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Prelude

This week report consists of 24 surveys. Four of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 19 are national surveys from various countries.

Iraqis Cite ‘Services’ as Top Problem, ‘Security’ Concerns Decline

Trends Since December 2009 Survey

A recent **IRI** survey indicates a divided mood among the Iraqi people – more so than in **IRI**'s December 2009 survey – with **59 %** of respondents indicating that their country is heading in the wrong direction and 41 % indicating the right direction. This wrong direction rating represents a shift in opinion about the future of the country, with the number of respondents who believe that Iraq is heading in the right direction dropping 10 points from a **51 %** majority in December 2009.

Significantly, however, respondents' optimism concerning their personal and household economic future rose between the December and June polls. When asked if they felt that their household economic well being would improve, **63 %** thought it would improve and 13 % thought it would worsen. This shift is noteworthy as corresponding figures were considerably lower in the December 2009 survey.

A majority of respondents also see wages and salaries as either better (**36 %**) or at least the same (**37 %**) over the past year, suggesting, in turn, that the predominant dissatisfaction with Iraq's overall direction stems more from perceptions of national rather than personal troubles.

One source of this malaise is the widespread view that basic services (water, electricity, sewage, etc.) have deteriorated over the past year. At the same time, a majority of Iraqis continue to see a negative general economic situation (**56 %**) and a worsening of unemployment in the country (**63 %**).

As seen over the course of IRI polling, Iraqi people continue to display optimism towards the security situation within the country. This survey indicates that **73 %** of respondents acknowledge an improvement in security, representing an eight point decrease from **81 %** in December 2009.

When asked how the Iraqi National Government has performed a majority, **61 %**, cite favorably, a three point increase from December 2009. Conversely, the Council of Representatives received decidedly mixed reviews with **38 %** of respondents indicating that they approve of the new body, while **62 %** either disapprove or remain undecided.

Issues

Top Concern: Services, Not Security

The June 2010 poll showed a distinct shift from December 2009 on the *single* biggest problem facing Iraq as a whole. The latest figures for this are: Basic services such as water and electricity, **69 %**; security, **20 %**; and unemployment, 9 %. The top two were reversed in December 2009: security, **43 %**; and basic services, **23 %**.

Security is cited in June 2010 as *one of the top three concerns* by **59 %**, behind basic services at **74 %**. In the December 2009 poll, the economy and security were virtually tied as top three issues with Iraq voters. When asked to name the top three issues they wanted the prime minister and the Council of Representatives to focus on, **76 %** cited economy-related issues as one of their top three choices and **72 %** cited security. However, a majority of Iraqis agreed that security has improved in the country (**81 %** better – **18 %** worse). Voters were less sure about the economy, with **40 %** rating the economy positively and **57 %** rating it negatively.

- **SOURCE:**

- [http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2010%20September%2016%20IRI%20Iraq%20Index,%20June%203-July%203,%202010\(1\).pdf](http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2010%20September%2016%20IRI%20Iraq%20Index,%20June%203-July%203,%202010(1).pdf)

ALSO SEE:

- <http://www.iri.org/news-events-press-center/news/iri-releases-survey-iraqi-public-opinion-0>
- [http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2010%20September%2016%20Survey%20of%20Iraqi%20Public%20Opinion,%20June%203-July%203,%202010\(3\).pdf](http://www.iri.org/sites/default/files/2010%20September%2016%20Survey%20of%20Iraqi%20Public%20Opinion,%20June%203-July%203,%202010(3).pdf)

IRAQ

IRAQ

Population: 28,945,569 (July 2010 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian, or other 5%

GDP per Capita \$3,800 (2009 est.)

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq was occupied by Britain during the course of World War I; in 1920, it was declared a League of Nations mandate under UK administration. In stages over the next dozen years, Iraq attained its independence as a kingdom in 1932. A "republic" was proclaimed in 1958, but in actuality a series of strongmen ruled the country until 2003. The last was SADDAM Husayn. Territorial disputes with Iran led to an inconclusive and costly eight-year war (1980-88). In August 1990, Iraq seized Kuwait but was expelled by US-led, UN coalition forces during the Gulf War of January-February 1991. Following Kuwait's liberation, the UN Security Council (UNSC) required Iraq to scrap all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles and to allow UN verification inspections. Continued Iraqi noncompliance with UNSC resolutions over a period of 12 years led to the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and the ouster of the SADDAM Husayn regime. US forces remained in Iraq under a UNSC mandate through 2009 and under a bilateral security agreement thereafter, helping to provide security and to train and mentor Iraqi security forces. In October 2005, Iraqis approved a constitution in a national referendum and, pursuant to this document, elected a 275-member Council of Representatives (CoR) in December 2005. After the election, Ibrahim al-JAAFARI was selected as prime minister; he was replaced by Nuri al-MALIKI in May 2006. The CoR approved most cabinet ministers in May 2006, marking the transition to Iraq's first constitutional government in nearly a half century. On 31 January 2009, Iraq held elections for provincial councils in all provinces except for the three provinces comprising the Kurdistan Regional Government and at-Ta'mim (Kirkuk) province.

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



SUMMARY OF POLLS

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqis Cite ‘Services’ as Top Problem, ‘Security’ Concerns Decline

Recent IRI survey of Iraqi public conducted by Pechter Middle East Polls shows that though more Iraqis feel that the country is going in the wrong directions but still ‘security’ concerns have declined. Iraqis mention ‘services’ such as water and electricity as their single most important problem.

September 16, 2010

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Nigeria: Goodluck Jonathan and the 2011 Presidential Elections

Despite growing speculation about whether President Goodluck Jonathan will run for President in the upcoming 2011 presidential elections, the president is still yet to declare his intentions. A recent survey conducted by NOI Polls shows that the majority (81%) of Nigerians believe that Jonathan should run for President.

September 12, 2010

Nigeria: Attahiru Jega, INEC and Nigerians’ Hopes for the 2011 Elections

In a recent survey conducted by NOI Polls, 80% of Nigerians said that they were aware of Attahiru Jega's appointment as INEC chairman and majority have confidence in the INEC leadership to conduct free and fair election and they intend to vote.

September 12, 2010

The Nigerian Banking Sector

In a recent survey conducted by NOI Polls, Nigerians were asked if they were aware of the ongoing banking reforms by the CBN. About four in ten respondents (42%) said they were unaware of the reforms while 58% of the respondents said they were aware of the reforms.

September 06, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Dynamics Of Attitudes Of The Population Of Ukraine And Russia To One Another

A recent survey of Russian and Ukrainian population by Kyiv Institute shows that people on both side of the fence have highly favorable opinion of each others countries and a reasonable majority wants to have free movement across borders.

September 16, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Domestic Violence Against Women (Multi-country survey)

A Eurobarometer survey finds that domestic violence remains very common across Europe: one respondent in four across the EU knows a woman among friends or in the family circle who is a victim of domestic violence. Since the previous survey, the proportion of Europeans (on a comparable EU15 basis) that say they know a victim of domestic violence in their circle of friends or family has increased from 19% to 25%.

September 2010

Europeans, Development aid, and the Millennium Development Goals

Eurobarometer poll finds that Europeans attach high importance to development and cooperation among the European countries. They believe poverty to be the major problem for developing world and contribute financially in eradicating it.

September 2010

Hostile views to Catholic doctrines

Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the UK was generally judged a success by most commentators and the first post-visit surveys suggest a small improvement in perceptions of the Pope. But a Populus poll for The Times revealed considerable underlying hostility in Britain to the views of the Catholic Church.

September 17, 2010

Divided opinions on coalition, economy and cuts

Most voters (59%) think the coalition is 'doing well overall' so far, according to the latest Populus poll for The Times. But the poll also reveals a stark difference of view between men and women when it comes to central aspects of the government's agenda.

September 17, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Trust U.S. More on Foreign Than on Domestic Affairs

Gallup's annual Governance survey finds 57% of Americans expressing a great deal or fair amount of trust in the U.S. government to handle international problems. That is down from 62% a year ago, but remains higher than the percentage trusting Washington to handle domestic problems, now at a record-low 46%.

September 23, 2010

Trust in Legislative Branch Falls to Record-Low 36%

A record-low 36% of Americans have a great deal or fair amount of trust and confidence in the legislative branch of government, down sharply from the prior record low of 45% set last year. Trust in the judicial branch and trust in the executive branch also suffered sharp declines this year but remain higher than trust in the legislative branch.

September 24, 2010

Independents Oppose Party in Power ... Again

For the third national election in a row, independent voters may be poised to vote out the party in power. The Republican Party holds a significant edge in preferences for the upcoming congressional election among likely voters, in large part because political independents now favor Republican candidates by about as large a margin as they backed Barack Obama in 2008 and congressional Democratic candidates four years ago.

September 23, 2010

Americans Confident in Own Bank, but Not U.S. Banks

The percentage of Americans saying they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in U.S. banks stands at 18%, continuing a trend of low confidence recorded throughout the economic downturn.

September 24, 2010

How You Feel About Midterms Depends on Your Party

About two thirds of the public sees coverage of this year's elections as focused primarily on strategy and conflict, not candidate positions, while a comparable percentage says the 2010 congressional elections are more important than most.

September 22, 2010

Recession or Not, U.S. Job Market Woes Persist

Even as Wall Street rallies on the National Bureau of Economic Research announcement that the recession ended in June 2009, Gallup finds -- more than a year later -- that 88% of Americans believe now is a bad time to find a quality job.

September 22, 2010

On the Role of Government, Parties' Ratings Look Like 1994

Americans' opinions about how well the Democratic Party represents their views on the role of government have soured in recent years. The percentage saying the party is doing either very or moderately well on this has dropped from 57% in October 2006 to 44% today. Over the same period, the Republican Party's image on the role of government has held fairly steady and, as a result, the GOP now leads on this dimension, similar to its position in October 1994.

September 21, 2010

Taxed Enough Already?

Pew finds that while the government, its agencies and its priorities have rarely seen such low levels of trust and favorability, more among the public said that they pay about the right amount in taxes considering what they get from the federal government (50%) than said they pay more than their fair share in taxes (43%). Not surprisingly, just 3% were willing to say they pay less than their fair share in taxes.

September 20, 2010

Little Compromise on Compromising

There is little agreement among the public about compromise in politics. About half (49%) say they most admire political leaders who stick to their positions without compromising, while slightly fewer (42%) say that they most admire political leaders who make compromises with people they disagree with.

September 20, 2010

In U.S., Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables Trails Access

On the heels of the news that Americans aren't consuming as many fruits and vegetables as recommended, an analysis of Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data from 2010 suggests access may not be the problem. Nationwide, 92% of Americans report easy access to affordable fresh produce where they live, as do at least 8 in 10 residents in all states but Alaska.

September 22, 2010

Almost Half of Canadians Would Abolish the Long Gun Registry

As the House of Commons prepares for a vote on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry, many Canadians remain skeptical about the success of the legislation, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

September 21, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Brazilians Upbeat About Their Country, Despite Its Problems

At a time when global publics are mostly glum about the way things are going in their countries, half of Brazilians say they are satisfied with national conditions, and 62% say their nation's economy is in good shape. Of the 21 other publics included in the 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey, only the Chinese are more upbeat about their country's overall direction and economic conditions.

September 22, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Americans, Britons and Canadians Hesitant on Middle East Talks

People in the United States, Canada and Britain have reacted with skepticism to the announcement of high level talks between Israel and the Palestinians, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

September 21, 2010

U.S. Leadership Gains Approval in Parts of Asia

Approval of U.S. leadership in Asia has seen its share of ups and downs over the last two years as the Bush era ended and the Obama era began. So far in 2010, approval ratings remain higher than they were in 2008 in 10 out of the 18 countries surveyed. Approval increased most in Australia and New Zealand and declined most in Vietnam, Indonesia, and India, where residents are now significantly more uncertain.

September 20, 2010

CYBERWORLD

65% - Do You Sleep With Your Cell Phone?

Two third of adult cell owners in U.S. sleep with their cell next to their bed. This ration is even higher in youth which shows it is difficult to separate a cell owner from his/her cell and they remain available on cybernetworks even when they are asleep.

September 19, 2010

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqis Cite 'Services' as Top Problem, 'Security' Concerns Decline

September 16, 2010

Washington, DC – IRI released its national survey and analysis of Iraqi public opinion, conducted June 3-July 3, 2010.

Indicators

Trends Since December 2009 Survey

This survey indicates a divided mood among the Iraqi people – more so than in IRI's December 2009 survey – with 59 percent of respondents indicating that their country is heading in the wrong direction and 41 percent indicating the right direction. This wrong direction rating represents a shift in opinion about the future of the country, with the number of respondents who believe that Iraq is heading in the right direction dropping 10 points from a 51 percent majority in December 2009.

Significantly, however, respondents' optimism concerning their personal and household economic future rose between the December and June polls. When asked if they felt that their household economic well being would improve, 63 percent thought it would improve and 13 percent thought it would worsen. This shift is noteworthy as corresponding figures were considerably lower in the December 2009 survey.

A majority of respondents also see wages and salaries as either better (36 percent) or at least the same (37 percent) over the past year, suggesting, in turn, that the predominant dissatisfaction with Iraq's overall direction stems more from perceptions of national rather than personal troubles.

One source of this malaise is the widespread view that basic services (water, electricity, sewage, etc.) have deteriorated over the past year. At the same time, a majority of Iraqis continue to see a negative general economic situation (56 percent) and a worsening of unemployment in the country (63 percent).

As seen over the course of IRI polling, Iraqi people continue to display optimism towards the security situation within the country. This survey indicates that 73 percent of respondents acknowledge an improvement in security, representing an eight point decrease from 81 percent in December 2009.

When asked how the Iraqi National Government has performed a majority, 61 percent, cite favorably, a three point increase from December 2009. Conversely, the Council of Representatives received decidedly mixed reviews with 38 percent of respondents indicating that they approve of the new body, while 62 percent either disapprove or remain undecided.

Regional Differences

As of June 2010, regional differences on bellwether questions have narrowed since December 2009. Today even residents of the Kurdistan region (61 percent) or Basrah (71 percent) tend to

agree with their compatriots elsewhere that Iraq is going in the wrong direction. In fact, only in the southern belt provinces are the right and wrong directions statistically tied (51 percent vs. 49 percent). Similarly, the three major sectarian or ethnic groups are now more inclined to agree on this point, but by different margins: Shia Arabs, 52 percent wrong vs. 48 percent right; Sunni Arabs, 68 percent wrong vs. 32 percent right, Kurds, 56 percent wrong vs. 44 percent right. In December 2009, by contrast, optimism was strong in the Kurdistan Region, southern belt provinces and in Basrah; the mood was negative in the disputed territories and the northern triangle. Sunni Arabs viewed the country as on the wrong track (36 percent right direction – 58 percent wrong direction), while the opposite was true among Shia Arab (58 percent right direction – 36 percent wrong direction) and Kurds (58 percent right direction – 38 percent wrong direction).

Looking Ahead

Government Formation

Majorities of all three groups, Sunni Arabs, Shia Arabs and Kurds say it is important for Ayad Allawi to be in the new government: overwhelmingly so among Sunni Arabs (92 percent), by Shia Arabs (69 percent) and Kurds (68 percent). However, Sunni Arabs say a government without Allawi would be illegitimate. Shia Arabs are evenly divided on that question, while the Kurds reject it by a decisive margin (56 percent vs. 26 percent).

In assessing the recent elections and anticipating the new Council of Representatives' performance, there are almost no differences at all in the positive views of all three major communities in the country. Around two-thirds in each group say the March 7, 2010 elections were free and fair. Moreover, the same high proportion of each group (57 percent) voice confidence that the new parliament will work well for the benefit of all Iraqi people.

Looming Decisions

Federalism and secularism remain divisive issues, but in different ways. Except in the Kurdistan region, majorities in all other regions prefer a stronger central government, and say oil revenues should flow in that direction. However, inside the Kurdistan region, 14 percent and 30 percent, respectively, take the same positions.

Issues

Top Concern: Services, Not Security

The June 2010 poll showed a distinct shift from December 2009 on the *single* biggest problem facing Iraq as a whole. The latest figures for this are: Basic services such as water and electricity, 69 percent; security, 20 percent; and unemployment, nine percent. The top two were reversed in December 2009: security, 43 percent; and basic services, 23 percent.

Security is cited in June 2010 as *one of the top three concerns* by 59 percent, behind basic services at 74 percent. In the December 2009 poll, the economy and security were virtually tied as top three issues with Iraq voters. When asked to name the top three issues they wanted the prime minister and the Council of Representatives to focus on, 76 percent cited economy-related issues as one of their top three choices and 72 percent cited security. However, a majority of Iraqis agreed that security has improved in the country (81 percent better – 18 percent worse).

Voters were less sure about the economy, with 40 percent rating the economy positively and 57 percent rating it negatively.

Provincial Issues

Based on the June 2010 poll, there are differences in assessments of Iraq's provincial councils. The only one with a clearly positive (60 percent) rating is in the Kurdistan region. In the southern belt, northern triangle, and Ninewah/Kirkuk provinces, a little more than half rate these councils favorably; views in Baghdad are split right down the middle (44 percent positive, 44 percent negative). The negative standout is Basrah, where the provincial council gets by far the worst ratings: 65 percent negative vs. 33 percent positive.

In the December 2009 poll, people were mixed about the conditions in their province but optimistic about the future. When asked about the condition of their province in the December 2009 poll, 49 percent said that they thought it was heading in the right direction, while 36 percent said it was not. Local economies were rated as being in good shape by 38 percent while 52 percent rated it negatively. However, the December 2009 poll indicated that people did believe that their councils could improve their lives; 58 percent responded that it was likely that their council would do so. When asked in the December 2009 poll what the councils' top three priorities should be, basic services were chosen by 67 percent while 52 percent mentioned unemployment; security was third at 47 percent.

Ratings

Performance Ratings

As of June 2010, the Iraqi National Army (73 percent) and police (68 percent) continue to receive high approval ratings – and so, by a smaller margin does the national government (61 percent). All of these numbers are practically unchanged since the December 2009 poll.

