the housing market remains troubled. The real key for the real estate industry is whether Americans will revert to a more positive than negative evaluation of it once the housing market improves.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 5-8, 2010, with a random sample of 508 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 ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone-only). Each sample of 1,000 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.

Five Years After Hurricane Katrina

Progress Seen in New Orleans; Nation Not Prepared for Natural Disaster

August 26, 2010

Five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, a majority of Americans (57%) say that the nation is no better prepared for hurricanes and other natural disasters than it was in 2005. However, the public does see progress in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf region: 69% say there has been a lot or some progress made rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf, up from 56% in 2006.

Most Say Nation Not Better Prepared for a Natural Disaster

	Better prepared %	Not better prepared %	DK %
Total	38	57	5=100
White, non-Hispanic	37	58	5=100
Black, non-Hispanic	40	54	7=100
College grad+	46	49	5=100
Some college	35	61	4=100
HS or less	35	61	5=100
Republican	43	54	3=100
Democrat	39	57	4=100
Independent	36	60	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 19-22 among 1,003 adults, finds that midway through the 2010 hurricane season, there is broad skepticism about the nation's preparedness to deal with hurricanes and other natural disasters. Majorities of most political and demographic groups -- including 57% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans -- say the nation is not better prepared for such disasters than it was when Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

College graduates are an exception; those with college degrees are about equally likely to say the country is better prepared (46%) as to say it is not better prepared (49%).

By contrast, just 35% of those who have not graduated from college say the country is better prepared, while 61% say it is not.

How Much Progress Rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Since Katrina?

	Dec 2006	Aug 2010	Change
	%	%	
A lot	9	14	+5
Some	47	55	+8
Not much	33	23	-10
None at all	5	2	-3
Don't know	6	6	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Progress since Katrina

Nearly seven-in-ten say a lot (14%) or some (55%) progress has been made over the past five years rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast following the damage from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

This is significantly more than said progress had been made in December 2006. Nearly a quarter of Americans say not much (23%) or no (2%) progress has been made.

Across groups, substantial majorities say that a lot or some progress has been made rebuilding following the disaster.

Progress Rebuilding Since Katrina

	A lot/ Some	Not much/ None	DK
	%	%	%
Total	69	25	6=100
White, non-Hispanic	70	24	6=100
Black, non-Hispanic	63	28	9=100
College grad+	75	22	4=100
Some college	68	27	5=100
HS or less	67	25	8=100
Republican	75	21	4=100
Democrat	63	33	5=100
Independent	74	20	6=100
Northeast	65	27	8=100
Midwest	68	27	5=100
South	75	22	3=100
West	65	25	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

However, Democrats are somewhat less positive in their evaluations of progress compared to Republicans and independents; 63% of Democrats say a lot or some progress has been made, while 75% of Republicans and 74% of independents say this.

College graduates are somewhat more likely than those without college degrees to say progress has been made (75% vs. 67%).

Those living in the South -- which includes the Gulf Coast--are more likely than others to say progress has been made.

Three-quarters of Southerners (75%) say at least some progress has been made, compared with two-thirds (66%) of those in other regions.

And Southerners are about twice as likely as others to say there has been a lot of progress rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast (21% vs. 11%).

Muslims Give Obama Highest Job Approval; Mormons, Lowest

Jews and those with no religious affiliation also give Obama above-average ratings

August 27, 2010

Muslim Americans continue to give President Barack Obama the highest job approval rating of any major religious group in the U.S., while Mormons give the president the lowest ratings.

Obama Job Approval by Religious Group

	January- June 2009	July-December 2009	January- July 2010
Protestant/Other Christian	58%	47%	43%
Catholic	67%	56%	50%
Mormon	43%	34%	24%
Jewish	77%	66%	61%
Muslim	86%	83%	78%
Other non-Christian religion	74%	70%	64%
None/Atheist/Agnostic	75%	68%	63%
ALL AMERICANS	63%	53%	48%

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

The differences in Obama's approval ratings across the religious groups included in this analysis have held fairly constant across time, even as Obama's overall rating has fallen by 15 percentage points between the first half of 2009 and the first seven months of this year. American Muslims -

- in the news recently with the controversy over proposed plans to build an Islamic center and mosque near ground zero in New York City -- have given Obama his highest ratings in all three time periods: 86% in the first half of 2009, 83% in the second half of 2009, and 78% so far this year. Mormons have given Obama his lowest ratings across time, dropping from 43% in the first half of 2009 to 24% this year.

In addition to Muslims, Obama receives above-average ratings among Jews, those who identify with other non-Christian religious groups, and those with no formal religious identity. Obama gets lower-than-average ratings among Protestants. Catholics have given Obama slightly higher-than-average ratings last year and so far this year.

Obama has lost slightly more ground than average so far among Mormons, and has lost the least among Muslims.

These findings are based on interviews with more than 275,000 adult Americans conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking from Jan. 21, 2009, through July 31, 2010. Protestants and other non-Catholic/unaffiliated Christians are by far the largest religious group in America, representing about 55% of the adult population, followed by Catholics, at roughly 22%. About 13% of Americans do not have a formal religious identity or are explicitly atheists or agnostics. Jews, Mormons, and Muslims each represent no more than 2% of U.S. adults interviewed in Gallup's tracking.

Bottom Line

President Obama's job approval ratings have fallen significantly between his first six months in office and this year so far, and his ratings among major religious groups have fallen in rough lock step. The pattern that pertained when Obama first took office -- high ratings among Muslims, those with no religious identity, those identifying with non-Christian religions, and Jews; and lower ratings among Protestants and Mormons -- continues today. Although his standing has dropped among Americans in each of these groups, Obama has retained a little more strength among Muslims, the group giving him the highest ratings, and has lost a little more among Mormons, the group giving him the lowest ratings.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Jan. 21, 2009-July 31, 2010, with a combined random sample of 276,173 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling. Interviews were conducted with 151,912 Protestants/Other Christians, 65,244 Catholics, 4,672 Mormons, 6,746 Jews, 909 Muslims, 5,996 who identify with other, non-Christian religions, and 33,273 with no religious identity/atheists/agnostics.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point. Margins of error will vary for each individual religious group, depending on sample size.

