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Prelude

This week report consists of 20 surveys. Two of these are multi-country surveys while the rest are national surveys.

Commentary: Religiosity Highest in World's Poorest Nations

United States is among the rich countries that buck the trend

by Steve Crabtree

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Gallup surveys in 114 countries in 2009 show that religion continues to play an important role in many people's lives worldwide. The global median proportion of adults who say religion is an important part of their daily lives is 84%, unchanged from what Gallup has found in other years. In 10 countries and areas, at least 98% say religion is important in their daily lives.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

	Yes
Bangladesh	99%+
Niger	99%+
Yemen	99%
Indonesia	99%
Malawi	99%
Sri Lanka	99%
Somaliland region	98%
Djibouti	98%
Mauritania	98%
Burundi	98%

2009

GALLUP®

Each of the most religious countries is relatively poor, with a per-capita GDP below \$5,000. This reflects the strong relationship between a country's socioeconomic status and the religiosity of its residents. In the world's poorest countries -- those with average per-capita incomes of \$2,000 or lower -- the median proportion who say religion is important in their daily lives is 95%. In contrast, the median for the richest countries -- those with average per-capita incomes higher than \$25,000 -- is 47%.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

Median responses among countries at each per-capita income level

Per-capita income	Yes	No
\$0-\$2,000	95%	5%
\$2,001-\$5,000	92%	7%
\$5,001-\$12,500	82%	17%
\$12,501-\$25,000	70%	28%
\$25,001+	47%	52%

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The United States is one of the rich countries that bucks the trend. About two-thirds of Americans -- 65% -- say religion is important in their daily lives. Among high-income countries, only Italians, Greeks, Singaporeans, and residents of the oil-rich Persian Gulf states are more likely to say religion is important.

Most high-income countries are further down the religiosity spectrum. In 10 countries, no more than 34% of residents say religion is an important part of their daily lives. Six of those are developed countries in Europe and Asia with per-capita incomes greater than \$25,000.

In three of the four lower income countries on the list -- Estonia, Russia, and Belarus -- the Soviet government restricted religious expression for decades until the U.S.S.R.'s collapse in 1991. The final country is Vietnam, where the government also has a history of limiting religious practice.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

	Yes
Estonia	16%
Sweden	17%
Denmark	19%
Japan	24%
Hong Kong	24%
United Kingdom	27%
Vietnam	30%
France	30%
Russia	34%
Belarus	34%

2009

GALLUP®

Implications

Social scientists have put forth numerous possible explanations for the relationship between the religiosity of a population and its average income level. One theory is that religion plays a more functional role in the world's poorest countries, helping many residents cope with a daily struggle to provide for themselves and their families. A previous Gallup analysis supports this idea, revealing that the relationship between religiosity and emotional wellbeing is stronger among poor countries than among those in the developed world.

SOURCE: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/142727/religiosity-highest-world-poorest-nations.aspx>

Summary of Polls

MIDDLE EAST

Attitude Factors in the Search for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (An Article)

The writer sees various hurdles in dialogues between Israel & Palestine. He mentions the environment of distrust on both side of the fence, presence of extremist political groups on both sides and desire for greater role by U.S. in the peace process as some of the most important factors that shape the attitude towards the peace process.

Two Third Of Palestinians Support Direct Negotiations But Conditional

A recent survey of Palestinians shows that a two third majority of Palestinians support conditional direct negotiations with Israel while less than one in ten support unconditional direct negotiations.

28 August 2010

EAST EUROPE

Russia: Abnormal Heat Or People? Who Is To Blame For Wildfires?

Russians divided over the reasons for wildfires this summer. A small majority of 43% say the main reason behind wildfires is natural disasters. While other 38% blame people who damage forests and only 11% put the blame on the authorities.

August 30, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Shift from New Labour 'backed by poll findings'

A YouGov poll commissioned by Mr Miliband's campaign team found 72% of those considering voting Labour would be less likely to do so if the new leader adopted this position. But "moving on" from New Labour made 47% more likely to support the party.

September 04, 2010

United Kingdom: MediaCT Light Bites: More Good News For Digital Print

The latest set of National Readership Survey (NRS) results published on 27 August shows that the nation is increasingly embracing technology and the digital world.

August 31, 2010

Unemployment is Biggest Economic Concern for Britons

The vast majority of people in Britain think the national economy is in poor shape and few expect a swift recovery, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 29, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Public Divided Over Tone of Mosque Fight

No one story dominated the public's news interest last week, as several story lines -- including the debate over a mosque near Ground Zero in New York and the recall of hundreds of millions of eggs -- vied for Americans' attention.

September 1, 2010

Americans Most Likely to Favor GOP Newcomers for Congress

It appears that the best type of candidate to be this fall is a Republican challenger. Given a choice of four hypothetical candidates of differing party affiliations and experience, Americans are most likely to prefer "a Republican who has not served in Congress." Those who would prefer a Democratic candidate opt for an incumbent over a newcomer.

September 03, 2010

Blacks, Young Voters Not Poised for High Turnout on Nov. 2

in contrast to 2008, when whites and blacks were about equally likely to say they were giving "quite a lot of" or "some" thought to the presidential election, whites are much more likely than blacks to be thinking about the 2010 elections: 42% vs. 25%, a gap exceeding those from recent midterm elections.

September 3, 2010

Anti-Democratic Sentiment Aids GOP Lead in 2010 Vote

The Republicans' lead in the congressional generic ballot over the past month may be due as much to voters' rejecting the Democrats as embracing the Republicans. Among voters backing Republican candidates, 44% say their preference is "more a vote against the Democratic candidate," while 48% say it is "more a vote for the Republican candidate."

September 3, 2010

U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply Since Mid-Decade

The annual inflow of unauthorized immigrants to the United States was nearly two-thirds smaller in the March 2007 to March 2009 period than it had been from March 2000 to March 2005, according to new estimates by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

September 1, 2010

Most 'Re-employed' Workers Say They're Overqualified for Their New Job

Workers who suffered a spell of unemployment during Great Recession are, on average, less satisfied with their new jobs than workers who didn't. They are more likely to consider themselves over-qualified for their current position.

September 02, 2010

Republicans Hold Wide Lead in Key Voter Turnout Measure

Two months before this year's midterm congressional elections, Gallup finds 54% of Republicans, compared with 30% of Democrats, already saying they have given "quite a lot of" or "some" thought to the contests.

September 2, 2010

Republicans Remain Disproportionately White and Religious

About 9 out of 10 Republicans are non-Hispanic whites, and more than half of these are highly religious. That compares with 62% of the Democratic rank-and-file that is white and largely less religious, with blacks and Hispanics making up a much more substantial part of that party's base.

September 1, 2010

Americans Give GOP Edge on Most Election Issues

A new *USA Today*/Gallup poll finds Americans saying the Republicans in Congress would do a better job than the Democrats in Congress of handling seven of nine key election issues. The parties are essentially tied on healthcare, with the environment being the lone Democratic strength.

September 1, 2010

British Columbians Troubled by Competing Pipeline Projects

People in British Columbia are not currently embracing either of the two proposals to transport crude from Alberta to facilitate its export to China and other Asian destinations, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

August 30, 2010

AUSTRALASIA

Unemployment on Decline in Australia

Roy Morgan survey shows that Unemployment in Australia declined in the month of August. However there has been decrease in full time employment and increase in part time employment.

September 02, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Religiosity Highest in World's Poorest Nations

Gallup surveys in 114 countries in 2009 show that religion continues to play an important role in many people's lives worldwide. The global median proportion of adults who say religion is an important part of their daily lives is 84%, unchanged from what Gallup has found in other years. The data shows a strong relationship between socio-economic conditions and religiosity in a country.

August 31, 2010

Mixed views on the long-term impact of independence

When, shortly after the declaration of independence, the Gallup Balkan Monitor asked people in Kosovo for their assessment of the territory's secession from Serbia, the verdict of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians was clear: 93% said that independence had turned out to be a good thing. Not surprisingly, Kosovo Serbs did not agree: hardly any of them shared that view and three-quarters (74%) took a totally opposite view, seeing Kosovo's independence as a bad thing. A year later, in 2009, the percentage of Kosovo Serbs giving such a negative assessment had risen by six percentage points to 80%. In parallel, fewer Kosovo Albanians now thought that independence had turned out well: down 18 percentage points to 75%.

July 2010

CYBER WORLD

Blogs Continue Islamic Center Debate

To a degree not seen in the mainstream press, the controversy over the lower Manhattan Islamic center has touched a raw nerve in the social media. Indeed, Aug. 23-27 marked the third straight week that the intersection of politics, religion,

terrorism and 9/11 memories has made the issue one of the top subjects in the blogosphere.

September 2, 2010

Adults, Cell Phones and Texting

Texting by adults has increased over the past nine months from 65% of adults sending and receiving texts in September 2009 to 72% texting in May 2010. Still, adults do not send nearly the same number of texts per day as teens ages 12-17, who send and receive, on average, five times more texts per day than adult texters.

September 2, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Attitude Factors in the Search for Israeli-Palestinian Peace:

A Comprehensive Review of Recent Polls

By Alvin Richman

The author served for thirty-six years as a senior analyst in the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Information Agency reporting on American and foreign public opinion and now works as a private public opinion analyst and consultant.

Both the Israeli and Palestinian publics want to reach a peace agreement, but both sides deeply distrust the other and are pessimistic that negotiations will soon resolve their conflict. Negotiators on both sides also are constrained by extremists opposed to major Israeli-Palestinian compromises – Hamas which favors a posture of “resistance” to Israel, and the Israeli settler movement which opposes yielding territory or settlements to the Palestinians.

One of the most telling measures of the Israeli and Palestinian publics’ mutual desire for an accord – besides both sides predominant support of the Middle East peace process – are their attitudes toward a U.S. mediating role. Both Israelis and Palestinians mainly favor a *stronger* U.S. role in the peace process, because the U.S. is seen as a key to reaching an agreement, even though each side perceives the U.S. as partial to the other. There is a growing consensus among Middle East observers that the United States will have to present Israeli and Palestinian negotiators with a two-state peace plan, including at least the basic parameters for resolving the most critical issues – borders/settlements, Jerusalem/Holy Sites, security arrangements and refugees/compensation.

Among the various issues dividing Israelis and Palestinians, the future of Jerusalem appears to be the most difficult to resolve: Not only is the issue of Jerusalem ranked a high priority by both publics – and therefore relatively difficult ground on which to make concessions – but also each proposal tested to resolve this issue was predominantly opposed by both Israelis and Palestinians. These findings are based on analyses of several sets of simultaneous, dual-sample surveys of the Israeli and Palestinian publics taken in 2009 and 2010 which measured support for more than two dozen specific proposals covering eight major issues.

Two Third Of Palestinians Support Direct Negotiations But Conditional

Results of an Opinion Poll: The Middle East Peace Process: Opportunity in Face of Despair,
Results of a Comprehensive Survey , Dated: 28 August 2010

Publication Date: 28 August 2010

Field work: 8-14 August 2010

Sample Size: 3,001 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza

Margin of error: +1.5 %

Highlights:

- 65 percent of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza support direct negotiations based on a settlements freeze and international guarantees; only 8 percent support unconditional direct negotiations.
- Palestinians blame American (inaction), Israeli (lack of recognition of Palestinian rights) and Palestinian (internal division) for lack of progress in the peace process.
- 62 percent support, accept or tolerate a two-state solution.
- 88 percent strongly believe that Palestinian refugees have the right for (return and compensation), but 64 percent could live with a solution where refugees return to the Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.
- 66 percent are willing to accept or tolerate an equivalent swap of land as part of a broader agreement.
- Palestinians are equally split over the division of Jerusalem to East and West based on the 1967 borders.
- 95 percent consider a comprehensive peace agreement, if implemented, as the end of the conflict.
- 56 percent believe that only peaceful means are the best means to end the occupation.
- 58 percent believe that Palestinians and Israelis have a chance to coexist and live side by side.

The Arab World for Research and Development completed a comprehensive survey among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The survey gauged the opinions of 3000 adult Palestinians on issues related to the peace process. The survey comes at a critical juncture, as the Palestinian and Israeli governments prepare to resume direct talks for the first time in 20 months.

Negotiations will occur as the Israeli government settlement moratorium comes to a close, and will face significant challenges on longstanding and sensitive issues such as the status of Jerusalem and refugees.

The latest survey by AWRAD shows a Palestinian commitment to peace and coexistence, and provides a glimpse of hope and realism within desperation and entanglement. The survey reveals three levels of interrelated opinions that reside within the psyche of the majority of Palestinians:

- Intellectual and emotional commitment to the principles of justice exemplified in holding into what they believe to be the true narrative of modern Palestinian history.
- Recognition of the desperate political context and the widespread perception of deterioration with no signs of real change for the better,
- Rising from the ashes to a middle ground between (dream and desperation), within a forward – looking interpretation of reality (exemplified by commitment to a peace process, negotiations, a two-state solution and long term coexistence based on parity).

A. Commitment to ideals will live on

The survey shows that Palestinians will not surrender their narrative of the conflict, and will not give up on their ideals emotionally and intellectually. They will, as long as the current conditions prevail, hold into their principles in respect to Palestine. For example1:

- 91 percent of the respondents will say that historic Palestine—from the Jordan River to the sea—as the national homeland of the Palestinians is essential or desirable.
- 94 percent find that the right of return and compensation is essential or desirable.
- 93 percent believe that it is essential or desirable that Palestine has an army.
- 97 percent believe that all the settlers should leave the Occupied Territories and settlements should be closed.
- 94 percent regard that all of Jerusalem—East and West—should remain a part of Palestine.
- 93 percent believe that East Jerusalem, with all of its holy sites, should stay under Palestinian sovereignty.

B. Dreams in the midst of desperation

The survey shows that Palestinians have no illusions about the peace process. They do not have high expectations for peace process negotiations that have been taking place intermittently since 1991—almost 20 years. They have no trust in the parties that have been involved in this process. For example:

- As to the responsibility for the lack of progress in the peace process, an equal percentage of respondents (about 82 percent) blame the American lack of commitment, an Israeli lack of desire for peace, and Palestinian internal division.
- Other parties such the United Nations, the EU, and the Arab League are also blamed.
- In comparing the high percentage of those who believe that historic Palestine is the right of the Palestinians, only 10 percent believe that historic Palestine is likely to be achieved within the coming ten years. About the same percentage (9 percent) believes that a two state solution will likely to take place. Minimal expectations exist for a one-state solution.

The largest group of respondents (38 percent) believes that the status quo will continue.

At the same time, 27 percent believe that the situation will deteriorate.

- While 94 percent believe that the right of return and compensation is the best solution, only 12 percent believe that it is likely to be implemented within the coming ten years. About 46 percent believe that the status quo will continue and 22 percent believe that the situation regarding reaching a just solution for refugees will deteriorate.

- The same pattern applies to the issue of settlements, as the desires clash with expectations, where only 13 percent believe that all settlers are likely to leave within the coming ten years. About 39 percent believe that the status quo will continue and 32 percent believe that the situation regarding the settlements will deteriorate.

- Only 9 percent believe that East and West Jerusalem is likely to be under the sovereignty of the Palestinians within the coming ten years. About 38 percent believe that the status quo for Jerusalem will continue and 33 percent believe that the situation regarding Jerusalem will deteriorate.

- Only 15 percent believe that Israel will withdraw from the 1967 areas within the coming ten years.

C. Commitment to peace and coexistence

In spite of longstanding principals and a desperate reality, Palestinians show commitment to peace and coexistence:

- 95 percent of respondents believe that a peace agreement, when reached and enforced, will be the end of the conflict between the two peoples.

- 77 percent support a decision by President Abbas to engage in negotiations with conditions or without conditions. About 45 percent support negotiations on the conditions of a settlement freeze and international assurances. About 11 percent want to start negotiations only if there is a freeze on settlements. Another 9 percent want negotiations only under international assurances and a timetable. About 8 percent support negotiations without any conditions. About 22 percent do not support any direct negotiations.

- As much as 56 percent believe that only peaceful means are the best means to end the occupation; 35 percent believe that negotiations are the best means to establish a Palestinian state and 19 percent believe that non-violent uprising is the best means. About 26 percent believe that attacks on soldiers and settlers within the Occupied Territories are the best means to end the occupation. Less than 7 percent believe that suicide attacks against civilians are the best means. Another 6 percent believe that attacks against soldiers only are the best means.

- In spite of the desperation and disillusionment, Palestinians are hopeful that negotiators will lead to a Palestinian state. When asked if negotiations will ever lead to a sovereign

Palestinian state in the WBG, 18 percent said yes and 47 percent said maybe. In contrast, 32 percent do not believe that negotiations will ever lead to a sovereign Palestinian state.