The largest difference in attitudes remains in perceptions of the army: Shia Arabs, 81 percent favorable; Sunni Arabs, 70 percent favorable; Kurds, only 51 percent favorable. Conversely, Kurds are solidly favorable (83 percent) toward the Kurdistan region; that opinion is much lower between Shia Arabs (24 percent) and Sunni Arabs (22 percent), although this is a marginal improvement since December 2009.

The randomly selected sample consisted of 2,988 Iraqi citizens eligible to vote, and is representative of the general population by age, gender, ethnicity, religion and education. The margin of error for the national sample does not exceed ± 1.77 percent.

IRI has conducted surveys in Iraq since 2003. This poll is part of IRI's programming in Iraq designed to share information with relevant stakeholders to improve accountability and transparency in the political process.

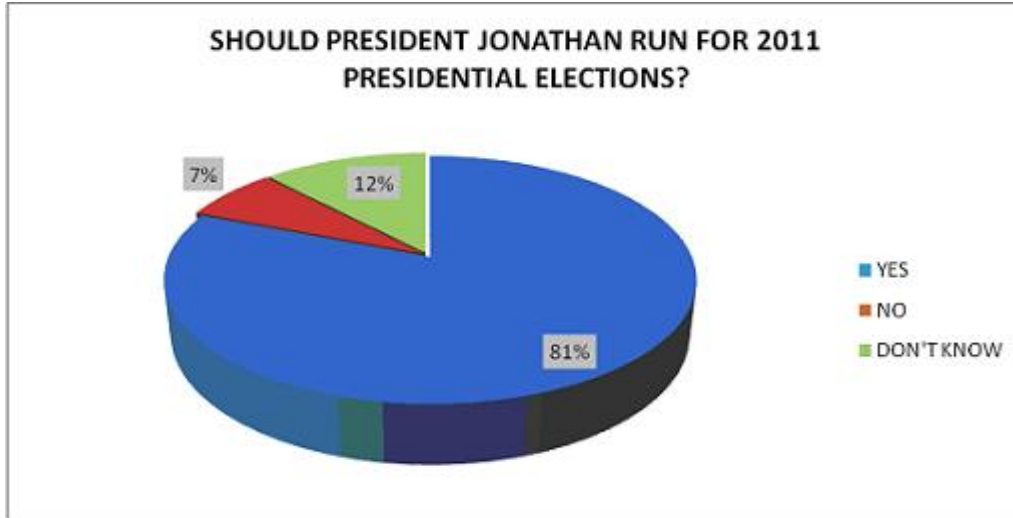
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Goodluck Jonathan and the 2011 Presidential Elections

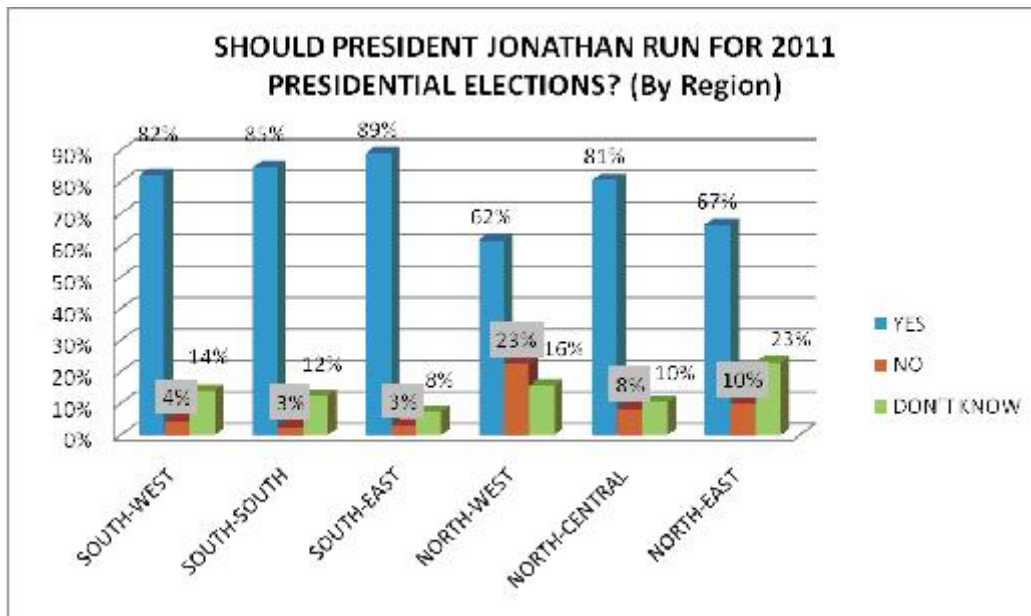
Despite growing speculation about whether President Goodluck Jonathan will run for President in the upcoming 2011 presidential elections, the president is still yet to declare his intentions. However, various interest groups have sprung up pledging their support if Jonathan decides to

run, while others insist that the zoning formula within his own ruling party should prevent him from running for President.

A recent survey conducted by NOI Polls shows that the majority (81%) of Nigerians believe that Jonathan should run for President.

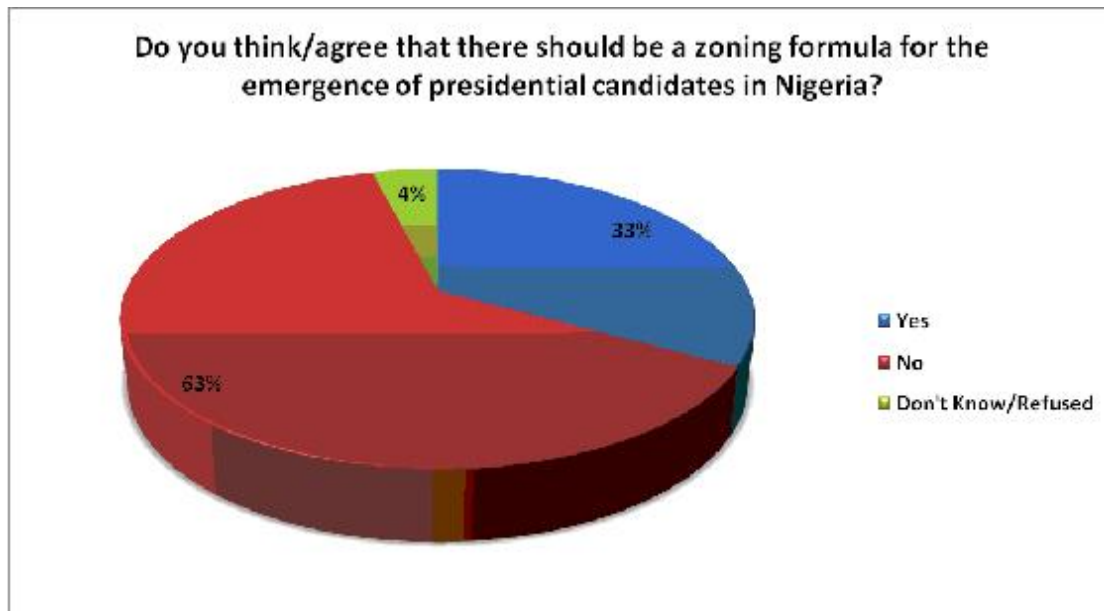


The highest proportion of respondents who think that Jonathan should run for President was from the South-East (89%) and lowest proportion was from the North-West (62%).



Future Elections and the Emergence of Presidential Candidates in Nigeria

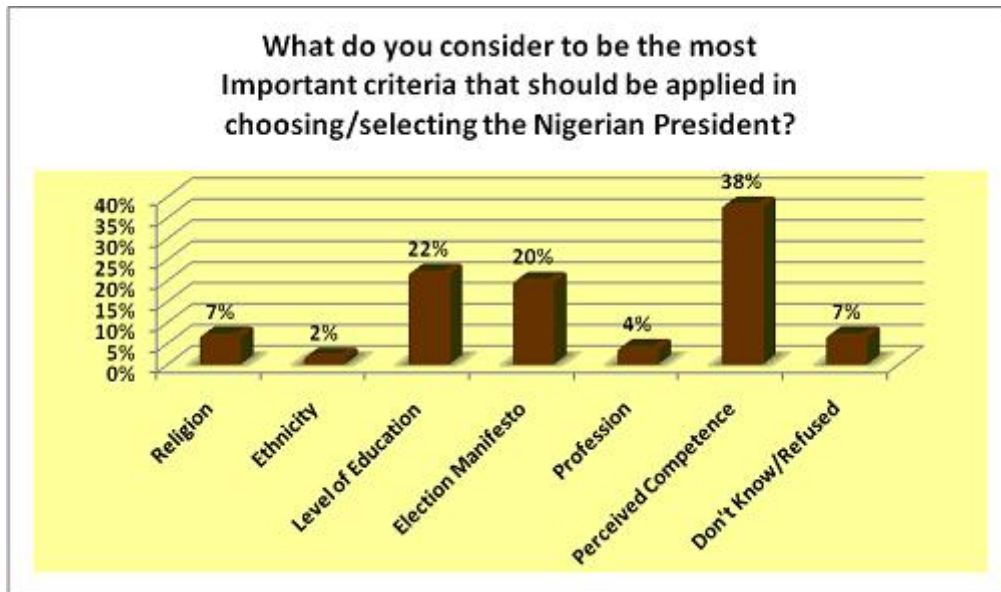
The results of this poll support the findings of a previous poll conducted by NOI Polls in April 2010 which found that Nigerians were largely unsupportive of the application of a Zoning Formula in selecting Presidential candidates. To the question ‘Do you think/agree that there should be a zoning formula for the emergence of Presidential candidates in Nigeria?’, more than 6 in 10 (63%) respondents answered ‘No’.



33% responded in the affirmative while 4% either didn't know or refused to answer the question.

Competence is more important.....

Rather than zoning, Nigerians consider other factors to be more significant when choosing the country's president. In response to the question ‘What do you consider to be the most important criteria that should be applied in choosing/selecting the Nigerian President?’, 38% of respondents answered ‘perceived competence’.

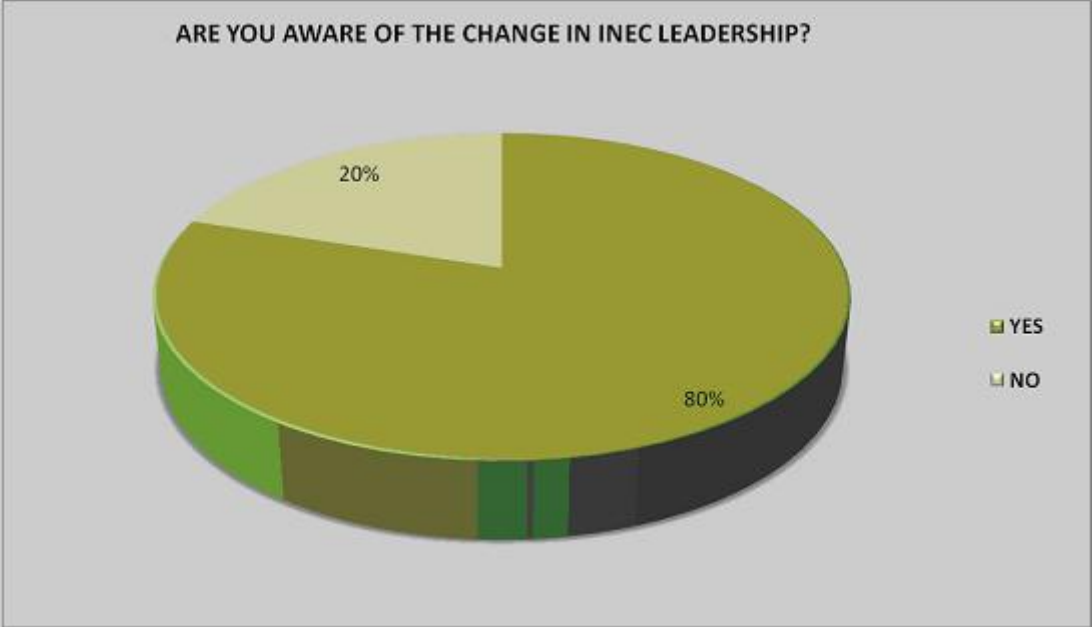


Also considered to be important by respondents is the level of education of the candidates (22%) and election manifesto/promises (20%). Ethnicity was considered the least significant factor (2% of respondents), while religion polled just 7% amongst the respondents.

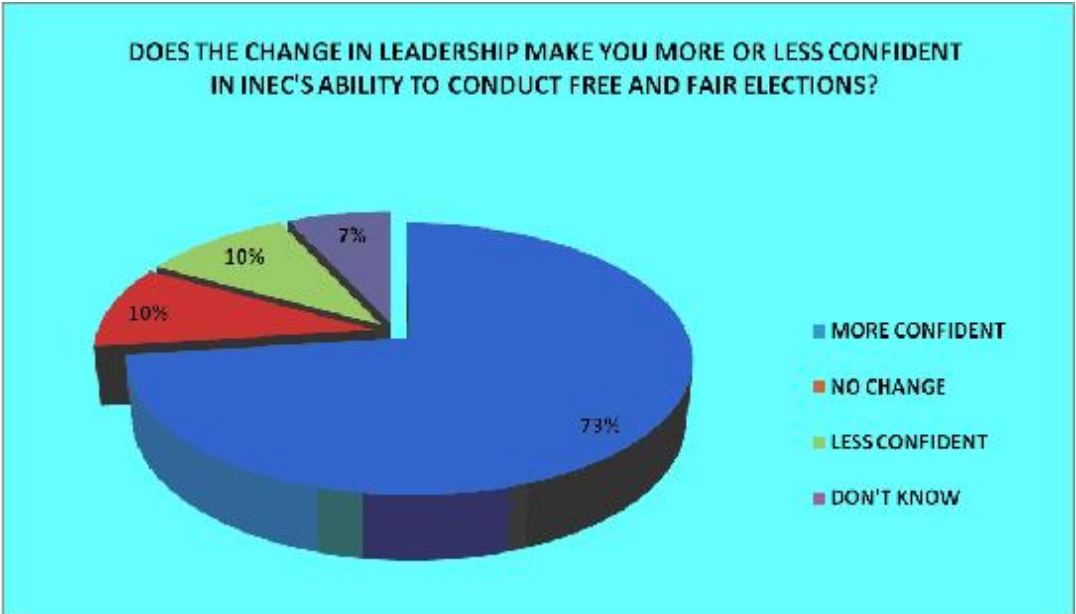
Attahiru Jega, INEC and Nigerians' Hopes for the 2011 Elections

On June 8th 2010, President Goodluck Jonathan nominated Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega as the new chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Jega's nomination was generally lauded by both opposition and pro-establishment parties as he is largely regarded as a man of integrity capable of effective leadership of the INEC. Nonetheless, concerns still remain regarding the conduct of the upcoming 2011 elections and the implementation of reforms in the electoral process.

In a recent survey conducted by NOI Polls, 80% of Nigerians said that they were aware of Attahiru Jega's appointment as INEC chairman.

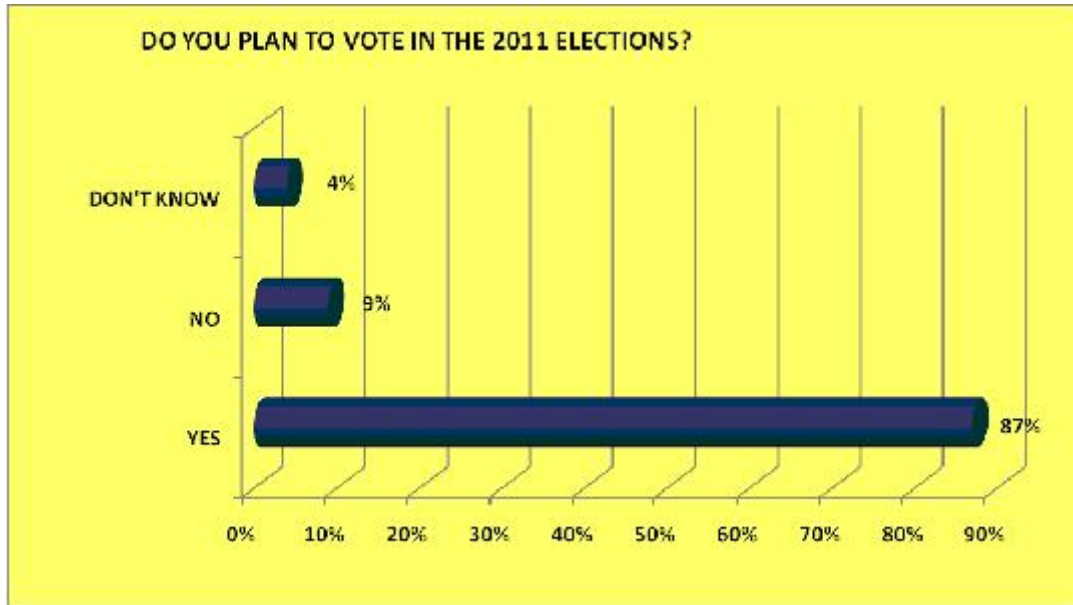


In addition, his appointment has boosted most respondents' confidence in INEC's capacity to conduct credible elections, with 73% responding 'Yes' to the question 'Does the change in leadership make you more confident or less confident in INEC's ability to conduct free and fair elections?'.