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.

Adult Smoking Ranges From 13% to 31% Across U.S. States

Rates tend to be lower in states where cigarette taxes, education levels are higher

August 26, 2010

Roughly one in five adult Americans smokes, according to Gallup-Healthways Well Being Index data from 2009. At the state level, the percentage of adult smokers ranges from 13% in Utah to 31% in Kentucky and West Virginia.

States With Highest Percentage of Smokers

Percentage who smoke is 25% or more

	% Smoke
Kentucky	31
West Virginia	31
Oklahoma	28
Tennessee	28
Indiana	27
Arkansas	26
Missouri	26
Ohio	26
Louisiana	26
South Carolina	26
Alabama	25

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, 2009

GALLUP®

States With Lowest Percentage of Smokers

Percentage who smoke is below 20%

	% Smoke
Utah	13
California	16
Idaho	18
Montana	18
District of Columbia	18
New Jersey	18
Minnesota	19
Hawaii	19
Massachusetts	19
Arizona	19
Maryland	19

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, 2009

GALLUP®

There is a strong regional aspect to smoking. All 11 states where a quarter or more of the population smokes -- the "well-above average" group -- are in the South or Midwest. All but one of the 11 states (including the District of Columbia) where fewer than 20% of adults smoke -- the "below average" and "well-below average" groups -- are in the East or West, the exception being Minnesota. Utah and California have particularly low rates, at 13% and 16%, respectively.

In seven states, between 23% and 24% of the adult residents smoke, making these "above average" in smoking rates, though not well-above average. The remaining 22 states fall close to the 21% national average smoking rate.

These data are based on a question asking, "Do you smoke?" The 21% average for 2009 is similar to the 20% smoking rate Gallup found in its July 2009 Consumption Habits survey with a slightly different question asking, "Have you, yourself, smoked any cigarettes in the past week?" Both questions are based on national adults, aged 18 and older.

Education Helps Explain State Differences

Gallup research has shown that smokers generally have less formal education than nonsmokers, and this pattern is evident at the state level. States with the lowest levels of formal education -- those where fewer than a quarter of adults have a college degree -- tend to have above-average smoking rates. These include West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, and Oklahoma, among several other Southern states. Conversely, states with the highest average levels of formal education, such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia, tend to have average or below-average smoking rates.

Beyond educational differences, state tobacco control policies also appear to be related to state smoking rates. Indeed, states have enacted many of these policies for the express purpose of preventing young people from starting to smoke, and encouraging current smokers to quit.

State cigarette taxes currently average \$1.34 nationwide, but range from 7 cents in South Carolina to \$3.46 in Rhode Island. Gallup finds the smoking rate inversely related to the state cigarette tax, meaning that adults in states with high cigarette taxes are less likely to smoke than those in states with low cigarette taxes. This relationship is generally linear, except for the well-below average group of states for smokers -- composed of California and Utah -- which has an average state cigarette tax of 78 cents.

Average Cigarette Tax (Per Pack) for State Groupings

Type of state according to smoking rate	Adults who smoke (avg.)	State cigarette tax (avg.)
Well-above average (11 states)	27%	\$0.66
Above average (7 states)	24%	\$0.94
Average (22 states)	21%	\$1.59
Below average (9 states)	19%	\$2.02
Well-below average (2 states)	15%	\$0.78

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, 2009

GALLUP

While Utah's large Mormon population, which eschews smoking for religious purposes, helps explain Utah's 13% smoking rate, it is unclear from these data why the rate is nearly as low in California.

Another way in which the states have attempted to reduce smoking is through restrictions on smoking in public places such as government buildings, schools, workplaces, restaurants, and hotels. States have broad latitude in this area, and as a result, there is a patchwork of laws nationally, ranging from relatively minor limits in some states to highly restrictive policies in others. The American Lung Association has summarized these with a grading system of the states from A to F, for what they call "Smokefree Air Challenge."

As with cigarette taxes, Gallup finds a fairly strong relationship between state smoking rates and the states' Smokefree Air Challenge grades from the American Lung Association. States with smoking rates that are above average and well-above average receive an average grade of D for their enactment of laws that restrict smoking across various public venues. The average grade rises to a B for states with average smoking rates and to an A for those in the above-average categories.

American Lung Association "Smokefree Air Challenge" Grade for State Groupings

Type of state according to smoking rate	Adults who smoke (avg.)	"Smokefree Air Challenge" grade (avg.)
Well-above average (11 states)	27%	D
Above average (7)	24%	D
Average (22)	21%	B
Below average (9)	19%	A
Well-below average (2)	15%	A

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, 2009

GALLUP

Bottom Line

The rate of adult smoking has been declining since the mid-'70s, but it has stalled at just above 20% in recent years despite the proliferation of anti-smoking policies. The variation in smoking rates seen across the states could help to pinpoint which factors could be most effective at helping to push the rate lower. Gallup data suggest that raising cigarette tax rates and enacting comprehensive public smoking bans could be effective. However, it is also possible that it is much easier to pass such taxes and laws in states where smoking rates are lower to begin with, and thus the causal relationship is not clear.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 353,849 employed national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 2-Dec. 30, 2009, as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