- Even with the dismal prevailing conditions, as much as 58 percent believe that Palestinians and Israelis have a chance to coexist and live side by side. In contrast, 42 percent disagree.

D. Realistic solutions and scenarios

When provided with specific proposals, Palestinians provided realistic assessments of the situation and the future scenarios. This section will provide scenarios that are deemed to be within the reach of Palestinians within the current international resolutions and realities. In this analysis, we add the percentages of those who support, accept or tolerate such scenarios and compare them to the percentages of those who find these scenarios unacceptable.

D-1 Palestinian State

- **One- joint state:** As much as 53 percent are willing to support, accept or consider the idea of one-joint state in which Israelis and Palestinians are equal citizens between the Jordanian River and the sea. In contrast, 47 percent find this unacceptable.

- **Two-State solution:** As much as 62 percent are willing to support, accept or consider a two-state solution as a resolution to the Palestinian–Israeli conflict. In contrast, 38 percent find that unacceptable.

- **Confederation:** A confederation with Jordan or Egypt is unacceptable to 64 percent of respondents.

D-2 Refugees

- **Compensation without right of return:** About 68 percent of the general public in the WBG find compensation without the right of return to be unacceptable.

- **Limited numbers into Israel:** About 60 percent find that restricting the number of returnees to only family members to be unacceptable.

- **Closing the camps:** 51 percent do not support a scenario whereby the UN will close the refugee camps and resettle refugees with compensation outside of Israel. About 49 percent are willing—to varying degrees—to consider this option.

- **Right of return without compensation:** As much as 66 percent are willing to consider a scenario where refugees are given the right of return but not compensation. In contrast, 34 percent find this unacceptable.

- **Provide refugees with options:** 71 percent will consider a scenario where refugees are given a choice of either compensation if they do not wish to return, but with a choice of being resettled in the WBG or any other Arab country. About 29 percent find that unacceptable.

D-3 Security

Palestinians are willing to consider a number of scenarios in the field of security, especially which involve international and regional involvement:

- **Israeli presence in the Palestinian state:** 58 percent find it unacceptable to have Israeli observation posts within the Palestinian state even for agreed period. About 42 are willing to consider this option.
- **Israeli access to Jordanian borders:** 50 percent would be willing consider security access by Israel to the Jordan borders for agreed period.
- **International and regional presence:** 77 percent of respondents are willing to consider the presence of an international, regional, or Arab force as a replacement of the Israeli military in the Occupied Territories for agreed period within a signed peace agreement. About 23 percent find that unacceptable.
- **Transition to full Palestinian responsibility:** 84 percent are willing to consider a transition to full Palestinian control of internal security under the supervision of an international-Arab force. Only 16 percent find that unacceptable.
- **Borders with Jordan:** 78 percent find it acceptable or tolerable that an international force is placed on the Jordanian borders to ensure security. About 22 percent find that unacceptable.

D-4 Settlements

The majority of Palestinians are not compromising on the issue of settlements.

- **Taking up Palestinian citizenship:** 55 percent find it unacceptable that settlers who take up Palestinian citizenship be permitted to stay in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza). About 17 percent find that scenario tolerable. The remaining 28 percent find it acceptable, or desirable, or essential.
- **Moving settlers to large blocks:** 54 percent find it unacceptable that most settlements are dismantled, and settlers are moved to large blocks with exchange of land. About 18 percent find it tolerable and the remaining 28 percent find it acceptable, desirable, or essential.
- **Adjust borders without settlers:** If settlements are not mentioned, as much as 66 percent are willing to consider the adjustment of the 1967 borders through equivalent exchange of land. About 34 find that unacceptable.

D-5 Jerusalem

Jerusalem is very important to the Palestinians. That importance is somewhat elevated during the Ramadan fasting month, where spirituality and connection to holy sites are parts of the rituals of holy month. The poll was carried out two days before Ramadan and three days during the holy month.

- **Internationalization under multi-faith covenant:** As much as 61 percent are willing to support, accept or tolerate that Jerusalem is (internationalized as a city of peace under the authority of a multi-faith municipal covenant). About 39 percent find that unacceptable.
- **Internationalization under the UN:** About 51 percent would agree to a proposal to the internationalization of Jerusalem under the authority of the UN. Almost an equal percentage of the respondents find that unacceptable.
- **Division according to pre-1967:** Palestinians are divided over this scenario; 50 percent are willing to support and 50 percent find it unacceptable.
- **Current neighborhoods:** Dividing the city according to current Palestinian and Israeli neighborhoods is unacceptable to 54 percent of respondents, while 46 percent are willing to support or consider such a scenario.

D-6 Holy sites

- **Freedom of access:** 55 percent will support or consider a scenario that guarantees freedom of access to holy sites and—without granting either side sovereignty over any site—renders Palestine the guardian of Islamic holy sites, Israel the guardian of the Wailing Wall, and continues the status quo of the Christian holy sites. About 45 percent find that unacceptable.
- **Sovereignty by each side:** Almost 51 percent will support or consider Palestinian sovereignty over Christian and Muslim holy sites (including the Temple Mount) and Israeli sovereignty over the Wailing Wall. Almost an equal percentage (49 percent) finds that unacceptable.
- **Neutral body:** 52 percent find it unacceptable that a neutral body, such as the UN, be made the guardian of the holy sites. In contrast, 48 percent will support or consider such a scenario.

E. Implementation

For these scenarios to be implemented, a number of elements must come together.

- **Referendum:** 90 percent indicate (as essential or desirable) that any peace agreement be subject to a referendum by the people of Palestine.
- **Prisoners:** 97 percent find it essential or desirable that all Palestinian political prisoners be released from Israeli jails.
- **End of conflict:** 97 percent agree with the statement that a peace agreement will be the end of conflict between both parties and enforced by both.
- **International monitoring:** 94 percent will support or consider the idea that an international body acceptable to both parties will be established to monitor and enforce the full implementation of an agreement.

F. Confidence building

There are number of confidence building measures that are necessary, as perceived by Palestinian respondents.

- **Priority to checkpoints, settlements and the Wall:** Over 87 percent perceive that the removal of checkpoints, demolishing the Wall, and freezing settlement activities are all essential elements in rebuilding confidence. Most of the rest see all of that as desirable, acceptable or tolerable.
- **Lifting the closure of Gaza:** 80 percent perceive that the lifting of the closure imposed on Gaza by Israel and Egypt is essential to rebuild confidence in the peace process. In addition, 18 percent perceive that as desirable, acceptable or tolerable.
- **Prisoners:** 72 percent find that releasing Palestinian political prisoners as essential for the peace process, with 24 percent finding that as desirable, acceptable or tolerable.
- **The Obama administration:** About two thirds of respondents believe that it is essential for the Obama administration to place a high priority on Middle East peace. In addition, 30 percent find that to be desirable, acceptable or tolerable.
- **Unilateral ceasefire:** 37 percent believe that it is unacceptable for Palestinians to continue a unilateral ceasefire. In contrast, 63 percent will support or consider such a proposal.
- **Firing rockets:** 28 percent find it unacceptable to stop firing rockets from Gaza into Israel. In contrast, 63 percent will support or consider such a proposal.

G. The Mitchell Mission

- A majority of respondents (57 percent) say that proximity talks, led by Mr. George Mitchell, did not achieve any progress in the peace process. 20 percent believe that the situation has gotten worse.
 - About 14 percent believe that some progress was achieved.
 - About 21 percent of respondents believe that proximity talks should continue until a freeze on settlements is declared and enforced.
 - In contrast, 31 percent believe that direct negotiations are a better option.
 - About 38 percent are ambivalent, indicating that they do not care for negotiations at this stage as they make no difference.
 - Only 8 percent will accept negotiations without conditions, but 64 percent support direct negotiations with the conditions of a settlement freeze and international guarantees.
 - Around 22 percent will not support direct negotiations.
-

- About 32 percent support the Arab Initiative to be the frame of reference for negotiations, and 25 percent support that the UN resolutions are the reference. Only 13 percent believe that the Road Map should be the reference.

EAST EUROPE

Abnormal Heat Or People? Who Is To Blame For Wildfires?

Russians say the main reason behind wildfires is natural disasters (43%). Other 38% blame people. And only 11% put the blame on the authorities.

MOSCOW, August 30, 2010. Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) presents the data describing if Russians track the course of combating wildfires, what they think the main reasons for the disaster are, how they assess the performance of authorities in combating wildfires and what their suggestions for predicting such a disaster in the future are.

Almost all Russians (84%) tracked the course of fight against fires, including 40% of those who did so regularly and 44% - from time to time. Only 14% of respondents did not pay any attention to wildfire news. Those who track the course of fighting against fires are basically Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (50%), as well as those living in the Central Federal District of Russia (49%). Those aged 18-24 (21%), as well as residents of the Urals (21%), Far-Eastern (21%) and North Caucasus (20%) Districts of Russia showed no interest towards combating wildfires.

Russians say, the main reason behind this summer wildfires are summer heat and dry weather (43%); however, the same proportion of respondents (38%) blame people who damage forests by their irresponsible activities. Only every tenth (11%) think that the large-scale fires were resulted from authorities` inactivity (11%); most of those who think so are Muscovites and St.Petersburgians (24%), as well as residents of the Central Federal District of Russia (21%). Rarer respondents mentioned poor technical basis of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and fire prevention (6%), lack of control over forests (6%) and sabotage (6%).

Most Russians think the main responsibility for the spread of wildfires lies on the people themselves (40%). Every fourth (28%) blame government institutions which are in charge of fire prevention (Ministry of Natural Resources, Federal Forestry Agency and others), rarer - local (23%) and federal (22%) authorities. Few Russians (13%) consider that wildfires are natural disasters which cannot be predicted, thus no one is to blame for that. Those who oppose them are metropolitan residents blaming authorities, rather than people. Forty-one percent of metropolitan residents think that those who are in charge of preventing wildfires are special government institutions; 34% point out local authorities; 31% - regional authorities; 29% - federal authorities.

The authorities` efforts in combating wildfires are assessed by Russians at 3 points (average of 3.34 points out of 5). The most effective ones were the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Russian Fire Service (3.73 points); the least effective ones were local

authorities (2.99 points). Those who gave lowest assessment were residents of Saint Petersburg and Moscow (average of 2.8 points). The performance of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Fire Service were highly assessed by Far-Easterners (4.24 points) who also gave the highest assessment of the president's and government's performance (4.08). Those who highly evaluated the work of regional and local authorities are respondents residing in the Urals Federal District (3.41 and 3.49 respectively).

Russians report that the control over the forestry should be strengthened (14%) and the technical basis of the Fire Service as well as the Ministry of Emergency Situations (14%) should be improved to prevent large-scale wildfires in the future. Russians introduce the following measures to reduce the wildfire risk: to conduct preventive measures (10%), information campaigns among population (9%), and to toughen penalties for setting wildfires (9%). Russians also proposed to bring back the institution of forestry officer and voluntary fire brigade (8%), to extinguish fire more efficiently (5%), to establish order in the forests (3%) and irrigate peat bogs (2%). Some respondents think people should feel responsibility for fires and treat forests with care (5%). Many Russians were hard to point out any measures against wildfires (36%).

The initiative Russian opinion polls were conducted on August 21-22, 2010. 1600 respondents were interviewed at 140 sampling points in 42 regions of Russia. The margin of error does not exceed 3.4%.

Do you track the course of combating wildfires in our country? <i>(close-ended question, one answer)</i>						
	Total respondents	Age				
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60 and above
<i>Yes, regularly</i>	40	28	34	41	46	46
<i>Yes, from time to time</i>	44	48	45	45	42	40
<i>No</i>	14	21	18	10	10	12
<i>Hard to tell</i>	2	2	3	3	2	3

In your opinion, what are the main reasons behind this summer wildfires in Russia?
(open-ended question, not more than three answers)

<i>Heat, dry weather, lack of rains</i>	43
<i>People's negligence and irresponsibility</i>	38
<i>Inaction of authorities</i>	11
<i>Poor technical basis of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Fire Service, lack of qualified personnel</i>	6

<i>Sabotage</i>	6
<i>Lack of control over forests, reduced amount of forestry officers</i>	6
<i>Littered forests, landfills</i>	1
<i>Other</i>	1
<i>Hard to tell</i>	15

In your opinion, who is responsible for large-scale wildfires spread over all Russian territory?

(not more than two answers)

	Total respondents	Including residents of Moscow and St.Petersburg
<i>People themselves</i>	40	25
<i>Special government institutions (Ministry of Natural Recourses, Ministry of Emergency Situations et cet.)</i>	28	41
<i>Local authorities (city, town)</i>	23	34
<i>Federal authorities, Government</i>	22	29
<i>Regional authorities</i>	14	31
<i>No one; this is a natural disaster which cannot be predicted</i>	13	5
<i>Enterprises</i>	1	1
<i>Other</i>	1	0
<i>Hard to tell</i>	4	1

Could you assess the effectiveness of efforts in combating wildfires? (scale from 1 to 5; 1 - "very bad", 5 - "very good" (one answer per each position)

	In general, over all Russian territory	Central Federal District	North Western FD	Southern FD	Volga FD	Urals FD	Siberian FD	Far Eastern FD	North Caucasus FD
<i>Ministry of Emergency Situations, Fire Service</i>	3,73	3,78	3,75	3,20	3,73	3,89	3,58	4,24	3,96
<i>President, Government, Federal</i>	3,61	2,92	2,94	3,10	3,04	3,41	2,98	3,05	2,28

<i>authorities</i>									
<i>Regional authorities, head of regional authorities</i>	3,03	2,86	3,06	3,20	3,07	3,49	3,02	3,20	2,38
<i>Local authorities, major city/town</i>	2,99	3,54	3,58	3,47	3,69	3,73	3,44	4,08	3,72
<i>Average assessment</i>	3,34	3,28	3,33	3,24	3,38	3,63	3,25	3,64	3,09

In your opinion, what should be done to prevent large-scale wildfires in the future?
(open-ended question, not more than three answers)

<i>Strengthen control over forests</i>	14
<i>Improve technical basis of the Russian Fire Service, MES; increase the number of employees</i>	14
<i>Conduct preventive measures</i>	10
<i>Conduct information campaigns; teach fire safety</i>	9
<i>Toughen penalties for setting fires in the forests; make forests barred to the public</i>	9
<i>Bring back the institution of forestry officers and voluntary fire brigades</i>	8
<i>Be attentive and treat forests with care</i>	5
<i>Respond quickly in emergency situations</i>	5
<i>Establish order in the forests, remove litter</i>	3
<i>Irrigate peat bogs</i>	2
<i>Other</i>	2
<i>Hard to tell</i>	36

WEST EUROPE

Shift From New Labour 'Backed By Poll Findings'

September 04, 2010

Labour leadership challenger Ed Miliband has dismissed ex-PM Tony Blair's advice not to move a "millimetre" away from New Labour.

A YouGov poll commissioned by Mr Miliband's campaign team found 72% of those considering voting Labour would be less likely to do so if the new leader adopted this position.

But "moving on" from New Labour made 47% more likely to support the party.

The poll of more than 2,000 adults was completed over the last few days.

Mr Miliband said: "We must change to win. Not moving a millimetre from New Labour, as some have argued, is the path to another election defeat."

Mr Blair suggested in his memoirs, published on Wednesday, that Labour had lost the 2010 election because it had backed away from further New Labour reforms.

And in a recent interview with the BBC's Andrew Marr, Mr Blair suggested the party's best strategy was to "not move a millimetre from New Labour".

Similarly, Lord Mandelson said Labour could be left in an "electoral cul-de-sac" if Gordon Brown's successor tried to create a "pre-New Labour party".

He appeared to be referring to Mr Miliband in particular, in what was seen as a personal attack as the party's leadership contest enters its final stages.

But the Ed Miliband campaign poll found only 28% of respondents were more likely to vote for the party if the next leader took Mr Blair's advice.

Some 13% said they were less likely to vote for the party if it moved away from New Labour policies.

In an interview with the BBC, Mr Miliband said both Mr Blair and Gordon Brown had been "fantastic servants for our party and our country", but it was time to "move on from the New Labour establishment".

'Change to win'

He said the party had lost five million votes since its 1997 general election landslide, and Labour had to have the "courage to change" in order to win back power.

"The only way to win back the five million voters whose support we lost is to demonstrate that we have turned the page on New Labour and set out a new approach," he added.

Voting in the contest to succeed Gordon Brown is now open to Labour Party members, and members of affiliated trade unions and socialist societies. The winner will be announced on 25 September.

MediaCT Light Bites: More Good News For Digital Print

Date: 31 August 2010

Category: Comment & Analysis

Specialism: Ipsos MediaCT

The latest set of National Readership Survey (NRS) results published on 27 August (Q2 2010) shows that the nation is increasingly embracing technology and the digital world.