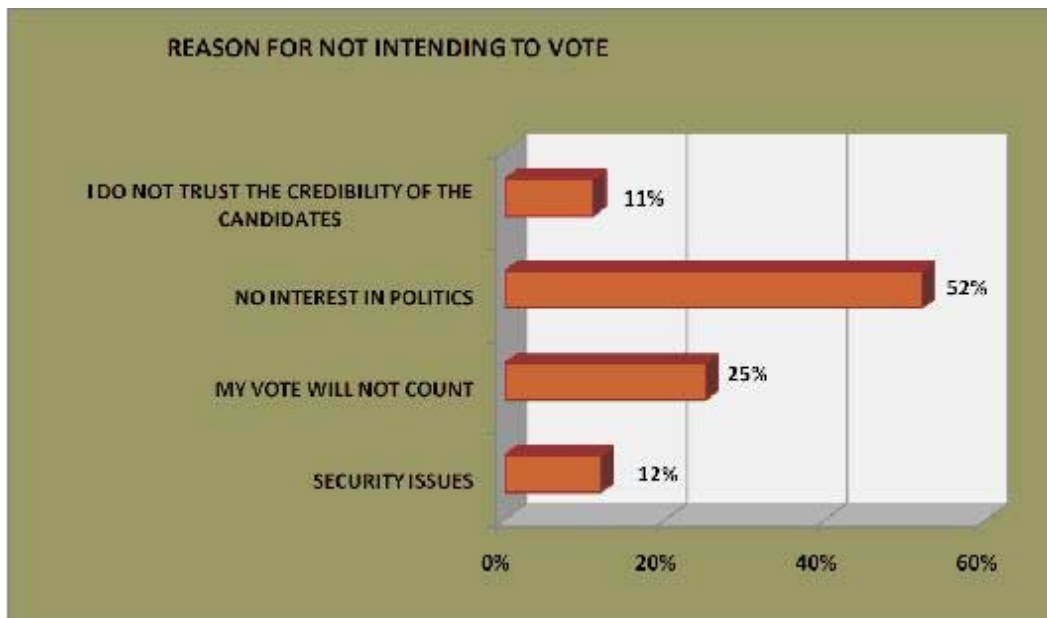
Voting Intentions

The survey also asked respondents whether they intended to vote in the 2011 elections. Just under 9 in 10 of those quizzed (87%) said 'Yes' with only 9% responding 'No' to the question.



Reasons for not voting

Of the 9% who said they no plans to vote in the 2011 elections, the majority (52%) said they were not interested in politics while 25% (1 in 4) said they believe that their votes will not count. The remaining 12% and 11% were concerned about the security during the elections and said they do not believe in the credibility of the candidates, respectively.



Survey Methods

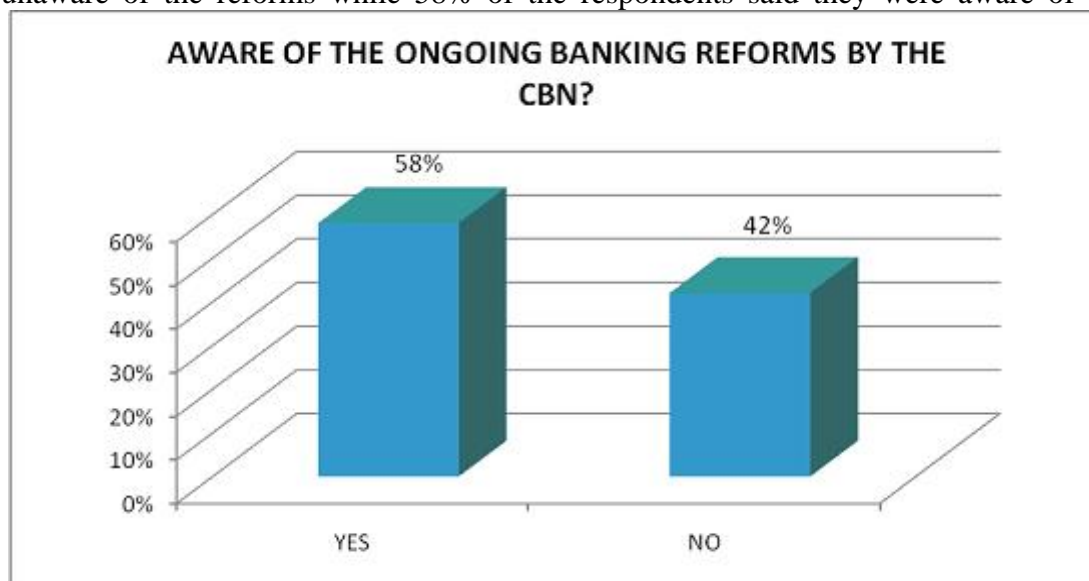
Respondents for the snap polls were randomly selected from a database of phone-owning Nigerians aged 18 and above, compiled by NOI Polls. 1024 people took part in the telephone

interviews from the 23rd and 25th of August, 2010. For a sample of this size, we can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

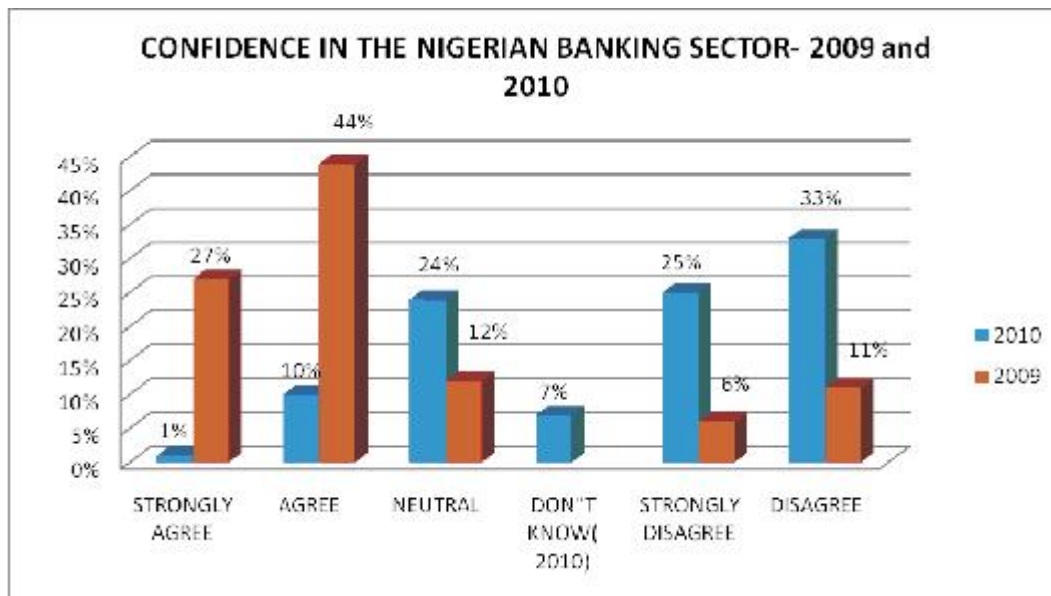
The Nigerian Banking Sector

Abuja, Nigeria. September 06, 2010 – In 2009, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) embarked on reforms in the banking sector to enhance the quality of banks, establish financial stability, enable healthy financial sector evolution and ensure that the financial sector contributes to the real economy. Despite the ongoing reforms in the sector, only roughly One in Ten Nigerians say they have confidence in the Nigerian banking sector.

In a recent survey conducted by NOI Polls, Nigerians were asked if they were aware of the ongoing banking reforms by the CBN. About four in ten respondents (42%) said they were unaware of the reforms while 58% of the respondents said they were aware of the reforms.



Respondents were then asked if they had confidence in the Nigerian Banking Sector. Only 11 % expressed confidence in the banking sector (Agree and strongly agree) while nearly 6 in 10 (58%) respondents said they lacked confidence in the banking sector (Disagree and strongly disagree). 24 % neither had confidence nor lacked confidence in the sector, while 7% did not know if they had or lacked confidence in the banking sector.



The results show a marked reduction in confidence levels when compared to a similar survey conducted by NOI Polls one year ago (August 2009), around the start of the reforms. In that survey, a total of 71 % of the respondents expressed confidence in the banking sector (Agree and strongly agree), compared to 11% in 2010; while only 17% lacked confidence (Disagree and strongly disagree), compared to 58% in 2010. 12% did not know if they had or lacked confidence in the banking sector, compared to 24% in 2010.

Respondents for the snap polls were randomly selected from a database of phone-owning Nigerians aged 18 and above across the six geopolitical zones in the country, compiled by NOI Polls. 1024 people took part in the telephone interviews conducted from the 23rd and 25th of August, 2010. For a sample of this size, we can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points.

This poll is part of the ongoing snap poll exercise conducted by NOI Polls to rapidly assess public sentiments following various social, political or economic events. NOI Polls is a Nigeria based opinion research organization which Works in technical partnership with Gallup Polls (USA), to conduct periodic opinion polls on various socioeconomic issues in Nigeria.

EAST EUROPE

Dynamics Of Attitudes Of The Population Of Ukraine And Russia To One Another

September 16, 2010

Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) has conducted nationwide opinion poll on June 11-20, 2010. With the application of a probability (stochastic) sample representative for the adult population of Ukraine (18 years and older) 2028 respondents living in all regions of Ukraine and Crimea (including the city of Kyiv) were interviewed.

Statistical sampling error (with the probability 0.95 and design effect 1.5) does not exceed 2.3% for the indicators close to 50%, 2.0% for the indicators close to 25%, 1.4% - for the indicators close to 10%, 1.0% - for the indicators close to 5%.

The research of Levada-Center was carried out during May 21–25, 2010. 1610 respondents at the age of 18 years and older in 127 settlements were interviewed. Statistical sampling error (not allowing for design effect) does not exceed 3,4%.

Dynamics of responses of Ukrainians to the question: **"Generally, what is your attitude to Russia now?"** and responses of Russians to the question: **"Generally, what is your attitude to Ukraine now?"**

- ✓ Attitude of the Ukrainian population to Russia generally remains at the same high positive level - an absolute majority (92%) responded that they have good attitude to Russia. Compared to 2008, this indicator increased by 4% (from 88% to 92%) and remains almost the same during the last two years. Poor attitude to Russia have only 6% of the Ukrainian people.
- ✓ According to the deputy director of the Levada Center O. Hrazhdankin **"Since September 2006, the attitude to Ukraine has never being as positive as it is now"**. Indeed, it is obvious that just comparing to January 2010 the attitude of Russians to Ukraine has improved by 14% (from 52% to 66%). Thus, we can say that now the majority of Russians have positive attitude to Ukraine, although this indicator is by 26% smaller than the number of Ukrainians with positive attitude to Russia. Number of Russians with the negative mindset also decreased significantly - in January 2010 such responses comprised 37%, in May - 23%.

Dynamics of the responses of Russians and Ukrainians to the question **"What would you like to see Ukraine's relations with Russia?"**

- ✓ In Ukraine comparing to January somewhat increased the share of people who want to have closed borders with Russia, customs and visas - in January 2010 such respondents comprised 8% in June - 12%. Similarly to the past, most Ukrainians wish to have independent, but friendly relations with Russia without visas and customs (70%). Comparing to January, their number increased by 4% (from 66%). At the same time, the number of people wishing to unite with Russia into one state, instead, has decreased from 22% in January 2010 to 16% in June.
- ✓ In Russia, on the other hand, the number of those wishing to have closed borders with Ukraine, customs and visas has decreased from 25% in January 2010 to 17% in May. Significantly increased the number of people willing to see Ukraine and Russia as independent, but friendly countries without visas and customs - in January such responses comprised 55% in May - 64%. A small share of Russians wishing for unification of Ukraine and Russia remained virtually unchanged - 14% in January, 13% - in May.

Appendices

"Generally, what is your attitude to Russia/Ukraine now?"

Response categories	TO UKRAINE (Russia), %				TO RUSSIA (Ukraine), %			
	Mar. 2008	Oct. 2009	Jan. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2008	Oct. 2009	Jan. 2010	June 2010
Very good/general ly good	55	46	52	66	88	92	93	92
Generally bad/very bad	33	44	37	23	7	6	4	5
DIFFUCULT TO SAY	12	10	11	11	5	3	3	3

"What would you like to see Ukraine's relations with Russia?"

Response categories	In Russia, %				In Ukraine, %			
	Mar. 08	Oct. 09	Jan. 10	May 10	Apr. 08	Oct. 09	Jan. 10	June 10
They should be the same as with other countries - with closed borders, visas and customs	19	25	25	17	10	11	8	12
Ukraine and Russia should be independent, but friendly states – with open borders, no visas and customs	56	55	55	64	67	67	66	70
Ukraine and Russia should unite in one state	19	13	14	13	20	19	22	16
DS	6	7	6	6	3	3	4	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

WEST EUROPE

Domestic Violence Against Women

September 2010

Eurobarometer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this survey is to measure the evolution of European public opinion concerning domestic violence against women since 1999, which can be seen as the starting point for collecting information about the public's view on this important problem. Evolutions are particularly interesting to study considering the changing legal context over the past ten years. The first important message that comes out of the study is the rising awareness of Europeans. The survey also shows broad support for EU action in this area.

- 98% of people are now aware of domestic violence across the EU compared to 94% in the previous survey.
- Awareness of domestic violence against women is very high across the EU, thanks to media such as television (92%), newspapers and magazines (59%) informing the vast majority of EU citizens about the problem.
- Domestic violence remains very common: one respondent in four across the EU knows a woman among friends or in the family circle who is a victim of domestic violence. Since the previous survey, the proportion of Europeans (on a comparable EU15 basis) that say they know a victim of domestic violence in their circle of friends or family has increased from 19% to 25%.
- One person in five knows of someone who commits domestic violence in their circle of friends and family (21%).
- Women are more likely than men to know a woman who has suffered from domestic violence. They are also more likely than men to be aware of people who commit this crime, and more likely to view the problem seriously and to advocate tougher penalties for those responsible.
- 78% of Europeans recognise that domestic violence is a common problem.
- Attitudes to domestic violence have generally become much tougher, with far more people (86%, up from 63% for the EU15) now saying that domestic violence is unacceptable and should always be punishable by law. In the European Union as a whole, 84% consider that domestic violence is unacceptable and should always be punishable by law.
- Sexual and physical violence are seen as the most serious forms of violence suffered by women with 85% of respondents in both cases considering that these are "very serious".
- There is strong support for EU involvement in eradicating domestic violence against women (87% of respondents feel that the EU should probably or definitely be involved).

- However, while most people believe that laws are in place to prevent domestic violence, very few (14%) are familiar with specific EU measures to tackle the problem.

Europeans, Development aid, and the Millennium Development Goals

September 2010

Main Findings

High importance attached to development: 89% of Europeans attach a high value to development cooperation with 45% finding it *very* important and 44% *fairly* important. This is broadly in line with findings from earlier studies although the proportion saying it is very important has increased from 39% in 2009.

Strong support for EU cooperation: Three-quarters (76%) of Europeans believe that there is added value in EU countries working together on helping developing countries.

A significant segment of the population personally contributes to aid but many remain bystanders: 30% of the European public participates concretely in helping poor countries either by donating money (26%) or volunteering in a relevant organisation (4%). However, the largest segment of the population remain bystanders: 42% support the goal without personal input and 21% express indifference to development cooperation.

Poverty named as the number one problem in the developing world: Along with the priorities of the Millennium Development goals, 42% cite poverty as the most imminent problem faced by the developing world, thus instinctively choosing MDG 1 – the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger – as the main challenge. Poverty was also seen as the biggest challenge in 2009 (cited by 50%).

Citizens continue to back the EU's commitment of increasing aid: Exactly a half of the poll (50%) think that aid should be increased in line with the target set by the EU, while 14% would increase aid even beyond this. A non-negligible proportion (29%) is, however, ready to give up the promise. Although the majority (64%) still think that aid should be increased, this proportion has declined from 2009 (72%).

The positive impact of other EU policies in developing countries recognised: 43% of the European public believe that EU trade and finance policies have a positive impact on developing countries, followed by agriculture (33%) and migration (22%). Policies linked to current global challenges such as environmental degradation (22%), energy sufficiency (21%) and climate change (18%) are also seen to make a positive contribution.

Ahead of the EU, the UN and the World Bank are seen as the best placed actors to help developing countries: 27% of Europeans cite the UN as being in the best position to give aid, followed by the World Bank (19%) and the EU (17%). The proportion mentioning the EU in this context has declined from the 26% recorded in 2009.

UK: Hostile views to Catholic doctrines

Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the UK was generally judged a success by most commentators and the first post-visit surveys suggest a small improvement in perceptions of the Pope. But a Populus poll for The Times revealed considerable underlying hostility in Britain to the views of the Catholic Church.

While 47% of Britons, on balance, view the Catholic Church as a “force for good in the world”, a third (33%) describe it as a “force for ill”. More than four-in-five (83%) describe the Catholic Church as acting dishonestly over the abuse of children by some Catholic clergy, and more than seven-in-ten (72%) describe the Catholic Church as “intolerant and judgmental.”

Asked about five areas of Catholic doctrine, the British public – by some margin – say the Pope should drop them:

- 73% say the Catholic Church should drop outright opposition to abortion
- Nearly four-in-five (79%) believe the Pope should end opposition to the use of contraception
- Just a quarter (24%) agree that the Catholic Church should keep and reaffirm its belief that practicing homosexuality is a sin – 70% say the Pope should drop this teaching
- 72% say the Catholic Church should end opposition to women serving as priests
- Opposition to Gay couples adopting children was the area of Catholic doctrine with the greatest support, with 36% saying the Pope should keep and reaffirm this view.

Table 21
Q.21 Do you think that the Catholic Church is a force for good in the world, or a force for ill in the world?
Base: All “Sample B” respondents

	Sex		Age							Social Class				Region					Voting Intention				Vote in 2010			Voted Lib Dem but would not if knew then (Q4)	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Conser-vative	Labour	Lib-eral Democ-rat	DK/Refuse	Conser-vative	Labour	Lib-eral Democ-rat		Considered voting but didn't
Unweighted base	757	339	418	52	79	121	138	156	211	266	169	113	209	204	199	183	106	66	181	209	74	147	182	195	129	82	41
Weighted base	761	374	387	83	116	150	117	132	163	201	227	160	173	199	203	185	107	67	180	194	71	142	178	185	112	80	39
A force for good in the world	358	167	170	53	51	73	48	62	89	106	108	76	67	94	105	81	46	30	100	82	42	68	98	77	56	40	14
	47%	50%	44%	64%	44%	49%	41%	47%	42%	53%	47%	47%	39%	47%	52%	44%	43%	44%	55%	42%	59%	48%	55%	47%	50%	50%	37%
A force for ill in the world	251	134	117	18	42	53	41	49	49	58	74	54	65	69	53	71	37	27	49	78	22	30	45	56	39	27	17
	33%	36%	30%	21%	36%	36%	35%	37%	30%	29%	33%	34%	37%	32%	26%	38%	35%	40%	27%	40%	31%	21%	25%	34%	35%	34%	44%
Refused	17	9	8	-	-	5	3	6	5	3	5	4	2	4	4	6	1	4	3	1	8	4	2	2	-	1	
	2%	2%	2%	-	-	4%	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	6%	1%	2%	1%	1%	5%	2%	1%	2%	-	3%	
Don't know	137	44	93	12	23	17	25	18	40	32	43	25	37	40	41	29	17	10	27	31	6	36	31	31	15	13	6
	18%	12%	24%	15%	20%	12%	22%	14%	25%	16%	19%	16%	22%	20%	20%	16%	16%	15%	15%	16%	9%	28%	18%	18%	13%	16%	15%

Source: Populus U.K.