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

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

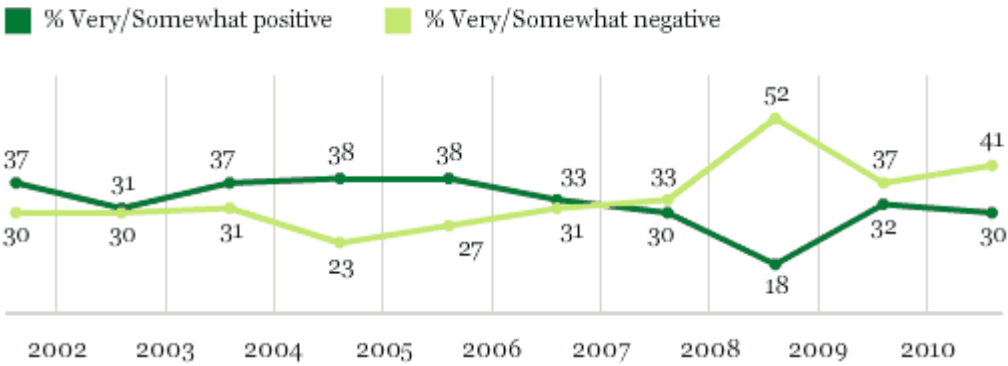
Airline Industry Image Grounded in Negative Territory

More Americans are "very negative" on airlines than they were a year or five years ago

August 26, 2010

Americans' general displeasure with the airline industry continues for a fourth straight year, with 41% viewing it negatively and 30% viewing it positively.

Overall Views of the Airline Industry



Aug. 5-8, 2010

GALLUP®

The findings are from an Aug. 5-8 Gallup poll that asked Americans to rate 25 business and industry sectors. The airline industry's net positive rating of -11 puts it toward the bottom of the pack.

Americans have been lukewarm on the airline industry since Gallup began measuring opinions about major U.S. industries in 2001. Despite the security and financial challenges that followed the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, airlines managed a slightly more positive than negative image from 2003 to 2007, when Americans became more negative than positive.

The sharp rise in negativity in 2008 likely stemmed from higher airfares put in place amid high gas prices and the worsening U.S. recession at the time. Airfares remain high on a relative basis, with reports this week that they are as much as 20% higher than they were a year ago, and are climbing. What's more, the additional fees imposed by airlines have proven highly unpopular. As recently as January of this year, 76% of Americans who had flown at least twice in the past year said they were dissatisfied with the fees charged for checking baggage and rebooking flights. This was far more than were dissatisfied with the procedures for going through security, the price they paid for tickets, and airlines' efforts to deal with delays and cancellations.

In this climate, 14% of Americans say their views of the airline industry are "very negative," more than said so a year ago, but less than the 23% who said so in 2008. Overall, Americans have become less neutral and more negative on the industry since 2005.

Overall Views of the Airline Industry

Complete results since 2005

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change since '05
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Pct. pts.
Very positive	6	7	7	3	6	4	-2
Somewhat positive	32	26	23	15	26	26	-6
Neutral	32	32	33	27	29	25	-7
Somewhat negative	21	22	24	29	30	27	6
Very negative	6	9	9	23	7	14	8

GALLUP®

The International Air Transport Association reported Wednesday that U.S. airlines are set to post \$2.5 billion in profits in 2010, after having lost \$9.9 billion in 2009. With overall demand up only slightly, the projection suggests that airlines' efforts to boost revenues are paying off in their own bottom lines. Still, the Gallup data indicate the additional cost of flying, amid depressed economic confidence and consumer spending, have likely helped keep Americans' ratings of airline industries more negative than positive. Airlines should be mindful of these perceptions, and the balance between cost and quality of service, as they seek to re-enter positive territory, both financially and in Americans' eyes.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 5-8, 2010, with a random sample of 1,013 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling. Industry rating results are based on a half sample of 508 adults, for which the maximum margin of sampling error is ±5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone-only). 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 Praise Flight Attendants for Their Courtesy and Respect

August 24, 2010

One-in-four respondents think the actions of Jet Blue flight attendant Steven Slater were justified, while one third disagree.

In the wake of the highly publicized incident involving Steven Slater, American flyers express a high level of satisfaction with the way flight attendants perform their duties, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 773 American adults who have recently travelled on a plane, respondents were satisfied with most aspects of their last flight, including drinks (75%), restrooms (68%) their seat and leg room (56%), and in-flight entertainment (54%). Less than half of American flyers (45%) were content with the food they were served.

Flight attendants have a much higher rating, with more than four-in-five respondents saying they were satisfied with their appearance (90%), competence (89%), attitude and demeanor (88%), and availability (84%).

Passengers and Flight Attendants

About seven-in-ten American flyers (69%) think the average American passenger treats flight attendants with courtesy and respect "all of the time" or "most of the time." However, 29 per cent believe this happens "only some of the time" or "none of the time."

Nine-in-ten American flyers (90%) think flight attendants treat the average American passenger with courtesy and respect "all of the time" or "most of the time"—including 95 per cent of respondents over the age of 55.

The Steven Slater Incident

JetBlue flight attendant Steven Slater has been charged with criminal mischief, trespassing, and reckless endangerment following an incident at New York's JFK Airport.

Across the country, 52 per cent of American flyers say they have followed the Steven Slater story "very closely" or "moderately closely." While one-in-four respondents (25%) think Slater's actions were justified, one third (32%) believe they were unjustified.

Respondents aged 18 to 34 are more likely to justify Slater's actions (30%) than those aged 35 to 55 (21%) or those over the age of 55 (24%).

Risky Behaviors

Two-thirds of American flyers (67%) did not see anybody engage in four specific behaviors the last time they were on a plane.

However, almost one-in-four (23%) say somebody left their seat when the “Fasten Seat Belt” sign was on, 15 per cent recall a person using or trying to use their cell phone after the “Turn cell phones off” announcement was made, and 14 per cent say someone attempted to open the overhead bin when the plane was taxiing—an action that was widely reported as the catalyst for Slater's incident. In addition, five per cent of American flyers recall a person cursing when addressing a flight attendant.

Confidence Takes a Dip as Canadians Remain Anxious About Economy

August 27, 2010

Majority of respondents lack confidence in politicians in Ottawa to handle the economy well.