Comparing data from 3 years ago with current data, in the 12 months ending June 2007, under two-thirds (63%) of the population claimed to have accessed the Internet in the past 12 months, compared to three-quarters (74%) now. The survey measures the readership of just the print publications and in July, the NRS announced that it is embarking on a test to fuse publisher website audience data, collected from the Nielsen panel, to the NRS. This will potentially allow publishers to analyse the performance of their online platforms alongside, and in combination with, their print counterparts.

The NRS also asks about personal usage of technology items and enables the data users to classify technophiles, comprising around one in ten adults. These results show that, in the period April to June, around 3 in 10 adults (28%) claimed to have watched an HD TV channel at home in the past 12 months compared to 20% in the previous quarter – we know from external data that sales of HD TV sets soared in the lead-up to the World Cup.

The introduction of digital readers has been an important development for the publishing industry. Electronic readers e.g. Kindle and Sony ebook, Smartphones and tablets such as the Apple iPad, provide alternative platforms for reading newspapers and magazines and may herald a new dawn for print. Rupert Murdoch, Chief Executive and Chairman of News Corporation, said in April that Apple's new iPad had the potential to be "the saving of the newspaper industry." See also the Ipsos MediaCT thought piece: ['An iPad Revolution?'](#)

According to these latest NRS figures, around 8m adults (16% of the population) claimed to have used a Smartphone in the last 12 months and 1.2m adults (2%) have used an eReader. This latter figure is still relatively low as Kindles are predominantly sold in the US and it may be that the British are exhibiting a typically restrained enthusiasm for the device...for now. That said, at the end of 2009, Amazon announced that Kindle sales exceeded physical books. The NRS is hoping to publish its first set of iPad usage figures in February.

Unemployment is Biggest Economic Concern for Britons

August 29, 2010

Many people are pessimistic about the country's economic future.

The vast majority of people in Britain think the national economy is in poor shape and few expect a swift recovery, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 2,006 British adults, 86 per cent of respondents say the economy is in poor or very poor shape. Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) feel the same way about their own financial situation.

The results are consistent with the July Economic Panorama.

In the next six months, only 13 per cent of Britons think the economy will see a recovery. In contrast, 32 per cent of respondents think the situation will worsen further, and half (49%) expect things to remain the same.

A majority of Britons continue to believe that the recession will not be over until next year (21%) or after 2011 (45%).

Concerns, Inflation and Debt

Unemployment remains the top concern among Britons (40% have worried about it affecting their household in the past two months), followed by the value of investments (33%); the safety of savings (32%); being able to meet mortgage or rent payments (31%); and their employers facing serious financial problems (23%).

The vast majority of Britons expect petrol (87%) and grocery (84%) prices to go up. Many people also think that a new car (48%) and a new TV (38%) will cost more in the next six months. However, people have mixed feelings about property prices: 27 per cent say they will rise, but 30 per cent think they will fall.

Britons would mostly focus on paying debt and saving money if they had extra cash. Respondents were asked what they would do if they suddenly were given an extra £1,000. On average, people would allocate £259 to paying back debt; £202 to a savings bank account; £167 to cover daily expenses such as groceries; £121 towards a big purchase such as a car or a home improvement; £117 to pay for personal items such as gifts or a treat; £109 to invest in an ISA; and £26 to buy shares in a particular company.

The UK Economy Compared to Others

Many respondents say Britain's economy compares poorly with that of most other industrialized countries, including China (53%), Germany (49%, +12 compared to last month), Australia (46%), Japan (41%), Canada (43%), the United States (29%), and France (29%, +5).

Political Leadership

Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, remains the most trusted leader to handle the economy (51%). Prime Minister David Cameron is trusted by 47 per cent of Britons to make the right economic decisions (43% distrust him). Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has the confidence of 41 per cent of respondents (46% distrust him).

Fewer respondents express confidence in George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer (37%), and Labour Shadow Chancellor Alistair Darling (28%).

By a wide margin, the Conservatives remain favoured over Labour to rein in the national debt (57% to 18%), end the recession (44% to 25%), and control inflation (47% to 25%). Labour (38%) is slightly on top of the Tories (33%) in the category of creating jobs.

NORTH AMERICA

Public Divided Over Tone of Mosque Fight

September 1, 2010

No one story dominated the public's news interest last week, as several story lines -- including the debate over a mosque near Ground Zero in New York and the recall of hundreds of millions of eggs -- vied for Americans' attention.

News Interest vs. Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, August 26-29, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, August 23-29, 2010.

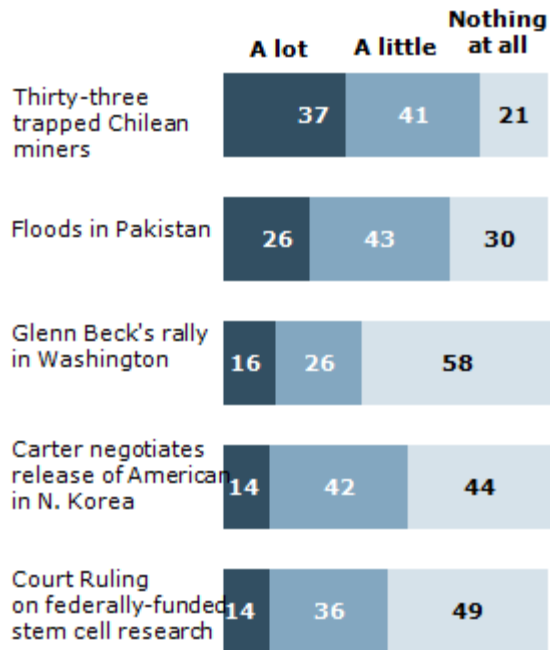
About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed the debate over plans for an Islamic cultural center and mosque in downtown Manhattan more closely than other major stories. A comparable number (16%) say they followed the recall of more than half a billion eggs after an outbreak of salmonella most closely, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted Aug. 26-29 among 1002 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

As summer neared an end, the media also divided its attention among several top stories. The 2010 elections accounted for 14% of the newshole and stories examining New Orleans and the Gulf Coast five years after Hurricane Katrina made up another 11%, according to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). The debate over the New York Islamic center accounted for 6% of coverage, while the egg recall made up 4%.

Looking at the amount of coverage for certain stories, a third of the public (33%) says news organizations have given the mosque story too much coverage. A comparable 37% say the story received the right amount of attention, while 22% say it received too little. On the other hand, most (60%) say the egg recall received the right amount of coverage.

Plight of Chilean Miners and Floods in Pakistan Top Beck Rally

Miners' Ordeal Widely Known



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 26-29, 2010.
Don't know responses not shown.

Close to eight-in-ten say they heard at least a little last week about the 33 miners found alive but still trapped in Chile; 37% say they heard a lot about this, while 41% heard a little. Another 21% say they heard nothing at all.

About seven-in-ten say they heard at least a little about the flooding in Pakistan and its aftermath; 26% heard a lot and 43% heard a little about this. Three-in-ten say they heard nothing at all about the flooding.

Just more than four-in-ten say they heard at least a little about the large rally in Washington on Saturday, Aug. 28, organized by talk show host Glenn Beck; 16% say they heard a lot about the rally, while 26% say they heard a little.

Nearly six-in-ten (58%), however, say they heard nothing at all about the event held on the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream speech" at the same site. Roughly equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats say they heard at least a little about this story (47% of Republicans, 46% of Democrats). Slightly fewer independents (37%) say they heard at least a little about this.

The rally took place while the survey was in the field. Awareness of the event was greater on Saturday and Sunday than during the previous two days. (The number saying they had heard nothing at all about the rally dropped from 62% before the weekend to 49% on Saturday and Sunday).

Just 14% say they heard a lot about former President Jimmy Carter traveling to North Korea to negotiate the release of a jailed American. While 42% say they heard a little about this, another 44% say they heard nothing at all.

A comparable 14% say they heard a lot about a federal judge's ruling that blocked expansion of stem cell research using federal funds; 36% heard a little about this, while nearly half (49%) say they heard nothing at all.

Most Say Egg Recall Getting Right Amount of Coverage

Six-in-ten say news organizations have given the right amount of coverage to the recall of more than half a billion eggs after an outbreak of salmonella. About two-in-ten (21%) say this food safety story has gotten too little coverage, while 14% say it has gotten too much attention.

Judging the Amount of Coverage

<i>Amount of coverage...</i>	Too much	Right amount	Too little	DK
	%	%	%	%
Egg recall	14	60	21	5=100
Pakistan floods	10	48	33	9=100
Mosque debate	33	37	22	8=100
Stem cell ruling	7	30	50	13=100
Beck rally	24	27	31	18=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 26-29, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly half of the public (48%) say the flooding in Pakistan has received the right amount of coverage; 33% say the flooding received too little coverage, while 10% say too much.

Opinions are more divided about coverage of the debate over the planned Islamic center and mosque in lower Manhattan. A third of the public says news organizations are giving too much coverage to the debate, while a comparable 37% say the story has received the right amount of coverage. Another 22% say it has received too little coverage. Partisans offer similar answers. For example, 40% of Republicans say the story got the right amount of coverage, compared with 35% of Democrats and 37% of independents.

The public is also divided over the amount of coverage given to the Beck rally: 24% say the event received too much coverage, 31% say too little and 27% say it got the right amount of coverage. Nearly three-in-ten Democrats (28%) say the rally received too much coverage, compared with 19% of Republicans; 26% of independents agree. On the other hand, 33% of Republicans say the rally got the right amount of coverage, compared with 23% of Democrats. Just over a quarter of independents (27%) agree.

Half say that the federal judge's ruling that blocked expansion of stem cell research using federal funds got too little coverage. Three-in-ten say it got the right amount, while just 7%

say it got too little. Close to six-in-ten Democrats (57%) say this story got too little coverage, compared with 42% of Republicans; 53% of independents agree.

Tone of Debate Over New York Mosque

Americans are also divided over the tone of the mosque debate: 37% say the debate has been polite and respectful while a comparable 39% say it has been rude and disrespectful. About a quarter (24%) offer no opinion.

Public Divided Over Tone of Mosque Debate

<i>Debate over mosque in NYC has been...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Polite and respectful	37	53	30	35
Rude and disrespectful	39	32	45	39
Don't know	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1002	279	326	311

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 26-29, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Among those who see the debate as rude and disrespectful, most (59% of that group) say those who oppose building the Islamic center are mostly to blame for this; 25% say those who think the center should be built should bear most of the blame. Another 8% volunteer that both sides share blame for the tone of the debate and an equal 8% say they don't know.

Last September, more than half (53%) of the public characterized the debate then underway over health care reform as rude and disrespectful; 31% said it was polite and respectful. Among those who said the debate had been rude and disrespectful, most (59% of that group) blamed opponents of the legislation; 17% blamed supporters, 17% volunteered that both sides shared the blame and 7% said they did not know.

Looking at the current debate, Republicans (53%) are more likely than Democrats (30%) or independents (35%) to say they see the debate as polite and respectful. Fully 45% of Democrats characterize the debate as rude and disrespectful, compared with 32% of Republicans. Nearly four-in-ten independents (39%) share this view.

Among Democrats who see the debate as rude, 71% say those who think the center should not be built are to blame, 18% say those who think it should be built are to blame and 6% say both. Among Republicans who see the debate this way, 50% blame opponents of the plan, while 33% blame those who think the center should be built; 12% say both. And among independents who see the debate as rude, 58% blame those who think the center should not be built, 28% blame those who think it should and 7% say both sides share the blame.

The Week's Top Stories

The recall of more than half a billion eggs because of an outbreak of salmonella was among the week's most closely followed stories (16% most closely), while it accounted for 4% of the newshole measured by PEJ. About three-in-ten (31%) say they followed this news very closely. That nearly matches the 33% that said they followed news very closely in early 2009 about the recall of peanut products after another salmonella outbreak.

Nearly three-in-ten (28%) say they very closely followed the debate over plans for an Islamic center in lower Manhattan; 19% say this was the story they followed most closely. The controversy accounted for 6% of coverage, down from 15% one week earlier.

A quarter say they followed news about the situation in Iraq very closely, while 13% say this was the news they followed most closely. Reporting on Iraq made up 3% of coverage.

More than two-in-ten (22%) say they followed news about the U.S. housing market very closely; this was the most closely followed story for 10% of the public. News about the housing market made up 2% of coverage, while news about the economy overall -- including the housing coverage -- accounted for 9%.

Nearly two-in-ten (18%) say they followed news about the Katrina anniversary very closely, while 8% say this was the news they followed most closely. Reporting on the five year anniversary made up 11% of coverage.

News about the 2010 elections -- including a series of August primaries -- made up the single largest share of news coverage (14%). Two-in-ten say they followed this news very closely, while 6% say it was the news they followed most closely.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected August 23-29, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected August 26-29, from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 adults.

Americans Most Likely to Favor GOP Newcomers for Congress

Three in four believe influx of new members would improve Congress

September 3, 2010

It appears that the best type of candidate to be this fall is a Republican challenger. Given a choice of four hypothetical candidates of differing party affiliations and experience, Americans are most likely to prefer "a Republican who has not served in Congress." Those who would prefer a Democratic candidate opt for an incumbent over a newcomer.

Preference for Hypothetical Congressional Candidate Based on Party Affiliation and Incumbency

Suppose you had a choice among each of the following four types of candidates for Congress. Which one would you be most likely to vote for -- [ROTATED: a Republican who is currently serving in Congress, a Republican who has not served in Congress, a Democrat who has not served in Congress, (or) a Democrat who is currently serving in Congress]?

	%
Republican serving in Congress	15
Republican who has not served in Congress	38
Democrat who has not served in Congress	16
Democrat serving in Congress	24
Other (vol.)	3
No opinion	4

(vol.) = Volunteered response

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 27-30, 2010

GALLUP®

These results, based on an Aug. 27-30 *USA Today*/Gallup poll, underscore the advantageous political environment for Republicans and non-incumbents this midterm election season. Overall, a majority of Americans prefer a Republican candidate (regardless of experience) to a Democrat, 53% to 40%. And a majority also prefer a non-incumbent (regardless of party affiliation) to an incumbent, 54% to 39%.

The fact that Americans who prefer a Republican candidate want one who is new to Congress suggests that these voters want both GOP control of Congress and the new perspectives that come from members with no prior Washington experience. Americans who favor Democratic candidates, on the other hand, apparently are more satisfied with the type of experienced representatives now in Congress.

One would naturally expect Democrats to prefer Democratic candidates, and Republicans to prefer Republican candidates, and that is the case when looking at the data by party. But partisans' preferences for incumbents versus challengers seem to be influenced by their knowledge that the Democrats currently have a majority in Congress, and thus, more Democrats will be defending House seats this fall. Democrats are more likely to prefer a Democrat who is in Congress to a Democrat who is not, and Republicans are more likely to prefer a Republican outside of Congress to one who is currently serving there. Independents also show a strong preference for Republican non-incumbents.

Preference for Hypothetical Congressional Candidate Based on Party Affiliation and Incumbency

Results by respondent party affiliation

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
	%	%	%
Republican serving in Congress	4	11	32
Republican who has not served in Congress	3	48	63
Democrat who has not served in Congress	28	17	1
Democrat serving in Congress	59	13	1
Other (vol.)	3	4	1
No opinion	3	7	3

(vol.) = Volunteered response

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 27-30, 2010

GALLUP®

The data do not necessarily indicate how Americans would vote in the fall when presented with a choice of two specific candidates for Congress. This fall, voters will generally be asked to choose between one Republican and one Democratic candidate, one of whom may be an incumbent. When asked in the same poll whether they are more likely to vote for the Republican or the Democratic congressional candidate in their district if the elections were held today, 48% of Americans say the Republican and 43% the Democrat.

The appeal of non-incumbents is apparent in another question in the poll that finds 75% of Americans saying Congress would be changed for the better if "most of the present members of Congress are replaced with new members." Only 14% think that would make Congress worse. This is consistent with Gallup's findings from earlier this year suggesting strong anti-incumbent sentiment.

Americans across key demographic subgroups widely share the belief that Congress would be improved if most members were turned out of office. However, there is a significant gap by political party, with 89% of Republicans versus 63% of Democrats saying that replacing most members of Congress would be beneficial. Again, the difference likely stems from Democrats' current status as the majority party in Congress.

Implications

In a year when Americans are dissatisfied with the state of the nation and give relatively low ratings to the president and Congress, it is not politically beneficial to be either an incumbent or a member of the ruling party. That is reflected in Americans' preference for a Republican newcomer over other types of candidates they may have a chance to vote for in this fall's midterm congressional elections. It is also reflected in prior analysis of historical Gallup

data showing greater seat turnover in Congress when the president and Congress are unpopular.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 27-30, 2010, with a random sample of 1,021 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the continental U.S., selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

Both questions reported here were based on a random half sample of approximately 500 national adults each. For results based on these samples 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.