Divided opinions on coalition, economy and cuts

Most voters (59%) think the coalition is ‘doing well overall’ so far, according to the latest Populus poll for The Times. But the poll also reveals a stark difference of view between men and women when it comes to central aspects of the government’s agenda.

Male voters think that the coalition is doing well in its handling of the economy, by a 59%/33% margin. But women split almost evenly on this question (47%/46%). Men also judge the government to be doing well, by a narrower 51%/42% margin, in its approach to public spending

cuts, whereas more women (53%) think the coalition is handling this issue badly than well (39%).

The more negative perceptions of female voters on these issues undoubtedly relate to the fact that women are also more pessimistic than men about the prospects for the economy over the next year. The Populus economic optimism index ‘for the country as whole’ stands at -40% among women and -27% among men. In terms of how the economy will fare ‘for me & my family’, the index is at zero among men – with as many feeling positive as negative – but at -22% among women.

The poll also indicates that most voters are not yet persuaded of the government’s argument on the timing and scale of proposed measures to deal with the country’s budget deficit – and once again women are more negative than men. Overall nearly three in five voters (59%) agree that ‘Britain has a severe debt crisis and this must be dealt with’, but only 22% (26% of men and only 17% of women) also agree that ‘the budget deficit must be dealt with by the time of the next election’. 37% think the deficit should be dealt with more gradually – halved by the next election and eliminated over 10 years.

Table 1
Q.2 If there was a general election tomorrow, which party would you vote for?
Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age							Social Class			Region					Voting Intention				Vote in 2010			Voted Lib Dem but would not if knew then (Q4)		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Conser-vative	Labour	Lib-eral Democ-rat	Dk/Refuse	Conser-vative	Labour	Lib-eral Democ-rat		Dem but didn't	
Unweighted base	1508	678	830	112	166	242	302	281	405	535	330	215	429	403	391	368	213	133	377	413	148	305	378	373	269	177	90	
Weighted base	1508	741	767	179	298	289	255	230	317	405	439	318	348	381	400	372	220	135	380	376	149	294	377	310	249	171	87	
Conservative	980	205	175	36	50	79	60	53	104	121	116	80	63	102	133	79	53	14	380	-	-	307	9	23	64	6	7%	
Labour	376	198	183	47	70	64	61	61	74	104	113	64	95	81	82	129	49	35	-	376	-	8	255	53	51	39	44%	
Liberal Democrat	149	65	83	33	20	27	29	24	16	51	45	30	22	56	31	32	19	10	-	149	-	7	2	107	9	12	14%	
SNP	29	17	12	-	7	3	9	9	6	11	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	
Plaid Cymru	12	3	9	-	4	3	-	3	1	1	6	2	3	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	
The Green Party	24	10	14	1	6	5	4	6	2	9	9	1	5	10	6	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	5	5	
The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)	25	16	9	1	-	8	4	6	5	6	3	6	8	4	3	7	8	3	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	1	1%	
The British National Party (BNP)	14	10	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	-	4	6	3	3	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Some other party	4	4	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Would not vote at all	202	98	104	26	44	40	41	22	29	34	34	78	56	58	47	62	26	9	-	-	-	8	10	9	2	2	2%	
Refused	97	40	57	6	7	18	20	17	29	25	35	9	29	22	27	25	18	5	-	-	97	7	4	5	2	2	2%	
Don't know	197	80	118	27	32	34	30	28	46	46	63	34	55	45	66	33	31	22	-	-	-	197	35	30	42	29	19	22%

Source: Populus UK.

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Trust U.S. More on Foreign Than on Domestic Affairs

Confidence in government on domestic affairs hits a new low point

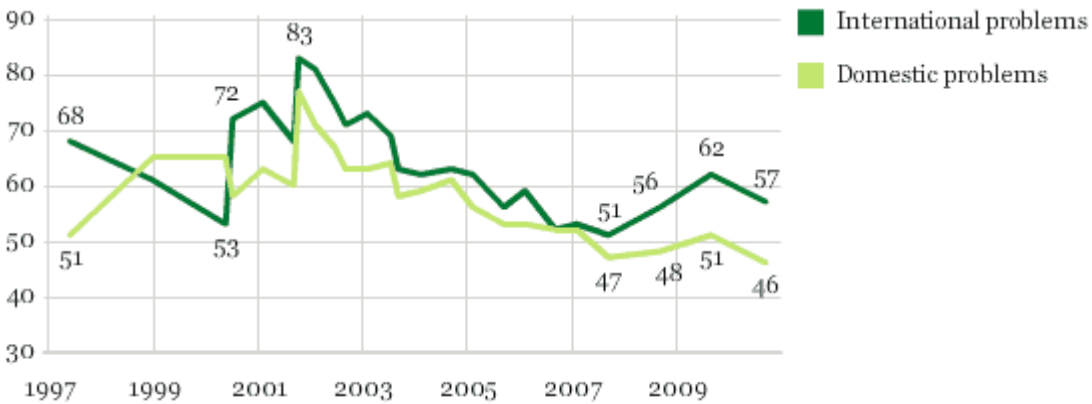
September 23, 2010

Gallup's annual Governance survey finds 57% of Americans expressing a great deal or fair amount of trust in the U.S. government to handle international problems. That is down from 62%

a year ago, but remains higher than the percentage trusting Washington to handle domestic problems, now at a record-low 46%.

Trust in Government to Handle International/Domestic Problems

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust



Gallup trend since 1997

GALLUP®

The American people's trust in the federal government to handle international problems takes on particular relevance as President Barack Obama addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Thursday.

Americans' confidence in the federal government to handle international problems has varied greatly over the past 13 years, from a high of 83% immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 to 51% during the Iraq war in 2007. Confidence in the government on international problems also rose sharply in July 2000, coinciding with a major Palestinian-Israeli peace summit at Camp David sponsored by then-President Bill Clinton.

Trust in the government's handling of domestic matters has generally tracked below public trust on international matters but has mostly followed the same trajectory. In the last several years as the economy has struggled, fewer than half of Americans have trusted the government's handling of domestic problems (with only one exception).

The vast majority of Democrats today have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in the federal government on both policy dimensions, no doubt because the Democrats continue to control the White House and both houses of Congress. Accordingly, there has been little change in Democrats' views over the past year. A slight majority of independents express confidence in the government on international problems, while 40% have confidence in the government on domestic problems, also similar to 2009 in each case. By contrast, fewer than 4 in 10 Republicans today are confident in the government on either issue, with a 12 percentage-point drop since 2009 in their confidence on international problems.

Recent Trend in Trust in Government to Solve Problems, by Party ID

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust

	Republican	Independent	Democrat
	%	%	%
International problems			
2010	39	52	85
2009	51	56	78
Change	-12	-4	7
Domestic problems			
2010	27	40	71
2009	35	41	74
Change	-8	-1	-3

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Bottom Line

Americans' ratings of government efforts to solve international and domestic problems are now about where they were in early September 2008 -- in the last year of George W. Bush's term, but shortly before the Wall Street financial crisis that sent consumer confidence plummeting. Trust in the government on both international and domestic affairs was slightly higher in September 2009 -- Obama's first year in office -- but has since receded.

Other Gallup polling shows that Americans' perceptions of the United States' global reputation improved once Obama took office, after growing increasingly negative under Bush earlier this decade. At the same time, Gallup's World Affairs survey in February of this year found Americans still more dissatisfied than satisfied with the country's position in the world -- 63% vs. 35%. This mindset emerged in the early part of the Iraq war and has proved enduring since.

President Obama's speech this week at the United Nations presents an opportunity for him to articulate his vision for what the United States' role should be in world affairs and to perhaps restore public satisfaction with America's global position. To bolster Americans' confidence in the government on international problems, he may also want to use the speech to make the case that, working with the U.N., the U.S. has been successful in addressing several important global matters.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Sept. 13-16, 2010, with a random sample of 1,019 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.

Trust in Legislative Branch Falls to Record-Low 36%

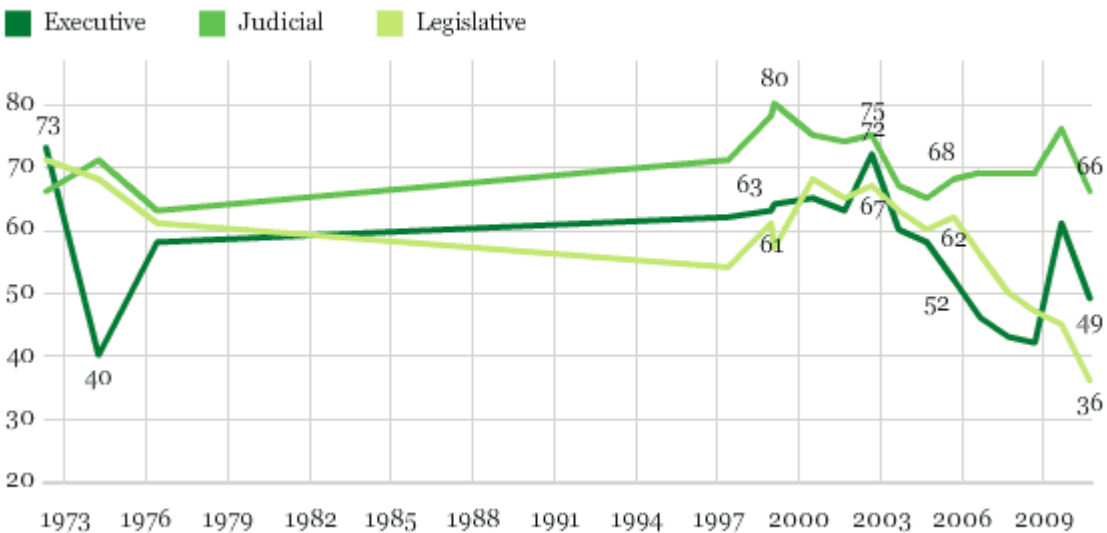
Trust also down in executive and judicial branches

September 24, 2010

A record-low 36% of Americans have a great deal or fair amount of trust and confidence in the legislative branch of government, down sharply from the prior record low of 45% set last year. Trust in the judicial branch and trust in the executive branch also suffered sharp declines this year but remain higher than trust in the legislative branch.

Trends in Trust and Confidence in Branches of Government

% "Great deal" plus "fair amount" of trust and confidence



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Gallup has measured these trends each year since 2001 as part of its annual Governance survey, and prior to that on an occasional basis in the 1990s and the 1970s. While trust in the legislative branch has been steadily declining for years, trust in the other two branches of government -- the executive and the judicial -- had risen in 2009 compared with 2008. All in all, between last year and this, trust in the legislative branch fell 9 percentage points, trust in the executive branch fell 11 points, and in the judicial branch, 10 points.

Trust in the legislative branch was highest, at 71%, in May 1972, and remained generally high from that point to the mid-2000s. It then dropped to 50% in 2007, 47% in 2008, and 45% in 2009, all record lows at the time they were measured. This year's 36% legislative confidence rating marks still another record low, and is the lowest trust level in any of the three branches of government in Gallup's history.

Trust in the executive branch has shifted up and down with some frequency over the last four decades, generally in sync with movement in presidential job approval ratings. Gallup measured the lowest level of trust in the executive branch, 40%, in April 1974, in the midst of the Watergate scandal, which later that year resulted in Richard Nixon's resignation. Trust was nearly as low in the waning years of the George W. Bush administration. Last year, the first year of the Barack Obama administration, trust in the executive branch shot up to 61%, but it has fallen back again this year, coinciding with the fall in Obama's job approval ratings to below 50%.

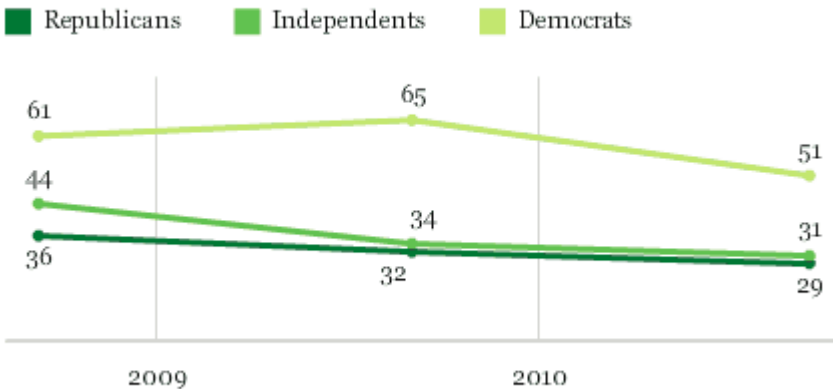
Trust in the judicial branch of government is at 66%, down from last year but roughly in line with readings since 2003. Gallup recorded the highest judicial branch trust reading, 80%, in February 1999, at about the time the Supreme Court's Chief Justice William Rehnquist was presiding in the U.S. Senate over the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton.

Trust in Legislative Branch Remains Highest Among Democrats

Trends in trust in the legislative branch over the last three years have differed among partisan groups. Democrats have evinced the most trust in all three years, but the 14-point drop for Democrats between 2009 and this year is much larger than the 3-point drops among independents and Republicans.

Trust in Legislative Branch of Government, by Party ID

% "Great deal" plus "fair amount" of trust and confidence

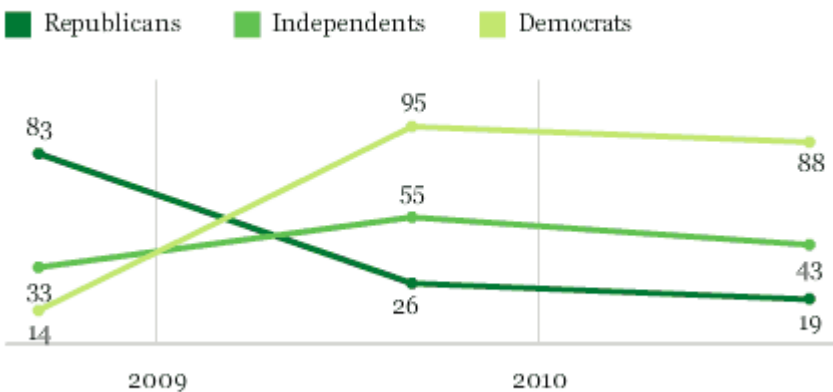


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Shifts among partisan groups in ratings of the executive branch have been much more dramatic, reflecting the change from a Republican to a Democratic presidential administration between 2008 and 2009.

Trust in Executive Branch of Government, by Party ID

% "Great deal" plus "fair amount" of trust and confidence



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Democrats' trust in the executive branch jumped more than 80 points between 2008 and 2009, while Republicans' trust fell almost as sharply. This year, ratings of the executive branch have dropped at least marginally across all partisan groups, with the 12-point drop among independents being the largest.

Implications

The substantial drop in Americans' trust in the legislative branch of government reflects the same underlying attitudes that have resulted in low congressional job approval ratings and a number of other indicators underscoring the public's disenchantment with its elected representatives. These

trends are particularly important this year, given the midterm elections, which will almost certainly affect the composition and perhaps party control of both the House and Senate. The overall record-low levels of trust in the legislative branch undergird the expectation that voters this fall may be attempting to express their frustrations with Congress by voting out incumbents and/or members of the incumbent party.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Sept. 13-16, 2010, with a random sample of 1,019 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.

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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.

Independents Oppose Party in Power ... Again

More Conservative, More Critical of National Conditions

September 23, 2010

Wide Republican Advantage among Independent Likely Voters

	Vote Rep	Vote Dem	Other/ DK	Rep Adv.	N
	%	%	%		
All voters					
Registered voters	44	47	9=100	-3	2,816
Likely voters	50	43	7=100	+7	2,053
Among independents					
Registered voters	42	39	19=100	+3	1,069
Likely voters	49	36	15=100	+13	734

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Likely voter estimates based on a seven-question turnout scale. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

For the third national election in a row, independent voters may be poised to vote out the party in power. The Republican Party holds a significant edge in preferences for the upcoming congressional election among likely voters, in large part because political independents now favor Republican candidates by about as large a margin as they backed Barack Obama in 2008 and congressional Democratic candidates four years ago.

The survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press was conducted Aug. 25-Sept. 6 among 2,816 registered voters, including 2,053 voters considered the most likely to vote on Nov. 2. The survey finds that 50% of likely voters say they will vote for the Republican in their district, while 43% favor the Democratic candidate.

Record Engagement Gap; Republicans Soar, Democrats Flat

	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010
	%	%	%	%	%
Given a lot of thought to the election	44	42	40	48	50
Republican	50	50	41	48	64
Democrat	41	40	42	52	41
Independent	41	37	37	44	48
R-D gap	R+9	R+10	D+1	D+4	R+23
Definitely will vote	66	64	64	68	71
Republican	72	70	70	73	83
Democrat	64	64	64	70	69
Independent	62	57	56	59	65
R-D gap	R+8	R+6	R+6	R+3	R+14

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Figures from previous midterms taken from September and/or October surveys, as available. See appendix for details.

Republican and Democratic voters overwhelmingly support their party's candidates. The GOP's advantage comes as a result of their 49%-to-36% lead among independent and other non-partisan voters who are likely to vote in November.

The Republican Party's overall lead is only evident when the sample is narrowed to likely voters. Among all registered voters, preferences are evenly divided. The race also is even among all independents and other non-partisans, but the GOP's advantage swells to 13 points among independent likely voters.

Uncharacteristically, independent voters, who typically are not highly engaged by midterm elections, are now more likely than Democrats to say they are giving a lot of thought to this one. And they are about as likely as Democrats to say they definitely will vote; during the fall of 2006, far more Democrats than independents said they definitely would vote.