Although a majority of Canadians think the national economy is in good shape, people are still anxious about the future and confidence in federal politicians to make the right decisions is low, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,005 Canadian adults, 53 per cent of respondents say Canada's economy is in good or very good shape, a six-point drop since the July Economic Panorama. Conversely, 43 per cent of Canadians think the situation is not positive, nine points up since July.

The positive rate of personal finances remains high at 61 per cent, yet more than a third of respondents (37%) worry about their situation.

One-in-four Canadians (23%) remain optimistic about the future and foresee a recovery in the next six months. However, most people (51%) think the recession will not be over this year.

Current Concerns

Over the past three months, a large proportion of Canadians have worried about the safety of their investments (38%), the threat of unemployment hitting their household (35%), and the safety of their savings (32%). About a fifth of respondents have also worried about missing rent or mortgage payments (23%), and the chance that their employer would run into financial trouble (21%).

Inflation and Debt

A large majority of Canadians continue to expect a price hike for groceries (75%) and gas (72%). Over a third of respondents (37%) think real estate prices will increase, but 25 per cent think they will go down. Few people think new cars (34%) or TVs (24%) will get more expensive over the next six months.

Most people remain committed to paying down debt and saving if given extra money. An extra \$1,000 would be allocated, on average, to paying debt (\$362); savings (\$206); covering daily expenses (\$183); buying personal gifts or treats (\$100); buying big items like a car or a home renovation (\$81); investing in mutual funds (\$37); and investing in individual stocks (\$31).

Political Leadership

Canadians continue to express a lack of confidence in the federal political leadership to get things right when it comes to handling the economy. Just over a third of respondents (37%)

express confidence in Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make the right economic decisions; trust in Liberal and Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff is even lower at 24 per cent. Conversely, 51 per cent of respondents distrust Harper to handle the economy properly, and 58 per cent distrust Ignatieff.

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney is still the most trusted personality with 46 per cent expressing confidence in his leadership.

The Conservative Party is preferred over the Liberal Party to rein in national debt (34% to 23%), end the recession (33% to 21%), and control inflation (35% to 21%). The two parties are essentially tied in the category of job creation (Grits 31%, Tories 30%). Around two-in-five Canadians consistently say that none of these two parties is a better option to handle these economic files.

Canada vs. Other Countries

Overall, Canadians think the national economy is in better shape than many other industrialized economies. Many respondents say the country is doing better than the United States (72%), the United Kingdom (45%), France (40%), Germany (29%), Japan (29%), and Australia (19%). The only exception is still China, with 32 per cent of respondents saying Canada's situation is worse than theirs.

Canadians See More Benefits from NAFTA than Americans

August 26, 2010

But more people in Canada than in the U.S. think it is urgent to renegotiate the terms of the three-country treaty.

Canadians offer a more positive review of their participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) than Americans do, a new two-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of representative national samples of 1,002 Canadian and 1,006 American adults, 40 per cent of Canadians think the United States has gained the most from being in NAFTA, 30 per cent say Mexico has enjoyed the most benefits, and only eight per cent say Canada has gained more than the other partners.

In contrast, 41 per cent of American respondents believe Mexico has gained the most from NAFTA, 17 per cent say the U.S. has benefitted most, and nine per cent think that Canada has been the biggest winner.

Affected Sectors

Overall, Canadians see more benefits from NAFTA than Americans. Most Canadians (58%) say the national economy has been positively impacted by NAFTA. Only 27 per cent of Americans state the same of their own economy.

A majority of Canadian respondents say Canadian manufacturers (55%) and employers (54%) have made moderate or great gains from the treaty. Over two-in-five (45%) also think Canadian tourists have gained.

However, when it comes to assessing NAFTA's impact on Canadian workers, 42 per cent of respondents say this sector has not gained anything at all from the treaty—38 per cent disagree, saying it has benefitted.

In the U.S., two-in-five respondents (42%) think American manufacturers have gained with NAFTA, but a third (33%) think they have not. Thirty-five per cent say tourists have taken advantage of the treaty, but 28 per cent say they have gained nothing at all.

Over a third (37%) of respondents say American employers have gained with NAFTA, but the exact same proportion (37%) say they have not benefitted at all. The most negative review of the treaty is in relation to American workers—only 18 per cent think this sector has been positively impacted by NAFTA, compared to 57 per cent who say there has been no good impact.

Renegotiating NAFTA

Over two fifths of Canadians (44%) agree with the notion that the government should do anything it can to renegotiate the terms of its participation in NAFTA. A fifth of respondents (22%) are at ease with the status quo, and say Canada's membership of NAFTA should continue under the current terms. There is little appetite to leave the treaty altogether (8%).

In the U.S., 36 per cent of respondents would like to change the current terms of membership, 13 per cent say things should remain unchanged, and the same proportion (13%) would completely pull out from NAFTA.

Two-in-Five Canadians Would Scrap Long Gun Registry

August 25, 2010

Half of respondents believe a complete ban on handguns would be justified, while two-in-five disagree with this notion.

As a decision on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry draws near, Canadians hold differing views on whether the so-called long gun registry should be scrapped, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,005 Canadian adults also finds that respondents are almost evenly divided on whether it should be illegal for ordinary citizens to own firearms.

Gun Violence

Seven-in-ten Canadians (70%) believe gun violence in Canada is a "very serious" or "moderately serious" problem.

About half of respondents (49%) think implementing a complete ban on handguns would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes. Conversely, two-in-five Canadians (39%) believe a complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters.

Ontarians, Quebecers and British Columbians tend to side with the pro-ban argument, while Albertans, Atlantic Canadians and those in the Prairie Provinces are more likely to reject this notion.

The Registry

The Canadian Firearms Registry, also known as the long gun registry, requires the registration of all non-restricted firearms in Canada. Two-in-five Canadians (43%) believe the registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada, while three-in-ten (29%) think it has had no effect on crime. Only 13 per cent of respondents believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been successful.