Blacks, Young Voters Not Poised for High Turnout on Nov. 2

Republicans -- and conservative Republicans in particular -- are already tuned in to midterms

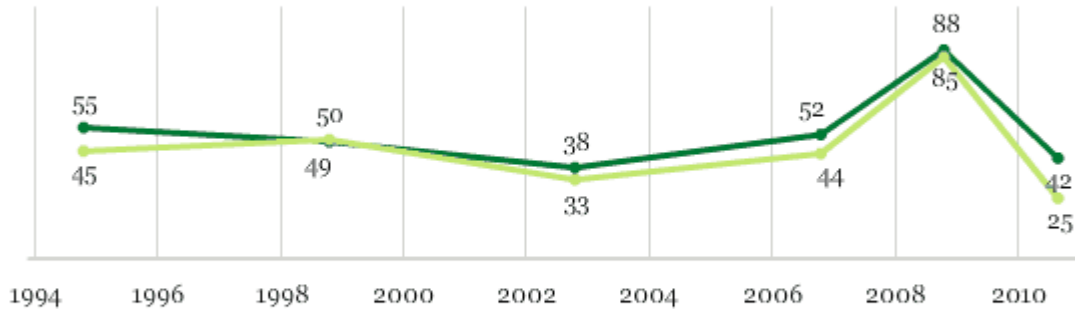
September 3, 2010

Minority and young voters made a significant mark on the 2008 presidential election with their high turnout; today, however, these groups appear to have reverted to previous levels of interest in voting in the context of midterm elections. Most notably, in contrast to 2008, when whites and blacks were about equally likely to say they were giving "quite a lot of" or "some" thought to the presidential election, whites are much more likely than blacks to be thinking about the 2010 elections: 42% vs. 25%, a gap exceeding those from recent midterm elections.

Thought Given to Election, 1994-2010 Midterms and 2008 Presidential Election

% "Quite a lot of"/"Some"

■ Non-Hispanic whites ■ Blacks



Note: "Some" was a volunteered response

1994-2008 data based on October/November polling; 2010 data based on Aug. 23-29 Gallup Daily tracking

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Gallup's "thought given to the election" question is a key determinant of "likely voters" in Gallup's multipart likely voter model. The full model will be implemented closer to Election Day; however, the "thought" question was asked as part of Gallup Daily tracking from Aug. 23-29, to get an early gauge on potential turnout among subgroups. (See full results for this question on page 2 of this report.)

Although public attention to elections is much higher in presidential than in midterm years, a comparison of the relative "thought" levels among various subgroups in 2008 versus today may be useful in determining whether the Democrats are on track to mobilize key elements of the coalition that helped them win the White House two years ago. These data suggest they are not.

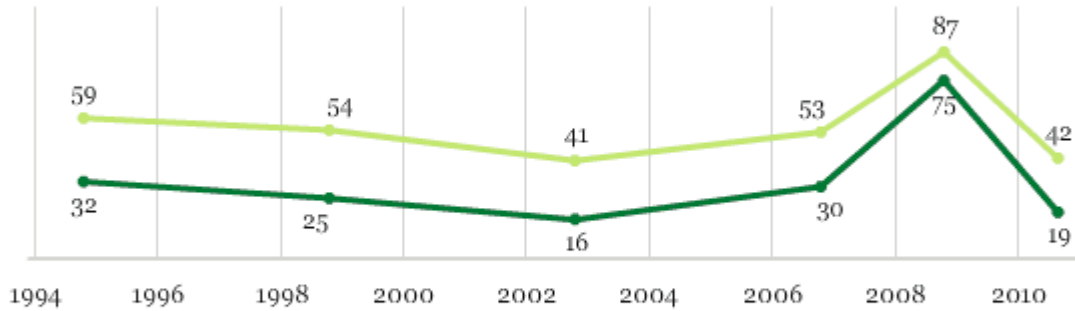
Young Adults' Attention Is Low, Similar to Past Midterms

The gap between young adults (aged 18 to 29) and older adults (aged 30+) in their election attention levels was relatively narrow in 2008 -- 12 percentage points -- but the 23-point difference today (42% vs. 19%) is similar to the average 26-point gap seen in October-November of prior midterms, from 1994 through 2006. Again, this suggests that the relatively higher turnout of young voters in 2008 may not be repeated in 2010.

Thought Given to Election, 1994-2010 Midterms and 2008 Presidential Election

% "Quite a lot of"/"Some"

■ 18 to 29 years ■ 30 and older



Note: "Some" was a volunteered response

1994-2008 data based on October/November polling; 2010 data based on Aug. 23-29 Gallup Daily tracking

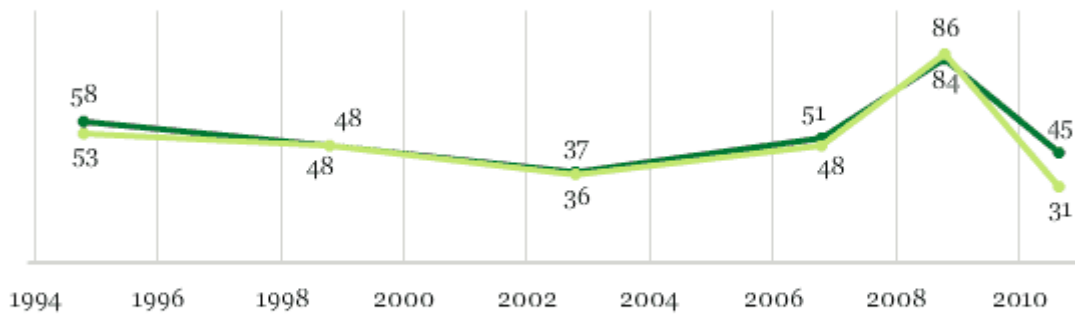
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Men and women have had similar turnout rates in recent elections, including in 2008 -- and this is reflected in the similar percentages giving quite a lot of or some thought to the elections each year. At this point in 2010, however, women are much less likely than men to be giving this level of thought to this year's midterms, 31% vs. 45%.

Thought Given to Election, 1994-2010 Midterms and 2008 Presidential Election

% "Quite a lot of"/"Some"

■ Men ■ Women



Note: "Some" was a volunteered response

1994-2008 data based on October/November polling; 2010 data based on Aug. 23-29 Gallup Daily tracking

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Bottom Line

Earlier this year, President Obama identified women, blacks, and young voters among the groups he highlighted as critical to a voter mobilization effort designed to help the Democrats hold their congressional majority. These groups made up a good portion of the "new voters" who propelled Obama to victory in 2008. However, Gallup data suggest they are not poised to provide the same kind of boost for Democratic candidates this fall. As a result, and because of the extraordinarily keen interest in the elections that conservative Republicans currently display, Republicans overall currently enjoy a 54% to 30% lead over Democrats in "thought given to the election."

If these numbers hold, the preservation of the Democratic majority in Congress would depend on the Democrats' increasing their appeal to voters at large -- recent Gallup polling shows the Democrats trailing the Republicans among registered voters -- rather than counting on heightened turnout from their strongest backers.

Survey Methods

The latest results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Aug. 23-29, 2010, with a random sample of 7,075 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

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.

Anti-Democratic Sentiment Aids GOP Lead in 2010 Vote

Many Republican voters say they are voting "against the Democrat"

September 3, 2010

The Republicans' lead in the congressional generic ballot over the past month may be due as much to voters' rejecting the Democrats as embracing the Republicans. Among voters backing Republican candidates, 44% say their preference is "more a vote against the Democratic candidate," while 48% say it is "more a vote for the Republican candidate."

Republican Voters' Reason for Voting for Republican Candidate

Based on registered voters who would vote for the Republican candidate for Congress

	More a vote for the Republican candidate	More a vote against the Democratic candidate	Both equally	No opinion
Aug. 27-30	48%	44%	5%	2%

USA Today/Gallup

GALLUP®

These results are based on the Aug. 27-30 *USA Today*/Gallup poll. Overall, the poll shows 49% of all registered voters preferring the Republican candidate in their district and 43% the Democratic candidate, using Gallup's generic congressional ballot. Republicans also led on the generic ballot, by a slightly larger 51% to 41% margin, in Gallup Daily tracking the week of Aug. 23-29.

The 44% of Republican voters who say they are voting more against the Democratic candidate exceeds the level of negative voting against the incumbent party that Gallup measured in the 1994 and 2006 elections, when party control shifted (from the Democrats to the Republicans after the 1994 elections and from the Republicans to the Democrats after the 2006 elections).

In the fall of 1994, just prior to that year's elections, 34% of Republican voters said they were voting against the Democratic candidate rather than for the Republican candidate. There was a slightly higher proportion of negative voting in 2006, when 38% of Democratic voters said they were casting a ballot against the Republican candidate.

*Negative Voting in Recent Midterm Elections Among Voters
Supporting the Opposition Party*

Based on registered voters

Year	Opposition party (before election)	% Voting for opposition party as "vote for opposition party"	% Voting for opposition party as "vote against incumbent party"
1994	Republican	59	34
2006	Democrat	52	38
2010	Republican	48	44

Note: Question not asked in 1998 or 2002

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More Democratic Voters Voting "for the Democrat"

On a comparative basis, there is much less negative voting among Democratic voters this year than among Republican voters. Sixty-one percent of Democratic voters say they are voting to support their preferred party, while 32% are voting Democratic to reject the Republican Party.

These attitudes among Democrats are typical of what Gallup has found in past elections; the trailing/incumbent party's supporters have been much less likely to engage in negative voting than the leading/opposition party's supporters.

*Negative Voting in Recent Midterm Elections Among Voters
Supporting the Incumbent Party*

Based on registered voters

Year	Incumbent party (before election)	% Voting for incumbent party as "vote for incumbent party"	% Voting for incumbent party as "vote against opposition party"
1994	Democrat	66	26
2006	Republican	69	21
2010	Democrat	61	32

Note: Question not asked in 1998 or 2002

GALLUP'

Specifically, there has been a maximum of 32% negative voting among the incumbent party's supporters but a minimum of 34% negative voting among the opposition party's supporters across the 1994, 2006, and 2010 elections.

These differences in negative voting suggest that the opposition party was ahead in these elections because its natural base of supporters was supplemented with voters who were disaffected with the incumbent party's performance. Meanwhile, the incumbent party's voters mainly consist of the party's core supporters, hence the lower degree of negative voting among this group.

Implications

Gallup finds a higher proportion of voting against the incumbent party than in past midterm election cycles, with close to half of Republican voters saying their vote is based on opposition to the Democrats. This reflects frustration with the direction of the country under President Obama and the Democratic Congress -- the poll finds 20% of Americans satisfied with the way things are going in the country. Along the same lines, 35% of registered voters say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who opposes President Obama, while a smaller 27% say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports him.

Thus, it would appear the outcome of the elections hinge on how voters evaluate the performance of President Obama and the Democratic Party. To the extent that Democrats can improve these evaluations, they may be able to reduce the proportion of negative voting against their party and reduce the share of the Republican vote as well. The Republicans may strive to give voters reasons to vote "for" them, but the examples of past midterm elections suggest that negative voting may be the pivotal factor.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 27-30, 2010, with a random sample of 1,021 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.

For results based on the sample of 928 registered voters, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 390 registered voters who would vote for the Democratic candidate for Congress if the election were held today, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 6 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 477 registered voters who would vote for the Republican candidate for Congress if the election were held today, 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 national adults 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.

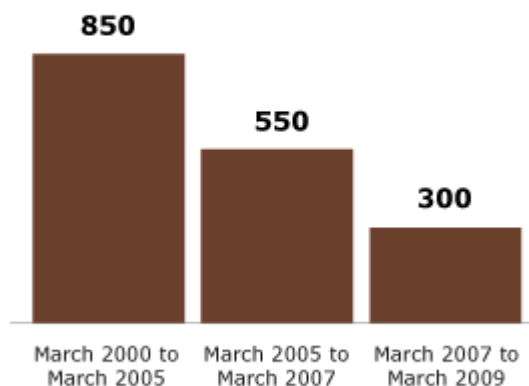
In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply Since Mid-Decade

September 1, 2010

Average Annual Inflow of Unauthorized Immigrants to the U.S.

In thousands, by period, 2000-2009



Source: Pew Hispanic Center

The annual inflow of unauthorized immigrants to the United States was nearly two-thirds smaller in the March 2007 to March 2009 period than it had been from March 2000 to March 2005, according to new estimates by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

This sharp decline has contributed to an overall reduction of 8% in the number of unauthorized immigrants currently living in the U.S. -- to 11.1 million in March 2009 from a peak of 12 million in March 2007, according to the estimates. The decrease represents the first significant reversal in the growth of this population over the past two decades.¹

The Pew Hispanic Center's analysis also finds that the most marked decline in the

population of unauthorized immigrants has been among those who come from Latin American countries other than Mexico. From 2007 to 2009, the size of this group from the Caribbean, Central America and South America decreased 22%.

By contrast, the Mexican unauthorized population (which accounts for about 60% of all unauthorized immigrants) peaked in 2007 at 7 million and has since leveled off. The number of unauthorized immigrants from the rest of the world did not change.

Even though the size of the Mexican unauthorized population living in the United States has not changed significantly since 2007, the inflows from that country have fallen off sharply in recent years.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center's estimates, an average of 150,000 unauthorized immigrants from Mexico arrived annually during the March 2007 to March 2009 period -- 70% below the annual average of 500,000 that prevailed during the first half of the decade.

Table 1
States with Declines in Unauthorized Immigrant Populations, 2008-2009
(thousands)

	2009	2008	Change
South Atlantic	1,950	2,550	-600
Florida	675	1,050	-375
Virginia	240	300	-65
Others Combined	1,050	1,200	-160
Mountain	1,000	1,200	-160
Nevada	180	230	-50
AZ - CO - UT	700	825	-130

Notes: Changes shown are statistically significant and are the only statistically significant changes in 2008-2009 for individual states and census divisions. Unauthorized estimates are rounded. Change is computed from unrounded data and is independently rounded. The U.S. Census Bureau's South Atlantic Division consists of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The Mountain Division consists of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Source: Table A1. Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on augmented March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. See Methodology.

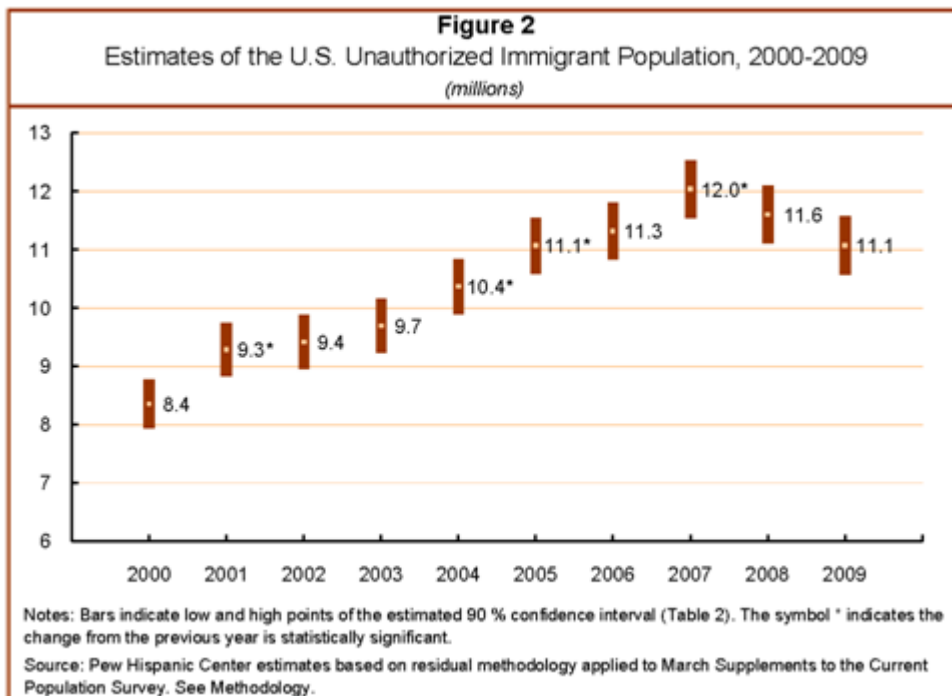
The recent decrease in the unauthorized population has been especially notable along the nation's Southeast coast and in its Mountain West, according to the new estimates.

The number of unauthorized immigrants in Florida, Nevada and Virginia shrank from 2008 to 2009. Other states may have had declines, but they fell within the margin of error for these estimates.

Not counting Florida and Virginia, the unauthorized immigrant population also declined in the area encompassing the rest of the South Atlantic division that extends between Delaware and Georgia.²

In addition to the decline in Nevada, three other Mountain states -- Arizona, Colorado and Utah -- experienced a decrease in their combined unauthorized immigrant population from 2008 to 2009.