The relatively high level of independent engagement this year has come among those who plan to vote Republican. Fully 64% of independents who plan to vote for the Republican in their district are giving a lot of thought to the election, compared with just 40% of independents who plan to vote for a Democrat.

Independent Vote in '06, '08, '10

	2006 House vote Exit poll	2008 Pres vote Exit poll	2010 likely voters
All voters	%	%	%
Republican candidate	45	45	50
Democratic candidate	53	53	43
Other/Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
	D+8	D+8	R+7
Among independents			
Republican candidate	39	44	49
Democratic candidate	57	52	36
Other/Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100
	D+18	D+8	R+13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Likely voter estimates for 2010 based on a seven-question turnout scale. Exit poll figures from the National Election Pool (NEP); 2006 vote for House of Representatives, 2008 vote for president. NEP data downloaded from the Roper Center. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Independents' voting preferences have changed considerably since the last two elections. Just two years ago, Obama held an eight-point lead among independents, according to exit polls by the National Election Pool. The shift since the 2006 midterm, when Democrats held an 18-point advantage among independents, according to the exit polls, has been even more dramatic.

The propensity of independents to reject both parties in a relatively short period of time may in part reflect the fact that the ranks of independents have swelled in recent years with voters who have rejected party labels themselves. Underscoring the fluidity in party identification, many of today's independents were themselves partisans not so long ago. More than half of independents say they have been a Democrat (23%), a Republican (22%), or both (9%), in the past five years.

Independents are the largest group of voters -- 37% of registered voters are independents or other non-partisans, 34% are Democrats and 29% are Republicans. Just two years ago, 34% were independents, while 38% of voters identified as Democrats and 28% as Republicans.

Deconstructing Independent Voters

<i>In the past five years, thought of yourself as....</i>	%
A Republican	22
A Democrat	23
Both Rep and Dem	9
Neither in past 5 years	46
	100
<i>Why do you think of yourself as an independent?</i>	Major reason
Both parties care more about special interests than average Americans	64
I agree with Reps on some issues, Dems on others	58
I don't trust either political party	53
There's not much difference between the parties	34
Politics isn't that important to me	19

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Based on independent registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

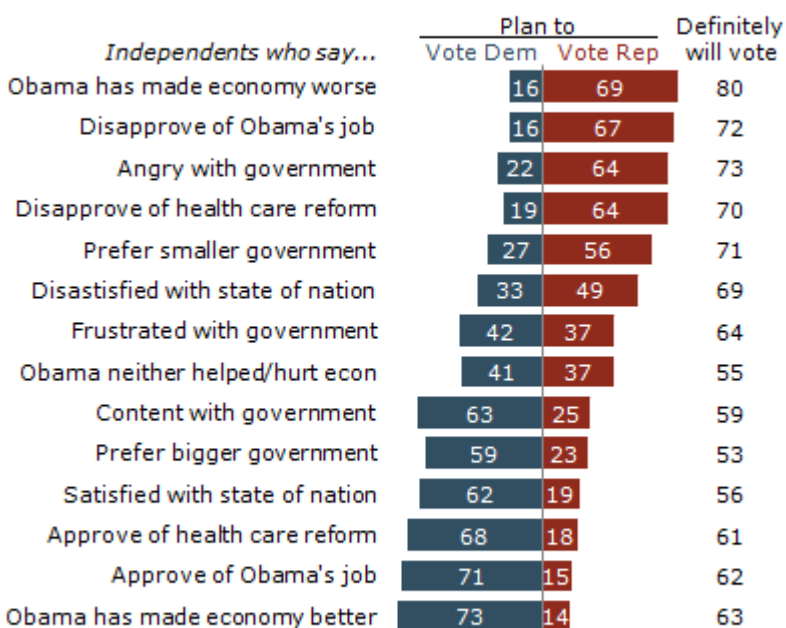
Independents have mixed views of which party can do better on major issues -- but are distrustful of both. When asked why they are independents, fully 64% cite as a major reason that "both parties care more about special interests than about average Americans." And 53% point to a lack of trust in either party as a major reason why they think of themselves as an independent in politics.

While the survey finds indications that independents will vote Republican this year, they do not have a strong allegiance to the GOP. Rather, they are motivated by highly negative feelings about the government's performance and harsh judgments about the political status quo. Just 35% express approval of their own congressional representative, and they are as likely as Republicans to say that their own incumbent does not deserve reelection. But unlike Republicans and Democrats, a majority of independents say that which party controls Congress will not be a factor in their vote.

By 44% to 29%, more independent voters say the Republican Party rather than the Democratic Party can better reduce the budget deficit; the GOP also now leads by a 42%-to-31% margin among independent voters as better able to manage the federal government. Yet far more independents (49%) say the Democratic Party "is more concerned with the needs of people like me" than say that about the GOP (32%). And on the important dimension of which party can bring about the changes the country needs, as many prefer the Democratic Party (37%) as the Republican Party (36%).

When asked which party comes closer to their views on major issues, independent voters prefer Republicans on foreign policy and economic issues but are more divided on social issues. More say the Republican Party comes closer to their views on foreign policy and national security (by 44% to 30%), but the GOP's lead is more modest on economic issues (43% to 34%). And slightly more independents say the Democratic Party (39%) rather than the Republican Party (33%) better reflects their views on social issues such as gay marriage and abortion. In this regard, more than twice as many independent voters than Republican voters favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally (45% vs. 20%).

Views of Obama's Policies Biggest Factor in Independents' Votes



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010. Based on independent registered voters.

All things considered, support for the Republicans and political energy among independents is closely linked to disillusionment with Obama's policies and the president himself. Fully 69% of independent voters who say Obama's policies have made the economy worse favor the Republican candidate in their district -- and 80% say they will definitely vote. Disapproval of the president's job performance, anger at the federal government and opposition to the health care

legislation also are closely associated with support for Republican candidates. Independents who express these views also are highly likely to vote.

Conversely, support for Obama and his policies is strongly associated with independents' support for Democratic candidates; in fact, 73% of independents who say Obama's policies have improved the economy plan to vote Democratic. But far fewer of those who express this opinion say they will definitely vote compared with independents who take a negative view of the impact of Obama's policies (63% vs. 80%).

Independent Voters: Diverse Groups with Divergent Views

Independent Groups and the Midterms

	Vote Rep	Vote Dem	Other/ DK
Independent voters	42	39	19=100
<i>Among Inds</i>			
Shadow Reps	66	18	16=100
Disaffected Reps	58	31	11=100
Doubting Dems	32	44	24=100
Shadow Dems	23	62	16=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Based on independent registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While this study and other surveys measure the "independent vote," there is a considerable degree of diversity among independents, which is not surprising given that most are relatively recent refugees from the two major parties. This survey identifies four groups of independent voters that are distinguished by their basic political beliefs -- two groups that favor Republican candidates, one that favors Democratic and another that only leans Democratic:

Shadow Republicans (26% of independent voters) are strongly anti-government, but they are somewhat less critical of the political system than are the Disaffecteds, the other-GOP-leaning group of independents. Shadow Republicans are relatively affluent and well-educated, older and male. They support the Republican candidate in their district by 66% to 18%. Fully 79% say they will definitely vote in November, which is about the same as among GOP partisans (83%). As many Shadow Republicans as Republican voters agree with the Tea Party. But they have mixed opinions of the Republican Party -- just 52% have a favorable view of the GOP.

Disaffecteds (16% of independent voters) have been hard hit by the recession and are highly financially stressed. Anti-government and anti-politician, these quick to anger blue-collar voters have been mainstays of Pew Research typology groupings for decades. Disaffecteds divided their votes between Obama and McCain in 2008; today, 50% of Disaffecteds say Obama's policies have made the economy worse and 60% disapprove of the health care bill enacted earlier this year.

Shadow Democrats (21% of independent voters) hold positive views of government and are not very critical of the political system. They support Obama and his policies, and have very positive views of the Democratic Party. Shadow Democrats are younger than other independent groups and are racially and ethnically diverse -- a quarter are black or Hispanic. Shadow Democrats support Democratic candidates by as large a margin as the two GOP-leaning groups favor Republican candidates.

Doubting Democrats (20% of independent voters) are not especially anti-government, but they are deeply anti-business and are highly critical of elected officials and both political parties. In many respects, they are as cynical as the Disaffecteds. Doubting Democrats are less affluent and less racially and ethnically diverse than are Shadow Democrats. While they voted for Obama over McCain by a wide margin, they are now critical of Obama and the Democratic Party. Just 23% of Doubting Democrats say Obama's policies have made economic conditions better -- only about half the proportion of Shadow Democrats and Democratic voters (50% each). As many Doubting Democrats say the Republican Party can better reduce the deficit as say the Democratic Party.

There also is a fifth group of independent voters, the **Disengaged** (17% of independent voters), which is disproportionately made up of younger and less educated people. For the most part, the Disengaged are essentially political bystanders -- just 21% say they definitely will vote this fall, far and away the lowest percentage among the independent groups.

How Independents Have Changed

Independents today are clearly more conservative than they were four years ago, particularly with respect to the role of government. Not only do more describe themselves as conservative, but more support smaller government, and there is more distrust and anger toward government generally.

While this ideological tide among independents benefits the GOP, there is a broader rejection of the party in power that also is influencing independent support for Republican candidates. Given their detachment from the parties and general skepticism about politics, independents' views of president's and the parties' performance can and do change quickly. In this regard, the independent swing toward the GOP in 2010 has as much, if not more, to do with views of performance than with shifting ideological preferences.

Independents' Changing Opinions: 2006-2010

	2006 %	2010 %	Change
<i>Ideology</i>			
Conservative	29	36	+7
Dissatisfied w/ national conditions	67	76	+9
<i>Views of federal government</i>			
Trust government only sometimes/never	71	82	+11
Angry at federal government	20	29	+9
Prefer smaller government, fewer services	53	59	+6
<i>Which party can better...</i>			
Improve the job situation			
Republican Party	24	40	+16
Democratic Party	43	35	-8
Reduce budget deficit			
Republican Party	18	44	+26
Democratic Party	46	29	-17
Manage the federal government			
Republican Party	26	42	+16
Democratic Party	38	31	-7
<i>Views of the parties...</i>			
Favorable opinion of Rep party	36	45	+9
Favorable opinion of Dem party	46	44	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 25-September 6, 2010.
Based on independent registered voters. Trends from 2006 taken from surveys throughout the year; "prefer smaller government..." from January 2007.

Currently, independent voters rate the parties about evenly when it comes to which one could better improve the job situation (40% Republican Party, 35% Democratic Party). Four years ago, the Democrats led by 19 points (43% to 24%) as the party better able to improve the job situation. Independents views of which party can better reduce the deficit have flipped since 2006 -- the Republican Party is now favored by 15 points; in 2006, the Democrats led by 28 points.

On perhaps the most important measure of performance -- managing the government -- more independent voters currently now say the Republican Party could do better, by 42% to 31%. In 2006, by about the same margin (38% to 26%), more independent voters said the Democratic Party could better manage the federal government.

The Republican Party now gets about the same favorable rating among independent voters as does the Democratic Party (45% vs. 44%). Four years ago, 46% of independent voters viewed the Democratic Party favorably compared with just 36% who had a favorable opinion of the GOP.

More generally, independent voters are even more dissatisfied with national conditions than they were in 2006. Fully 76% of independent voters say they are not satisfied with the way things are going in the country, up from 67% four years ago.

Voters' Views of the Tea Party

Registered voters	Agree %	Dis-agree %	No opinion/ Never heard %	N
All	29	26	45=100	2,816
Republican	56	6	38=100	816
Democrat	6	45	49=100	931
Independent	30	22	47=100	1,069
Likely voters				
All	36	29	35=100	2,053
Republican	63	5	32=100	673
Democrat	7	56	38=100	645
Independent	39	26	36=100	734

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug 25-Sept 6, 2010. 084-085.
Likely voters estimates based on a seven-question turnout scale.

Independents & the Tea Party

About as many registered voters say they agree with the Tea Party movement as disagree (29% vs. 26%).

Independent voters are more likely to say they agree with the Tea Party movement than disagree (by 30% to 22%).

Among likely voters, more agree than disagree with the Tea Party (36% vs. 29%).

And among independent likely voters, 39% agree with the Tea Party, compared with 26% who disagree.

Other Important Findings

- The proportion of independent voters or non-partisans is now at 37%, one of the highest levels in the past 20 years of Pew Research Center polling. The share of independent voters has grown from 34% of registered voters in 2008.
- The Democratic Party's advantage in party identification among registered voters has narrowed from a 10-point gap last year to a five-point gap in 2010 as Democrats have lost adherents and the Republican Party has gained supporters.
- There has been little change in voting intentions over the course of the year. Registered voters have been closely divided in their preferences, while Republicans have enjoyed an advantage among voters most likely to cast a ballot in November.

- As in previous midterms, older independents are more likely to vote Republican than are voters younger than age 50, and independent men are much more inclined to cast a GOP ballot than they were four years ago.
- Obama's job approval rating among independent voters stands at just 39%; 50% disapprove of the president's job performance. Still, Obama's rating among independent voters is higher than George W. Bush's was in September 2006 (29% approve/57% disapprove).

Americans Confident in Own Bank, but Not U.S. Banks

Six in 10 express "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in their primary bank

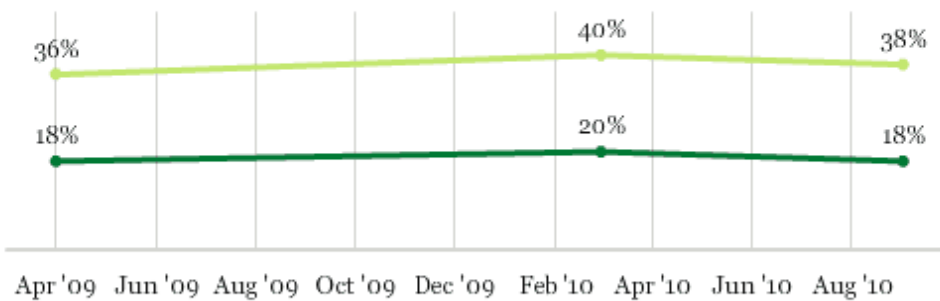
September 24, 2010

The percentage of Americans saying they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in U.S. banks stands at 18%, continuing a trend of low confidence recorded throughout the economic downturn.

Confidence in U.S. Banks Overall

Next, please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in today's U.S. financial institutions or banks -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

■ A great deal/Quite a lot ■ Very little



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

This question was asked as part of the Gallup Daily tracking survey on Sept. 17-22. Gallup has measured banking confidence in separate surveys dating to the late 1970s, and since the 2008-2009 recession and financial crisis, Americans' confidence has reached new lows. Confidence has fallen well below the low 30% range seen during the 1990-91 recession, which in turn was brought on by the fallout associated with the savings and loan bailout of the late 1980s.

Americans' Confidence in Their Main Bank Up Slightly

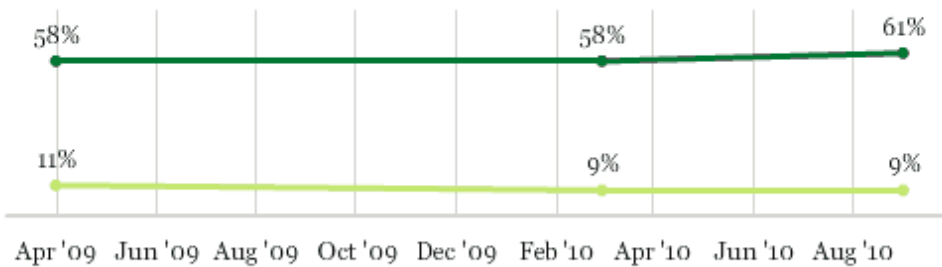
In the same survey, 6 in 10 Americans express confidence in their main or primary bank, defined as the place where they do most of their banking business. This figure is up slightly from 58% in

April 2009 and March 2010. At the same time, fewer than 1 in 10 Americans express "very little" confidence in their primary bank.

Americans' Confidence in Their Main Bank

Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in your PRIMARY or MAIN bank -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

■ A great deal/Quite a lot ■ Very little



Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Confidence in U.S. Banks Remains Fragile

Gallup data show that the reputation of America's banks continues to suffer from the fallout of the financial crisis and bank bailout. On the other hand, bankers should take some solace in that the majority of their customers have a positive view of the place where they do most of their banking.

Today, most banks are making a major effort to increase customer service quality and build customer loyalty. Americans' continued confidence in the bank they deal with most often -- their main bank -- reflects the success much of the industry is having in this regard. Of course, there is still room for considerable improvement.

In order to have a strong and growing economy, the U.S. must have a vibrant banking system. Whether the implementation of financial reform will help achieve this goal and/or give a much-needed positive boost to the reputation of U.S. banks is yet to be seen.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking survey Sept. 17-22, 2010, with a random sample of 5,052 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 ± 2 percentage points.

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

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

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

How You Feel About Midterms Depends on Your Party

GOP More Engaged, Optimistic, Angry About Elections

September 22, 2010

About two thirds of the public sees coverage of this year's elections as focused primarily on strategy and conflict, not candidate positions, while a comparable percentage says the 2010 congressional elections are more important than most.

How Do You Feel About This Year's Congressional Elections?