A plurality of Canadians (44%) calls for scrapping the long gun registry—including large majorities in the Prairies (65%) and Alberta (59%). More than a third of respondents (35%) are opposed to this course of action, including 51 per cent of Quebecers.

Since a survey conducted in November 2009, the proportion of Canadians who oppose the long gun registry has dropped by seven points, while the proportion of supporters has increased by one point.

Canadians are split on another question, with 40 per cent of respondents saying it should be legal for ordinary citizens to own firearms, and 45 per cent wanting to make this illegal. There are some major geographic differences on this question, with majorities in Quebec (54%) and Ontario (53%) wanting to keep firearms away from ordinary citizens, and more than half of Albertans (51%) expressing support for the legality of this practice.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil's Lula Keeps Solid Ratings

August 23, 2010

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva remains highly popular, according to a poll by Ibope. 78 per cent of respondents say Lula's performance has been good or very good, up three points since June.

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 Jul. 30, Lula stepped into an international controversy by offering asylum to Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, an Iranian woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. Lula declared: "If my friendship and affection for the President of Iran matters, and if this woman is causing problems there, we will welcome her here in Brazil."

The Iranian government replied by saying that Lula's government is "influenced by Western propaganda."

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

Polling Data

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

	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Good / Very Good	78%	75%	76%
Fair	18%	20%	18%
Bad / Very Bad	4%	5%	5%

Source: Ibope

Methodology: Interviews with 2,506 Brazilian adults, conducted from Aug. 12 to Aug. 15, 2010.

Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Almost Two Thirds of Peruvians Dismiss Garcia

August 23, 2010

Most people in Peru continue to disapprove of President Alan García's performance, according to a poll by Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado published in *El Comercio*. 63 per cent of respondents express dissatisfaction with García's leadership, down two points since July.

In June 2006, García—a member of the American Revolutionary People's Alliance (APRA)—won Peru's presidential election in a run-off against nationalist Ollanta Humala of the Union for Peru (UP). In July, García officially took over as president. He had previously served as Peru's head of state from 1985 to 1990, when he oversaw a major economic crisis.

In October 2008, García accepted the resignation of his entire cabinet following allegations of corruption related to oil concessions. Leftist politician and Lambayeque region president Yehude Simón took over as Peru's new prime minister.

In June 2009, Simón acknowledged his failure in handling an indigenous uprising in the Amazon region in reaction to new government mining and resource-exploitation laws, and tendered his resignation. Simón was replaced by Congress president Javier Velásquez in a new cabinet shuffle.

Earlier this month, García expressed support for the death penalty for child rapists and murderers, declaring, "The rape of a little boy causing his death is such an awful crime that has to be chastened by killing not only the criminal but showing their heads to society. There are certain crimes that must be paid with the criminal's life."

The next presidential and congressional elections are scheduled for Apr. 10, 2011. García is constitutionally barred from seeking a consecutive term in office.

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of Alan García's performance as president?

Aug. 2010	Jul. 2010	Jun. 2010	May 2010
-----------	-----------	-----------	----------

Approve	31%	30%	27%	26%
Disapprove	63%	65%	69%	69%

Source: Ipsos, Apoyo, Opinión y Mercado / El Comercio

Methodology: Interviews with 1,200 Peruvian adults, conducted from Aug. 11 and Aug. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 2.8 per cent.

Argentines Expect Néstor Kirchner Comeback

August 23, 2010

Most people in Argentina think former president Néstor Kirchner—also the husband of current president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner—will run for office in the 2011 election, according to a poll by Poliarquía Consultores. 54 per cent of respondents expect Kirchner to be the ruling party's candidate.

Conversely, 32 per cent of respondents think Fernández de Kirchner will seek her re-election.

In October 2007, Fernández de Kirchner won the presidential election with 44.9 per cent of the vote as the candidate for the Front for Victory (FV). In December, Mrs. Kirchner succeeded her husband as Argentina's head of state. The outgoing president was praised for fostering an economic recovery after a major crisis in 2002. Fernández de Kirchner vowed to address poverty and carry on with her husband's fiscal policies.

The FV has not confirmed whether Cristina or Néstor will run for office in the 2011 presidential election.

Earlier this month, former president Kirchner commented on the possibility of him or his wife being becoming the FV candidate next year, declaring, "There may be penguin, female penguin."

Polling Data

Who do you think will be the ruling party's candidate in the 2011 presidential election?

Néstor Kirchner	54%
Cristina Fernández de Kirchner	32%
Not sure	14%

Source: Poliarquía Consultores

Methodology: Interviews with 1,000 Argentine adults, conducted from Aug. 4 to Aug. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3.2 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Majorities of Americans and Britons Believe the War in Iraq Was a Mistake

August 28, 2010

Only about one-in-four respondents in the two countries expect Iraq to become more stable once foreign troops leave.

People in the United States and Britain regret the decision of their respective governments to engage militarily in Iraq in 2003, and are now more likely to brand the war as a failure rather than as a success, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples of 1,011 American and 2,006 British adults also finds that at least two thirds of respondents in the two countries agree with the argument that taking action against Saddam Hussein despite the absence of weapons of mass destruction was the right thing to do.

The War in Iraq

Only 23 per cent of Americans believe the war in Iraq was success, along with 12 per cent of Britons.

Conversely, two-in-five Americans (45%) and three-in-five Britons (63%) think the conflict was a failure.

Half of Americans (52%) believe their government made a mistake in launching military action against Iraq in 2003.

Two-thirds of Britons (66%) also chide their own government's decision to support and participate in the war.

Recently, British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg stated that the legality of the Iraq War “has never been proven.” More than half of Americans (55%) and almost three-in-four Britons (73%) share the same point of view.

Large majorities of respondents in the U.S. (63%) and Britain (70%) believe that the Iraq War negatively affected the position and image of their respective countries in the world.

Iraq's Past and Future

A large proportion of Americans (73%) and Britons (69%) side with one of the arguments offered by supporters of the war since 2005: "Removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right thing to do, even if his regime did not possess weapons of mass destruction."