As shown in the accompanying chart, there may have been a decline in the unauthorized population between 2008 (11.6 million) and 2009 (11.1 million), but this finding is not conclusive because of the margin of error in these estimates.



Despite the recent decline, the population of unauthorized immigrants was nearly a third larger (32%) in 2009 than in 2000, when it numbered 8.4 million. The size of this group has tripled since 1990, when it was 3.5 million.

Comparison with Previous Estimates

Estimates presented here for size and characteristics of the unauthorized immigrant population replace those previously published by the Pew Hispanic Center for 2000 to 2008. Methodological changes in the underlying Census Bureau data necessitated reweighting to allow for consistent measures across years. General trends over time are similar and differences tend to be small, but users are cautioned that previous estimates should not be compared with those in this report.

During the first half of the decade, an average of about 850,000 new unauthorized immigrants entered each year, increasing the unauthorized population from 8.4 million in 2000 to 11.1 million in 2005. Since then, the average annual inflow dropped to about 550,000 per year from March 2005 to March 2007 and declined further to an average of 300,000 per year for March 2007 to March 2009. As a result, the unauthorized population in 2009 returned to the level it had been in 2005.

The unauthorized population is not a static group of people. Each year, some unauthorized immigrants arrive and some return to their countries of origin. This population can also be reduced by deaths or by conversions to legal status.

Our method of analysis does not permit a precise estimation of how many in this population emigrate, achieve legal status or die. The underlying data are consistent with a previous Pew Hispanic Center report that found a sharply decreased flow of immigrants from Mexico to the United States since mid-decade but no evidence of a recent increase in the number of Mexican-born migrants returning home from the U.S. However, return flows to other countries may have increased.

The estimates presented here document trends in the unauthorized population and flows into the country, but the analysis does not explain why these changes occurred. During the period covered by the analysis, there have been major shifts in the level of immigration enforcement and in enforcement strategies, as well as large swings in the U.S. economy. The U.S. economy entered a recession late in 2007, at a time when border enforcement was increasing. Economic and demographic conditions in sending countries and strategies employed by potential migrants also change. All of these undoubtedly contribute to the overall magnitude of immigration flows. But the data in this report do not allow quantification of these factors and are not designed to explain why flows and population totals declined.

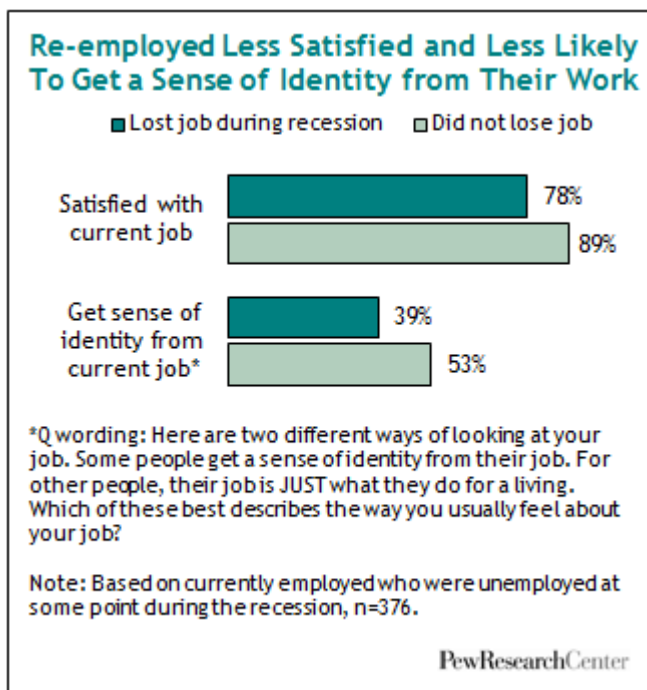
Other main findings of this report include:

- Unauthorized immigrants accounted for 28% of the nation's foreign-born population in 2009, a decline from 31% in 2007.
- Mexico accounted for 60% of unauthorized immigrants in 2009, or 6.7 million people. Other Latin American nations accounted for 20% of the total, or 2.2 million people. South and East Asia accounted for 11% of the total, or 1.2 million people.
- In 2009, 59% of unauthorized immigrants resided in California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and New Jersey. However, the share living in those states has declined from 80% in 1990, as unauthorized immigrants have dispersed to new settlement areas.
- Nearly half of unauthorized immigrants living in the country in 2009 -- 47%, or 5.2 million people -- arrived in 2000 or later.
- The number of male unauthorized immigrants peaked in 2007 at 6.3 million and declined to 5.8 million in 2009. The number of female unauthorized immigrants, 4.2 million in 2009, is roughly the same as it was in 2007.

- The number of children who are unauthorized, 1.1 million in 2009, declined slightly over the decade. By contrast, the population of U.S.-born children with at least one unauthorized parent nearly doubled from 2000 to 2009, when they numbered 4 million.
- There were 7.8 million unauthorized immigrants in the labor force in 2009, or 5.1% of the total. The size of the unauthorized labor force peaked in 2007 and declined in both 2008 and 2009. There were 7 million unauthorized immigrants employed in March 2009.
- States with the largest shares of immigrants in the labor force are Nevada (9.4%), California (9.3%), Texas (8.7%) and New Jersey (8.7%).
- The unemployment rate for unauthorized immigrants of all ages in March 2009 was higher than that of U.S.-born workers or legal immigrants-10.4%, 9.2% and 9.1%, respectively.

Most 'Re-employed' Workers Say They're Overqualified for Their New Job

September 2, 2010

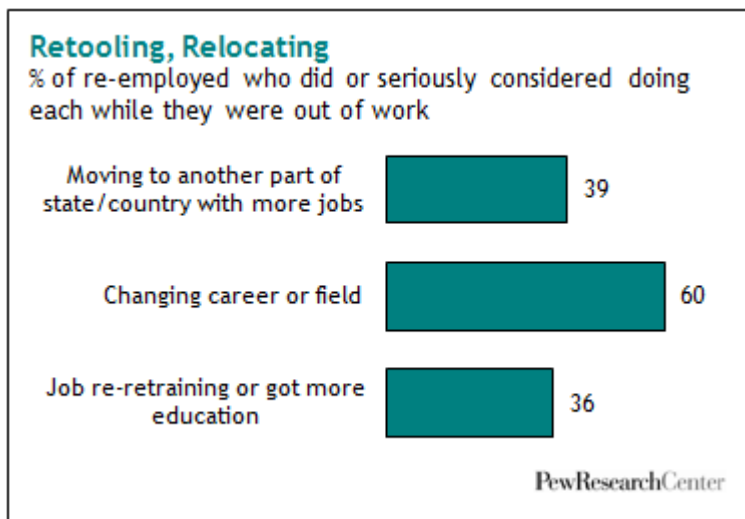


Workers who suffered a spell of unemployment during Great Recession are, on average, less satisfied with their new jobs than workers who didn't. They are more likely to consider themselves over-qualified for their current position.

And six-in-ten say they changed careers or seriously thought about it while they were unemployed, according to a recent survey from the Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends project.

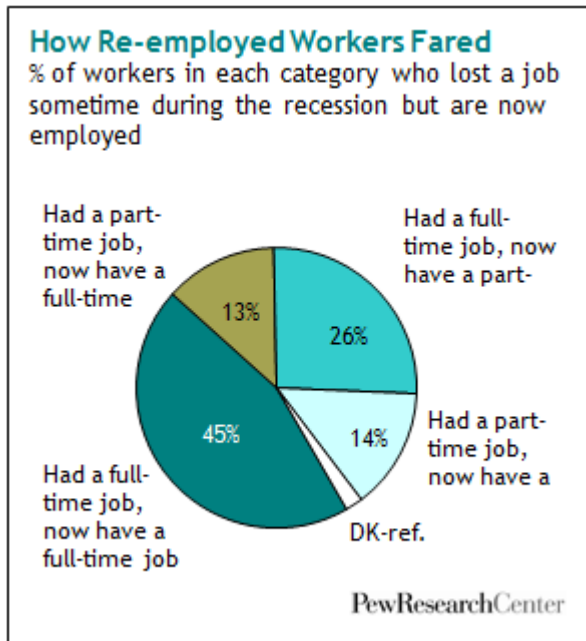
An estimated 26% (or 36 million) of the 139 million currently employed workers in the United States suffered at least one spell of unemployment during the Great Recession that began in December, 2007.

These "re-employed workers" have a complicated mix of attitudes about their new job, according to a nationally representative survey of 2,967 conducted from May 11 to May 31, 2010.



Only 38% of the re-employed say they are being paid more now than at their former job and just 28% say their current benefits are better. At the same time, however, a plurality of the re-employed (43%) say overall their new job is better than their old one -- perhaps reflecting a sense of relief at being back at work after a spell of unemployment.

These judgments differ by how long the worker was unemployed. More than half (53%) of those who were out of work for less than six months say their current job is better than their old one compared with 36% of those who were unemployed six months or longer.



Overall, nearly eight-in-ten re-employed workers say they are satisfied with their current job. But the job satisfaction share is even higher -- 89% -- among workers who did not suffer a spell of unemployment during the recession.

Moreover, the reemployed are more likely to feel overqualified for their current position than those who did not lose a job (54% vs. 36%).

The Great Recession has been a financial and emotional roller coaster ride for the re-employed.

A majority of the re-employed (55%) report their family is worse off financially now than before the recession started. More than a third (35%) report they have had to make major changes in their lifestyle because of the bad economy; by contrast, just 20% of Americans who didn't lose their job during the recession say the same. While they were out of work, six-in-ten of the re-employed seriously thought about switching fields; four-in-ten considered moving to an area where jobs were more plentiful and nearly as many went back to school or enrolled in job-retraining.

While they differ in terms of their attitudes toward their present jobs, there are relatively few demographic differences between re-employed workers and those who did not lose their jobs during the recession. And for some workers, finding a new job was a short-lived victory over hard times. According to the survey, more than a third have suffered two or more spells of unemployment during the recession, including 16% who have been out of work three or more times.

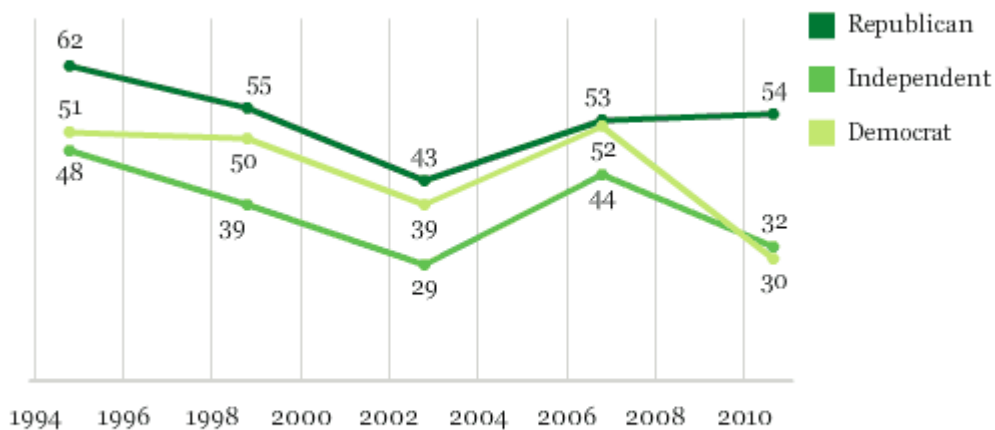
Republicans Hold Wide Lead in Key Voter Turnout Measure

Republican advantage in "thought given to election" greatly exceeds that for past midterms

September 2, 2010

Two months before this year's midterm congressional elections, Gallup finds 54% of Republicans, compared with 30% of Democrats, already saying they have given "quite a lot of" or "some" thought to the contests.

Percentage Who Have Given "Quite a Lot of"/"Some" Thought to Elections for Congress -- August 2010 vs. October/November of Previous Midterm Years



Note: "Some" was a volunteered response

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This "thought" measure is an important variable in Gallup's well-established classification of "likely voters," which is put into use closer to Election Day. The current gulf in thought between the parties mirrors the partisan gap in Gallup's voter enthusiasm measure that is tracked weekly.

Republicans' current level of thought about the elections, from Gallup Daily tracking conducted Aug. 23-29, matches or exceeds that found in October/November of the last three midterm years. By contrast, Democrats are giving far less thought to the elections today than they did in the final weeks before the prior four midterms. As a result, Democrats are on par with independents in current attention levels -- a sharp departure from recent years, when the Democrats exceeded independents on this measure.

The large party gap in "thought" suggests the typical Republican turnout advantage could be larger than usual this year if that gap persists until Election Day. Attention normally spikes as elections approach, and this is likely to occur among Democrats. However, it is unclear whether the Republicans have reached the limit for how much attention they will pay to a midterm election, or whether their attention will rise to perhaps a historic level by

November. How this plays out will determine Democrats' ability to catch up to Republicans on this measure before Election Day, and will in turn determine the size of the Republican turnout advantage.

Conservative Republicans on High Alert

The extraordinary level of attention conservative Republicans (including Republican-leaning independents) are paying to the election is much of the reason Republicans' current attention dwarfs Democrats'. Sixty-three percent of conservative Republicans say they have given quite a lot of or some thought to the upcoming elections, roughly twice the proportion of moderate and liberal Republicans (34%), and liberal Democrats (32%).

Conservative Republicans were much closer to moderates and liberals of both parties on this measure in October/November of prior midterms. Also, only in 1994 did Gallup find a higher percentage of conservative Republicans paying quite a lot of or some attention to the elections than are doing so today. But with two months to go before the 2010 midterms, conservatives will likely match or exceed that record by Election Day.

Thought Given to the Midterm Elections -- by Party ID/Political Ideology

% Quite a lot/Some (vol.)

	October/ November 1994	October/ November 1998	October/ November 2002	October/ November 2006	Aug 23-29, 2010
	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative Republican	67	56	47	58	63
Moderate/Liberal Republican	50	43	30	42	34
Pure independent	44	30	20	30	15
Conservative Democrat	45	53	36	44	29
Moderate Democrat	51	45	38	49	23
Liberal Democrat	50	52	37	57	32

(vol.) = volunteered response

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Bottom Line

Gallup's "thought given to the elections" indicator of voter turnout suggests that, if the midterm elections were held today, the Republicans would have a substantial advantage over the Democrats in turnout -- largely because of the attentiveness of conservative Republicans. This would well exceed the typical turnout advantage Republicans enjoy in

midterm elections, including 1994, when the GOP gained a historically large number of House seats.

It's a virtual certainty that voters' attention to the election will increase in the coming months. If this increase is proportionate between Republicans and Democrats, then the Republicans will likely maintain a formidable turnout advantage. However, it's also possible that Republicans have merely tuned in early to the elections, leaving less room for their attention to expand -- and thus giving the Democrats an opportunity to narrow the gap by November.

Survey Methods

The latest results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Aug. 23-29, 2010, with a random sample of 7,075 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

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.

Republicans Remain Disproportionately White and Religious

Democrats are more racially and ethnically diverse, and less religious

September 1, 2010

About 9 out of 10 Republicans are non-Hispanic whites, and more than half of these are highly religious. That compares with 62% of the Democratic rank-and-file that is white and largely less religious, with blacks and Hispanics making up a much more substantial part of that party's base.

Composition of Partisan Groups

Jan. 2-Aug. 15, 2010

	Republican	Independent/ Other/Don't know	Democrat
	%	%	%
Highly religious whites	47	24	19
Less religious whites	41	47	43
Hispanics	5	15	11
Blacks	2	6	21
Other race	4	7	5
Race unspecified	1	1	0

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

These results are based on aggregated data from more than 220,000 Americans surveyed from early January through Aug. 15 of this year as part of Gallup Daily tracking. Whites classified as highly religious are those who say religion is important in their daily lives and who report attending religious services weekly or almost every week. Hispanics include everyone who identifies as Hispanic, regardless of race.

The mixture of religion and politics in the United States came to the fore again this past weekend at Glenn Beck's high-visibility "Restoring Honor" rally in Washington, D.C. Beck mentioned God and religion frequently in his remarks. The rally was billed as nonpolitical, but the presence of former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, Beck's involvement with the politically oriented Tea Party movement, and Beck's own avowedly conservative persona and positions on the issues brought a political perspective to the event.

Gallup Daily tracking data reviewed in this analysis confirm that religion, along with race, is a significant factor in defining Republicans, independents, and Democrats. Eighty-eight percent of Republicans are white, compared with 71% of independents and 62% of Democrats. The majority of white Republicans are highly religious, while the substantial majority of white Democrats are less religious.