	Agree %	Dis- agree %	DK/ Ref %
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	67	27	6=100
This year's elections are more important than most	65	31	4=100
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	59	30	11=100
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	58	38	4=100
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	55	40	5=100
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	48	49	3=100
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	45	50	5=100
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	36	61	4=100
It's too early to really pay attention	31	66	3=100

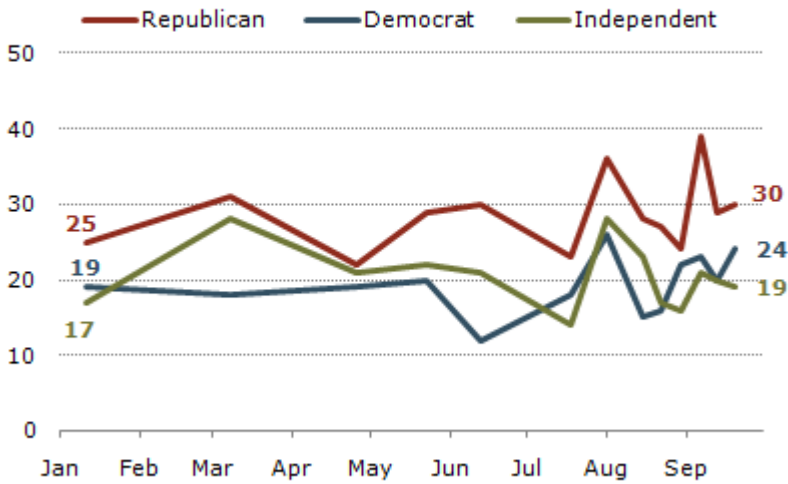
PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say news coverage of politics makes them angry. Still, few (36%) say election news makes them feel depressed. More than half (55%) say this year's elections have been pretty interesting, according to the latest News Interest Index survey of 1,005 adults conducted Sept. 16-19 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Partisan differences in responses to these questions provide further evidence of greater engagement and enthusiasm among Republicans this year. For example, though the public is divided on whether they feel burned out about politics and elections (48% agree, 49% disagree), Democrats are much more likely to agree with this statement (54%) than are Republicans (40%).

While election news dominated media coverage last week, the public continued to show relatively modest interest. According to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, midterm news made up 30% of the newshole. Just more than one-in-ten (11%) say this was the news they followed most closely. Nearly a quarter (23%) say they followed election news very closely.

Following Election News Very Closely



PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

Three-in-ten Republicans say they followed election news very closely last week, not much different from the 24% of Democrats who say this. Two-in-ten independents (19%) say they followed election news very closely.

Republicans have recorded generally higher levels of interest than Democrats or independents during a primary season that included a number of intense fights between more mainstream members of their party and those more closely aligned with the Tea Party movement.

Republicans More Likely to See Election as Important, Interesting

Three-quarters of Republicans say this year's elections are more important than most, higher than the 66% of Democrats and 58% of independents who concur.

Partisans' Differing Perceptions of Midterms and Election News

% saying they agree that..	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D Diff
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	64	53	57	+11
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	71	61	54	+10
This year's elections are more important than most	75	66	58	+9
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	65	58	48	+7
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	31	36	37	-5
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	63	70	67	-7
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	40	54	48	-14
It's too early to really pay attention	21	37	36	-16
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	35	54	45	-19

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

But Republicans are also more likely to agree that news coverage of politics these days makes them angry. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans say this (64%), compared with 53% of Democrats. Nearly six-in-ten independents (57%) agree.

Republicans also are more upbeat about their candidates' chances in November. About seven-in-ten (71%) say they are optimistic that their candidates will win; 61% of Democrats say this, as do 54% of independents.

Just two-in-ten Republicans (21%) agree that it is too early to really pay attention to this year's elections. Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (37%) say this, a possible indication that Democrats will more closely follow the general election campaigns. Independents mirror Democrats on this; 36% say it is too early to really pay attention.

Perhaps a reflection of Democratic enthusiasm in the presidential election of 2008, more than half of Democrats (54%) agree with the statement: "I follow presidential elections pretty closely, but not Senate and House elections." Just more than a third of Republicans (35%) say this, a 19-point difference.

There is little difference between partisans in the percentages agreeing with several of the statements. For example, 70% of Democrats say news coverage emphasizes strategy and conflict more than the candidates' policy positions; 63% of Republicans and 67% of independents agree.

Significant minorities among each group also agree that election news coverage can make them feel depressed; 36% of Democrats say this, as do 37% of independents and 31% of Republicans.

Tea Party Enthusiasm

Tea Partiers More Engaged in 2010 Elections

% saying they agree that...	<i>Current views best reflected by...</i>			
	Dem Party %	Rep Party %	Tea Party %	Other/DK %
This year's elections are more important than most	65	67	85	54
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	62	61	78	48
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	58	57	76	42
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	51	60	74	56
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	67	71	68	64
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	47	49	36	56
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	30	33	32	44
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	56	43	24	47
It's too early to really pay attention	34	28	13	40

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

Those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views right now are much more likely than others to see this year's elections as important and interesting -- and to say that news coverage of politics makes them angry. They also are the most optimistic about the prospects for their candidates.

According to findings from this survey released Sept. 20 as part of the weekly Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, about a third of Americans say the Democratic Party (32%) best reflects their views right now; 20% say the Republican Party does, while one-in-seven (15%) say the Tea Party does. (See, "[Americans Even Disagree About Compromising](#)")

Among those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views right now, 85% say these elections are more important than most. Among those who say the Republican Party or the Democratic Party best reflects their views, about two-thirds say this (67% and 65%, respectively).

Close to eight-in-ten (78%) of those who say the Tea Party reflects their views are optimistic their candidates will win in November. That drops to 61% among those more aligned with Republicans and 62% among those more aligned with Democrats.

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views say news coverage of politics these days makes them angry. That drops to 60% among those who say they agree more with the Republican Party and 51% among those more aligned with Democrats.

Just 13% of those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views say it is too early to pay attention to the elections. About three-in-ten among those more aligned with Republicans (28%) or Democrats (34%) say this.

Republicans Interested in Elections Nationwide

Which Elections Are You Tracking?

Are you interested in elections around the country or mostly in elections you can vote in?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Elections around the country	46	56	47	39
Elections you get to vote in	41	38	46	40
Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100

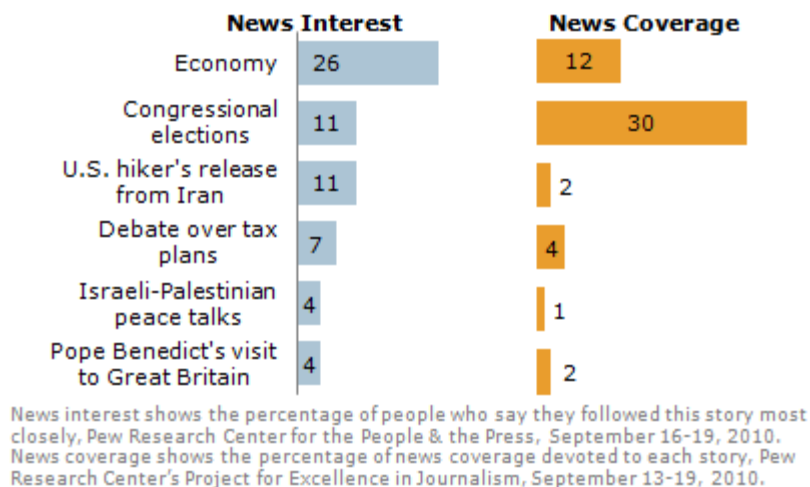
PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 9-12, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to say they are watching the election landscape across the country, not just in their home districts.

Close to six-in-ten Republicans (56%) say they are interested in elections taking place across the country, while 38% say they are most interested in the elections they get to vote in. Democrats are more evenly divided: 47% say they are interested in elections around the country, while 46% say they are mostly interested in elections in which they can cast votes. Independents show a similar split: 39% are interested in what is happening in other elections, while 40% say they are mostly interested in local contests.

The Week's News

News Interest



While the elections dominated media coverage last week, the public continued to focus on news about the economy. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) say they followed news about the economy very closely.

About a quarter (26%) say they followed news about the economy more closely than other major story. News about the economy accounted for 12% of the newshole measured by PEJ. That does not include the 4% of coverage devoted to the debate over whether to extend expiring Bush-era tax cuts. The tax debate was the most closely followed story for 7%; about two-in-ten (21%) say they followed this story very closely.

While 11% say they followed news about the elections most closely, the same percentage say they followed news about the release of a jailed American hiker held in Iran that closely. Nearly a quarter (23%) say they followed election news very closely, while 16% say they followed news about the released hiker that closely. Her release accounted for 2% of coverage.

Another 4% say they followed news about Israeli-Palestinian peace talks most closely, while 13% say they followed this news very closely. The talks accounted for 1% of coverage.

And 4% say they most closely followed the visit by Pope Benedict to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's sex-abuse scandal; 10% say they followed this news very closely. The pope's visit accounted for 2% of coverage.

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 September 13-19, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected September 16-19, from a nationally representative sample of 1,005 adults.

Recession or Not, U.S. Job Market Woes Persist

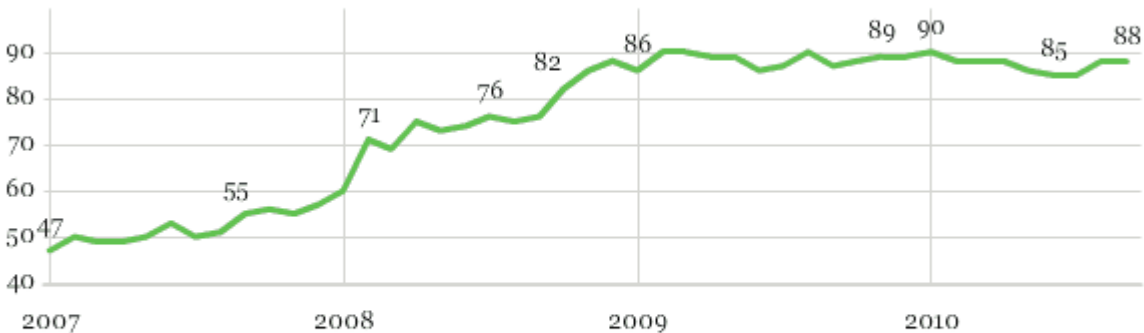
Unemployment rate as measured by Gallup is increasing

September 22, 2010

Even as Wall Street rallies on the National Bureau of Economic Research announcement that the recession ended in June 2009, Gallup finds -- more than a year later -- that 88% of Americans believe now is a bad time to find a quality job.

Finding a Quality Job Nationwide

■ % "Bad time"



January 2007-September 2010

"Thinking about the job situation in America today, would you say that it is now a good time or a bad time to find a quality job?"

GALLUP®

The percentage of Americans holding these views about finding a quality job is as high now as it was a year ago, and higher than it was at this time in 2008, when the recession was fully underway. Three years ago, in September 2007 -- just prior to the official beginning of the recession that December -- 55% held this view of the job market.

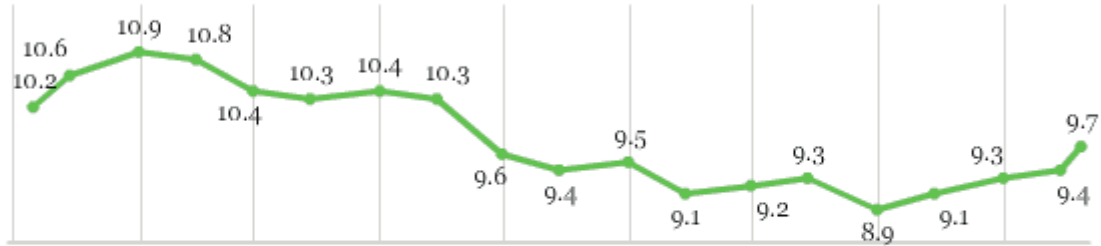
Unemployment Rate Increasing

The unemployment rate component of Gallup's underemployment measure continues to rise, with the latest 30-day average hitting 9.7% (not seasonally adjusted) on Tuesday, Sept. 20 -- up from 9.4% last week, 9.3% in August, and 8.9% at the end of July.

Gallup's U.S. Unemployment Rate

30-day averages[^]; not seasonally adjusted

■ % Unemployed



Jan 2010 Feb 2010 Mar 2010 Apr 2010 May 2010 Jun 2010 Jul 2010 Aug 2010 Sep 2010

[^] Numbers reflect rolling averages for the 30-day periods ending Jan. 6, Jan. 15, and Jan. 31, and on the 15th and the last day of each month from February through Sept. 15, 2010, and on Sept. 20, 2010

Gallup Daily tracking

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Underemployment was also up during this period, reaching 18.8% on Sept. 20 -- increasing from 18.6% readings last week and in August, and 18.4% at the end of July.

Addressing the Non-Recession

The National Bureau of Economic Research's announcement that the recession ended more than a year ago may simply feed into many Americans' feelings that traditional economic measurements do not reflect Main Street reality. Prior to the pronouncement, 82% of Americans saw the U.S. economy as still in a recession -- essentially the same percentage as a year ago.

Significantly, Gallup's behavioral economic data tend to support the perception that the recession continues. As already noted, Americans' views about the availability of quality jobs are worse now than they were at this time in 2008. The unemployment rate and underemployment, as measured by Gallup, are also increasing more than a year after the official end of the recession. Further, Gallup's modeling, updated for the most recent increase in underemployment, suggests that the government will announce on Oct. 8 that the unemployment rate increased further in September.

The Federal Open Market Committee's Tuesday statement seems to support this Main Street view by implying that the U.S. economy is expanding so slowly that unemployment will remain unacceptably high for years to come. Further, any marginal improvements in growth are likely to be largely imperceptible to Main Street unless something is done. Recession or not, this sets up an interesting situation for the next Federal Open Market Committee meeting in November, which happens to take place at the time of the midterm elections.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted Sept. 13-16, 2010, with a random sample of 1,019 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 error is ± 4 percentage points.

Underemployment and unemployment results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking Aug. 21 to Sept. 20, 2010, with a random sample of 18,057 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 this total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point.

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

On the Role of Government, Parties' Ratings Look Like 1994

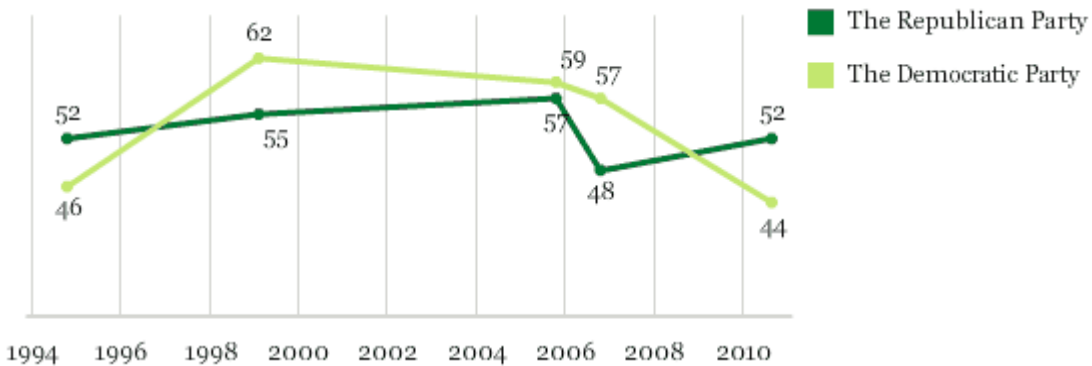
Americans more likely to see Republicans than Democrats representing their views and values

September 21, 2010

Americans' opinions about how well the Democratic Party represents their views on the role of government have soured in recent years. The percentage saying the party is doing either very or moderately well on this has dropped from 57% in October 2006 to 44% today. Over the same period, the Republican Party's image on the role of government has held fairly steady and, as a result, the GOP now leads on this dimension, similar to its position in October 1994.

How Well Does _____ Represent Your Attitude About the Role of Government?

% Very/Moderately well



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More specifically, according to the Aug. 27-30 *USA Today*/Gallup survey, fewer than half of Americans, 44%, now say the Democratic Party represents their views on the role of government either very or moderately well, while 54% say it does this not very or not at all well. Americans are more evenly divided in their views of the Republican Party in this arena, with 52% generally saying it is doing well and 47% not well.

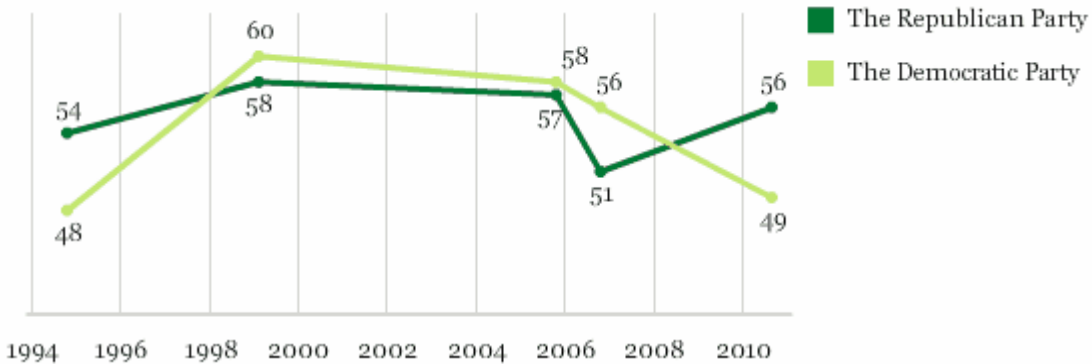
After the 1994 elections, which saw the Democrats lose majority control of Congress to the Republicans for the first time in nearly a half century, the Democrats went on to lead the Republicans on this measure in 1999, 2005, and 2006. The current reversal is yet another sign that a shake-up of the political balance in Washington may be looming.

Republicans Also Lead for Representing Values

Americans' perceptions of how well each party represents their values show a similar trend. Democrats have lost ground on this dimension in recent years while Republicans have maintained their ground or possibly gained a little ground, resulting in a distinct Republican advantage, 56% to 49%, again similar to the parties' 1994 standing.

How Well Does _____ Represent Your Values?

% Very/Moderately well



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While the Republicans may have an edge on these two policy-oriented image perceptions, the parties are about tied in perceptions of how well each understands the problems Americans face in their daily lives. In answer to this party image item, first asked this year, the slight majority of Americans believe the Republicans and Democrats understand Americans' day-to-day problems either "not too well" or "not well at all."

How Well Does _____ Understand the Problems Americans Face in Their Daily Lives?

	The Republican Party	The Democratic Party
	%	%
Very/Moderately well	43	44
Not too/Not at all well	56	54

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

GALLUP®

Bottom Line

Americans' views on how well the two major parties reflect their views on the role of government and their values more broadly make clear that the Democrats' image has suffered since they won back control of Congress in 2006. Republicans have not made comparable perceptual gains in these areas, but largely as a result of the Democrats' losses, Republicans are now leading on both dimensions, similar to their standing in 1994.

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.

Taxed Enough Already?