Americans (42%) are more likely than Britons (33%) to claim that the people of Iraq are better off now than when Saddam Hussein was in power. More Britons (21%) than Americans (12%) believe that Iraqis are worse off now than before the war began.

Only 23 per cent of respondents in the two countries believe Iraq will become more stable once foreign troops leave.

The Politicians

For the most part, Britons are dissatisfied with the performance of two prime ministers during the war. Two thirds of respondents (67%) disapprove of the way Tony Blair handed the conflict, and three-in-five (59%) feel the same way about Gordon Brown.

In the United States, a majority of respondents (62%) disapprove of the way President George W. Bush handled the war. The views are more nuanced for current head of state Barack Obama (Approve 50%, Disapprove 40%).

Analysis

The survey shows that the two countries remain troubled by some of the decisions that were made before the Iraq War began. Both Britons and Americans regret the decision to launch military action, but people in the U.S. are not as eager as those in Britain to label the war as a failure.

Former prime ministers Blair and Brown get poor marks from Britons, while the core support for Bush comes from Republicans (67% approve of the way he handled the Iraq War during his presidency). Obama's performance on Iraq gets praise from Democrats and a scathing review from Republicans. Independents are more likely to disapprove of the current White House dweller on this file (48%) than to approve (42%).

Canadians Hold Better View of Obama's Performance than Britons

August 24, 2010

Seven-in-ten Canadians believe the American president deserves to be re-elected in 2012, but under half of Britons agree.

Canadians hold a much more positive view of United States President Barack Obama than Britons, a new two-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of representative national samples of 1,010 Canadian and 2,012 British adults, 61 per cent of respondents in Canada say Obama's performance so far has been just what they expected. Fewer people in Britain agree (51%).

In Canada, 14 per cent of respondents say Obama's performance has exceeded their expectations, while 18 per cent say they have been disappointed by it. In Britain, these perceptions sit at 13 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively.

Three-in-ten Canadians (30%) say the American president has accomplished much since his term started in January 2009. But only 12 per cent of British respondents agree with this assessment. And while only 15 per cent of Canadians think Obama has achieved little, this proportion rises to 25 per cent in Britain.

A large proportion of people in both countries (CAN 48%, BRI 54%) say it is too early to judge Obama's accomplishments.

Obama's Traits

When judging his personal character, a large majority of Canadians agree with the notion that Obama inspires hope (82%); that he represents a new brand of politics (74%); that he has made progress in bringing change to America (73%); and that he has worked across party lines to get things done (68%).

Many Canadians say the American president stands for big government (42%); around a third think he is inexperienced (37%), and see him as being more style than substance (32%). Only 11 per cent accuse Obama of being “too radical.”

In Britain, for the most part people grant positive reviews to Obama’s personal traits. A majority says he inspires hope (72%); represents a new brand of politics (64%); has made progress in bringing change to America (59%); and has gone beyond party lines to get things done (53%).

Half of Britons think Obama stands for big government. A large number (46%) say he is inexperienced, and 40 per cent say he is more style than substance. As was the case in Canada, few respondents (13%) call him “too radical.”

Nobel Peace Prize and Re-Election in 2012

In both Canada and Britain, respondents are inclined to say that Obama did not deserve to win the Nobel Peace Prize that he received last year. Half of Canadians (50%) and more than half of Britons (57%) share this point of view.

Canadians are much more likely to endorse Obama for a new term at the White House in 2012 (70%) than Britons (48%).

Canada, U.S. and Britain Reject Smoking Ban

August 23, 2010

Most people in the United States, Canada and Britain are against legislation that would completely ban smoking, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 61 per cent of Americans, 47 per cent of Canadians and 54 per cent of Britons share this point of view.

British respondents are more likely than Canadians (only slightly) and Americans to express support for an outright ban on smoking.

These three countries have seen an increase in legislation banning smoking in public areas over the past few years.

In 2007, Britain introduced a new law raising the legal age for smoking to 18. Earlier this month, a report by researchers from the University College London revealed a seven per cent reduction in smoking among teens between the ages 16 and 18.

Dr. Jenny Fidler, a representative with Cancer Research UK, commented on the findings, saying, "This is good news for the future health of this generation of young people and shows that tobacco policies can make a real difference."

Polling Data

CAN - Do you support or oppose making smoking illegal in Canada?

USA - Do you support or oppose making smoking illegal in the United States?

BRI - Do you support or oppose making smoking illegal in the United Kingdom?

CAN	USA	BRI
-----	-----	-----

Support	37%	30%	39%
Oppose	57%	61%	54%
Not sure	6%	10%	6%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,000 Canadian adults, 1,013 American adults and 2,023 British adults, conducted from Jul. 27 to Aug. 2, 2010. Margins of error are 3.1 per cent for Canada and the U.S. and 2.2 per cent for Britain.

CYBER WORLD

Older Adults and Social Media

August 27, 2010

Social networking use among internet users ages 50 and older has nearly doubled -- from 22% to 42% over the past year.

While social media use has grown dramatically across all age groups, older users have been especially enthusiastic over the past year about embracing new networking tools. Although email continues to be the primary way that older users maintain contact with friends, families and colleagues, many users now rely on social network platforms to help manage their daily communications -- sharing links, photos, videos, news and status updates with a growing network of contacts.