All in all, 47% of Republicans in the U.S. today can be classified as highly religious whites, compared with 24% of independents and 19% of Democrats.

Religious distinctions in the American political landscape today are underscored when one examines the political spectrum by both party and ideology. The percentage of highly religious white Americans within each of the resulting political groups ranges from a high of 50% among conservative Republicans to 13% among liberal Democrats.

Composition of Partisan and Ideological Groups

Jan. 2-Aug. 15, 2010

	Liberal Democrat	Moderate Democrat	Conservative Democrat	Pure independent	Moderate/Liberal Republican	Conservative Republican
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Highly religious whites	13	20	24	19	30	50
Less religious whites	56	43	30	45	53	38
Hispanics	11	12	16	21	9	5
Blacks	13	20	25	6	3	2
Other race	6	6	5	8	5	4
Race unspecified	0	0	0	1	0	1

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Of note is the substantial difference in the religious composition of conservative and moderate/liberal Republicans. White conservative Republicans are more likely to be highly religious than less religious, while white moderate/liberal Republicans are more frequently in the latter category. In similar but less dramatic fashion, both conservative and moderate/liberal white Democrats are more likely to be highly religious than are liberal white Democrats, although in all Democratic groups, less religious whites predominate over highly religious whites.

Implications

Americans who identify as Republicans in America today, particularly those who identify as conservative Republicans, are disproportionately likely to be highly religious whites, in contrast with both the population as a whole and the other political segments. Republicans are not monolithically white and religious, however; half are either less religious whites or people of other racial or ethnic groups. But conservative Republicans have the highest proportion of religious whites of any of the six major partisan/ideological groups -- including almost four times as many on a proportionate basis as is the case among liberal Democrats -- which highlights the significance of religion in today's political landscape.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Jan. 2-Aug. 15, 2010, with a random sample of 222,743 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

The analysis of party and ideology are based on a total sample of 113,533 adults, aged 18 and older; for this sample, 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 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.

Americans Give GOP Edge on Most Election Issues

Greatest Republican advantages on terrorism, immigration, federal spending

September 1, 2010

A new *USA Today*/Gallup poll finds Americans saying the Republicans in Congress would do a better job than the Democrats in Congress of handling seven of nine key election issues. The parties are essentially tied on healthcare, with the environment being the lone Democratic strength.

Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

	% Republicans in Congress	% Democrats in Congress	% No difference/ No opinion	Republican advantage (pct. pts)
Terrorism	55	31	15	+24
Immigration	50	35	15	+15
Federal spending	50	35	15	+15
The economy	49	38	13	+11
The situation in Afghanistan	45	38	17	+7
Jobs	46	41	13	+5
Corruption in government	38	35	26	+3
Healthcare	43	44	12	-1
The environment	31	54	14	-23

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 27-30, 2010

GALLUP*

The Republicans' advantage on most issues is an indication of the currently favorable political environment for the party. Of particular note is the parity between the two parties on healthcare, an issue on which Americans historically have viewed the Democrats as superior.

A similar *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted in October 2006, just prior to Democrats' major gains in that fall's elections, highlights the potential implications of these findings. That poll, which includes several issues measured in the current survey, found the Democrats leading on all eight issues tested at that time, including some usual Republican strengths like terrorism and moral values.

With Republicans now having the advantage on most issues, the party may be poised to make major gains in congressional seats, just as the Democrats did in 2006. Indeed, Gallup tracking of registered voters' preferences in the 2010 generic ballot for Congress continues to find the Republicans ahead of the Democrats, as it has for the past five weeks.

The Economy Matters Most

The Democrats' advantage on the issue of the environment is likely not something the party can leverage to improve its 2010 electoral fortunes, as Americans rank it at the bottom of the list in terms of its importance to their vote. Rather, economic concerns are paramount, with a majority of Americans rating the economy, jobs, and federal spending (along with government corruption) as extremely important.

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

	% Extremely important	% Very important	% Moderately important	% Not that important
The economy	62	31	6	1
Jobs	60	32	6	1
Corruption in government	51	30	14	4
Federal spending	51	30	15	3
Healthcare	49	30	15	5
Terrorism	47	28	17	6
Immigration	38	27	23	11
The situation in Afghanistan	35	33	24	6
The environment	28	32	29	12

USA Today/Gallup, Aug. 27-30, 2010

GALLUP*

The Republican advantages on these economic matters range from a low of +5 on jobs to a high of +15 on federal spending. Terrorism -- the issue on which Republicans have the greatest advantage over Democrats -- is rated as very important by 47% of Americans, putting it in the middle of the list.

Bottom Line

Republicans' perceptual advantage on most key election issues reinforces the party's advantageous positioning heading into the stretch run of the 2010 election campaign. It is not clear whether Americans give the Republicans the edge on these issues because they have confidence in the GOP to make progress in addressing the major problems facing the country, or whether the ratings have more to do with the public's frustration with the incumbent Democratic Party's performance to date.

The Democrats' hopes for improving their fortunes may hinge on convincing voters they have superior plans for jump-starting the economy, the issue of uppermost importance in Americans' minds. That could be tough to do when, after nearly 20 months of Democratic leadership in Congress and the White House, Americans' opinions of the economy remain negative and have become more pessimistic in recent weeks.

Survey Methods

Results for this *USA Today*/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Aug. 27-30, 2010, with a random sample of 1,021 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.

British Columbians Troubled by Competing Pipeline Projects

August 30, 2010

Two years after the Carbon Tax came into effect, a majority of respondents claim it has “severely” or “moderately” affected their household’s finances.

People in British Columbia are not currently embracing either of the two proposals to transport crude from Alberta to facilitate its export to China and other Asian destinations, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 804 British Columbian adults also shows that respondents are disappointed with the implementation of the provincial Carbon Tax two years ago, and few believe it has had an effect on the actual behaviour of residents.

The Pipelines

Enbridge is looking to build two pipelines in British Columbia. The pipelines would carry an average of 525,000 barrels of crude a day and 193,000 barrels of condensate (which is used to thin bitumen) from near Edmonton, Alberta, to Kitimat, in northern British Columbia.

On the other hand, Kinder Morgan has proposed using the existing TransMountain system to ultimately carry an average of 700,000 barrels of crude a day from near Edmonton, Alberta, to BC’s Lower Mainland.

Almost half of respondents in BC (48%) are opposed to both proposals, while support is only slightly higher for the Enbridge plan (35%) than the Kinder Morgan initiative (32%). Opposition surpasses the 50 per cent mark for both plans in Vancouver Island and the North.

Overall, 49 per cent of respondents think the projects are a bad idea that could lead to an environmental disaster, while 33 per cent define them as a good idea that will help the BC economy.

The Carbon Tax

Two years after the Carbon Tax was implemented in the province, more than half of British Columbians (56%) say the levy has "severely" or "moderately" affected the finances of their household. The proportion is higher in the North (80%) and Vancouver Island (64%).

Three-in-four respondents (74%) believe the introduction of the Carbon Tax in British Columbia has not led people to be more mindful of their carbon consumption and change their behaviour.

Analysis

Opposition to the two competing pipeline projects appears to be directly related to environmental concerns. The level of support for the projects is higher in Metro Vancouver and the Interior, but is nowhere near a majority in these two areas or across the entire province. The main worry for British Columbians when thinking about this issue is the possibility of an environmental disaster.

AUSTRALASIA

Unemployment on Decline in Australia

Finding No. 4578 - This Roy Morgan survey on Australia's unemployment and 'underemployed'* is based on weekly interviews covering January 2007 – August 2010 and in total 190,381 Australians aged 14 and over were interviewed face-to-face including 3,998 interviews in August 2010.: September 03, 2010

- In the month of August Australia's total unemployment as measured by Roy Morgan was 718,000 (6.1%), down 19,000 (0.2%) since July, and down 120,000 (1.3%) since August 2009.
- Full-time employment for August is 7,363,000 (down 28,000 since July 2010 and down 115,000 since June 2010) and has fallen for the second straight month as more Australians find part-time employment — now 3,661,000 (up 144,000 since July 2010 and up 247,000 since June 2010) — Australian part-time employment is now at a record high.
- The rise in part-time employment means in August only 270,000 (down 100,000 on July 2010, and down 135,000 on August 2009) Australians are looking for part-time work — the lowest number looking for part-time work since September 2008 (245,000) at the start of the Global Financial Crisis. Meanwhile there are a rising

number of Australians looking for full-time work — 448,000 (up 81,000 on July 2010, and up 15,000 on August 2009).

- The latest Roy Morgan August 2010 unemployment estimate is 0.8% above the 5.3% currently quoted by the ABS for July 2010.
- The Roy Morgan August 2010 ‘underemployed’* estimate has fallen, down 46,000 (0.5%) to 894,000 (7.6%) on July 2010, but underemployment is up 96,000 (0.6%) on a year ago, August 2009. In total in August 2010 an estimated 1,612,000 (13.7%) Australians were unemployed or ‘underemployed, down 65,000 (down 0.7%) on July 2010.

Roy Morgan Unemployed and ‘Under-employed’* Estimate 2007#	Unemployed ‘Underemployed’*		or ‘Underemployed’ *		Unemployed ‘000		Looking for Full-time Part-time	
	‘000	%	‘000	%	‘000	%	‘000	‘000
Jan—Mar 2007	1,500	14.3	743	7.1	757		399	358
Apr—June 2007	1,275	11.9	679	6.3	596	7.2	305	291
July—Sep 2007	1,333	12.5	719	6.7	614	5.6	317	297
Oct—Dec 2007	1,406	13.2	759	7.1	647	5.8	330	317
						6.1		
2008								
Jan—Mar 2008	1,382	12.9	736	6.9	646	6.0	366	280
Apr—June 2008	1,383	12.9	751	7.0	632	5.9	311	321
July—Sep 2008	1,319	12.0	735	6.7	584	5.3	314	270
Oct—Dec 2008	1,474	13.6	800	7.4	674	6.2	352	322
2009								
Jan—Mar 2009	1,536	13.9	727	6.6	809	7.3	386	423
Apr—June 2009	1,664	15.0	835	7.5	829	7.5	487	342
July—Sep 2009	1,734	15.4	909	8.1	825	7.3	485	340
Oct—Dec 2009	1,693	15.0	906	8.0	787	7.0	429	358
2010								
Jan—Mar 2010	1,688	14.7	815	7.1	873	7.6	491	382
Apr—June 2010	1,592	13.8	843	7.3	748	6.5	437	311
Months								
October 2008	1,485	13.5	860	7.8	625	5.7	353	272
November 2008	1,504	13.8	808	7.4	696	6.4	333	363
December 2008	1,432	13.2	732	6.7	700	6.4	370	330
January 2009	1,550	13.9	783	7.0	767	6.9	415	352
February 2009	1,583	14.3	699	6.3	884	8.0	508	376

March 2009	1,475	13.4	700	6.4	775	7.0	408	367
April 2009	1,673	14.9	874	7.8	799	7.1	475	324
May 2009	1,486	13.3	661	5.9	825	7.4	500	325
June 2009	1,829	16.6	967	8.8	862	7.8	487	375
July 2009	1,883	16.6	1,022	9.0	861	7.6	554	307
August 2009	1,636	14.4	798	7.0	838	7.4	433	405
September 2009	1,684	15.1	909	8.2	775	6.9	467	308
October 2009	1,672	14.9	861	7.7	811	7.2	430	381
November 2009	1,701	15.0	924	8.1	777	6.9	404	373
December 2009	1,706	14.9	932	8.2	773	6.8	454	319
January 2010	1,720	14.7	845	7.2	875	7.5	485	390
February 2010	1,622	14.2	716	6.3	907	7.9	533	374
March 2010	1,721	15.3	885	7.9	836	7.4	456	380
April 2010	1,653	14.4	893	7.8	760	6.6	448	312
May 2010	1,687	14.6	884	7.6	803	6.9	466	337
June 2010	1,435	12.4	753	6.5	682	5.9	397	285
July 2010	1,677	14.4	940	8.1	737	6.3	367	370
August 2010	1,612	13.7	894	7.6	718	6.1	448	270

The Gillard Government's 'Fair Work Australia' Act was implemented on January 1, 2010, replacing the Howard Government's 'Work Choices' Legislation.

Gary Morgan says:

“The August 2010 Roy Morgan employment estimates show part-time employment rising for the second straight month, now 3,661,000 (up 144,000 from July 2010 and up 247,000 since June 2010) has driven employment in Australia to a new high above 11 million for the first time with 11,024,000 employed Australians (up 116,000).

“Unemployment (718,000, down 19,000) and underemployment (894,000, down 46,000) have both fallen in August, but there are still over 1.6 million Australians either unemployed or underemployed. The large level of underemployment shows that although more Australians are working part-time than ever before, nearly 900,000 of these people want to work longer hours than they currently do.

“The recent Australian GDP figures for the June Quarter showing Australia growing at an annual rate of 3.3%, the fastest rate of growth since 2007, and showing a large surge in consumer spending suggest hiring by retailers is responsible for the drop in part-time unemployment to 270,000 — the lowest level of part-time unemployment since September 2008 (245,000) at the beginning of the Global Financial Crisis.

“The continuing uncertainty about the result of Australia’s recent Federal election, with the three rural Independents yet to make their decision nearly two weeks after the election, may yet provide an unexpected benefit for the Australian economy — whichever side eventually forms a minority Government will struggle to pass legislation that negatively impacts on the Australian economy.”

This Roy Morgan survey on Australia's unemployment and 'underemployed'* is based on weekly interviews covering January 2007 — August 2010 and in total 190,381 Australians aged 14 and over were interviewed face-to-face including 3,998 interviews in August 2010.

*The 'underemployed' are those people who are in part-time work or consultants who are looking for more work. (Unfortunately the ABS does not measure this figure in their monthly unemployment survey.)

The Roy Morgan Unemployment estimate is obtained by surveying an Australia-wide cross section by face-to-face interviews. An unemployed person is classified as part of the labour force if they are looking for work, no matter when. The results are not seasonally adjusted and provide an accurate measure of monthly unemployment estimates in Australia.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are obtained by mostly telephone interviews. Households selected for the ABS Survey are interviewed each month for eight months, with one-eighth of the sample being replaced each month. The first interview is conducted face-to-face. Subsequent interviews are then conducted by telephone.

The ABS classifies an unemployed person as part of the labour force only if, when surveyed, they have been actively looking for work in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and if they were available for work in the reference week.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are also seasonally adjusted.

For these reasons the Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are different from the Roy Morgan Unemployment estimate.

Gary Morgan's concerns regarding the ABS Unemployment estimate is clearly outlined in his letter to the Australian Financial Review, which was not published!
</news/papers/2003/20030801>

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Religiosity Highest in World's Poorest Nations

United States is among the rich countries that buck the trend

August 31, 2010

Gallup surveys in 114 countries in 2009 show that religion continues to play an important role in many people's lives worldwide. The global median proportion of adults who say religion is an important part of their daily lives is 84%, unchanged from what Gallup has found in other years. In 10 countries and areas, at least 98% say religion is important in their daily lives.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

	Yes
Bangladesh	99%+
Niger	99%+
Yemen	99%
Indonesia	99%
Malawi	99%
Sri Lanka	99%
Somaliland region	98%
Djibouti	98%
Mauritania	98%
Burundi	98%

2009

GALLUP®

Each of the most religious countries is relatively poor, with a per-capita GDP below \$5,000. This reflects the strong relationship between a country's socioeconomic status and the religiosity of its residents. In the world's poorest countries -- those with average per-capita incomes of \$2,000 or lower -- the median proportion who say religion is important in their daily lives is 95%. In contrast, the median for the richest countries -- those with average per-capita incomes higher than \$25,000 -- is 47%.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

Median responses among countries at each per-capita income level

Per-capita income	Yes	No
\$0-\$2,000	95%	5%
\$2,001-\$5,000	92%	7%
\$5,001-\$12,500	82%	17%
\$12,501-\$25,000	70%	28%
\$25,001+	47%	52%

GALLUP®

The United States is one of the rich countries that bucks the trend. About two-thirds of Americans -- 65% -- say religion is important in their daily lives. Among high-income countries, only Italians, Greeks, Singaporeans, and residents of the oil-rich Persian Gulf states are more likely to say religion is important.

Most high-income countries are further down the religiosity spectrum. In 10 countries, no more than 34% of residents say religion is an important part of their daily lives. Six of those are developed countries in Europe and Asia with per-capita incomes greater than \$25,000.