Despite Anti-Government Sentiment, More Americans Say They Pay a Fair Share of Taxes

September 20, 2010

Many Americans are angry with Washington. The public has a very low opinion of both political parties and their political leaders. Support for congressional incumbents is at a historical low. Attempts by the government to turn things around are seen as ineffective or worse. Most see government policies as helping banks, corporations and wealthy people while doing very little for the middle class and small business; few believe the stimulus did much to prevent job losses.

But despite all the animosity aimed at the nation's capital, one usual political punching bag is actually not seen as villainous as it once was: taxes.

Fewer Say They Pay "More than Their Fair Share" In Federal Taxes					
	Oct 1997		Mar 2010		<i>"More than fair share" change</i>
	More than fair share	About right	More than fair share	About right	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	52	45	43	50	-9
Republican	57	41	49	47	-8
Democrat	46	48	38	55	-8
Independent	53	44	46	49	-7
<i>Family income*</i>					
\$75k or more	61	36	51	45	-10
\$30k-74,999	54	45	44	51	-10
Less than \$30k	38	55	36	56	-2
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>					
Content	41	45	26	66	-15
Frustrated	55	41	44	52	-11
Angry	63	35	61	33	-2

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q63.
 *Income categories for October 1997 are \$50,000 or more; \$20,000-\$49,999 and less than \$20,000.

A spring Pew Research survey took an in-depth look at the growing discontent and anger Americans harbor for their government. While the government, its agencies and its priorities have rarely seen such low levels of trust and favorability, more among the public said that they pay about the right amount in taxes considering what they get from the federal government (50%) than said they pay more than their fair share in taxes (43%). Not surprisingly, just 3% were willing to say they pay less than their fair share in taxes.

More Americans now say they pay a fair share in federal taxes than said so in the fall of 1997. Back then, during much better economic times, a 52%-majority said they were taxed more than their fair share and only 45% said they were sending Uncle Sam about the right amount of money.

As is not the case with many attitudes toward government, responses to this question show little partisan divide. A majority of Democrats (55%) say they pay their fair share in taxes considering what they get from the federal government, but so do roughly half of Republicans (47%) and independents (49%). Even a majority of those who are frustrated with government (52%) believe that they are paying about their fair share of tax dollars.

There is also very little difference on this question by race. Roughly half of non-Hispanic whites (52%), blacks (49%) and Hispanics (52%) say they pay about the right amount in taxes. Adults ages 65 and older are the least likely to say they pay more than their fair share (33%). This compares with 40% of adults ages 18-29, 46% of adults ages 30-49 and 50% of adults ages 50-64 who say they pay more than their fair share of taxes.

Tea Party & “Fair Share” of Taxes

	More than fair share	About right
	%	%
Total	43	50
Agree Tea Party	56	41
Disagree Tea Party	23	69
No opinion	43	50

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 11-21, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Americans who agree with the Tea Party movement, however, are far more likely to say they pay more than their fair share in taxes than are Americans who disagree with or have no opinion of the Tea Party movement. Still, supporters of the Tea Party do not overwhelmingly feel as if they give more in taxes than they get back. While a 56%-majority of supporters say they pay more than their fair share in taxes, 41% say they pay about the right amount considering what the federal government provides. Among those who disagree with the Tea Party movement, 69% say they are taxed about the right amount while just 23% say they pay more than their fair share of taxes. Americans with no opinion of the Tea Party mirror the public as a whole: 50% say they are taxed about the right amount; 43% say they pay more than their fair share.

The current lack of outrage at taxation reflects a similar finding from three years ago. A [2007 Pew Research poll](#) found as many Americans agreed that the tax system is "unfair to people like me" (48%) as disagreed (47%).

Americans current acceptance of taxation is even more dramatic when compared with views of tax fairness during the second half of the last century. According to [Gallup surveys](#), Americans said they were taxed "too high" as opposed to "about right" by roughly a two-to-one-margin from the early 1960s to the early 1990s. Roughly two-thirds of Americans said in polls they were taxed too highly during the administrations of Nixon, Reagan and Clinton.

Not only are many Americans comfortable with their level of taxation, more also have a favorable [opinion of the tax man](#) than did so a decade ago. Favorable ratings for most federal agencies declined substantially in the spring 2010 survey. In fact, of 13 federal agencies tested in the poll, surprisingly the IRS was the only one to be viewed significantly more favorably in 2010 than it was in 1997. Roughly half the public (47%) now has a favorable opinion of the government's tax collection organization. Thirteen years ago, just 38% had a favorable view of the IRS.

Opinions about Bush Tax Cuts

<i>View of Bush tax cuts...</i>	Sept 2004	Oct 2006	Oct 2007	Oct 2008	Jul 2010	Sept 2010
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Keep all tax cuts	27	26	24	25	30	29
Repeal tax cuts for wealthy, keep others	31	36	31	37	27	29
Repeal all tax cuts	28	26	30	25	31	28
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL September 9-12, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Of course, just because most Americans are good with their current tax rate doesn't mean they would turn down another tax cut or encourage an increase. In March 2009, at the outset of the Obama administration, fully 82% said it is the right thing for the government to reduce taxes for middle- and lower-income households. Just 14% said it was the wrong thing to cut taxes for these groups. More recently, in a September poll, just 28% of Americans said they were in favor of repealing all of the Bush tax cuts.

But Americans are not as tax-cut happy when it comes to other peoples' taxes, specifically those levied on the wealthy. In the 2009 poll, 61% supported raising taxes on people with incomes of \$200,000 or more. And, returning to the September poll, while most aren't ready to repeal all the Bush tax cuts, just 29% are in favor of keeping all the tax cuts. A clear majority favors either getting rid of all the cuts (28%) or eliminating the tax cuts for the rich (29%).

Little Compromise on Compromising

September 20, 2010

There is little agreement among the public about compromise in politics. About half (49%) say they most admire political leaders who stick to their positions without compromising, while slightly fewer (42%) say that they most admire political leaders who make compromises with people they disagree with.

Is Compromise a Virtue?

<i>Admire political leaders who...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Make compromises	42	33	54	40
Stick to their positions	49	62	39	53
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL Sept. 16-19, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest Pew Research/*National Journal* Congressional Connection poll, sponsored by SHRM, conducted Sept. 16-19 among 1,005 adults, finds that Republicans, in particular, admire politicians who stick to their positions (62%) over those who compromise (33%). Although independents are more divided on the question, a majority (53%) says they favor leaders who do not compromise; four-in-ten independents (40%) say they most admire leaders who compromise. The balance of opinion is reversed among Democrats; 54% of Democrats say they prefer politicians who compromise with those they disagree with, while 39% say they prefer politicians who stick to their positions without compromising.

Many Republicans Identify with Tea Party

Which of these Groups Best Reflects Your Views Right Now?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Democratic Party	32	1	71	21
Republican Party	20	54	5	11
Tea Party	15	34	3	14
Green Party	4	0	4	7
Some other group	2	2	*	2
None of these	22	7	14	38
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1005	271	326	341

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL Sept.16-19, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About a third of Americans say the Democratic Party (32%) best reflects their views right now; 20% say the Republican Party does, while one-in-seven (15%) say the Tea Party does. Just 4% say the Green Party and 2% mention another group; fully 22% say that none of these represent their views. There has been little change in responses to this question from when it was asked in April.

Republicans and independents who lean to the Republican Party are more likely than others to say choose the Tea Party as best representing their views. About a third of Republicans (34%) say this; by comparison, 54% of Republicans choose the GOP.

Those Who Embrace Tea Party Are More Skeptical of Compromise

Views best reflected by...

<i>Admire political leaders who...</i>	Dem Party	Rep Party	Tea Party	Other/None/DK
Make compromises	55	36	22	39
Stick to positions	40	59	71	45
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Ending tax cuts on annual income above \$250,000 would...</i>				
Help economy	42	20	8	22
Hurt economy	24	53	72	33
No effect	27	22	16	30
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	316	199	191	299

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL Sept. 16-19, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Both those who identify more with the Tea Party and those who identify more with GOP strongly support Republicans over Democrats across a number of issues. For example, among Tea Party identifiers, 70% say Republicans would do a better job than Democrats dealing with taxes; this compares with 73% of those who say the GOP best reflects their views.

However, those who say the Tea Party best represents their views do differ from those who say the GOP best represents their views in some key ways. Tea Party affiliates have substantially less appetite for political compromise: About seven-in-ten (71%) of those who identify with the Tea Party say they most admire politicians who stick to their positions; a smaller majority (59%) of those who say the GOP best reflects their views say this.

And those who identify with the Tea Party also are far more likely to say that allowing the George W. Bush tax cuts for income above \$250,000 to expire at the end of this year would hurt the economy; 72% say this, compared with 53% of those who identify more with the Republican Party.

Many Say Ending Tax Cuts for Wealthy Would Hurt Economy

Economic Impact of Ending Tax Cuts for Wealthy

Ending tax cuts on annual income above \$250,000 would...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Help the economy	26	14	37	26
Hurt the economy	39	60	32	33
No effect on the economy	26	20	25	32
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL Sept. 16-19, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Nearly four-in-ten Americans (39%) say that allowing Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy to expire at the end of this year would hurt the economy, while about a quarter each say this would help the economy (26%) or have no effect (26%).

The latest Congressional Connection poll finds that Republicans are much more likely than Democrats or independents to say that ending the tax breaks for annual income above \$250,000 would hurt the economy. Six-in-ten Republicans (60%) say this, compared with 32% of Democrats and 33% of independents.

For more public opinion about the tax cuts, see last week's poll, "[What To Do About the Bush Tax Cuts.](#)"

Parties Rated About Evenly in Handling Key Issues

Republicans, Democrats Tied on Handling of the Economy

Which party can do a better job of ...	Rep	Dem	Both/ Neither/ DK	Rep
	Party	Party	Party	adv.
	%	%	%	
Dealing with economy				
September 2010	38	37	26	+1
May 2010	33	34	33	-1
February 2010	38	41	20	-3
August 2009	32	42	27	-10
February 2008	34	53	13	-19
September 2006	32	46	22	-14
Dealing with taxes				
September 2010	40	34	25	+6
August 2009	38	37	26	+1
February 2008	37	49	14	-12
September 2006	30	45	25	-15
Making Social Security sound				
September 2010	35	35	31	0
September 2006	26	46	28	-20
September 2005	33	45	22	-12
September 2002	30	38	32	-8
Reforming Medicare				
September 2010	33	38	28	-5
Dealing with immigration				
September 2010	39	32	29	+7
May 2010	35	27	38	+8
August 2009	31	36	32	-5
February 2008	38	43	19	-5
September 2006	32	37	31	-5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/NATIONAL JOURNAL Sept. 16-19, 2010

The public remains divided on the question of which party can do a better job dealing with the economy: 38% say Republicans can do a better job in dealing with the economy, compared with 37% who favor the Democrats. Views are divided on several other key issues, though Republicans have an advantage on dealing with immigration. According to the latest Pew Research/*National Journal* Congressional Connection poll, sponsored by SHRM, conducted Sept. 16-19 among 1,005 adults, 39% say Republicans would do a better job dealing with immigration, while 32% choose Democrats.

In February 2008, during the final year of George W. Bush's second term as president, Democrats had a large advantage on the economy. At that point, 53% chose Democrats on this question, while 34% chose Republicans. Two years later, the parties were largely even: 41%

chose the Democrats in February 2010 and 38% chose the Republicans. There has been little change in opinions since then.

On immigration, Republicans have held a slight edge since May. Prior to that, pluralities either favored Democrats on this or the two parties were essentially even. Among independents, 38% currently say Republicans can do a better job on immigration, while 26% say Democrats can.

Republicans have drawn even with Democrats as to which party can do a better job "taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound." Roughly a third (35% each) say Republicans or Democrats would do a better job on this. Democrats have long had the advantage on this issue. In September 2006, 46% said the Democrats could do better in making Social Security financially sound, while just 26% said the Republicans.

The public also is divided over which party would better handle reforms of the Medicare system: 38% say Democrats and 33% say Republicans.

Four-in-ten say Republicans (40%) would do a better job in dealing with taxes, about the same as the 34% that say Democrats would do a better job on this. Independents largely reflect the public as a whole: 36% choose the Republicans and 30% choose the Democrats. In August 2009, the two parties were rated about even on taxes. In February 2008, 49% said Democrats could do a better job on taxes, while 37% said the Republicans could.

In U.S., Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables Trails Access

Most in U.S. report easy access to affordable fresh produce; few consume recommended amount

September 22, 2010

On the heels of the news that Americans aren't consuming as many fruits and vegetables as recommended, an analysis of Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index data from 2010 suggests access may not be the problem. Nationwide, 92% of Americans report easy access to affordable fresh produce where they live, as do at least 8 in 10 residents in all states but Alaska.

States With Most Access to Fresh Affordable Fruits and Vegetables

	% Yes
Delaware	96.3
New Jersey	94.5
Utah	94.5
Wisconsin	94.0
Washington	93.9
Rhode Island	93.9
Maryland	93.6
Arizona	93.4
California	93.4
South Carolina	93.3
Pennsylvania	93.3
Massachusetts	93.3

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index
January-June 2010

GALLUP®

States With Least Access to Fresh Affordable Fruits and Vegetables

	% Yes
Alaska	61.5
Wyoming	79.9
Montana	82.8
Hawaii	83.6
North Dakota	84.2
South Dakota	84.5
West Virginia	85.5
Vermont	86.1
Idaho	87.0
Maine	87.5

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index
January-June 2010

GALLUP®

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index asks Americans each day about their ease of access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in their community as well as on how many days in the past week they consumed five or more servings of fruits and vegetables. This analysis is based on 176,544 interviews conducted with adults nationwide between January-June 2010.

Nationwide, less than half of Americans (46.6%) report eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables on five or more days per week, but 32.7% do so two to four days per week and 19.4% do so one or fewer days per week. Those who say they do not have easy access to fresh produce consume less fruits and vegetables than those who do.

The findings make clear the gravity of the challenge for those who are encouraging Americans to eat more fruits and vegetables. Even among Americans with easy access to fresh produce, more than half are not consuming fruits and vegetables on a frequent basis on five or more days per week.

The government's Healthy People 2010 initiative in 2000 set out to get 75% of Americans to eat two servings of fruit and 50% to eat three servings of vegetables daily by 2010. A CDC report released last week, based on data collected in 2009, finds 32.5% hitting the target for fruits and 26.3% for vegetables, and consumption actually down in the past decade. Gallup also previously reported a decline in fruit and vegetable consumption from 2008 to 2009.

The Gallup-Healthways question differs from the CDC question in that it gauges the number of days per week Americans consume five servings or more of fruits and vegetables rather than

how many times per day they eat these foods. The CDC used to recommend five or more servings daily and now encourages consuming "generous amounts" of fruits and vegetables customized to individuals' age, sex, and activity level. It contends doing so reduces risk of chronic diseases such as stroke, type 2 diabetes, some types of cancer, and perhaps heart disease.

The Gallup-Healthways data suggest that making it easier to get affordable fruits and vegetables may not be enough to significantly increase consumption. Most states do a good job of providing easy access to fresh produce the vast majority of their residents. Future analyses will explore access within cities and specific subgroups.

For complete data on fruit and vegetable access and consumption by state, see page 2.

Implications

While the vast majority of Americans nationwide and in most states report easy access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables, more than half of Americans are not yet consuming fruits and vegetables on a frequent basis on five or more days per week. While easy access to fresh produce does appear to be related to greater consumption at the national level, policymakers and community leaders should also recognize that even 100% access may not get Americans to eat as many fruits and vegetables as they should. While the health benefits of better eating are widely known, it is clear that influencing something as personal as what one eats on a daily basis is no easy task.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index tracks U.S. wellbeing and provides best-in-class solutions for a healthier world. To learn more, please visit well-beingindex.com.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index Jan. 2-June 30, 2010, with a random sample of 176,544 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

The margin of sampling error for most states is ± 1 to ± 2 percentage points, but is as high as ± 4 percentage points for smaller states such as Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, and Hawaii.

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.

Almost Half of Canadians Would Abolish the Long Gun Registry

September 21, 2010

Respondents who reside in rural areas are more likely to call for the registry to be scrapped than those in urban centres.

As the House of Commons prepares for a vote on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry, many Canadians remain skeptical about the success of the legislation, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,011 Canadian adults also finds that people who live in rural areas continue to be more likely to call for the registry to be scrapped than those who reside in urban centres.

Views on a Complete Ban

Canadians are evenly divided on the possibility of implementing a complete ban on handguns.

Since August, the proportion of respondents who support a ban fell by five points to 44 per cent, while the proportion of Canadians who believe a ban would be unjustified increased by four points to reach 44 per cent. Majorities in every Western Canadian province believe a ban would be unjustified, while most Quebecers would agree to implement one.

The Registry

The Canadian Firearms Registry, also known as the long gun registry, requires the registration of all non-restricted firearms in Canada. More than a third of Canadians (38%, -5 since August) believe the registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada, while three-in-ten (31%, +2) think it has had no effect on crime. Only 16 per cent of respondents (+3) believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been successful.

Almost half of Canadians (46%, +2) call for the long gun registry to be scrapped—including large majorities in the Prairies (65%) and Alberta (69%). Two-in-five respondents (40%, +5) are opposed to this course of action, including 59 per cent of Quebecers.

While 44 per cent of Urban Canadians would scrap the long gun registry, the proportion jumps to 53 per cent among Rural Canadians. For the purpose of this analysis, Rural Canadians are defined as persons living outside centres with a population of 1,000 inhabitants, and outside areas with 400 persons per square kilometre.

Analysis

The discussions about the Canadian Firearms Registry have led to an increased awareness among the population, and a reduction in the number of respondents who are undecided about its effect and its future.

While there was a five-point increase in the proportion of Canadians who want to save the registry, the overall number is still smaller than the plurality of respondents who call for its demise. Still, there is little fluctuation in the views of Urban Canadians and Rural Canadians since the survey conducted in August.