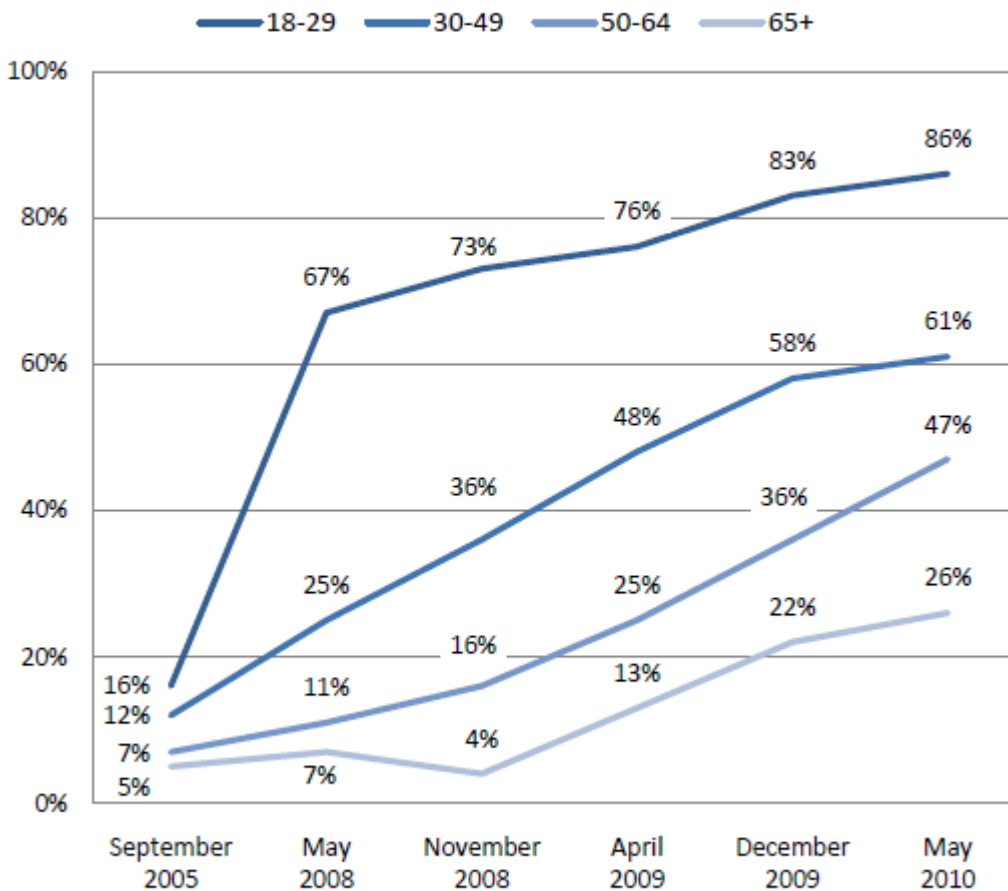
Half (47%) of internet users ages 50-64 and one-in-four (26%) users ages 65 and older now use social networking sites.

Half of online adults ages 50-64 and one-in-four wired seniors now count themselves among the Facebooking and LinkedIn masses. That's up from just 25% of online adults ages 50-64 and 13% of those ages 65 and older who reported social networking use one year ago in a survey conducted in April 2009.

Young adult internet users ages 18-29 continue to be the heaviest users of social networking sites like Facebook and LinkedIn, with 86% saying they use the sites. However, over the past year, their growth paled in comparison with the gains made by older users. Between April 2009 and May 2010, internet users ages 50-64 who said they use a social networking site like MySpace, Facebook or LinkedIn grew 88% and those ages 65 and older grew 100% in their adoption of the sites, compared with a growth rate of 13% for those ages 18-29.

Social networking use continues to grow among older users

The percentage of adult internet users who use social networking sites in each age group



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project Surveys, September 2005 - May, 2010. All surveys are of adults 18 and older.

One-in-ten (11%) online adults ages 50-64 and one-in-twenty (5%) online adults ages 65 and older now say they use Twitter or another service to share updates about themselves or see updates about others.

The use of Twitter and other services to share status updates has also grown among older users -- most notably among those ages 50-64. While just 5% of users ages 50-64 had used Twitter or another status-update service in 2009, 11% now say they use these tools. On a typical day, 6% of online adults ages 50-64 make Twitter a part of their routine, up from the 1% who did so in 2009.

By comparison, social networking sites have gained a much larger foothold in the lives of older Americans over time. One-in-five (20%) online adults ages 50-64 say they use social networking sites on a typical day, up from 10% one year ago. Likewise, 13% of online adults ages 65 and older log on to social networking sites, compared with just 4% who did so in 2009.

Email and online news are still more appealing to older users, but social media sites attract many repeat visitors.

While email may be falling out of favor with today's teenagers, older adults still rely on it heavily as an essential tool for their daily communications. Overall, 92% of those ages 50-64 and 89% of those ages 65 and older send or read email and more than half of each group exchanges email messages on a typical day. Online news gathering also ranks highly in the daily media habits of older adults; 76% of internet users ages 50-64 get news online, and 42% do so on a typical day. Among internet users ages 65 and older, 62% look for news online and 34% do so on a typical day.

Social media properties -- including networking and status-update sites -- are newer additions to the daily digital diet of older adults. Yet, the "stickiness" of the sites is notable. To look at the data another way, among the pool of adults ages 50 and older who use social networking sites, 44% used them on the day prior to their being contacted for our survey.

The pool of Twitter and status update users ages 50 and older is too small to segment, but the behavior of this limited early adopter group does suggest a similar tendency towards regular use of the sites.