In three of the four lower income countries on the list -- Estonia, Russia, and Belarus -- the Soviet government restricted religious expression for decades until the U.S.S.R.'s collapse in 1991. The final country is Vietnam, where the government also has a history of limiting religious practice.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

	Yes
Estonia	16%
Sweden	17%
Denmark	19%
Japan	24%
Hong Kong	24%
United Kingdom	27%
Vietnam	30%
France	30%
Russia	34%
Belarus	34%

2009

GALLUP®

Implications

Social scientists have put forth numerous possible explanations for the relationship between the religiosity of a population and its average income level. One theory is that religion plays a more functional role in the world's poorest countries, helping many residents cope with a daily struggle to provide for themselves and their families. A [previous Gallup analysis](#) supports this idea, revealing that the relationship between religiosity and emotional wellbeing is stronger among poor countries than among those in the developed world.

Visit [Real Clear World's Top 5s feature](#) to learn more about the countries with the highest religiosity.

Is religion an important part of your daily life?

Asked of adults in 114 countries and areas in 2009

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Bangladesh	99%+	0%	Romania	84%	12%
Niger	99%+	0%	Nicaragua	84%	15%
Yemen	99%	1%	Iraq	84%	11%
Indonesia	99%	0%	Peru	84%	14%
Malawi	99%	1%	El Salvador	83%	16%
Sri Lanka	99%	1%	Colombia	83%	16%
Somaliland region	98%	2%	Ecuador	82%	17%
Djibouti	98%	2%	Turkey	82%	15%
Mauritania	98%	2%	Georgia	81%	16%
Burundi	98%	2%	Turkmenistan	80%	18%
Thailand	97%	2%	Costa Rica	79%	19%
Comoros	97%	2%	Venezuela	79%	21%
Egypt	97%	2%	Bosnia and Herzegovina	77%	21%
Morocco	97%	1%	Macedonia	76%	22%
Afghanistan	97%	3%	Cyprus	75%	24%
Senegal	96%	4%	Poland	75%	19%
Cambodia	96%	3%	Armenia	73%	25%
Cameroon	96%	4%	Mexico	73%	25%
Malaysia	96%	3%	Kyrgyzstan	72%	25%
Nigeria	96%	3%	Moldova	72%	19%
Philippines	96%	4%	Italy	72%	25%
Mali	95%	4%	Greece	71%	28%
Rwanda	95%	5%	Montenegro	71%	28%
Chad	95%	5%	Singapore	70%	29%
Algeria	95%	4%	Chile	70%	29%
Qatar	95%	4%	Croatia	70%	28%
Zambia	95%	5%	Argentina	66%	33%
Ghana	95%	5%	United States	65%	34%
Congo (Kinshasa)	94%	5%	Ireland	54%	46%
Kenya	94%	6%	Serbia	54%	44%
Bahrain	94%	4%	Israel	51%	48%
Palestinian Territories	93%	7%	Uzbekistan	51%	46%
Nepal	93%	6%	Azerbaijan	50%	49%
Tunisia	93%	5%	Spain	49%	50%
Saudi Arabia	93%	4%	Slovenia	47%	52%
Sudan	93%	7%	Ukraine	46%	48%
Uganda	93%	7%	Kazakhstan	43%	48%
Pakistan	92%	6%	South Korea	43%	56%
Paraguay	92%	8%	Lithuania	42%	49%
Kuwait	91%	6%	Canada	42%	57%
United Arab	91%	8%	Switzerland	41%	57%

Survey Methods

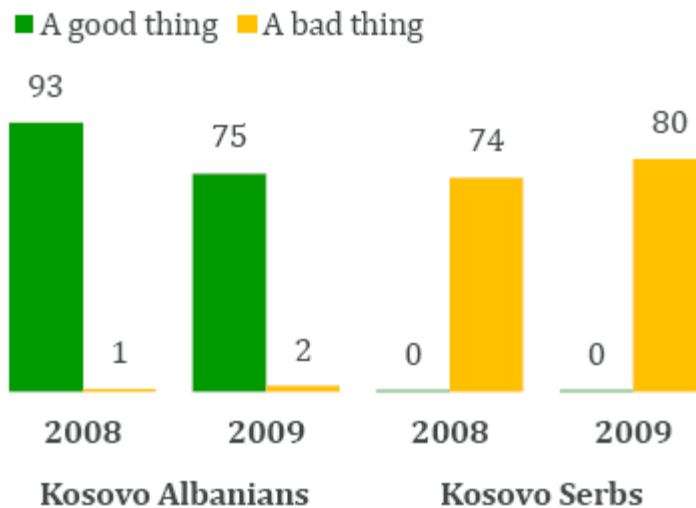
Results are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews conducted in 2009 with approximately 1,000 adults in each country. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from ± 5.3 percentage points in Lithuania to ± 2.6 percentage points in India. 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.

Mixed views on the long-term impact of Kosovo independence

July 2010

When, shortly after the declaration of independence, the *Gallup Balkan Monitor* asked people in Kosovo for their assessment of the territory's secession from Serbia, the verdict of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians was clear: 93% said that independence had *turned out to be a good thing*. Not surprisingly, Kosovo Serbs did not agree: hardly any of them shared that view and three-quarters (74%) took a totally opposite view, seeing Kosovo's independence as a *bad thing*. A year later, in 2009, the percentage of Kosovo Serbs giving such a negative assessment had risen by six percentage points to 80%. In parallel, fewer Kosovo Albanians now thought that independence had turned out well: down 18 percentage points to 75%.

Fewer Kosovo Albanians find independence to be a 'good thing', Kosovo Serbs growing ever more critical



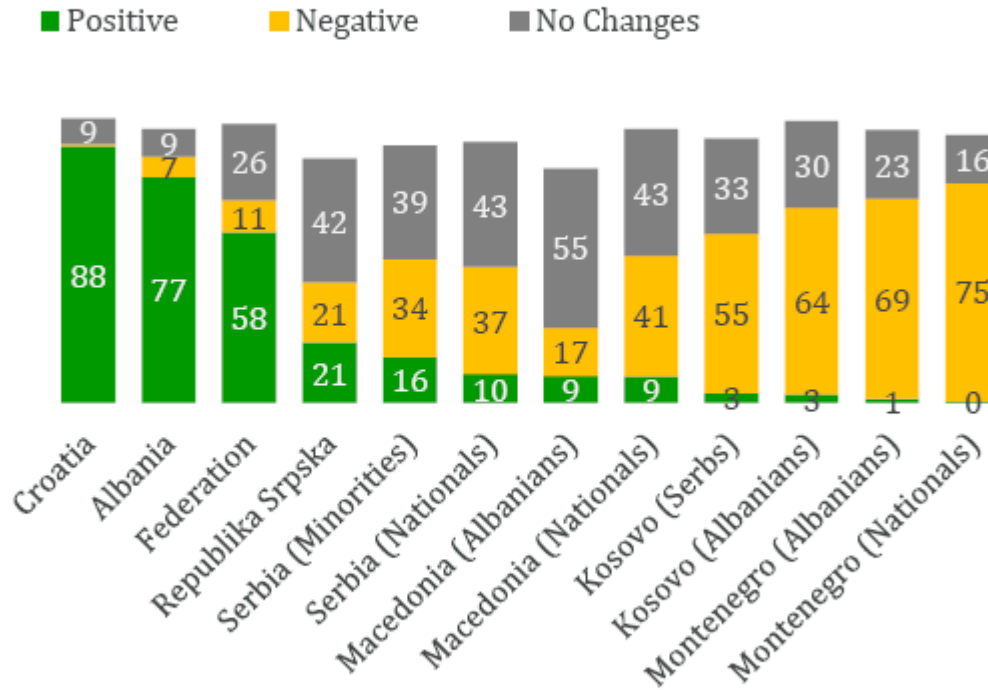
In your opinion, has the independence of Kosovo turned out to be rather a good thing, or rather a bad thing? %, base: Kosovo respondents

As for the impact of the declaration of independence on the stability of the Western Balkans region, majorities of Kosovo Albanians (64%) and Kosovo Serbs (55%) both felt that to-date the consequences had been negative.

Across the region, however, opinions were divided: while vast majorities in Croatia and Albania (88% and 77%, respectively) thought that Kosovo's declaration of independence had had a positive influence on Balkan stability, in Montenegro, the majority of both Montenegrin nationals and Albanians (75% and 69%, respectively) felt that it had made the region less stable. After the ICJ ruling, this feeling was echoed by Montenegrin Foreign Minister Milan Rocić who stated that stability in the region was needed to bring the people together so that faster progress could be made towards European integration.

At the same time, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dušanka Majić, the Serb president of the upper house of the central parliament said that Republika Srpska had all it now needed to follow Kosovo's route if it decided to do so. Somewhat surprisingly then, only one in five respondents in the Republika Srpska had seen Kosovo's declaration of independence in a positive light. People in both Bosnian entities seem less and less convinced by the claim made by many supporters of Kosovo's independence – that it would not constitute a precedent for other separatist movements. While a relative majority of respondents in the Federation (44%) still disagreed with the statement that the Kosovar declaration would constitute a precedent for a split-off Serbian entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the number of those agreeing with the statement rose strongly from just 23% in 2008 to 35% in 2009. In Republika Srpska, a

Respondents in Croatia, Albania and the BiH Federation see effects of Kosovo independence as positive for the region, people in Montenegro disagree



So far, has Kosovo's independence had positive or negative consequences on the stability of the region? %, Survey wave: 2009, base: all respondents

relative majority of 43% (both in 2008 and in 2009) agreed with the claim that *Kosovo's independence set a prece-dent for Bosnia and Herzegovina's future and cleared the way for the secession* of their entity.

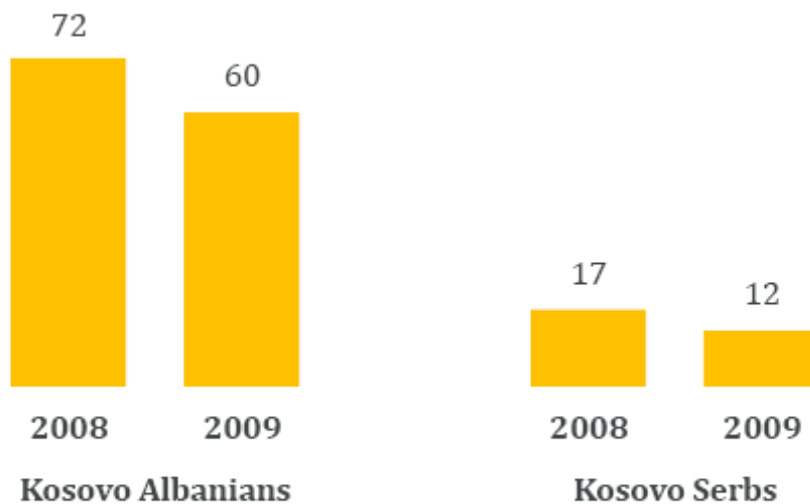
Doubts about multi-ethnic coexistence in Kosovo

Immediately after the declaration of independence in 2008, almost three-quarters (72%) of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians were convinced it would be possible to *live peacefully together with Serbs in an independent Kosovo*. Just 12 months later, they were less optimistic: the proportion of Kosovo Albanians convinced that they could live peacefully with ethnic Serbs had dropped by 12 percentage points to 60%. A parallel development could be observed among Kosovo Serbs, albeit on a much smaller scale: while in 2008, about one in six (17%) were hopeful that peaceful coexistence would be possible, this figure shrunk by five percentage points in 2009. Two-thirds (67%) of Kosovo Serbs disagreed that such coexistence would be possible.

While this divergence of views did not translate directly into a fear of an outbreak of war, the responses to questions on that topic were a cause for concern: about one-third (31%) of Kosovo Serbs thought that the dispute would lead to armed conflict. This fear was not shared by Kosovo's ethnic Albanians where only 5% saw such a danger on their territory. Similarly, only 8% of Kosovo Albanians *agreed with those Serbs who did not feel secure in Kosovo* (down from 15% in 2008), while among Kosovo Serbs, the proportion not feeling secure rose from 85% to 93% between 2008 and 2009. Under such conditions, Kosovo Serbs felt the need for more backing from the government of Serbia. When asked how they assessed the government's efforts in offering them protection, 59% said these efforts had been *only fair or poor* – while a minority of 39% perceived them as being *good or excellent*.

Some commentators in the region have discussed a division of the Kosovo territory as a way of re-solving the dispute: for example, the Serbian-majority parts of Kosovo would join Serbia while the Albanian-majority parts would remain independent. However, according to the *Gallup Balkan Monitor*, such a solution would find little support with either of the ethnic groups: 94% of Kosovo Albanians and 82% of Kosovo Serbs rejected such a solution, with only 2% and 12% respectively, considering it to be acceptable.

Belief in peaceful coexistence decreasing among both ethnic groups in Kosovo



Do you think it would be possible to live together peacefully with the Serbs/Albanians in an independent Kosovo? % yes, base: respondents in Kosovo

Weak support for international presence in Kosovo

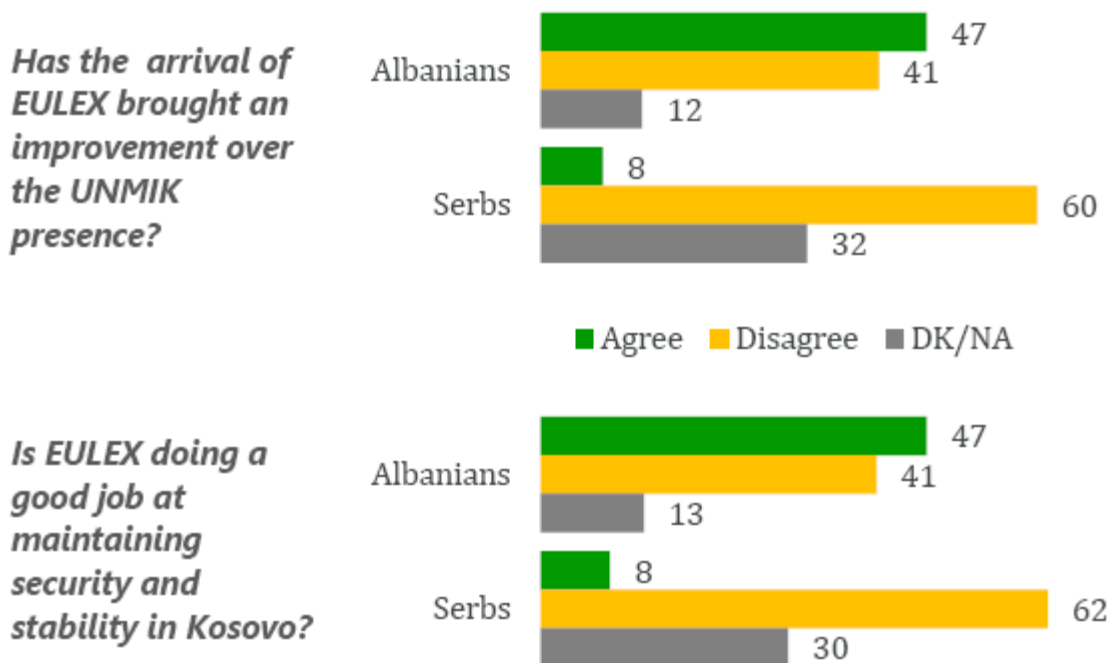
Despite the unilateral declaration of independence, Kosovo is still far from being a fully autonomous state: the International Civilian Representative (ICR), a post currently held by Pieter Feith, formerly the EU Council's Deputy Director-General for Politico-Military Affairs, has far-reaching powers like annulling legislation deemed to be inconsistent with the 'Ahtisaari Plan', currently serving as a basis for Kosovo's governmental setup. Besides the ICR, who also serves as the EU Special Representative (EUSR), the EU also has a

strong presence in the territory with its rule of law mission EULEX. The mission consists of police officers, legal staff and administrative experts that assist Kosovo authorities in the creation of a multi-ethnic police force, justice system and administration. EULEX, which is taking over many functions of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), also holds limited executive powers, for example in the persecution of organised crime, corruption, inter-ethnic crimes, and the maintenance of public order.

Asked whether there was a need for a position such as the ICR/EUSR in Kosovo in order for the country to function, a considerable proportion of both ethnic groups deemed an international presence to be necessary. Among ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, 38% disagreed with that proposition, 35% agreed with the ICR's presence, while 27% did not know or gave no answer. The Kosovo Serbs had a clearer opinion: 58% saw no necessity for the ICR/EUSR role, 26% supported the presence and 17% did not know or gave no response.

Regarding EULEX, ethnic Albanians were much more supportive than the Kosovo Serbs. Equal proportions of Albanians (47%) stated that *EULEX had brought an improvement over the presence of UNMIK* and that *EULEX was doing a good job in maintaining security and stability in Kosovo*. The Kosovo Serbs were less convinced of the beneficial role of EULEX: only 8% preferred EULEX over UNMIK and the same proportion of interviewees were satisfied with its job in maintaining security – three-fifths (60% and 62% respectively) held contrary opinions. This is in line with the statement of the Serbian Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanović, who, after a bomb attack in Mitrovica/Northern Kosovo in early July, called for better protection of Kosovo Serbs by EULEX. It remains unclear, however, who was responsible for the attacks.