LATIN AMERICA

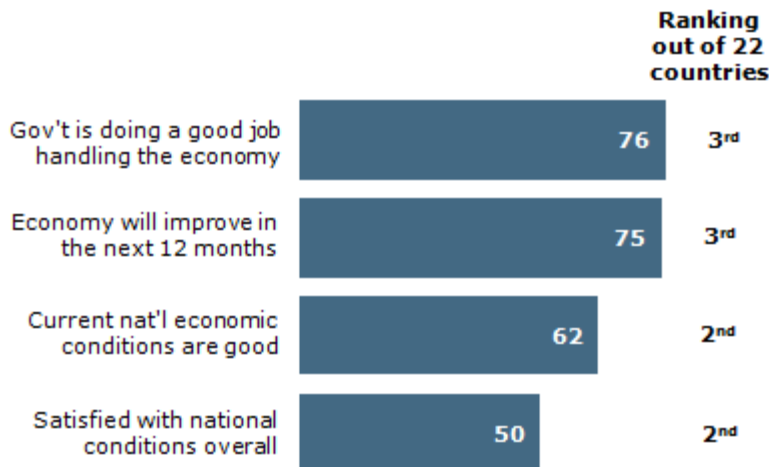
Brazilians Upbeat About Their Country, Despite Its Problems

Most See Brazil as Rising Power

September 22, 2010

As the eight years of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's presidency draw to a close, Brazilians offer largely positive assessments of where their country stands. At a time when global publics are mostly glum about the way things are going in their countries, half of Brazilians say they are satisfied with national conditions, and 62% say their nation's economy is in good shape. Of the 21 other publics included in the 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey, only the Chinese are more upbeat about their country's overall direction and economic conditions.

Ratings of Economic and National Conditions



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q5, Q12, Q13 & Q42.

A solid majority of Brazilians believe the outgoing president and the national government are having a good influence on the country, and most give the government good ratings for its handling of the economy. Moreover, the Bolsa Família program, Lula's signature initiative, which provides cash incentives to the country's poorest families for keeping their children in school and getting them vaccinated, is popular with Brazilians among all demographic groups.

Lula is also praised for his performance on the world stage. Nearly eight-in-ten Brazilians express confidence in their president to do the right thing in world affairs, and about three-quarters say Brazil already is (24%) or will eventually be (53%) one of the most powerful nations in the world. A large majority believes their country is well-liked around the globe.

How Big of a Problem Is...

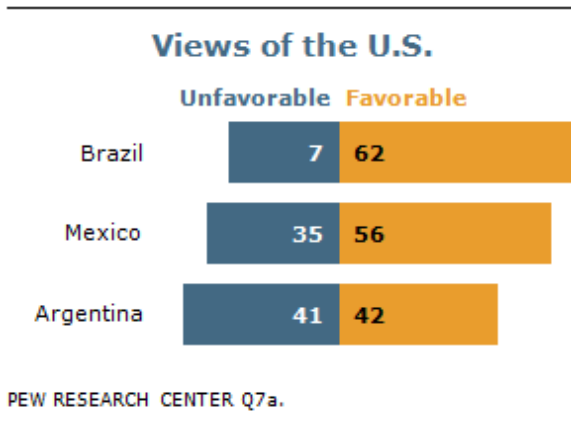
	Very big	Moderately big	Small/Not a problem	DK
	%	%	%	%
Illegal drugs	85	14	1	0
Crime	83	15	2	0
Corrupt political leaders	79	20	1	0
Social inequality	66	30	3	0
Pollution	62	34	4	0
Infectious diseases	58	34	8	0
Economic problems	53	40	7	0
Access to drinking water	27	39	34	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q19a-k.

Yet, despite the generally positive national mood, Brazilians say their country faces some major challenges. In particular, more than eight-in-ten say that illegal drugs and crime are very serious problems in Brazil; more than half say there are areas near their homes where they would be afraid to walk alone at night. More than six-in-ten Brazilians also describe corrupt political leaders, social inequality and pollution as major problems.

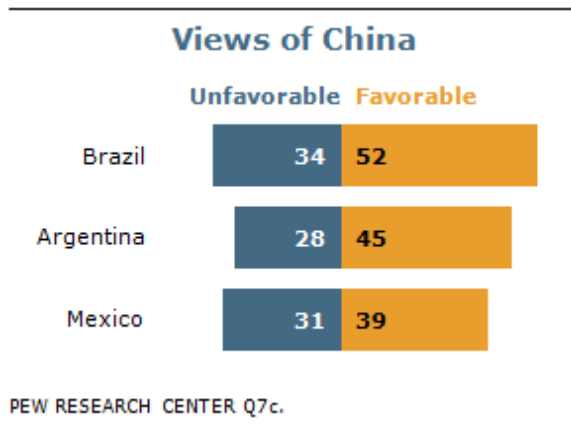
These are the latest findings from a spring 2010 survey of Brazil by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 1,000 adults in Brazil between April 10 and May 6, 2010. The sample is representative of the country's adult population, and the margin of sampling error for the results is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. (Brazil was surveyed as part of the spring 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey, which included 22 nations. For more findings from this survey, see "Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit," released June 17, 2010.)

Positive Views of U.S. and China Too



Brazilians offer favorable opinions of the U.S. and China, their country's two biggest trading partners, although America's image is somewhat more positive. About six-in-ten (62%) give the U.S. a favorable rating; 29% have an unfavorable opinion. Among other Latin American nations in the survey, 56% of Mexicans offer a favorable opinion, while 35% have a negative view of their neighbor to the north. And in Argentina, about the same number rate the U.S. favorably (42%) as rate it unfavorably (41%).

U.S. President Barack Obama also receives higher marks in Brazil than in Argentina and Mexico; 56% of Brazilians have confidence in the American president to do the right thing in world affairs, compared with 49% of Argentines and 43% of Mexicans.

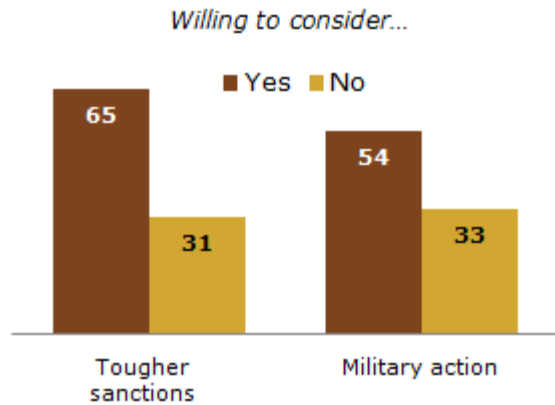


Views of China are also more positive in Brazil. While a slim majority of Brazilians (52%) give China high marks, fewer than half in Argentina (45%) and Mexico (39%) offer favorable opinions of the Asian superpower.

When asked whether they consider the U.S. and China partners or enemies of their country, most Brazilians (56%) say the U.S. is a partner, while 45% say the same about China. About one-in-ten see each of these countries as an enemy, while many say the U.S. and China are neither partners nor enemies of Brazil.

Iran's Nuclear Weapons Program

Preventing Iran From Developing Nuclear Weapons



Asked only of the 85% who oppose Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q84 & Q85.

While Brazilians express confidence in Lula's overall approach to world affairs, they largely disagree with him on how to handle Iran and its nuclear weapons program. The president has opposed additional international economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic. Yet, of the 85% of Brazilians who oppose Iran acquiring nuclear weapons, nearly two-thirds approve of tighter sanctions to try to prevent it from developing such weapons; 31% oppose tougher economic sanctions against Iran.¹ Majorities of those who oppose a nuclear-armed Tehran in 18 of the other 21 countries surveyed also endorse such a measure.

In addition, most (54%) Brazilians who do not want to see a nuclear-armed Iran are willing to consider the use of military force to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons; a third say avoiding a military conflict with Iran, even if it means it may develop these weapons, should be the priority.

Overall, Brazilian views of Iran are among the most negative of the 22 publics included in the 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey. About two-thirds (65%) express unfavorable opinions of Iran; a similar percentage of Americans (67%) and Egyptians (66%) offer similarly negative views, as do more than seven-in-ten in Spain, Japan, France and Germany.

Also of Note:

- More than six-in-ten Brazilians say the media, foreign companies, religious leaders and the military are having a good influence on the way things are going in their country; a slim, 53%-majority give the police similarly good ratings.

- Many Brazilians say gender inequalities persist in their country, and seven-in-ten say it would be a good thing for a woman to be elected president, putting aside their opinions about presidential candidate Dilma Rousseff.
 - Of the 22 publics surveyed, Brazilians are among the most supportive of the free market approach; 75% agree that people are better off in a market economy. Only in China, Nigeria, India and South Korea is this view more prevalent.
 - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez receives the most negative ratings of five international leaders tested; just 13% have at least some confidence in him, while seven-in-ten say they have little or no confidence in the Venezuelan leader. About half also lack confidence in Russian President Dmitri Medvedev.
 - Brazilians express more concern about global climate change than any public surveyed; 85% say it is a very serious problem. Moreover, eight-in-ten say protecting the environment should be given priority, even if it results in slower economic growth and loss of jobs.
-

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

Americans, Britons and Canadians Hesitant on Middle East Talks

September 21, 2010

Americans are more likely to believe that their own head of state sympathizes more with the Palestinians.

People in the United States, Canada and Britain have reacted with skepticism to the announcement of high level talks between Israel and the Palestinians, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples also found that Britons and Canadians are more likely to regard their respective prime ministers as pro-Israel, while Americans are slightly more likely to believe that their head of state sympathizes with the Palestinians.

Sympathies

A large proportion of respondents in the three countries do not express sympathy for either of the two sides in the Middle East dispute. Americans favour Israel over the Palestinians (27% to 5%), while Britons pick the Palestinians ahead of Israel (19% to 10%). Canadians are evenly divided in their assessment (13% for Israel; 13% for the Palestinians).

Respondents in the three countries were also asked about the sympathies of their respective heads of government. Canadians clearly think of Stephen Harper as pro-Israel (36%) and Britons feel the same way about David Cameron (21%). In the United States, 18 per cent of respondents think Barack Obama sympathizes more with the Palestinians, while 15 per cent believe he is more considerate to the Israelis.

The Negotiations

Respondents in the three countries express doubts about the direct negotiations towards a peace agreement that have begun between Israel and the Palestinians. Three-in-four Canadians (79%) and Britons (78%) and two thirds of Americans (68%) say they are “not too confident” or “not confident at all” that the talks will be successful.

Creation of a New State

Since April, the proportion of respondents in the three countries who support the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip living side-by-side with Israel has increased markedly. More than half of Britons (58%, +8) and Canadians (54%, +7) support this course of action, along with two-in-five Americans (45%, +7). It is important to note that at least one-in-three respondents in each country are undecided.

A Solution to the Conflict

At least one third of respondents in the three countries (38% in the U.S., 34% in Britain and 41% in Canada) believe that a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will never be reached. Less than one-in-five expect a solution in the next five years (USA 19%, BRI 17%, CAN 14%).

U.S. Leadership Gains Approval in Parts of Asia

Afghanistan, Pakistan only countries where majorities disapprove

September 20, 2010

Approval of U.S. leadership in Asia has seen its share of ups and downs over the last two years as the Bush era ended and the Obama era began. So far in 2010, approval ratings remain higher than they were in 2008 in 10 out of the 18 countries surveyed. Approval increased most in Australia and New Zealand and declined most in Vietnam, Indonesia, and India, where residents are now significantly more uncertain.

Approval of U.S. Leadership in Asia

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

	2008	2009	2010	Change from 2008 (pct. pts.)
Australia	25%	--	69%	44
New Zealand	22%	--	65%	43
Singapore	53%	68%	77%	24
Japan	30%	66%	51%	21
Hong Kong	22%	48%	41%	19
Malaysia	23%	37%	39%	16
South Korea	41%	58%	55%	14
Pakistan	10%	9%	18%	8
Mongolia	51%	--	58%	7
Bangladesh	34%	38%	40%	6
Philippines	66%	58%	66%	0
Nepal	37%	--	34%	-3
Afghanistan	48%	44%	43%	-5
Cambodia	62%	64%	56%	-6
Sri Lanka	36%	36%	30%	-6
Indonesia	46%	35%	33%	-13
India	31%	26%	18%	-13
Vietnam	44%	17%	26%	-18

-- Surveys not conducted in Australia, New Zealand, and Mongolia in 2009; data unavailable for Nepal.

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Views of U.S. leadership in 2010 vary considerably across Asia, with as many as 77% approving in Singapore and as few as 18% approving in Pakistan and India. While Pakistanis' high disapproval (68%) of U.S. leadership largely explains their low approval number, the high percentage of Indians (72%) who don't have an opinion largely explains theirs. Indians who do offer an opinion are more likely to approve than disapprove.

In fact, in many other countries in the region where approval is lowest -- Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Indonesia -- about half or more of respondents do not have an opinion about U.S. leadership, but those who do are more likely to approve than disapprove. The number of respondents who express uncertainty about U.S. leadership has increased significantly since 2008 in India, Vietnam, Nepal, and Indonesia.

Approval of U.S. Leadership Varies in 18 Asian Countries

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

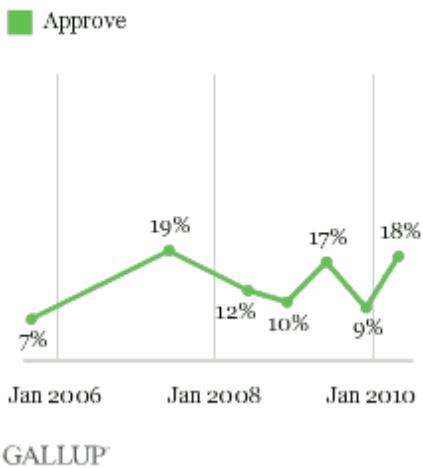
	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/Refused
Singapore	77%	7%	16%
Australia	69%	19%	13%
Philippines	66%	22%	12%
New Zealand	65%	18%	17%
Mongolia	58%	5%	36%
Cambodia	56%	5%	39%
South Korea	55%	22%	23%
Japan	51%	23%	26%
Afghanistan	43%	54%	3%
Hong Kong	41%	40%	18%
Bangladesh	40%	33%	27%
Malaysia	39%	32%	29%
Nepal	34%	19%	47%
Indonesia	33%	19%	48%
Sri Lanka	30%	17%	54%
Vietnam	26%	17%	57%
India	18%	10%	72%
Pakistan	18%	68%	14%

March-July 2010

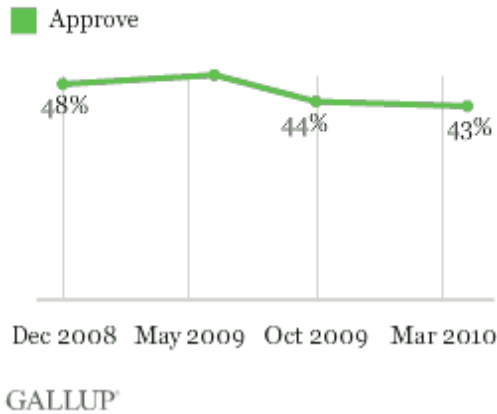
GALLUP®

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries surveyed where a majority express *disapproval* of U.S. leadership, at 68% and 54%, respectively. Approval in these two countries has varied over the last few years.

U.S. Leadership Approval in Pakistan



U.S. Leadership Approval in Afghanistan



While U.S. approval ratings have improved dramatically in several Asian countries since 2008, a majority of Afghans and Pakistanis do not share this positive view. This highlights the importance of building on positive perceptions in neighboring India and Bangladesh -- where residents are more likely to approve than disapprove -- to shore up support in South Asia. U.S. leadership has gained traction in parts of Asia, but the rising proportion of those who don't have an opinion suggests it may be losing some of its visibility in several areas.

Explore [trends in U.S. leadership approval](#) in more than 150 countries that Gallup surveys around the world.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 6,000 adults in India, 1,050 adults in Indonesia, 1,000 adults Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2010. Results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea and 750 adults Japan and Hong Kong, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2010.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error in 2010 ranged from a low of ± 1.7 percentage points in India to a high of ± 4.5 percentage points in Hong Kong.

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 3,000 adults in India, 1,050 adults in Indonesia, and 1,000 adults in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, and 840 adults in Pakistan, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2009. Results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in Japan and South Korea and 750 adults Hong Kong, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2009.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error in 2009 ranged from a low of ± 2.6 percentage points in India to a high of ± 4.3 percentage points in Hong Kong.

Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 2,000 adults in India, 1,500 adults in Singapore, 1,050 adults in Indonesia, and 1,000 adults in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, and 840 adults in Pakistan, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2008. Results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults in Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea, and 750 adults in Japan and Hong Kong, aged 15 and older, conducted in 2008.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error in 2008 ranged from a low of ± 2.9 percentage points in Singapore to a high of ± 4.3 percentage points in Hong Kong.

CYBERWORLD

65% - Do You Sleep With Your Cell Phone?

It's difficult to separate many Americans from their cell phones, even when they're asleep. Among those who own a cell phone, 65% of adults say that they have slept with their phone on or right next to their bed. Nearly all young adults (ages 18-29) make sure their phones are never too far away at night; fully 90% sleep with their cell phone on or right next to their bed. By comparison, 70% of 30-to-49 year olds with phones sleep with their phones close, as do 50% of 50-to-64 year olds and 34% of those ages 65 and older. Not surprisingly, heavy cell phone users -- both those who use their phones to constantly text message and those who use it to make numerous voice calls -- are more likely to sleep with their phones. Adults who have slept with or near their phones are also more likely to feel positively about their phone.

Who sleeps with their cell phone?

percent of adults in each group who sleep with a cell phone

Total	65%
Men	67%
Women	64%
Age	
18-29	90%+
30-49	70%+
50-64	50%+
65+	34%+
Race/Ethnicity	
White, non-Hispanic	62%+
Black, non-Hispanic	78%
Hispanic, English-speaking	75%
Household Income	
Less than \$30,000	73%+
\$30,000-\$49,999	70%
\$50,000-\$74,999	61%*
\$75,000+	64%*
Education Level	
Less than High School	67%
High School Diploma	63%
Some College	66%
College+	67%
Parent Status	
Parent	72%+
Not a Parent	62%
Community Type	
Urban	70%+
Suburban	65%
Rural	61%

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.