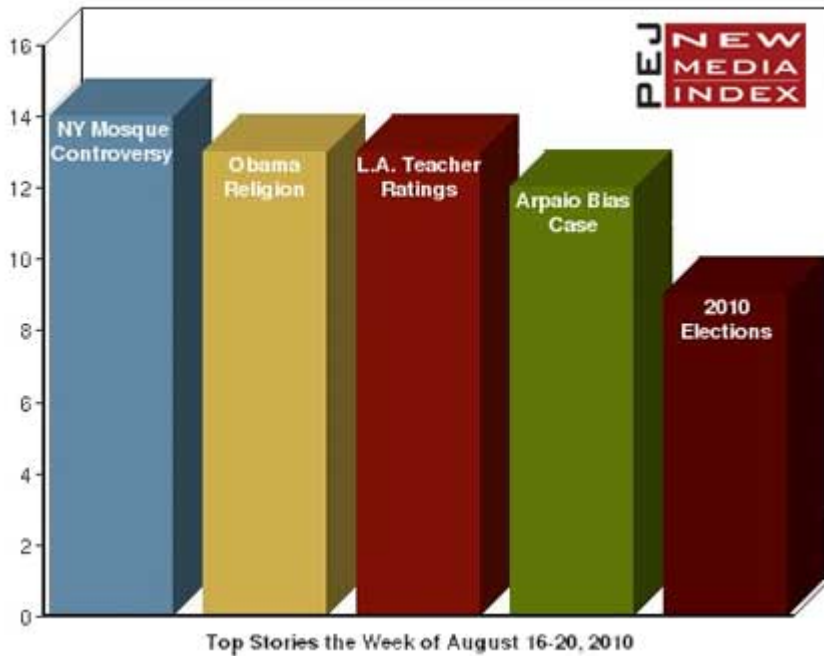
By comparison, less than half of online banking users ages 50 and older visited the sites on a typical day and less than one-in-five older users of online classified sites reported use of the sites "yesterday."

Blogs Debate New York Mosque

August 26, 2010

For the second week in a row, the debate over a planned mosque near the World Trade Center site raged in the blogosphere. But this time, a different set of voices dominated the conversation.

Bloggers Discuss Perceptions of Islam



From Aug. 16-20, 14% of the news links on blogs were about the mosque controversy, according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

One week earlier, the same topic was the second biggest story in the blogosphere (18% of the links), in that case, the commentary was dominated by anti-mosque voices.

But last week, bloggers in support of the planned mosque rose up. Most responded to a column by Charles Krauthammer who argued that the center should be located elsewhere for "reasons of common decency and respect for the sacred." These bloggers disagreed and felt cultural sensitivity is trumped by the legal right of Muslims.

"Rights are not symbolic abstractions," wrote Maha on Mahablog. "A right that cannot be exercised is not a right. Krauthammer and others on the Right keep saying they don't dispute the right to build the Islamic Center on private property, but are saying the Center shouldn't be built."

An anonymous blogger on MyBrainItches seconded that sentiment "We allow you the right to practice your religion and will allow it to you under the laws of our land. That's who we are and we need to show a higher class of citizenship."

Other bloggers attacked the underlying premise of Krauthammer's article: that the cultural center would be too close to Ground Zero for comfort.

"Those Americans who oppose the plans to build an Islamic community center at 45-51 Park Place seem to tie all Muslims to the September 11th attacks," Hector Luis Alamo, Jr. wrote at

Young Observers. "Their fear and misunderstanding of the issue was exemplified by the columnist for The Washington Post Charles Krauthammer when he likened the proposal of an Islamic community center in Lower Manhattan to a Japanese cultural center at Pearl Harbor, a German cultural center at Treblinka, or even a "commercial tower over Gettysburg."

One of the few anti-mosque bloggers who commented last week questioned the wisdom of protecting all types of religious establishment under the law.

"Under the First Amendment defense, should not more radical Islamic views be protected as well?" Brian Castner wrote on the Buffalo Repat blog at WNYmedia.net. "I don't even mean Al Qaeda, or a front for Hamas providing materiel support (both illegal). I just mean the occasional fiery speech supporting strict Sharia law. Where is the line? If less than moderate Muslims preaching at this site gives you pause, then we are not so far apart."

The mosque debate also resonated on YouTube last week where the third most viewed video featured MSNBC host Keith Olbermann arguing for keeping the project near Ground Zero.

And it topped the mainstream news agenda last week as well, accounting for 15% of the newshole in PEJ's News Coverage Index from August 16-22. On the ideological and debate-oriented cable and talk radio programs, it filled a striking 45% of the airtime studied. The commentary on these programs, though, was more mixed on both sides of the controversy.

One area of similarity between the social and mainstream media was an analysis of the semantics of the dispute. Some of the newspaper and network news reporting, in particular, was devoted to examining the mosque's proximity to the World Trade Center site and questioning whether the term "Ground Zero mosque" was accurate. That was also a thread picked up by a significant number of bloggers last week. Hector Luis Alamo declared, for instance, "Bigotry and Islamophobia are bolstering the opposition to the planned Park51 center, misleadingly described as the "Ground Zero mosque" by much of the media."

Tied for the No. 2 spot on blogs (13% of the links) was a poll about President Obama's religious orientation by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Taken before President Obama's Aug. 15 comments endorsing religious freedom -- the poll found the percentage of Americans who think Obama is a Muslim had grown to 18%, up from 11% in March 2009.

On Twitter last week an article sounding the death knell for the World Wide Web generated the most attention by far.

U.K: Students live life online

81% of full time students who have internet access use it to watch TV, compared to a national average of 30% of British adults online.

August 25, 2010

The report produced in conjunction with studentbeans.com showed that 15% of students say they spend over 5 hours online each day, excluding time spent studying.

It also shows students moving away from traditional viewing habits, with them fully embracing online television.

81% of full time students who have internet access use it to watch TV, compared to a national average of 30% of British adults online.

Of those students who watch TV online, BBC iPlayer is the most popular choice (52%), followed by 4oD (25%), whilst YouTube accounts for 13% of student viewing online.

Almost three quarters of respondents (71%) watch up to two hours of television online every day, whilst 22% spend over two hours catching up with TV programmes online.

Commenting on the findings within the report Research Director for YouGov SixthSense, James McCoy said, “It is to be expected that young people, and students in particular, are more tech savvy than the average person. Saying that, I don’t think anyone could have predicted such a discrepancy to exist between the number of students watching TV online and the average across all groups.”

Online radio, however, has not had the same take up rate as online television. 40% of students do not listen to live radio via a traditional analogue radio or a DAB radio, while 62% of students say they don’t listen to the radio online.

Speaking on the low use of online radio amongst students, McCoy said, “This could be partly explained by the growth of streaming services such as Spotify and we7 – both of which have several million users in the UK.”