Albanians divided about EULEX, Serbs disapprove strongly



Survey wave: 2009, base: respondents in Kosovo

Serbia: strong beliefs mixed with a dose of realism

Throughout the dispute, the beliefs of respondents in Serbia have remained resolutely strong. In 2009, three-quarters (73%) of those interviewees felt personally concerned by the Kosovo issue and a similar proportion (71%) were convinced that *Kosovo had to remain part of Serbia* – a statement with which only 15% of respondents in Serbia disagreed. Furthermore, about two-thirds (64%) were convinced that Serbia would *never* recognise Kosovo (up slightly from 61% in 2008), while a quarter (24%) thought it would happen within the next 10 years. Finally, about a quarter of the Serb population (27%) demanded that Kosovo's secession *had to be prevented by arms as a last resort* with a similar percentage (25%) expecting another war on the Kosovo territory.

Despite these heartfelt beliefs, the strong international backing for Kosovo's independence seems to have impacted the opinions of the respondents in Serbia: a relative majority of 43% stated that no matter what Serbs did, *Kosovo would be independent one day*, with

Among respondents in Serbia...



What would you say, does the question of Kosovo's independence concern you? | Do you agree with the statement: Kosovo has to remain part of Serbia? | When do you think Serbia will recognise Kosovo's independence? Survey wave: 2009, base: respondents in Serbia

39% disagreeing with that statement. Asked whether the partition of Kosovo might be part of a future solution to the Kosovo dispute, 45% of Serb respondents agreed while 40% did not find such a development to be realistic.

For most Serb respondents it was out of the question to give up Kosovo for EU membership: 70% disagreed with such a proposal, while 16% would agree if their government gave EU membership a higher priority.

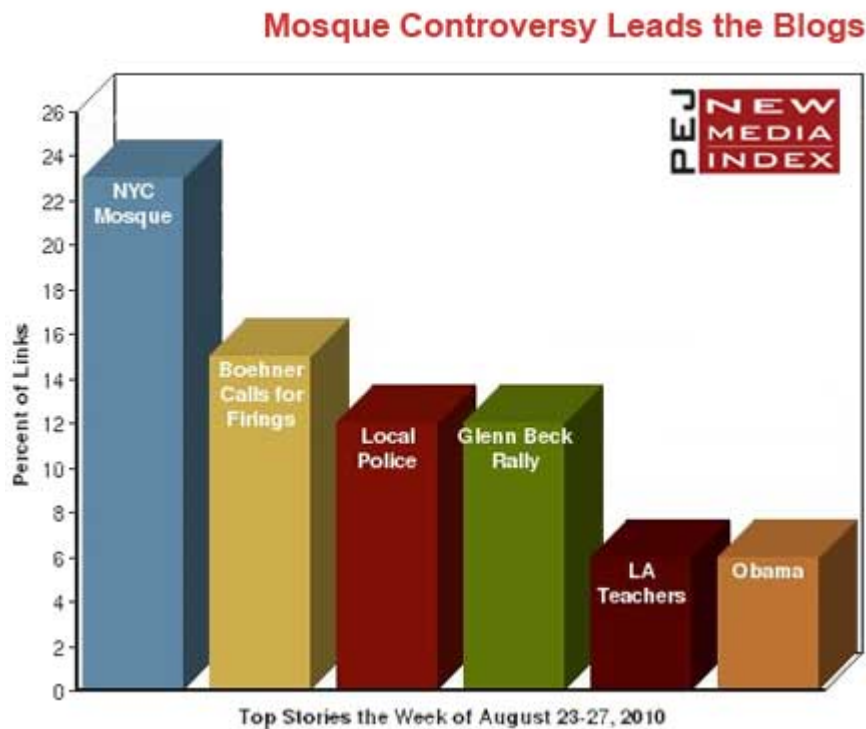
CYBER WORLD

Blogs Continue Islamic Center Debate

September 2, 2010

To a degree not seen in the mainstream press, the controversy over the lower Manhattan Islamic center has touched a raw nerve in the social media. Indeed, Aug. 23-27 marked the third straight week that the intersection of politics, religion, terrorism and 9/11 memories has made the issue one of the top subjects in the blogosphere.

For the week of Aug. 23-27, almost a quarter (23%) of the news links on blogs were about the mosque, making it the No. 1 subject, according to the New Media Index from the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. That marks the most attention to the topic since the mosque debate emerged among bloggers in early August.



In each of those three weeks, the debate narrative has been somewhat different. The first week was dominated by comments from opponents of building the mosque a few blocks away from the World Trade Center site. The next week, the other side weighed in as mosque supporters led the conversation. And last week, bloggers on both sides of the issue took part in a discussion that was as much about the motives of those having the argument as the

mosque itself. Many supporters of the mosque claimed that opponents were motivated by politics or hatred of Islam, while other bloggers suggested that the charges of racism against Muslims were unfair.

The trajectory of the subject in the blogosphere reflects a significantly higher level of attention than in the mainstream press. While the controversy has generated major attention among bloggers for three weeks, the percentage of newshole devoted to the same topic has decreased each week in the traditional press according to PEJ's News Coverage Index.

During the first week the controversy erupted as part of the national discourse (Aug. 9-15), the topic filled only 2% of the mainstream press' newshole. That same week in blogs, however, it was the No. 2 subject, at 18% of the week's links. The next week, Aug. 16-22, the story jumped to the top of both the agenda of the mainstream press (15% of the newshole) and blogs (14% of the links) as it seemed to consume a large amount of the public discussion that week.

Last week, however, as the story reached a high water mark for bloggers, it fell to 6% in the traditional press.

For those in social media, the challenging issues involved in the mosque controversy -- religion, politics and terrorism -- all struck passionate chords and contributed to the staying power of the issue online.

The next top stories on blogs were all domestic issues, most of which had political overtones.

At No. 2, with 15% of the links, was an Aug. 24 Washington Post article about House Minority Leader John Boehner's (R-OH) call for a mass firing of the Obama administration's economic team due to their inability to create jobs.

Third, at 12%, was a USA Today report about how budget cutbacks in some cities have forced local law enforcement agencies to cut back their responses to lesser crimes -- to the point where some have asked residents to file their own reports online.

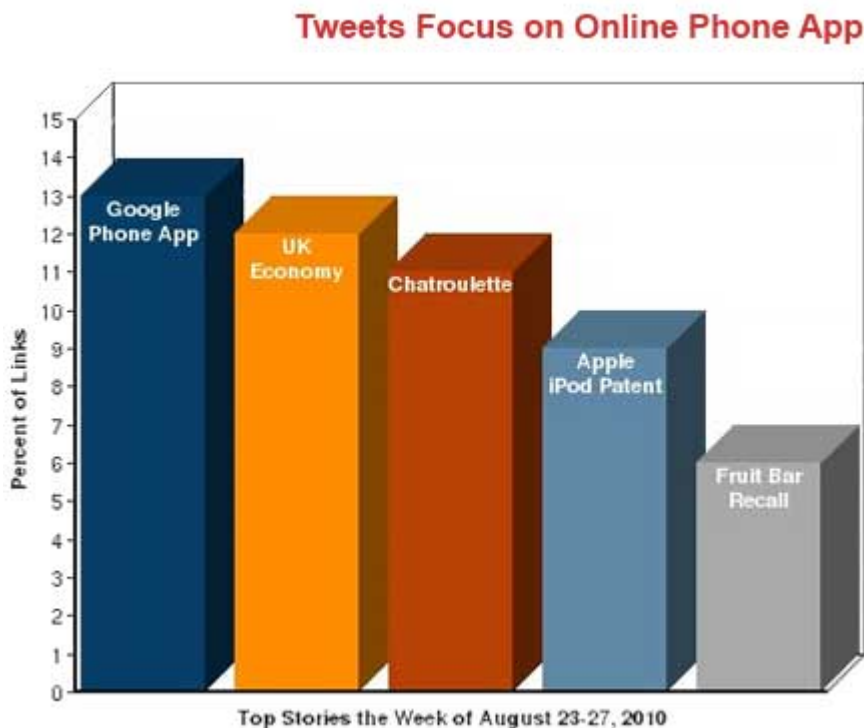
Multiple Washington Post articles previewing talk show host Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally on Aug. 28 in D.C. were fourth at 12%. One was an opinion column by Martin Luther King III contrasting his father's ideology with that of Beck. The other was a news article saying that the rally will be a test of the Tea Party movement's political strength.

Two subjects tied for fifth place on blogs with 6% of the week's links, both of which were among the top stories the previous week. One was an in-depth statistical analysis by the Los Angeles Times that estimated the effectiveness of area school teachers (which was at 13% the previous week). The other subject included several stories about the Obama administration including a Washington Post report about a Pew Research Center

poll showing that nearly 20% of the population believes the president is a Muslim -- a subject that finished with 13% one week earlier.

On the social-networking site Twitter, three technology stories were among the most popular topics.

The subject that got the most attention, with 13% of the news links, was the unveiling of Google's new feature allowing users to make phone calls directly from their Gmail inbox. The reviews in the technical press were mostly positive. While a few twitterers reported difficulties, the vast majority expressed excitement about the convenience and low cost of the new application.



Second, at 12%, were several stories about the British economy including a BBC report about a study claiming the new coalition government's first proposed budget featured cuts that would disproportionately impact the country's poorest families.

News that the random video chat website, Chatroulette, was launching a "renewed and updated version" came third at 11%.

That was followed at 9% by a CNET article about Apple's application for a patent that would prevent iPod owners from "jailbreaking" their devices, a technique used to allow users to run applications not approved by Apple. A month earlier, a similar story related to the legal aspects of jailbreaking was an even bigger on social media as it finished second on blogs that week at 10% and fifth on Twitter with 9%

And fifth on Twitter last week, at 6%, was news of a recall of Fruiti Pops frozen fruit bars due to a rare typhoid outbreak.

On YouTube, two international subjects received significant attention: elections in Brazil and the violent end to a hostage crisis in the Philippines.

Adults, Cell Phones and Texting

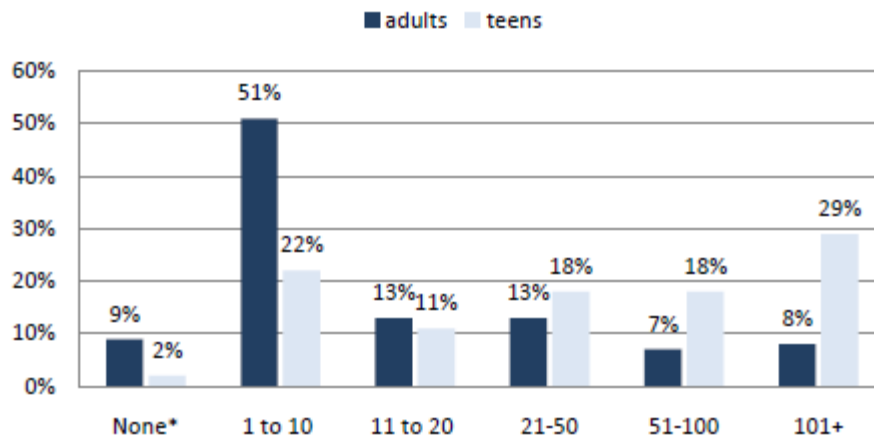
September 2, 2010

Texting by adults has increased over the past nine months from 65% of adults sending and receiving texts in September 2009 to 72% texting in May 2010. Still, adults do not send nearly the same number of texts per day as teens ages 12-17, who send and receive, on average, five times more texts per day than adult texters.

- Adults who text typically send and receive a median of 10 texts a day; teens who text send and receive a median of 50 texts per day.
- 5% of all adult texters send more than 200 text messages a day or more than 6,000 texts a month. Fully 15% of teens ages 12-17, and 18% of adults ages 18 to 24 text message more than 200 messages a day, while just 3% of adults ages 25 to 29 do the same.
- Heavy adult texters -- those who send and receive more than 50 texts a day -- also tend to be heavy users of voice calling. Light texters, who exchange one to 10 texts a day, do not make up for less texting by calling more. Instead, they are light users of both calling and texting.

Adults vs. Teens: Number of texts on a typical day

Based on cell phone users who text



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, April 29 - May 30, 2010 Tracking Survey. N=2,252 adults 18 and older; n=1,917 based on cell phone users. The teen results are based on data from June 26 - September 24, 2009 telephone survey, including cell phones, with n=800 teens ages 12-17 and a parent or guardian; n=625 for teen cell phone users.

The original purpose of the cell phone is still the most universal -- nearly every cell phone user makes calls on their phone at least occasionally.

- The average adult cell phone owner makes and receives around five voice calls a day.
- Women tend to make slightly fewer calls with their cell phones than men -- while 53% of women make and receive five calls or fewer per day, 43% of men say the same. Men are a bit more likely to make slightly more phone calls in a day; 26% of men send and receive six to 10 calls a day, while 20% of women exchange that many calls. Men and women are equally likely to be represented at the extreme high end of callers, with 8% of men and 6% of women making and taking more than 30 calls a day.

Americans especially appreciate that their cell phones make them feel safer (91% of cell owners say this) and help them connect to friends and family to arrange plans (88% agree). Still, some users express irritation with their phone for the disruptions it creates, though the heaviest users of the phone are no more likely to express irritation with their phone than lower level users. Two-in-five (42%) cell phone owners say they feel irritated when a call or text message interrupts them. Cell phones are such a vital part of American's lives that many users will not be parted from their device, even as they sleep:

- 65% of adults with cell phones say they have ever slept with their cell phone on or right next to their bed.
- Adults who have slept with or near their phones are also more likely to feel positively about their phone. They are more likely to appreciate the way the phone

helps them to make plans (94% vs. 78% of those who don't sleep with their phone) and to see the phone as a source of entertainment (52% vs. 14%). Phone sleepers are just as likely to express irritation with the phone as those who don't sleep near their handset.

Cell phones make us feel safer, but also annoy

"Please tell me if you agree or disagree..." (based on adult cell phone users)

	Agree	Disagree	Both / Neither	Don't Know
I feel safer because I can always use my cell phone to get help	91%	8%	1%	0%
I like that my cell phone makes it easy to arrange plans with other people	88	10	1	0
I think it's rude when someone repeatedly interrupts a conversation or meeting to check their cell phone	86	12	1	0
I get irritated when a call or text on my cell phone interrupts me	42	53	4	1
When I am bored, I use my cell phone to entertain myself	39	60	0	0

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, April 29 - May 30, 2010 Tracking Survey. N=2,252 adults 18 and older; n=1,917 based on cell phone users.

Spam isn't just for email anymore; it comes in the form of unwanted text messages of all kinds -- from coupons to phishing schemes -- sent directly to user's cell phones.

- 57% of adults with cell phones have received unwanted or spam text messages on their phone.

African American and Hispanic cell phone users are more intense and frequent users of all of the phone's capabilities than whites. Minorities send more text messages and make more calls on average than their white counterparts.

- African American and English-speaking Hispanic adults are slightly more likely than whites to own a cell phone, with 87% of African Americans and English-speaking Hispanics owning a phone, compared with 80% of whites.
- African American and English-speaking Hispanic cell phone owners are more likely than whites to initiate and receive large numbers of calls each day. One-in-eight (12%) African American phone owners and 14% of Hispanic cell phone users make

and receive more than 30 calls on a typical day, while just 4% of white cell phone users make and receive the same number of calls.

- African American and Hispanic texters typically text more on average than white texters, with a median of 10 texts a day for African Americans and Hispanics and 5 texts a day for whites. White adults are a bit more likely than English-speaking Hispanic adults to say they do not send or receive any texts on a typical day (10% vs. 4%).

Parents with children under age 18 in the home are also keen users of the cell phone. Parents are more likely to own a cell phone than non-parents, and more likely to make five or more calls per day than non-parents (63% vs. 44%), though they do not text more overall. They are more likely to have slept with their phone on or near their bed, and to use the phone for talking for all types of purposes. Texting is less definitive -- mostly parents use it for the same reasons and similar frequencies as non-parents. Parents are also more likely than those without minor children at home to appreciate the way the phone allows them to check in, plan on the fly and stave off boredom.

- Parents (90%) are more likely to have a cell phone than adults without children under 18 at home (78%).
- 72% of parents have slept with their phone, compared with 62% of non-parents.

Parents are more likely to use their cell phone's voice capabilities several times a day for work calls (32% of parents vs. 19% of non-parents), to check in with someone (28% vs. 17%), to say hello and chat (31% vs. 24%) and to have long personal conversations (13% vs. 7%) than are non-parents. Parents are also more likely than non-parents to coordinate a physical meeting (18% vs. 13%) daily.
